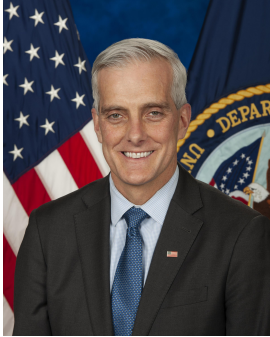


MESSAGE FROM VA'S SECRETARY



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

November 15, 2023



I am proud to present the United States Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA or the Department) Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Agency Financial Report. This report offers financial and performance information demonstrating our commitment to fiscal transparency and responsibility as we uphold VA's mission "To fulfill President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our Nation's military and for their families, caregivers and survivors."

In FY 2023, the Department continued the biggest expansion of Veteran health care and benefits in decades by implementing the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act of 2022. The law expanded VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange and other toxic substances. Since the law's enactment in August 2022, Veterans, caregivers and survivors have filed more than one million claims for toxic exposure-related benefits under the PACT Act.

Partly due to the PACT Act, VA is delivering more care and more benefits to more Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors than ever before. Key results as of fiscal year-end include:

- Processing over 2.2 million disability claims (PACT and non-PACT) in FY 2023 — 29% more than the prior fiscal year and surpassing last year's all-time record total of 1.7 million claims processed.
- Enrolling over 401,000 Veterans in VA health care. This number includes over 172,000 enrollees from the PACT Act population (Vietnam, Gulf War and Post-9/11 era Veterans).
- Screening over 4.6 million Veterans for toxic exposures under the PACT Act.

While I am gratified that more than one million Veterans, caregivers and survivors have applied for their hard-earned benefits to date, this is just the beginning. VA will not rest until every Veteran, caregiver and survivor gets the VA health care and benefits they deserve.

Lastly, I am pleased to announce the Department received its 25th consecutive unmodified audit opinion from independent public accounting firm CliftonLarsonAllen for the FY 2023 financial statement audit. This audit signifies that VA's financial statements are fairly presented in all material aspects. With this achievement in mind, VA continues to strive for financial management excellence, actively addressing any material weaknesses, significant deficiencies and noncompliance identified by the auditors. Detailed remediation efforts are provided in Management's Statement of Assurance beginning on page 30 of this Agency Financial Report.

Sincerely,

(/s/) Denis McDonough