

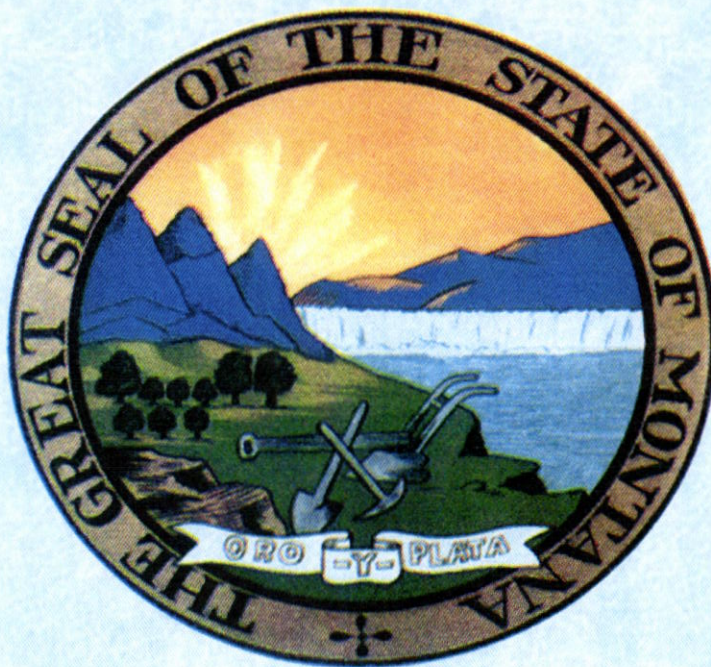
# Montana Board of Veterans Affairs

*“The people declare that Montana servicemen, servicewomen, and veterans may be given special considerations determined by the legislature”*

Article II, Section 35, Montana Constitution

## **Biennial Report – July 1, 2018**

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Administrator – MT Veterans Affairs Division



# Montana Board of Veterans Affairs

## *- Mission and Composition -*

**Mission:** Oversee the State of Montana's provision of veterans services, as provided by the Montana Veterans Affairs Division.

**<> 20 members; 11 voting, 9 non-voting.**

+ **11 voting members**; 10 appointed by Governor, 1 appointed by Montana's eight Tribal Councils (consensus).

- 5 represent geographic regions of the state. \*
- 1 is an "at-large" veterans' representative. \*
- 1 is the Native American veterans' representative. \*
- 1 is Montana's Tribal Councils' consensus appointee. \*
- 3 have training, experience or education related to veteran issues.

**\* Must be an honorably discharged veteran.**

+ **9 non-voting members** representing: Governor's Office of Indian Affairs / State Dept. of Military Affairs / State Dept. of Public Health and Human Services / U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs / U.S. Dept. of Labor / Montana's Congressional Delegation (3) / State Administration and Veterans Affairs Interim Committee.

# Montana Veterans Affairs Division

## - Mission -

*Promote the general welfare of Montana veterans and their families.*

### THRU:

- Establishment of a statewide network of service for military veterans and their families.
- Provision of services and assistance for all Montana veterans and surviving spouses and dependents; in coordination with associated federal and state agencies, veterans services organizations, private organizations and individuals.
- Management, operation and maintenance of Montana's state veterans cemetery program.
- Assist and advise the general public, governmental agencies, and elected officials regarding veterans services, programs, initiatives and policy.

# Montana Veterans Affairs Division

## - Major Program Initiatives in FY17/18 -

### Veterans Services Outreach:

- ◆ **Board of Veterans Affairs** – Six meetings conducted: 2 in Helena, 1 in Bozeman, 1 in Great Falls, and 2 via teleconference.
- ◆ **Community Outreach** – 9 veterans service office locations with consistent, statewide outreach services provided to 45+ Montana communities, state institutions and Tribal Nations.
- ◆ **Media** – Agency website including service office/cemeteries contact information and outreach schedules, Board meeting minutes, federal VA contact information and “feature” items. Maintained Facebook connection to agency.

### State Veterans Cemetery Program:

- ◆ **Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery (Miles City)** – Preapplication for VA construction grant approved, now qualified for VA Priority List 1 inclusion.
- ◆ **Montana State Veterans Cemetery (Fort Harrison)** – Preapplication for VA construction grant approved, now qualified for VA Priority List 1. \$1.2 million grounds/facility enhancement project complete – 100% VA funded. Passed National Cemetery Administration inspection/assessment – superior rating; next inspection in five years.
- ◆ **Western Montana State Veterans Cemetery (Missoula)** – Preapplication for VA construction grant approved, pursuing spending authority for the project in 2019 Legislative Session. Once attained, the project will move into the VA's Priority 1 projects listing.

### Veterans Services Operations:

***NOTE:** A mandated 10% budget reduction resulted in closure of the Lewistown veterans service office, non-fill of two FTEs, and delayed fill (approx. 6 months) of another FTE. All budget reductions and adjustments accomplished and budget stability will be fully attained by end of FY19 (July 2019).*

- ◆ **Digit to Digit (D2D)** – Per request of federal VA, Montana selected as one of three states piloting the D2D electronic claims submission program. Pilot program complete and successful, and D2D is now the standard by which benefits claim-work is processed, nationwide.
- ◆ **Veterans Service Officers (VSO)** – Per federal VA data, the financial impact of the state of MT's VSO work products exceeded – for the first time – over ***\$200 Million*** to MT veterans/families.
- ◆ **Billings VSO Office** – Facility co-location with federal VA Vet Center reinstated and the federal VA is constructing new office space for the Billings VSO Office – construction to begin in FY19.

# Montana Veterans Affairs Division

## - Organization -

### ◆ Organizational Personnel and Facility Locations

31 FTE:

- 1 – Administrator
- 1 – Fiscal Analyst / Office Manager
- 1 – Administrative Assistant (unfilled)
- 23 – Veterans Services Officers (1 unfilled)
- 5 – Veterans Cemetery Program

#### 9 Veterans Services Offices:

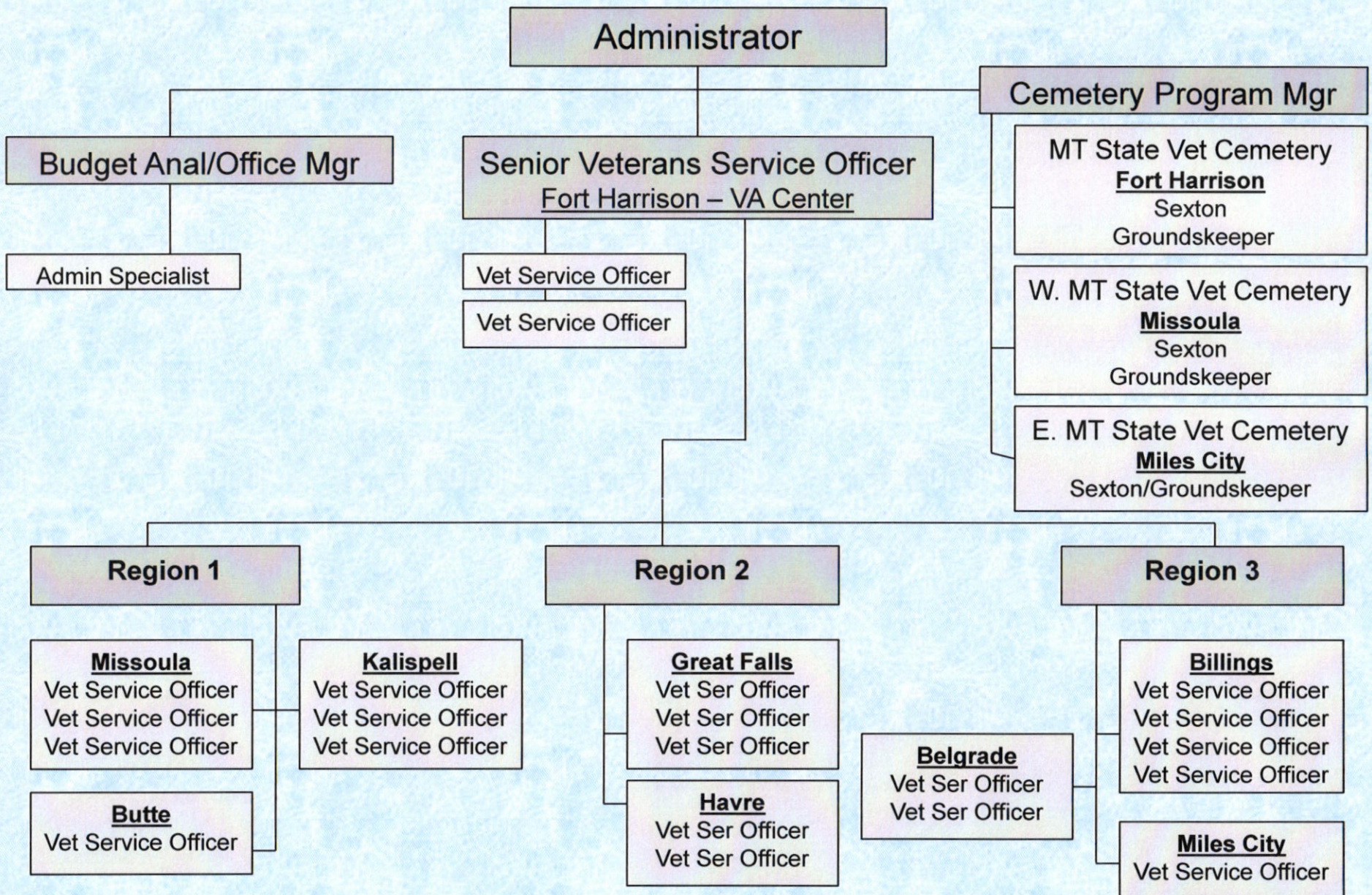
Belgrade – Billings – Butte – Great Falls – Havre  
Helena – Kalispell – Miles City – Missoula

#### 3 State Veterans Cemeteries:

Montana State Veterans Cemetery – Fort Harrison (Helena)  
Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery – Miles City  
Western Montana State Veterans Cemetery – Missoula

Administration Office: Fort Harrison (MT National Guard HQ)

# Montana Veterans Affairs Division Organizational Chart



# Montana Veterans Affairs Division - Veterans Service Offices and Cemeteries -

## Veterans Service Offices:

### Belgrade

350 Airport Road  
388-4601

### Great Falls

600 Central Plaza, #300  
452-2265

### Kalispell

2989 Hwy 93 North  
755-3795

### Billings

2795 Enterprise Ave.  
248-8579

### Havre

232 1<sup>st</sup> Street W.  
265-4225

### Miles City

1020 N. Hayes  
232-1203

### Butte

600 Gilman Ave.  
533-0910

### Helena

Ft. Harrison VA Center  
495-2081

### Missoula

1911 Tower Road  
542-2501

## State Veterans Cemeteries:

### Montana State Veterans Cemetery

Ft. Harrison (near Helena)  
324-3742

### Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery

Miles City  
853-6963

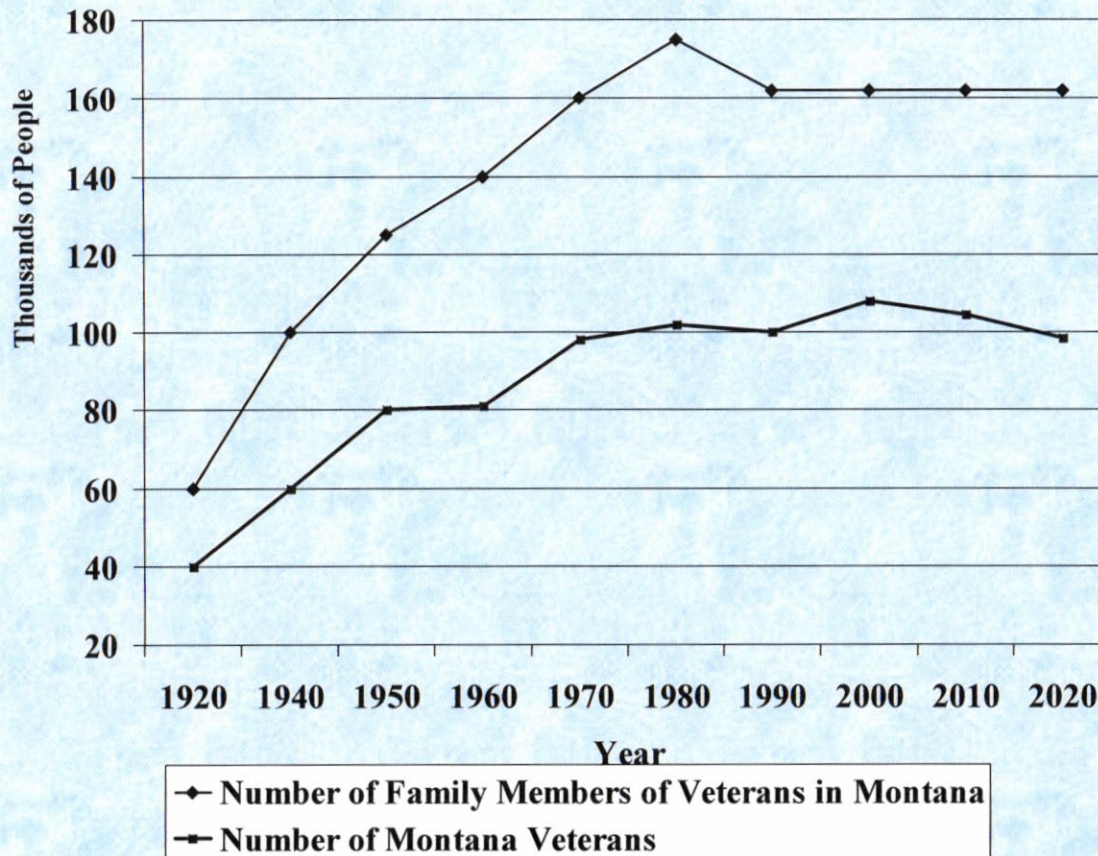
### Western Montana State Veterans Cemetery

Missoula - 531-1105

Administration: 324-3740

# Montana Veterans Affairs Division

## - Montana Veterans and Family Members -



Statistics per 2017 – U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs

**#2 Per Capita** – Montana's veteran population national ranking.

**Veterans:** Montana  
**98,386** (approx)

*See Report's Map for approx. County-Level Veteran Populations*

Note: Veteran family members statistics no longer available.

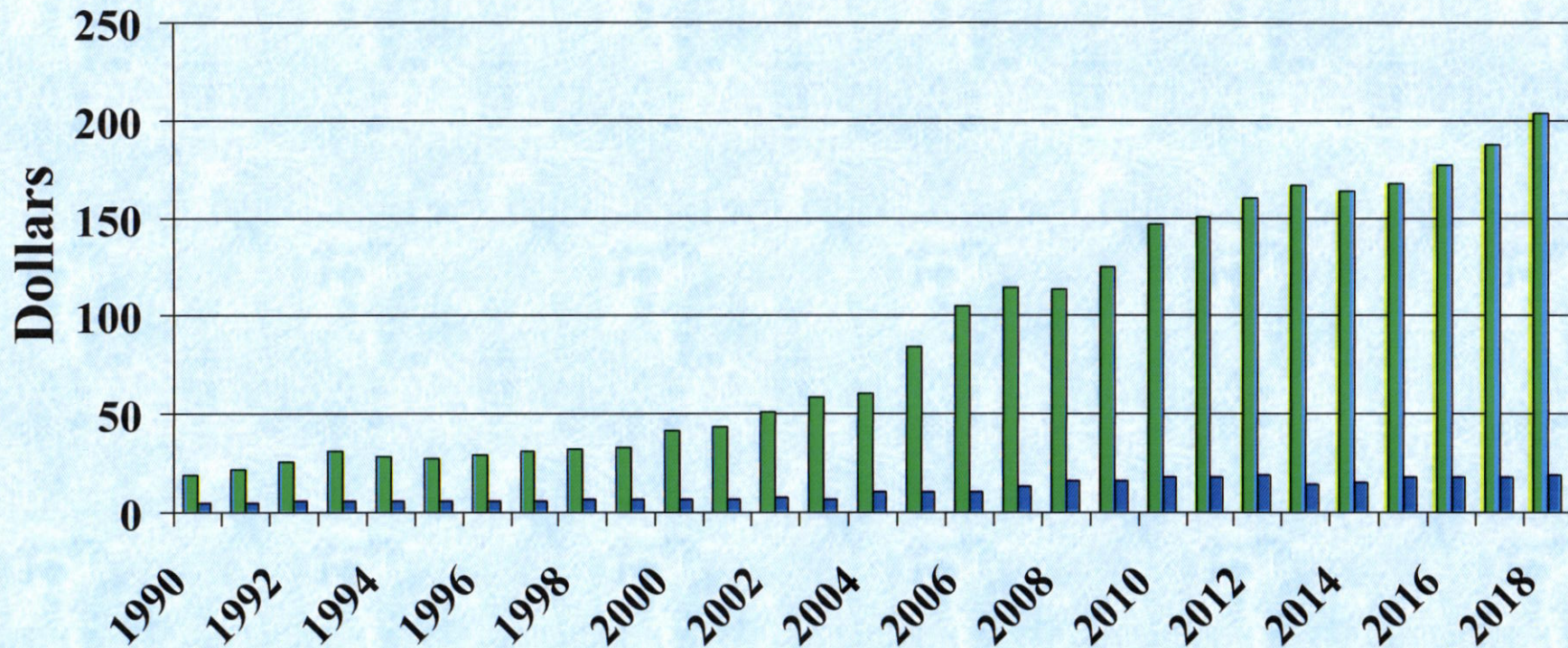


# Montana Veterans Affairs Division - Economic Impact of Agency Work Effort -

For every **\$1** of state General/Special Fund invested into the Veterans Services Program, agency staff attained **\$108** in federal VA monetary payments to Montana veterans.

FY18 MVAD Budget (blue) = \$ 1,886,216    FY18 Fed VA Payments (green) = \$203,843,032

■ Millions of \$      ■ Hundreds of Thousands of \$



# Montana Veterans Affairs Division

## - State Veteran Cemeteries -

### Montana State Veterans Cemetery – Fort Harrison / Est. 1988

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Burials</u>
2017	214
2018	198

Total since 1988: 4185

### Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery – Miles City / Est. 2002

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Burials</u>
2017	42
2018	30

Total since 2002: 615

### Western Montana State Veterans Cemetery – Missoula / Est. 2008

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Burials</u>
2017	162
2018	118

Total since 2008: 1321

## Montana Veteran Demographic Data

Statewide Veteran Population: Source – Dept. of Veterans Affairs, as of 1/06/2017

Total Population	Approx. <b>98,300</b>	
Male Population	Approx. 89,700	- 91%
Female Population	Approx. 8,600	- 9%

American Indian                      Approx. 3,500 - 3.5%

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Gulf War I / II Era	Approx. 33,700	- 34%
Vietnam War Era	Approx. 34,181	- 35%
Korean Conflict Era	Approx. 6,700	- 6.8%
World War II Era	Approx. 2,700	- 2.7%

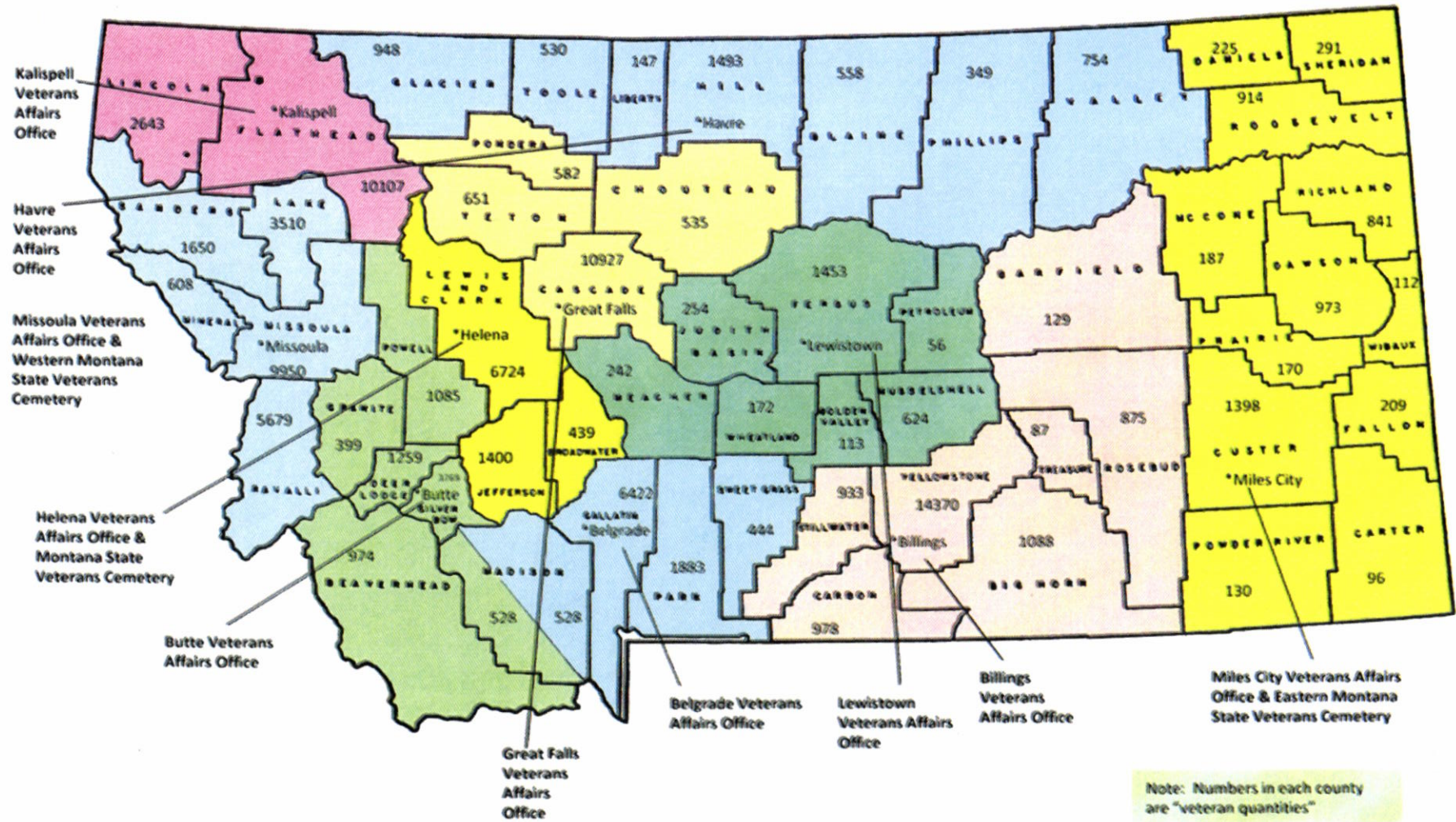
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Combat Era Veterans    – Approx. 74,800  
Peacetime Era Veterans – Approx. 23,500

Federal VA Health Services Facilities / Utilization: Source – Dept. of Veterans Affairs, State Summary

Number of VA Hospitals	1
Number of Community-Based Outpatient Clinics	14
Number of Vet Centers	5
Number of Veterans Eligible for VA Health Care Enrollment	73,744
Number of Veterans Enrolled in VA Health Care System	47,132

## Montana Veterans Affairs Division Services Offices and Montana State Veterans Cemeteries



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Project (All)

	FY 2018 Labels	Sum of Amount
<b>Personal Services</b>		
<b>Salaries</b>		
Regular	61101	\$975,354.74
Sick Leave	61103	\$49,627.77
Vacation	61104	\$56,197.98
Holiday	61105	\$47,915.68
Differential Pay	61114	\$211.77
Terminal Pay-Sick Leave	61133	\$79.72
Termination Pay-Vacation	61134	\$239.55
FSLA Comp Time Payout	61136	\$80.55
VEBA Sick Leave Payout	61139	\$41.87
Compensatory Time Taken	61158	\$25,358.43
VEBA Annual Leave Payout	61173	\$398.32
<b>Total Salaries</b>		<b>\$1,155,506.38</b>
<b>Employee Benefits</b>		
FICA	61401	\$85,076.10
Retirement - Other	61402	\$99,051.77
Group Insurance	61403	\$238,744.17
Workers Compensation Insur	61404	\$6,601.24
State Fund Dividend-NONBUDG	61404A	\$(2,485.20)
State Unemployment Tax	61410	\$4,231.85
Total Employee Benefits		\$431,219.93
<b>Total Personal Services</b>		<b>\$1,586,726.31</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>		
<b>Other Services</b>		
Insurance & Bonds-Fixed Costs	62104	\$18,513.18
Warrant Writing Services	62113	\$87.32
HRIS Service Fees	62114	\$5,660.00
Workers' Comp Program Fees	62114A	\$520.25
Audit Fees	62122	\$1,412.00
Security Protection	62143	\$1,386.50
SABHRS Administrative Costs	62148	\$916.00
Printing/Pub & Graphics	62190	\$582.65
ITSD Application Hosting Servi	621B4	\$86.49
ITSD Email Services	621B5	\$980.34
ITSD Enterprise Services	621C5	\$2,362.12
<b>Total Other Services</b>		<b>\$32,506.85</b>
<b>Supplies and Materials</b>		
Ofc Supplies/E-Market	62236	\$182.51
Office Sup/Minor Equip-NonStat	62241	\$7,615.32
Non-Capitalized Software	62249	\$9,177.00
ITSD Asset Broker	622B1	\$1,007.27
<b>Total Supplies and Materials</b>		<b>\$17,982.10</b>
<b>Communications</b>		
Postage & Mailing	62304	\$8,275.05
Post Office Box Rental	62308	\$330.00
Cellular Phones	62319	\$2,552.78
Telephone Equip Crg/Non-D Of A	62371	\$24,155.07

Internet Services/Non DofA	62374	\$7,315.62
ITSD Network Services	623B2	\$2,726.91
<b>Total Communications</b>		<b>\$45,355.43</b>

<b>Travel</b>		
In-State Personal Car Mileage	62401	\$1,556.78
In-State State Motor Pool	62404	\$1,086.04
In-State Meals	62407	\$905.00
In-State Lodging	62408	\$6,366.07
In-State Meals Overnight	62410	\$1,205.76
Out-Of-State Personal Car Mlge	62411	\$-
Out-Of-State Commercial Trans	62412	\$594.15
Out-Of-State Lodging	62418	\$274.02
Out-Of-State Meals-Overnight	62430	\$-
In-State Pers Car Mile-Trng	62431	\$113.00
In-State Lodging-Training	62438	\$3,534.50
In-State Meals Overnite-Trng	62440	\$1,995.00
Out-Of-State Com Trans-Trng	62443	\$699.60
Out-Of-State Lodging-Training	62449	\$4,168.12
Out-Of-State Meals Ovrnit-Trng	62451	\$668.00
Non-Employee Travel - Mileage	62494	\$1,819.00
Non-Employee Travel - Meals	62495	\$122.00
Non-Employee In-State Lodging	62497	\$469.48
<b>Total Travel</b>		<b>\$25,576.52</b>

<b>Rent</b>		
Motor Pool Leased Vehicles	62510	\$32,464.87
Rent/Non-State Bldgs.	62529	\$21,966.44
<b>Total Rent</b>		<b>\$54,431.31</b>

<b>Utilities</b>		
Garbage & Trash Removal	62606	\$10.00
<b>Total Utilities</b>		<b>\$10.00</b>

<b>Other Expenses</b>		
Dues		\$800.00
Subscriptions	62801	\$175.45
Education/Training Costs	62802	\$914.00
Rewards	62809	\$344.19
Parking Fees	62811	\$74.50
Procurement Card Default	62878	\$(87.01)
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>		<b>\$2,221.13</b>

<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>\$1,764,809.65</b>
<b>Funding</b>		
General Fund		\$1,050,653
State Special Revenue	01100	\$670,475
Patriotic Plates	02548	\$165,088.83
	02222	
<b>Total Funding</b>		<b>\$1,886,216.33</b>