Veterans in the U.S. Strategic and Policy Overview

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The Veterans Population

Projected Veteran Population 2010 to 2040

Projected % of Female Veteran Population 2010 to 2040

Projected % of Minority Veteran Population 2010 to 2040

Projected % of Total Veteran Population by Period of Service 2010-2040

Source: VA Office of Policy & Planning
Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans

• 2,453,036 deployed for OEF/OIF/OND
  – 1,759,457 active (72%); 693,579 reserve (28%)
  – 88% male / 12% female
  – More than 60% with 1-4 years of service
  – 62% younger than age 29 (at deployment)
  – 53% married; 47% single (at deployment)
  – 86% enlisted; 14% officer or warrants
  – 76.5% high school or some college; 15.9% college or higher education

Source: DoD Contingency Tracking System, July 31, 2012
The VA

• VA is the second largest cabinet agency (people + $)
  – $152.7 billion budget for FY14
    • $86.1 billion in mandatory benefits payments (56%)
    • $66.5 billion in discretionary programs (44%)
  – More than 280,000 employees

• VA divided up into three sub-agencies:
  – Veterans Health Administration
  – Veterans Benefits Administration
  – National Cemetery Administration
VA Care and Benefits by the #s

• VHA provided care to 6.3m veterans in 2012
  – 540k Iraq/Afghanistan veterans
  – Estimated to be 6.4m in 2013 (607k Iraq/Afg vets)
• 56% of separated Iraq / Afg vets (899,752) have obtained VA health care since 2002
  – 57.8% = “musculoskeletal” diagnoses
  – 54.0% = “mental health disorder” diagnoses
• Large claims backlog for VBA
  – 865,265 claims pending; 575,825 over 125 days (66%)
  – Mostly claims for disability compensation
Vet Population & VA Budget


One View of the Issues

- Mental Health
- Homelessness
- Employment
- Suicides
- Visible + Invisible Wounds of War

VA Claims Backlog
DOD-VA Collaboration
Access to Care + Benefits

Strategy
Civ-Mil Divide
Sea of Goodwill

Center for a New American Security
An agency view of the world?
The Interagency

The White House
Nat’l Security Staff
Domestic Policy Council
Office of the First Lady

Department of Defense
- Army
- Navy
- Air Force
- Other Agencies

Department of Veterans Affairs
- VHA
- VBA
- NCA

HHS
Labor
SBA
DOJ

State, local and community agencies and organizations?
Open Issues

• What is our goal for serving the veterans and military community?
• How should we serve this community?
  – Federal / State / Local Government
  – Private Sector
  – Non-Profit Sector
• What can be done to sustain this strategy as the wars fade?