

New Mexico Department of Veterans' Services – Field Services

ALBUQUERQUE REGION: Includes service to Bernalillo, Rio Rancho Cuba, Edgewood, Socorro, Belen, Los Lunas, Moriarty, Grants, Gallup and Farmington, Aztec, Shiprock, Bloomfield, Kirtland.

[George Vargas \(Supervisor in Training\)](#)

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Counties Served: **Bernalillo, Valencia, Torrance, Socorro**

[George Vargas](#) is an Albuquerque Veterans' Service Officer and a Supervisor in training at the VA Regional Office. George formerly worked as a VSO at the NMDVS Clovis office, returning to the agency in 2013 after working for three years as a homeless veterans' advocate. He served in Operation Desert Storm Veteran with the U.S. Navy. George comes from a family with strong military ties: A cousin served with the U.S. Marines, and two others served in the US Army. George is accredited by the NACVSO.

[Jonathan Romero](#)

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Counties Served: **Bernalillo, Valencia, Torrance, Socorro**

[Jonathan Romero](#) is an Albuquerque Veterans' Service Officer at the VA Regional Office. Jonathan is currently serving in the US Army Reserves as a Non-Commissioned Officer and has served since 1998. Jonathan has attained a Master of Public Administration and a Bachelor of Business Administration (HR) and his work experience is primarily in Veterans programs. Jonathan's service includes deployments to Kuwait and Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

[Gordon Schei](#)

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Counties Served: **Bernalillo, Sandoval**

[Gordon Schei](#) is the Veterans' Service Officer based in the Albuquerque NE Heights office who came to the NM DVS in July of 2008. Gordon served with the U.S. Army as an Engineer from 1979-1988 stationed in Germany. He's the proud father of two sons who followed his footsteps and are both Wounded Warriors and have and both have been awarded the Purple Heart: Erik

served an U.S. Army Engineer in Iraq, and Deven served with the Army as an Engineer in Afghanistan. Gordon is accredited by the NACVSO.

[Martin Marquez](#)

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Counties Served: **Bernalillo, Sandoval**

[Martin Marquez](#) is the Veterans' Service Officer based in the Albuquerque NE Heights office who came to the NM DVS in May 2018. Martin served with the U.S. Army as a Finance/Accounting Specialist from 1972-1979 stationed in Germany and Hawaii. He served with the 25th Infantry Division and the 100th MTC. He comes from the NM Workforce Solutions where he served as a Local Veterans Representative and is a retired Education Administrator from El Paso, Texas. Martin is accredited by the NMCVSO.

[Ramie Hurley](#)

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Counties Served: **Cibola, McKinley, Catron**

[Raymie Hurley](#) is a member of the Navajo Nation. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in October 1999 and he served until 2003. He was stationed at Marine Security Guard Battalion, Marine Corps Base Quantico VA. After His enlistment, he attended the Navajo Law Enforcement Training Academy and he became a Navajo Nation Police Officer for eight years. He was a patrol officer, a tactical officer, and a substation officer. Raymie attained an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from the University of New Mexico, and a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Western New Mexico University. Raymie comes from a family with strong military and law enforcement ties. Raymie is accredited by the NACVSO.

[Beverly Charley](#)

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Counties Served: **San Juan, Rio Arriba**

[Beverly Charley](#) is the NMDVS Veterans' Service Officer in the agency's Farmington/Four Corners office. Prior to coming to the NMDVS in May of 2015, she worked for nine years as a Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) for the New Mexico Workforce Connection's Farmington/Four Corners office. Beverly served in the U. S. Army for 14 years—having been deployed to Somalia, Africa, Haiti (twice) and Iraq. She is also a proud member of

the Navajo Nation and she is currently assigned as the Tribal liaison for the Department. Beverly is accredited by the NACVSO.

Las Vegas Region: Includes service to Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Espanola, Taos, Mora, Angel Fire, Raton, Clayton and Santa Rosa.

Gary Fresquez (Supervisor)

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Counties Served: **Colfax, Union, Taos**

Gary Fresquez is a lifetime resident of Raton. Gary served in the US Navy from 1974 to 1986 and attained the rank of Lieutenant. During his service, Gary served aboard the USS Peleliu (LHA-5), and the USS Towers (DDG-9), which was stationed in the Persian Gulf during the Iranian Hostage Crisis. Gary attained a BS from the USNA-1979 and a Master of Education from Colorado State University. Gary became a VSO in September 2008 and in January, 2016, he was promoted to Area Supervisor. Gary has over 10 years of experience in all aspects of Federal and State Veteran benefits. Gary is a life member of the VFW and serves as the Quartermaster for over 15 years. Gary is accredited by the NACVSO.

Karen Abeyta (Supervisor in Training)

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Counties Served: **Guadalupe, Mora San Miguel, Taos**

Karen Abeyta has more than 5 years' experience advocating for veterans and their family members. Born and raised in Las Vegas, Karen served in the US Navy from 07/1997 to 08/2000. During her enlistment she was deployed to Spain, Guam and several United States locations. Karen attained a Bachelor of Business Administration from the NM Highlands University. Before coming to the DVS, Karen worked as a Local Veterans Employment Representative for the NM Workforce Connection from 2004 to 2006. Karen is accredited with National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO) and has extensive Knowledge of Title 38 CFR. Her grandfather Nicholas Abeyta was a WWII Army Veteran; she also has several uncles that served during Vietnam, Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Jeff George

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Counties Served: **Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Rio Arriba and Taos**

Jeff George has been a lifetime resident of New Mexico and has lived in Farmington, Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Espanola and Portales. Jeff was born in Farmington, NM where his

father Eugene “Skip” George, a Vietnam veteran, still resides. Jeff enlisted in the US Army in 1993 and served as a 19K (M1A1 Armor Crewman) before his honorable discharge with a service-related disability as a Corporal.

Jeff was hired on March 8, 2008 and he became the VSO for Santa Fe & the Albuquerque VARO. Jeff is a member of the San Juan Chapter of the DAV and Los Alamos VFW 8874. Jeff is well known throughout Northern New Mexico. Jeff is accredited by the NACVSO.

LAS CRUCES REGION: Includes Service to Alamogordo, T or C, Ruidoso, Mayhill, Cloudcroft, Chaparral, Anthony, Deming Silver City, Santa Clara, Hurley and Reserve.

J.R. Turner (Supervisor)

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Counties Served: **Dona Ana, Sierra**

James Turner retired from the US Air Force in June 1995 after twenty years of honorable service. JR worked as an Avionics Technician on the F-111 Fighter/Bomber and the F-117 Stealth Fighter. JR was deployed twice to Saudi Arabia with the Stealth Fighter during Operation Desert Storm. In December 1998, JR attained a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice from the New Mexico State University (NMSU). He then was employed for six years as a Juvenile Probation/Parole Officer with the NM Children, Youth and Families Department. JR became a VSO for the NM Department of Veterans’ Services in April 2005. The Las Cruces office is by far one of the busiest in the state with a strong reputation for VA Claims processing and applying for state benefits. JR is actively involved in the local community with the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Life Member of VFW Post 6917, and sits on several veteran related committees. JR is accredited by the NACVSO.

Lazaro (Larry) Ramos

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Counties Served: **Dona Ana, Sierra**

Lazaro (Larry) Ramos retired from the US Army as a First Sergeant after 22 years of honorable service. During his career, Larry was a combat medic with deployments in support of numerous operations including 3 campaigns in Iraq, 1 campaign in Afghanistan, Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia, and Restore Hope in Rwanda, UN Mission Haiti Task Force 131. His military awards include 2 Bronze Stars, 2 Meritorious Service Medals, 2 Joint Service Commendations Medals, the Combat Action Badge and the Combat Expert Medic Badge. Larry holds degrees from Hawaii Pacific University in Organizational Leadership and a Bachelor in Healthcare Management. Larry is an accredited VSO with former experience working for the American Legion under the Washington State Department of Veterans Services.

[Larry Weatherwax](#)

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Counties Served: **Otero, Lincoln**

[Larry Weatherwax](#) graduated from Alamogordo High School in May of 1996. Larry enlisted in the Army National Guard in May of 1995 and completed Basic Training at Ft. Jackson South Carolina. He completed AIT at Ft. Lee Virginia for Automated Logistics Specialist, 92A MOS. In March of 2003, Larry was activated to serve as a Force Protection Specialist under Operation Noble Eagle for two years. Larry has completed a Network Specialist Certificate in May 2015 and an Associate's Degree in Information Technology in May 2016, both from NMSU-A. Larry is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Information Communication Technology from Main Campus NMSU and has become an accredited VSO through the NACVSO.

[Chris Teran](#)

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Counties Served: **Grant, Hidalgo,**

[Chris Teran](#) enlisted in the Army in 2001 and went to basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia. After completing Army combat medic school at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, Chris served at White Sands Missile Range. In 2003, Chris went to Fort Knox, Kentucky and was part of the Warrior Transition Course. Chris participated in the disaster relief in southern Louisiana after hurricane Katrina, and spent time at Fort Bragg and Camp McKall, NC. Chris was activated to active duty in support of Noble Eagle and was honorably discharged in 2007 as a Specialist.

ROSWELL REGION: Includes service to Clovis, Tucumcari, Portales, Hobbs, Carlsbad, Ruidoso, Fort Sumner, Fort Stanton and Capitan.

[Dalton Boyd \(Supervisor\)](#)

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Counties Served: **Eddy, Chavez, Roosevelt, Curry, Quay, DeBaca**

[Dalton Boyd](#) is the Veterans' Service Officer based in the Hobbs NMDVS office who joined the NMDVS in September of 2005. Dalton was born and raised in Lea County. He is a U.S. Army veteran having served from 1967 thru 1970. Dalton has four children and three grand-

children. In addition to serving as a veterans' service officer, he also remains active in several community organizations.

[Matt Barela](#)

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Counties Served: **Curry, Quay, Roosevelt, De Baca**

[Matt Barela](#) was born and raised in Clovis NM. Matt has attained a BCIS degree. Matt served in the US Army in Desert Shield and Desert Storm with the 24th Infantry Division 101st Airborne. Matt is involved in the Clovis Community with resources that include Goodwill, Lighthouse, Matt25, United Way as well as the colleges and the Chamber, JVC, VFW and American Legion. Matt also conducts workshops at Cannon AFB for filing claims and working with e-benefits. Matt is accredited by the NACVSO.

[Dagmar Youngberg](#)

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Carlsbad, NM 88220

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Counties Served: **Eddy**

[Dagmar Youngberg](#) is the NMDVS Veterans' Service Officer in Carlsbad. Prior to her joining the department in November of 2013, she worked for three years in the Carlsbad office of the New Mexico Workforce Connection—where as a Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER) advocating for the hiring of veterans for jobs in Eddy County. The U.S. Army veteran is the daughter of an Army retiree (24-years of service).

[Danielle Thompson](#)

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Counties Served: **Chavez and DeBaca**

[Danielle Thompson](#) has been a resident of New Mexico since 1999, where she graduated from Ruidoso High School. She joined the United States Navy in 2007 as an Operational Specialist. She completed two deployments in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with her first command at COMPHIBRON TWO, better known as Amphibious Squadron Two, and the USS Carter Hall. Mrs. Thompson completed four years with the US Navy and left as a Third Class Petty Officer Surface Warfare/Air Warfare. Danielle resides in Dexter, New Mexico with her husband and family. She has ten years combined experience in administration. She comes to DVS from the Income support Division where she was a Family Assistance Analyst One. Danielle has been accredited by the NACVSO.

