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**Item ID Number** 04940

**Not Scanned**

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**Report/Article Title** Press Release: Veterans Administration News Release  
Announcing the 50% Expansion of the Vet Center  
Counseling Service for Vietnam Era Veterans, July 16,  
1981

**Journal/Book Title**

**Year** 0000

**Month/Day**

**Color**

**Number of Images** 0

**Description Notes**



Veterans  
Administration

# News Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The popular Vet Center counseling service for Vietnam Era veterans will be expanded by 50 percent, Veterans Administration chief Robert P. Nimmo announced today.

Nimmo, who took the oath of office July 15 as Administrator of Veterans Affairs, said 42 new counseling facilities will be added to the program under terms of the Reagan Bipartisan Budget Resolution.

The 42 new facilities will bring to 133 the number of "storefront" counseling facilities available to Vietnam Era veterans who may be suffering readjustment problems following military service during the Vietnam War.

As he had during his confirmation hearings before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee July 9, Nimmo stressed the fact that "while the vast majority of our Vietnam veterans have successfully returned to our working society, a substantial number still suffer various degrees of readjustment difficulty."

It is those veterans, he said, "whom we will continue to reach out to through this expanded Vet Center program."

Nimmo said the centers typically have staffs of three to five persons who operate on an informal, person-to-person basis with Vietnam Era veterans experiencing emotional and other readjustment problems.

"We hope to have all of the new centers in operation within three to four months," Nimmo said. Some are almost ready to begin operations and others will be opened as suitable space can be arranged and personnel recruited.

Since the Vet Center program began operation early in 1980, approximately 72,000 Vietnam Era veterans have been counseled. Nimmo said VA officials believe the new centers will be much more efficient than the original ones because contacting and counseling efficiency have been improved.

The expectation, he said, is that the new center teams will be able to provide assistance to approximately 12,000 Vietnam Era veterans in their first year of operation.

The Vet Center program has a budget of \$29,580,000 for fiscal year 1982.

New facilities to be opened in the Northeast are: Nassau/Suffolk County, Albany, and Westchester County, N.Y.; Springfield, Mass.; Windsor, Vt.; Bangor, Me.; Trenton, N.J.; Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Harrisburg, Pa.

In the Southeast will be: Orlando, and Tampa, Fla.; Charlotte, N.C.; Greenville, S.C.; Atlanta, Ga.; Mobile, Ala.; Knoxville, Tenn.; Lexington, Ky.; Richmond, Va.; and Morgantown, W. Va.

New Vet Centers in the Central states will be located at Chicago Heights, and Peoria, Ill.; Evansville, Ind.; Sioux City, Ia.; Tulsa, Okla.; Lincoln, Neb.; Grand Rapids, Mich.; Minot, N.D.; Rapid City, S.D.; and Madison, Wisc.

In the West will be: Contra Costa County, Fresno, and Riverside, Calif.; Eugene, Ore.; Spokane, Wash.; Fort Worth, and San Antonio, Tex.; Colorado Springs, Colo.; Window Rock, N.M.; and Fairbanks, Alaska.

These are in addition to facilities in Reno, Nev., and Tucson, Ariz., which opened recently.

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July 16, 1981