

D. VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER

BACKGROUND

The Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), owned entirely by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, is affiliated with UCSF and serves as one of the teaching hospitals used by UCSF. As an affiliated institution, all physicians on staff at the VAMC hold faculty appointments at UCSF.⁹ At present there are more than 130 funded UCSF clinical faculty and another 100 principal investigators who conduct research programs using VAMC facilities. For several years in succession the VAMC faculty have received between \$25 and \$30 million in research grants, making the San Francisco VAMC the location of the largest research program of all VA sites.

The Veterans Affairs Medical Center is an affiliated institution which serves as one of the teaching hospitals used by UCSF.

The VAMC is a 378-bed general medical and surgical inpatient facility as well as a 120-bed Nursing Home Care Unit. It is a major quaternary care center providing acute medical, neurological, surgical, and psychiatric care both for inpatients and outpatients. The VAMC had close to 300,000 outpatient visits in 1993.



Veterans Affairs Medical Center

⁹ UCSF maintains dozens of affiliation agreements with hospitals and clinics, through which UCSF faculty provide patient care and the affiliated institution provides space and access to patients for the purpose of teaching. The VAMC and SFGH represent UCSF's two largest affiliation agreements in terms of active faculty involvement and clinical and laboratory-based research programs.

The mission of the VAMC is to offer care to the veteran population in the San Francisco metropolitan area, as well in the coastal counties of Northern California, including Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma and Napa. In addition, the Medical Center serves as a referral resource for Northern and Central California, Northern Nevada and Hawaii, and in some specialties, for the entire western region of the United States.

UCSF trains about 125 to 130 medical students at VAMC at any time over the course of a year. Some two dozen or more colleges and universities are affiliated with the VAMC, both in the San Francisco Bay Area and across the state and country. These academic affiliations involve several dozen training programs at the VAMC, through which thousands of trainees rotate. Through sharing agreements the VAMC receives and provides services from other institutions in the area.

In response to the continuing changes in health care delivery and financing occurring in the United States a debate is ongoing in Washington, D.C. concerning what the role of the Veterans Affairs hospitals and clinics should be. For the foreseeable future, the VA system is being continued, and certain health care programs such as primary care residency programs and women's health are being expanded.

THE IMMEDIATE SURROUNDINGS

The VAMC, situated at Fort Miley, is located near the northwest corner of San Francisco, directly adjacent to Lincoln Park. To the north, east and west is the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Thus, the site has spectacular views and is in a protected enclave of land. It is surrounded by a neighborhood of low-density housing and is a short distance from a commercial district along the outer blocks of Clement Street and Geary Boulevard.

Major thoroughfares to the VAMC are Park Presidio Boulevard and Geary Boulevard to 43rd Avenue, or along the Great Highway to Point Lobos Avenue. The principal cross streets are Clement Street, 42nd and 43rd Avenues, which are all predominantly residential streets in this area.

PHYSICAL LAYOUT OF THE SITE

The VAMC itself is a complex of 34 buildings and structures on 29 acres of land (see Figure 12). The VAMC contains a total of 149,615 gsf of inpatient care facilities, which includes a 120-bed Nursing Home Care facility. Total space for clinical, research and education is about 593,700 gsf. The site contains 864 parking spaces.

The site is dominated by the main hospital building, which rises above Clement Street on a swell of land. At the top the site is generally flat; however, the north and west edges of the site slope steeply down towards the Pacific Ocean. A landscaped buffer serves to minimize the impact of the institutional buildings on the surrounding residential neighborhood.

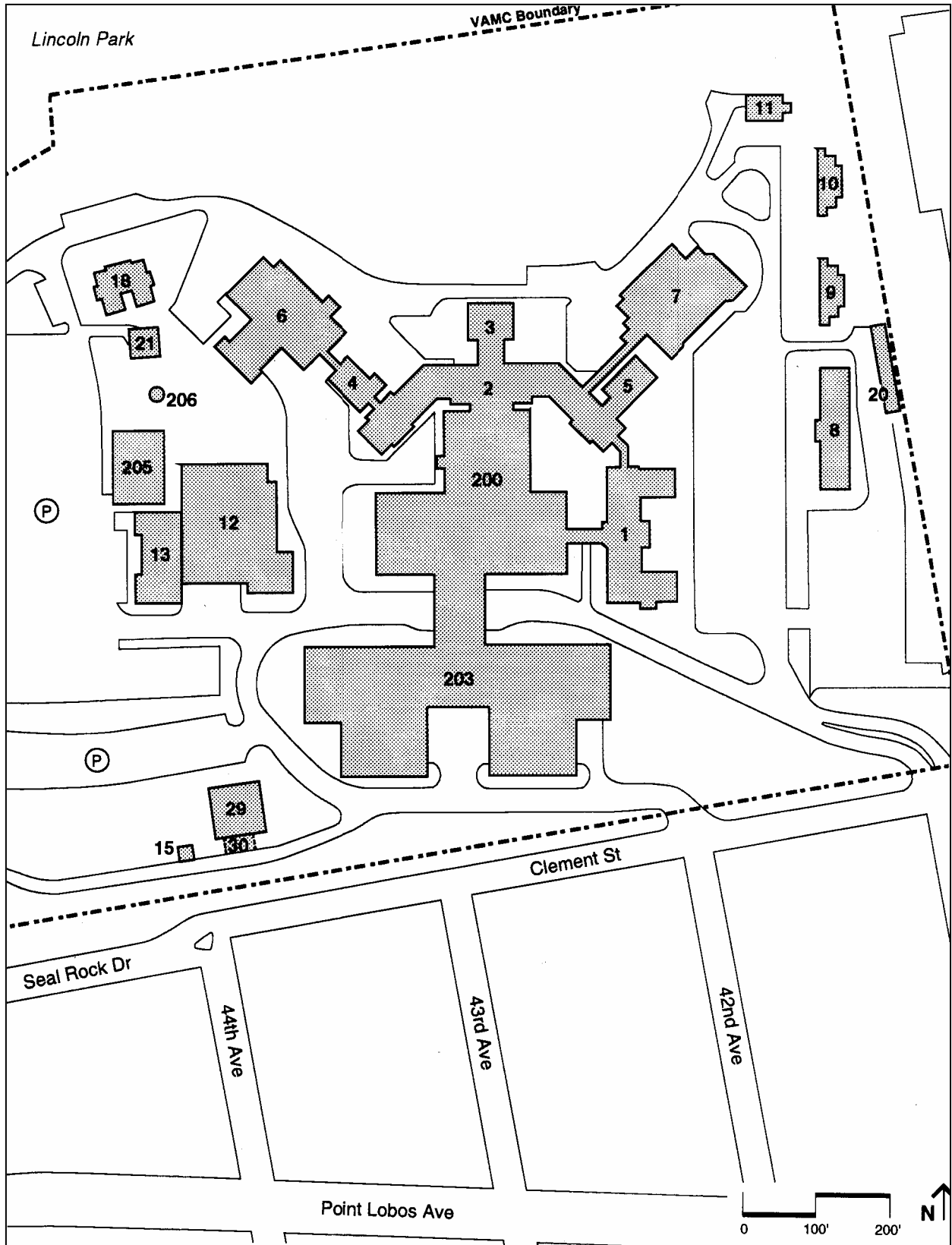


Figure 12
Veterans Affairs Medical Center: Site Map

Although UCSF faculty practice at the VAMC, UCSF does not lease or otherwise control any of the space at the VAMC.

VAMC space is different from other space discussed in this LRDP. For although UCSF faculty are physically located throughout the VAMC site, UCSF does not technically lease any of it; therefore UCSF is not, strictly speaking, in control of any VAMC physical space. There is close cooperation between VAMC and UCSF regarding facilities needs and uses, and the physical planning exercises will result in increased space for direct use by VAMC faculty for their research needs.

PLANNING HISTORY

The VAMC site was originally a rancho owned by Francisco Guerrero; in 1876 San Francisco purchased a 200-acre site on the headland, but it remained unused until 1893 when the U. S. Army used the site for coastal defense battery. This outpost was built in 1897 and named in 1900 for Lt. Col. John D. Miley who had directed the artillery emplacements.

In 1930 San Francisco was named the site for a new veterans hospital, which opened a 21-building facility in 1934. The hospital was vacated during World War II, and in 1946 Fort Miley was decommissioned and the hospital reopened.

Since those years several building additions have improved the facility. Most recently, in 1990 a large parking structure was added and in 1992 the Nursing Home Care Unit was opened.

The VAMC administration is currently preparing a new *Facility Development Plan*, which will describe their existing facilities and include proposals for limited new development at the site. With appropriate changes it will next move to the central administration in Washington, D.C. for review and approval for a funding request in the agency's budget.

As with the SFGH planning efforts, the VAMC plan is being developed to meet its particular requirements and is thus separate from the UCSF LRDP. Because UCSF faculty located there will be affected by the outcome, they have a strong interest in the plan yet, formally, the two planning documents are separate.

CAMPUS PROGRAMS

Research programs of the faculty at VAMC include basic science, clinical research and social science. Featured prominently are research topics in psychiatry, and particularly post-traumatic stress syndrome. Allied to this is work in substance abuse, AIDS and in the social and psychological conditions which may accompany these illnesses, such as hopelessness, depression, and dementia. Clinical drug trials to combat AIDS and ARC are taking place as well. To meet the needs of the aging veteran population, there are research topics focusing on geriatrics. Basic biomedical science research there involves studies in cell biology, cardiology, and infectious diseases.

DETERMINANTS OF THE 1996 LRDP

Plans for the facilities UCSF occupies at the VAMC are guided by the following determinants: 1) the LRDP's *Goals and Objectives*; 2) constraints and opportunities presented by the VAMC *Facility Development Plan*; and 3) program needs related to UCSF programs at the site.

In proposing a new *Facility Development Plan*, the VAMC is confronted with an aging physical plant, limited sites for new development, insufficient on-site parking, a steeply sloping site on two sides, and preferences for a low- to mid-rise building, given the residential nature of the surrounding community.

The VAMC faces the need to rehabilitate its old physical plant while adding new space for outpatient clinics, basic sciences research and some administration. Decompression of crowded facilities and consolidation of scattered administrative space are other determinants of the VAMC plan.

VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER FACILITIES NEEDS AND PLANS

SEISMICALLY VULNERABLE AND OBSOLETE BUILDINGS

Existing buildings on the VAMC site are mostly older structures, with the exception of a new skilled nursing facility and parking garage. These older structures vary in their compliance with seismic, fire and life-safety codes and need to be renovated to bring them into compliance with applicable codes.

PROGRAM SPACE AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Extensive building renovation and some limited new construction on surface parking lots is anticipated at the VAMC. Building 1 is expected to be renovated for ambulatory care and expanded slightly to connect with Building 200. This would create a new front door to the VAMC for outpatients. Building 5 would be demolished and on its site would be built new mental health outpatient facility and administration space. New administration space would be built to consolidate scattered units, and the space released would be used for research. A neuroscience building would be added to the front of the VAMC as well.

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PARKING AND CIRCULATION

Major changes in circulation patterns are not anticipated at the VAMC. Some separation between service vehicle and passenger vehicle circulation is planned, with most service traffic removed from the loop road and directed toward a relocated warehouse in the basement of the main hospital building on the south side of the site. With some potential development on portions of the existing surface parking lots, replacement and additional parking may be built on the large surface parking area in the western part of the site. The current situation is described below.

Parking. Two large surface parking areas, five scattered smaller lots, and one large garage are located at the VAMC. Public parking is limited to the parking areas near the entrance, while the remainder of the parking is dedicated to employee parking. Overflow parking occurs in the surrounding residential neighborhood.

Transit Local MUNI service to the site includes two bus lines: the 38-Geary which loops onto the VAMC site, and the 18-46th Avenue, which stops one block away on Point Lobos Avenue. The UCSF Medical Center also provides shuttle-bus service between the VAMC and the Parnassus Heights site.

Vehicular and Pedestrian Circulation Circulation within the site consists of two narrow roads which loop around the site, Fort Miley Circle and Veterans Drive. The numerous parking lots on the site feed off these roads. Service vehicles share the roads with private passenger vehicles, which lead to some conflicts on the site. Pedestrian circulation is facilitated in the main hospital and administration buildings in the center of the site by the connections between buildings at most levels. Otherwise, pedestrians must cross paved surfaces in between the free-standing buildings. The site is served by several off-road bike paths and bikeways, which feed into the open space and recreation areas nearby.

<p><u>LRDP PROPOSAL:</u> UCSF expects to maintain its activities as an affiliated institution at the VAMC, but UCSF use of the VAMC is not anticipated to change under the LRDP.</p>

[THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE WAS ADDED BY LRDP AMENDMENT #2]

The Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) is currently pursuing a number of projects to improve and enhance its physical facilities, including a new research building on the site of Building 12, a new Magnetic Resonance Imaging facility on the site of Building 13, a new research building funded by the Northern California Institute for Research and Education (NCIRE), a new Animal Research Facility, and additional parking.