

# Lake County Sheriff's Office

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**John D. Idleburg**  
Sheriff

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Incarcerated Veterans Can Now Virtually Connect with the VA**

Incarcerated Veterans at the Lake County Jail will now have an opportunity to speak to U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) social workers.

In July of 2021, an agreement was reached between the sheriff's office and Captain James Lovell Federal Healthcare Center (FHCC). Through this agreement, FHCC provided the Lake County Jail an iPad that will allow Veterans the opportunity to be connected face-to-face to social workers and other crucial personnel at the VA.

Often times, incarcerated Veterans are unaware of the benefits they have earned through their military service. Having access directly to the VA has helped several inmates learn of assistance opportunities waiting for them when they leave our facility. As incarcerated Veterans prepare to leave the jail and reenter society, the communication and information they learn from their VA representatives allows them additional opportunities and get a head-start on their reentry. This one-on-one interaction between inmates and VA personnel will allow for just that.

Sheriff John D. Idleburg said, "The fewer repeat faces we see inside the jail, the better. We do not want the jail to have a revolving door. By allowing our Veterans the opportunity to use some of their incarcerated time to connect with VA representatives, we are providing them yet another tool to be successful when they reenter our community. I am looking forward to seeing the success and expansion of this new program."

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