



Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs  
Office of Communications  
(850) 487-1533  
[www.FloridaVets.org](http://www.FloridaVets.org)



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Oct. 24, 2007

CONTACT: Courtney Heidelberg

(850) 487-1533

### **DMS AND AT&T RECOGNIZE VETERANS' AFFAIRS AS FIRST STATE AGENCY TO CONNECT TO NEW DATA NETWORK**

*~ Agency sees 140 percent increased bandwidth without increasing costs. ~*

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Department of Management Services today presented a plaque to LeRoy Collins Jr., executive director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs. The plaque recognizes FDVA for being the first state agency to complete migration from the former SUNCOM telecommunications service to the new state-of-the-art MyFloridaNet data network. FDVA, working in conjunction with DMS and AT&T technical staff, successfully converted 25 statewide locations to MyFloridaNet with minimal interruption of network services.

"FDVA is pleased to install this new network that helps the agency better face its growing reliance on information technology," said Collins. "Just as the demographics of our veteran population are changing, so are our means of communicating with them. This new network better arms FDVA to serve Florida's veterans."

DMS and AT&T provided the statewide implementation of MyFloridaNet, which is a state-of-the-art, private data network offering faster, more reliable enterprise access to FDVA's mission-critical database applications supporting State Veterans Homes, the Veterans Benefits and Assistance Division, as well as Internet, e-mail and voice services.

"The early migration of FDVA to MyFloridaNet demonstrates the rock-solid reliability of the network," said Kester. "MyFloridaNet will help organizations throughout the state improve their technological resources with a cost-efficient, world-class data network system without increasing costs to taxpayers."

"FDVA realized early on the technical and financial benefits for veterans of the state of Florida by migrating to MyFloridaNet," said Curt Padgett, Director of Sales, Florida State Government, AT&T Southeast. "Thanks to a very aggressive migration schedule, FDVA was the first department to be fully migrated to the MFN network."

"This network conversion was a major accomplishment for the entire project team," said FDVA Chief Information Officer James M. Lieupo. "FDVA is already reaping benefits without increasing costs to include 140 percent increased bandwidth, integrated security and Web-based network management tools to ensure the network is working properly."

The MyFloridaNet contract streamlines services under one agreement, enabling the state to enhance its ability to provide services, including options for faster connections, at lower costs. Eligible groups also include city and county governments, school districts, colleges and universities and non-profit organizations.

###