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## News Release

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### New Medical Center Director starts at San Diego VA

SAN DIEGO (May 7, 2012) - Jeffrey T. Gering, FACHE, assumed the position of medical center director with the VA San Diego Healthcare System effective May 7, 2012. Gering brings more than 22 years of health system leadership with the Veterans Health Administration to the position. "I look forward to working with the dynamic San Diego team," Gering said. "They are recognized nationally for their excellence in patient care and advances in information technology, research and education," he noted.

The VA Desert Pacific Healthcare Network regional office Director, Stan Johnson said, "We are excited to bring Mr. Gering on board as the new director of the VA San Diego Healthcare System. His sound leadership qualities and proven experience will be valuable assets for the facility, the employees and volunteers and most importantly for the Veterans we are honored to serve."

As a program administrator and as a health care executive, Gering has successfully implemented and expanded mental health programs for Veterans at three facilities. Most recently he served for more than four years as the Director of the Chillicothe VA Medical Center in Chillicothe, Ohio. He has also worked several special assignments for VA's Central Office including ones focusing on improving Veteran telephone access and redesigning business system. As the Director, Chillicothe VA Medical Center, Gering created a culture of systems improvement resulting in the VA Medical Center being recognized as a "best practice" facility. "Providing the highest quality care and service to our Veterans is my top priority," Gering said.

Gering received a Masters of Health Administration degree from Saint Louis University School of Public Health and a Bachelors of Science in Management Organizations from the Indiana University School of Business. Gering is board certified as a Fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives.

With more than 2,700 staff and facilities in Chula Vista, Escondido, Imperial Valley, Mission Valley, and Oceanside, the VA San Diego Healthcare System is an acute care teaching hospital, providing a full range of patient care services, with state-of-the-art technology as well as education and research. The facility has 164 beds with an additional 39-bed skilled nursing home and 29-bed domiciliary. Comprehensive health care is provided through primary care, secondary, and long-term care in areas of medicine, surgery, psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, oncology, dentistry, geriatrics, and extended care.

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