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# News Release

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## Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Announces New VISN Director - John Brandecker Brings Leadership, Proven Experience to VA Sierra Pacific Network

**Vallejo, CA** — The Department of Veterans Affairs is pleased to announce the appointment of John A. Brandecker, MBA, MPH, as the new Director of the VA Sierra Pacific Network (VISN 21) in Vallejo, California. Mr. Brandecker will oversee delivery of health care at seven major health care systems in northern California, Nevada, Hawaii and the Pacific. VISN 21 has an operating budget of \$3.9 billion and over 14,300 employees.

“We are excited to bring Mr. Brandecker on board as the new Director of the VA Sierra Pacific Network,” said Steve Young, VHA Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management. “His sound leadership qualities and proven experience will be valuable assets for the facility, the employees and volunteers, and most importantly, for the Veterans we are honored to serve. We anticipate he will begin his appointment within the next 4-6 weeks.

For the past five years, Mr. Brandecker has served as the Medical Center Director at the McGuire VA Medical Center in Richmond, Virginia, one of the highest complexity medical centers in the 160-hospital VA Health System. In this capacity, he had full ownership and accountability for all activity related to medical center operations along with four Community Based Outpatient Clinics. The McGuire VA Medical Center has 408 operating beds providing care to nearly 60,000 Veterans in a 52-county area with more than 3,300 employees. Prior to joining VA, Mr. Brandecker served in several executive positions in the private sector including Associate Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of UT Southwestern Hospitals in Dallas Texas; Senior Vice President of Jackson Health System and Chief Administrative Officer for Holtz Children’s Hospital and Jackson Memorial Women’s Hospital Center in Miami, Florida; Associate Hospital Director at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and Executive Director, University of Iowa Children’s Hospital in Iowa City, Iowa; and Vice-President, University of Chicago Hospitals and Health System and Director, Comer Children’s Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. He also served as a System Administrative Director and Chief Financial Officer in the North-Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System in North Hyde Park, New York, as well as the Director of Internal Management Services at Columbia University in New York City, New York.

Mr. Brandecker holds a Master’s in Business Administration from St. John’s University in Queens, New York and a Master’s in Public Health from Columbia University in New York City, New York.



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The VA Sierra Pacific Network (VISN 21) comprises seven major health care systems based in Honolulu, HI; San Francisco, CA; Palo Alto, CA; Sacramento, CA; Fresno, CA; Reno, NV; and Las Vegas, NV. In addition, VISN 21 operates the only VHA direct patient care activity located in a foreign country (Manila, Philippines). Together the health care systems in VISN 21 include 67 geographic sites of care. All seven VISN 21 health care systems have highly successful clinical affiliations with prestigious universities in the areas of medicine, nursing and allied health professions. VISN 21 hosts the largest number of Centers of Excellence in VHA, receives the most research funding in VHA, and has expansive and collaborative relationships with its Department of Defense partners.

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