

# Eastern Region Training Summit

Harrah's Cherokee Casino Resort  
Cherokee, NC

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May 7-8, 2013



**U.S Department of Veterans Affairs  
Office of Public and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Office of Tribal Government Relations  
810 Vermont Ave NW, Suite 915  
Washington, DC 20420**

**Conference Objectives:**

The goal of this meeting to invite Tribal leadership, Tribal Veterans, and Tribal Health Directors from within the Eastern Region as well as, the VA administrations to collaborate, educate, network, and build relationships to better serve Veterans and their families. This meeting will also serve as an education session on VA benefits and services.

**Mission of the Office of Tribal Government Relations:**

The VA consults with American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments to develop partnerships that enhance access to services and benefits by Veterans and their families.

**Vision of the Office of Tribal Government Relations:**

The VA has positive relationships with American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments and is part of the landscape of Indian Country. Every Veteran receives excellent services that are holistic in nature and that lead to optimal health. American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments view the VA as an organization of integrity that advocates for their needs. The VA demonstrates its commitment to Veterans by being culturally competent, respecting the unique sovereign status of Tribes, and reaching Veterans in Indian Country. Veterans know how to access all VA services and benefits and are woven into the fabric of the VA.

**Objectives of the Office of Tribal Government Relations:**

1. Increase Veterans access to healthcare and benefits;
2. Economic Sustainability:
  - a. Increase utilization of Native American Direct Home Loan Program
  - b. Increase utilization of Post 9/11 GI Bill
  - c. Increase utilization of Vocational Rehabilitation Program
  - d. Increase access to Compensation and Pension
  - e. Increase access to federal employment opportunities
  - f. Facilitate greater involvement by tribes and Native American Veterans in small business development and federal contracting opportunities
3. Tribal Consultation

## Tuesday, May 7, 2013

8:00 am – 9:00 am	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Opening Ceremonies:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Opening Remarks:</b> Mr. John Garcia, Deputy Assistant Secretary Intergovernmental Affairs  North Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs  North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs  Veterans Integrated Service Network 6  <b>Post Colors:</b> Steve Youngdeer American Legion Post #143  <b>Invocation &amp; Welcoming Remarks:</b>  Tribal Leader</p>
9:00 am – 9:30 am	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Overview of OTGR / Goals for Meeting:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Stephanie Birdwell, Director, Office of Tribal Government Relations</p>
9:30 am – 10:30 am	<p style="text-align: center;">The Cherokee Project: Developing a Partnership for Life Asheville VAMC  ** tie in caregiver piece**</p>
10:30 am – 10:45 am	<b>BREAK</b>
10:45am – 11:45 am	<p style="text-align: center;">Indian Health Service  Dr. Harry Brown, Chief Medical Officer, Nashville Area Office</p>
11:45am – 1:00 pm	<b>LUNCH</b>
1:00pm - 1:45 pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Veterans Benefits Administration  Comprehensive Overview of VA Benefits</p>
1:45pm – 2:30pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Tribal Justice and Service for Justice involved Veterans</p>
2:30pm - 2:45 pm	<b>BREAK</b>
2:45pm - 3:30pm	<p style="text-align: center;">U.S. Small Business Administration</p>
3:30pm - 4:30pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Tribal Veterans Panel</p>

**Wednesday, May 8, 2013**

8:00 am – 8:15 am	Overview of workshops and speakers
8:15 am – 9:00 am	VHA 101: Overview of VHA Health care System Eligibility and Enrollment
9:00 am - 10:00 am	VA/Indian Health Service/ Tribal Health Program Reimbursement Agreement
10:00 am –10:15 am	<b>BREAK</b>
10:15 am –11:00 am	VA Office of Rural Health Overview of the VA/Indian Health Service Memorandum of Understanding Tribal Veterans Representatives Rural Health Projects
11:00 am – 11:45 am	VA collaborations with the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
11:45 am - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm	<b>Breakout Sessions:</b> Telehealth Initiatives Women Veterans Native American Direct Loan Program, Special Adaptive Housing, VA Home Loan Program
4:00 pm -5:00 pm	State Director Listening Session