

# Women Vets *(continued from page 1)*

records.

As women Vietnam Veterans approach their mid-sixties, it is important to understand the impact of wartime deployment on health and mental outcomes nearly 40 years later. The study will assess the prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental and physical health conditions for women Vietnam Veterans, and explore the relationship between PTSD and other conditions.

VA will study women Vietnam Veterans who may have had direct exposure to traumatic events, and for the first time, study those who served in facilities near Vietnam. These women may have had similar, but less direct exposures. Both women Veterans who receive their health care from VA and those who receive health care from other providers will be contacted to determine the prevalence of a variety of health conditions. About 250,000 women Veterans served in the military during the Vietnam War and about 7,000 were in or near Vietnam. Those who were in Vietnam, those who served elsewhere in Southeast Asia and those who served in the United States are potential study participants.

The study represents to date the most comprehensive examination of a group of women Vietnam Veterans, and will be used to shape future research on women Veterans in future wars. Such an understanding will lay the groundwork for planning and providing appropriate services for women Veterans, as well as for the aging Veteran population today.



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Women Veterans are one of the fastest growing segments of the Veteran population. There are approximately 1.8 million women Veterans among the nation's total of 23 million living Veterans. Women comprise 7.8 percent of the total Veteran population and nearly 5.5 percent of all Veterans who use VA health care services. VA estimates women Veterans will constitute 10.5 percent of the Veteran population by 2020 and 9.5 percent of all VA patients. In recent years, VA has undertaken a number of initiatives to create or enhance services for women Veterans, including

the implementation of comprehensive primary care throughout the nation, staffing every VA medical center with a women Veterans program manager, supporting a multifaceted research program on women's health, improving communication and outreach to women Veterans, and continuing the operation of organizations like the Center for Women Veterans and the Women Veterans Health Strategic Healthcare Group.

The study, to be managed by VA's Cooperative Studies Program, is projected to cost \$5.6 million.



**December 1, 2009** • Board of Directors meeting, 7 p.m. at Sonora Veterans Hall on Washington Street.

**December 1, 1775** — LT John Paul Jones raised the Grand Union Flag in ALFRED commissioning (the first warship of the Continental Navy).

**December 4, 2009** — VVA-391 Color Guard at the Twain Harte Christmas Parade. CG meet in front of the CDF at 5:30 p.m.

**December 6, 2009** — American Legion Pancake Breakfast, 8-11 a.m., Sonora Veterans Hall, Washington Street. The best breakfast in the County.

**December 7, 1941** — Pearl Harbor attacked by Japanese. National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

**December 8, 1941** — War declared on Japan.

**December 8, 2009** — VVA-391 Annual Christmas Party at the Motherlode Fairgrounds, Manzanita Bldg.

**December 10, 2009** — Human Rights Day.

**December 11, 1941** — Germany and Italy declare war on the U.S.

**December 15, 2009** — Bill of Rights Day.

**December 16, 1944** — Battle of the Bulge begins.

**December 19, 2009** — "Never Forget Our Fallen 2nd Annual Military Children's Santa Christmas Party", 12-3 p.m., Roseville Police Activity League Gym, 110 Corporation Yard Rd., Roseville. They are seeking help. [www.NeverForgetOurFallen.com](http://www.NeverForgetOurFallen.com). RSVP by Dec. 16. [Support@NeverForgetOurFallen.com](mailto:Support@NeverForgetOurFallen.com) (961) 223-6816.

**December 25, 2009** — Christmas.

**December 26, 2009** — Kwanzaa.

**December 31, 1946** — Official end of World War II.

**December 31, 2009** — New Year's Eve.