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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 07, 2008 | 74 DAYS UNTIL INAUGURATION

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YOUR ADMINISTRATION

President-Elect  
Barack Obama

Vice President-Elect  
Joe Biden

TRANSITION DIRECTORY

GSA Transition Directory  
The Transition Directory was developed to introduce



**PLAN TO KEEP OUR SACRED TRUST WITH VETERANS**

"Keeping faith with those who serve must always be a core American value and a cornerstone of American patriotism. Because America's commitment to its servicemen and women begins at enlistment, and it must never end."

— Barack Obama, *Speech in Kansas City, MO, August 21, 2007*

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There is no more important resource for changing the direction of this country and defining the ideas that will transform America than the American people.

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Presidential nominees, appointees, and members of the President-elect's Transition Team to the operation of the Federal government and to the resources available to help them begin their service in the new Administration.

## The Problem

**Wounded Troops Suffer:** The Walter Reed scandal showed that we don't always provide returning service members with the care they deserve.

**Veterans Budget Shortfalls:** In 2005, a multi-billion dollar VA funding shortfall required Congress to step in and bail out the system.

**Benefits Bureaucracy is Broken:** There are currently more than 400,000 claims pending with the Veterans Benefits Administration. VA error rates have grown to more than 100,000 cases a year.

**There is Shortage of Care for PTSD:** Veterans are coming home with record levels of combat stress, but we are not adequately providing for them.

## Barack Obama and Joe Biden's Plan

### A Sacred Trust

Barack Obama and Joe Biden believe that America has a sacred trust with our veterans. They are committed to creating a 21st Century Department of Veterans' Affairs that provides the care and benefits our nation's veterans deserve.

- **Allow All Veterans Back into the VA:** One of Obama's first acts will be reversing the 2003 ban on enrolling modest-income veterans, which has denied care to a million veterans.
- **Strengthen VA Care:** Obama and Biden will make the VA a leader of national health care reform so that veterans get the best care possible. They will improve care for polytrauma vision impairment, prosthetics, spinal cord injury, aging, and women's health.
- **Combat Homelessness among Our Nation's Veterans:** Obama and Biden will establish a national "zero tolerance" policy for veterans falling into homelessness by expanding proven programs and launching innovative services to prevent veterans from falling into homelessness.
- **Fight Veterans Employment Discrimination:** Obama and Biden will crack down on employers who commit job discrimination against guardsmen and reservists.

### Help for Returning Service Members

Obama and Biden will improve the quality of health care for veterans, rebuild the VA's broken benefits system, and combat homelessness among veterans.

- **Ensure a Seamless Transition:** Obama and Biden will demand that the military and the VA coordinate to provide a seamless transition from active duty to civilian life.
- **Fully Fund VA Medical Care:** Barack Obama and Joe Biden will fully fund the VA so it has all the resources it needs to serve the veterans who need it, when they need it. Obama and Biden will establish a world-class VA Planning Division to avoid future budget shortfalls.
- **Fix the Benefits Bureaucracy:** Obama and Biden will hire additional claims workers, and improve training and accountability so that VA benefit decisions are rated fairly and consistently. They also will transform the paper benefit claims process to an electronic one to reduce errors and improve timeliness.

### Improved Mental Health Treatment

Obama and Biden will improve mental health treatment for troops and veterans suffering from combat-related psychological injuries.

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ECONOMY	RURAL
EDUCATION	SERVICE
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT	SENIORS & SOCIAL SECURITY
ETHICS	TAXES
FAITH	TECHNOLOGY
FAMILY	URBAN POLICY
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