



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Colorado

- **Toxic Exposure**
- **VA Market Assessments**
- **VA Proposes Updates**

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Toxic Exposure Legislation

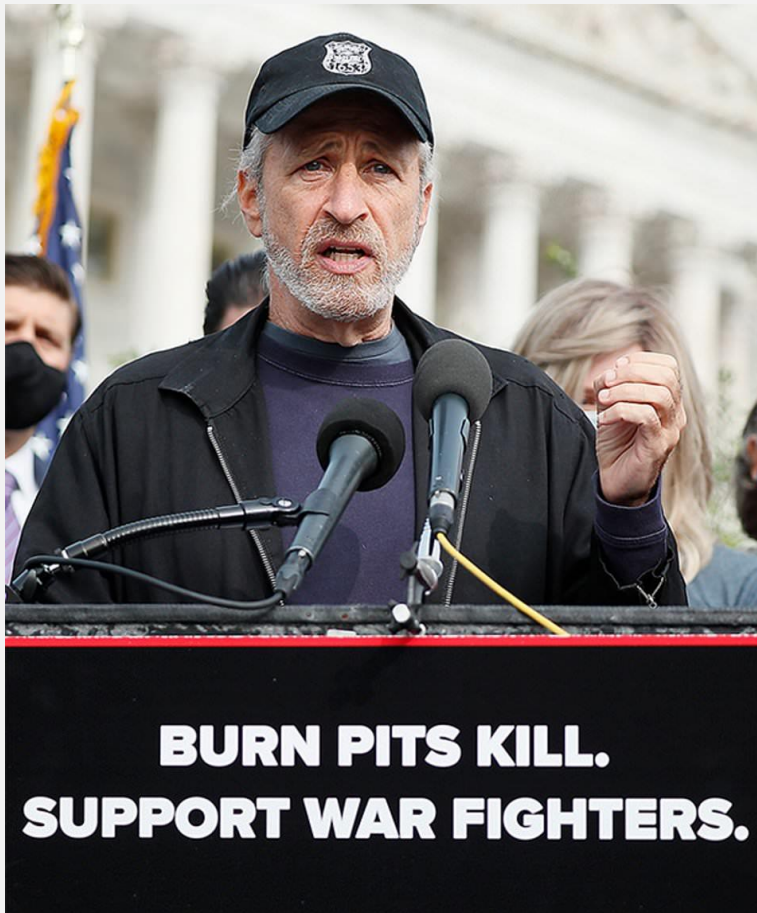


- Action Alerts
- TV News
- Facebook
- Tweeter
- Instagram

We made it pretty hard not to notice that Toxic Exposure is the VFW's #1 Legislative Priority

Toxic Exposure Legislation

H.R. 3967 The Honoring Our PACT Act passed the House and is in the Senate



Toxic Exposure Legislation

Leave No Veteran Behind



The Honoring Our Pact Act is set to improve the provision of health care and other benefits from the Department of Vet Affairs for 3.5 million Veterans who were exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes

H.R. 3967 - Honoring our PACT Act, is perhaps the most ambitious and comprehensive legislation introduced to date on military toxic exposures

For claims involving toxic exposures, the burden of proof falls far too heavily on the Veteran. This is a significant barrier to Veteran's access to care

Toxic Exposure Legislation

Leave No Veteran Behind



- On passage the vote was 256 – 174 in the House
- The Honoring Our PACT Act will serve 3.5 million Veterans
- The Congressional Budget Office on February 28th reported that the bill will cost \$208B over 10 years

Taking care of our veterans is a cost of war

Senate pulse check related that one of our Senators needs a few phone calls and emails

We need you to write and or call Senator John Hickenlooper to express that you are;

- *A resident of Colorado*
- *A military veteran, a family member, a friend, seen the TV News, or Twitter*
- *Tell him a little about you own toxic exposure*
- *Tell him you want him to co-sponsor and vote Yes on the Honoring Our Pact Act*

<https://www.hickenlooper.senate.gov/>

(202) 224-5941 D.C. Main Office Number to leave a message. Please be courteous to the aide who answers

Twitter



Get Twittering and help us penetrate local news media and the office holder's attention!

It's as simple as following

@VFWHQ

@VFW_OfficeDC

@VFWCO

Retweet or create tweets identifying the subject, action, and mentions

Toxic Exposure Legislation

Leave No Veteran Behind



VFW - Washington Office
@VFW_OfficeDC

HUGE WIN! #ToxicExposure #Veterans

House Veterans' Affairs @VetAffairsDems · Mar 3
JUST NOW: the House took a bipartisan vote to finally make good on our promise to toxic-exposed veterans.

The comprehensive Honoring our PACT Act takes immediate action to make sure these veterans can get the care and benefits they've earned.

[Show this thread](#)



9:07 AM · Mar 3, 2022 · Twitter Web App

VFW Colo State HQ
@VFWCO

Colorado Springs Veronica Landry tells her story on @KOAA

"The best way to make sure veterans receive the care and benefits they have earned, is to get it right the first time." VFW Cmdr in Chief Fritz Mihelcic

koaa.com/news/capitol-w...

[@SenatorHick](#) [#burnpits](#) [#HonoringOurPACTAct](#)



koaa.com

Colorado Springs woman shares story after suffering burn pit exposure in Iraq President Biden pushes for bill during State of the Union to give sick veterans who were exposed to burn pits benefits

11:31 AM · Mar 9, 2022 · Twitter Web App

Toxic Exposure Legislation

Leave No Veteran Behind



Any other questions

Or

Thoughts on Toxic Exposure?

U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs

Market Assessment Recommendations



MISSION Act Requirement

VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act of 2018

Signed June 6, 2018

Title I

Caring for Our Veterans

- Section 106: Directs VHA to perform quadrennial market area assessments that include information on access, quality, and internal and external capacity
- Directs VHA to use these assessments to develop a 4-year strategic plan
- Requires the Department's budget to reflect the Secretary's most recent market assessment findings

Title II

VA Asset and Infrastructure Review

- Section 202: Establishes an Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission
- Section 203: Directs VA to submit a report to the Commission and Congress regarding the modernization or realignment of VHA facilities
- Directs VA to assess VISN capacity to furnish hospital care or medical services to Veterans

Throughout its five titles, the MISSION Act directs VA to undertake a variety of programs impacting health care delivery to Veterans. Titles I and II mandate MAHSO's market assessments and establish the Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Commission to make recommendations for the future of VA's infrastructure.

U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs

Market Assessment Recommendations

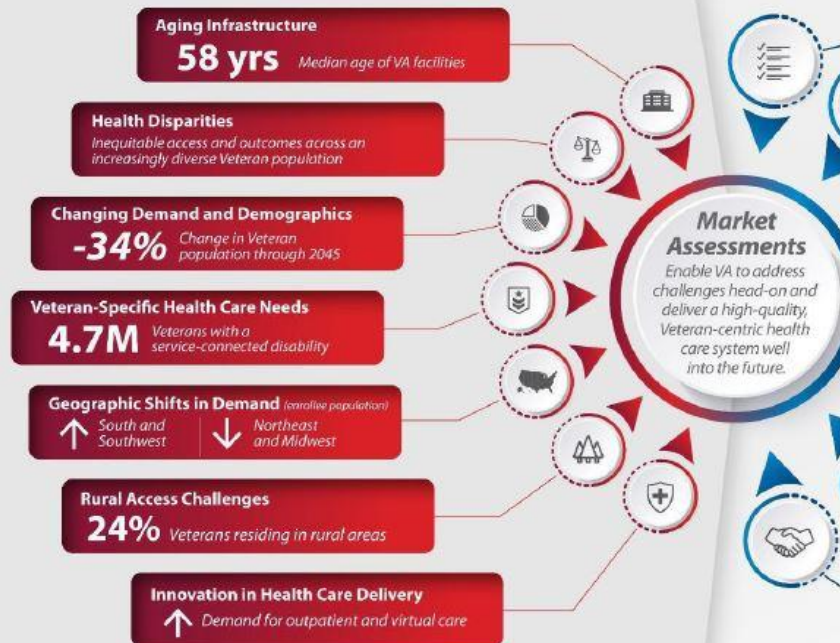
Current Challenges and Strategy for the Future

VA operates the largest integrated health care system in the United States

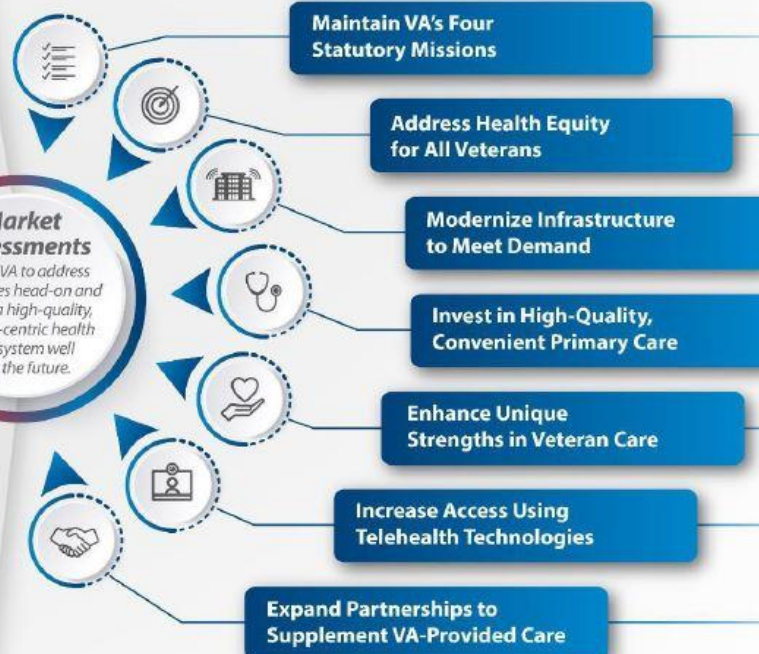
with **170** + **755** + **322**
Medical Centers Outpatient Clinics Other Care Sites

serving **9.3M**
Veteran Enrollees

Current Challenges



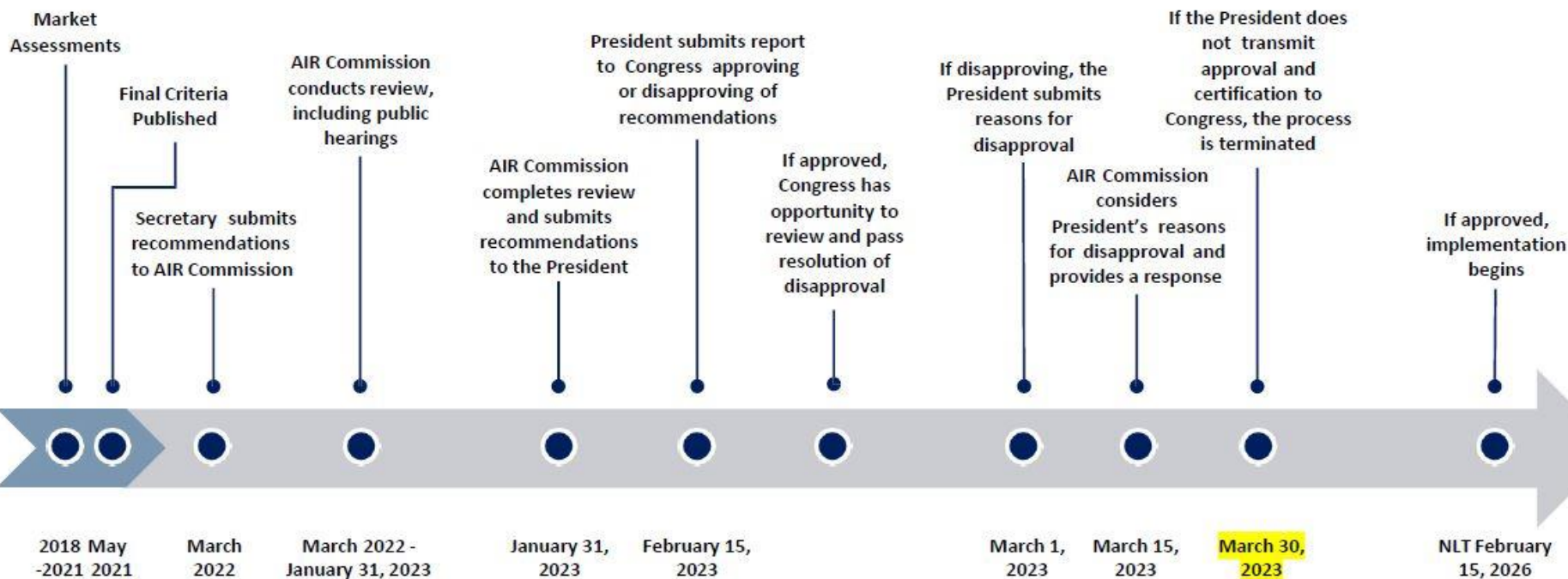
Strategy for the Future



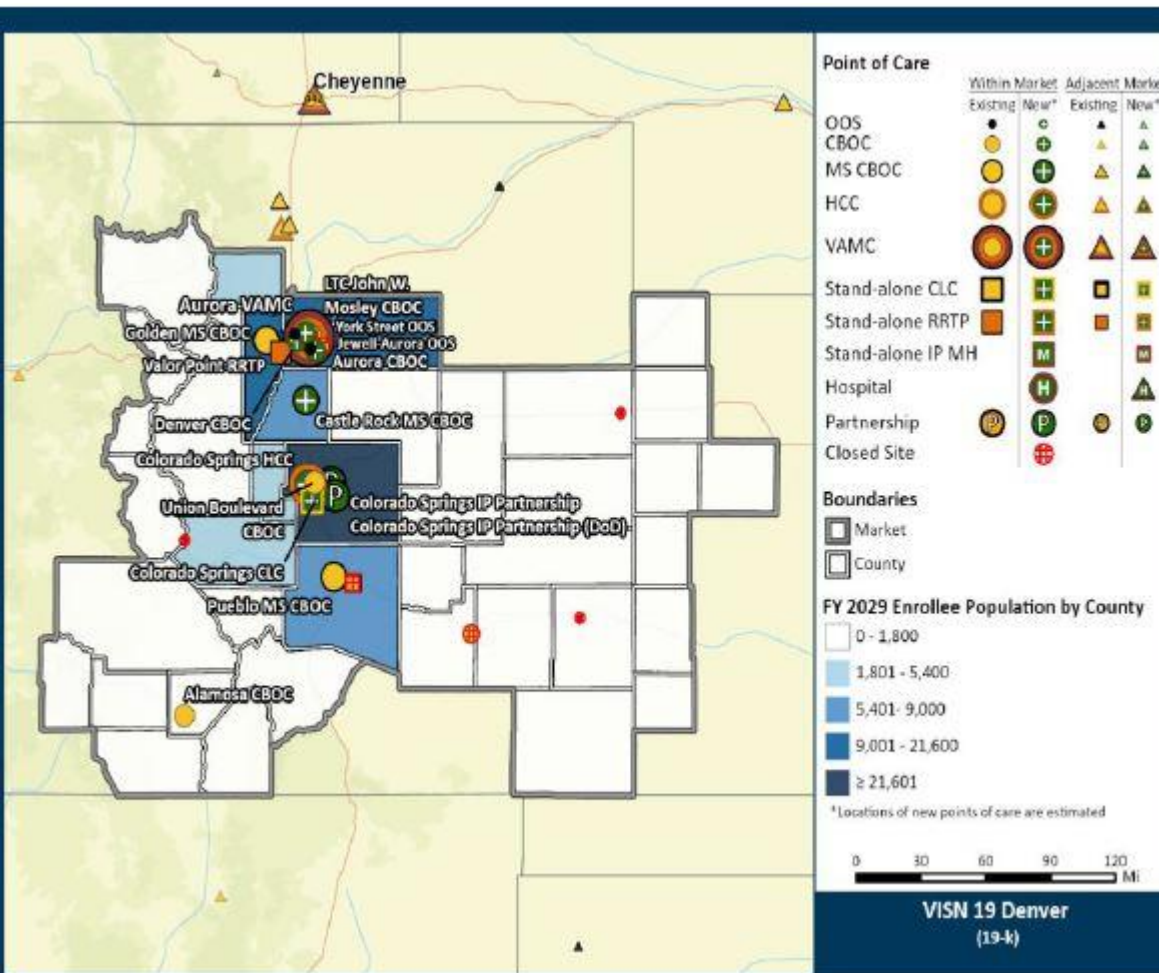
U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs Market Assessment Recommendations



AIR Commission Timeline



U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs Market Assessment Recommendations



Front Range
Vet Health Admin Users

- Market Assessment: ~65,500
- National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics :~85,000

U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs

Market Assessment Recommendations



Recommendations

Montrose

- Expand Montrose and procure appropriate space

IP Med/Surg

- Discontinue 14 In Patient medical/surgical beds
- Provide care through the Public Private Partnership

Public Private Partnership

- Deliver inpatient medical/surgical services within the community provider facility
- VA providers or space are embedded in a new inpatient facility

Emergency Department

- Convert the ED to an Urgent Care Center (UCC)
- Utilize community Emergency Rooms (120a)

RRTP

- Establish a Substance Abuse Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (SARRTP) on the VAMC campus
- SARRTP is set to open April 19



Western Slope Vet Health Admin Users

- National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics :~23,000
- The VA Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN) will not release the user data from the Western Slope to us until Monday

U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs

Market Assessment Recommendations



Colorado Springs Market:

Expand the VA Clinic (El Paso County) to increase capacity to provide primary care, outpatient mental health, outpatient specialty care, and women's health services, and add outpatient surgical services, which may result in the classification of the facility as a health care center (HCC).

U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs Market Assessment Recommendations



Any other questions

Or

Thoughts on the Market Assessment Recommendations?

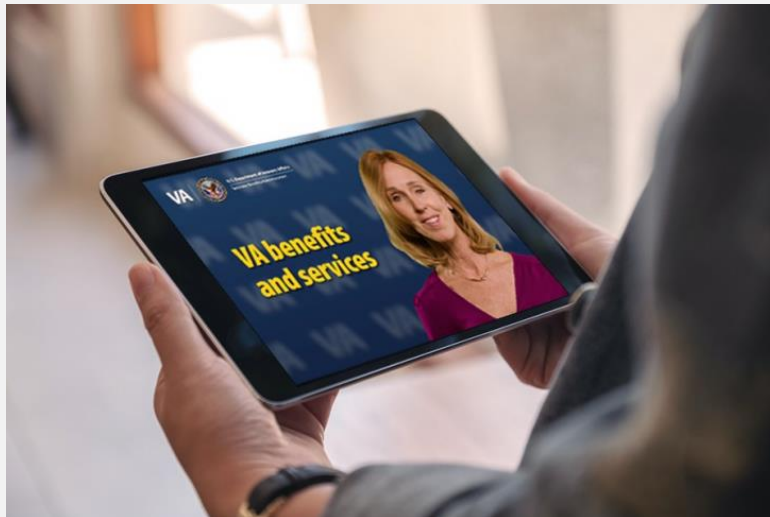
U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs Proposed Rating Changes



The Department of Veterans Affairs is proposing changes to the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities specifically pertaining to the

1. Respiratory,
2. Auditory and,
3. Mental disorders body systems

The proposed updates to the rating schedule for these conditions will enable VA to incorporate modern medical data and terminology to provide Veterans with more accurate and consistent decisions



Join *Action Corps!* Text “VFW” to 50457 or Visit vfw.org/JoinActionCorps

U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs

Proposed Rating Changes



Proposed updates include:

Modernizing the evaluative rating criteria for sleep apnea, using developments in medical knowledge to evaluate it based on its responsiveness to treatment, bringing the rating criteria for sleep apnea more closely in line with the stated purpose of the rating schedule

Evaluating tinnitus (ringing in the ears) as a symptom of the underlying disease which causes it, rather than as a stand-alone disability

Evaluating mental health conditions based on a more robust and holistic approach that assesses how impactful the disability is to cognition, interpersonal relationships, task completion, life activities and self-care. Additionally, the proposed evaluation criteria include a 10% minimum evaluation for having one or more service-connected mental health conditions and will no longer require “total occupational and social impairment” to attain a 100% evaluation

U.S. Dept. of Veteran Affairs

Proposed Rating Changes



No change to a Veteran's current rating would occur due to these proposed changes

If the proposed changes are finalized, Veterans who currently receive compensation for a service-connected condition can apply for increased compensation, but no reductions shall be made unless an improvement in the Veteran's disability is shown to have occurred.

Please provide comments to the proposed changes on the Federal Registry

Find the links to the Federal Registry page at

<https://linktr.ee/vfwco>



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Colorado

Listening Session here at 4pm

**Bring your questions,
thoughts, and ideas about
what I briefed today**

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