

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Center for Faith

Supporting Justice-Involved Veterans

May 12, 2026

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information available.



VA Center for Faith

Conrad Washington

Director
Center for Faith (VA CF)
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



Rev. Conrad Washington serves as the Director, for the VA Center for Faith. In this capacity, he provides collaborative strategic leadership to develop and cultivate partnerships with faith-based, non-profit, and community organizations. These partnerships assist to increase awareness and enrolment in VA programs and services for Veterans, their families, survivors, caregivers and other beneficiaries.

Previously, Rev. Washington served in the VA Corporate Senior Executive Management Office (CSEMO) administratively supporting CSEMO's mission of delivering an enterprise-wide approach to executive personnel management for the VA's nearly 600 senior executives and equivalents. He also served in the Office of the Secretary supporting senior leadership. Prior to joining the VA, he served as the Information Security Specialist supporting the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) in security education. Rev. Washington retired from the United States Marine Corps with 20 years of active-duty service to include a combat tour in 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II (OIF-II). Positions during his military career include; Administrative/Personnel Chief, USMC Senior Drill Instructor, Formal Schools Instructor, and Adjunct Faculty.

Rev. Washington is an ordained non-denominational minister in the Christian faith and actively serving. He received his MDiv in Pastoral Studies from Moody Theological Seminary, MA in Business Management from the University of Redlands and a Bachelor's of Science degree in Education from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Additionally, he was a participant in the VA's Secretary Leadership Forum 2023 and a graduate of VA's class of 2017 Virtual Aspiring Leaders Program (VaLP).

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VA Center for Faith

William Morales Jr.

**Program Specialist
Center for Faith (VA CF)
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**



William Morales Jr. serves as a Program Specialist in the VA Center for Faith in the Office of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Veteran Affairs Central Office based in Washington, D.C. In his current role, Mr. Morales assists the Director in the development of national outreach efforts and by collaborating with faith-based and neighborhood organizations to inform Veterans, their families and beneficiaries of VA programs and services. Prior to joining the VA CF team, Mr. Morales worked as a Special Assistant to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Deputy Chief of Staff.

Prior to joining the VA, Mr. Morales previously served as; a Special Assistant in the Office of the Inspector General for the U.S. Postal Service, as a Special Assistant to the Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Defense, as a Senior Constituent Advocate for Military and Veterans Affairs in the Office of U.S. Senator Thom Tillis, as a Deputy Program Manager for Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) on Camp Freedom in Mosul, Iraq, and as a Maintenance Supervisor for ITT Exelis on Camp Arifjan in Kuwait for the U.S. Department of Defense.

Mr. Morales is a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran, he grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and has 5 daughters. Mr. Morales received his Bachelor's of Science degree in Public Administration and Political Science, with a minor in Law and Legal Studies from Walden University.

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Veterans Justice Outreach

Katharine (Katie) Stewart

**National Coordinator
Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO)
VHA Homeless Programs Office
Veterans Health Administration (VHA)
U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs**

As the National Coordinator, Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO), U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs, Katie contributes to the development of national policy, provides guidance to the field on operational matters, and represents the VJO program with internal and external audiences.



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VETERANS JUSTICE PROGRAMS (VJP)

**Veterans Justice Programs
Homeless Programs Office (HPO)
Veterans Health Administration (VHA)
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
May 12, 2026**

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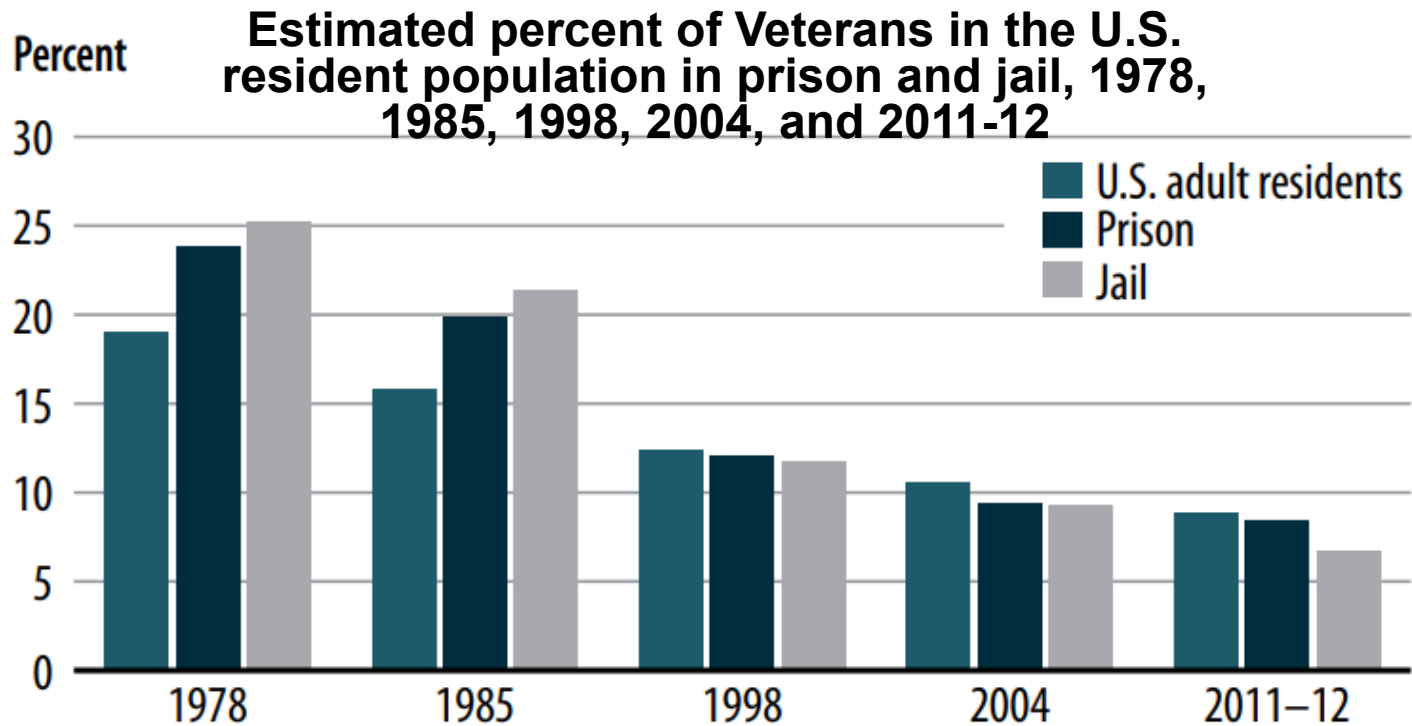
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Objectives

- What Do We Know About Veterans in the Criminal Justice System?
- VJP's Mission And Vision
- Current Outreach Landscape
- Working With Courts And Law Enforcement
- Resources

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Veterans in Prison and Jail



Note: For years in which prison or jail inmates were not surveyed, the total prison or jail population was multiplied by the veteran distribution from the most recent survey. See *Methodology*.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics data collections on prison and jail inmates and U.S. Census Bureau population data collections. See table 1 for complete list.

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Clinical Risks

- **Suicide**

- Veterans with prior criminal legal involvement (CLI) have elevated risks for suicide attempts and death.
- Transition/Re-entry period presents an elevated risk.

- **Overdose**

- Veterans with CLI had a higher rate and higher risk of opioid-related overdose mortality.

- **Homelessness**

- Incarceration as an adult male is the single highest risk factor of ever being homeless.

- **Clinical Diagnoses**

- Most Veterans seen in VJP have a mental health (82%) or substance use disorder (59%) diagnosis, or both (53%)

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Protective Factors

- Access to health care, mental health care and/or substance abuse treatment.
- Family reintegration support.
- Employment and/or job training, vocational rehabilitation.
- Financial support and literacy, money management.
- Meaning and purpose in life.

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Veterans Justice Programs (VJP): Mission & Vision

Mission

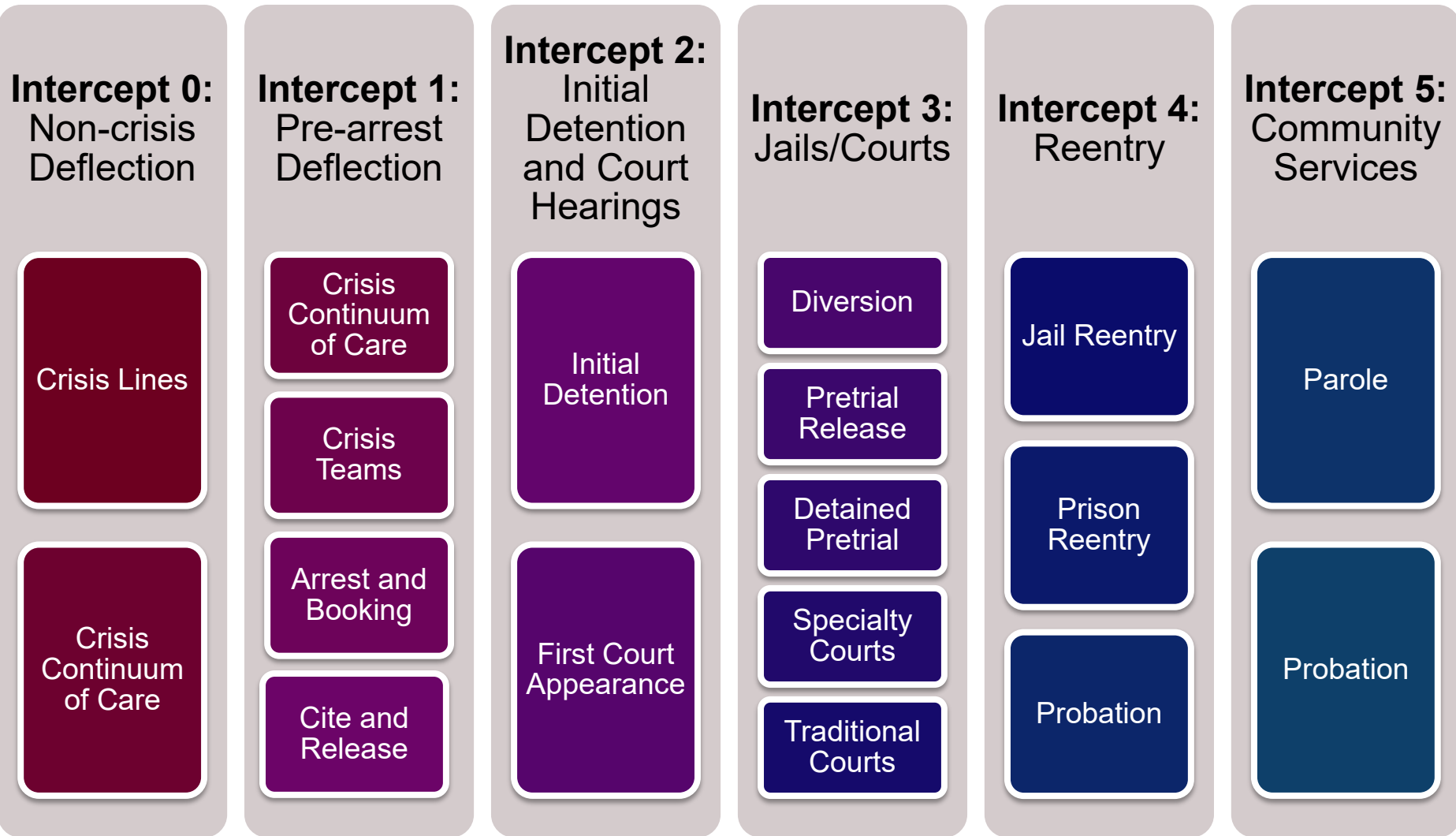
- To identify justice-involved Veterans and contact them through outreach, in order to facilitate access to VA services at the earliest possible point. Veterans Justice Programs accomplish this by building and maintaining partnerships between VA and key elements of the criminal justice system.

Vision

- Every justice-involved Veteran will have access to the care, services, and other benefits to help him or her maximize their potential for success and stability in the community, including by avoiding homelessness and ending their involvement in the justice system.

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Veterans Sequential Intercept Model



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Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO)

- Gain access to the jail.
- Identify veterans and determine eligibility.
- Conduct outreach, assessment, and case management for Veterans in local courts and jails.
- Provide/coordinate training for law enforcement personnel.
- Linkage to VA and community services/resources.
- Number of VJP Specialists funded: 514 (includes HCRV/Hybrid)
- Number of local jail facilities serviced: 2,171
- Number of Veterans served by VJO in FY25: 49,434

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Health Care for Reentry Veterans (HCRV)

- Gain access to the prison.
- Educate Veterans' groups about VA and VA services.
- Identify Veterans and determine eligibility.
- Reentry planning.
- Linkage to VA and community services.
- Number of state and federal prisons serviced: 1,045
- Number of incarcerated Veterans served by HCRV in FY25: 9,466

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Limits on VA Services for Incarcerated Veterans

- VA can provide:
 - Outreach, assessment, referral, and linkage to services
 - Treatment for justice-involved Veterans who are not incarcerated
- Title 38 CFR 17.38 (c)(5) does not allow VHA to provide:
 - Hospital and outpatient care for a Veteran who is
 - Either a patient or inmate in an institution of another government agency if that agency has a duty to give that care or services

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VA Partnership with Veterans Treatment Courts

- Veterans Treatment Courts:
 - Hybrid Drug and Mental Health Treatment Courts, serving Veteran defendants
 - Volunteer Veteran Mentors
 - VJO specialists support 764 courts operating in 47 states and one territory
- VA Contributions:
 - VJO Specialist on treatment team; in courtroom when in session
 - Linkage to health care services at VA medical centers
 - Regular updates on Veterans' progress in VA treatment
 - VA does not establish, fund, operate, or set eligibility rules

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Veteran Deflection Partnerships

- Deflection (intercepts 0-1)
 - Early upstream preventative approach to substance use and mental health that offers pathways for a community-based response to occur before an event such as an overdose, arrest, or mental health crisis.
- Veterans Deflection
 - The opportunity to create Veteran-specific deflection interventions and/or ensure that new and existing deflection programs screen every adult encountered to determine Veteran status, are actively engaged with local VA partners, and can provide a warm handoff into VA care for eligible Veterans.

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VA's Role in Veterans Deflection

- Deflection programs, Veteran-focused or otherwise, are initiated, funded, and operated by local communities, rather than by VA.
- VA supports deflection programs through the engagement of its VJO specialists and through the health care services it provides to Veterans, most of whom would otherwise receive care at county expense or worse, not be offered at least the chance for support.

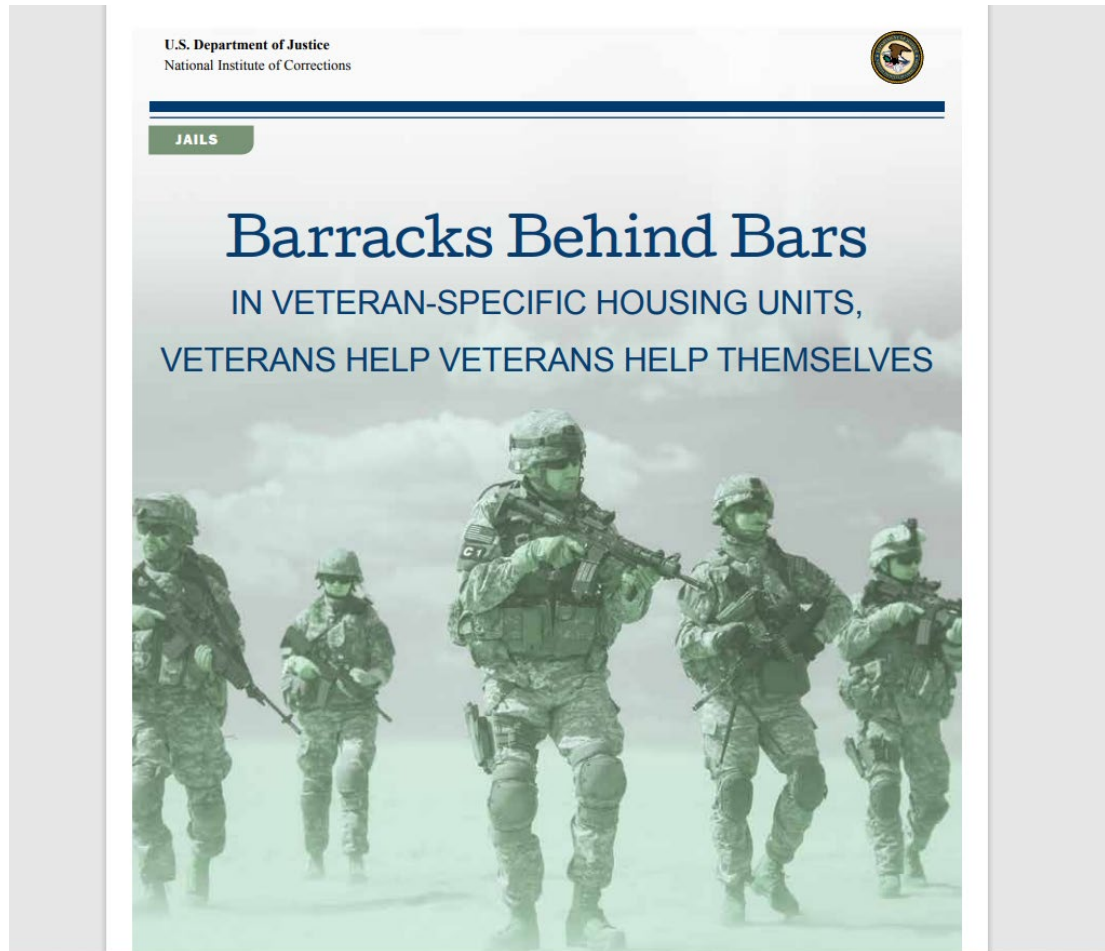
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Get Connected

- Locate your nearest VJO Specialist:
 - [Veterans Justice Outreach Program - VA Homeless Programs](#)
- Locate your nearest HCRV Specialist:
 - [Health Care for Re-entry Veterans Services and Resources - VA Homeless Programs](#)
- Find your nearest VA Healthcare Facility:
 - [Find VA Locations | Veterans Affairs](#)

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Veteran Specific Housing Units



Barracks Behind Bars

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A Veterans Treatment Court Story

VETERAN SPOTLIGHT



Navy Veteran
Billy Truesdell

[Former homeless Veteran Billy Truesdell's true colors shine through - VA News](#)

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The Gift of Recovery in One VTC

Home / Health

VA helped Veteran Kevin Rumley. Now he helps others.



Rumley still interacts with VA's justice and treatment programs daily as the director of Buncombe County Veterans Treatment Court. While Veterans feel strongly connected to Rumley based on their shared experiences, the Marine Corps Veteran is vigilant in ensuring he treats each Veteran with the unique treatment approach they deserve.

[VA helped Veteran Kevin Rumley. Now he helps others. - VA News](#)



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Resources

- [National Institute of Corrections, Justice-Involved Veterans Microsite](#)
 - Veteran Intercepts in the Criminal Justice System Webinar
 - Supporting Transition to Civilian Life Across the Sequential Intercept Model
 - Barracks Behind Bars I and II
 - Respecting Service, Restoring Honor for Vets in Crisis
- [Veterans Treatment Courts and other Veteran-focused courts served by VA Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists Fact Sheet](#)
- Veterans Crisis Line
 - 988 and Press 1
 - Text 838255
 - <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/get-help/chat>
- National Call Center for Homeless Veterans
 - 1-877-424-3838

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VJP National Leadership Team

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Q&A and Discussion



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