



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

September 30, 2011

The Honorable Kathy Castor  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Castor:

This is in response to your letter regarding the status of a clinic at the Florida National Guard (NG) Fort Homer Hesterly Armory in Tampa, Florida. I apologize for the delay in responding.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is currently assessing the potential of the Armory as a site for delivery of health care services to Veterans as part of VA's fiscal year 2013 Strategic Capital Investment Process (SCIP). This assessment prioritizes projects in accordance with the strategic goals of the Department. We will keep you apprised of the results of this review.

To update our June 6, 2011, report, VA intends to lease approximately 90,000 net usable square feet (nurf) for an outpatient clinic in South Hillsborough County. This clinic would relieve space pressure on the Tampa hospital, improving patient satisfaction by delivering care closer to where Veterans live. The timeline provided on June 6, 2011, has changed due to negotiations for potential sites. The new date for solicitation is December 2011. Construction is expected to begin by December 2012, and it is anticipated that the new space will be available for use by spring 2014.

Additionally, by December 31, 2011, VA will contract to lease approximately 100,000 nurf in Tampa for a Primary Care Annex (PCA) to the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital (JAHVH). The PCA will decompress space demands at the main facility, fully implement the Patient Aligned Care Teams, and increase parking capacity which will improve patient satisfaction and access.

We plan to hold health fairs in the South Hillsborough area using JAHVH's mobile outreach clinic. Facility leadership is also evaluating a mobile medical clinic for northern Hillsborough County and is working to increase the number of telehealth services provided to this area. This will increase accessibility while allowing Veterans to receive health care in their homes or at a nearby outpatient clinic.

VA remains committed to providing top-quality, accessible health care to the men and women who have served this Nation. I appreciate your invitation to visit the area. I have visited Tampa, and will certainly consider a return trip as my schedule allows.

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Should you have any additional questions, please have a member of your staff contact Mr. Tim Embree, Congressional Relations Officer, at (202) 461-5552, or by e-mail at [Timothy.Embree@va.gov](mailto:Timothy.Embree@va.gov).

Thank you for your continued support of our mission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric K. Shinseki". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

Eric K. Shinseki