



**Veterans
Healthcare
Policy
Institute**

Strengthening Care for Veterans and the Nation

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VHPI Report: Dismantling the VA Risks Presents Urgent National Security Concerns

OAKLAND – Today, the Veterans Healthcare Policy Institute (VHPI) published a [new report](#) focused on how VA privatization threatens America’s national security.

The paper is written by Ryan Leone, a medical student at Columbia University who is also a U.S. Army officer and former Presidential Management Fellow at the Department of Defense’s Defense Health Agency. He details an array of ways in which the VA supports the Pentagon, both through statutory and more abstract assistance. Leone shows, for instance, how the VA conducts research that is essential to helping DoD understand and treat military related-health problems. He also explains how the VA is primed to respond to disaster and combat situations.

In serving as the teaching hub for the nation’s healthcare workforce, the VA churns out clinicians who treat the nation’s veterans *and* service members. The department also holds strategic pharmacological and staff reserves.

VHPI is holding a Zoom forum to discuss this important topic on **Monday, November 6 at 2 p.m. EST/11 a.m. PST**. Leone will lead the panel alongside **Regina Julian**, the Deputy Assistant Director for Health Care Operations at the Defense Health Agency, and **Dr. Harold Kudler**, who served as the VA’s National Mental Health Policy Lead.

Please RSVP to the forum [here](#).