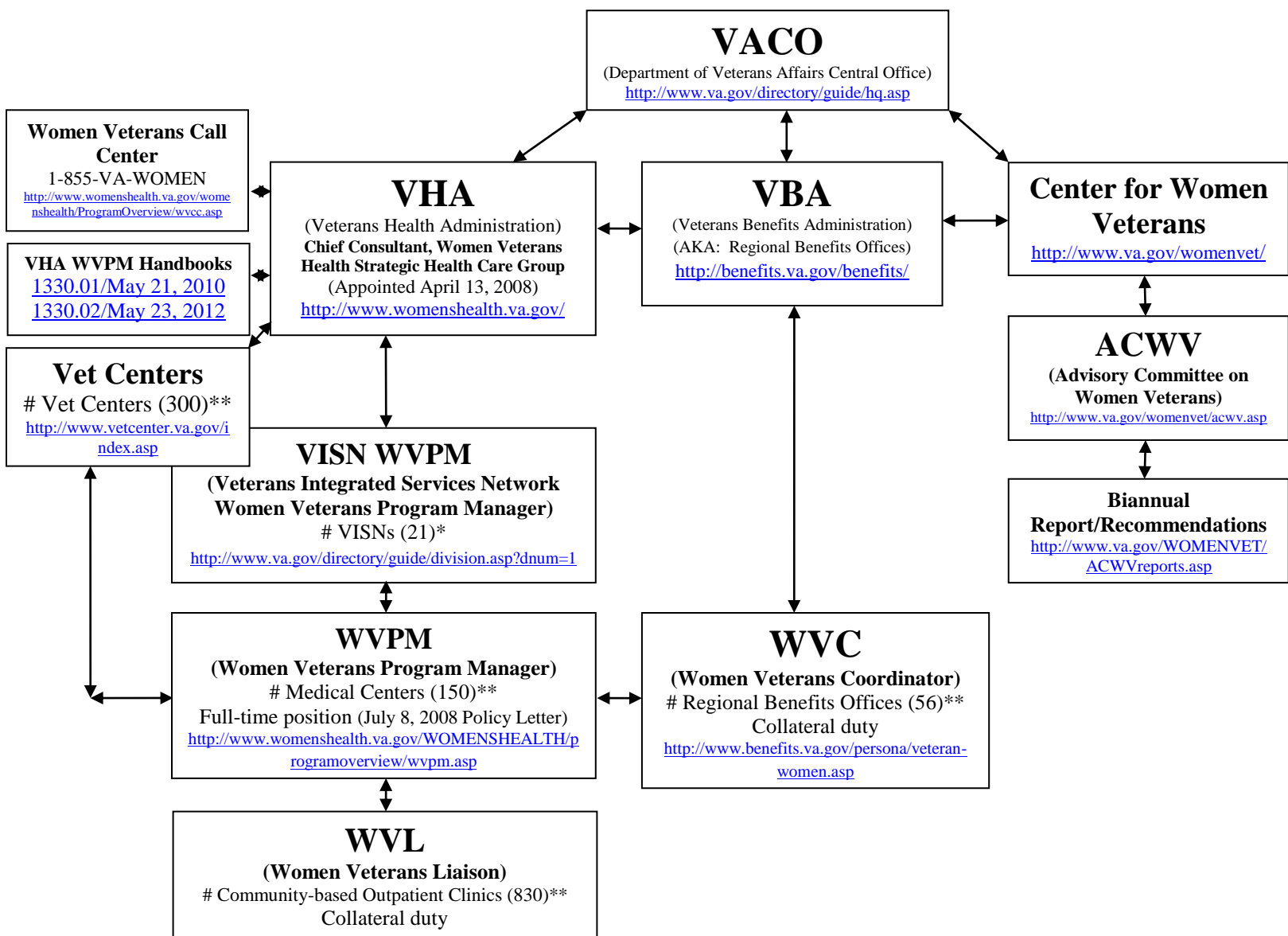


# Women Veterans' Federal Health Care & Benefits Contacts/Advocates



\* <http://www.va.gov/directory/guide/division.asp?dnum=1>

\*\* <http://www.va.gov/finance/docs/afr/2015VAafrSectionI.pdf>

## State/District/Territory Health Care & Benefits Contacts/Advocates

State/District/Territory Direct Contacts (blue font position titles)

Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Medical Center: [Women Veterans Program Manager \(WVPM\)](#)

VHA Community-based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC): [Women Veterans Liaison \(WVL\)](#): All VHA CBOCs are expected to appoint WVLs and work in coordination with their affiliated VHA Medical Center Women Veterans Program Manager (WVPM)

VHA OB/GYN Physician: By-appointment care; not all VHA Medical Centers have a hired [OB/GYN physician](#)

Veterans Integrated Services Network (VISN): [Regional Lead Women Veterans Program Manager \(WVPM\)](#)

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA): [Women Veterans Coordinator \(WVC\)](#): VBA Regional Benefits Office women veterans' claims processing contact; sometimes also the Military Sexual Trauma (MST) claims contact

State, District & Territory: [Veterans Affairs/State Women Veterans Coordinator/Representative](#): [Every state and D.C., but not all territories, has a Veterans' Affairs office.](#) Not all states hire or appoint a women veterans' coordinator, liaison, or representative. Their titles, responsibilities, availability, and pay vary.

# Milestones: Evolution of Women Veteran Health Care & Benefits Services & Advocacy

- 1948:** [Women's Armed Services Integration Act](#)—law enabled women to serve as permanent & regular servicemembers
- 1977:** Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs) [granted military and veteran status in 1977 by Congress](#)
- 1980:** [VA's doors opened to all women who served in the armed forces](#)  
[First decennial U.S. census](#) asking women and National Guard if they served on active duty
- 1985:** [First VHA Women Veteran \(Health\) Coordinators appointed](#)—collateral positions; no position standardization; not all filled
- 1983:** [VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans \(ACWV\) established](#)
- 1986:** [First Women Veterans Coordinators \(Benefits\) were appointed in VA regional offices \(VBA\)](#)—collateral positions and no position standardization; position not uniformly filled
- 1988:** [First Women Veterans Health Program Office established](#)
- 1992:** [First female gender-specific and Military Sexual Trauma \(MST\) health care law passed](#)
- 1994:** [VA Center for Women Veterans established](#)
- 2004-2008:** More research on women veterans' health published [2004-2008 than in the previous 25 years](#) combined due to VA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) research agenda on women's health
- 2005:** First Department of Defense (DOD) [Sexual Assault and Prevention Response Office \(SAPRO\)](#) established
- 2008:** VA Women Veterans Health Program Office elevated to Women Veterans Health Strategic Health Care Group established; [Dr. Patty Hayes appointed as Chief Consultant on April 13, 2008](#)  
VHA July 8, 2008 policy letter published--full-time VHA Women Veteran Program Managers mandatory  
VHA established first "[Prosthetics Women's Work Group](#)"
- 2010:** [White House and VA initiative](#) to end veteran homelessness began (ended December 2015)
- 2011:** [GAO-12-182](#) reported HUD & VA annually counted homeless women & homeless veterans, but not homeless women veterans; no data/no funding
- 2012:** Number of [women veterans using VA health career more than doubled from 2002-2012](#): 160,000 to 360,000+  
"[The Invisible War](#)" documentary released and SecDef announced sexual assault epidemic in military. Estimated assaults from survey results 2014: 20,000 @ 55/day; 2012: 26,000 @ 70/day; 2010: 19,300 @ 53/day...[more male than female victims/survivors](#) in all surveys and 62% of reported assaults also reported retaliation in 2012/2014.
- 2013:** [First year HUD annual homeless person Point-in-Time survey included question asking homeless women](#) if they served in the military
- 2014:** [2,020,077 million living U.S. women veterans](#)  
1/3 of 150 VA medical centers do not have OB/GYN physicians ([2014 DAV Report: The Long Journey Home](#))
- 2015:** [White House and VA initiative](#) target year to end veteran homelessness (began 2010) with [36% nationwide decrease](#). VA-designated "Special Needs" veterans (women, frail elderly, terminally ill, chronically mentally ill, and individuals who care for minor dependents) require much more focus, particularly funding for emergency beds and transitional housing.
- 2016:** Secretary of Defense Ash Carter, on December 3, 2015, directed [all services to open all occupations and positions](#) without exception, combat and noncombat, to women beginning in January 2016. Women must meet gender-neutral combat occupation standards to qualify.
- 2043:** Total [veteran population](#) projected to drop nearly 50% while female veteran population more than doubles
- 2048:** Women will have legally served in U.S. military 100 years. The [Women's Armed Services Integration Act passed in 1948](#).