

VA CONTINUUM OF VISION CARE

BLIND REHABILITATION CENTER (BRC)

Training programs for Veterans who are visually impaired that involve the Veteran, the family and the full range of appropriate medical specialties.

VISUAL IMPAIRMENT SERVICES TEAM (VIST) COORDINATOR

VIST Coordinator provides coordinated services to Veterans who are legally blind or significantly visually impaired, including referral to a Blind Rehabilitation Center.



...To care for him who shall have borne the battle...

ABRAHAM LINCOLN

GULF COAST VETERANS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, APPLICATION OR REFERRAL, CONTACT:

GCBRC Admissions Coordinator
(228) 385-6777

VIST Coordinator
Biloxi, Miss. (228) 385-6762
Pensacola, Fla. (850) 912-2552

WHAT THE VETERANS SAY

"...I enjoy reading again for the first time in ten years...my wife and I go out more now..."

– WWII Veteran

"...I plan to go back to school and eventually to go to work in business for myself..."

– Vietnam Veteran

"...This has been a good experience, one that will help me with my adjustment from now on..."

– Active duty Army soldier returning from combat in Iraq

GULF COAST VETERANS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
GULF COAST BLIND REHABILITATION CENTER
Building 14, 400 Veterans Ave.
Biloxi, MS 39531

Photos by Medical Media Service
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Gulf Coast Blind Rehabilitation Center

GULF COAST VETERANS
HEALTH CARE SYSTEM



VA
HEALTH
CARE | Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century

The loss of sight affects each person differently. VA's years of experience with visual impairment show a program of comprehensive rehabilitation is usually the best way to address these complex issues. An experienced professional team guides the Veterans through a process that eventually leads to maximum restoration of independence along with the development of a healthy attitude toward themselves, their needs and their future.



Approximately 85 percent of people classified as legally blind have some usable remaining vision.

GULF COAST BLIND REHABILITATION CENTER (GCBRC)

- Provides private rooms, meals and health education
- Has 24-hour nursing services and an assigned medical provider

THE PROGRAM

ORIENTATION AND MOBILITY

Focuses on developing the Veteran's ability to travel safely and efficiently through the environment



CATS AND DOGS

Offers a combination of Computer Access Training (or other

advanced skill training) and guide dog training to appropriate Orientation and Mobility graduates

COMPUTER ACCESS TRAINING

Offers training in computers, iPhones and iPads with accessibility features



VISUAL SKILLS

- Emphasizes vision rehabilitation by teaching the Veteran to effectively use remaining vision through the use of devices and optical aids
- Helps the Veteran understand the type of vision loss and diagnosis



LIVING SKILLS

- Ensures the Veteran can manage daily living needs upon returning home through instruction in areas such as homemaking, cooking, financial management and independent living
- Veterans learn to use equipment such as a digital recorder, talking calculator, electronic reading machine and braille

MANUAL SKILLS

- Emphasizes safe work habits in a shop environment
- Builds confidence, manual dexterity, and tactual training
- Develops leisure activities



FAMILY MEMBERS

- Are invited at the Veteran's request to take part in the planning of the Veteran's program
- Are invited to take part in a Family Training Program

RECREATION THERAPY

Increases the Veteran's ability to participate in a range of social, recreational and leisure activities