

January 3, 2006

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Governor, State of Arizona
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

The Honorable Ken Bennett
Senate President
Arizona State Senate
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

The Honorable James Weiers
Speaker of the House
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Governor Napolitano, President Bennett and Speaker Weiers:

In compliance with Executive Order 2005-15, Arizona Veterans Task Force (Task Force), we submit to you the enclosed copy of the Task Force's recommendations and final report.

The Arizona Veterans Task Force was directed to accomplish two major goals:

- 1) evaluate issues of importance and determine the economic impact as they relate to Arizona veterans and,
- 2) to develop a plan to educate the business and civic communities of its findings.

The Task Force compared benefits provided by other states to the benefits available to Arizona veterans as a basis for recommendations contained in the final report. Recommendations were solicited from Task Force members, as well as stakeholders in Arizona. We found that there are several areas that require additional study and analysis. Therefore, one of our strongest recommendations is that a permanent council (i.e. Veterans Research Council) be formed to continue this important research.

The Arizona Veterans Task Force recommendations are presented in four categories:

- Actions Requiring Executive Direction
- Actions Requiring Legislative Change – Fiscal Issues
- Actions Requiring Legislative Change – No Impact on the General Fund

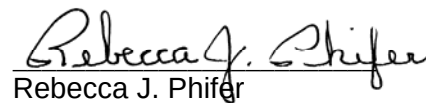
- Recommendations Tabled for Further Study

We believe that these recommendations will encourage veterans to select Arizona as their home. The result and benefit for our state will be the positive socioeconomic impacts that they bring to our state.

The Task Force has completed its directives as ordered within Executive Order 2005-15. We are indebted to you for your guidance in establishing the Task Force, and appreciate your personal interest in developing programs that will show that we care for our veterans.

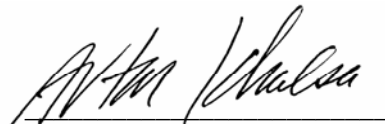
Sincerely,

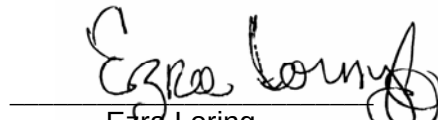

Patrick F. Chorprenning
Chairperson

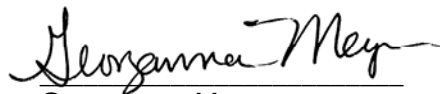

Rebecca J. Phifer
Co-chair

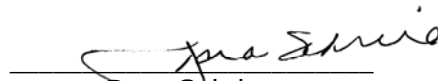

Joe P. Bibich

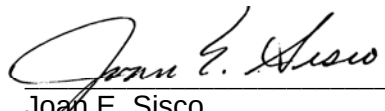

George J. Heaney


Avtar S. Khalsa

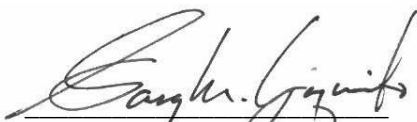

Ezra Loring


Georganna Meyer


Dora Schriro


Joan E. Sisco


Caryn R. Walsh


Gary M. Yaquinto



**Recommendations
and
Final Report
of the**

Arizona Veterans Task Force

Presented to:

**The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Governor, State of Arizona**

**The Honorable Ken Bennett
Senate President**

**The Honorable James Weiers
Speaker of the House**

January 2006

“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.”

- George Washington



Table of Contents

Executive Order 2005-15	2
Executive Summary	4
Introduction	5
Final Recommendations	
Actions Requiring Executive Direction	8
Actions Requiring Legislative Change	
<i>Fiscal Issues</i>	9
Actions Requiring Legislative Change	
<i>No Impact on the General Fund</i>	10
Recommendations Tabled for Further Study	11
Comparison of Veterans to Veterans Benefits Counselors	13
Special Acknowledgements	16
Appendix A – Questions from the Public / Task Force Answers	
Appendix B – September 9, 2005 PowerPoint Presentation	
Appendix C – October 5, 2005 PowerPoint Presentation	
Appendix D – November 2, 2005 PowerPoint Presentation	
Appendix E – November 30, 2005 PowerPoint Presentation	

Executive Order 2005-15

Executive Order 2005 -15

Arizona Veterans Task Force

WHEREAS, more than 565,000 veterans reside in the State of Arizona; and

WHEREAS, although precise data are not available, it is estimated that these veterans generate in excess of five billion dollars to the state's economy through Veteran Administration expenditures, disability compensation and pensions, educational benefits, military retiree pay and veteran's employment funding; and

WHEREAS, the economic impacts of these veterans has not been adequately studied at the highest level of state government; and

WHEREAS, state and local business and government leaders should be educated about issues of importance to Arizona veterans; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Janet Napolitano, Governor of the State of Arizona, by the powers vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State, do hereby order and direct as follows:

1. The Arizona Veterans Task Force is created to evaluate issues important to Arizona veterans and determine the economic impact of Arizona Veterans.
2. The *Task Force* shall be chaired by the Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, and in his/her absence, co-chaired by a member of the Veterans Task Force who has been elected to serve in that capacity. The chair and the governor shall each have power to convene the *Task Force*.
3. The *Task Force* shall be comprised of the following 11 members who shall serve without compensation;
 - The Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services
 - Ten members appointed by the governor, including one member from the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budget, one member from the Arizona Department of Revenue and eight members who are qualified and motivated to identify the economic impact of veterans to the state of Arizona
4. The *Task Force* shall analyze and evaluate existing state services and benefits provided to Arizona's veterans.
5. The *Task Force* shall identify and compare Arizona state services and benefits available to veterans who reside in other states.



6. The *Task Force* shall develop a plan to educate Arizona state and local leaders about issues of importance to Arizona veterans.
7. The *Task Force* shall issue recommendations and a final report to the Governor, Senate President and Speaker of the House by the first week of January 2006. Upon submission of the report, the *Task Force* shall cease to exist.

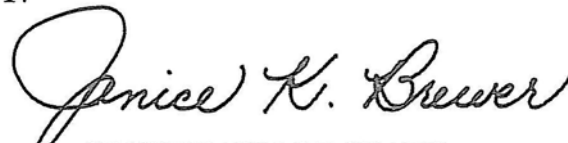
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Arizona.


GOVERNOR



DONE at the Capitol in Phoenix on this 7th day of June in the Year Two Thousand and Five and of the Independence of the United States of America the Two Hundred and Twenty-Ninth.

ATTEST:


SECRETARY OF STATE



Executive Summary

STATE OF ARIZONA
Janet Napolitano
Governor

Arizona Veterans
Task Force
Executive Order 2005-15



Arizona has approximately 600,000 veterans living in the state who have helped make it one of the fastest growing states in the nation. More than \$2.5 billion federal dollars annually come into Arizona's economy as a direct result of the veterans living here. Using a standard economic impact multiplier factor, these federal monies have a \$5 billion impact on the Arizona economy. Arizona veterans own businesses, purchase homes and make investments. From a purely social perspective, veterans have families, attend schools and participate in philanthropic activities in the state. Arizona veterans are major contributors to Arizona's tax base.

Task Force Members

Patrick F. Chorprenning
Chairperson

Rebecca J. Phifer
Co-Chair

Joe P. Bibich

George J. Heaney

Avtar S. Khalsa

Ezra Loring

Georganna Meyer

Dora Schriro

Joan E. Sisco

Caryn R. Walsh

Gary M. Yaquinto

The total estimated economic impact to the State of Arizona that is attributable to veterans and the military industry is \$10 billion per year.

The Arizona Veterans Task Force had a very ambitious agenda and an extremely short lifespan. Recommendations were solicited from members and stakeholders, many of which require further study before an appropriate determination can be made.

The Arizona Veterans Task Force strongly suggests that a continuing council (i.e., a Veterans' Research Council) be formed. The Council should be divided into subcommittees for the purpose of analyzing specific categories of recommendations received by the Veterans Task Force. Suggestions that require additional research could then be properly analyzed and would result in well-conceived recommendations from that Council. A report of findings and recommendations should be submitted by the Council the first week of June, 2007.

The individual members of the Arizona Veterans Task Force used their unique experience and background to compile the recommendations. While the Task Force will cease to exist in January 2006, this report will provide the basis to make Arizona a better place for veterans to live.

The recommendations within this report will encourage veterans to select Arizona as their home or to remain here after their active duty military service has concluded. Attracting veterans will increase the socioeconomic impact resulting from Arizona's veteran population.



Introduction

*“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.” - **George Washington***

The Arizona Veterans Task Force was established to deal with issues of importance to veterans in all walks of life. The Task Force was aimed at accomplishing two major goals: research and review the issues as they relate to veterans and educate the business and civic communities as to their findings. The Task Force compared benefits provided by other states to the benefits available to Arizona veterans as a basis for recommendations contained in this final report.

September 9, 2005 - At the initial Task Force meeting, Governor Napolitano addressed the Task Force and highlighted several areas where past and present military might be served by the Task Force. The essence of her executive order is to identify what Arizona offers to its veterans, what other states do for their veterans, and to ensure that Arizona stands out as serving its veterans the best. Discussion topics included:

- how the technical definition of a veteran has evolved over the past 75 years and has been modified by 15 years of court precedence, making the definition extremely complex;
- Arizona’s veteran population has steadily increased, as evidenced by the 1980, 1990, and 2000 census. The total estimated economic impact to the state of Arizona attributable to veterans and the military industry is \$10 billion per year and;
- educational benefits increase the veterans’ increased earning capacity and should be utilized by Arizona veterans. Every dollar invested in veterans’ education has a return of \$7, according to the US Department of Veteran Affairs (VA).

October 5, 2005 - Three complex topics were presented to the Task Force during the October 5th meeting. Briefings were provided on the following:

- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has a state veteran home program available where states contribute 35% of the cost of construction and it grants the remaining cost. The Arizona State Veteran Home in Phoenix provides 200 beds, while the VA formula dictates that Arizona should have 1,086 beds to serve its aging veteran population. The Tucson VA has pledged land on its campus for use as a state veteran home and the rationale for building a home in that location was outlined.



Introduction (continued)

- The VA has a grant program that pays for 100% of the cost to build a state veteran cemetery when the state assumes financial responsibility for maintenance and operation of the facility upon completion. Funds which were set aside to build additional cemeteries had been used to fund the Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery. The cemetery needs to be fully funded, the cemetery fund needs to be replenished, and additional cemeteries need to be built outside the metropolitan Phoenix area to provide a final resting place for its veterans.
- There are approximately 600,000 veterans in Arizona and there are 19 VA-certified, professional Veterans Benefits Counselors (VBC) to serve them. The VA recommends one counselor for every 5,000 to 10,000 veterans. Arizona needs at least 40 additional VBCs to serve its veterans and to attract the federal benefits into the Arizona economy.

November 2, 2005 – Topics for discussion during this meeting included the following:

- The Arizona National Guard is actively involved in Operation Enduring Freedom/Operating Iraqi Freedom. The reliance on the National Guard and Reserves is at the highest level in 60 years with no reduction in sight. Reserve components are treated very differently than active duty personnel, but both groups are serving their country and facing the same risks.
- Native American veterans have unique obstacles to receiving the benefits they have earned. Those in rural Arizona have difficulty accessing VA health care and they have cultural issues that conflict with VA claim processes.
- General Fund support for various programs illustrated the need to fund specific services to benefit veterans and increase the economic benefit to Arizona.
- Veterans benefits provided by states vary nationwide. A comparison was provided to the Task Force to serve as a basis for recommendations.

November 30, 2005 - In order to draw an accurate comparison of how Arizona ranks in the nation, a survey was conducted to identify the general fund appropriations supporting veteran programs. Of the 25 states that responded, the highest and the lowest were not considered (because their funds were so radically different). The average was an investment of \$.84 per veteran per month; Arizona invests \$.32 per veteran per month.

The Task Force reviewed and discussed a comprehensive list of all recommendations received by November 10, 2005 from its members and its stakeholders. A list of additional recommendations received after that date was separately reviewed and the Task Force was asked to be prepared to discuss it more fully at the December 15, 2005 meeting.



Introduction (continued)

December 15, 2006 - The recommendations tabled for further study at the November 30, 2005 meeting were reviewed and discussed. The members discussed the need to continue the analysis of several items worthy of further study, and it recommended that the Governor establish a longer-term executive body to continue this work.



Actions Requiring Executive Direction

Due to the ambitious agenda of the Veterans Task Force, there were many recommendations from members and stakeholders that could not be resolved without additional study. In order to thoughtfully consider suggestions received by the Veteran Task Force, a continuing body should be established to further research issues of importance to Arizona veterans. The recommendation is to:

- Form another executive body (i.e., a Veterans Research Council) to assume responsibility for the action items identified by the Veterans Task Force.
 - a. The Council shall function under the authority of the Governor and be chaired by the Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services.
 - b. The Governor shall appoint eleven voting members and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.
 - c. There shall be two voting members appointed by the President of the Senate and two voting members appointed by the Speaker of the House.
 - d. Members must be qualified to adequately represent the following:
 - i. Rural Arizona
 - ii. Special populations within the Arizona veteran community (i.e., female veterans, Native American veterans, and homeless veterans).
 - iii. Reserve components from both the National Guard and Reserves (senior enlisted representatives rather than officers is suggested).
 - e. The Council shall continue the work initiated by the Arizona Veterans Task Force (Executive Order 2005-15) by conducting additional study as specified by the Recommendations Report (see "Recommendations Tabled for Further Study" for specific assignments of the Council).
 - f. The Council shall coordinate its analysis with the Arizona Veterans Council (leadership from the largest veterans service organizations) and the Arizona Veterans' Service Advisory Commission. The group may also need to coordinate with the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Unified Arizona Veterans (a consortium of all Arizona veterans service organizations), U. S. Vets, and other organizations providing service to Arizona's veterans.
 - g. The Council shall prepare a report of findings by the first week in June, 2007.
 - i. The Council shall advise the Governor, Senate President and Speaker of the House on matters affecting issues of important to Arizona veterans.
 - h. The Veterans Research Council shall be reviewed no later than June 30, 2007, to determine appropriate action for its continuance, modification or termination. Issues that are determined to be "Recommendations Tabled for Further Study" will become the responsibility of the Veterans Research Council. A full listing of tabled recommendations is located on Page11.



Actions Requiring Legislative Change

Fiscal Issues

Appropriations needed:

- \$10.0 million to provide the state's 35% contribution toward a **state veterans' home in Tucson**. This general fund appropriation would need to be a one-time appropriation, non-lapsing through June 30, 2008.
- \$1.8 million* to establish **40 full-time veterans benefit counselors (VBCs)** and establish a staffing formula for the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services that one veterans benefits counselor is required for every 10,000 veterans in the state. This general fund appropriation will be \$1.8 million on a continuing basis thereafter.
- \$675 thousand to establish **15 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions to support the additional VBCs**. These support positions will be in the areas of financial services, human resources, information technology, etc. and are needed to help support the 40 additional FTE positions requested in Item 2 above, as well as to adequately support the department's current operations. This general fund appropriation will need to be continuing.
- \$183 thousand to **replenish the state veterans cemetery fund**, which is used to provide for preconstruction costs of up to three veterans cemeteries. Expenditures from this fund are reimbursed from the federal government. Any monies remaining in this fund after completion of three veterans cemeteries is returned to the general fund. This general fund appropriation would need to be a one-time, non-lapsing appropriation.
- \$125 thousand to provide for **maintenance and operation of the Southern Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery** in Sierra Vista. This general fund appropriation will need to be continuing.
- \$250 thousand to provide up to ten **one-stop veterans centers** per fiscal year held in various cities throughout the state where veterans can receive a complete array of services and benefits to which they are entitled. This general fund appropriation will need to be continuing.

* This \$1.8 million will be phased in over the first year and thereafter will be \$1.8 million in subsequent years.



Actions Requiring Legislative Change

No Impact on the General Fund

- Include the following language in the General Appropriations Bill: “Approve the expenditure of all funds in the Veterans’ Contingency Fund to modify the **heating/air conditioning (HVAC) system in the Arizona State Veteran Home** in Phoenix to include installation of registers and/or returns in the residents’ restrooms. The Legislature would be asked for “spending authority” for the Contingency Fund and no general funds would be requested.”
- Extend a **tuition waiver scholarship** to active personnel and reservists similar to the scholarship given to members of the Arizona National Guard who are **Purple Heart** recipients. Past and present service personnel must qualify for the Montgomery GI Bill in order to receive the waiver.
- **Equalize military preference points for all veterans** (disabled and non-disabled) applying for public service positions. After meeting all qualifications for the public service positions, applicants currently receive 5 preference points for being disabled and 5 preference points for being a veteran. The Task Force recommends that veteran status receive 10 preference points after the applicant has qualified for the position. The Task Force also recommends 10 preference points as the maximum number that veteran status may receive. Disabled veterans would be provided 10 preference points for veteran status and 5 preference points for disability, but the total number of preference points that would be allowed would be capped at 10 points.
- Establish a new **patriotic specialty license plate**. The patriotic plate may be purchased by non-veterans and does not replace the veterans license plate currently available to qualified veterans and their dependents.



Recommendations Tabled for Further Study

The following issues were too complex to adequately research before the Veterans Task Force recommendations were due. The VTF recommends the following critical issues are assigned to a newly formed executive body (i.e., the Veterans Research Council) for analysis and consideration. The order in which the target analysis is present below does not indicate the level of importance.

1. Develop a comprehensive **education** plan for veterans and their eligible dependents to include public service apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs.
2. Identify obstacles faced by **rural veterans** regarding obtaining VA and other services and recommend ways to improve access. Plans may include a suggestion that every incorporated town and city establish a Veterans' Service Representative.
3. Create **incentives** for veterans to relocate to or remain in Arizona. Such incentives may be based on recommendations received by the Veterans Task Force or similar to incentives in place for veterans in other states.
4. Develop a comprehensive plan to (1) ensure that the **Reserve Components** (which includes both National Guard and Reserves) are receiving benefits equitable to active duty personnel, and (2) provide incentives and/or minimize obstacles to recruitment. The plan is expected to include draft resolutions to be sent to the US Congress from the Arizona Legislature, changes to Arizona law, and outreach to Reserve Components.
5. Viability of moving the **DVOP and LVER programs**¹ from the Arizona Department of Economic Security to the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services.
6. **Tax relief for disabled veterans.**
7. Establish a **state home loan program** for veterans in Arizona.
8. Propose benefits for **disabled veterans** similar to programs in other states. Such benefits may include, but are not limited to the following:
 - a. Free hunting and fishing license to 100% service connected disabled veterans, with no expiration date.
 - b. Establish a Disabled Veterans' Business Enterprise program, which would create business opportunities for veterans with disability.

¹ Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) and Local Veterans Employment Representative programs.



Recommendations Tabled for Further Study (continued)

- c. Mandate that a certain percentage of state contracts be awarded to disabled veterans in the state of Arizona (similar to the California program and the US initiative signed by President Bush in October of 2004).
- 9. Develop a statewide plan for **homeless and indigent veterans** to include:
 - a. Programs designed to keep veterans from becoming homeless.
 - b. Programs to expunge the petty crime and misdemeanor criminal records of homeless veterans who are enrolled in a rehabilitative program for 60 to 90 days.



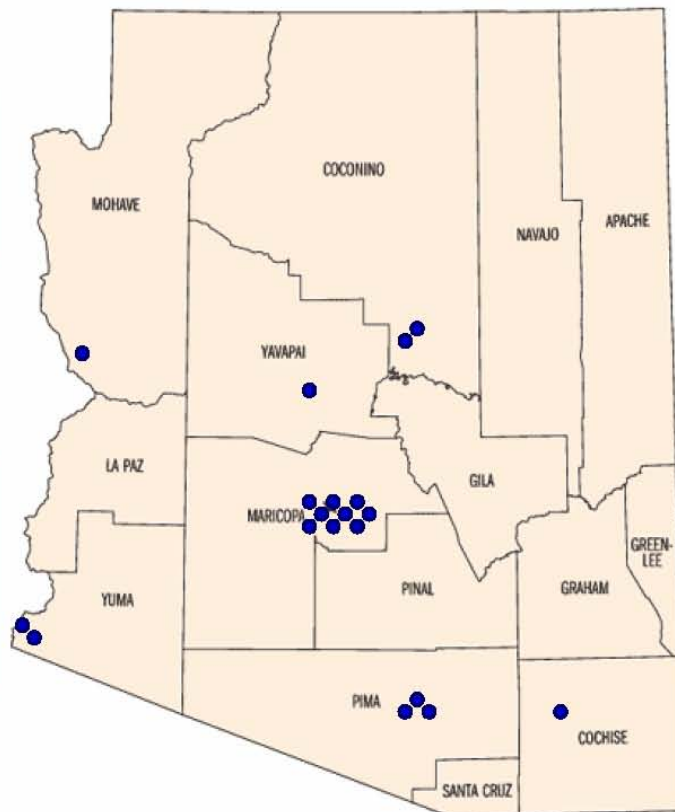


Comparison of Veterans to Veterans Benefits Counselors



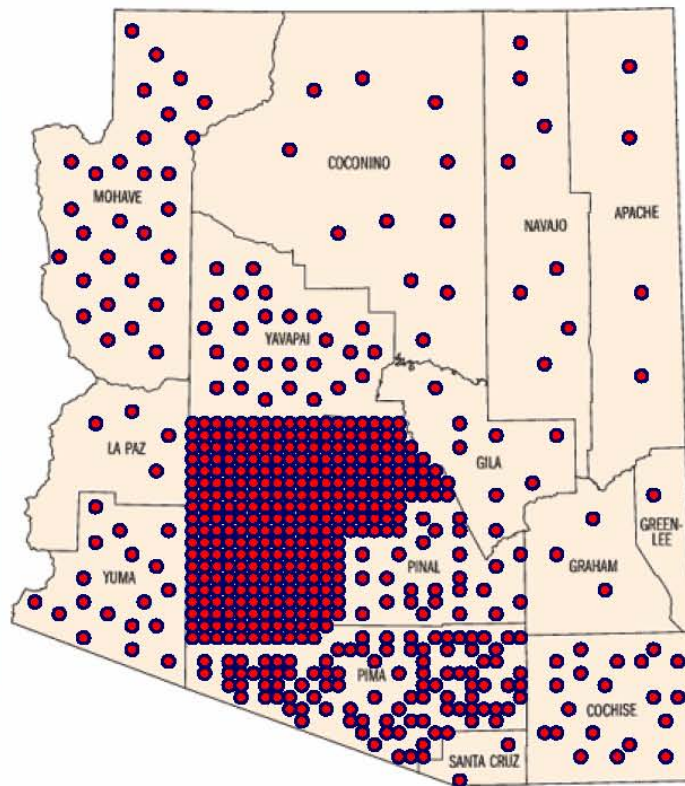
VETERANS' BENEFITS COUNSELORS

**Each Blue Dot Represents
1 Certified State Veterans
Benefits Counselor**



VETERANS IN ARIZONA

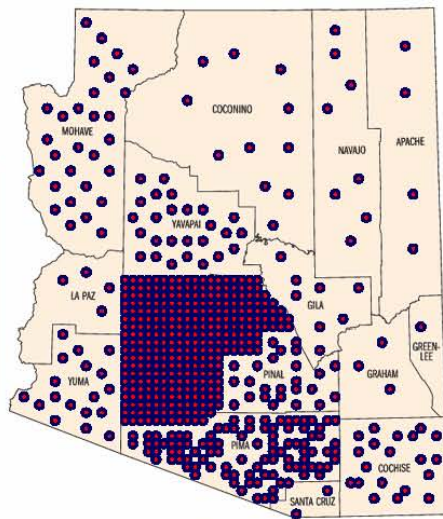
Each Red
Dot represents
1,000
Veterans



VETERANS IN ARIZONA



**Each Blue Dot
Represents
1 Veterans Benefits
Counselor**



**Each Red Dot
represents
1,000 Veterans**





Special Acknowledgements



Special Acknowledgements

The Arizona Veterans Task Force would not have been able to meet its objectives without the advice and support of the following individuals:

US Department of Veterans Affairs

Jonathan H. Gardner, Director, Southern Arizona VA Health Care System
Jay Vargas, Liaison to the VA Secretary for the Western Region
Sandy Flynn, Director, VA Regional Office – Phoenix
Jon Skelly, Assistant Director, VA Regional Office – Phoenix

Arizona National Guard

Major General David P. Rataczak
Director, Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs
Brigadier General Richard Maxon
Assistant Adjutant General, Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs

Arizona State Legislators

The Honorable Albert Tom, Arizona House of Representatives
The Honorable Russell Jones, Arizona House of Representatives
The Honorable John Nelson, Arizona House of Representatives
The Honorable Jim Waring, Arizona Senate

Tribal Representatives

Larry Anderson, Navajo Nation
Leo Chischilly, Dept of Navajo Veterans Affairs
Milton Bluehouse, Jr. – Executive Director, Indian Affairs Commission
Verland French, Salt River Indian Community / Arizona Inter-Tribal Veterans Assoc.
Michael Pavatea, Hopi Veterans Services Supervisor, Hopi Tribe Hopi Guidance Center
Cari James, Arizona Inter-Tribal Association and the Carl T. Hayden Medical Center

A special note of appreciation goes to the Arizona Veterans' Council, whose motto is "Veterans Helping Veterans."

Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

Robert "Bob" Digirolamo
Johnie Treadway
Donnell Gentry
Phil Seward
James Ellars

Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)

Albert Rodriguez
Nicholas Gervase
Robert Puskar
Dominic DiGiovanni

Vietnam Veterans of America

William "Bill" Messer

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States (VFW)

Ray Thomas
Gil LaMontagne
William Chagnon
Betty Gripp
Darryl Moore

American Legion (AL)

Larry Cox
Frank Whitten
John Aldecoa
Paul Griffin



Special Acknowledgements (continued)

Additional organizations represented at the Arizona Veterans Task Force and the Arizona Veterans' Council meetings:

American Indian Veterans Memorial Organization
American Legion
Arizona Intertribal Veterans' Association
Disabled American Veterans
First Marine Division Association
Gold Star Wives of America
Gold Stars Mothers and Fathers
Jewish War Veterans
Korean War Veterans Association
Marine Corps League
Military Officers Association of America
Military Order of the Purple Heart
National American Indian Veterans
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Unified Arizona Veterans
US Vets
Vietnam Veterans of America (if you take off the Council list above)
White Mountain Apache Reservation

Arizona Veterans' Service Advisory Commission
Webb Ellis, Chairperson
Mary Ellen Piotrowski, Vice Chairperson
Robert Lee Boyd
Bennett Thomas "Tom" Dingwall, III
Linda A. Fulkerson
Phillip R. Quochoyewa, Sr.
Kenneth K. Yamanouchi





Appendix A

Questions and Answers



Questions and Answers – September 9, 2005 Meeting

Questions from the Public

Q. Given the complexities of veteran benefits, how much training must a Veterans Benefit Counselor (VBC) receive before he/she is considered expert in providing guidance to veterans?

A. It takes 2-3 years of specialized training before a Veterans Benefit Counselor knows most of the rules regarding claims and appeals. This includes a one-year On-the-Job Training (OJT) Program which includes quarterly, annual & VA Training and Responsibility and Involvement in the Preparation of Claims (TRIP) training. A VBC must also be accredited through experience and/or testing. The VBC works under minimal guidance for the next 1-2 years while acquiring all the necessary skills. After 3-6 months of training, a VBC is competent to do basic claims work, such as initial claims (filling out the VA Form 21-526), and reopening claims. The VBC will also receive assistance as needed from the Training Coordinator, as well as from other more experienced VBCs.

Q. If only 10% of veterans currently receive disability benefits, how many eligible, disabled veterans do not receive benefits?

A. Tens of thousands of veterans of the approximate 600,000 in Arizona are more than likely eligible for disability and other benefits. More public relation and veterans outreach would make veterans aware of benefits and assist veterans in applying for benefits. This will only happen if there are more VBCs.

Q. What is the VA doing to untangle and simplify the complexities of receiving benefits?

A. The VA has in some cases made benefits easier to obtain by recognizing certain presumptive diseases and publicizing certain benefits like two free years of medical for combat veterans in Operations Enduring Freedom & Iraqi Freedom. Many other issues such as appeals procedures, understanding case law and changes, and due process rules have become more complex. An experienced service officer could tell you there are exceptions to the two-year rule above such as dental services are not included. Experienced service officers require training.

Q. What can be done to increase the amount of federal dollars supporting Arizona benefits administration?

A. More service officers could bring in more federal dollars which would be a savings in state social programs. Giving raises to intermediate and advance service officers would provide stability in the service officer base while providing a work incentive.



Questions and Answers – October 5, 2005 Meeting

Questions from the Public

- Q. How can the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (AZDVS) engage in community service or other organizations in rural areas to assist with veteran benefits administration? For example, sharing office space, contracts for services, etc.?**
- A.** The Arizona Department of Veterans Services (ADVS) will research opportunities to place Veterans' Benefits Counselors (VBC) in convenient, high traffic public places (such as National Guard Armories, county or city government buildings, etc.). The arrangement to secure office space can be coordinated through intergovernmental agreements. The placement of VBCs in these public places benefits the veteran, ADVS and the landlord. Currently, ADVS has a VBC in rent-free space in Lake Havasu City (at the DES office), Phoenix (at the VA Regional Office), and Prescott (at the VA Hospital). These placements are mutually beneficial.
- Q. Does AZDVA have a list of priority locations for establishing new benefits offices? What logistical issues must be addressed in staffing these offices?**
- A.** Priority locations of VBCs will be determined by the greatest need (where the proportion of VBCs to the veteran population is lowest). The highest priority will be for those counties with no VBC coverage. The second priority would be for those areas that receive minimal coverage through VBC monthly visits. The third priority would be to place VBCs in existing outlying offices that have a high volume of clients. The priority placement of VBCs in the most underserved communities will allow the current VBCs to better serve their local clientele.
- Q. Has there been an increase in VBC's over the last 10 - 15 years or has it stayed the same in relation to how many they service?**
- A.** Two years ago, one VBC position was added to the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. However, in order to achieve this increase, ADVS lost the position of a Clerk Typist, who was acting as support staff. There have been no other additions to the number of VBCs. The veteran population in Arizona has increased dramatically in the past 10 – 15 years; the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services has not increased the number VBCs in a proportionate manner.



Questions and Answers – November 2, 2005 Meeting

Questions from the Public

Q. There are some states that offer a “home loan” program. How is it run?

A. Other states establish a fund that it used to make loans to veterans. The veterans repaying their loans also pay interest on the principal, which is used to fund programs that benefit that state’s veterans. While this looks to be a viable program, it will require additional study before implementation.

Q. Is there a program in place now in the state of Arizona where women veterans receive the benefits counseling they need?

A. One Veterans Benefits Counselors (VBC) is assigned as the Women Veterans Coordinator to take care of the needs of 41,969 ¹ female veterans. The Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services needs the authority to contract with a non-profit organization for purposes of developing a full-fledged women veterans program. This would free up the VBC to handle counseling for her region and to mentor newly hired VBCs as opposed to trying to offer services statewide to female veterans.

Q. Have you pursued federal, state, and local grants or sought donations that would benefit Arizona veterans?

A. There are no centralized programs established for fund raising and grants. There are vehicle license plates that generate funds for the veterans donation fund, but the plate may only be sold to veterans and their immediate family members. One suggestion is to offer military support plates that may be purchased by anyone interested in showing their support of the military service personnel. Another recommendation to make donating easier is to offer a check box on the state income tax forms.

Q. Have you tried to get corporate sponsors to donate funds for veterans programs? I heard of DES receiving matching funds for “It shouldn’t hurt to be a child” license plates.

A. There have been limited fund raising efforts and there are untapped sources in the community.

¹ According to Census 2000, the number of female veterans in Arizona.



Questions and Answers – November 2, 2005 Meeting (continued)

Q. Is there a program where disabled veterans are provided with job opportunities now?

A. Currently, the program is administered by DES, the state's welfare agency. Other states place this program under their Department of Veterans' Services. The Veterans Task Force has discussed the possibility of relocating services from one agency to another.

Q. Why does one of the recommendations deal with the Purple Heart recipients? It looks like this is a good program, why do you want to change it?

A. The tuition waiver is currently offered only to the Purple Heart recipients from the National Guard and needs to be expanded to include all branches of services, especially active duty and Reserves. The other part of the recommendation is to limit this benefit to only those service personnel who are eligible for GI Montgomery Bill benefits.

Q. Do you need to offer more programs for homeless veterans?

A. There are only 19 VBCs available to serve the needs of 600,000 veterans. When there are additional VBCs available and properly trained, a homeless veteran program can be developed.

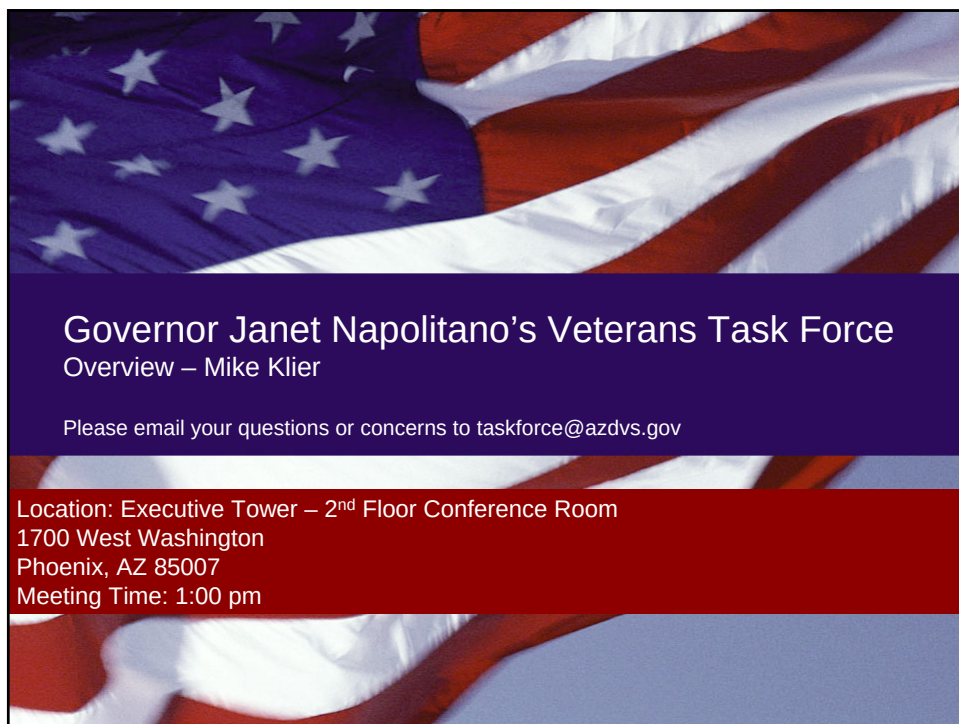




Appendix B

September 9, 2005
PowerPoint Presentation





Governor Janet Napolitano's Veterans Task Force
Overview – Mike Klier

Please email your questions or concerns to taskforce@azdvs.gov

Location: Executive Tower – 2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm



Veterans Task Force Overview

1st Meeting – September 9th, 2005

*Location: Executive Tower
2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm*

-  **Defining the Veteran**
-  **Veterans in our Society/Population Trend**
-  **Economic Impact**
-  **Education**
-  **Public Comments (based on time restraints)**



Veterans Task Force Overview

2nd Meeting – October 5th, 2005

*Location: Executive Tower
2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm*

-  **Veteran Home in Phoenix and Tucson**
-  **VA Medical Center – Tucson –
Jonathan Gardner**
-  **Increasing the number of VBC support**
-  **Overview of State Veteran Cemeteries**
-  **Public Comments (based on time restraints)**



Veterans Task Force Overview

3rd Meeting – November 2nd, 2005

*Location: Executive Tower
2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm*

-  **Briefing – Arizona National Guard and
Reserves**
-  **State Veterans Benefits Comparison**
-  **Review General Fund Support received by the
Arizona Department of Veterans' Services**
-  **Public Comments (based on time restraints)**



Veterans Task Force Overview

4th Meeting – November 30th, 2005

*Location: Executive Tower
2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm*

-  **Recommendations for Federal and State levels of legislation**
-  **Public Comments (based on time restraints)**

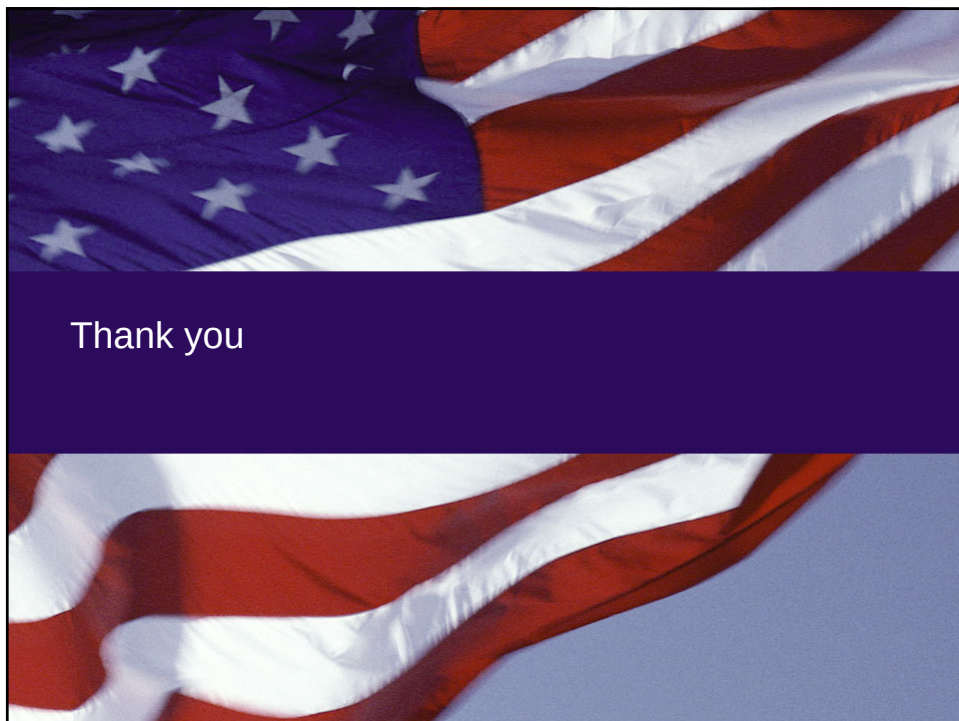


Veterans Task Force Overview

5th Meeting – December 15th, 2005

*Location: Executive Tower
2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm*

-  **Draft the recommendations and set in motion implementation and change**
-  **Public Comments (based on time restraints)**



*“To care for him who shall have borne
the battle and for his widow and his
orphan”*

— Abraham Lincoln



Department of Veterans Affairs

- 2005 Budget: \$67,000,000,000.00
- Second largest of the 15 Cabinet Departments.
- Approx. 236,000 employees-13 percent of the federal work force.
- 57 Regional Offices (VAROs).
- 157 Medical Centers (VAMCs).
- 862 Outpatient Clinics.
- 207 Vet Centers.
- 134 Nursing Homes.
- 42 Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs
- 88 Comprehensive Homecare Programs
- 120 National Cemeteries.

Department of Veterans Affairs in Arizona-2004

- Approx. 600,000 veterans in AZ.
 - 57,893 Veterans received Disability Compensation or Pension.
 - 13,122 VA Home Loans Closed.
 - 5,438 Veterans received Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Services.
 - Total VA Expenditures in AZ for 2004: \$1.4 billion.

Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits available

- Health Care
- Disability Benefits.
- Education & Training Benefits.
- Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment.
- Home Loans.
- Life Insurance.
- Burial Benefits.
- Dependents and Survivors Benefits.

Who Does VA Serve?

- Of the 25 million veterans currently alive, nearly three of every four served during a war or an official period of hostility. About a quarter of the nation's population -- approximately 70 million people -- are potentially eligible for VA benefits and services because they are veterans, family members or survivors of veterans.

The Definition of a Veteran:

- Title 38, United States Code, Part I, Chapter I, Section 101. States:
- *“The term ‘veteran’ means a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released therefrom under conditions other than dishonorable”.*

The Definition of a Veteran continued..

- Current VA Regulations State:
 - *“Eligibility depends on individual circumstances...and is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions. Active means full-time service, other than active duty for training, as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard or a commissioned officer of the Public Health Service, Environmental Science Services Administration or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or its predecessor organization, the Coast and Geodetic Survey. Men and Woman veterans with similar service are entitled to the same VA benefits”.*

The Definition of a Veteran continued..

- ‘Wartime Service’
 - Certain benefits require wartime service.
 - Under Law VA recognizes:
 - Mexico Border Period: 5/9/1919 - 4/5/1917
 - WWI: 4/6/17 – 11/11/18; for veterans who served in Russia, 4/6/17 – 4/1/20, extended through 7/1/21 for veterans who served at least one day of service between 4/6/17 & 11/11/18
 - W.W.II: 12/7/41 – 12/31/46
 - Korean War: 6/27/50 – 1/31/55
 - Vietnam War: 8/5/64 (2/28/61 for veterans who served “in country” before 8/5/64) – 5/7/75
 - Gulf War: 8/2/1990 – through a date to be set by law or Presidential Proclamation.

“Eligibility depends on individual circumstances...”

- 31 ‘special groups’ of veterans
- Minimum length of time on active duty required for some benefits.
- Means testing for some benefits.
- Age requirements for some benefits.
- Expiration dates for some benefits.
- Active Duty status for Natl. Guard and Reserve dependent on Presidential activation for federal duty.

Veterans Service Organizations

- Establish own criteria for membership eligibility for their organizations. (i.e. their own definition of a veteran)
 - Disabled American Veterans (DAV)
 - American Legion (AL)
 - Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)
 - Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)
- Example: War Time Service.
 - Each organization has their own dates for “wartime service”.

Veterans Service Organizations

DAV Membership Eligibility Requirements

- **Who is eligible to join the DAV?**
 - Any man or woman, who was wounded, gassed, injured or disabled in the line of duty during time of war, while in the service of either the military or naval forces of the United States of America, and who has not been dishonorably discharged or separated from such service, or who may still be in active service in the armed forces of the United States of America is eligible for membership in the Disabled American Veterans. Others who are disabled while serving with any of the armed forces of any nations associated with the United States of America as allies during any of its war periods, who are American citizens and who are honorably discharged, are also eligible.

Veterans Service Organizations

American Legion Membership Eligibility Requirements:

- **Who is eligible to join the American Legion?**
 - April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918(World War I)
 - December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946(World War II)
 - June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955(Korean War)
 - February 28, 1961 to May 7, 1975(Vietnam War)
 - August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984(Lebanon/Grenada)
 - December 20, 1989 to January 31, 1990(Operation Just Cause - Panama)
 - *August 2, 1990 to today (Operation Desert Shield/Storm)

Veterans Service Organizations VFW Membership Eligibility Requirements

VFW ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION					
Campaign Medals	Military Service	Qualifying Dates	Campaign Medals	Military Service	Qualifying Dates
Expeditionary	Navy/Marine Corps	Feb. 12, 1874 - Open	Asiatic-Pacific Campaign	Army-Navy	Dec. 7, 1941 - Mar. 2, 1946
Spanish Campaign	Army	May 11, 1898 - Aug. 10, 1898	Army of Occupation		
	Navy	Apr. 20, 1898 - Dec. 10, 1898	(20 consecutive days of duty)		
Army of Cuba Occupation	Army	Jul. 18, 1898 - May 20, 1902	Italy		May 9, 1945 - Sep. 15, 1947
Army of Puerto Rico Occupation	Army	Aug. 14, 1898 - Dec. 10, 1898	Germany (except West Berlin)		May 9, 1945 - May 5, 1955
Philippine Campaign	Army	Feb. 4, 1899 - Dec. 31, 1913	Austria		May 9, 1945 - Jul. 27, 1955
	Navy	Feb. 4, 1899 - Sep. 15, 1906	Germany (West Berlin)		May 9, 1945 - Oct. 2, 1990
China Relief Expedition	Army	Jun. 20, 1900 - May 27, 1901	Korea		Sep. 3, 1945 - Jun. 29, 1949
	Navy	Apr. 5, 1900 - May 27, 1901	Japan		Sep. 3, 1945 - Apr. 27, 1952
Cuban Pacification	Army	Oct. 5, 1906 - Apr. 1, 1909	Navy Occupation Service Medal		
	Navy	Sep. 12, 1906 - Apr. 1, 1909	Italy		May 8, 1945 - Dec. 15, 1947
Mexican Service	Army	Apr. 12, 1911 - Jun. 10, 1919	Turkey		May 8, 1945 - Oct. 26, 1964
	Navy	Apr. 12, 1911 - Feb. 7, 1917	Germany (except West Berlin)		May 8, 1945 - May 5, 1955
First Nicaraguan Campaign	Navy	Jul. 29, 1912 - Nov. 14, 1912	Austria		May 8, 1945 - Oct. 26, 1964
Haitian Campaign	Navy	Jul. 9, 1915 - Dec. 6, 1915	Asiatic-Pacific		Sep. 2, 1945 - Apr. 27, 1952
	Navy	Apr. 1, 1919 - Jun. 15, 1920	Korean Service Medal		
Dominican Campaign	Navy	May 4, 1916 - Dec. 5, 1916	Army, Navy, Air Force		Jun. 27, 1950 - Jul. 27, 1954
World War I Victory (with battle or service clasp incl. Siberia and European Russia)	Army	Apr. 6, 1917 - Apr. 1, 1920	Navy & Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal		
	Navy	Apr. 6, 1917 - Mar. 30, 1920	Cuban Military Operation		Jan. 3, 1961 - Oct. 23, 1962
Army Occup. of Germany	Army	Nov. 12, 1918 - Jul. 11, 1923	Thailand Military Operation		May 16, 1962 - Aug. 10, 1962
Second Nicaraguan Campaign	Navy	Aug. 27, 1926 - Jan. 2, 1933	Iranian, Yemen & Indian Ocean Operation		Dec. 8, 1978 - Jun. 6, 1979
Yangtze Service	Navy	Sep. 3, 1926 - Oct. 21, 1927	Nov. 21, 1979 - Oct. 20, 1981		
	Navy	Mar. 1, 1930 - Dec. 31, 1932	Lebanon		Aug. 20, 1962 - May 31, 1963
China Service	Navy	Jul. 7, 1937 - Sep. 7, 1939	Libyan Expedition		Jan. 20, 1986 - Jun. 27, 1986
	Navy	Sep. 2, 1945 - Apr. 1, 1957	Persian Gulf		Feb. 1, 1987 - Jul. 23, 1987
American Defense Service (with foreign service clasp)	Army-Navy	Sep. 8, 1939 - Dec. 7, 1941	Panama		Apr. 1, 1988 - Dec. 19, 1989
European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign	Army-Navy	Dec. 7, 1941 - Nov. 8, 1945	(pre and post invasion)		Feb. 1, 1990 - Jun. 13, 1995
American Campaign (20 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days of duty outside continental limits of the U.S.)	Army-Navy	Dec. 7, 1941 - Mar. 2, 1946	Operation Sharp Edge - Liberia		Aug. 5, 1990 - Feb. 21, 1991
			Operation Distant Bunker - Rwanda (11th Marine Expt. Unit USS Poldhu)		Apr. 7, 1994
			Vietnam Service Medal		Jul. 4, 1965 - Mar. 8, 1973

Veterans Service Organizations VFW Membership Eligibility Requirements

Campaign Medals	Military Service	Qualifying Dates	Campaign Medals	Military Service	Qualifying Dates
Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (20 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days of duty)			Operation Maritime Intercept - Iraq		Dec. 1, 1995 - Open
Lebanon		Jul. 1, 1958 - Nov. 1, 1958	Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Red Sea, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman W of 62° E Long., Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Yemen, Egypt, & Jordan		
Taiwan Straits		Aug. 23, 1958 - Jan. 1, 1959	Operation Joint Guard - Bosnia, Croatia, Adriatic Sea & airspace		Dec. 20, 1996 - Jun. 20, 1998
Guamoy & Matua Islands		Aug. 23, 1958 - Jun. 1, 1963	Operation Northern Watch - Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Persian Gulf W of 56° E Long., and inside AB, Turkey (only para. TDY to CNO)		Jan. 1, 1997 - Open
Vietnam		Jul. 1, 1968 - Jul. 3, 1965	Operation Joint Forge - Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Adriatic Sea & airspace		Jun. 21, 1998 - Open
Congo		Jul. 14, 1960 - Sep. 1, 1962	Operation Desert Thunder - Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Yemen, Egypt, Jordan, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea support		Nov. 11, 1998 - Dec. 22, 1998
Laos		Apr. 10, 1961 - Oct. 7, 1962	Operation Desert Fox - Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Yemen, Egypt, Jordan, Persian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, USN Red Sea support		Dec. 16, 1998 - Dec. 22, 1998
Berlin		Aug. 14, 1961 - Jun. 1, 1963	Southwest Asia Service Medal		
Cuba		Oct. 24, 1962 - Jun. 1, 1963	Operation Desert Shield		Aug. 2, 1990 - Nov. 30, 1995
Congo		Rev. 23-27, 1964	Operation Desert Storm		
Dominican Republic		Apr. 23, 1965 - Sep. 21, 1966	Personnel assigned to support units serving in Israel, Egypt, Turkey, Syria, Jordan		Jan. 17, 1991 - Apr. 11, 1991
Korea		Oct. 1, 1966 - Jun. 30, 1974	Kosovo Campaign Medal		
Cambodia		Mar. 29, 1973 - Aug. 15, 1973	Operation Allied Forces - Kosovo Air Campaign		Mar. 24, 1999 - Jun. 10, 1999
Thailand (only those in direct support of Cambodia)		Mar. 29, 1973 - Aug. 15, 1973	Kosovo Defense Campaign - Ground Action		Jun. 11, 1999 - Open
Operation Eagle Pull - Cambodia (includes evacuation)		Apr. 11-13, 1975	Combat Infantry Badge & Combat Medical Badge	Army	Dec. 5, 1941 - Open
Operation Frequent Wind - Vietnam (includes evacuation)		Apr. 29-30, 1975	Combat Action Ribbon	Navy, Marine, Coast Guard	Mar. 1, 1961 - Open
Mayaguez Operation		May 15, 1975	Korea Defense Service Medal		July 28, 1954 - Open
El Salvador		Jan. 1, 1981 - Feb. 1, 1992	Korea Duty		Jun. 30, 1949 - Open
Lebanon		Jan. 1, 1983 - Dec. 1, 1987	Service on the Korean Peninsula or in its territorial waters for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days of duty		
Operation Urgent Fury - Grenada		Oct. 23, 1983 - Nov. 21, 1983	Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal		Sep. 11, 2001 - Open
Eldorado Canyon - Libya		Apr. 12-17, 1986	Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay		
Operation Earnest Will - Persian Gulf (only those participating in, or in direct support)		Jul. 24, 1987 - Aug. 1, 1990	This information is to be used for guideline purposes only. The separation document or DD 214 MUST reflect campaign medal service to establish eligibility. Service in Korea without the issuance of a campaign medal can be established with additional, support documentation. Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay can be established with pay records.		
Operation Just Cause - Panama (USMC Vietnam & other RVN designated above mtr. outside the Conus in direct support)		Dec. 20, 1989 - Jan. 31, 1990			
United Shield - Somalia		Dec. 5, 1992 - Mar. 31, 1995			
Operation Restore Hope - Somalia		Dec. 5, 1992 - Mar. 31, 1995			
Operation Uphold Democracy - Haiti		Sep. 16, 1994 - Mar. 31, 1995			
Operation Joint Endeavor - Bosnia, Croatia, the Adriatic Sea & airspace		Nov. 20, 1995 - Dec. 19, 1996			
Operation Vigilant Sentinel - Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, & Persian Gulf		Dec. 1, 1995 - Sep. 1, 1997			
Operation Southern Watch - Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Persian Gulf, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Gulf of Oman W of 62° E Long., Yemen, Egypt, & Jordan		Dec. 1, 1995 - Open			

Veterans Service Organizations

VFW Membership Eligibility Requirements

This information is to be used for guideline purposes only. The separation document or DD 214 **MUST** reflect campaign medal service to establish eligibility. Service in Korea without the issuance of a campaign medal can be established with additional, support documentation. Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay can be established with pay records.

Veterans Service Organizations

MOPH Membership Eligibility Requirements

- **Who is eligible to join the MOPH?**
- **“You are eligible if you have been awarded the Purple Heart Medal By the Government of the United States”.**

75 Years of VA

This year VA celebrates 75 Years of Serving America's veterans.

- **VA Disability Compensation Program has evolved from a long series of legislative actions, spanning most of a century.**
- **“VA Benefits programs are extraordinarily complex, multifaceted, laborious, paper dominated, frequently-modified programs which have a long history. Over the years they have had an uneven and frequently disconnected series of enhancements and additions. All the changes have had the single focus of helping ‘veterans’”. - Admiral Daniel Cooper**
Under Secretary for Benefits

A VA Turning Point...

- 1989- The Veterans Administration becomes The Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Cabinet-level Department.
- What's the catch? Judicial Review.
- Veterans can now take VA to court...all the way to the Supreme Court.
- A complex system becomes litigious.
 - *“to carry on a legal contest by judicial process”-Webster.*

So...
**What does 75 Years of incremental
legislation and 15 years of precedent-
setting court decisions look like?**

A picture is worth a thousand
words...



**VA
REGULATIONS
& LAWS**



One
Veteran's
Claims
Folder for
Disability
Benefits

Confused Yet?

?????

VA's "Opposing Forces"

- **VA is mandated to perform outreach to the veteran community but faces resource challenges and "great unknowns".**
 - **New campaigns.**
 - **Changing battlefield conditions.**
 - **New diseases, medical conditions.**
 - **Court decisions.**
- **VA's goal is to inform and provide benefits and services to a greater percentage of eligible veterans and do so more timely and with better quality.**
- **VA is investing in technology. Work smarter, not harder.**
- **VA is moving towards 'self-serve' but still requires specialized expertise and collaboration.**

VA's biggest partners...the States.

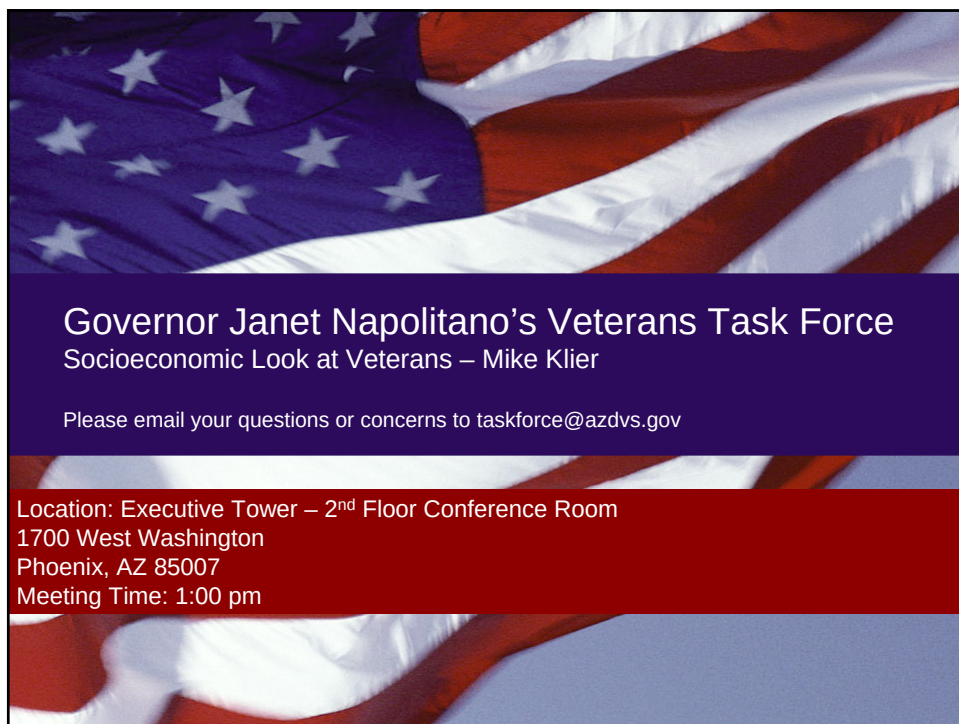
- Federal / State partnerships are a key success factor.
- Federal / State collaboration necessary to provide benefits and services to eligible veterans and their dependents.
- VA trains and certifies State Veterans Benefits Counselors and Veterans Service Organization Representatives.
- 73 Certified by VA in AZ since program began.
- Federal statutes are vast, but have mixed success in keeping up with dynamic nature of necessary services and benefits.
- State programs can help fill those gaps.

What is the zeitgeist?

Questions?

Thank you





Governor Janet Napolitano's Veterans Task Force
Socioeconomic Look at Veterans – Mike Klier

Please email your questions or concerns to taskforce@azdvs.gov

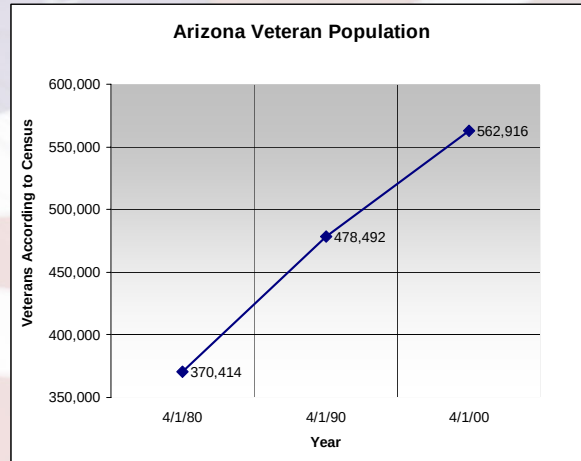
Location: Executive Tower – 2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm



Socioeconomic Look at Veterans
September 9th, 2005

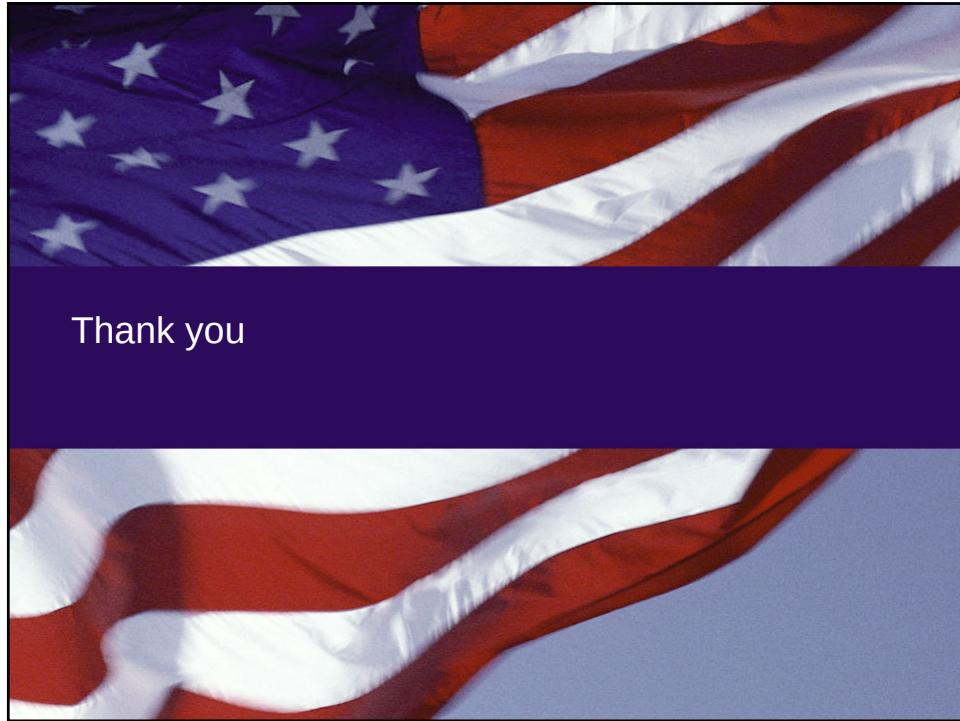
-  **Arizona Veteran**
-  **Veteran Growth**

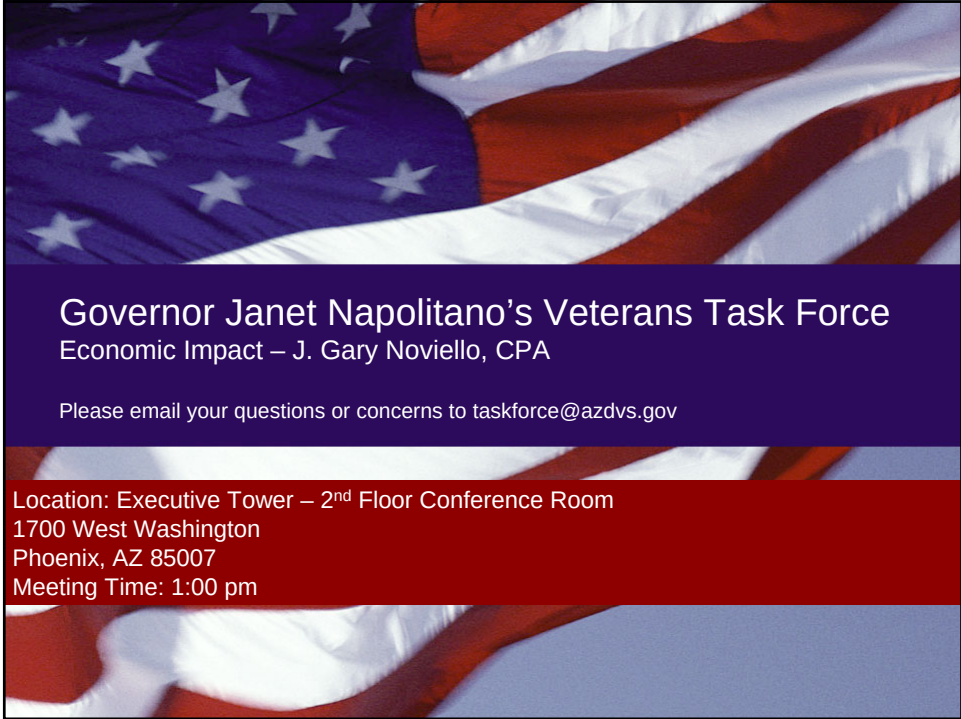
Arizona Veteran Population Growth



Based on US Census figures

Questions?



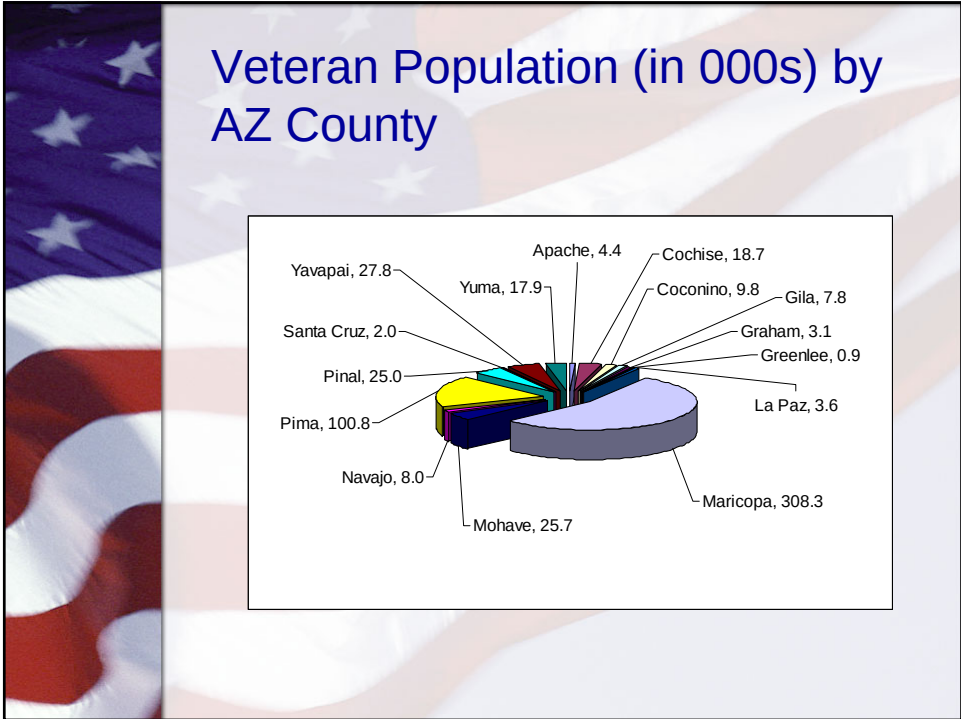


Governor Janet Napolitano's Veterans Task Force

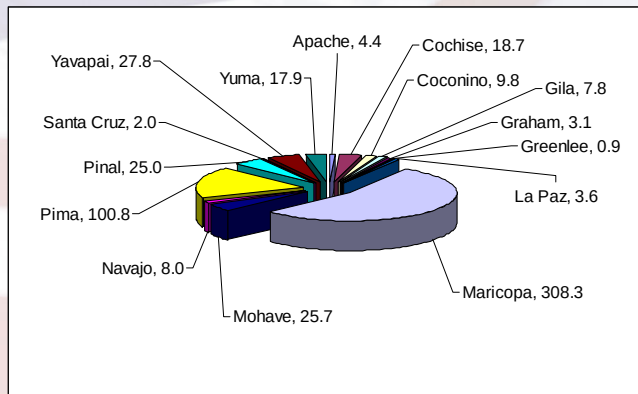
Economic Impact – J. Gary Noviello, CPA

Please email your questions or concerns to taskforce@azdvs.gov

Location: Executive Tower – 2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm



Veteran Population (in 000s) by AZ County





Annually, ~ \$2.5 billion¹ enters the AZ economy on behalf of veterans

- 👉 US Department of Veterans Affairs –
 - \$1.432 billion in expenditures (15th in the US)
- 👉 US Department of Defense –
 - \$1.051 billion in expenditures
- 👉 US Department of Homeland Security –
 - \$9.5 million in expenditures
- 👉 US Department of Labor –
 - \$2.4 million in expenditures
- 👉 US Department of Education –
 - \$0.5 million in expenditures

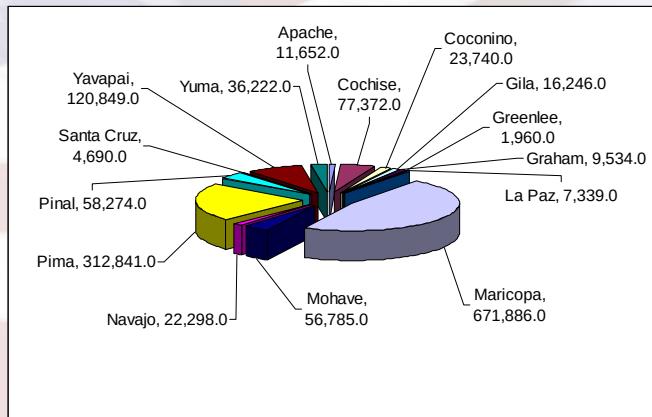
¹All amounts received are for the federal fiscal year ending 09/30/04 with the exception of Department of Labor, which presents the amount received for the state fiscal year ending 06/30/04. CPI has averaged 2.5% over the past five years, and therefore, amount of expenditures can reasonably be expected to grow at a rate of ~ \$62.5 million annually.



Department of Veterans Affairs

- 👉 Compensation and pension - \$686 million
- 👉 Medical - \$583 million
- 👉 Education and vocational rehabilitation - \$88 million
- 👉 Insurance and indemnities - \$42 million
- 👉 General operations - \$27 million
- 👉 Construction - \$4 million

VA Expenditures (in 000s) by County



Department of Veterans Affairs

VA Home Loans

- \$1.859 billion in approved loans
- 13,122 approved home loans
- \$141,580 average loan amount
- Guaranteed up to \$60,000 per loan
 - Potential liability to VA of \$787.3 million
 - Allowed veterans to purchase a home costing up to a \$359,650 with no down payment



Military retired pay for veterans and survivors

Department of Defense²

- Army - \$289 million
- Navy - \$164 million
- Marines - \$66 million
- Air Force - \$532 million

Department of Homeland Security³

- Coast Guard - \$9.5 million

² Average retired pay was ~ \$18,000 to \$21,500 year for ~ 55,340 retirees.

³ Average retired pay was ~ \$17,000 per year for ~ 562 retirees.



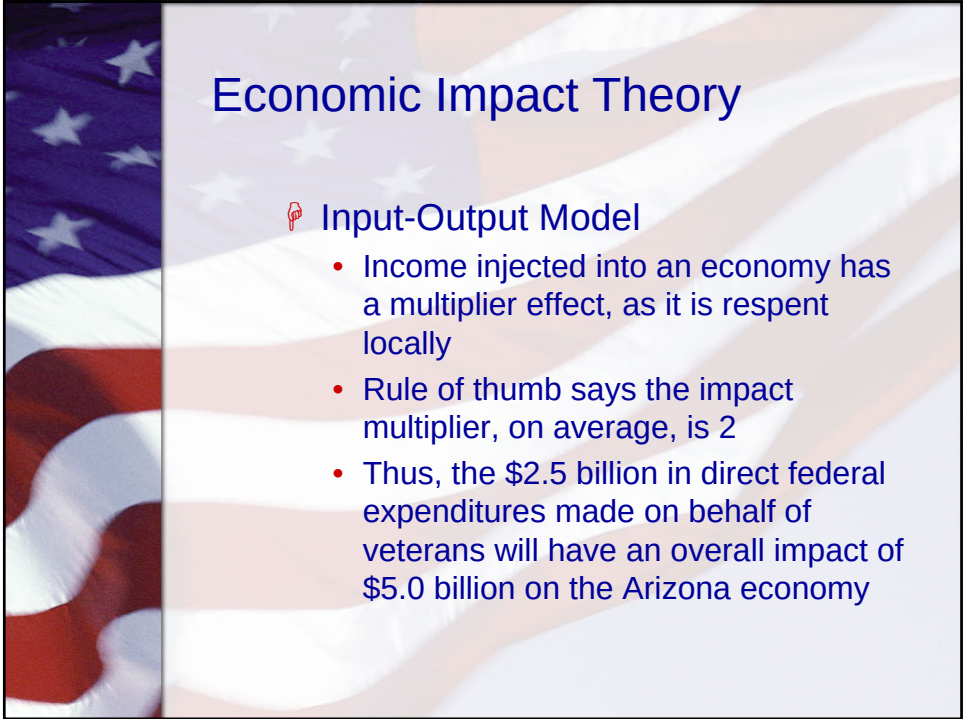
Federal Programs

Department of Labor

- Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) - \$1.1 million
- Local Veterans' Employment Representative Program (LVER) - \$0.8 million
- Homeless Veterans Reintegration Project (HVRP) - \$0.5

Department of Education

- Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) - \$0.5 million
 - ASU - \$303,000
 - Yavapai Community College - \$226,000



Economic Impact Theory



Input-Output Model

- Income injected into an economy has a multiplier effect, as it is respent locally
- Rule of thumb says the impact multiplier, on average, is 2
- Thus, the \$2.5 billion in direct federal expenditures made on behalf of veterans will have an overall impact of \$5.0 billion on the Arizona economy



Economic Impact of Arizona's Principal Military Operations⁴



Direct Impact (Principal Military Operations)

- \$2.411 billion
- 41,647 jobs



Indirect Impact (Support Businesses)

- \$3.252 billion
- 41,859 jobs



Total (Military Industry)

- \$5.663 billion
- 83,506 jobs

⁴The Maguire Company, in collaboration with ESI Corporation – May 2002

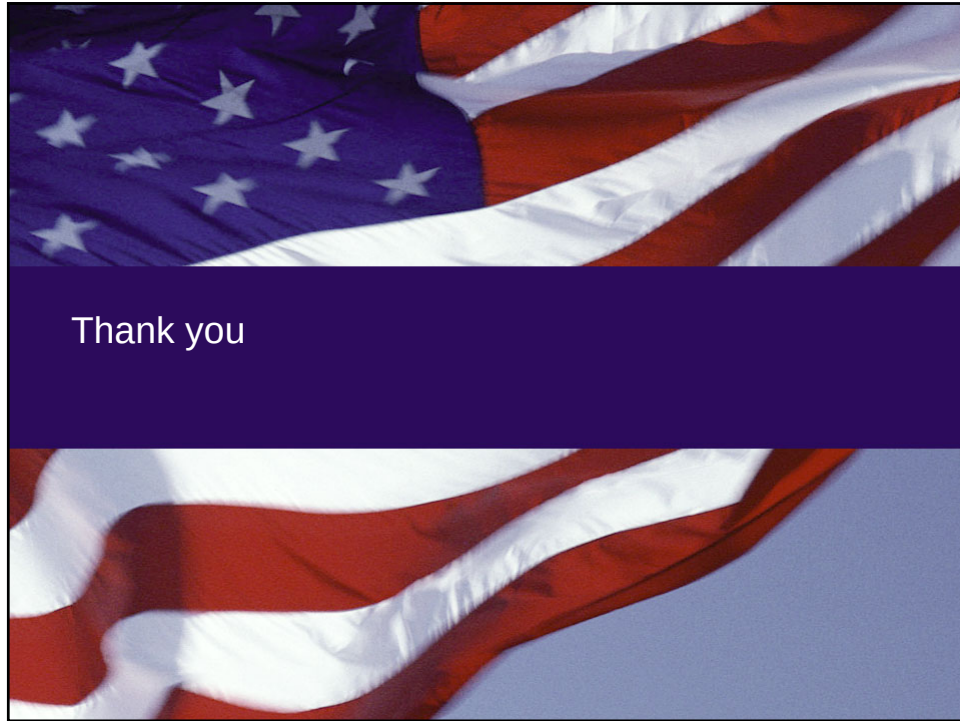
The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in a wavy pattern. The colors are vibrant, with the blue field of stars on the left and the red and white stripes on the right.

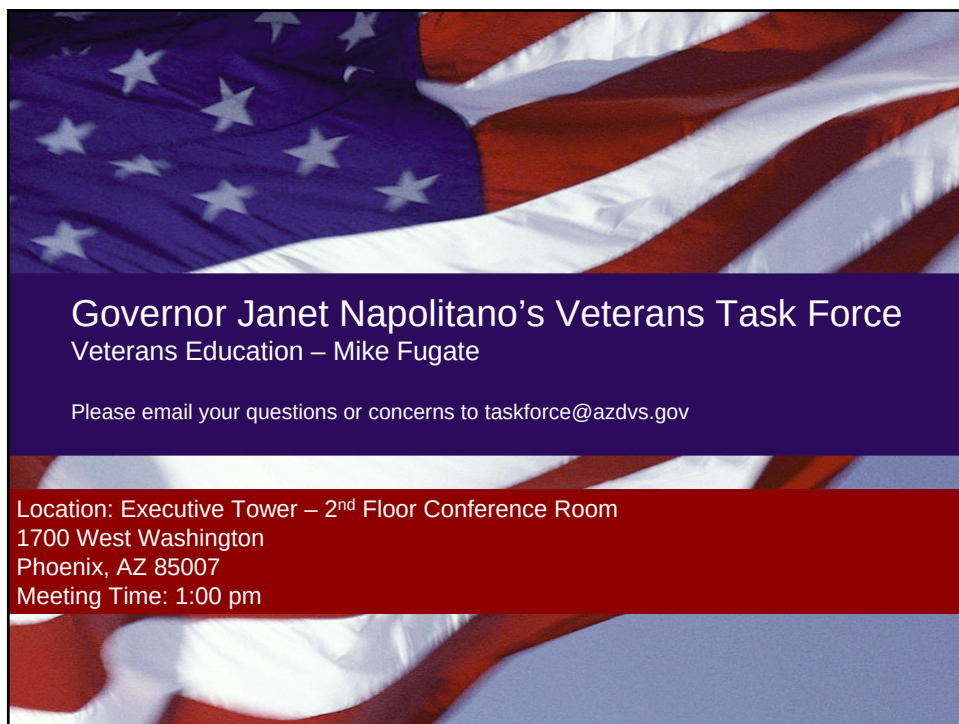
Total Estimated Economic Impact to
the State of Arizona Attributable to
Veterans and the Military Industry

> \$10.0 Billion

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in a wavy pattern. The colors are vibrant, with the blue field of stars on the left and the red and white stripes on the right.

Questions?

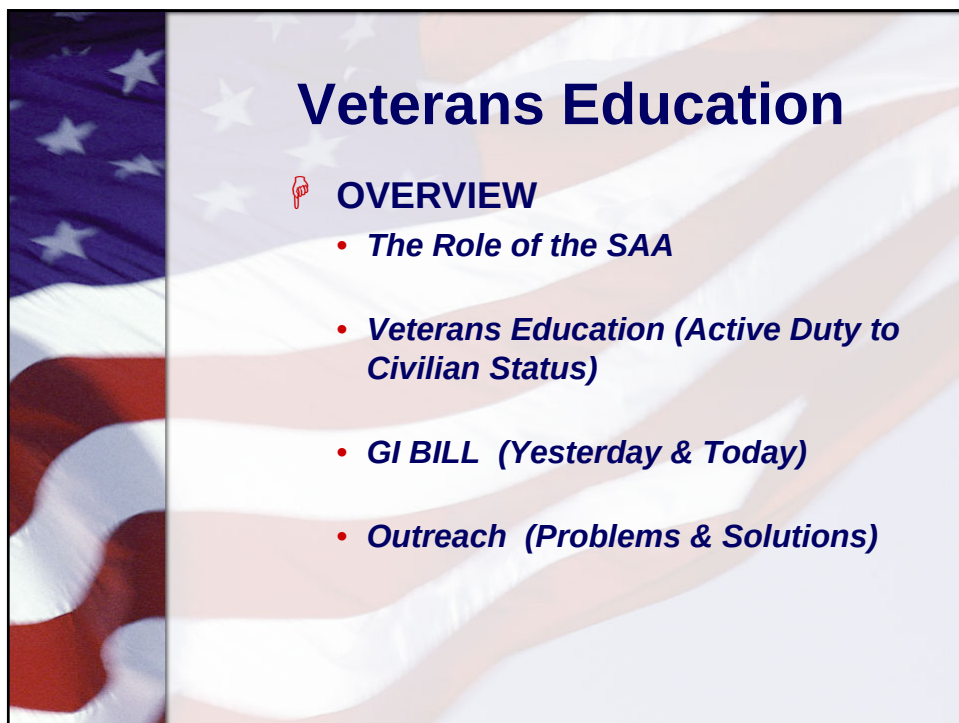




Governor Janet Napolitano's Veterans Task Force
Veterans Education – Mike Fugate

Please email your questions or concerns to taskforce@azdvs.gov

Location: Executive Tower – 2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm



Veterans Education

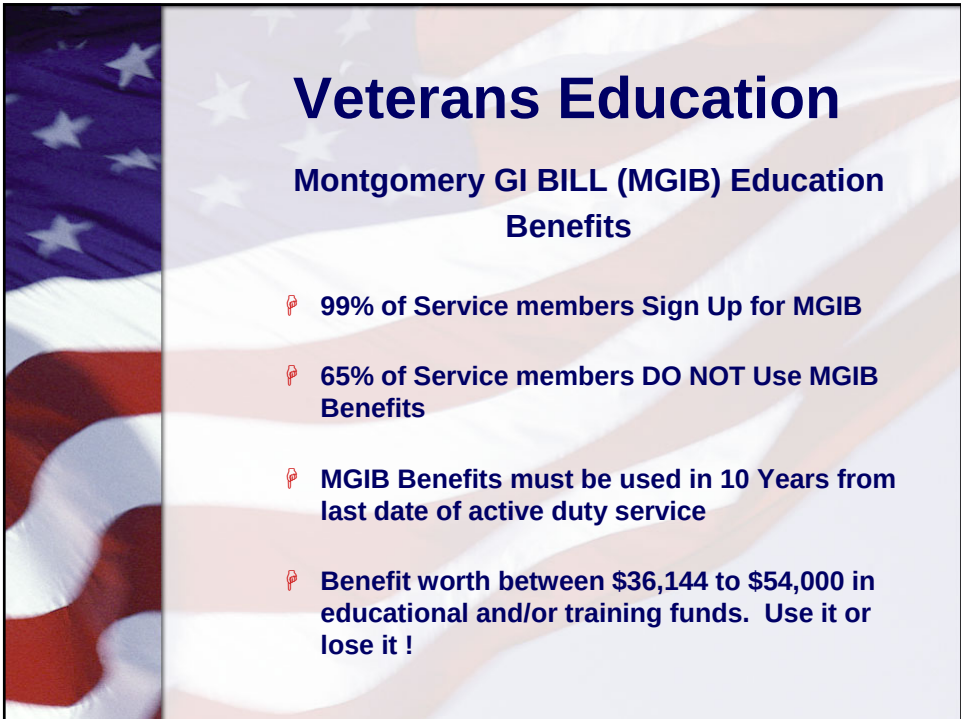
 **OVERVIEW**

- *The Role of the SAA*
- *Veterans Education (Active Duty to Civilian Status)*
- *GI BILL (Yesterday & Today)*
- *Outreach (Problems & Solutions)*



State Approving Agency Role

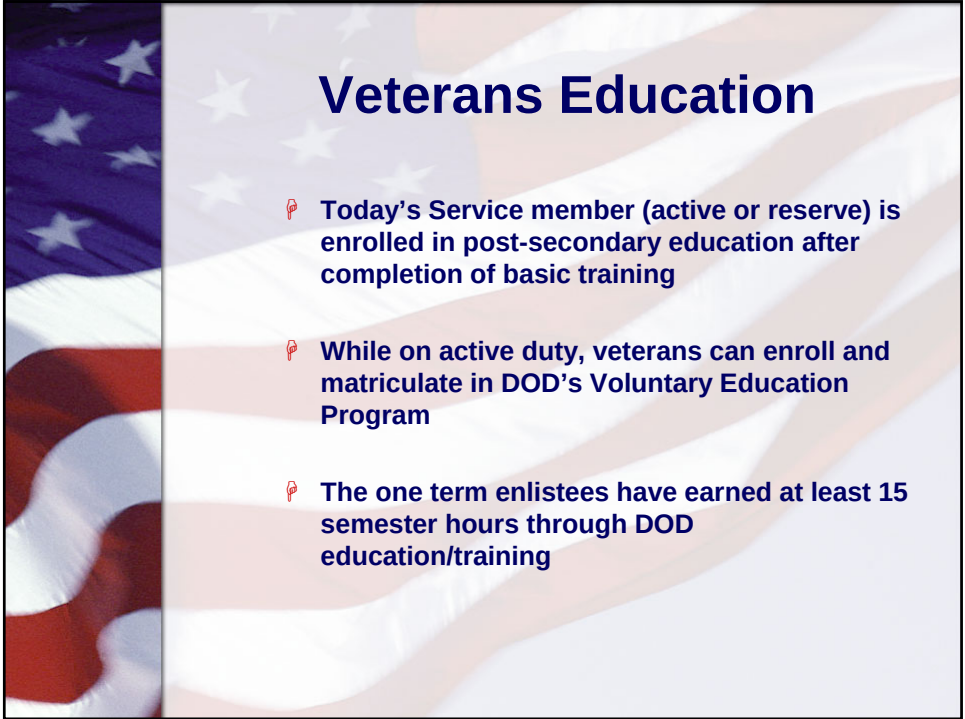
- 👉 Arizona State Approving Agency approves institutions and programs of education where eligible veterans and dependents can achieve either an educational, professional, or vocational objective, such as:
 - Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL)
 - Non-College Degree Programs (NCD)
 - On-the-Job Training (OJT)
 - Apprenticeship Program (APP)
 - Flight Training
 - Licensure and Certification Exams
- 👉 The SAA provides supervision at all approved sites through annual visits. SAA professionals evaluate curricula, student records, physical facilities as well as faculty, administration and school policies and procedures.
- 👉 The SAA also provides on-going training, outreach, liaison, and technical assistance.



Veterans Education

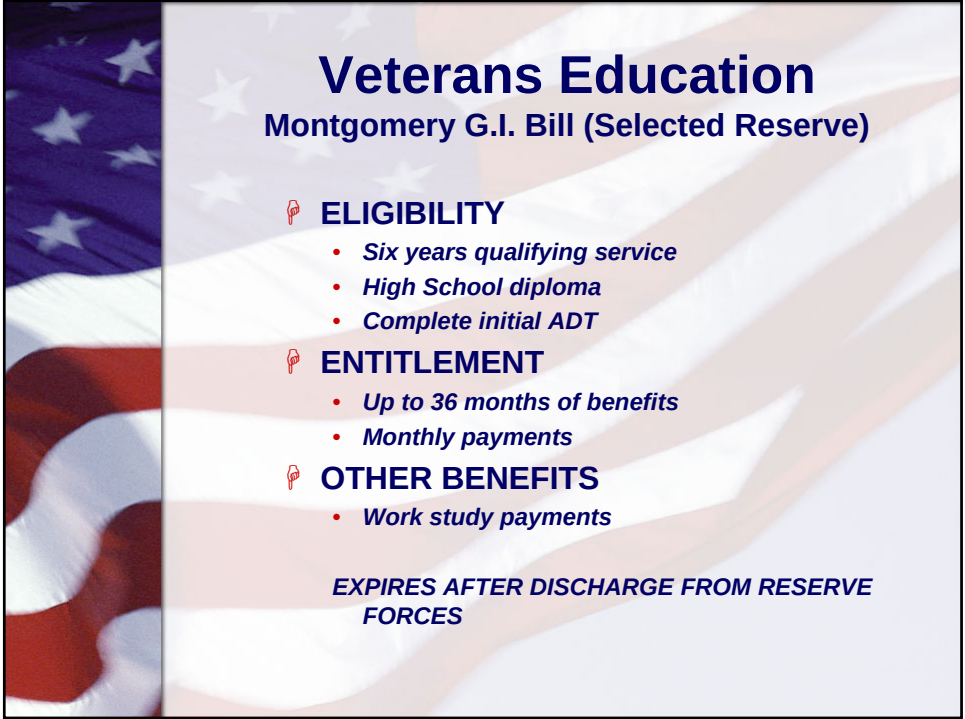
Montgomery GI BILL (MGIB) Education Benefits

- 👉 99% of Service members Sign Up for MGIB
- 👉 65% of Service members DO NOT Use MGIB Benefits
- 👉 MGIB Benefits must be used in 10 Years from last date of active duty service
- 👉 Benefit worth between \$36,144 to \$54,000 in educational and/or training funds. Use it or lose it !



Veterans Education

- 👉 Today's Service member (active or reserve) is enrolled in post-secondary education after completion of basic training
- 👉 While on active duty, veterans can enroll and matriculate in DOD's Voluntary Education Program
- 👉 The one term enlistees have earned at least 15 semester hours through DOD education/training



Veterans Education

Montgomery G.I. Bill (Selected Reserve)

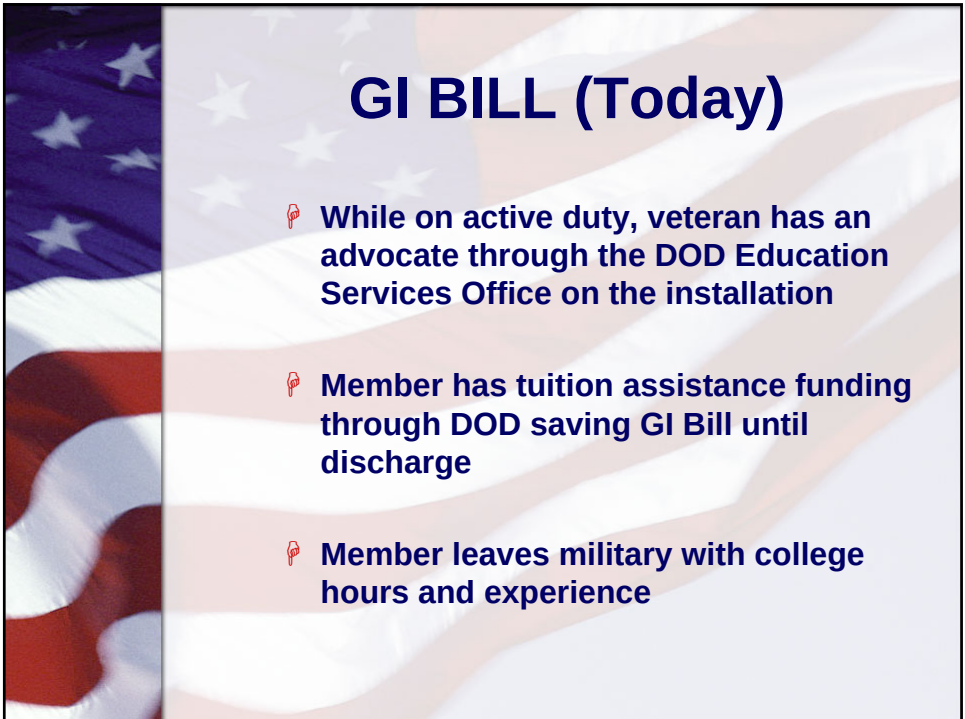
- 👉 **ELIGIBILITY**
 - *Six years qualifying service*
 - *High School diploma*
 - *Complete initial ADT*
- 👉 **ENTITLEMENT**
 - *Up to 36 months of benefits*
 - *Monthly payments*
- 👉 **OTHER BENEFITS**
 - *Work study payments*

EXPIRES AFTER DISCHARGE FROM RESERVE FORCES

The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. The stars are white on a blue field, and the stripes are red and white. The flag is slightly wavy, giving it a sense of movement.

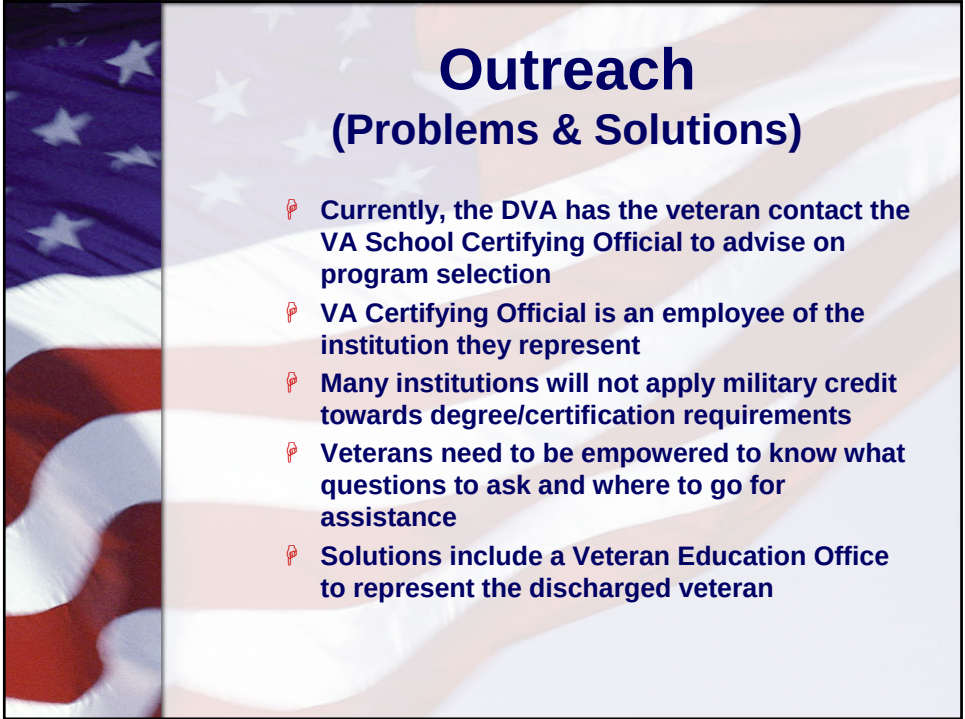
GI BILL(Yesterday)

-  **Gave veteran an entitlement that covered tuition , books and fees (as the VR&E Chapter 31 benefit of today)**
-  **Provided an impartial advisor to assist veteran in selecting the right educational/vocational program for their needs**

The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. The stars are white on a blue field, and the stripes are red and white. The flag is slightly wavy, giving it a sense of movement.

GI BILL (Today)

-  **While on active duty, veteran has an advocate through the DOD Education Services Office on the installation**
-  **Member has tuition assistance funding through DOD saving GI Bill until discharge**
-  **Member leaves military with college hours and experience**

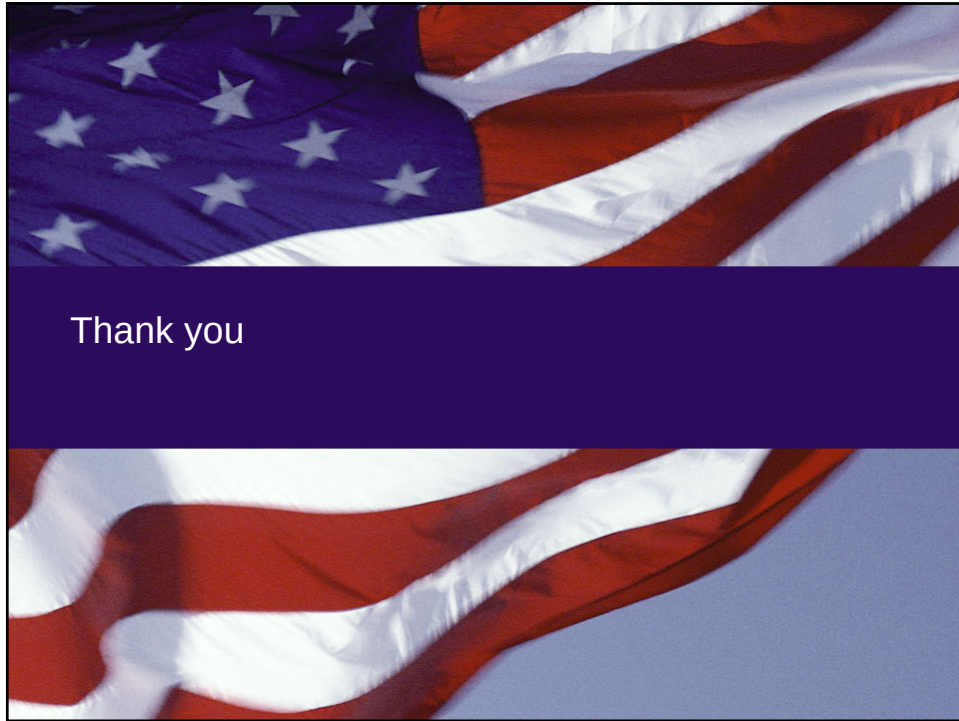


Outreach (Problems & Solutions)

- 👉 Currently, the DVA has the veteran contact the VA School Certifying Official to advise on program selection
- 👉 VA Certifying Official is an employee of the institution they represent
- 👉 Many institutions will not apply military credit towards degree/certification requirements
- 👉 Veterans need to be empowered to know what questions to ask and where to go for assistance
- 👉 Solutions include a Veteran Education Office to represent the discharged veteran



Questions?

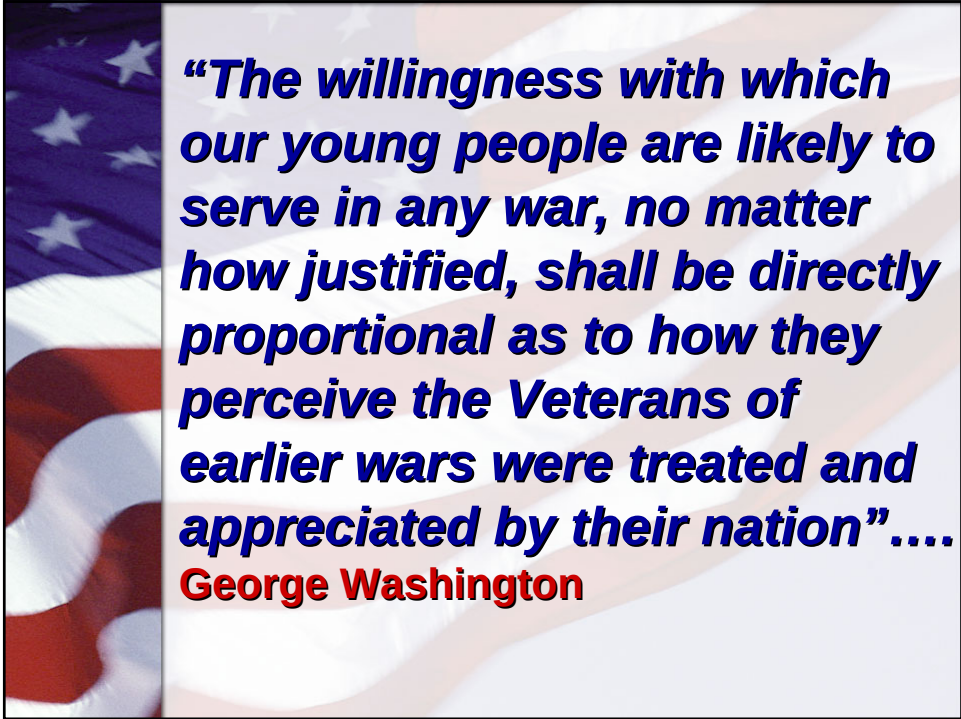




Appendix C

October 5, 2005
PowerPoint Presentation





***“The willingness with which
our young people are likely to
serve in any war, no matter
how justified, shall be directly
proportional as to how they
perceive the Veterans of
earlier wars were treated and
appreciated by their nation”....
George Washington***



Governor Janet Napolitano's Veterans Task Force

Overview of today's meeting – Mike Klier

Please email your questions or concerns to taskforce@azdvs.gov

Location: Executive Tower – 2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm



Veterans Task Force Overview

2nd Meeting – October 5th, 2005

*Location: Executive Tower
2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm*



State Veterans Homes

- *VA Medical Center – Tucson – Jonathan Gardner*



Veterans Benefits Counselors



Overview of State Veteran Cemeteries



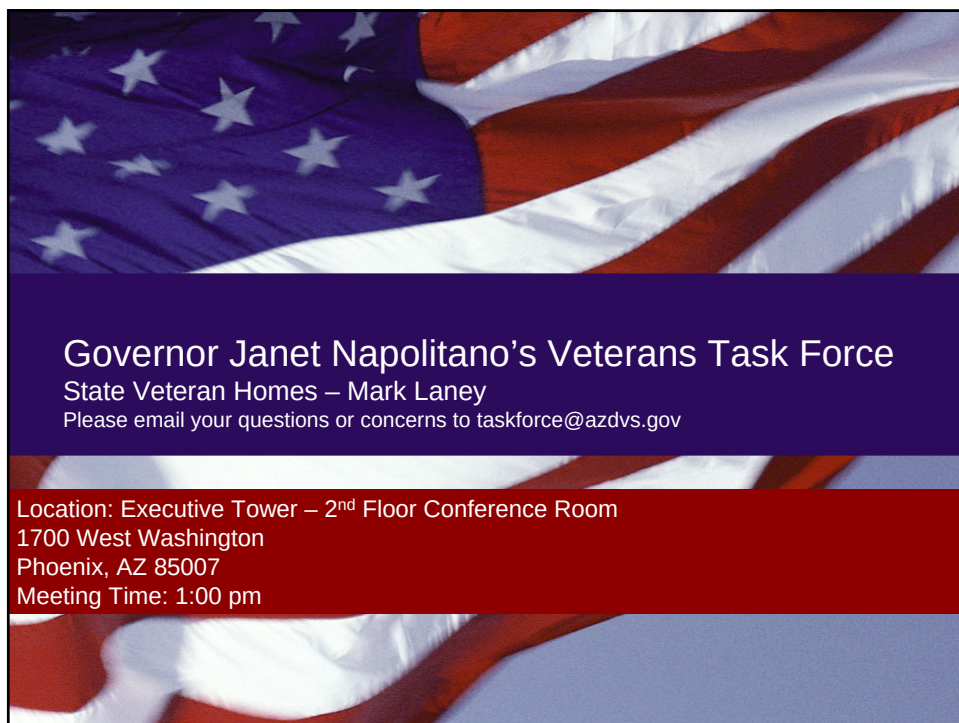
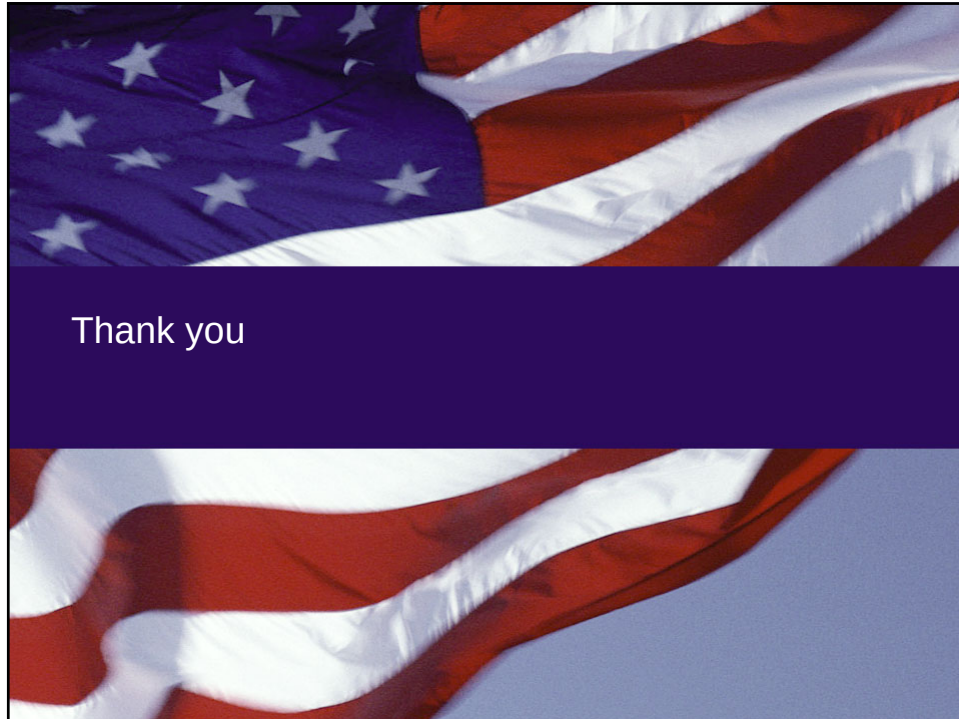
Public Comments (based on time restraints)

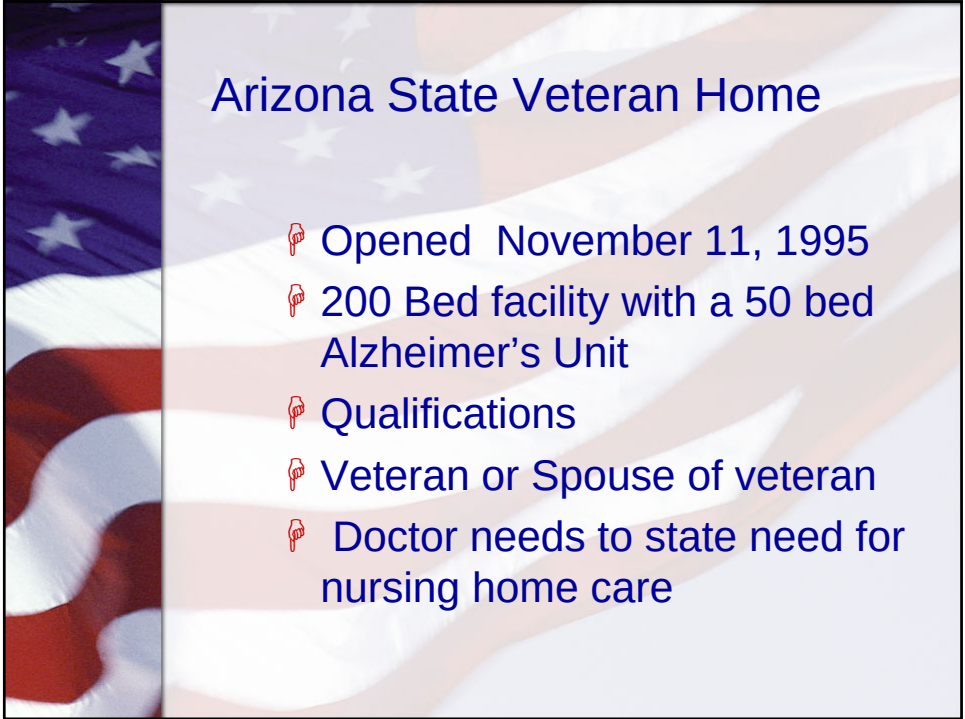


Adjournment



Questions?





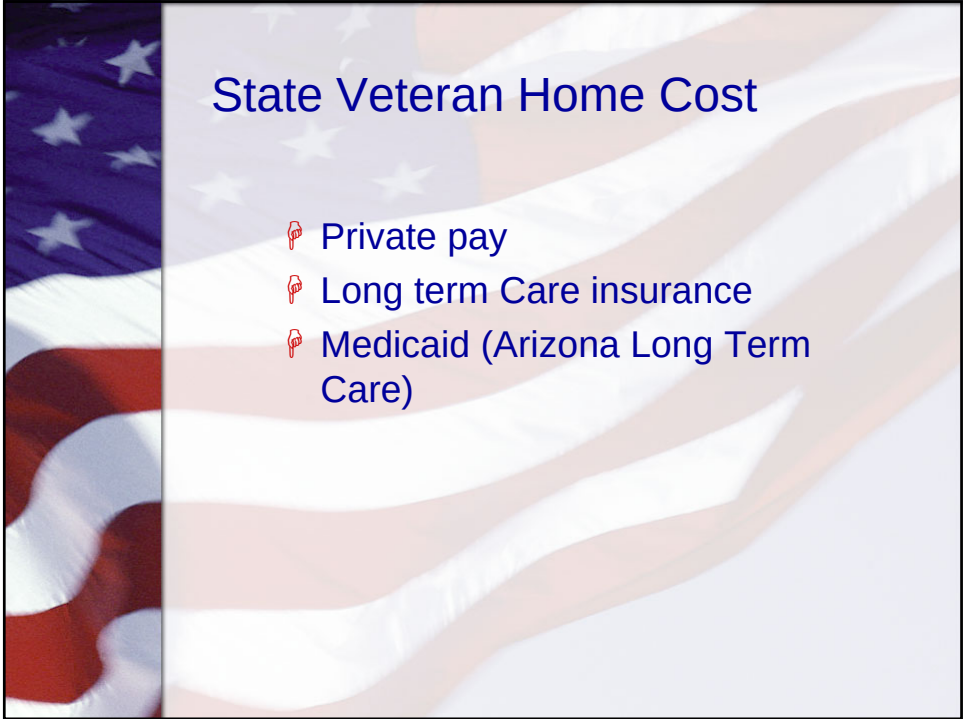
Arizona State Veteran Home

- 👉 Opened November 11, 1995
- 👉 200 Bed facility with a 50 bed Alzheimer's Unit
- 👉 Qualifications
- 👉 Veteran or Spouse of veteran
- 👉 Doctor needs to state need for nursing home care



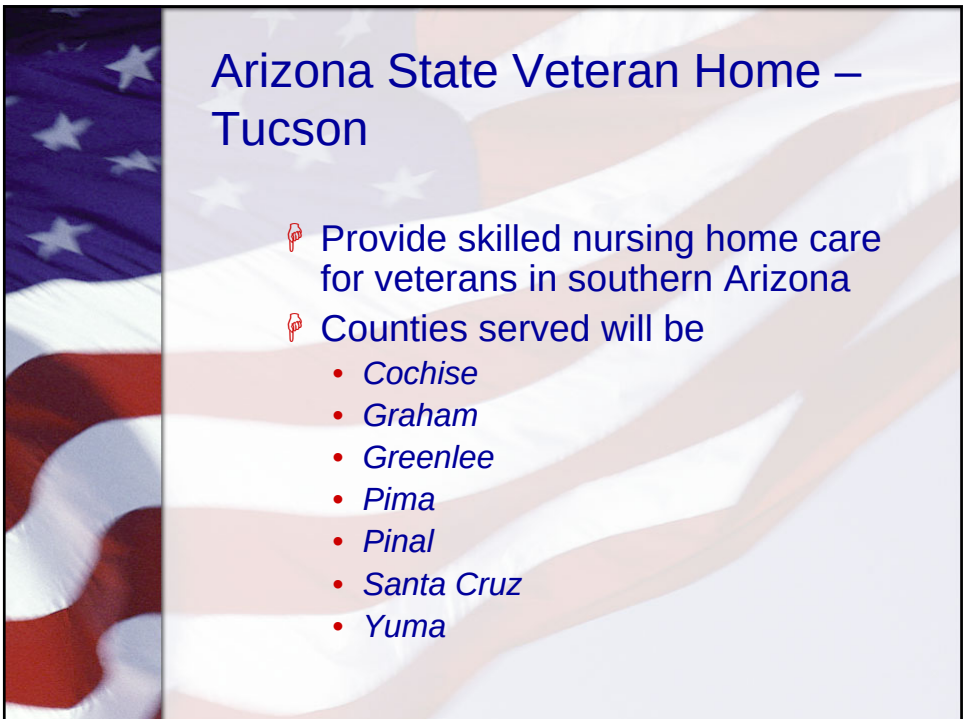
Services provided

- 👉 Skilled Nursing
- 👉 Physical Therapy
- 👉 Occupational Therapy
- 👉 Speech Therapy
- 👉 Recreational Therapy
- 👉 Restorative Services
- 👉 Social Services
- 👉 IV care
- 👉 Wound Care
- 👉 Respite Care
- 👉 Hospice Services



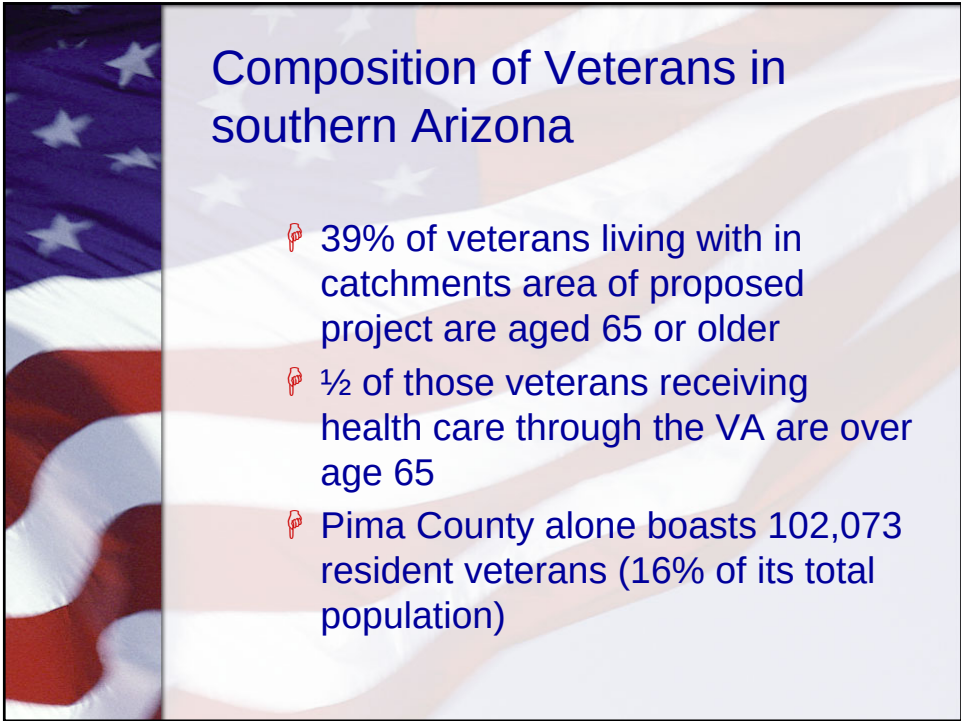
State Veteran Home Cost

- 👉 Private pay
- 👉 Long term Care insurance
- 👉 Medicaid (Arizona Long Term Care)



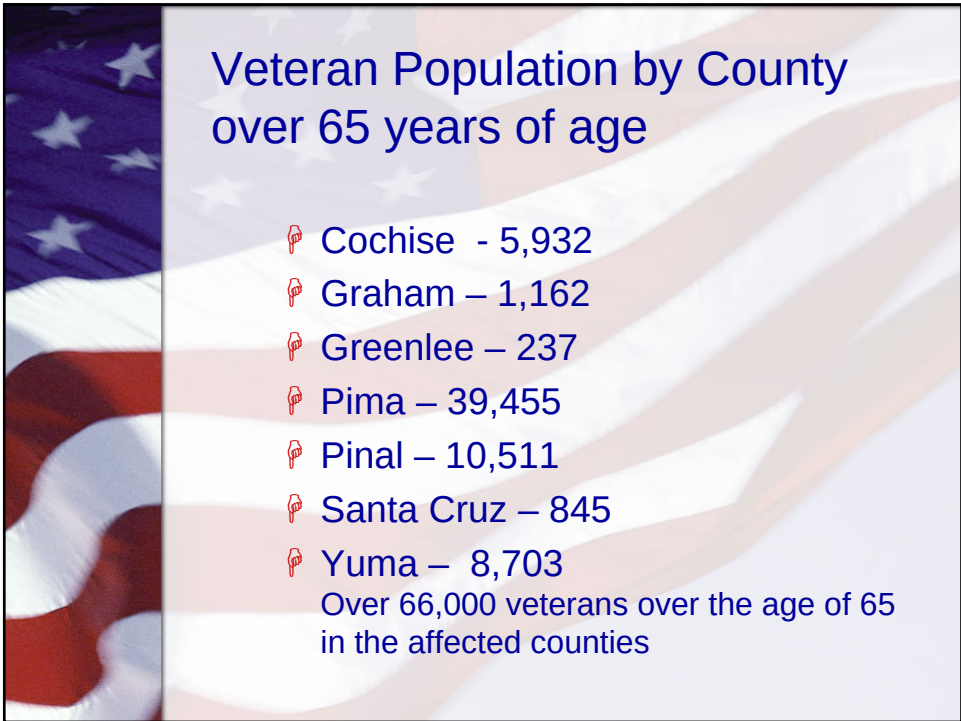
Arizona State Veteran Home – Tucson

- 👉 Provide skilled nursing home care for veterans in southern Arizona
- 👉 Counties served will be
 - *Cochise*
 - *Graham*
 - *Greenlee*
 - *Pima*
 - *Pinal*
 - *Santa Cruz*
 - *Yuma*



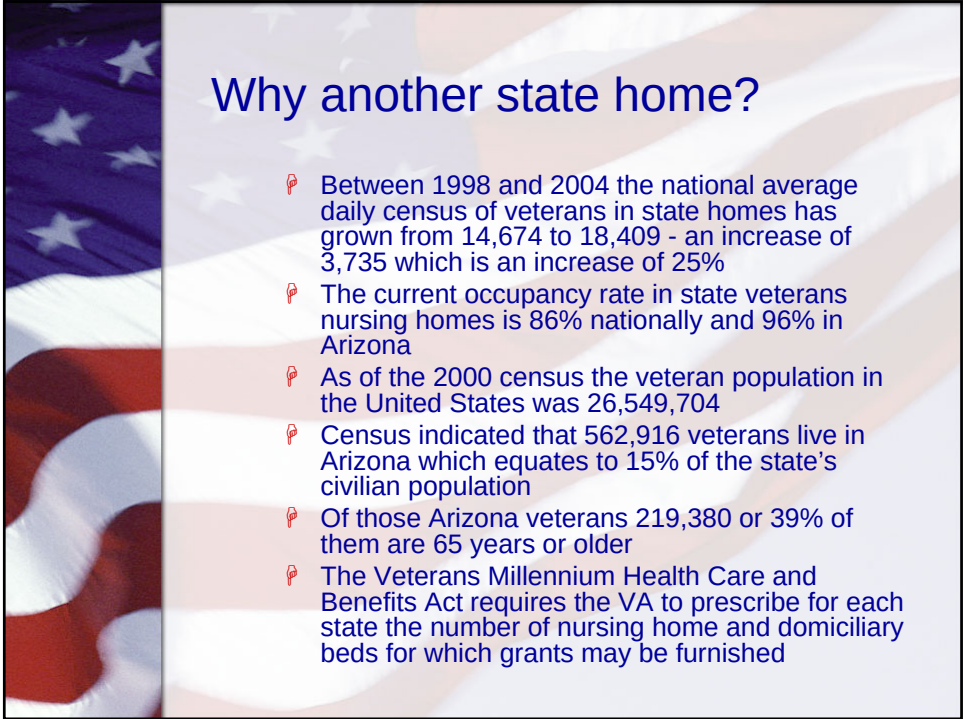
Composition of Veterans in southern Arizona

- 👉 39% of veterans living with in catchments area of proposed project are aged 65 or older
- 👉 ½ of those veterans receiving health care through the VA are over age 65
- 👉 Pima County alone boasts 102,073 resident veterans (16% of its total population)



Veteran Population by County over 65 years of age

- 👉 Cochise - 5,932
 - 👉 Graham – 1,162
 - 👉 Greenlee – 237
 - 👉 Pima – 39,455
 - 👉 Pinal – 10,511
 - 👉 Santa Cruz – 845
 - 👉 Yuma – 8,703
- Over 66,000 veterans over the age of 65 in the affected counties



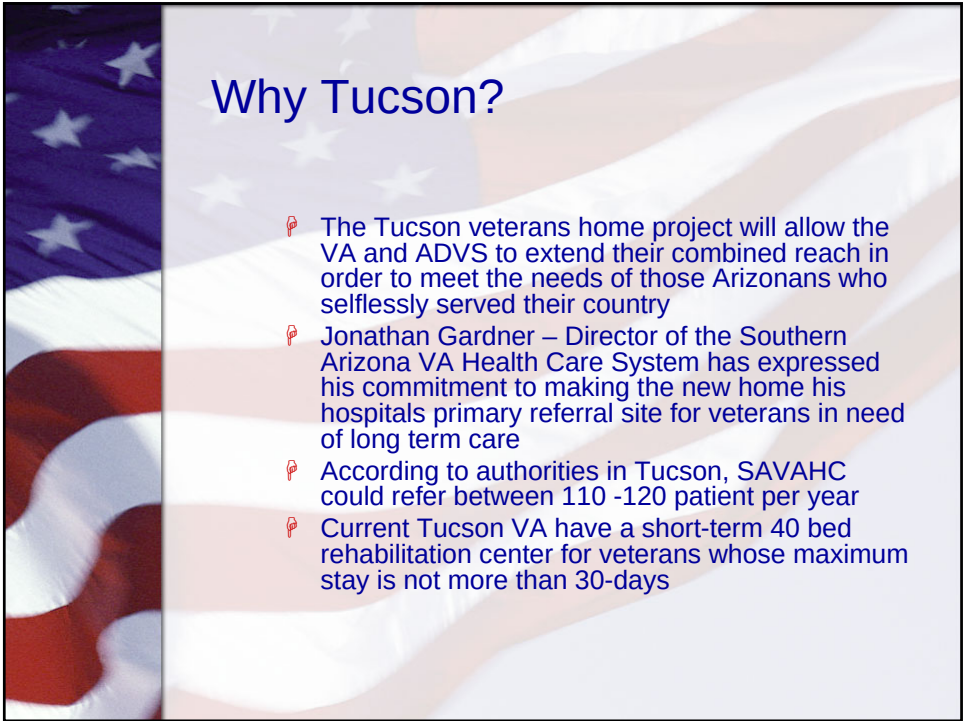
Why another state home?

- Between 1998 and 2004 the national average daily census of veterans in state homes has grown from 14,674 to 18,409 - an increase of 3,735 which is an increase of 25%
- The current occupancy rate in state veterans nursing homes is 86% nationally and 96% in Arizona
- As of the 2000 census the veteran population in the United States was 26,549,704
- Census indicated that 562,916 veterans live in Arizona which equates to 15% of the state's civilian population
- Of those Arizona veterans 219,380 or 39% of them are 65 years or older
- The Veterans Millennium Health Care and Benefits Act requires the VA to prescribe for each state the number of nursing home and domiciliary beds for which grants may be furnished



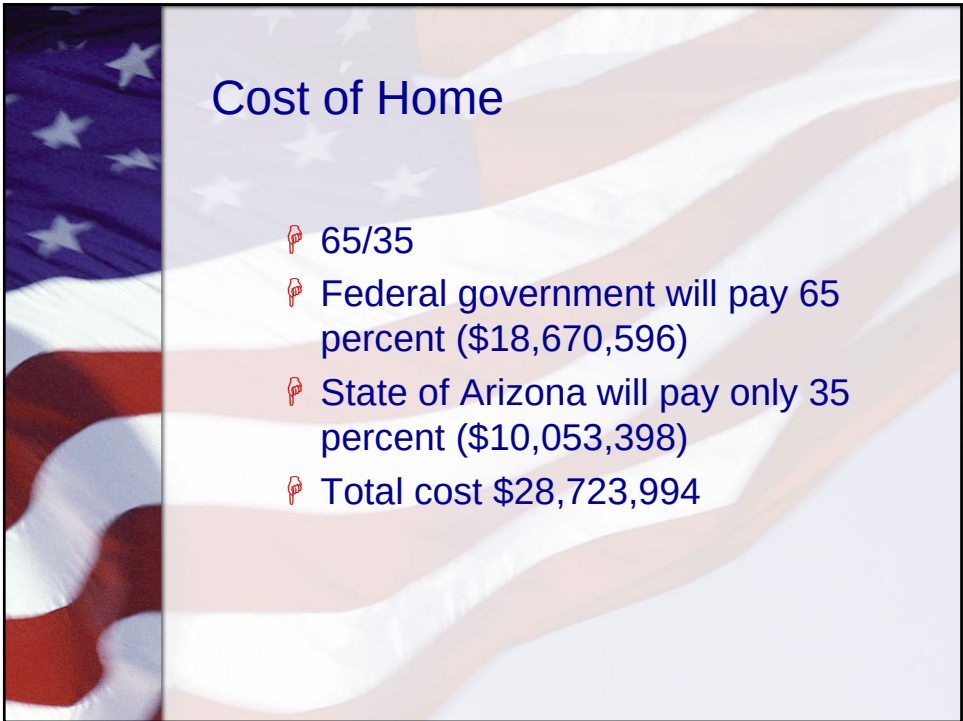
Why another state home?

- VA data and methodology confirms the need for nearly five 180 bed veteran nursing homes in addition to the current 200 bed facility located in Phoenix
- 1,068 Maximum Arizona beds – 200 current Phoenix beds = 868 beds needed
- 868 beds needed divided by 180 bed nursing home = 4 to 5 new homes needed
- Statistics tell us that more than 50% of those over age 80 require nursing home care
- Arizona, one of the nation's premier Sun Belt retirement destinations is projected to have the highest proportion of elderly citizens in the U.S. by 2020



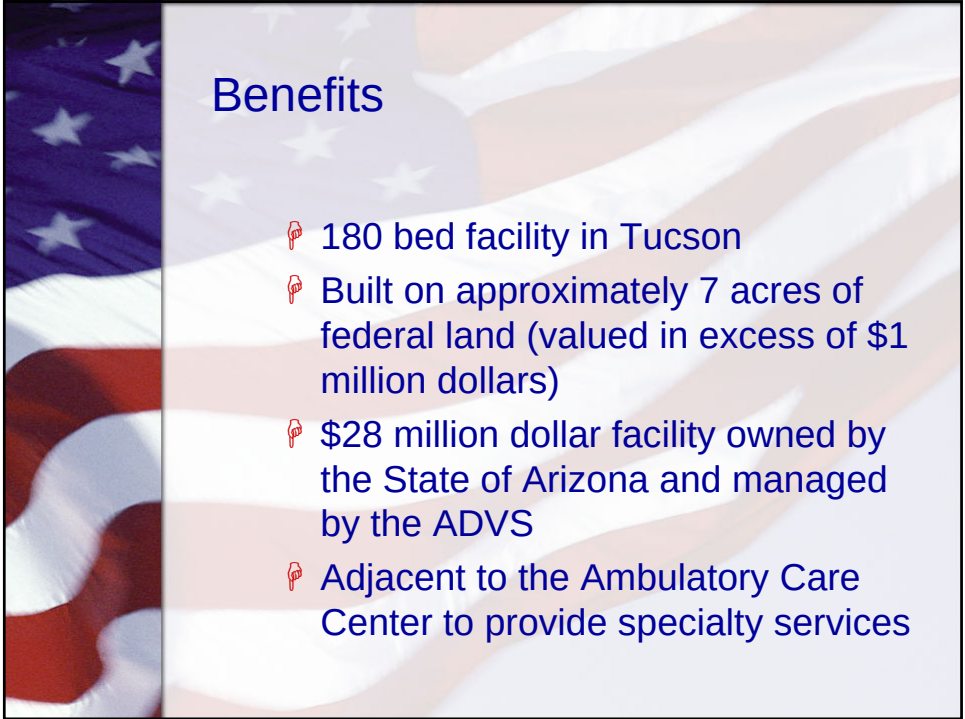
Why Tucson?

- 👉 The Tucson veterans home project will allow the VA and ADVS to extend their combined reach in order to meet the needs of those Arizonans who selflessly served their country
- 👉 Jonathan Gardner – Director of the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System has expressed his commitment to making the new home his hospital's primary referral site for veterans in need of long term care
- 👉 According to authorities in Tucson, SAVAH could refer between 110 -120 patient per year
- 👉 Current Tucson VA have a short-term 40 bed rehabilitation center for veterans whose maximum stay is not more than 30-days



Cost of Home

- 👉 65/35
- 👉 Federal government will pay 65 percent (\$18,670,596)
- 👉 State of Arizona will pay only 35 percent (\$10,053,398)
- 👉 Total cost \$28,723,994



Benefits

- 👉 180 bed facility in Tucson
- 👉 Built on approximately 7 acres of federal land (valued in excess of \$1 million dollars)
- 👉 \$28 million dollar facility owned by the State of Arizona and managed by the ADVS
- 👉 Adjacent to the Ambulatory Care Center to provide specialty services



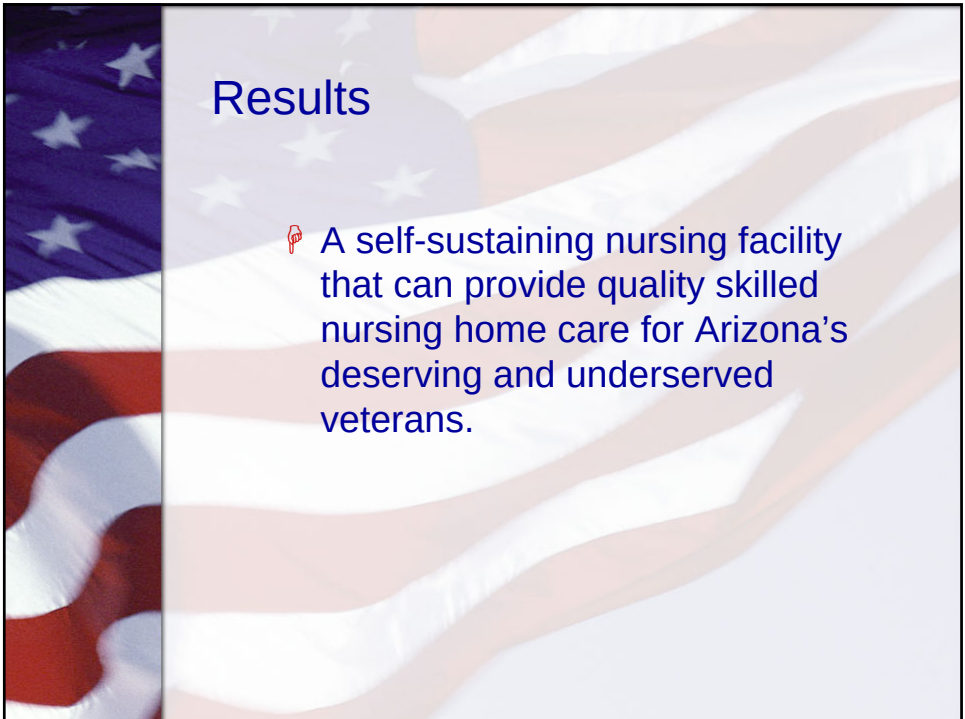
Some of the services we are considering providing at the ASVH-Tucson

- 👉 Full service kitchen
- 👉 Piped in oxygen
- 👉 Geriatrics residents partnership with the University of Arizona
- 👉 Behavioral Unit
- 👉 Bariactrics Unit
- 👉 Separate bathrooms
- 👉 Larger living areas
- 👉 User friendly Alzheimer's Unit
- 👉 Hydrotherapy

The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with a blue field of white stars on the left and red and white wavy stripes on the right.

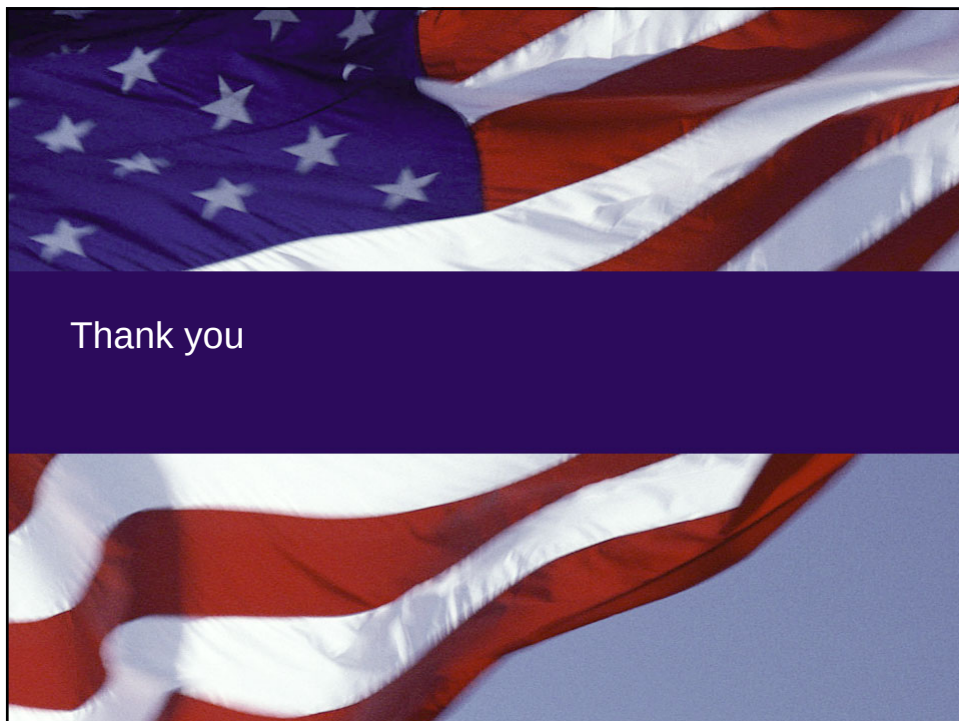
Synergy

- 👉 Based on the commitment of the Tucson VA Medical Center & the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services to work together in the process of providing services and building relationships we will be able to service the veteran community more effectively.

The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with a blue field of white stars on the left and red and white wavy stripes on the right.

Results

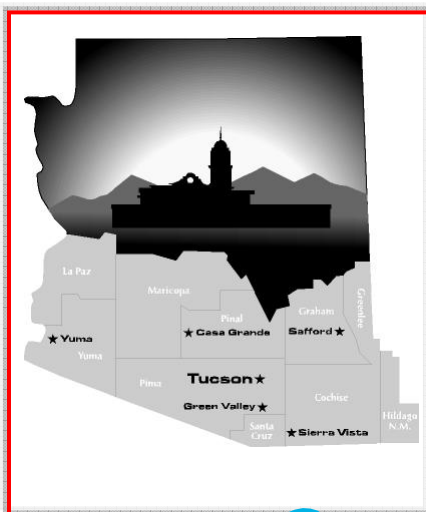
- 👉 A self-sustaining nursing facility that can provide quality skilled nursing home care for Arizona's deserving and underserved veterans.





Southern Arizona VA Health Care System / State Veteran Home Proposal

1



SAVAHCS:

- Services 8 counties in Arizona and 1 in New Mexico.
- Dedicated in 1928.
- Veteran population of over 150,000.
- Five Community Based Outpatient Centers.
- 2 planned Urban Community Based Outpatient Centers(2006).
- Over 500,000 outpatient visits in 2005.

2

SAVAHCS:

- 283-bed teaching hospital.
- Over 8,000 inpatient episodes in 2005.
- Referral center for Surgery, Medicine, Neurology, Mental Health and advanced Rehabilitation.



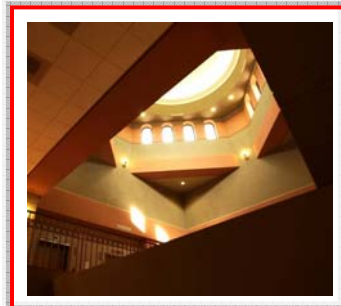
• Quality Care:

- ✓ Principle affiliate with the UA Colleges of Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy.
- ✓ Each year over 700 physicians, nurses and other health care professionals receive training at SAVAHCS.
- ✓ Accredited / surveyed by 25 external organizations i.e. JCAHO.
- ✓ Among highest VA scores on patient satisfaction.

3

Reasons to Locate on SAVAHCS Campus

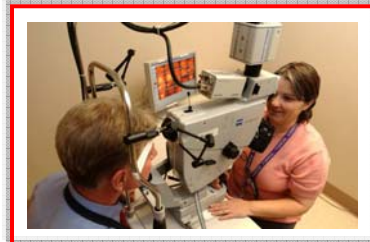
- Patient demand for additional State Veteran Nursing Home beds.
- Available Land (7 acres).
- Staff Expertise.
- Continuity of Care for Veterans.
- Referral Base.
- Potential sharing opportunities.



4

Patient Demand for Additional Beds

- VA Long Term Care Model showed need for 1280 veteran nursing home beds in Arizona.
- Phoenix State Veteran Home has 200 beds.
- 1080 additional beds currently needed.
- Tucson State Veteran Home proposed 180 beds will leave 900 additional beds needed.



5

Available Land (7 acres)



6

Staff Expertise

- SAVAHCS has staff experienced in the field of Geriatrics who could collaborate with State Veteran Home staff.
- Board Certified Geriatricians.
- Geriatric Fellowship training program.
- Geriatric Education Center at University of Arizona.



7

Continuity of Care for Veterans

- SAVAHCS offers full continuum of care for Veterans from Intensive care through sub-acute stays and rehabilitation programs.
- Geriatric Rehabilitation Center is short stay (30 days) facility.
- Veterans needing long term nursing home care now sent to community nursing homes.
- State Veteran Home on SAVAHCS campus could be used for those Veterans needing long term placement.



8

Referral Base



- In 2005 SAVAHCS referred 143 Veterans to Contract Nursing Homes.
- Estimate that 103 of these Veterans could be referred to State Veteran Home.
- State Veteran Home would meet VA quality requirements.

9

Potential Sharing Opportunities



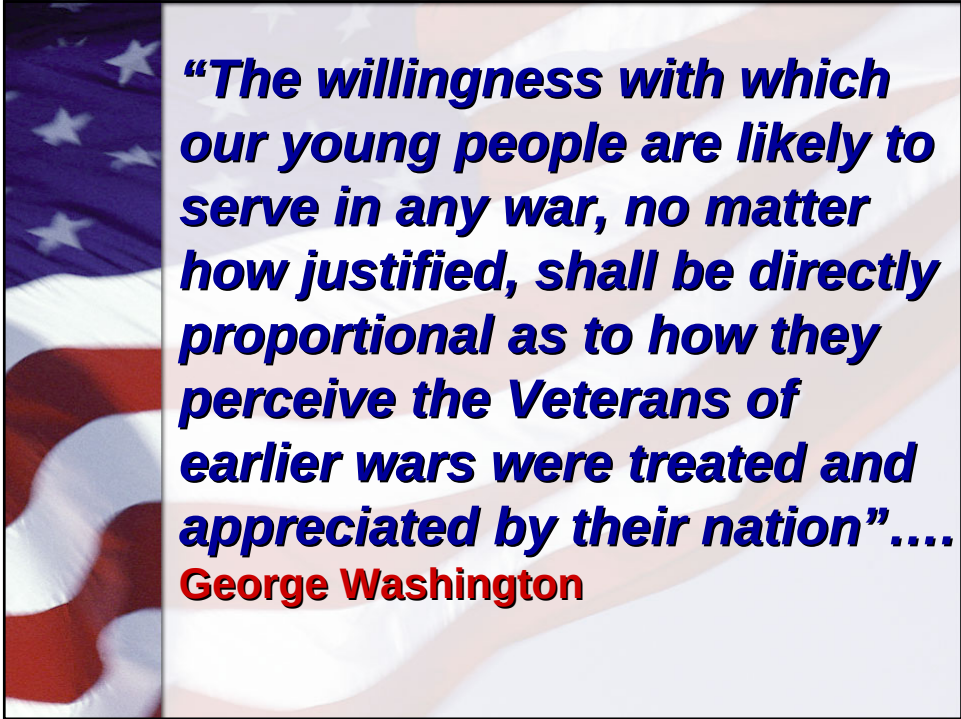
- Dietetics services
- Laundry services
- Housekeeping services
- Security services
- Building maintenance
- Road and Grounds maintenance
- Pharmacy
- Utilities: Electricity, Natural gas,
- Emergency power and water

10

Questions?



11



***“The willingness with which
our young people are likely to
serve in any war, no matter
how justified, shall be directly
proportional as to how they
perceive the Veterans of
earlier wars were treated and
appreciated by their nation”....
George Washington***

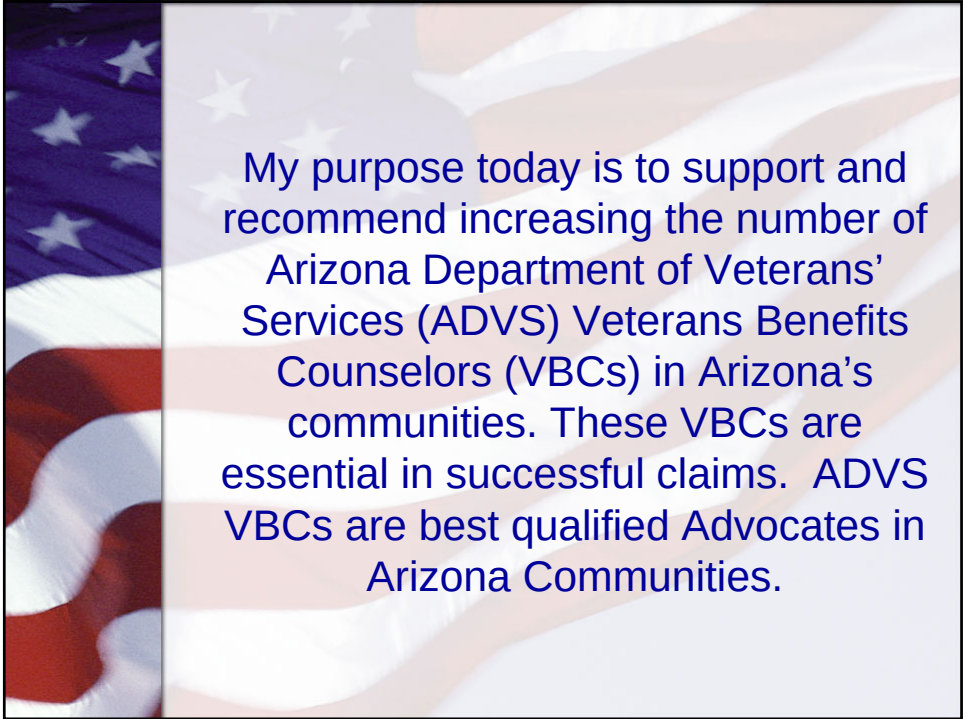


Governor Janet Napolitano's Veterans Task Force

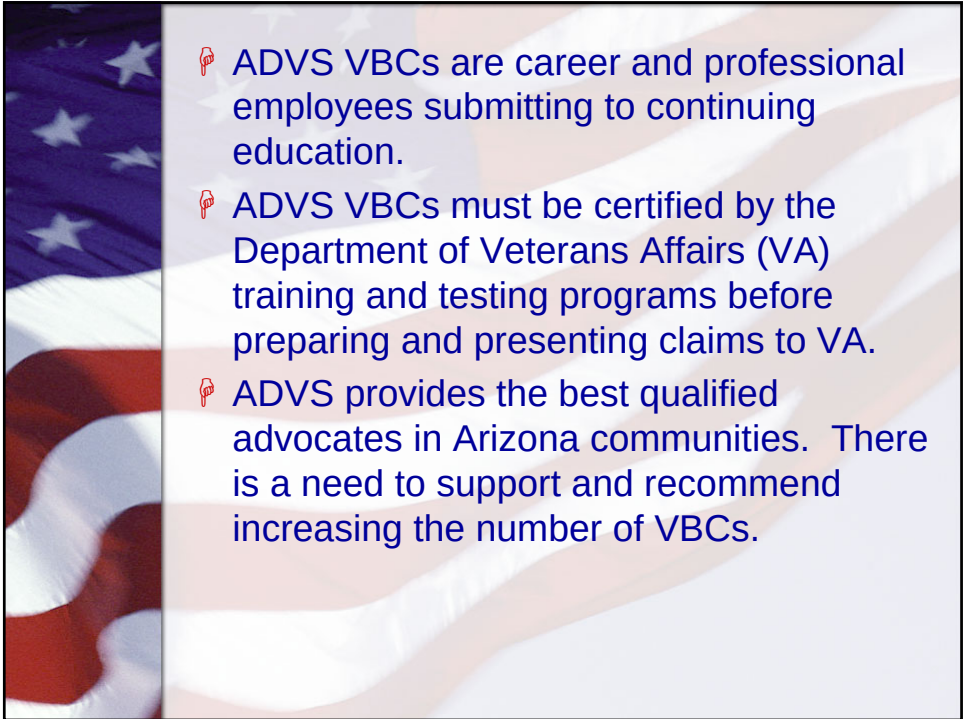
Veterans Benefits – Arthur Brest

Please email your questions or concerns to taskforce@azdvs.gov

**Location: Executive Tower – 2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm**

The background of the slide features a stylized American flag with red and white stripes and a blue field with white stars.

My purpose today is to support and recommend increasing the number of Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS) Veterans Benefits Counselors (VBCs) in Arizona's communities. These VBCs are essential in successful claims. ADVS VBCs are best qualified Advocates in Arizona Communities.

- 
- The background of the slide features a stylized American flag with red and white stripes and a blue field with white stars.
- 👉 ADVS VBCs are career and professional employees submitting to continuing education.
 - 👉 ADVS VBCs must be certified by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) training and testing programs before preparing and presenting claims to VA.
 - 👉 ADVS provides the best qualified advocates in Arizona communities. There is a need to support and recommend increasing the number of VBCs.

- 
- 👉 Economically, the VA Inspector General (IG) found claimants with representation received \$6,225 more per year than veterans without representation. Reference: May 19, 2005 VA IG Report.
 - 👉 I recommend that the VA regularly provide current data to the ADVS Director.
 - 👉 The VA is more likely to make positive and timely decisions in direct proportion to complete applications ready for a favorable decision



VA Form 21-526 is the basic and most important VA, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), and Veterans Affairs Regional Office (VARO) application. The successful preparation, completion and transmittal of this form can dramatically and positively change lives and impact communities.



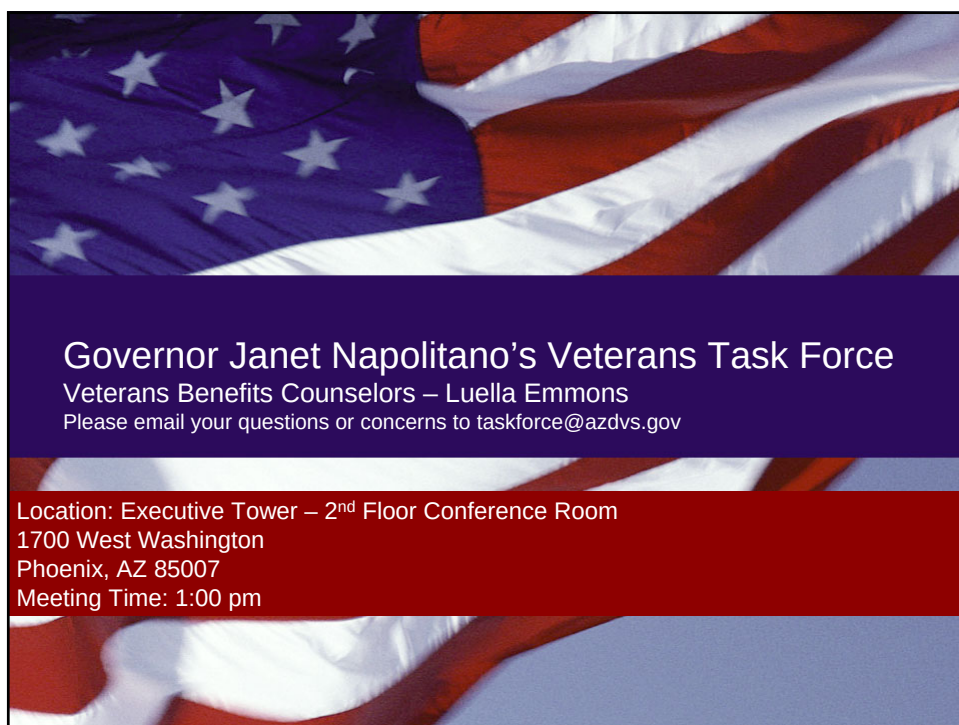
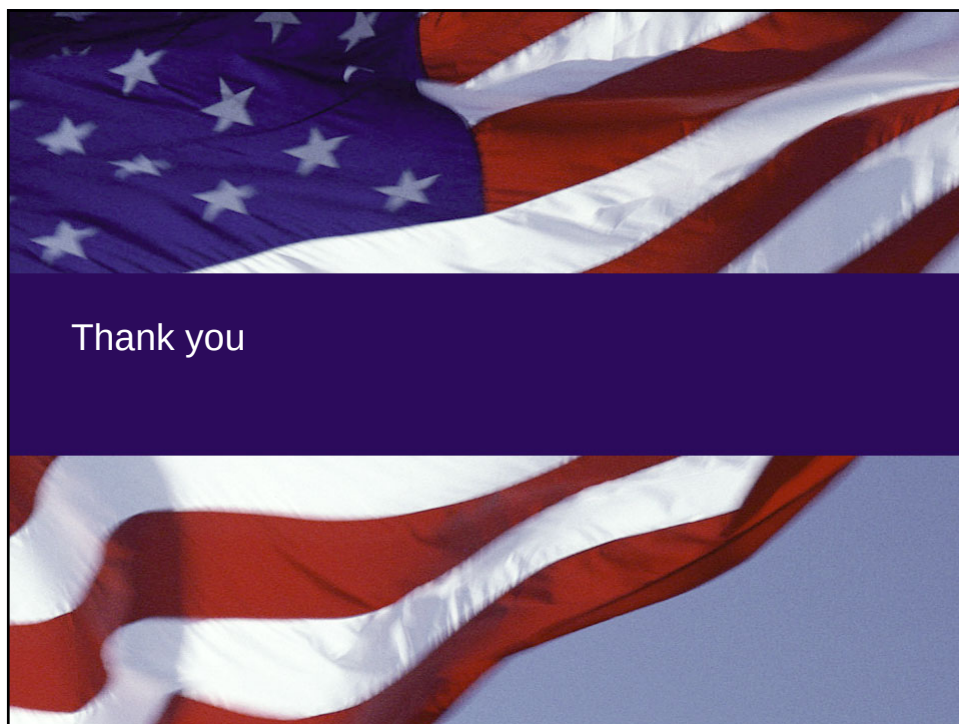
- 👉 Complete claim package advantage is avoiding an appeal. Appeals generally stretch over months and years. Our intent is to secure the maximum benefit in the shortest amount of time.
- 👉 Effective Date of Claim affects the compensation date.
- 👉 Extension if more time is needed.
 - Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA).
“The mission of the VBA, in partnership with the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and the National Cemetery Administration (NCA), is to provide benefits and services to veterans and their families in a responsive, timely and compassionate manner in recognition of their service to the Nation.”



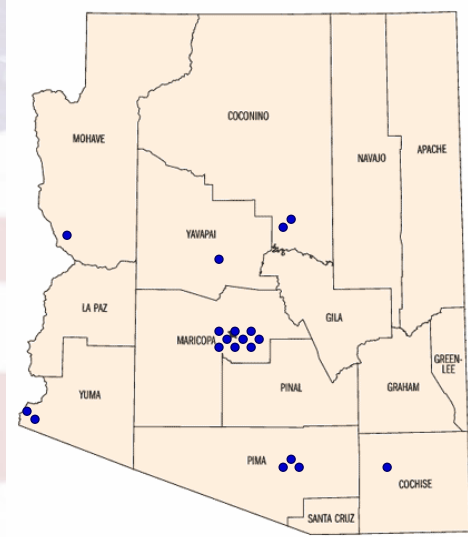
Claims and Appeals through a VA Report for Arizona on September 26th, 2005 (one day snapshot)

- 👉 7,242 Rating Cases Pending
- 👉 1,483 Rating Cases Pending Over 180 days
- 👉 20% Pending Over 180 days
- 👉 1,849 Appeals Pending
- 👉 272 Statements of the Case
- 👉 1,577 Appeals Requiring Adjudicative Action
- 👉 When a claim is denied and an appeal processed, it can take years (yes years!).



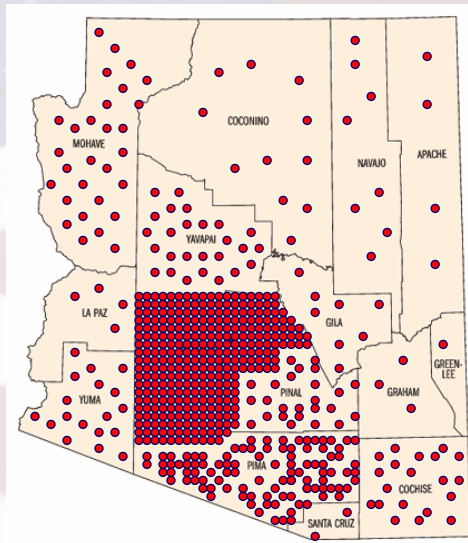


VETERANS' BENEFITS COUNSELORS



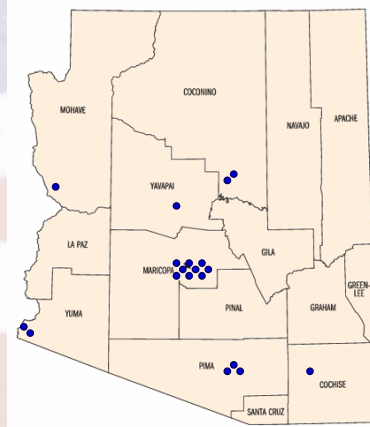
Each Blue
Dot
Represents
1 Certified
State
Veterans
Benefits
Counselor

VETERANS IN ARIZONA

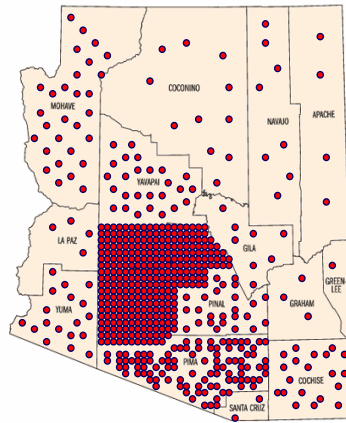


Each Red
Dot
represents
1,000
Veterans

QUESTIONS?



**Each Blue Dot Represents
1 Veterans Benefits Counselor**



**Each Red Dot represents
1,000 Veterans**

Governor Janet Napolitano's Veterans Task Force

Veterans Cemeteries – Mike Klier

Please email your questions or concerns to taskforce@azdvs.gov

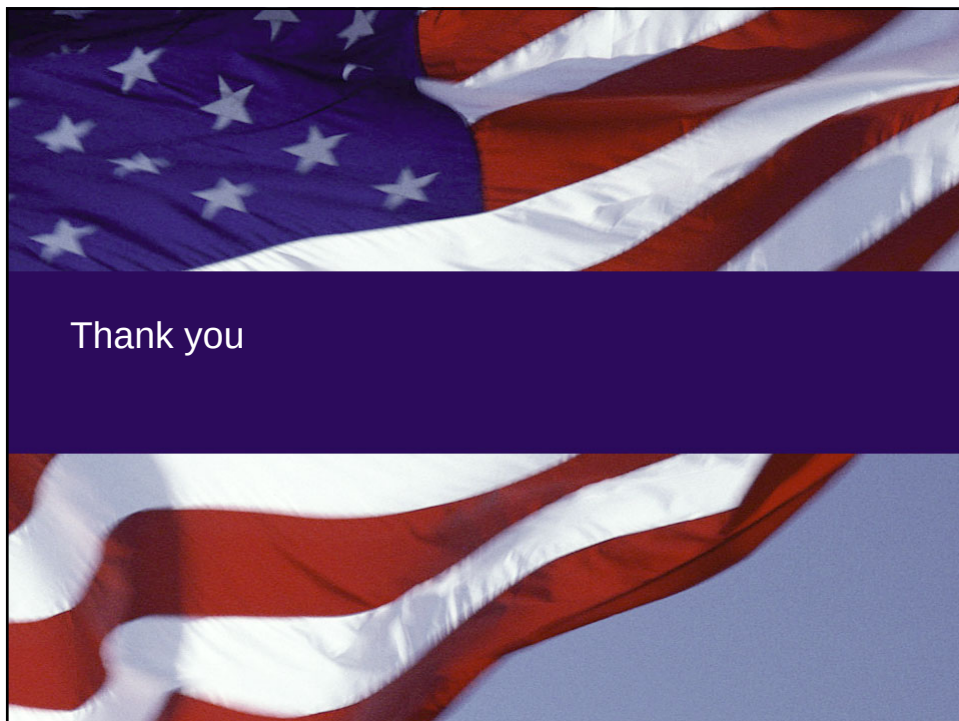
Location: Executive Tower – 2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm

Veterans Cemeteries

- 👉 **Project partnership**
- 👉 **Sierra Vista State Cemetery**
- 👉 **Future Cemetery Plans**

Boot Hill



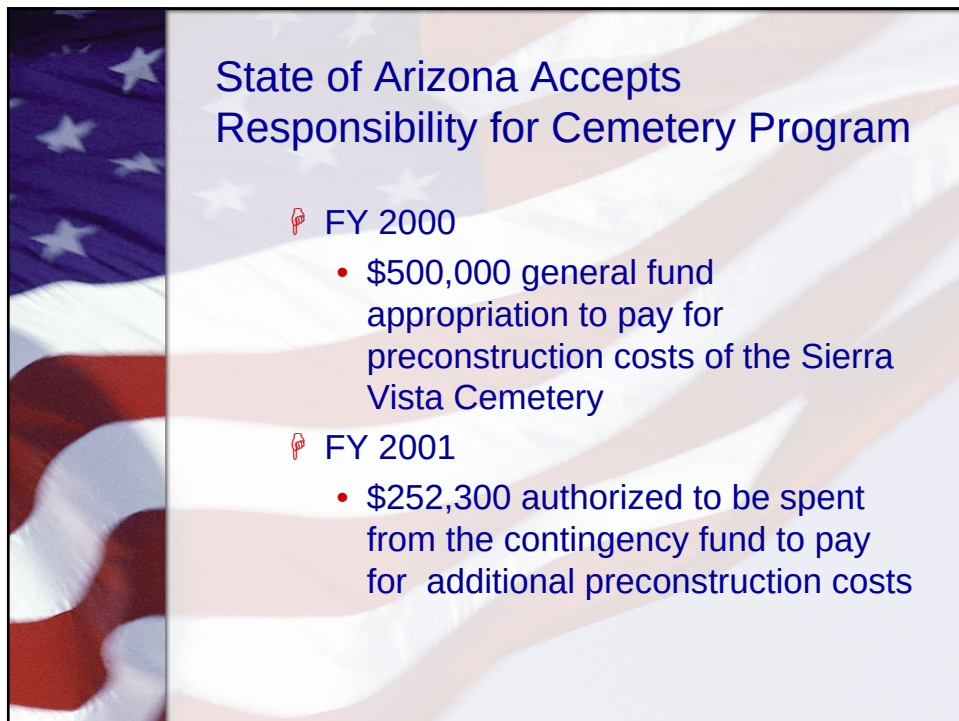




Governor Janet Napolitano's Veterans Task Force
State Cemeteries Fiscal Overview – J. Gary Noviello, CPA

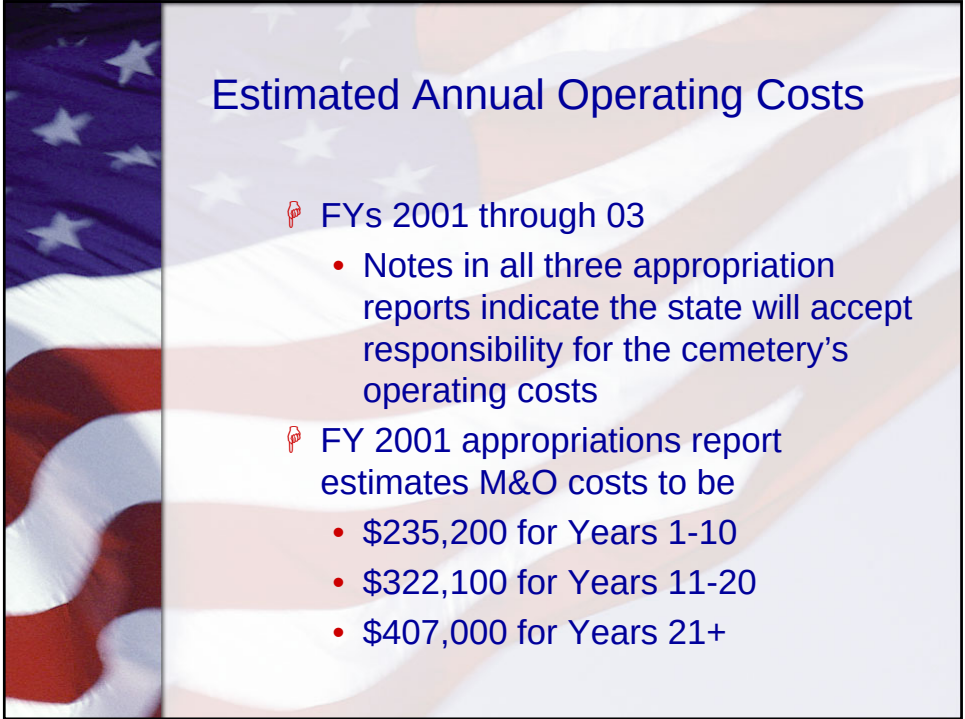
Please email your questions or concerns to taskforce@azdvs.gov

Location: Executive Tower – 2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm



**State of Arizona Accepts
Responsibility for Cemetery Program**

- 👉 FY 2000
 - \$500,000 general fund appropriation to pay for preconstruction costs of the Sierra Vista Cemetery
- 👉 FY 2001
 - \$252,300 authorized to be spent from the contingency fund to pay for additional preconstruction costs



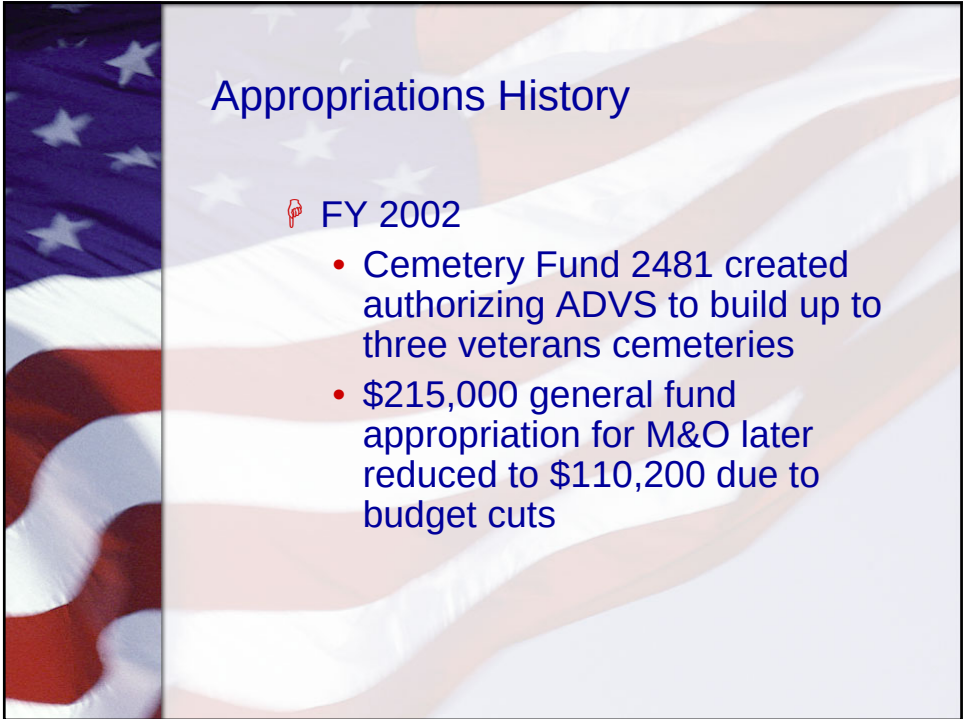
Estimated Annual Operating Costs

👉 FYs 2001 through 03

- Notes in all three appropriation reports indicate the state will accept responsibility for the cemetery's operating costs

👉 FY 2001 appropriations report estimates M&O costs to be

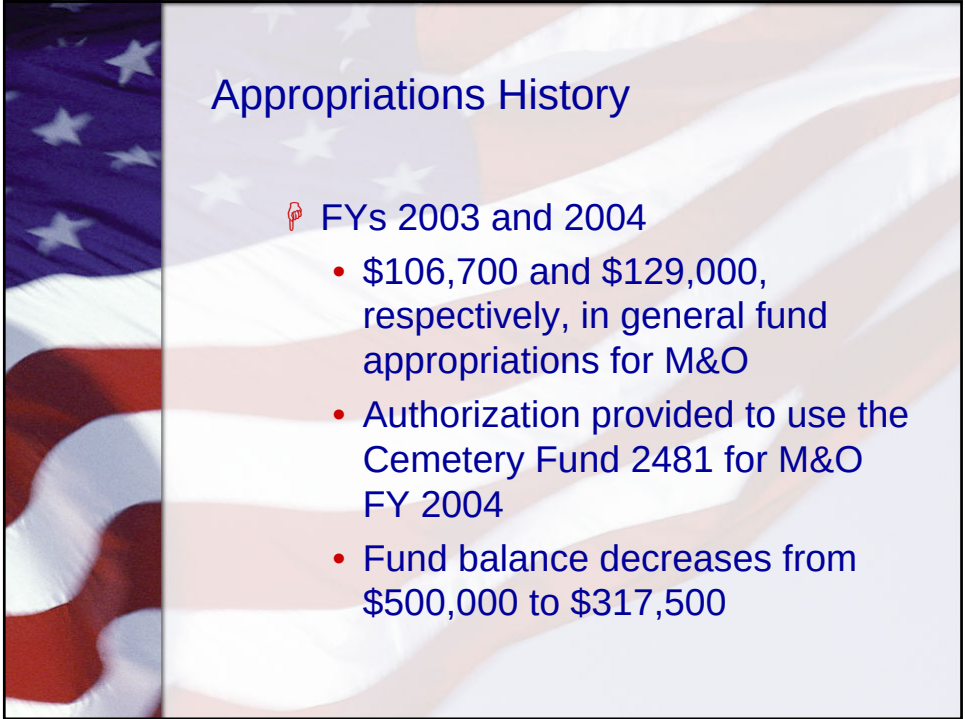
- \$235,200 for Years 1-10
- \$322,100 for Years 11-20
- \$407,000 for Years 21+



Appropriations History

👉 FY 2002

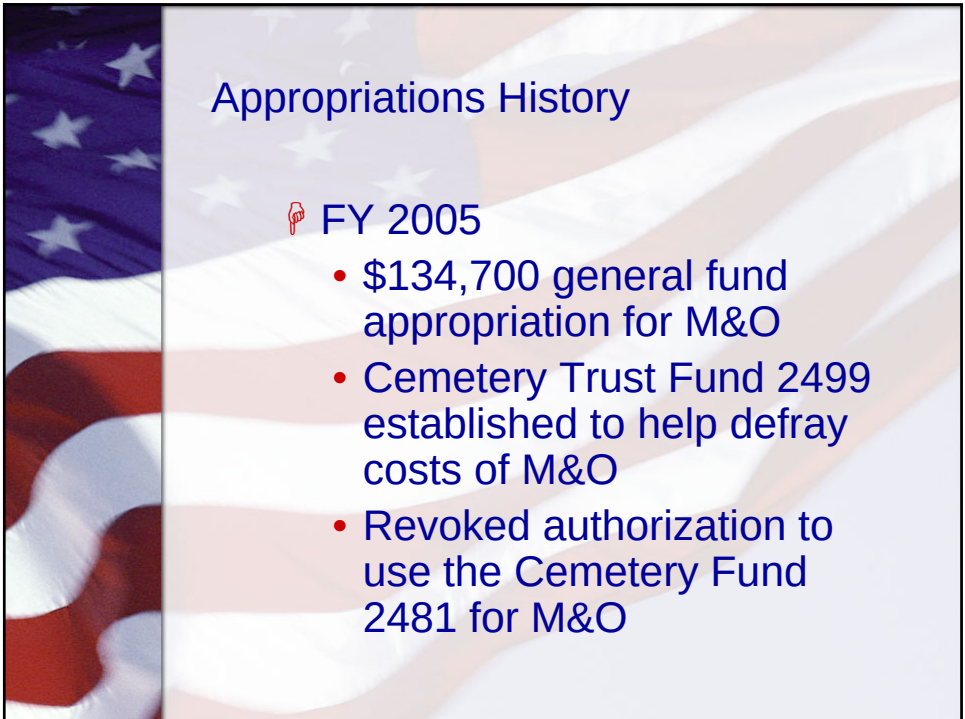
- Cemetery Fund 2481 created authorizing ADVS to build up to three veterans cemeteries
- \$215,000 general fund appropriation for M&O later reduced to \$110,200 due to budget cuts



Appropriations History

FYs 2003 and 2004

- \$106,700 and \$129,000, respectively, in general fund appropriations for M&O
- Authorization provided to use the Cemetery Fund 2481 for M&O FY 2004
- Fund balance decreases from \$500,000 to \$317,500



Appropriations History

FY 2005

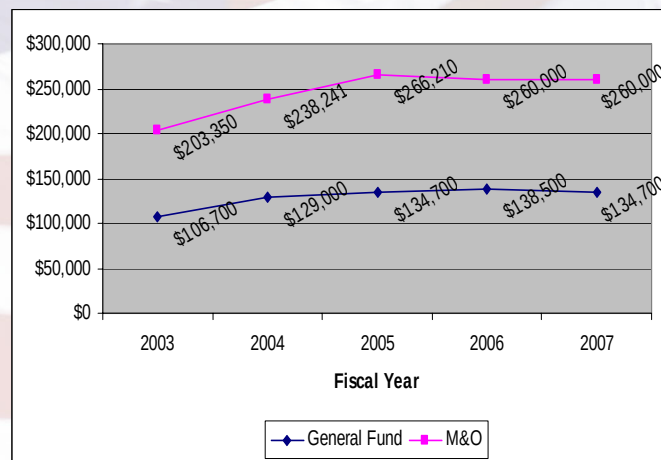
- \$134,700 general fund appropriation for M&O
- Cemetery Trust Fund 2499 established to help defray costs of M&O
- Revoked authorization to use the Cemetery Fund 2481 for M&O

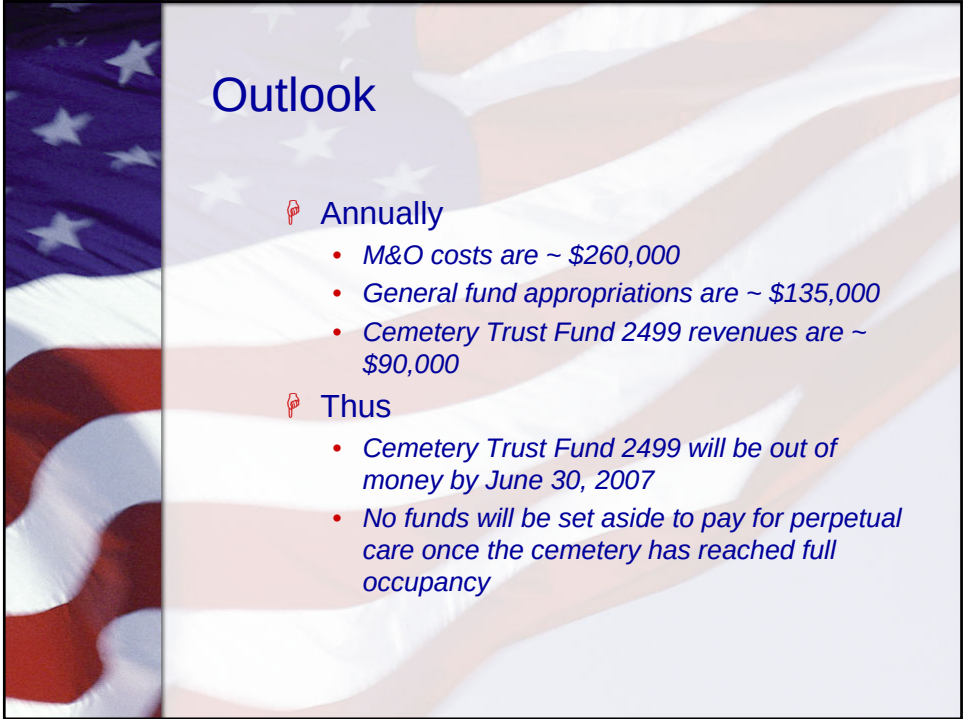
Appropriations History

👉 FYs 2006 and 2007

- \$138,500 and \$134,700 in general fund appropriations for M&O
- Cemetery Trust Fund 2499 to be used to help defray costs of M&O

M&O Costs V General Fund Appropriations (FYs 2003-07)



An American flag with stars and stripes, serving as a background for the slide.

Outlook

☞ **Annually**

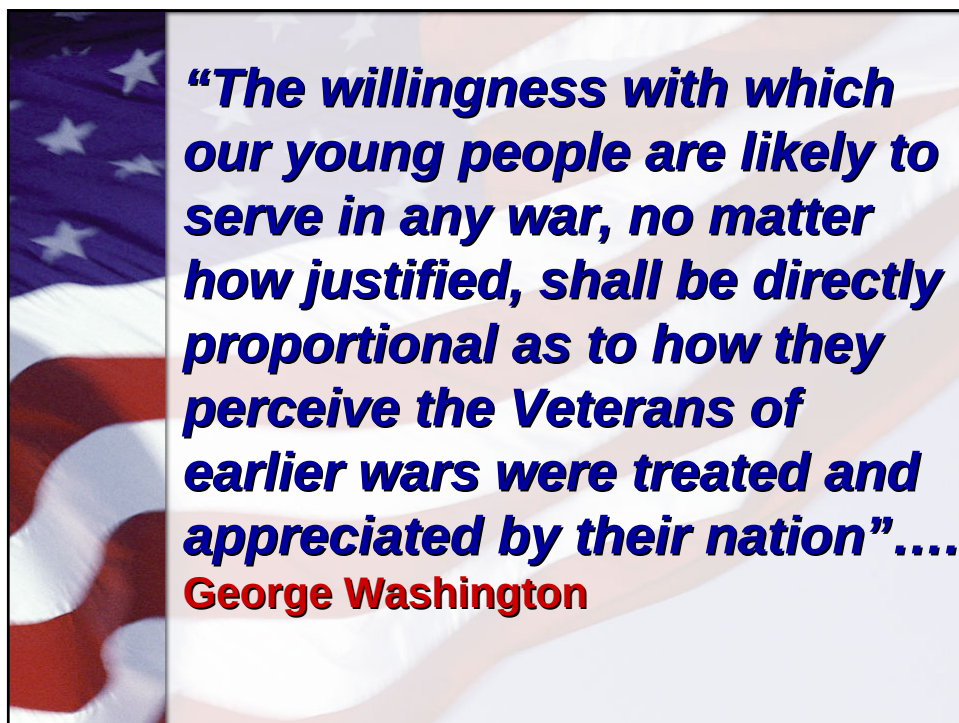
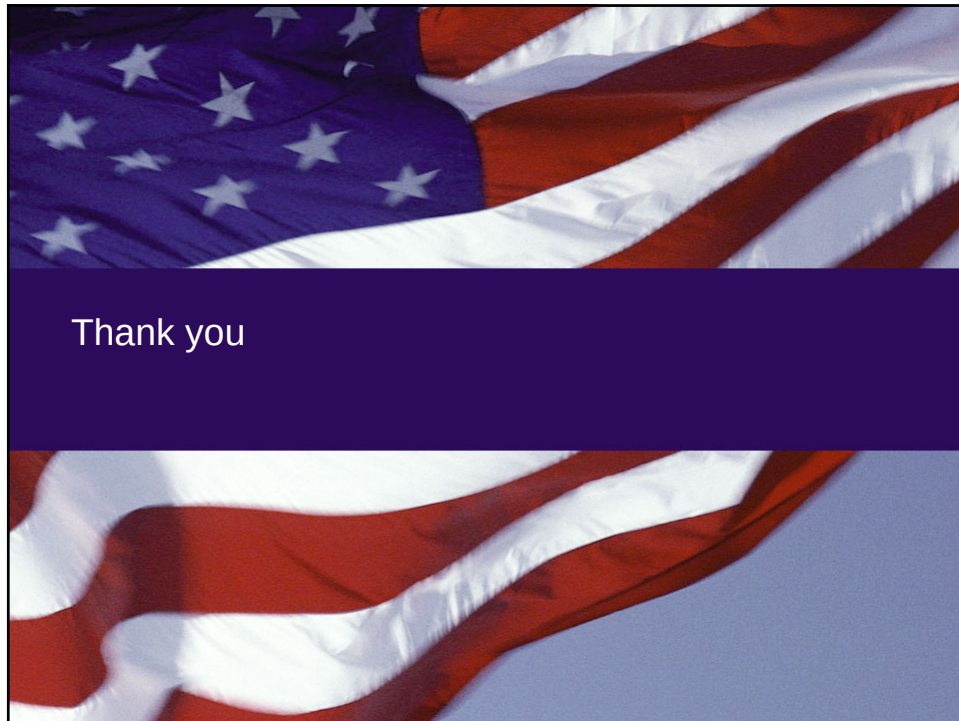
- *M&O costs are ~ \$260,000*
- *General fund appropriations are ~ \$135,000*
- *Cemetery Trust Fund 2499 revenues are ~ \$90,000*

☞ **Thus**

- *Cemetery Trust Fund 2499 will be out of money by June 30, 2007*
- *No funds will be set aside to pay for perpetual care once the cemetery has reached full occupancy*

An American flag with stars and stripes, serving as a background for the slide.

Questions?





Appendix D

November 2, 2005
PowerPoint Presentation





Governor Janet Napolitano's Veterans Task Force

Location: Executive Tower – 2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Meeting Date: Nov 2nd, 2005
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm



ARIZONA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

Briefing to the Arizona Veterans Advisory Committee
November 2, 2002





Arizona Army National Guard

- ☞ Since 1999 AzARNG has grown from 3800 to over 4550 soldiers.
- ☞ Over 3000 mobilized since 9/11.
- ☞ Nearly 2000 have deployed overseas.
- ☞ Since 1999 over 9000 different people have served in the AzARNG.
- ☞ In FY 2005 5,683 Arizona citizens were recruited into the military.



Arizona Army National Guard

- ☞ To Date:
 - *58 Purple Hearts have been received by soldiers in the AzARNG.*
 - *Three AzARNG soldiers have died in combat related incidents.*
 - *76 are currently hospitalized or receiving continuing medical care.*



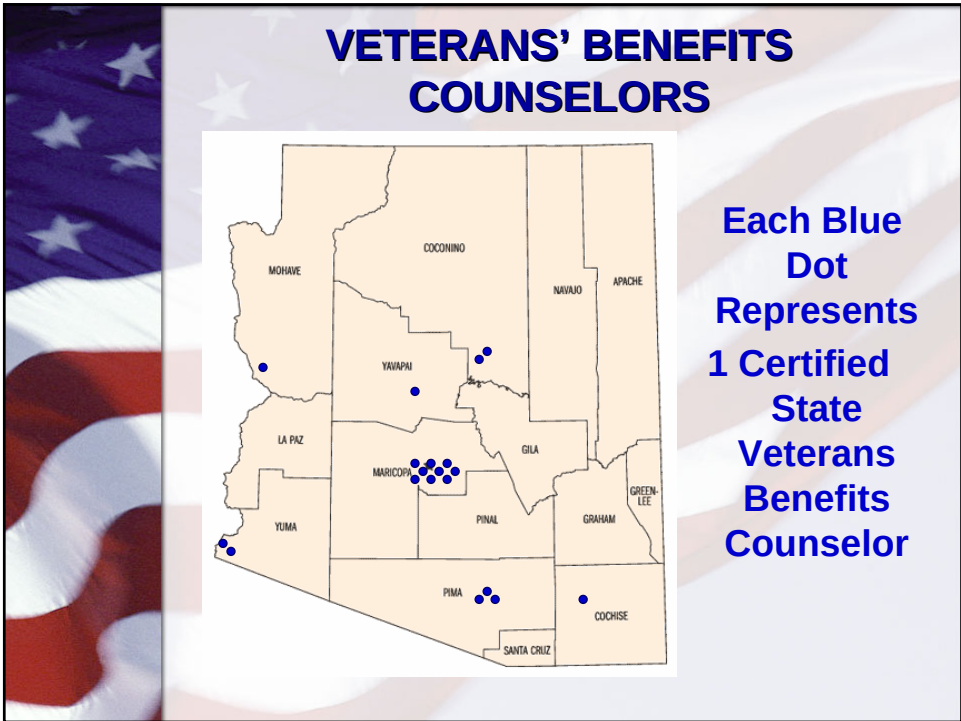
Arizona Army National Guard

- 👉 No anticipated date for the end of US troop involvement in Afghanistan or Iraq.
- 👉 Known plans include nearly 800 more AzARNG soldiers are to be called up for deployment over the next 18 months.
- 👉 Deployments beyond those currently planned can be anticipated.

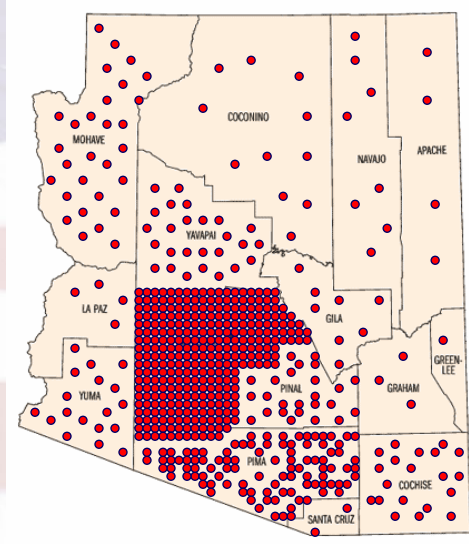


Arizona Army National Guard

- 👉 Global War on Terrorism planning horizon is 25 to 30 years.
- 👉 Reliance on National Guard and Reserves is at the highest level in 60 years with no reduction in sight.
- 👉 Recent data suggests over one in four service members returning from overseas duty will require continuing medical/mental health care.

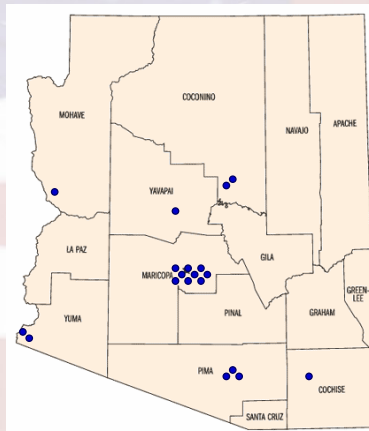


VETERANS IN ARIZONA

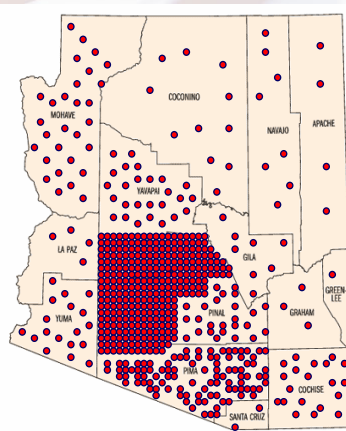


Each Red
Dot
represents
1,000
Veterans

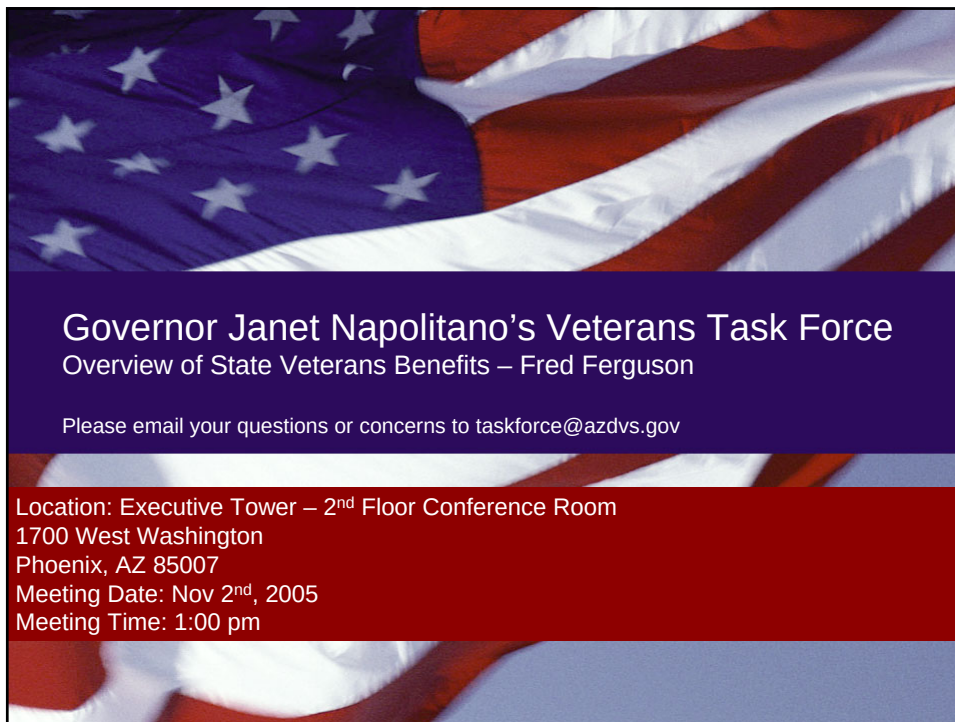
QUESTIONS?



Each Blue Dot Represents
1 Veterans Benefits Counselor



Each Red Dot represents
1,000 Veterans



Governor Janet Napolitano's Veterans Task Force
Overview of State Veterans Benefits – Fred Ferguson

Please email your questions or concerns to taskforce@azdvs.gov

Location: Executive Tower – 2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Meeting Date: Nov 2nd, 2005
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm



Arizona State Veterans Benefits

Arizona has virtually no benefits for its veterans. We do offer a hunting and fishing license, but this must be renewed every 3 years, with great difficulty due to changes in the Game and Fish Commission's regulations. This benefit is only offered to 100% schedular service connected disabled veterans. Arizona also offers a tuition waiver to members of the Arizona National Guard who have been awarded the Purple Heart.



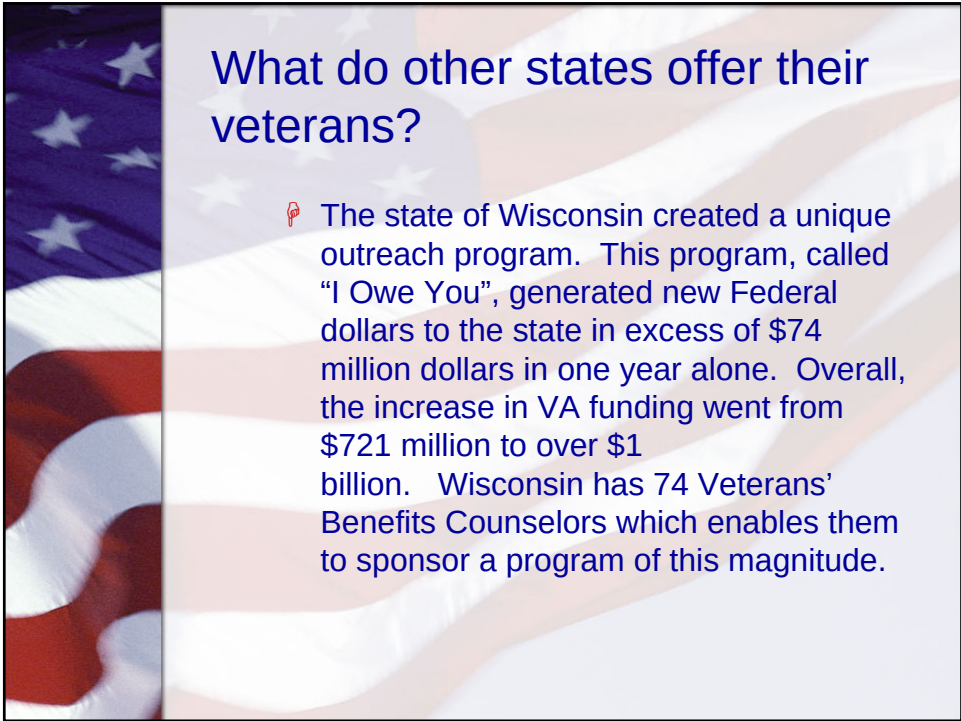
What do other states offer their veterans?

- ☞ 41 states offer tax benefits
 - *These benefits range from property tax breaks to exemption of payment of taxes for Active Duty personnel*
- ☞ 19 states have tax breaks for active duty personnel
 - *Arizona enacted a tax break for Active Duty personnel for 1 year, this law expires Dec 31st of this year*
- ☞ 37 states offer educational assistance
 - *AZ does have an educational benefit for Arizona National Guard personnel who have been awarded the Purple Heart*



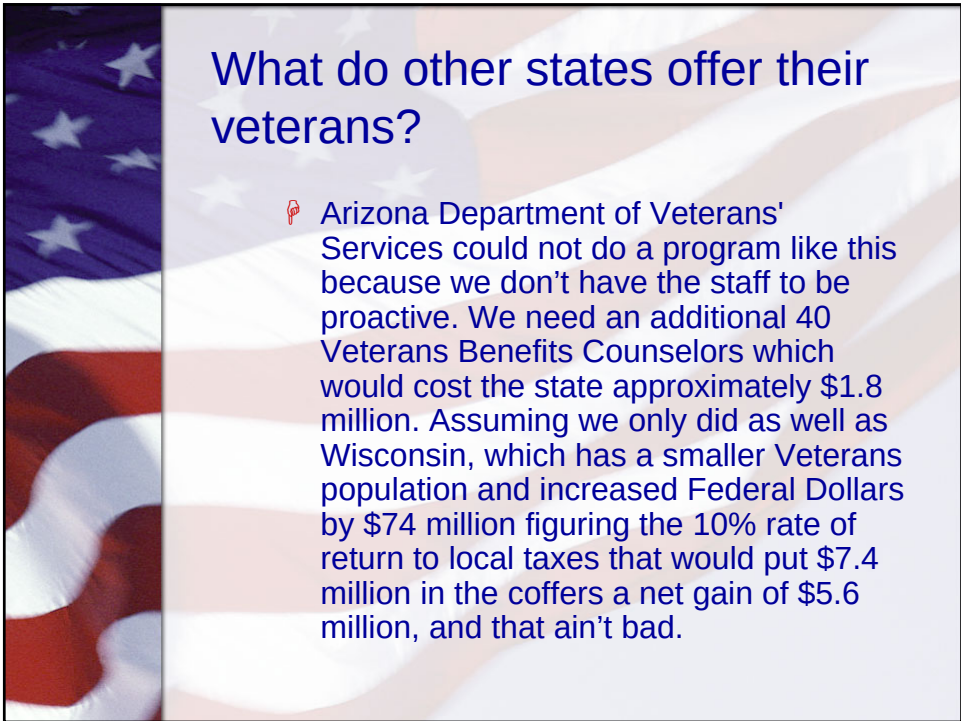
What do other states offer their veterans?

- ☞ 5 states offer some kind of home loan program.
 - *These states offer home loans to veterans at a lower interest rate than what is offered by conventional mortgage companies. This generates revenue for the veteran's service department while helping the veteran.*
- All these programs not only assist the veteran, but also encourage economic growth for the state.

The background of the slide features a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. The stars are white on a blue field, and the stripes are red and white. The flag is positioned on the left side of the slide, with the rest of the slide having a light blue background.

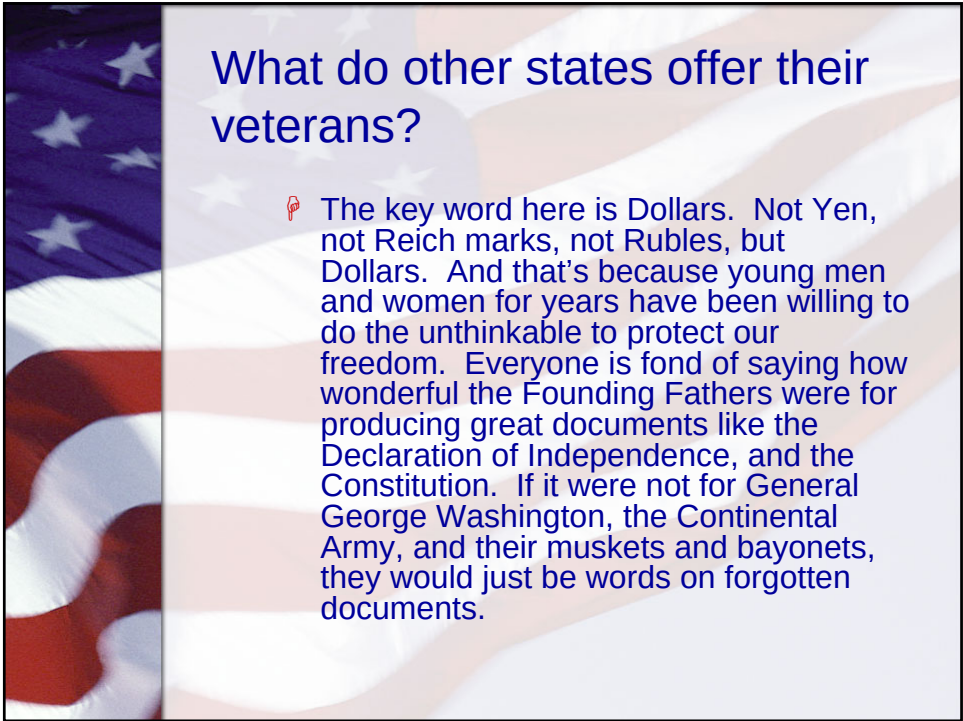
What do other states offer their veterans?

- 👉 The state of Wisconsin created a unique outreach program. This program, called “I Owe You”, generated new Federal dollars to the state in excess of \$74 million dollars in one year alone. Overall, the increase in VA funding went from \$721 million to over \$1 billion. Wisconsin has 74 Veterans’ Benefits Counselors which enables them to sponsor a program of this magnitude.

The background of the slide features a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. The stars are white on a blue field, and the stripes are red and white. The flag is positioned on the left side of the slide, with the rest of the slide having a light blue background.

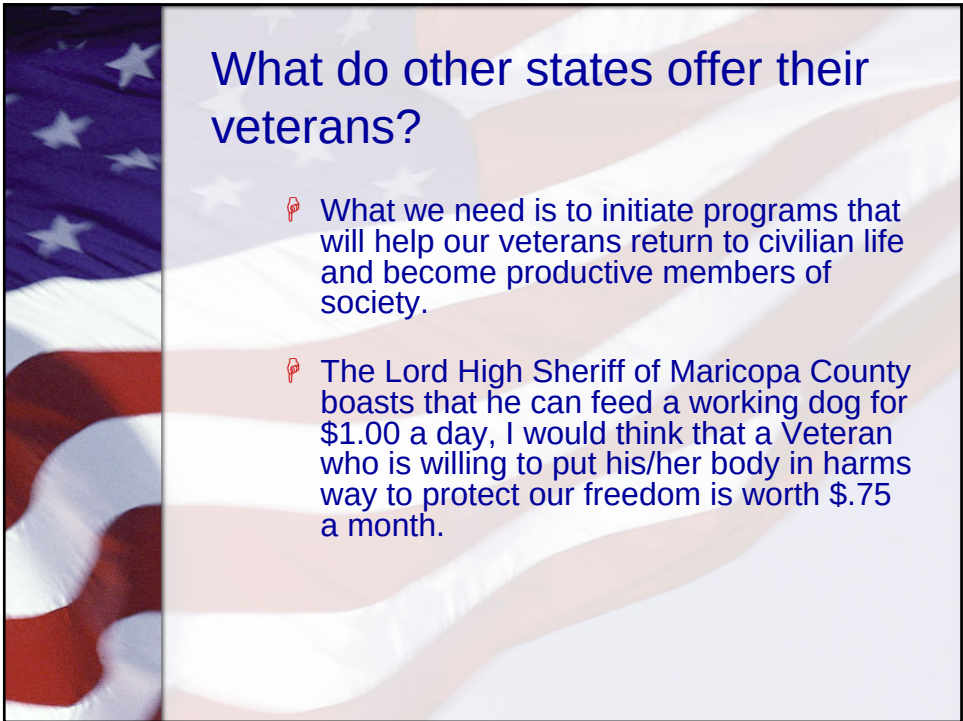
What do other states offer their veterans?

- 👉 Arizona Department of Veterans’ Services could not do a program like this because we don’t have the staff to be proactive. We need an additional 40 Veterans Benefits Counselors which would cost the state approximately \$1.8 million. Assuming we only did as well as Wisconsin, which has a smaller Veterans population and increased Federal Dollars by \$74 million figuring the 10% rate of return to local taxes that would put \$7.4 million in the coffers a net gain of \$5.6 million, and that ain’t bad.

The background of the slide features a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. The stars are white on a blue field, and the stripes are red and white. The flag is slightly wavy, giving it a sense of movement.

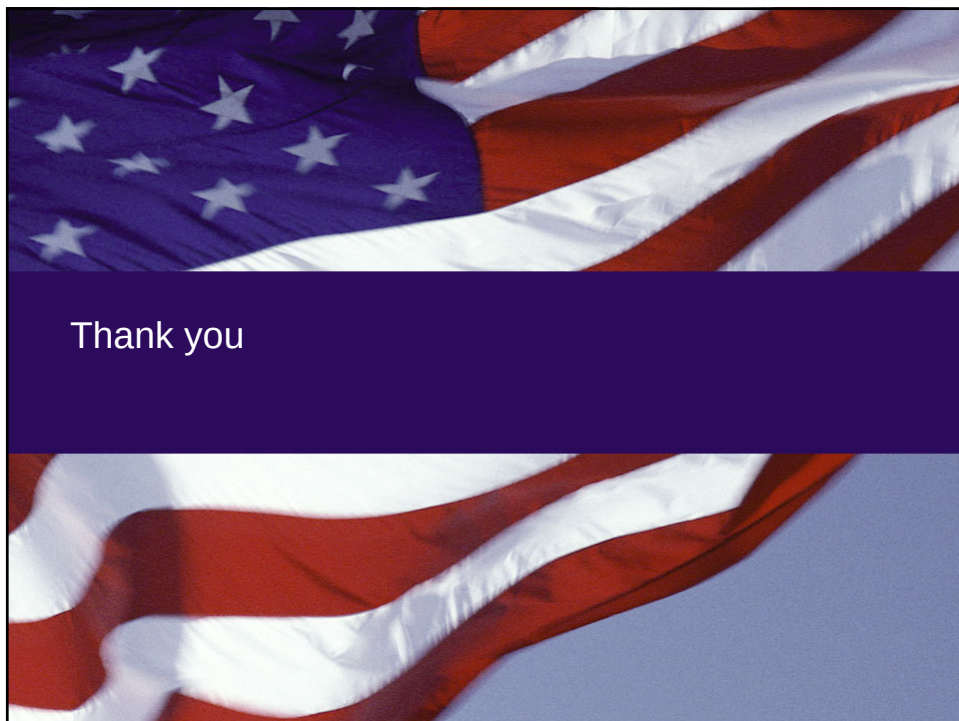
What do other states offer their veterans?

- 👉 The key word here is Dollars. Not Yen, not Reich marks, not Rubles, but Dollars. And that's because young men and women for years have been willing to do the unthinkable to protect our freedom. Everyone is fond of saying how wonderful the Founding Fathers were for producing great documents like the Declaration of Independence, and the Constitution. If it were not for General George Washington, the Continental Army, and their muskets and bayonets, they would just be words on forgotten documents.

The background of the slide features a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. The stars are white on a blue field, and the stripes are red and white. The flag is slightly wavy, giving it a sense of movement.

What do other states offer their veterans?

- 👉 What we need is to initiate programs that will help our veterans return to civilian life and become productive members of society.
- 👉 The Lord High Sheriff of Maricopa County boasts that he can feed a working dog for \$1.00 a day, I would think that a Veteran who is willing to put his/her body in harms way to protect our freedom is worth \$.75 a month.





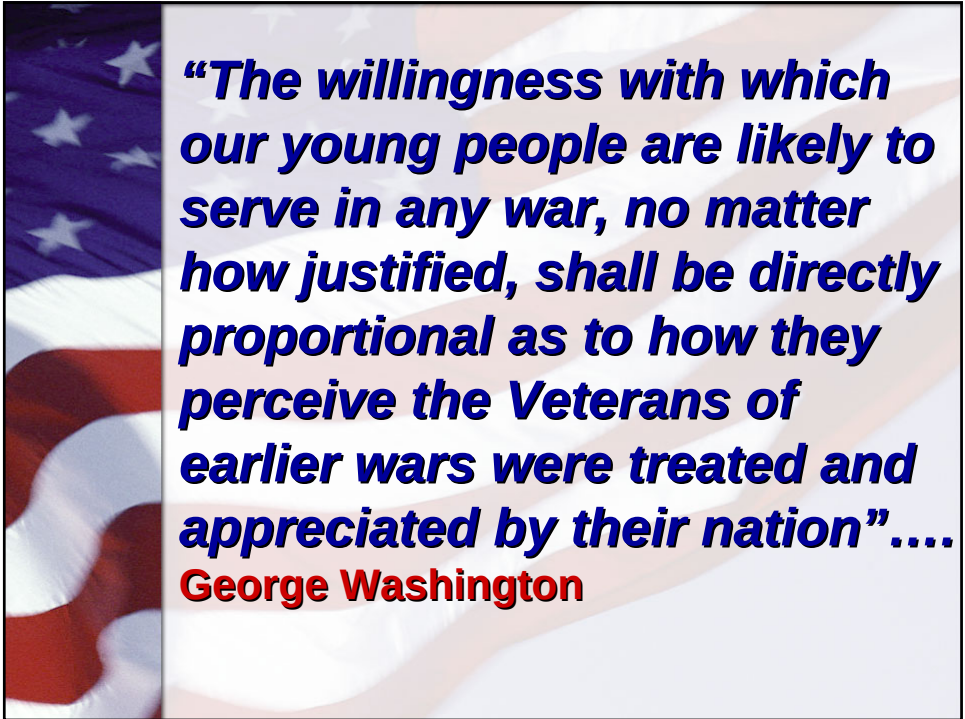
Appendix E

November 30, 2005
PowerPoint Presentation



Governor Janet Napolitano's
Veterans Task Force

Location: Executive Tower – 2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Meeting Date: Nov 30th, 2005
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm



***“The willingness with which
our young people are likely to
serve in any war, no matter
how justified, shall be directly
proportional as to how they
perceive the Veterans of
earlier wars were treated and
appreciated by their nation”....
George Washington***



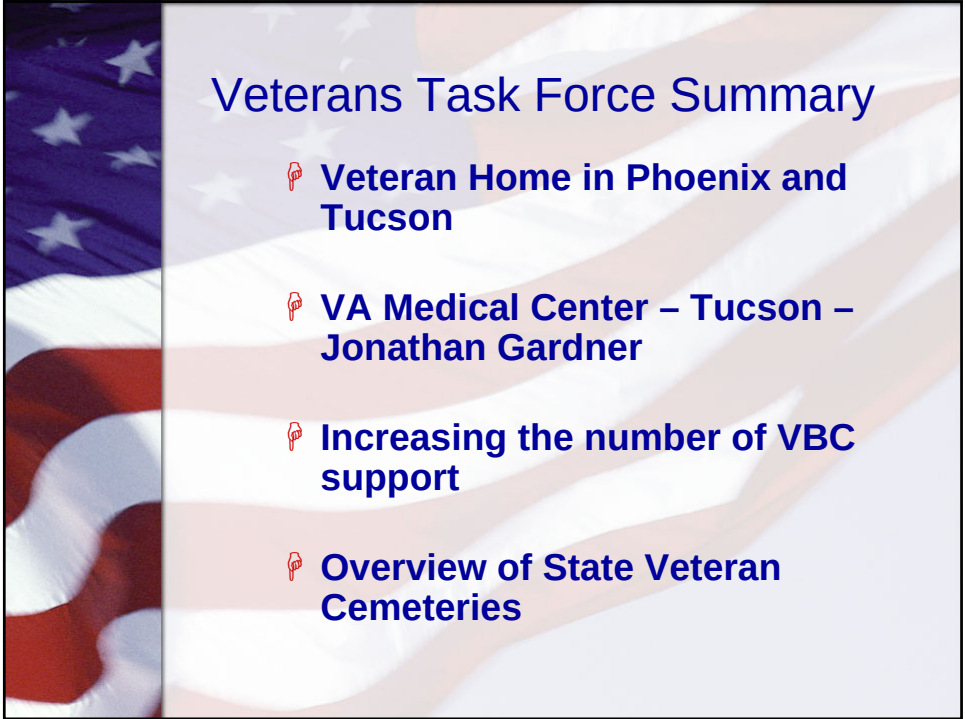
Governor Janet Napolitano's Veterans Task Force
Overview – Summary
Please email your questions or concerns to taskforce@azdvs.gov

Location: Executive Tower – 2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm



Veterans Task Force Summary

- 👉 **Defining the Veteran**
- 👉 **Veterans in our Society/Population Trend**
- 👉 **Economic Impact**
- 👉 **Education**

The background of the slide features a stylized American flag with red and white stripes and a blue field with white stars. The flag is oriented vertically, with the stars on the left side.

Veterans Task Force Summary

- 👉 **Veteran Home in Phoenix and Tucson**
- 👉 **VA Medical Center – Tucson – Jonathan Gardner**
- 👉 **Increasing the number of VBC support**
- 👉 **Overview of State Veteran Cemeteries**

The background of the slide features a stylized American flag with red and white stripes and a blue field with white stars. The flag is oriented vertically, with the stars on the left side.

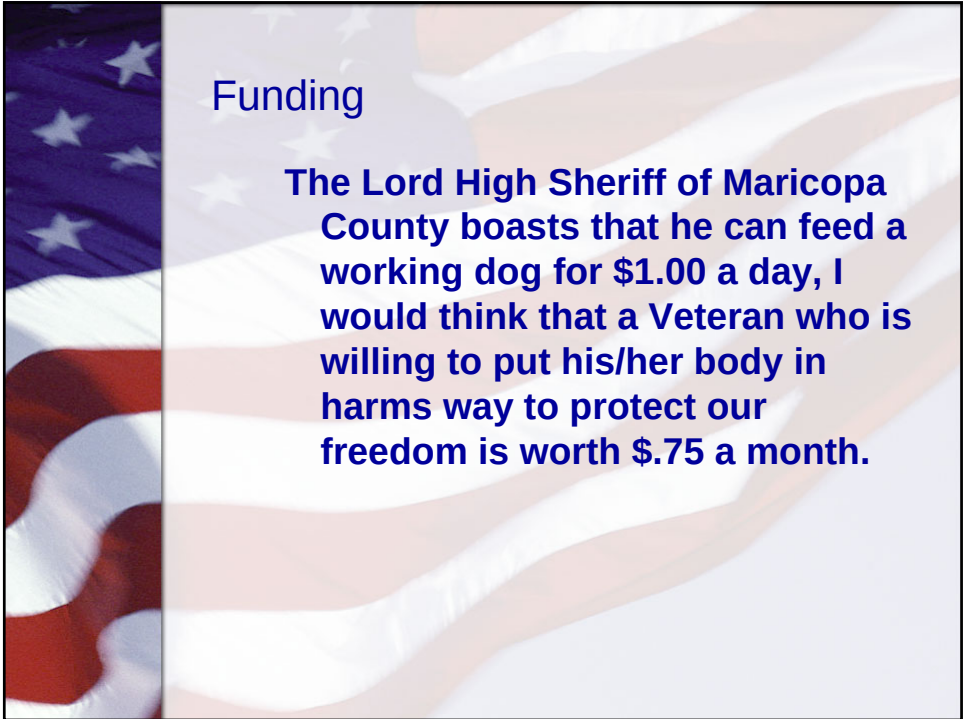
Veterans Task Force Summary

- 👉 **Briefing – Arizona National Guard and Reserves**
- 👉 **State Veterans Benefits Comparison**
- 👉 **Review General Fund Support received by the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services**

The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with a blue field of white stars on the left and red and white wavy stripes on the right.

Veterans Task Force Summary

- 👉 **Recommendations for Federal and State levels of legislation**
- 👉 **Draft the recommendations and set in motion implementation and change**

The background of the slide is a stylized American flag with a blue field of white stars on the left and red and white wavy stripes on the right.

Funding

The Lord High Sheriff of Maricopa County boasts that he can feed a working dog for \$1.00 a day, I would think that a Veteran who is willing to put his/her body in harms way to protect our freedom is worth \$.75 a month.

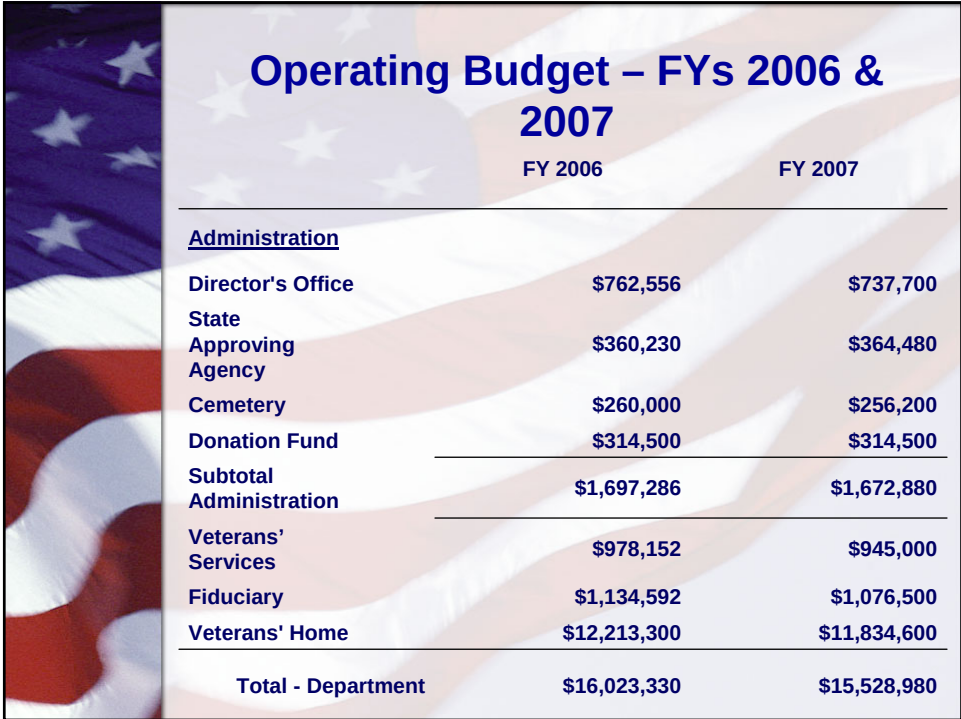


Governor Janet Napolitano's Veterans Task Force

General Fund Appropriation Summary – J. Gary Noviello, CPA

Please email your questions or concerns to taskforce@azdvs.gov

Location: Executive Tower – 2nd Floor Conference Room
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007
Meeting Time: 1:00 pm



Operating Budget – FYs 2006 & 2007

FY 2006

FY 2007

Administration

Director's Office	\$762,556	\$737,700
State		
Approving Agency	\$360,230	\$364,480
Cemetery	\$260,000	\$256,200
Donation Fund	\$314,500	\$314,500
Subtotal		
Administration	\$1,697,286	\$1,672,880
Veterans' Services	\$978,152	\$945,000
Fiduciary	\$1,134,592	\$1,076,500
Veterans' Home	\$12,213,300	\$11,834,600
Total - Department	\$16,023,330	\$15,528,980



Funding Source – FYs 2006 & 2007

	FY 2006	FY 2007
General Fund	\$2,336,300	\$2,259,000
Conservator Fund	\$677,500	\$634,900
Veterans' Home Trust Fund	\$12,213,300	\$11,834,600
Other Non-Appropriated Funds	\$796,230	\$800,480
Total - Department	\$16,023,330	\$15,528,980

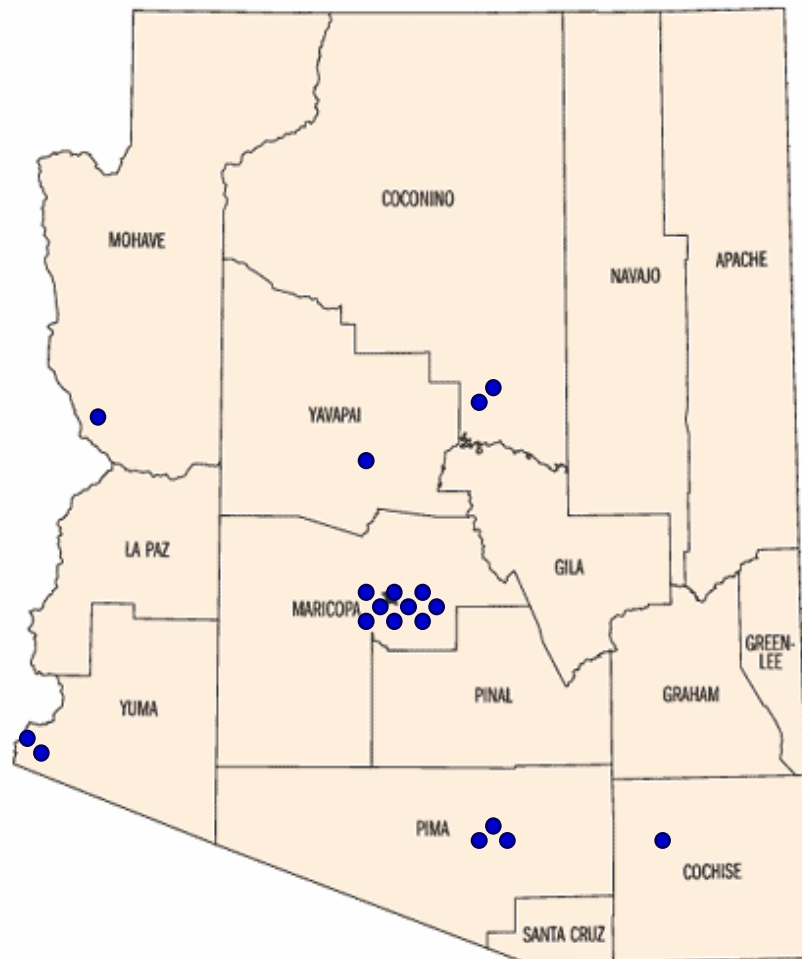


FY 2006 General Fund Appropriations Per Veteran Per Month

Surveyed	
All 50 states	
25 states responded	
Outliers were MA & OH	
23 States' Average	\$.84
Arizona	\$.32

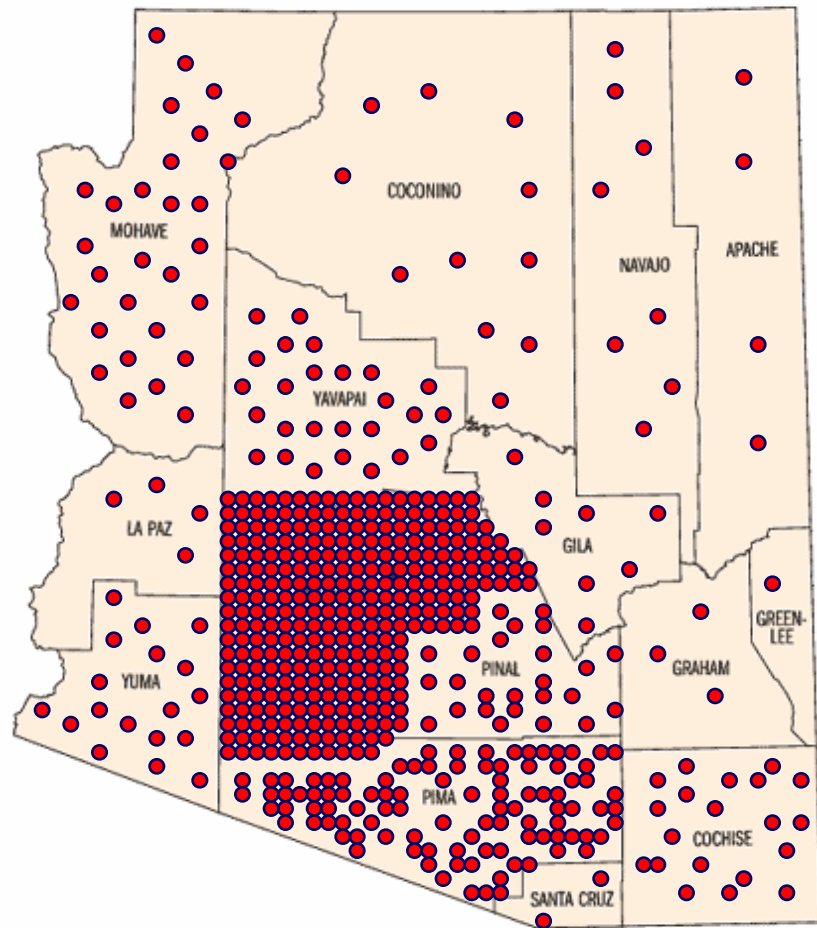
VETERANS' BENEFITS COUNSELORS

**Each Blue Dot Represents
1 Certified State Veterans
Benefits Counselor**

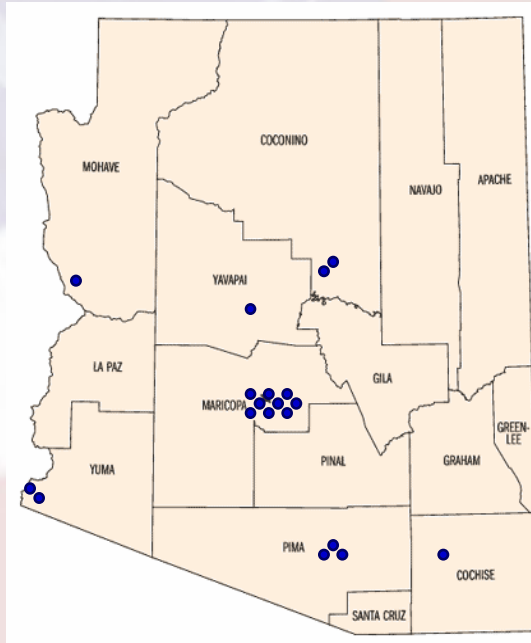


VETERANS IN ARIZONA

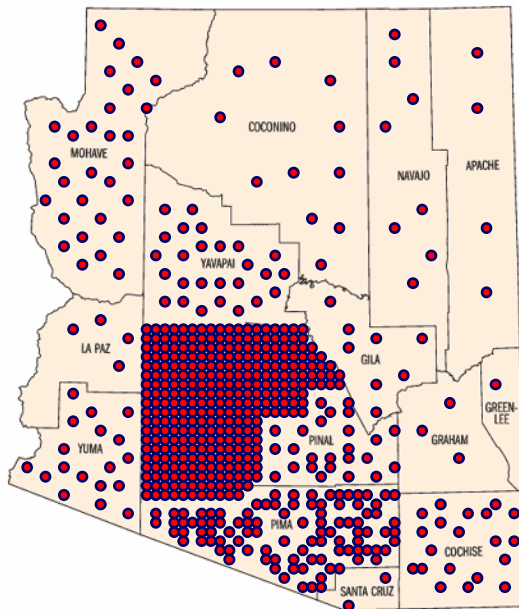
Each Red
Dot represents
1,000
Veterans



VETERANS IN ARIZONA



**Each Blue Dot
Represents
1 Veterans Benefits
Counselor**



**Each Red Dot
represents
1,000 Veterans**

State of Arizona

Janet Napolitano
Governor



Arizona Veterans Task Force Members Executive Order 2005-15

Patrick F. Chorpenning
Chairperson

Rebecca J. Phifer
Co-Chair

Joe P. Bibich

George J. Heaney

Avtar S. Khalsa

Ezra Loring

Georganna Meyer

Dora Schriro

Joan E. Sisco

Caryn R. Walsh

Gary M. Yaquinto