

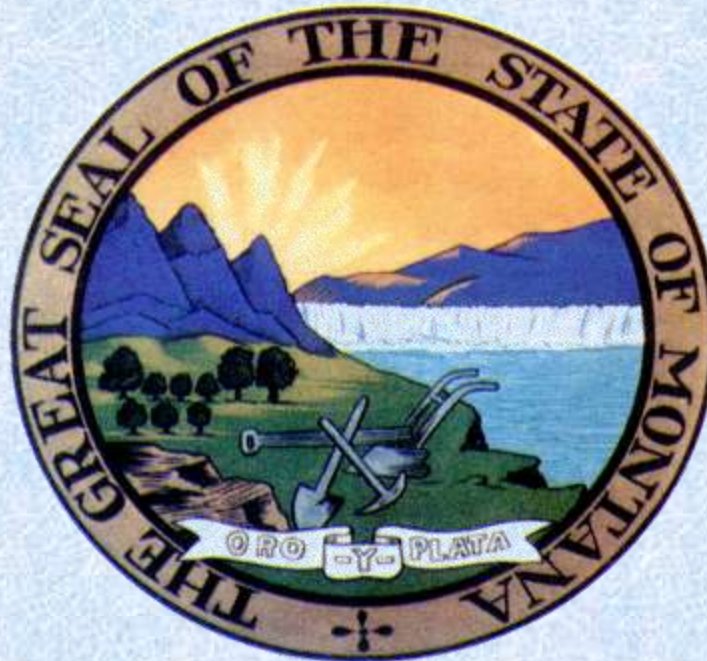
Montana Board of Veterans Affairs

“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, 2010

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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 discharged 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 Accomplishments in 2009 Biennium -

Veterans Services Outreach:

- ◆ **Board of Veterans Affairs** – Meetings conducted in Billings, Helena, Great Falls, Glendive; and two via video-teleconference in support of the Governor’s “20x10” energy conservation initiative.
- ◆ **Wolf Point Veterans Service Office** – Office closure effective July 1, 2010 due to mandated budget reduction; as well as, determination that veterans services to NE Montana can be improved by: closing Wolf Point office, moving FTE to Miles City, and modifying Billings, Havre and Miles City outreach areas of responsibility.
- ◆ **Public Service Announcements (PSA)** – 30-second radio PSA developed and distributed statewide; features information about Montana Veterans Affairs Division services and contact information.

State Veterans Cemetery Program:

- ◆ **Western Montana State Veterans Cemetery (Missoula)** – Operational Oct. 6, 2009 (FY10).
- ◆ **National Cemetery Administration** – All three state veterans cemeteries inspected Spring 2009; all passed with commendations.

Veterans Services Operations:

- ◆ **Website** – Veterans service office contact information and outreach schedules, Board and Advisory Council meeting minutes, and “feature” items.
- ◆ **Veterans Service Officers** – Stationed three legislatively-authorized veterans service officers in areas supporting highest veteran demographics – Billings, Great Falls and Missoula; and reorganized supervisory structure to enhance the agency’s command and control.
- ◆ **Security Training** – Veterans service officer staff VA-certified in computer/information management security, required to access protected VA data bases.

Montana Veterans Affairs Division

- Organization -

◆ Organizational Personnel and Facility Locations

30 FTE:

- 1 - administrator
- 1 - office manager
- 1 - administrative/veterans services assistant
- 22 - veterans services officers
- 5 - veteran cemetery program

10 Veterans Services Offices:

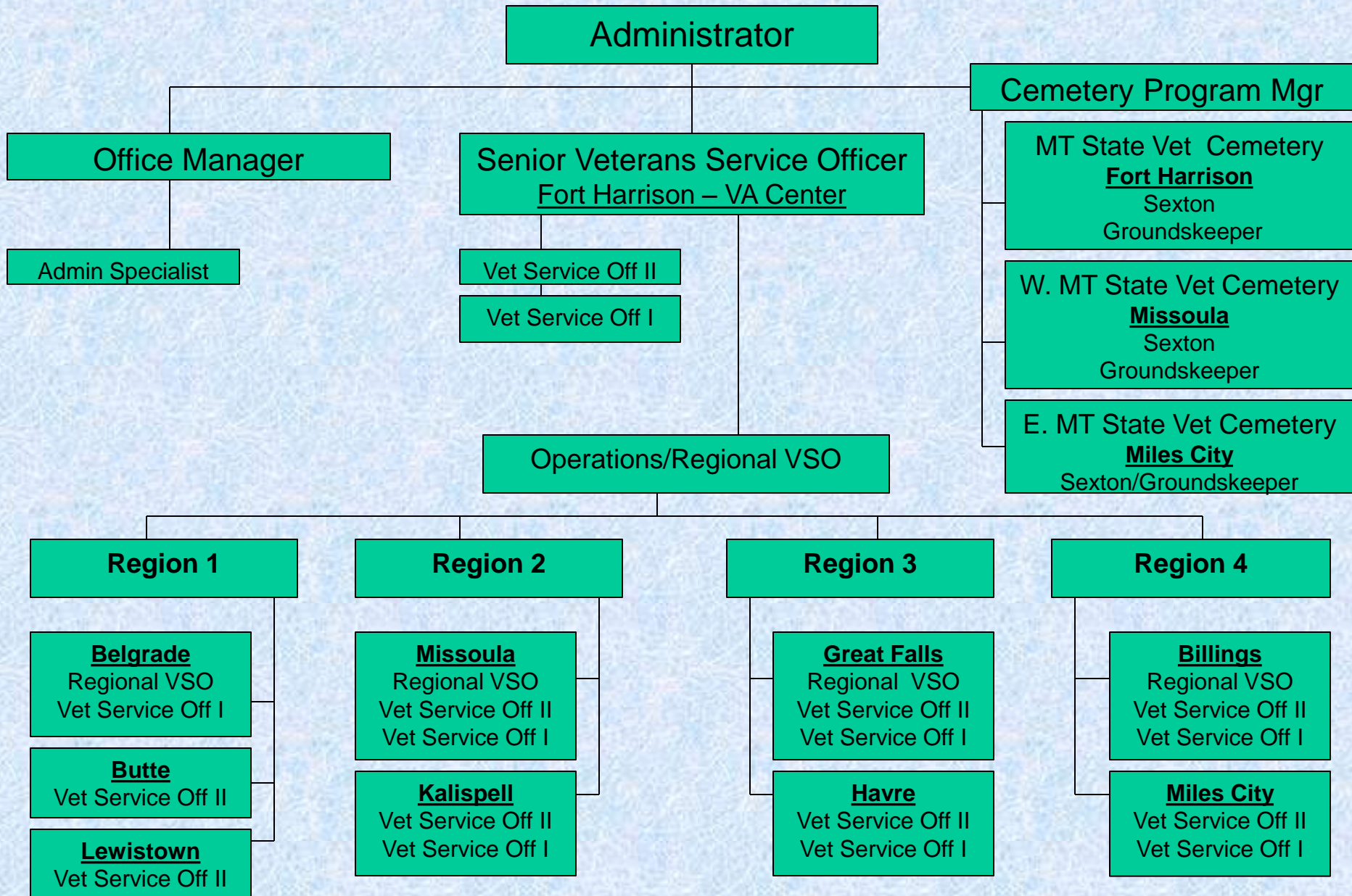
Belgrade – Billings – Butte – Great Falls – Havre – Helena
Kalispell – Lewistown – Miles City – Missoula

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

Havre

48 2nd Ave, #209
265-4225

Lewistown

505 West Main, Ste. 217
538-3174

Billings

2795 Enterprise Ave.
248-8579

Helena

Ft. Harrison VA Center
495-2080

Miles City

VA Primary Care Clinic
874-5869

Butte

600 Gilman Ave.
533-0910

Kalispell

2989 Hwy 93 North
755-3795

Missoula

1911 Tower Road
542-2501

Great Falls

600 Central Plaza, #300
452-2265

State Veterans Cemeteries:

Montana State Veterans Cemetery

Ft. Harrison (near Helena)
324-3742

Eastern Montana State Veterans Cemetery

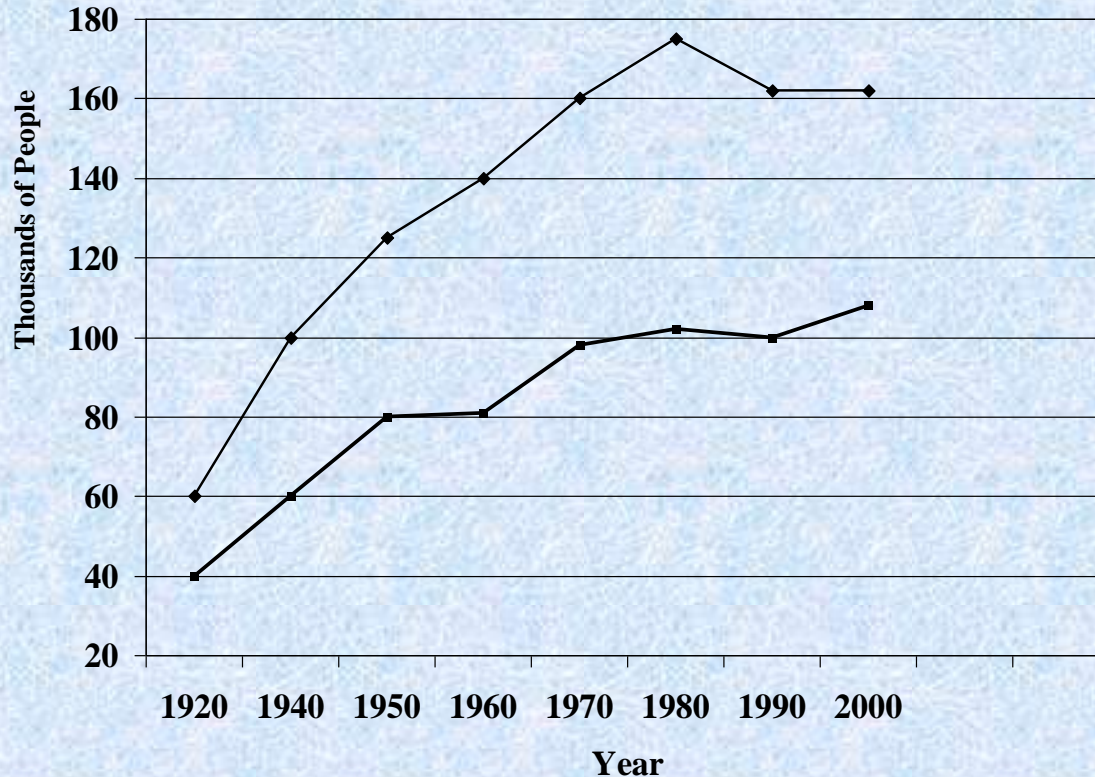
Miles City
853-6963

Western Montana State Veterans Cemetery

Missoula - 531-1105

Montana Veterans Affairs Division

- Montana Veterans and Family Members -



◆ Number of Family Members of Veterans in Montana
 ■ Number of Montana Veterans

Statistics as of 2000 census –
U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs

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

	<u>Montana</u>
Veterans	108,000
Family Members	<u>162,000</u>
Total	270,000

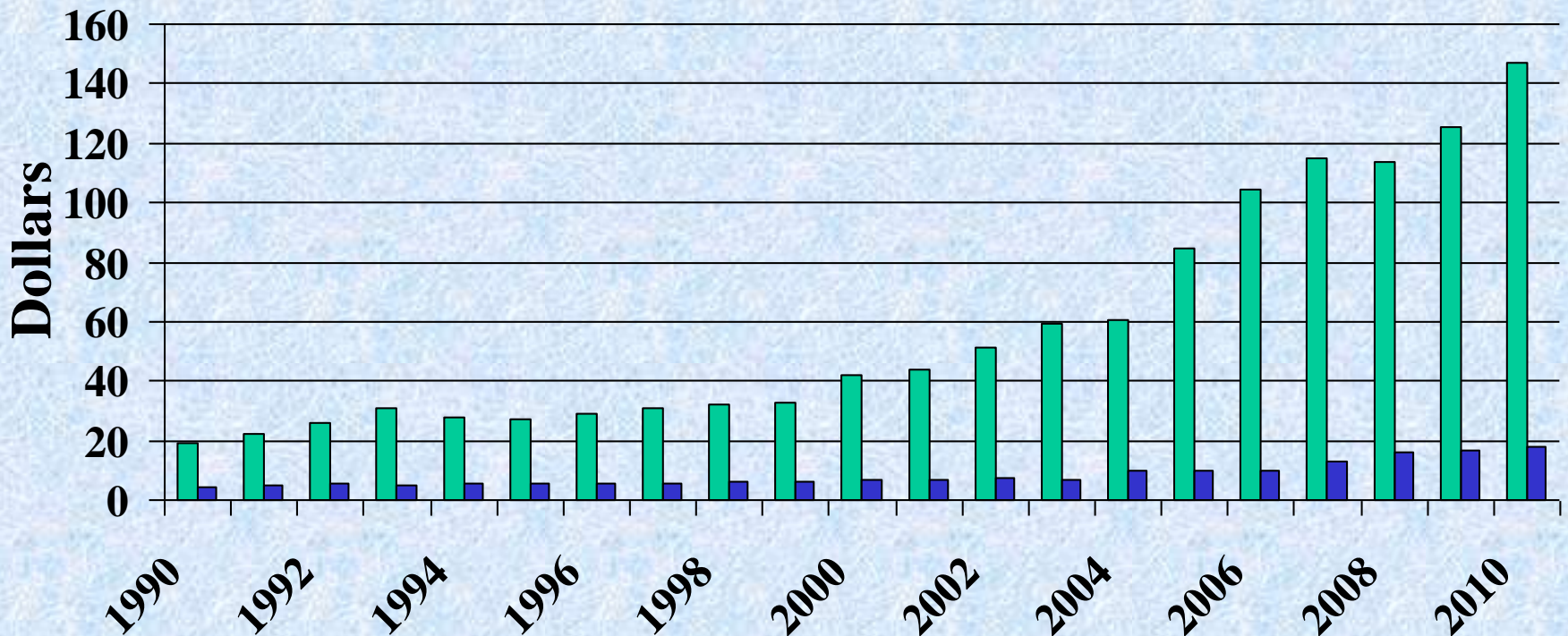
Montana Veterans Affairs Division

- Economic Impact of Agency Work Effort -

For every \$1 of state General/Special Fund budget investment, MVAD veterans services operations attain \$81.62 in federal VA monetary payments to Montana veterans.

FY10 MVAD Budget (blue) = \$1,407,891 FY10 Federal VA Payments (green) = \$147,175,835

■ 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>
2009	185
2010	207

Total since 1988: 2686

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

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Burials</u>
2009	37
2010	30

Total since 2002: 293

Western Montana State Veterans Cemetery – Missoula / Est. 2008

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Burials</u>
2009	141
2010	149

(FY10)

Total since 2009: 290