



I am pleased to announce Ms. Merchell Pittman as the Administrative Officer for the Research Division, here at the G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC), effective May 10, 2020. In this role she works in collaboration with the Associate Chief of Staff for Research and Development (ACOS/R&D) ensuring the coordination and administration of the Research and Development Program to provide research operations advice and guidance to staff, current and prospective clinician and non-clinician investigators.

With over 15 years of federal service, Ms. Pittman joined the Department of Veterans Affairs in 2008, and prior to the VAMC she previously worked as Administrator for the Federal Bureau of Prisons. While at the VAMC, Ms. Pittman has served for as Acting Administrative Officer for the Research Division, January 2019 – May 2020. She has also served as IRB Administrator, Research and Development (RDC) Committee Coordinator, and Subcommittee for Research Safety (SRS) Committee Coordinator for Research. Additionally, she has worked for

the Chief of Staff in Credentialing and Privileging and detailed to Quality Management. She completed Emerging VA Leaders (EVAL) program, June 2016 and certified as a Contract Officer Representative (COR). She has also assisted with Joint Commission (JC) readiness, served as member and alternate member for several different committees throughout the VAMC.

Ms. Pittman retired as an officer (MAJ) from the United States Army Reserve, September 2014. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and her commission via a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) scholarship at the University of Southern MS. Thereafter, she was assigned to 365th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion (CSSB) from 2004 – 2014 and was deployed as the Support Operations Logistics Officer to Tallil, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. She returned to the U.S. after one year and joined the VA Medical Center in 2008. In 2011, she deployed with the 365th CSSB and the 82nd Airborne Division Sustainment Brigade to Shindand Airbase, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Ms. Pittman has a number of awards to her credit, including the Bronze Star Medal, Afghanistan and Iraq Campaign Medals.

While deployed, Ms. Pittman furthered her education by enrolling in online courses for Columbia Southern University in Orange Beach, AL. She graduated receiving a Master of Science degree in Organizational Leadership in November 2014, earning a 4.0 GPA. She is President and Life-Member of Tau Sigma Alumnae chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc., and Life-member of the Veteran of Foreign Wars (VFW), Post 9832.