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NEWS RELEASE

AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION HONORS TWO FEDERAL HEALTH CARE LEADERS

CITY (July xx, 2014) – The American Hospital Association (AHA) today presented two federal hospital leaders with awards recognizing their outstanding service in the health care field. These awards recognize uniformed and non-uniformed federal health care leaders who have distinguished themselves through singularly significant achievements and leadership or innovative achievements that have contributed substantially to the mission of the federal health system.

“The honorees exemplify dedication to excellence and service to their country and, on behalf of the American Hospital Association, I thank them for the work they do each day,” said Rich Umbdenstock, AHA president and CEO. “Their commitment, under difficult circumstances, to improving care for their fellow service members inspires us all.”

The recipient of the 2013 Federal Health Care Executive Award for Excellence is Michael Sabo, network director, Department of Veterans Affairs New York/New Jersey Integrated Service Network (VISN 3) in Bronx, N.Y.

Michael Sabo has served as network director since 2008 and oversees five Veterans Affairs medical centers (VAMC), 32 outpatient clinics, community living centers and homeless residential treatment facilities in metropolitan New York and New Jersey. The

network cares for nearly 200,000 veterans each year and employs nearly 11,000 staff; and has an annual operating budget of more than \$2 billion dollars.

Sabo demonstrated extraordinary leadership in VISN 3's response to SuperStorm Sandy, making the pivotal timely decision to evacuate 127 patients in the Manhattan campus to other area VA medical centers in the area without disruption of patient care, and in the network's subsequent recovery efforts including reopening the badly damaged Manhattan campus of the New York Harbor Health Care System less than 6 months after the storm. He worked to ensure the medical centers had sufficient resources to care for not only their own patients, but also an increase in patients from the Manhattan clinic. A program for emergency prescription refills was established to ensure continuing care for veterans who relied on the hospital to obtain medications.

The recipient of the 2013 Federal Health Care Executive Special Achievement Award is Lt. Col. Derek J. Larbie, pharmacy flight commander, 377th Medical Group, United States Air Force, Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, N.M.

Lt. Col. Derek J. Larbie has been instrumental in designing, developing and implementing pharmacies and services that have contributed to improved care for patients served by the federal health care system. As pharmacy flight commander, he leads a staff of military, civilian and contract pharmacists and technicians, and volunteers at two VA pharmacies, one at the medical clinic and another that is community-based. Combined, the pharmacies serve more than 40,000 patients, both active duty members and retired veterans and their families. His leadership resulted in a patient-centered, efficient community-based pharmacy that improves the welfare of military members and their families.

Lt. Col. Larbie took a close look at the future satellite pharmacy design. He identified systemic issues and disconnects, and led a corrective action plan. He also used Lean and Six Sigma concepts to create a more efficient process for filling prescriptions, decreasing dispensing time by 79 percent for patients.

Lt. Col. Larbie commissioned in the Air Force Medical Service in October 1998 and completed the Biomedical Sciences Corps Officer Management Orientation course at Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas in May 1999. He has twice deployed—first as Pharmacy Flight Commander with the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group and second as Pharmacy Advisor/Mentor with the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.

About the AHA

The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the improvement of health in their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which include nearly 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks and other providers of care and 43,000 individual members. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends. For more information, visit www.aha.org.

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