



The **Office of the Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Operations** would like to welcome **Mr. Joe Battle** to the role as Interim Network Director for VISN 7 effective June 7, 2020. Mr. Battle has been the Director for the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital and Clinics (JAHVH) in Tampa, Florida since July 2015. JAHVH is a clinical referral, level 1a facility serving a five -county area of west central Florida, including Citrus, Hillsborough, Pasco, Hernando and Polk counties. JAHVH is one of the nation's largest and most complex integrated medical facilities in the Veterans Health Administration. The facility is comprised of a 499 operating-bed medical center, which includes medical and surgical inpatient, acute psychiatry, pain/rehabilitation units and a community living center. JAHVH is one of five Polytrauma Centers within the VHA system and is the only VHA medical center that has a dedicated ventilation unit for long-term care, located in its 100-bed Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder Center. In addition to the Outpatient Clinic in New Port Richey and the Community Based Outpatient Clinics in Brooksville, Lakeland and Zephyrhills JAHVH also has an off-site

Primary Care Annex, Domiciliary and a drive-thru Pharmacy. Mr. Battle has overall responsibilities for planning, organizing, directing, coordinating and controlling medical, administrative and supporting operations with a budget of more than \$850 million and more than 4,500 full-time employees serving over 90,000 Veterans. As evidence of his commitment to excellence, the facility was awarded the Community Partnership Challenge Award for Public Trust in 2019.

Mr. Battle began his career in federal service as a general facility engineer at the Carl Vinson VA Medical Center in Dublin, Georgia in 1983. Mr. Battle has served in various leadership roles in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) over his 37-year career. Prior to his appointment as the JAHVH Director, Mr. Battle was Director for G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery VA Medical Center, Jackson, MS from 2012 – 2015; Associate Medical Center Director, VA Medical Center, Orlando, FL from 2006 – 2012; Associate Medical Center Director, VA Medical Center, Dayton, OH from 2003 – 2006; Assistant Chief of Engineering then Chief of Engineering at the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center in Indianapolis, Indiana from 1985 to 2003.

During his tenure, Mr. Battle was awarded the 1997 National Society of Professional Engineers Federal Engineer of the Year Award for VA and VA Chief Engineer of the Year Award, the 2016 Excellence in Clinical Simulation Training, Education and Research Executive Leadership Award, the 2018 University of South Florida Partnership Award, the 2019 Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) Annual Recognition Award, and the 2020 VA Secretary's Award for Excellence in Nursing and Advancement of Nursing Programs.

Mr. Battle earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering Technology from University of Alabama. He graduated from the Executive Career Field Training Program in 2002, VA Healthcare Leadership Institute in 2003, VA Executive Career Field in 2004, and VA Strategic Leadership from University of North Carolina Kenan-Flagler Business School in 2012. Mr. Battle has been a VHA certified Mentor since 2009. Mr. Battle is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and the Leadership VA Alumni Association.

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Battle to our mission of serving Veterans in this important role.

10N would like to thank Mr. Scott Isaacks for serving in the role of Interim VISN 7 Network Director from September 2019 to June 2020. Mr. Isaacks will return to his position as Director of the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston, South Carolina.