



VA:

THE HUMAN
COST OF

WAR

1 x 57 HD



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VA: The Human Cost of War takes a broad look at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs -- examining the organization's history, leadership, structure, funding and relationship to veterans. Tracing its troubled beginnings as the Veterans Bureau of the 1920s through to the organization's transformation into a modern healthcare system after World War II, the film tracks the ways in which the VA has had to quickly adapt to new challenges and obstacles as it attempts to care for veterans. Beholden to the executive branch for its funding and detached logistically from the leaders who plan and execute war, the VA has had to find ways to deal with the consequences and costs of war, which are incurred long after the fighting ceases. From the psychological and physical wounds of soldiers returning from Vietnam, to the changing demographic make-up of the troops serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, the film investigates the Department's successes and gross missteps as its burden continues to grow larger, more complicated and increasingly politicized.

Told through a series of personal stories from veterans and intertwined with deep historical and political analysis from leading scholars and elected officials, the film illustrates the key ways in which the VA, and we as a society, fail our veterans, who, according to Department of Veterans Affairs research, continue to commit suicide at the harrowing rate of 20 veterans per day.

CREDITS

Director: Ric Burns

Executive Producer: Lois Pope

Producers: Bonnie LaFave and Kathryn Clinard

Photo Credit: David Ross



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