



Department of
Veterans Affairs

News Release

Date: May 7, 2008

Contact Person: Marcia Hoffman-DeVoe
Public Affairs Officer
Alaska VA Healthcare System and Regional Office

(907) 257-5490/5460

(907) 301-4160 cell

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VA Outreach Clinic Approved for Southeast Alaska

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA - The Alaska VA Healthcare System (AVAHS) is pleased to announce the approval for a VA Outreach Clinic in Juneau, Alaska. The new clinic will initially provide Southeast Alaska veterans with routine Primary Care, including screening services, as well as Mental Health services. Plans are underway for leasing nearly 4,000 square feet of space through GSA in the Juneau Federal Building. The Juneau VA Outreach Clinic will facilitate resource sharing with the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) for cross coverage of medical providers and clinical lab operations. In addition, VA will continue to use USCG space for performing audiology evaluations for veterans in the Juneau catchment area.

“The Alaska VA is very pleased to extend VA medical care ‘closer to home’ for veterans in Southeast Alaska,” stated Alex Spector, Director of the AVAHS. Ten percent of Alaska veterans reside in Southeast Alaska. “The Alaska VA continues to work toward expanding access for veterans living in rural areas. Since opening VA clinics in Anchorage in 1992, Fairbanks in 1997, and Kenai in 2001, the Alaska VA has continuously expanded services where the higher percentages of veterans live. We are now focusing on the more remote areas off the Alaska road system.” The Alaska VA plans to have medical services operational in late Fall 2008. The VA has had a continuous administrative office presence in the Juneau Federal Building for many years and looks forward to providing medical services to ease the travel burden of veterans living in Southeast Alaska.

The Alaska VA provided 112,103 visits for 14,383 veterans during FY2007. In addition to providing direct care to veterans at its main clinic location in Anchorage and community based outpatient clinics located in Fairbanks and Kenai, the VA purchased over \$39,000,000 of care from Alaska community providers and hospitals.

###