

**Wednesday, October 23, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.
Minutes of the Veterans Service Board Meeting
Atlanta, Georgia**

Present Mr. Joshua Kopsie, Chair
Mr. Tim Paslawski, Vice Chair
Mr. Steve Mendez, Secretary
Mr. Shawn Hanley, Member
Mr. Pete Peterson, Member
Ms. Takosha Swan, Member
Ms. Patricia Ross, Commissioner

Visitors Ms. Shelly-Ann Simpson, Executive Director, Field Operations & Appeals, GDVS
Present: Mr. Mark Demers, Chief Development Officer, Chief Finance Officer, GDVS
Mr. Russell Feagin, Executive Director, Health & Memorials Division, GDVS
Mr. Kerry Dyer, Chief Operations Officer, GDVS
Ms. Carolyn Cagle, Georgia American Gold Star Mothers
Mr. Johnny Higdon, National Montford Pointe Marine Association
Ms. Vivian Greentree, Veterans Service Foundation Board
Mr. John Phillips, Veterans Service Foundation Board
Mr. Carlton Deese, Executive Director GWVNH, Augusta, GA
Ms. Linda Lavender, Director, Milledgeville Cemetery
Ms. Lily Snyder, Director, Veterans Education & Training, GDVS
Ms. Charlotte May, Director, Public Information and External Affairs, GDVS
Ms. Shareka Monday-Robinson, Director, Human Resources, GDVS
Ms. Ramona Roper, Director, Training Division, GDVS
Ms. Sherri Whitfield, Director, Veterans Benefits South Region, GDVS
Mr. Ken Childre, Director, Veterans Benefits North Region, GDVS
Mr. Edwin Berry, Director, Appeals Division, GDVS
Ms. Calandra Ferguson, Coordinator, Suicide Prevention & Outreach, GDVS
Ms. Raven Holstick, Transition and Employment Coordinator, GDVS
Ms. Jarelle Thompson, Homeless Coordinator, GDVS
Mr. William Wilson, Network Administrator, GDVS
Ms. Camala Ball, Budget Analyst, GDVS
Ms. Irene Mackson, Business Support Analyst, GDVS
Ms. Julie Hammond, Executive Assistant to the Commissioner, GDVS

On Wednesday, October 23, 2024, the Veterans Service Board meeting was held in person and by video/tele-conference.

Mr. Kopsie called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m. Mr. Dyer gave the invocation. Mr. Kopsie led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Paslawski made a motion to approve the October Agenda. Mr. Mendez seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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Mr. Paslawski made a motion to approve the September minutes, which were previously distributed for members to review. Mr. Mendez seconded the motion. There were no objections. The motion passed.

The following reports were submitted for the Board meeting:

Ms. Carolyn Cagle, Treasurer, Department of Georgia Goldstar Mothers, Inc.

The organization is small, and we are trying to raise money. We do have grants available on the national level for our Gold Star mothers who were affected in Augusta and South Georgia by the hurricanes. They can contact me personally at carolyncagle@comcast.net and I will give them the information for that.

We have been trying to recognize our 100-year-old veterans when we find them to give them certificates of achievement and appreciation. We recently did this for two veterans in the Atlanta area and presented them with gift cards for their groceries. If you hear of any 100-year-old veterans, please send us their information.

Ms. Amy Stevens, Georgia Military Women and Vetlanta

Georgia Military Women (GMW) has had an outstanding summer and early fall schedule of activities and outreach to the veteran community. We continue to grow and now boast over 5,260 members with active engagement of about 70% online on a monthly basis. Some highlights of recent months include small meetups in about ten locations across the state. We have participated in several recent resource fairs and will be at the huge WE CARE RESOURCE FAIR in Marietta, GA on November 1st. Some ladies went on a weekend bus trip to Savannah recently. Others have been attending theatre shows, dining out at fine restaurants, and volunteering for other local veteran non-profits.

Of note has been the Radiant Warriors Retreat for twenty women veterans which was a collaboration between GMW, Humble Warriors and Yoga, and the She Served Initiative on September 21-22. Each woman participated in a day of wellness activities as well as a professional photoshoot. The photos are designed to honor each woman's veteran story and will be consolidated into a magazine to be published this fall.

Another fun opportunity for GMW was being selected to be on the Leading Ladies of Atlanta Show with the iconic Monica Pearson on Peachtree TV. The interviews will be her Veterans Day feature show on November 10th at 6pm. GDVS Commissioner Patricia Ross, GMW Founder Amy Stevens and GMW Admin Cassandra Randolph will be on the show to talk about women veterans in Georgia.

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Most recently, about 50 GMW members received free tickets to attend the Military Influencers Conference at the Atlanta Hilton September 30 – October 3. This was a magnificent event and is expected to result in several new opportunities for the group.

GMW is planning for the rest of 2024. We will have an assortment of patriotic and holiday activities. Several of our small groups are participating in Veteran Day parades and speaking at memorials. We are now also planning December parties and other get togethers.

A large event for about one hundred women veterans will be held on December 5th at the Solarium in Decatur, GA. This is a collaboration between GMW, the Atlanta VA Women Veterans Program and the Atlanta Women's Club which is the key sponsor. GDVS will also be participating. There will be vendors plus mini-breakout groups which will cover health and wellness topics. The ladies will receive a small lunch, door prizes, and swag bags. The goal is to help bring awareness of the many resources at the VA for women, help them enroll for benefits and treatment, and to encourage them to join the community of women veterans in GMW online.

Finally, on a personal note, I would like to mention that I have been selected to participate October 25 – October 31 in the Revisit Korea Program sponsored by the Korea Defense Veterans Association. This is like the Honor Flight Program in the U.S. We will be visiting various bases and memorials in Korea on this trip. I will be speaking at the Alliance & Veterans Conference in Seoul, Korea on October 30th. KDVA's mission is to enhance the Republic of Korea – United States Alliance by advocating for the Alliance and supporting the people who built and serve the Alliance. There is an Atlanta Chapter, and they are the sponsors of the annual Atlanta Veterans Day Parade. Membership is free to anyone interested in supporting this mission. I was serving in Korea from 1980-1982 so this visit is extremely exciting to me after all these years. <https://kdva.vet/>.

Ms. Belinda Boldoe, VFW

- The Department Service Officer attended a Georgia Department of Veterans Service outreach initiative at the GA Tech Veterans Welcome Day. The outreach event was held on August 20, 2024, from 10AM - 2PM, GA Tech Veteran Resource Center, 311 Ferst Drive, Atlanta, GA 30332.
 - Purpose for GDVS to attend: To inform veterans about the benefits and services available to them through Georgia Department of Veterans Service.
 - To foster a sense of community and camaraderie through interactive games and morale-boosting activities, creating an enjoyable and supportive environment for all attendees.
 - The goal is to ensure that veterans leave the event feeling informed, appreciated, and connected with the resources and support.

- The Department Service Officer participated in Operation Reveille that was held on September 19, 2024, from 10AM – 2PM. The event was sponsored by the Atlanta VAMC and the Atlanta Salvation

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Army Kroc, and it was held at Ray and Joan Kroc Community Center at 967 Dewey St NW, Atlanta, GA 30310.

- The purpose of the event was to support the Metro Atlanta Homeless Veteran community.
- Assisted with registering all attendees to the event.
- The Department Service Officer attended a Georgia Department of Veterans Service (GDVS) Leadership Institute Training Session One held on September 20, 2024, from 8AM – 9AM. The topic was Strategic Planning and Budgeting.
- The Department Service Officer attended the VFW Annual Proficiency Training Conference held at the Doubletree Annapolis, 210 Holiday Court, Annapolis, MD 21401. The training was held from September 22-26, 2024.
 - The VFW annual recertification training provided updated information on VBA matters, the PACT Act, Camp Lejeune Justice Act, and other relevant information.
 - The Department Service Officer participated in the VFW Annual Proficiency Training examination held on September 26, 2024.
- The Department Service Officer participated in the We Care Resource Fair held on October 05, 2024, from 8AM – 3PM. The event was held at the Ebenezer Baptist Church at 101 Jackson St., Atlanta, GA 30312. Provided claim assistance to the veterans and their families.
- The Department Service Officer accompanied the VFW Commander-in-Chief at a meet and greet with the Atlanta VA Health Care Executive Director Kai Mentzer and Staff.
 - The purpose of the meeting was for the VFW CIC to meet with the Director to discuss health care concerns and offer VFW assistance regarding health care program.
- The Department Service Officer attended the Atlanta VAMC Quarterly VSO meeting hosted by Atlanta VA Health Care Executive Director Kai Mentzer and Staff. The virtual meeting was held on October 08, 2024. The following staff members provided a briefing:
 - Community Care Overview – Chief Diane Terrell
 - Veteran Experience Overview - Chief, Angelyn McCrory
- The Department Service Officer attended the Monthly VSO/Community Partner PACT Information and Listening meeting hosted by Lauren Ruchin, Atlanta VHA. The virtual meeting was held on October 10, 2024, at 12PM – 1PM. The purpose of the meeting was to share information about the PACT Act and to discuss how our veterans are being impacted by the PACT Act.

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Ms. Tonjala Moton-Williams, GDVS, American Legion Service Officer

- September 21, 2024, Department Chaplains Training was held at Post 594, 1523 Moody Rd., Warner Robins, GA. The keynote speaker was Chaplain Clarence Sinkler.
- September 25, 2024, the Atlanta VA Medical Center meeting was canceled due to a scheduling conflict. Reschedule will be submitted.
- September 25, 2024, 1300 – 1600 American Legion Department Commander and his delegation visited Atlanta Regional Office 1700 Clairmont Road, Decatur, Georgia 30033. They were given a brief a presentation concerning operations and plans and a tour of the facility.
- October 7-10, National Fall Conference was held in the Sheraton City Centre Hotel, 31 West Ohio St, Indianapolis, IN.

Upcoming events:

- October 20-25, 2024, DSO Symposium is being held at 18665 Conference Center Dr., Leesburg, VA 20176. DSO Tonjala Moton-Williams will be attending.
- October 25-27, 2024, The American Legion Department of Georgia Fall Conference is being held at Sonesta Place, 1775 Pleasant Hill Rd, Duluth, GA. The American Legion Georgia Department Convention is an annual event that brings together Legionnaires from across the state to celebrate the organization's achievements and set goals for the coming year. The keynote speaker for Friday, October 25, 2024, is GDVS Commissioner Patricia Ross. The keynote speaker for Saturday, October 26, 2024, is LIT Insurance Presentation.
- October 29, 2024, 1900 – 2030 is virtual National Training Tuesdays.
- Monthly Virtual Post service officer training will be held for new service officers. Training topics will be on the roles and responsibilities as a post service officer. This training will continue to be held monthly as new service officers arrive.

Commissioner Patricia Ross

On Wednesday, September 25, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the Veterans Service Board meeting. She also had a weekly We Care Vet Fair In Progress Review with VA. She then met with the VA regarding the Military Influencer Conference (MIC) ATL In Progress Review.

On Friday, September 27, 2024, Commissioner Ross met with OPB Analyst Imane Bassit and Russell Feagin to discuss the AFY25-FY26 budget requests.

On Monday, September 30, 2024 and Tuesday, October 1, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the Military Influencer Conference in Atlanta, along with Shelly-Ann Simpson and Raven Holstick. She met with the Michigan Director of Veterans Affairs to discuss best practices. She also attended the VISN 7

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GA & SC Updates Post Helene. On Monday, the North Region team was on site processing claims alongside the VA.

On Thursday, October 3, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the Veterans Service Foundation Board meeting. She also attended the SSG Fox Kickoff webinar for the 3rd year grant, and the weekly We Care Vet Fair In Progress Review with the VA.

On Friday, October 4, 2024, Commissioner Ross spoke with a potential candidate for the Veterans Service Foundation Board. She also met with the chairman of the Veterans Service Board to discuss funding of the Sub-Acute Unit and the Georgia War Veterans Home in Milledgeville.

On Monday, October 7, 2024, Commissioner Ross met with the 9th Floor of GDVS to discuss the schedule for the upcoming office renovation. She then held a Director's Meeting. Immediately following that meeting, she met with the VA regarding the Veterans Workshop for NAACP State Conference in Augusta. Commissioner Ross had a lunch meeting with Billy Lovett of Brookwell Capital regarding the Veterans Service Foundation. She then met with Drew Walston and Derek Layne from Mighty Hero Homes regarding housing homeless veterans and a potential location in Milledgeville.

On Tuesday, October 8, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the weekly meeting with KSU regarding the VA Suicide Mortality Review Cooperative Agreement. She then met with OPB Analyst Imane Bassitt and her team regarding the funding for the Sub-Acute Unit and the Georgia War Veterans Home in Milledgeville. She also attended a Grant Manager Meeting sponsored by the VA for the new Suicide Mortality Review Grant awarded to GDVS.

On Wednesday, October 9, 2024, Commissioner Ross put together the information requested by OPB. She also spoke with a potential candidate for the Veterans Service Foundation Board. She then had a meeting regarding the State guide for veterans being put together by GDVS. She also spoke with the Deputy Director of Michigan Department Veteran Affairs.

On Thursday, October 10, 2024, Commissioner Ross met with the Georgia Data Analytics Center, along with Mark Demers and Will Wilson regarding creating a database. She then attended the Monthly VSO/Community Partner PACT Act Information and Listening Center meeting, the SSG Fox Grant meeting, and the We Care Vet Fair weekly In Progress Review with the VA.

On Friday, October 11, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the Outreach Event Customer Positive Financial Impact Reporting Meeting. She then attended a meeting regarding annual training with the Marriott Conference Center in Savannah. She also met with Roy Tucker regarding the Foundation.

On Saturday, October 12, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the NAACP GA State Conference virtually (previously scheduled for Augusta but transitioned to virtual due to Hurricane Helene damage in the area).

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On Tuesday, October 15, 2024, Commissioner Ross held a Director's Meeting. She then attended the weekly meeting with KSU regarding the VA Suicide Mortality Review Cooperative Agreement. She also met with Amber Mack, Budget & Policy Analyst at Georgia General Assembly House of Representatives, along with her leadership team. She later met with South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs on how we use transition data.

On Wednesday, October 16, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the Joint Senate/House Committee meeting at the Museum of Aviation Restoration Center in Warner Robins. She briefed on the laws governing accreditation and the process. She also met with Drew McIntyre of Qualtrics, along with Will Wilson and Jerry Lahr.

On Thursday, October 17, 2024, Commissioner Ross met with the Hinesville office to meet a new employee and the district manager. She then traveled to the Glennville Cemetery, which had been affected by Hurricane Helene. She was able to see the progress made by the GDVS team there and thank them for their hard work.

On Friday, October 18, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the Leadership Institute session in Milledgeville, showing the team the Georgia War Veterans Home and the cemetery.

On Saturday, October 19, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the Veterans Rally Point event in Cumming.

On Monday, October 21, 2024, through Tuesday, October 21, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the October State Workforce Development Board (SWDB) Meeting in Savannah. She also took the opportunity to meet with several hotels in the area about hosting the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs training conference in fall of 2026.

On Monday, October 21, 2024, Commissioner Ross held a Director's Meeting and attended the SWDB meeting and a joint meeting with the Technical College System of Georgia governing board and the foundation board.

On Tuesday, October 22, 2024, Commissioner Ross attended the weekly meeting with KSU regarding the VA Suicide Mortality Review Cooperative Agreement. She also had her first quarterly meeting with the VA Commissioner and CVVAMC Director in Dublin.

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Ms. Shelly-Ann Simpson, Executive Director, Field Operations and Appeals

GENERAL

- On Monday, September 30, the outreach team and 11 VSOs joined the Commissioner and me at the Military Influencers Conference VA day held at the Hilton Signia in the Mercedes Benz Stadium Backyard. We spoke with over 100 veterans and filed 48 claims.
- On Saturday, October 3, the outreach team and 5 VSOs joined me at the We Care Veterans Resource Fair held at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. We provided resources and information, and VSOs assisted over 20 veterans filing claims and providing advice.
- On Tuesday, October 10, along with COO Dyer, DM Joe Baker and Ms. Holstick, we began the site visit process for an office located on the campus of Atlanta Tech.
- On Thursday, October 12, I participated in the veteran's resource roundtable held by Goodwill. I provided information about the department and spoke with several veterans regarding their current claims.
- The Cobb County We Care Resource Fair will be held Nov 1st - Nov 2nd at the Cobb County Civic Center in Marietta. As usual GDVS will be providing support as we help veterans and their families file claims and appeals. We will also be represented by the outreach team.
- **DD 214's and Welcome Home Letters: 518** Welcome Home Letters were mailed out in September 2024.

Projected Positions: One opening in Fort Stewart, Atlanta Balcony, Fort McPherson.

Ms. Ramona Roper, Director of Training Division:

- September 30, 2024, Ms. Sandra Bennett and Mr. Glenn Massey attended the VA MIC Atlanta event in downtown Atlanta. This event provided VSO assistance to veterans applying for benefits with the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- October 4, 2024, Ms. Ramona Roper assisted the North Region Director, Mr. Ken Childre with interviews for the vacant Office Manager position in Canton, Georgia. This interview was conducted via MS Teams.
- October 7-9, Mr. Charles Isaac provided new hire training for the new employee at the Hinesville CBOC Veterans Field Service Office. This training covered basic VSO duties and responsibilities. Charles will continue to mentor the new employee for the next 60 days.

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- October 9, 2024, Ms. Ramona Roper attended a Vet-to-Vet discussion at the VFW Post 2872 in Athens, Georgia. The discussion was primarily focused on Total Disability due to Individual Unemployability (TDIU). There were 32 veterans in attendance. Many veterans had questions about their own personal claims and were referred to the Athens Veterans Field Office for one-on-one scenarios.
- October 18, 2024, Ms. Ramona Roper attended the Augusta VA Veterans Stand Down at the VFW Post 2872 in Athens, Georgia. GDVS provided support in obtaining DD214s and requesting records to better serve the unhoused veterans in the Athens and surrounding areas.
- October 23, 2024, Hybrid classes will resume for the second quarter in South Georgia. The subject for this class will be Appointment of a Veterans Service Organization (POA) and Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC).
- October 30, 2024, Ms. Ramona Roper and Ms. Sandra Bennett will assist the South Region Director, Ms. Sherri Whitfield with interviews for the vacant position in the Brunswick Veterans Field Service Office. These interviews will be held virtually via MS Teams.
- October 31, 2024, Hybrid classes will resume for the second quarter in South Georgia for the additional remaining offices in the region. The subject for this class will be Appointment of a Veterans Service Organization (POA) and Dependency Indemnity Compensation (DIC).
- Ms. Roper added that Mr. Charles Isaac will be participating in the Relay for Life tomorrow to raise money for disabled veterans.

Upcoming Events:

- Daily continued ongoing support to the Regional Directors and Veteran Field Service Offices
- Continuation of performing duties as VSO's
- Mentoring classes will resume

Mr. Edwin Berry, Director of Appeals Division

- The total number of hearings conducted by the Appeals Division for **September 2024** was **41**. Retroactive payments of **\$101,894.00** were paid in September to the veterans or family members based on positive outcomes from previous hearings that the Appeals team assisted with.
- As of **October 1, 2024**, the Atlanta VA Regional Office processed benefits as follows for GDVS and the Service Organizations represented by GDVS during the month of September 2024:

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Types of Claims	Number of Awards	Benefits paid
Compensation	108,601	\$246,674,353
DIC	4,264	\$7,324,068
Survivor Pension	695	\$674,989
<u>Veteran Pension</u>	<u>1,332</u>	<u>\$1,581,111</u>
Grand Total	114,892	\$256,254,521

YTD through 09/30/2024 total Compensation, Pension and other benefits paid: \$2,247,004,351 for the veterans that we represent who receive VA benefits.

Mr. Kenneth Childre, Director Veterans Benefits North Region

Retro Awards: \$1,756,341.57

Of Note: Veteran was approved for Special Monthly Compensation T based on a Clear and Unmistakable Error and awarded retro pay of \$132,403.45 back to Sep 2022.

Director Site Visits/Inspections: 0

Community Involvement:

11 Sep 2024-Pablo Cruz (Oakwood)

Visited UNG Campus and briefed the Coordinator of Military-Connected and Adult Learner Programs on what services are offered by GDVS and set up additional briefing sessions for the students at UNG.

11 Sep 2024-Ken Childre (North Area Director)

Visited Corso Atlanta Living Facility during their Veteran appreciation ceremony. I also briefed on state/federal Veterans benefits to the 43 in attendance.

13 Sep 2024-Tanya Rogers (Gainesville)

Met and briefed with 9th District leadership. They discussed the likelihood of GDVS being added to their catalog as a community resource.

18 Sep 2024-Tanya Rogers (Gainesville)

Attended a community breakfast where she briefed VA/State benefits to military spouses.

24 Sep 2024-Ken Childre (North Area Director)

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Attended the Dementia Coalition event at the Spires Senior Living Facility in Rome. Briefed the 88 attendees on the different benefits offered by the VA and GA for our elderly Veterans and their spouses.

30 Sep 2024-Commissioner Ross, ShellyAnn Simpson, Ken Childre, Kareem Reddick (VECTR North), Frank Mays (Cobb Clinic), Roderica Stewart (Decatur CBOC), Kyle Hungarter & Jessica Hardin (Marietta), Shaunda Mathieu & Dawn Donaldson (Atlanta Balcony), Vanessa Wilson, Herman Hammonds & Shayla Harris (Atlanta VAMC), Randy Gray (Ft McPherson), Sean Seader (Carrollton), Steven Hungarter (Cartersville), Sandra Bennett & Glenn Massey (Training) and Christina Williams & Nicole Cruz (Lawrenceville).

Participated in the MIC Event sponsored by Warrior Alliance at the Signia by Hilton Atlanta. During the event the team assisted 90 Veterans/family members by submitting 48 claims and answering multiple questions about desired benefits.

North Area Gains/Losses: 2

Sharonica Mitchell-Augusta VAMC-Resigned 13 Sep

Shayla Thomas-Atlanta VAMC-New Hire 16 Sep

		Average Visits Per VFSO					
		Average Claims Submitted to VA Per VFSO					
Region:	North						
Month:	September-24						
A	B	C	D / E	G / E			
			F	H			
			Total	Average			
			Monthly	Claims			
			Office	Submitted			
			Visits	To			
			Per	VA			
			Day	Monthly			
Office Name	Veterans' Field Service Officer (VFSO) Last Name	#	Total Monthly Office Visits	Work Days In Month	Average Office Visits Per Day	Total Claims Submitted To VA Monthly	Average Claims Submitted By VFSOS To VA Daily
	Number of VFSOs:	52	6,643	20	332.15	1,921	96.05
Number of Offices:		29	Average Visits/Office:		229.07	Average Claims/Office: 66.2413793	

*Total monthly office visits include: 2,182 In-person and 4,461 phone calls/emails.

Ms. Sherri Whitfield, Director Veterans Benefits South Region

- On October 1, 2024, we welcomed a new Veteran Service Officer, Mrs. Aneesa Sparks, to our Hinesville Field Office.

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- On October 9, 2024, Mr. Kevin Whitlock in the Milledgeville Field Office was a guest speaker at the 4-H facility at the Rock Eagle Camp in Putnam County. He was invited by the Mr. Grier Sowell, who is the president of the Georgia Power Ambassadors Group. Mr. Whitlock provided information regarding veteran's benefits, survivors benefits, and the claims process. He also provided one-on-one counseling to a few individuals afterwards.
- On October 22, 2024, Ms. Yakicia Green in our Columbus Field Office will be attending the Spearhead Reunion for the Association of 3rd Armored Division of Veterans. Ms. Green was invited to discuss veterans' benefits. She will also set up a display table.
- On October 24 - 25, 2024, Mr. Dennis Boothe in our Hinesville Field Office will be a guest speaker at the Federal Prison in Jesup, GA. Mr. Boothe was invited to provide information to both veteran staff members and veteran prisoners regarding benefits, the claims process, and information on discharge upgrades.
- Since the last board meeting, South region offices reported total lump sum payments of \$601,073.32, with the Americus Field Office having the highest single lump sum of \$83,034.01.
- South Georgia Region Veterans Population: 237,759.

Ms. Veda Brooks, Women Veterans Coordinator (WVC)

- September 29, 2024, and October 2, 2024, Ms. Brooks participated in the Military Influencers Conference. Ms. Brooks participated in the TXNL Vision-Military Mondays podcast.
- October 4, 2024, Ms. Brooks participated in a cancer awareness event, where she presented information about women veteran care at the Atlanta VA.
- October 5, 2024, Ms. Brooks participated in the We Care event, hosted at Ebenezer Baptist Church.
- October 7, 2024, Ms. Brooks participated in the TXNL Vision-Military Mondays podcast.
- October 8, 2024, Ms. Brooks participated in Women Veteran Talking in Coweta County.
- October 9, 2024, Ms. Brooks participated in a home visit to Mr. Brown. Ms. Brooks attended the Atlanta Women's Veteran Health Committee Monthly Meeting.
- October 11, 2024, Ms. Brooks meet with Griffin Community officer, Southern Crescent Technical College SVA and Facilities manager to finalize the outreach setup.

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- October 15, 2024, Ms. Brooks participated in a home visit with Mr. Brown to sign paperwork. Ms. Brooks attended the 2024 Stand Down Proclamation. Ms. Brooks participated in the Coweta County Family Connection.
- October 16, 2024, Ms. Brooks participated in the IPRCE Violence Prevention Task Force Meeting.
- October 17, 2024, Ms. Brooks participated in the Southern Crescent Technical College Veteran Outreach event. Ms. Brooks participated in the NASWVC Fundraising Committee Meeting.
- October 21, 2024, Ms. Brooks participated in the TXNL Vision-Military Mondays podcast.
- October 22, 2024, Ms. Brooks participated in the NASWVC Executive Meeting.
- October 23, 2024, Ms. Brooks participated on the panel of the Connecting the Dots: Lunch & Learn.
- October 24, 2024, Ms. Brooks participated in the Suicide Prevention Training.

Current committees:

- Violence Prevention Task Force
- VA/SAMHSA Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide Among Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Georgia Team
- The Birdwell Foundation Board Member
- Coweta County Race, Equity, and Justice Committee Unite Georgia Community Advisory Committee
- Farmer Street Cemetery Commission

Ms. Calandra Ferguson, Suicide Prevention and Outreach Coordinator

- September 18 – Ms. Ferguson and the SP Team participated in the 3rd Annual Walk-n-Roll at the Arcadia VA Clinic.
- September 19 – Ms. Ferguson provided Suicide Prevention Materials for Operation Reveille.
- September 30 thru 1 October – Ms. Ferguson provided Suicide Prevention Materials during the 2024 Military Influencers conference.
- October 3 – Ms. Ferguson provide Suicide Prevention Materials for the Forsyth County Mental Health Booster event.
- October 5 – Ms. Ferguson participated in the We Care event at Ebenezer Baptist Church.

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- Each Tuesday and Thursday in October – Ms. Ferguson taught Suicide Prevention to the Clayton County Communities. Topic: Identifying the Signs, Protective/Risk Factors and Ask the Question.
- October 15 – Ms. Ferguson held the monthly Governor’s Challenge TF meeting.
- October 17 – Ms. Ferguson will teach Suicide Prevention during the Southern Crescent Veteran and Family Outreach Event.
- October 25-26 -Ms. Ferguson will participate in the Georgia Army National Guard Family Support Event

Ms. Raven Holstick, Transition and Employment Coordinator

- September 21, 2024, Transition and Employment Coordinator attended Veteran Workgroup Initiative. This initiative aims to bridge the gap between military service and civilian employment, addressing the unique challenges veterans face during this transition.
- September 28, 2024, AMVETS Standdown held their annual standdown. Due to inclement weather Transition and Employment Coordinator was unable attend.
- October 1, 2024, Work Source GA Career Fair, Transition and Employment Coordinator attended University of Georgia Veteran social to engage with student veterans and discuss their experiences and challenges. This event fostered a supportive environment for networking and camaraderie among veterans on campus. I emphasized our resources and programs aimed at facilitating their transition to civilian life.
- October 1, 2024, Military Influencer Conference Transition and Employment Coordinator attended the conference featured a diverse lineup of speakers, including veteran influencers, industry leaders, and advocacy groups, focusing on innovative strategies to leverage social media and digital platforms for veteran outreach and engagement.
- October 5, 2024, We Care Event Transition and Employment Coordinator attended We Care Event held at Ebenezer Baptist church and assisted several justice involved veterans with employment.
- October 9, 2024, GOVChats Georgia + Digital Inclusion training, Transition and Employment Coordinator attended seminar that focused on how to leverage digital technology to streamline veterans searching for employment and making their selves marketable.
- October 10, 2024, Veteran Empowerment Gala Transition and Employment Coordinator attended VEO Annual Gala.

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- October 16, 2024, DCS Chattahoochee Circuit Resource Event. Transition and Employment attended DCS annual event focused on re-entry individual this event Transition and Employment coordinator was able to meet with justice involved veterans in the Columbus area.

Upcoming events:

- October Dave and Busters (reoccurring)
- VEO Staff Briefing
- We Care Fair
- Albany State Meeting

Ms. Jarelle Thompson, Homelessness Coordinator

- October 3, 2024: I attended the DCS Mental Health Booster where I was able to connect with probation officers and I have started assisting veterans that are currently incarcerated to be released from jail.
- October 5, 2024: Participated in the WE CARE event at Ebenezer Baptist where I had the opportunity to connect with agencies that will be able to provide housing resources and money towards utilities and rent.
- October 8, 2024: Participated in our first COA event. At this event we were able to identify 6 veterans that needed services throughout the entire outreach team. We will attend this event once a month.
- October 10, 2024: Met with Community Friendship Incorporated. This agency will be able to assist 20 + veterans with first month's rent, utilities and furniture for apartments.
- October 10, 2024: Participated in a COC mixer through Partners For Home. I was able to connect with Open Doors and 1st Place management company. They have just bought two hotels that they are willing to rent to veterans and their families. They also have a place where convicted felons can live in Hapeville.
- October 18, 2024: I will be attending the Augusta Standdown Event. My mission is to connect with housing resources for the homeless throughout that area.

Upcoming events:

- October 25, 2024 – Macon Standdown Event
- October 26, 2024- Norcross Standdown Event
- November 13, 2024- HADC Veterans Fair

Mr. Mark Demers, Chief Development Officer/Chief Financial Officer

Accounting/Procurement:

- Routine operations are continuing. We are continuously working to improve all accounts payable processing, to apply proper coding, accountability, organization of purchase orders, and on time payments.
- We are continuing to work with the SAO Shared Services to prepare the procurement and accounting data in Team Works for migration to GA@Work.
- 20 of 24 end of year reports have been submitted to SAO. The remainder will be completed once the forms open up for submission.
- Kirsten Dennis continues to monitor Staples and Moore Business invoices, receipting out invoices for payment and tracking purchase orders.
- Mark Demers attended the CFO meeting on September 26, 2026.
- Camala Ball and Mark Demers attended the NASACT Webinar on Corruption, Fraud, and Federal Program Theft on 10/10/2024.
- Camala Ball and Mark Demers attended the P2- Finance and Procurement kickoff training on October 3, 2024.

Budget:

- As part of the fall legislative development process, we have responded to multiple inquiries from the Office of Planning and Budget. This is a follow-up regarding the department's budgetary submission with most questions focused on the war home budget.
- Camala Ball and Mark Demers attended OPB AFY 25/FY26 Budget Request Discussion meeting on 9/27/2024.
- Camala Ball and Mark Demers attended FDM Mapping, Project Costing and Billing, and Vendor Liaison training.
- The overall budget at the program level is well within spending limits. Currently we have spent 27.38% of the total budget. (Based on the average expected monthly budget percentage of 8.33%, calculated at 24.99% for the 1st quarter, we are very close to that amount spent).

Grant Program:

- SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program- (\$747,464 year 2 and **\$722,747 year 3**)
 - Irene Mackson submitted draw-down #10 for \$13,984.49 on October 1, 2024.
 - The SSG Fox Grant Year 3 NOFO was submitted on April 26, 2024, we received notification that we were one of 8 organizations approved for all 3 years on September 16, 2024.
 - The SSG Fox Grant Mid-Year Report was submitted on October 18, 2024, the next report will be the year 2 audit.
 - Attended SSG Fox Grant Year 3 Kickoff National Webinar on October 3, 2024.

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- Irene Mackson attended the SSG God Grant National State/Government meeting on 10/10/2024.

- **Unite-Us Grant- (American Rescue Plan-Negative Impact Grant)- \$6.1m per year (\$18.3m) over the course of 3 years starting July 1, 2022:**

- Data ingestion and secure data transfer for the platform and social connector is moving forward. As of October 7, 2024, we have **274,561** veterans in the system. We have submitted **1,092** community partners and **313** healthcare partners for inclusion to the platform since August 2022.
- Irene Mackson completed address changes for 10,000 veterans on the data file.
- We received the advance payment request for the entire year on September 16, 2024, for \$6,088,640.28. We continue to pay invoices from this advance.
- Below is an activity snapshot from Unite Us Insights:



- **Veterans Mental Health Services Program Grant (HB 414)-**

- AFY2023- The grant was awarded to two vendors: \$750,000
 - Aspire (Cohen Veterans Network) for \$650,000.
 - Emory Healthcare for \$100,000.
 - The end of year report for Cohen was received on July 31, 2024, and the report from Emory was received on September 13, 2024.

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- AFY2024- The grant was awarded to two vendors: \$1,000,000
 - Aspire (Cohen Veterans Network) for \$776,132
 - Emory Healthcare for \$212,500
 - GDVS indirect rate awarded by Senate and House \$11,368
 - All monies have been distributed to awardees in May 2024.
 - First quarter reporting will be due in October 2024.

- FY2025- \$1,000,000 (competitive grant)
 - The grant is currently in the application stage in Survey Monkey with applications due on October 25, 2024, for the remaining \$200,000.
 - Aspire (Cohen Veterans Network) (asking \$776,132)
 - \$200,000 will be remaining to award.

- VA Suicide Mortality Review Cooperative Agreement - (\$502,124.68)
 - We were notified that we have received the grant for period September 30, 2024, to September 30, 2025.
 - Attended VA SMRC kickoff webinar on October 2, 2024.

Veterans Service Foundation:

- The board meeting was on October 3, 2024, at 10:00. All meetings will occur monthly.

- Completed the Georgia State Charitable Contributions Program paperwork so the foundation could be listed as a charitable organization eligible for payroll deduction. Our application was approved for FY 2025 with open enrollment starting on September 16, 2024, and ending on November 16, 2024.

Events/Other:

- Attended Department of Veterans Affairs Vet Resources Community Network Community of Practice on 9/26/2024 at 1200.

Mr. Russell Feagin, Executive Director, Health & Memorials Division, GDVS

State Veterans Homes

State Veterans Homes Census (Through October 11, 2024) +

Current Month	Augusta	Milledgeville	Total
Regular Patients	92	106	198
Service Connected *	30	35	65
Total Patients	122	141	263
Last Month			
Regular Patients	92	109	201
Service Connected *	32	35	67
Total Patients	124	144	268

* One hundred percent of the cost of these services is paid by the VA. No state funds are involved.

+ The numbers reported to the VSB are the total numbers from Sept. 14, 2024, through Oct. 11, 2024.

Georgia War Veterans Nursing Home

We initiated our emergency operations plan prior to Hurricane Helene on Thursday, September 26th and ended up sheltering in place for 5 days until the power came back on. During that time, we were also on a boil water advisory from the city of Augusta which also lasted for a total of five days. Most of Augusta was without power and water, but we remained on backup generator power and had enough water stored on campus to continue operating with minimal disruption. We actually never had any disruption to the water pressure in our building so that was a positive. The facility also had disruption in the internet/phone service which was restored within that same 5 day period. Cable issues are still ongoing. All things considered, not much changed for our veterans during the storm.

Georgia War Veterans Home

Normal operations continue. Renovations to the Wood Building are complete.

State Veterans Cemeteries

Burial Statistics (through October 11, 2024)+

State Veterans Cemetery	Cumulative Last Month	Cumulative Current Month	Increase
Glennville	2,585	2,602	17
Milledgeville	5,587	5,618	31
Total	8,172	8,220	48

+ The report to the VSB is the total numbers from Sept. 14, 2024, through Oct. 11, 2024.

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery – Glennville

Cemetery operations continue as normal.

Hurricane Helene caused severe damage to the Glennville area causing a total loss of utilities, e.g., water, power, cable services, network services, etc. There were several trees down and a lot of limbs and leaves scattered around the cemetery. Despite this the cemetery staff came in and conducted funeral services on Friday and the following week. The last cemetery employee finally had his power restored this past Monday.

Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery at Milledgeville

Cemetery operations continue as normal. Fortunately, they only had some flowers blown around as a result of the storm.

Mr. Carlton Deese, Executive Director GWVNH, Augusta, GA

The Augusta area was hit relatively hard by Hurricane Helene. Most of the staff had an impact to their homes and personal lives. We deployed our Emergency Management plan the day before and the veterans couldn't tell what the impact was on us. Most of Augusta lost power and we were under a boil water advisory. The biggest disruption to our veterans was losing cable for almost two weeks. We ended up putting antennas in the rooms so they could watch television. Our staff did an excellent job for our veterans while going through so much personally.

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Mr. Kerry Dyer, Chief Operations Officer

On Thursday September 26, 2024, Kerry Dyer contacted Austin Taylor, Grovetown Landlord to discuss the office deficiencies. He also spoke to Leslie Davis, State Property Leasing Specialist regarding co-locating field offices with Technical College System of Georgia. Later that day he submitted the Space Action Form, Organizational Chart and Space Utilization Form to State Properties for office space at Atlanta Technical College.

On Friday, September 27, 2024, Kerry Dyer contacted Sissy Livingston, Westin Hotel Senior Sales Executive regarding conference room space for the FY26 National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) conference. He also spoke to Marlon Benjamin, GBA Project Manager regarding the window blind installation that starts on Tuesday, October 1st. Later that day he processed 1 resignation packet.

On Monday, September 30, 2024, Kerry Dyer attended the weekly Director's meeting. He also updated and distributed the monthly Alpha Roster to the Senior Leadership. Later that day he emailed 5 Cemetery Tech 1 resumes to Linda Lavendar, Milledgeville Cemetery Director.

On Tuesday, October 1, 2024, Kerry Dyer spoke with Nickole Terrazas, Kepro Account Representative regarding the FY2024 Utilization Report. He also contacted Kathy Skates, Vice President of Administration, Albany Tech to discuss a site visit. Later that day he spoke to Scott Cochran, GBA lead electrician regarding the power disconnection in the cubicles.

On Wednesday, October 2, 2024, Kerry Dyer was a Panel Member at the 2024 Military Influencer Conference at Hilton Hotel.

On Thursday, October 3, 2024, Kerry Dyer along with Mark Demers and Will Wilson met with Marlon Benjamin, GBA Project Manager, Scott Cochran, GBA Electrical Engineer and Scott Duncan, President of Carrollton Furniture to discuss the Power/Data removal & installation for the cubicles. He also processed one new hire packet for the Milledgeville Cemetery.

On Friday October 4, 2024, Kerry Dyer submitted a Space Action Form to Leslie Davis, State Property Leasing Specialist requesting to co-locate the Albany Field Office with Albany Technical College. He also submitted a Space Action Form requesting 2 additional offices in the Chattahoochee Technical College. Later that day he spoke to Carrie Steele, DOAS, Director of Agency Sourcing to discuss a Request for Proposal of the Milledgeville War Veterans Home.

On Monday October 7, 2024, Kerry Dyer attended the weekly Director's meeting. He also processed 2 new hire packets, 1 internal transfer and 1 promotion packet. Later that day he attended the UniteUs weekly meeting.

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On Tuesday, October 8, 2024, Kerry Dyer conducted a site visit at Atlanta Technical College along with Raven Holstick, Will Wilson and Leslie Davis, State Properties Leasing Specialist. He also met with Don Maloney, Regional Engineer Team Lead, Connectivity Solutions Integrated Solutions & Consulting to discuss the Data/Voice cable removal from the cubicles.

On Wednesday, October 9, 2024, Kerry Dyer visited the Atlanta VAMC.

On Thursday, October 10, 2024, Kerry Dyer attended the Annual Mandatory Fleet Managers Conference at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, Forsyth, GA.

On Friday, October 11, 2024, Kerry Dyer met virtually with Alisa Pereira, Director of Legal Services, GBA, Frances Mulderig, AG Office and Kim Jehae, Assistant Attorney to discuss the PBS Location Release Agreement. He also met with Debbie Barron, Sales Manager, Marriott Hotel to discuss the site visit and Hotel accommodations for the FY26 NASDVA conference. Later that day he met with Criag Gookin, Action Electrical to being the cubicle power disconnection.

On Monday, October 14, Kerry Dyer spoke with Curtis Williamson, GMVHOF, Inductee #66 regarding job opportunities nationwide for veterans with electrical experience. He also contacted Sissy Livingston, Senior Sales Executive, Westin Hotel to discuss Hotel accommodations for the FY26 NASDVA conference.

On Tuesday, October 15, 2024, Kerry Dyer attended the weekly Directors meeting. He also met with the cubicle disassembly team to discuss the timeline. Later that day he contacted Mary Chapman, DOAS Deputy Division Director, to discuss the elevator RFP.

Below are the Personnel Actions Kerry Dyer and Shareka Monday-Robinson processed from September 16, 2024 – October 16, 2024.

Location	Position	Status	Name	Date
Hinesville	VFSO 1	New Hire	Aneesa Sparks	10/01/24
Augusta VAMC	VFSO 1	New Hire	David Flanagan	10/01/24
Ft. McPherson	Office Mgr(VFSO2)	Resign	Vetineet Huiett	10/11/24

On the horizon: Veterans Field Service Office in the Perry VA Clinic, Fort Eisenhower and Albany Tech.

Ms. Lily Snyder, Director, Veterans Education and Training Division (State Approving Agency)

- The approval, risk-based surveys, and supervisory visits of educational institutions, training establishments and training programs approved for veterans training is continuing with no significant problems in any area being noted.

- Approval of new veteran's On-The-Job training sites (OJT) continues to increase. As of this date the State Approving Agency (SAA) has granted approval to 2,189 educational institutions and training establishments where Georgia veterans may attend school or job training and utilize their GI Bill® educational benefits.

Item *	Number
Approved Educational Institutions	481
Approved Training Establishments	1,708

* Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration, Education Division, WEAMS

*Source for Veterans Students Enrolled in Educational Institutions has been discontinued due to VA system migration. Will work to find another source.

Ms. Charlotte May, Director, External Affairs & Communications

INFORMATION OUTREACH

Division Updates

1. GDVS Newsletter – The department’s monthly e-newsletter features top stories from the month at <https://veterans.georgia.gov/newsletter>.
 - a. The September edition highlighted several of the department’s awarded grants, including construction grants for our two state veteran cemeteries, our selection for a third year of SSG Fox grant funds, and the opening of the Veteran Mental Health Services (VMHS) grant for a second round of applications. The monthly newsletter also featured the many Suicide Prevention Month events attended by department staff, an explanation of special separation benefits, and a spotlight on two of the department’s outstanding administrative assistants.
2. Press releases:
 - a. VMHS Awards the Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Aspire Health Partners – announcing the first award for the FY25 Veteran Mental Health Services grant.
 - b. VMHS to Open Application for Second Round – announcing the opening of a second proposal opportunity for the Veterans Mental Health Services grant.
 - c. GDVS Awarded VA Suicide Prevention Grant for Third Year – announcing the GDVS as one of eight programs nationwide to receive all three years of SSG Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program funding. The release highlighted notable accomplishments made with grant funds and celebrated the collaborative partnership with the AMES Center at KSU.

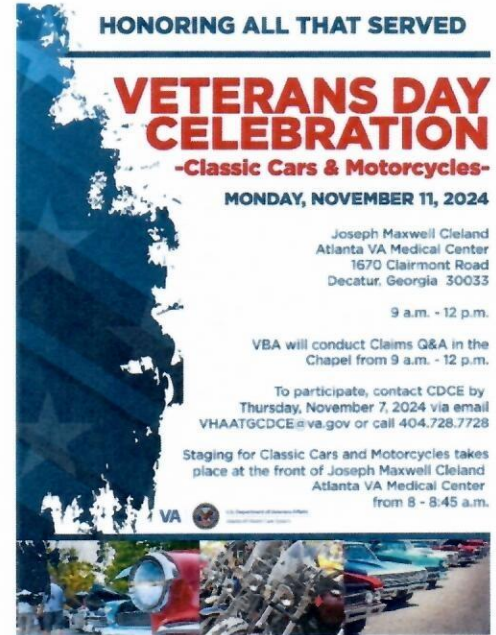
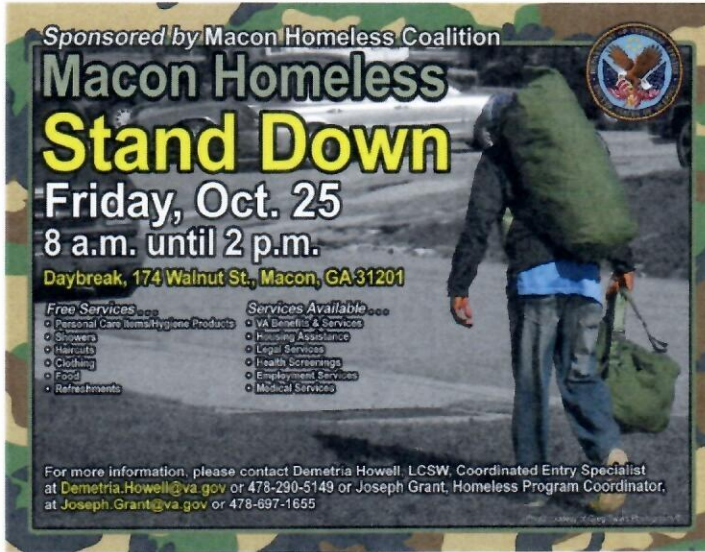
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3. GOVChats – Attended a virtual webinar hosted by GTA’s Digital Services & Solutions team on October 9, 2024. The webinar focused on the importance of digital inclusion, the work of state and county partners are doing to expand broadband access in rural Georgia, and the need for digital upskilling for Georgians to keep pace with the state’s evolving job market.
4. Unite Us Quarterly Business Review – met with representatives from Unite Us and TCSG on September 23, 2024 for a quarterly review. This meeting covered outreach impacts, veterans assisted through Unite Us, and trends in data gathered through submissions for help.
5. Legislative Sensing Session – virtually attended a joint Georgia House and Senate Sensing Session October 16, 2024. This session continued the conversation from last month on the need for Georgians to have access to accredited veteran service representatives who do not charge fees outside of the legally mandated schedule.
6. Benefits outreach – External Affairs and Communications continues to work with GDVS staff and partners to educate Georgia’s veterans and families on the availability of benefits and resources. In addition to providing information on hiring fairs, business building programs, and resource fairs, we focused on several key areas for messaging:
 - a. Severe weather awareness and recovery – as two major hurricanes impacted the state within this reporting period, GDVS worked closely with Unite Us to promote the accessibility of resources at every stage of severe weather preparation and recovery. Additional information from VA on how to access emergency pharmacy services or care was also shared.
 - b. Veterans Day activities – as Veterans Day approaches, EAC is sharing information on activities across the state. If you have information on activities in your area you would like to share, please let us know.
 - c. Suicide prevention and outreach – shared information from partners on suicide prevention and awareness. Information ranged from getting ready for Buddy Check Week to active opportunities to learn more about making an impact in your local community.

Public Information Division Contacts *(Since December 11, 2023)*

- Replies to VA eBenefits Messages = 315
- Replies to General Questions = approximately 565
- Individual Request for the State Certificate of Honor = approximately 105

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OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business to discuss.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Ross announced that GDVS received the VA Suicide Mortality Review Grant. We will be working with DBHDD and KSU to identify how we will do suicide mortality reviews in combination with what they are already doing across the state to focus on our veterans and hopefully prevent future suicides.

Ms. May requested that everyone send her information about any Veteran's Day events they will be participating in so that we can promote the events in the Community.

The Veterans Day Proclamation Ceremony was tentatively scheduled for Nov. 7 at the Capitol. As soon as we know the time, invitations will go out and we will start promoting the event.

The Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be on November 2 in Columbus.

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NEW BUSINESS:

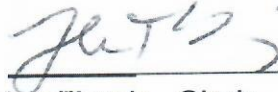
Mr. Mendez discussed an issue that was brought to his attention regarding VA Community Care and patients needing something like prosthetics. They are being told by VA Community Care to go ahead and get whatever they need and then turn in the receipt for a reimbursement from the VA. This is not the proper procedure, and many veterans may have out of pocket costs not being reimbursed. Mr. Mendez asked Commissioner Ross if she had a contact she could discuss this with to make sure the proper information is being told to veterans.

There was one candidate submitted for approval to be added to the Foundation Board, Brigadier General Destry Rogers. His bio and the recommendation from Commissioner Ross were sent to the Board members to review before today's meeting. Mr. Paslawski made a motion to approve Mr. Rogers to the Foundation Board. Mr. Mendez seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The next Board meeting was scheduled for November 20 at 12:30pm. It will be a combination virtual and in-person meeting, set up at the GOVS.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:12 p.m.

SIGNED:



Joshua Kopsie, Chair

ATTEST:



Steve Mendez, Secretary



BRIGADIER GENERAL HAROLD E. ROGERS

Brig. Gen. H.E. "Destry" Rogers, Jr. is the Mobilization Assistant to the Director of Air and Cyberspace Operations, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. The directorate is responsible for ensuring PACAF provides ready air, space and cyber power to promote the United States' interests in the Indo-Pacific region during peacetime, through crisis and in war. In this capacity, the Director oversees operations for three numbered air forces and 10 wings in support of more than 46,000 Airmen serving in Japan, Korea, Hawaii, Alaska and Guam.

Brig. Gen. Rogers received his commission from the U.S. Air Force Academy where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Management. He has served on both active duty and in the Air Force Reserve and has worked in numerous special operations billets. He has participated in operations Northern Watch, Southern Watch, Deny Flight, Provide Comfort, Desert Thunder, Deliberate Force, Joint Endeavor, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Noble Eagle.



Prior to his current assignment, Brig. Gen. Rogers served as the Mobilization Assistant to the Director, Operational Capability Requirements, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Virginia. The directorate supports major commands in developing and evaluating requirements for Air Force-wide modernization programs, including fighters, bombers, mobility aircraft, space systems, command and control, munitions, missile defense and cyber requirements. The directorate is also responsible for shaping and finalizing capabilities-based requirements documents for approval by the Joint Requirements Oversight Council. In his civilian career, Brig. Gen. Rogers is a first officer for a major airline.

EDUCATION

- 1987 Bachelor of Science Degree, Management, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
- 1992 Squadron Officers School, Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Ala.
- 2003 Master's Degree, Aeronautical Science, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, extended campus
- 2004 Air Command and Staff College, Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Ala., by correspondence
- 2008 Master's Degree, Strategic Studies, Air University, Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Ala.
- 2008 Air War College, Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Ala.
- 2014 Air Force Enterprise Leadership Seminar, Kenan-Flagler Business School, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

ASSIGNMENTS

1. June 1987 - June 1988, Undergraduate Pilot Training, Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.
2. June 1988 - March 1993, T-38 Instructor Pilot, 49th Flying Training Squadron, Columbus AFB, Miss.
3. March 1993 - August 1993, C-130 Initial Pilot Training, Little Rock AFB, Ark.
4. August 1993 - January 1998, MC-130E Evaluator Pilot, 8th Special Operations Squadron, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
5. January 1998 - October 1998, Evaluator Pilot, 16th Special Operations Group, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
6. October 1998 - May 2001, Aircraft Commander, 427th SOS, Pope AFB, N.C.
7. November 2002 - October 2008, Air Planner, Aviation Test and Evaluation Group, Headquarters Joint Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C.
8. October 2008 - December 2009, Instructor Pilot, 5th SOS, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
9. December 2009 - March 2011, Commander, 5th SOS, Hurlburt Field, Fla.
10. March 2011 - June 2014, Vice Commander, 919th Special Operations Wing, Eglin AFB Field 3, Fla.
11. June 2014 - Jan 2016, Mobilization Assistant to the Vice Commander, 7th Air Force, Osan Air Base, South Korea
12. Jan 2016 - April 2018, Mobilization Assistant to the Director, Operational Capability Requirements, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Requirements, Headquarters U.S. Air Force, the Pentagon, Arlington, Va.
13. April 2018 - present, Mobilization Assistant to the Director, Air and Cyberspace Operations, Headquarters Pacific Air Forces, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii

SUMMARY OF JOINT ASSIGNMENTS

November 2002 - October 2008, Air Planner, Aviation Test and Evaluation Group, Headquarters Joint Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg, N.C., as a major and lieutenant colonel

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Rating: command pilot
Flight hours: more than 4,500 hours

Aircraft flown: T-38, C-130, MC-130E, PC-6, BE-200, DHC-6, C-208, MX-7, PC-12 and U-28

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Distinguished Service Medal
Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster
Bronze Star with oak leaf cluster
Defense Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster
Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters
Air Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Aerial Achievement Medal with three oak leaf clusters
Joint Service Commendation Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster
Joint Service Achievement Medal
Air Force Achievement Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

Second Lieutenant May 27, 1987
First Lieutenant May 27, 1989
Captain May 27, 1991
Major Oct. 1, 1998
Lieutenant Colonel June 4, 2006 Colonel
March 11, 2011
Brigadier General May 29, 2016

(Current as of July 2019)

