



(December 15, 2015)

In order to further improve the lines of communication and to respond to the concerns between the National VA Council and you our members, I have established a National VA Council Briefing. This NVAC Briefing will bring you the latest news and developments within DVA and provide you with the current status of issues this Council is currently addressing. I believe that this NVAC Briefing will greatly enhance the way in which we communicate and the way in which we share new information, keeping you better informed.

Alma L. Lee
National VA Council, President

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**In This Briefing:** [CBO: Moving military jobs to civilians creates savings / VA wait times manipulated](#)  
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- [CBO: DOD could save by transferring some jobs to civilians](#)

Civilian federal employees-or contractors- could take over many of the Defense Department's support positions from military personnel at great savings to the agency, according to a new report from the Congressional Budget Office.

- [Wait times at Arkansas VA facility manipulated, OSC says](#)

Supervisors at the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, North Little Rock, Ark., were found to have improperly directed scheduling staff to "zero out" patient wait times in violation of Department of Veteran Affairs policy, the Office of Special Counsel said in a Dec. 10 letter to the White House and Congress.

- [Congress has fingers crossed, but agencies make shutdown plans](#)

While Congress has been taking steps to head off a government shutdown, federal agencies nonetheless have been preparing for one.