

Memorandum

Date : December 5, 2013

To : Associate Directors, Division of Adult Institutions
Wardens
Community Resource Managers

Subject: **ASSISTANCE FOR INCARCERATED VETERANS**

The purpose of this memorandum is to reiterate the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's (CDCR) expectations for staff to provide assistance to eligible inmates in obtaining veterans benefits. Direction has previously been disseminated to all institutions instructing staff to notify inmates about the array of benefits and services available to qualified veterans. Veterans have served and sacrificed in defense of our nation, therefore it is the goal of CDCR to ensure incarcerated veterans are informed of the programs, services, and benefits available to them.

On October, 30, 2013, the attached memorandum was sent to institutions regarding a current agreement CDCR has with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This agreement provides Re-Entry Specialists from the VA to enter all institutions to assist incarcerated veterans. The Re-Entry Specialists can assist inmates with Veterans Affairs enrollment, restarting disability benefits, securing DD-214's, and providing references.

CDCR is currently working with the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CAL-VET) in an attempt to enhance the assistance provided to incarcerated veterans. Most institutions are currently assisting incarcerated veterans with guidance and support to obtain benefits. The VA has created a Guidebook for California Incarcerated Veterans 4th Edition geared towards assisting inmates with obtaining veterans benefits and services. Under CDCR'S current agreement with the VA these guidebooks shall be made available to potentially eligible veterans. The VA is currently in the process of distributing the revised guidebook to all institutions. Once institutions receive the revised guidebooks they shall ensure the guidebooks are placed in the inmate libraries. Also under the agreement with the VA, institutions shall ensure the most current VA forms are available within the inmate libraries. To retrieve the latest versions of VA forms, institution staff can visit (www.va.gov/vaforms/). Institutions shall coordinate with their local County Veteran's Service Offices and Veteran's Organizations for assistance with connecting veterans to benefits.

To ensure compliance with these expectations, institutions shall develop a Local Operating Procedure (LOP) describing how you assist incarcerated veterans with obtaining services and benefits. Institutions are encouraged to identify any type of veteran services or programs available to the inmate population in this LOP.

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A copy of the updated/signed LOP shall be forwarded via electronic mail to Thomas Tyler, Captain, Audits and Litigation Unit, Division of Adult Institutions, no later than **January 17, 2014** at Thomas.Tyler@cdcr.ca.gov. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this memorandum, please contact Captain Tyler at (916) 324-7956.



M.D. STAINER
Director
Division of Adult Institutions

Attachment

cc: Kelly Harrington, Deputy Director, Facility Operations, DAI
Kathleen Allison, Deputy Director, Special Project Liaison, DAI
Kathleen Dickinson, Deputy Director (A) Facility Support, DAI
Natalie Fransham, Chief, Office of Policy Standardization, DAI
Thomas Tyler, Captain, Audits and Litigation Unit, DAI

Memorandum

Date : October 30, 2013

To : Associate Directors, Division of Adult Institutions
Wardens
Community Resources Managers

Subject: **DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS HEALTH CARE FOR REENTRY VETERANS PROGRAM**

This memorandum supersedes the memorandum titled "Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care for Reentry Veterans Program", dated November 15, 2012.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) has partnered with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to assist in providing the VA's Health Care for Reentry Veterans (HCRV) Program. The HCRV Program is designed to address the community reentry needs of incarcerated veterans who are at risk for homelessness, substance abuse, mental and chronic illness, and infectious disease upon release. To facilitate this program, a VA Reentry Specialist from HCRV travels to each institution several times each year to meet with Veterans six months before their release.

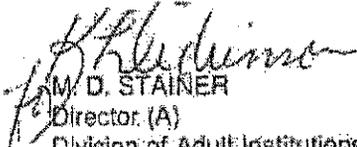
The following Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Reentry Specialists will be accessing institutions throughout CDCR as part of the HCRV Program:

- George B. Kennedy
- Craig S. Lea

This statewide approval and CDCR Statewide Volunteer Identification Cards (VIC) are provided to the specialists to reduce workload on institution staff, and to ensure expeditious access to all institutions. The above mentioned representatives should be placed on each institution's 12-month Gate Clearance list. In addition to the VIC, each representative shall provide a valid California Identification Card or valid California Driver's License, and a valid VA Identification Card.

Institutions shall provide a copy of this memorandum at the ingress/egress locations, and ensure the entrance staff are fully aware of the approval of VA representatives to enter CDCR institutions.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Jane Soria, Community Partnerships Manager, Office of Policy Standardization, at (916) 324-5487 or via email at jane.soria@cdcr.ca.gov.


M. D. STAINER
Director (A)
Division of Adult Institutions

cc: Kelly Harrington, Deputy Director (A), Facility Operations, Division of Adult Institutions
Kathleen Dickinson, Deputy Director (A), Facility Support, Division of Adult Institutions
Natalie Fransham, Chief, Office of Policy Standardization
Jane Soria, Community Partnership Manager, Office of Policy Standardization