



Defense Orientation Conference Association

Live: Virtual Conference

CONFERENCE READ AHEAD

Friday, August 20, 2021

8:00AM to 11:00AM PDT via Microsoft TEAMS

Wounded Warrior Care: DoD Medical Issues, Global Aeromedical Evacuation Operations, and VA Health Administration Update

U.S. Military Fatalities

[A year without combat deaths: This Memorial Day, military fatalities overseas were the fewest since 9/11](#)

Harm Venhuizen, Air Force Magazine, May 31, 2021

As the United States winds down its commitment of troops to Afghanistan and decreases deployments to Iraq, the number of those who have died in service to the country overseas has reached its lowest level since the initial military response to 9/11.

[Military Suicides for Post-9/11 Veterans Are High, Study Warns - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

Jennifer Steinbauer, The New York Times, June 22, 2021

As the last remaining American troops prepare to depart from Afghanistan and Congress debates removing presidential war-making powers for the first time in a generation, there is a growing understanding that the veterans of America's longest wars have a far greater risk of suicide and other mental health concerns than those who came before.

[Budget Request for Arlington Cemetery Nearly Triples Amid Plans for Major Expansion | Military.com](#)

Patricia Kime, Military Times, June 3, 2021

Arlington National Cemetery would see its budget nearly triple in fiscal 2022 for a planned expansion that would connect it to the Air Force Memorial.

Aeromedical Evacuation Operations

[Aeromedical Evacuation > Air Mobility Command > Display \(af.mil\)](#)

Air Mobility Command Home Page

The Air Force Aeromedical Evacuation system is a unique and significant part of the nation's mobility resources. AE provides time-sensitive movement of casualties to and between medical treatment facilities, using Air Force and/or contracted aircraft with medical aircrew trained explicitly for the mission.

[Historic Firsts: Aeromedical Evacuation and the Transportation Isolation System - ScienceDirect](#)

Kimberly Reynolds and Richelle Bornales, Air Medical Journal, Jan-Feb 2021

This short article highlights the US Air Force's recent success with having their aeromedical evacuation crews use the Transportation Isolation System for the first time operationally to transport patients positive for coronavirus disease 2019.



[Little Rock supports unique aeromedical evacuation of VA patients in Texas > Little Rock Air Force Base > Article Display \(af.mil\)](#)

Michael P. Kleiman, U.S. Transportation Command Public Affairs, August 13, 2020

Moving eight veterans with spinal cord injuries (SCI) approximately 275 miles northeast by vehicular transport was not felt to be a safe option, so the VA requested assistance from the Department of Defense. On Sunday, July 12, 2020, with DOD's concurrence, U.S. Transportation Command acted on the VA's request to rapidly move these SCI patients via a C-130 aircraft. Less than 48 hours later, they were safely secure in their new location at the VA North Texas Health Care System in Dallas, TX.

Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care Issues

[Billions spent to fix VA didn't solve problems, made some issues worse | CNN](#)

Curt Devine and Drew Griffin, CNN, July 6, 2016

A commission tasked by Congress with trying to fix the troubled Veterans Health Administration has just concluded a damning report, finding that "many profound deficiencies" at the troubled agency "require urgent reform."

[VA wins presidential award for its in-house innovations improving health care services for Veterans](#)

VA Press Release, Sep 30, 2020

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today it received the highest level of distinction within the Gears of Government President's Award program for three innovations that have greatly improved services for Veterans at VA hospitals across the country.

[Study shows VA surgical care better than or equal to non-VA hospitals](#)

VA Press Release, July 20, 2020

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced VA hospitals outperform or match neighboring non-VA hospitals in surgical quality and overall patient safety satisfaction. The finding comes from a study conducted by VA and university researchers that was published June 26, in the *Journal of Surgical Research*.

[PTSD training at VA: The gold standard of care | Vantage Point](#)

Clair Hill, VA VantagePoint, July 23, 2021

Approximately 8% of adults in America experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) every year. Some people develop the condition after experiencing or witnessing a life-threatening event, like combat, a natural disaster, a car accident or sexual assault. Rates are higher in Veterans, particularly those who receive their health care from VA, including 12% of Veterans overall and 26% of QEF/QIF Veterans.

[VA benefits backlog likely won't be fixed until late 2022 \(militarytimes.com\)](#)

Leo Shane III, Military Times, June 10, 2021

The number of backlogged [veterans disability claims](#) has been cut by about 10 percent in recent weeks but likely won't return to pre-pandemic levels until late 2022, [Veterans Affairs officials](#) acknowledged Thursday.