



Articles & Features

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Martinsburg Veterans Affairs Medical Center breaks ground for new Community Based Outpatient Clinic



Members of the official party break ground for the new Community Based Outpatient Clinic at Fort Detrick, Md. From the left, are Col. Judith Robinson, commander, U.S. Army Garrison; Capt. Chris Daniel, deputy commander, U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command; Ann Brown, director, Martinsburg VA Medical Center; Sen. Benjamin Cardin; Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, R-6th; Julianna Albowicz, Sen. Barbara Mikulski's office; Sanford Garfunkel, director, VA Capital Health Care Network; and Lt. Col. Richard Lindsay, deputy commander, Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Center. Photo: VA/Maria Tamez

A major milestone in providing exceptional health care to America's Veterans occurred when the Veterans Affairs and Defense Department officials joined to break ground for the new Fort Detrick Community Based Outpatient Clinic on Oct. 2.

A \$5 million initiative, the 14,500 sq. ft. CBOC will be co-located on the grounds of the Barquist Army Health Care facility at Fort Detrick and will be the seventh clinic in the Martinsburg VA Medical Center system.

When operational, the clinic will provide primary care and mental health services, physical exams, preventive health, continuity of care for chronic medical illness, same-day evaluation of urgent medical problems, limited medications, such as antibiotics, routine EKGs and X-rays, and laboratory services for America's Veterans.

"We made certain promises to our veterans and we need to keep those promises. It's critical that our veterans get the health care services they need in a timely,

convenient manner and this new community based outpatient clinic will make it much easier for veterans in Western Maryland to access the health care services they need," said Senator Benjamin L. Cardin.

The value to our Veterans was also not lost on Senator Barbara Mikulski who wrote in a prepared statement conveyed by Special Assistant Julianna Albowicz that "this groundbreaking represents a payment on the debt owed to you. You left good jobs, great friends and wonderful families to do what had to be done. I thank you for your service and I applaud the VA for the continuing efforts to make health care more accessible for our nation's veterans."

Over the next several years, it is expected the VA will experience an increase of an additional 17,000 Veterans who seek care within the VA Capitol Health Care Network and the Martinsburg VA Medical Center. To meet this increase in demand for services, the VA Capitol Health Care Network and the Martinsburg VA Medical Center is increasing clinic space and personnel.

"Upon completion, this clinic will fulfill the Veterans Administration and Defense Department initiative to improve the efficiency of services by sharing resources between our agencies," said VISN5 Network Director Sanford Garfunkel. "It will improve Veteran access to health care providing primary care, mental health services, preventive health, and many more services for our Veterans."

Partners supporting the project include: the Department of Defense; U.S. Army; TRICARE; Veteran Service Organizations; and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Construction is expected to be complete in late summer 2010.



From the right, Martinsburg VAMC Director Ann R. Brown, with volunteers Franklin Joy, Harold Bowers, Francis Dutrow, and Gerald Ford holding one of the ceremonial shovels. Photo: VA/Maria Tamez

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