

10/27/2008 Moran Announces Mobile Counseling Center to Bring Services Closer to Kansas Veterans

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HUTCHINSON- Congressman Jerry Moran announced today that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) selected Wichita's Vet Center as a location for one of its new mobile counseling centers. The VA is launching fifty 38-foot motor coaches to travel throughout each state to bring mental counseling services closer to rural veterans. The VA is activating units over the next three months.

"The mobile counseling center will provide counseling to rural and underserved Kansan veterans across the state who otherwise may not have access to this important care," Moran said. "As more veterans return home from combat overseas, innovative approaches are needed to make sure all veterans have access to mental health care, no matter where they live."

The motor coach will be assigned to the Wichita Vet Center and supplement the activities of Kansas' two Vet Centers in Wichita and Manhattan. The vehicle will have spaces for confidential counseling and will transport Vet Center counselors and outreach workers to events and activities to reach veterans.

Congress established the Vet Center program in the late 1970s to aid Vietnam veterans experiencing readjustment problems. At Vet Centers, counselors and outreach specialists provide readjustment counseling services at no cost to combat veterans, their families and the families of service members who die on active duty. This includes psychological counseling for traumatic military-related experiences and family counseling when needed for the veteran's readjustment.

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