

Eastern Colorado Health Care System

New Denver VA Medical Center

&

Department of Defense Buckley Air Force Base 460th Wing 460th Medical Group



Today, the Veterans Affairs Eastern Colorado Health Care System (VAECHCS) treats over 58,000 veterans. Patients from Montana, Wyoming, Kansas, Nebraska and other surrounding states come to Denver to be treated at the current site. The existing Denver Veterans Affairs Medical Center, located at 9th and Clermont Street, opened in 1950 with 500 beds. The original structure was built at a cost of \$10 million dollars and employed 600 people. The hospital has evolved over the years as new buildings and services have been added to meet growing demand and technological advances. In the coming years, the veteran population is projected to grow in the VAECHCS service area due to the strong military presence.

The VA has outgrown the current location and moving to a new location has provided an opportunity for collaboration with the Department of Defense. The Department of Defense Buckley Air Force Base 460th Wing 460th Medical Group is a partner in this endeavor and will have a primary care clinic to treat active duty personnel. The 460th Medical Group currently treats over 8,500 beneficiaries.

The new healthcare campus is designed as a state of the art facility of approximately 1.1 million square feet on 31 acres providing many new services to Veterans. The location is on the southeast corner of the former Fitzsimons Army Base just east of Children's Hospital, north of Colfax Avenue and immediately west of RTD's planned light rail station. New construction replaces the current VA facility of 670,000 square feet. The project is a major step forward in meeting the demands for care in the growing veteran

population. The Denver project is the largest ever undertaken by the Department of Veterans Affairs and one of the largest construction projects planned in the State of Colorado.

The project encompasses President Lincoln's promise – **“To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan”**. Leading edge technology is designed into every aspect of the project bringing health care delivery to military and veterans into the 21st century. Computer technology will be utilized in an effort to increase the quality of service whenever possible. Guiding principles for the design of the new facility include patient safety, improving the Veteran's health care experience, promoting the family's role in care delivery, and protecting our environment through green design.

Milestones:

Groundbreaking: August, 2009

Construction start: June, 2010

Construction complete: September, 2013

Open for Veteran Care: January, 2014

Comparative Facts: Current vs. New

	2007	2027
Number of Veterans Treated	57,000	70,000*
Number of Clinic Appointments	520,540	901,399
Number of Prescriptions Filled	1,498,381	2,649,615
Total Square Footage	680,000	1,100,100
Total Acreage	13	31
Parking Spaces	989	2,000
Nursing Home Beds	60	30
SCI Beds	0	30
Intensive Care Beds	24	22
Mental Health Beds	59	30
Medical/Surgical Beds	91	68

Joint Venture Design Team for New Facility

H+L Architecture

Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP

Cator, Ruma & Associates, Co.

S. A. Miro, Inc.

Local Project Coordinator:

Judi Guy

Denver VA Medical Center

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