



**Department of
Veterans Affairs**

**Office of Public Affairs
News Service**

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VA NAMES HENSLEY TO HEAD CENTER FOR MINORITY VETERANS

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has named a seasoned military human resources manager, Lt. Col. Willie L. Hensley, to head its new Center for Minority Veterans.

Hensley most recently was director of personnel at the U.S. Army Operational Test and Evaluation Command, serving as principal advisor to the commanding general responsible for identifying issues affecting minority employees in position management, recruitment and promotions. A 22-year active-duty Army officer, including a 4-year assignment with the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Hensley has extensive supervisory and executive experience with staffs ranging in size from 30 to 2,000 employees.

"Col. Hensley brings to the VA's new Center for Minority Veterans a valuable perspective on issues important to minority veterans with his expertise in human resources and his broad experience in the military environment," VA Secretary Jesse Brown said.

"From medical research to benefit programs, we must identify the problems and needs of minority veterans. I expect to rely heavily on the advice of Col. Hensley and the work of the Center for Minority Veterans in setting policies and ensuring outreach activities that reflect these needs."

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As the principal advisor to Brown on programs affecting minority veterans, the center director also is charged with making recommendations to the heads of VA's medical care and benefit administrations as well as other officials.

The National Center will build upon earlier gains from VA's 1994 establishment of a minority affairs office and will broaden activities to become a resource center for the exchange of information regarding innovative and successful programs that improve services to minority veterans.

Hensley and his staff also are charged with conducting or sponsoring social and demographic research on the needs of minority veterans and any gaps in services. He also will consult with private programs that assist veterans as well as other federal, state and local programs' administrators to encourage policies that promote use of the programs.

In his position with the Army Operational Test and Evaluation Command, Hensley was the principal advisor to the commanding general on all personnel issues, including equal opportunity and safety, for 2,000 military and civilian personnel assigned to the command at numerous locations in the United States.

Hensley also has served two 2-year terms as vice president of ROCKS, Inc., a nonprofit group of 1,200 active duty members and veterans, and chaired its task force on equal opportunity and sexual harassment.

A member of the American Legion and Retired Officers Association, he received a B.S. in history and social studies from Southern University, with an M.A. in curriculum and instruction from the University of Northern Colorado.

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