

VA and DOD Undertake Development of Joint Virtual Lifetime Health Record

Thursday, April 09 2009

WASHINGTON, DC – Today, Congressman Mike Michaud, Chairman of the Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Health, praised the announcement by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense (DOD) to begin joint development of a system that will ultimately contain administrative and medical information from the day an individual enters military service throughout their military career, and into the veteran phase of life.

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Access to electronic records is critical to the delivery of modern health care and the paperless administration of benefits within both the VA and the DOD. A lifetime electronic health record system will provide a framework to help ensure that all health care providers have all the information necessary to deliver high-quality health care while reducing medical errors. The development of a Joint Virtual Lifetime Record by DOD and VA is the next step toward delivery of seamless, high-quality care to our nation’s servicemembers and veterans.

“I am very pleased by the commitment of DOD and VA to create a single electronic health record to exchange medical information of patients who are active-duty members and veterans.

“VA and DOD need to seamlessly and transparently share data on the time, length, and locations of service,” Michaud said. “Currently, VA services and benefits become available shortly after a service member is discharged. A Joint Virtual Lifetime Record will capture everything from inception of active duty service through application for veterans care and benefits.

“Those who have bravely served our country in uniform deserve access to superior health care. With the creation of a lifetime electronic health record system, both the VA and DOD will be better equipped to provide that care and ultimately make good on the promise our country made to its veterans.”

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