

review of Committee reports, an update of activities since the last meeting, and a period for FPOW veterans and/or the public to address the Committee. The Committee will also discuss future plans for the VA FPOW Learning Seminars, and conclude with a report on the development of Special FPOW Care and Benefits Teams. The agenda on October 21 will include a review of VA's Compensation and Pension Service activities, including new outreach initiatives to FPOWs, initiatives to reduce the number of old pending disability claims, as well as a progress report from VA's FPOW Medical Presumptions Workgroup. The Committee will also hear presentations on the activities of the Veterans Health Administration, including a report on priority for FPOWs in Long-Term Health Care programs. The Committee will also hear a presentation from the Robert E. Mitchell Center for Prisoner of War Studies. The day will conclude with new business and general discussion. On October 22, the Committee's Medical and Administrative work groups will break out to discuss their activities and report back to the Committee. Additionally, the Committee will review and analyze the comments discussed throughout the meeting for the purpose of assisting and compiling a final report to be sent to the Secretary.

Members of the public may direct questions or submit prepared statements for review by the Committee in advance of the meeting, in writing only, to Mr. Ronald J. Henke, Director, Compensation and Pension Service (21), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. Submitted materials must be received by October 13, 2003.

Dated: September 3, 2003.

By Direction of the Secretary.

E. Philip Riggan,

Committee Management Officer.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Enhanced-Use Lease Development of Property at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Charleston, SC

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice of intent to designate.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) intends to designate approximately .48 acres of real property at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, in Charleston, South Carolina, to be leased under an enhanced-use lease. The Department intends to enter into a 35 to

75-year lease of such property with the "Medical University Hospital Authority," a public authority of the State of South Carolina and an affiliate of the "Medical University of South Carolina," who would finance, design, develop, maintain and manage the expansion of its medical center complex.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Anthony Sherman, Capital Asset Management and Planning Service (182C), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 565-6863.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 38 U.S.C. 8161, *et seq.*, specifically provides that the Secretary may enter into an enhanced-use lease if he determines that the implementation of a concept plan proposed by the Under Secretary for Health for applying the consideration under such a lease to the provisions of medical care and services would result in a demonstrable improvement of services to eligible veterans in the geographic service-delivery area within which the property is located. This project meets this requirement.

Approved: September 2, 2003.

Anthony J. Principi,

Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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