



# Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

*A Voice of the Veterans*

Week Ending Sunday, June 12, 2016  
Volume 7, Issue 21

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## ***This-N-That***

The VA still continually claims the numbers of homeless Veterans is on the decline, yet this past Thursday I witnessed for myself that in fact it's the opposite.

From having been and lived in Orange County, CA for the majority of my life, having worked with HHS, the Long Beach VA, and law enforcement as well as several small groups to continue the Homeless Heroes Back Pack program, and they too are seeing the increase.

While down in Orange County on Thursday, there are several places where the road goes over the Santa Ana River bed and you can't help but notice all the homeless encampments and we stopped at a couple of them to give them canned goods a few P-38's and can openers which were provided to us to at least give them some food. And provided them also brochures on how to get enrolled into VA Healthcare, local shelters, food kitchens, etc.

In the three encampments we visited combined there had to be well over 200 homeless, and best we could figure out were 65% were Veterans.

So again I'd like to know where these thousands of dollars are actually being spent. It's sure not going to getting our Veterans off the streets. It's not going to improving the claims system. Must be all those wonderful unearned bonuses being paid out for not doing a job hired for.

Then we find more incompetence in the VA Healthcare system, not surprising, but frightening!

Almost 25,000 Veterans were examined for TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) by medical professionals who were not even remotely qualified to do such diagnostics.

But, according to a VA statement, the VA "issued a series of guidance documents that created confusion regarding the policy," and led to more than 24,000 examinations conducted by unqualified medical personnel.

Makes one wonder, who wrote the guidelines? Were they trained and qualified medical professionals, or what I call "script writers?"

And what will they do now? Will they go back and re-examine all those who might have been misdiagnosed? Will claims be reviewed and compensation be given dating back to original claim date or exam date?

What I still find interesting is still not one of the nationally chartered service organizations are raising hell on how our Veterans are being treated, or should I say mistreated! "Veterans service organizations expressed a mix of disappointment!" What does this resolve? Best I can tell again NOTHING!

We, Veterans-For-Change really does need your help!

We need you to make the calls to your Reps in DC and remind them they need to immediately address all the problems, flaws, errors, mistreatment, mis-diagnosis, claims, etc. They need to seriously focus on helping those who laid their lives on the line for our country.

You may think it doesn't help, they won't listen, but if they were to receive thousands of calls or messages from their websites, they would listen!

### **Operation Mail Call is still in need of your help!**

We desperately need cards and letters of encouragement for those who are serving on foreign soil. Many are single, have no family, or are not communicating with family and just need a little encouragement, and know that WE THE PEOPLE do care about them, appreciate them, and thank them for the job that 99.5% of Americans can't or won't do.

Operation Mail Call is designed to address that problem and a little more!

Betty Hidalgo who is the director of VFC's Operation Mail Call Program does her level best to bring a little joy to all those on foreign soil by sending them care packages which she is working all the time to fill them with a little bit of home with cards, letters, baked goods, candies, and sometimes little gag gifts, anything she can find to bring a little joy to their daily lives where they are.

We'd appreciate anything you can do to help us bring a little joy to them, maybe even put a smile on their faces even if only for a few moments. And we know Betty would love to have more cards and letters to put in the care packages.

On behalf of myself and Volunteers nationwide, we wish you and your family good health!

Respectfully,

Jim Davis

Founder

[Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org](mailto:Jim.Davis@Veterans-For-Change.org)

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### ***New Report on VA Spending on Image***

A new study from a government watchdog group called [Open the Books](#) focuses on how much money the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has spent to repair its image instead of repairing the VA system. The study found that between 2012 and 2015, VA had spent \$1.7 million on surveys, nearly \$800 million on furniture,

and \$300 million on jobs like interior designers, gardeners and painters. It also spend millions of dollars on damage control. Nearly half a billion dollars was spent on lawyers. And another \$100 million was spent on public relations. Read the study on the [OpentheBooks.com website](http://OpentheBooks.com).

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## **VIRIDIAN ENERGY HEROES PROGRAM IS MAKING WAVES**

Viridian Energy is proud of our Military and a few years back we came up with The Heroes Program that allows Military Personnel and Veterans the opportunity to belong to a supportive company that wants them to flourish. This program is focused on providing a transition from the military to civilian employment. We are currently working with The Wounded Warrior Project, No Vets Left Behind and various federal, state and local organizations that have formed to help the Active Military and Veterans find jobs in the civilian sector. Viridian Energy is a green energy company that educates the homeowner and business owner on their choices of using greener energy whether it is with electricity, natural gas or solar. As a Viridian associate you will have the opportunity to build your own home based green energy business and we have excellent compensation and bonus plans.

What does the Heroes Program offer?

- All-States Plan (ASP) Associate enrollment at no charge
- First two months of Personal Website (PWS) at no charge, it is \$19.99/per month after
- First box of 250 business cards at no charge at ShopViridian.com

Who qualifies for the Heroes Program?

- Active Military
- Spouses of Active Military
- National Guard and Military Reserve Members
- Veterans with honorable or general discharges

What documentation is required to be eligible?

- Active military and/or their spouses must submit a Statement of Service Letter and permission form for off duty employment from a commanding officer if necessary
- DD-214 (version M-4) Military Service Record for Veterans

Viridian Energy is a company that you can feel proud of, whether it's planting trees in Brazil or putting up solar panels in the Congo, Viridian is making a difference globally. Our growth is exponential and we have a family atmosphere with brilliant people like you. We have recently added Texas, California and Australia to our markets. Here is the list of our current markets: CA, MD, PA, VA, CT, NJ, RI, DE, NM, SC, IL, NY, TX, MA, OH, VT, Wash DC and Australia.

To learn more please watch our short presentation video: [www.viridianpresentation.info](http://www.viridianpresentation.info)

If you have any questions or want to discuss further here is my contact info:

Paul Leinbach [Weesh21@aol.com](mailto:Weesh21@aol.com) [www.viridian.com/leinbach](http://www.viridian.com/leinbach)

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## Operation Mail Call



Operation Mail Call needs your help! We need cards and letters to send to our troops currently serving on foreign soil.

Doesn't have to be anything special, just words of support and thanking them for their service.

If you're a school teacher, please contact me at my E-Mail address at the top, our troops love to hear from kids too!

For more information, visit: <http://veterans-for-change.org/5439-operation-mail-call-2>

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### **Government Accountability Reports**

Management Report: Areas for Improvement in the Federal Reserve Banks' Information Systems Controls.  
<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-601R>

VA Health Care: Improvements Needed for Management and Oversight of Sole- Source Affiliate Contract Development.  
<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-426>

Visa Waiver Program: DHS Should Take Steps to Ensure Timeliness of Information Needed to Protect U.S. National Security.  
<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-498>

Management Report: Areas for Improvement in the Federal Reserve Banks' Information Systems Controls.  
[http://www.gao.gov/restricted/restricted\\_reports](http://www.gao.gov/restricted/restricted_reports)

DOD Small Business Contracting: Use of Sole-Source 8 a Contracts over \$20 Million Continues to Decline.  
<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-557>

Federal Workforce: Distribution of Performance Ratings Across the Federal Government, 2013.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-520R>

Low-Income Housing Tax Credit: Some Agency Practices Raise Concerns and IRS Could Improve Noncompliance Reporting and Data Collection.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-360>

VA Health Care: Improvements Needed for Management and Oversight of Sole-Source Affiliate Contract Development.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-721T>

Defense Inventory: Further Analysis and Enhanced Metrics Could Improve Service Supply and Depot Operations. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-450>

Littoral Combat Ship: Need to Address Fundamental Weaknesses in LCS and Frigate Acquisition Strategies.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-356>

Medicare Fee-For-Service: Opportunities Remain to Improve Appeals Process.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-366>

Low-Income Housing Tax Credit: Some Agency Practices Raise Concerns and IRS Could Improve Noncompliance Monitoring. [http://www.gao.gov/restricted/restricted\\_reports](http://www.gao.gov/restricted/restricted_reports)

Information Technology: Management of Interdependencies between Programs Supporting 2020 Census.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-723T>

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Enhanced Detection Tools and Reporting to Combat Recipient Fraud Are in Development. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-719T>

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**To Contact your Members of Congress**

To Call your Representative: 202-225-2305

To call your Senator: 202-224-3841 or 202-224-3553

To call different members of Congress: 202-224-3121

Toll FREE Number: 866-272-6622

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***State of Emergency for the State of Florida***

The governor of Florida has declared a State of Emergency in several counties due to Tropical Storm Colin. Emergency prescription refill procedures are in place from June 6 - July 06, 2016.

Click [here](#) for details.

Sign up for TRICARE e-mail updates at [www.tricare.mil/subscriptions](http://www.tricare.mil/subscriptions).

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### ***DoD Inspector General Audits Coming***

The Department of Defense (DoD) Office of the Inspector General (IG) has announced several key projects to take place in June 2016, including an audit of the effectiveness of anti-terrorism programs at DoD installations. The audit will determine whether DoD installations are optimizing existing resources to mitigate risk, achieve efficiencies and reduce redundancies. The DoD IG Office will also review and summarize cybersecurity weaknesses identified in previous audit reports and testimonies issued by the DoD audit community and the Government Accountability Office. To view all of the DoD IG Office's announced projects by month and year, visit the Department of Defense, Office of Inspector General [website](#).

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### ***VA Issues Controversial Health Care Proposal***

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing a rule to grant full practice authority to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) when they are acting within the scope of their VA employment. Full practice authority will permit APRNs to assess, diagnose, prescribe medications and interpret diagnostic tests. APRNs are clinicians with advanced degrees and training. APRN's include Certified Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists and Certified Nurse Midwives. All VA APRNs are required to obtain and maintain current national certification. The proposed rule can be found for comment at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

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### ***State of Emergency for the State of Texas***

The governor of Texas has declared a State of Emergency in several counties due to severe flooding. Emergency prescription refill procedures are in place from June 6 - July 06, 2016.

Click [here](#) for details.

Sign up for TRICARE e-mail updates at [www.tricare.mil/subscriptions](http://www.tricare.mil/subscriptions).

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### ***VA Cemeteries Added to Historical Register***

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that the U.S. Department of the Interior has added seven VA national cemeteries to the National Register of Historic Places. The national cemeteries added to the National Register of Historic Places are Baltimore, MD; Fort Bliss, TX; Fort Rosecrans, CA; Fort Sam Houston, TX; Fort Snelling, MN; Golden Gate, CA; and Long Island NY. These cemeteries represent the first modern landscape designs created to honor the sacrifice of thousands of Veterans. Information on VA burial benefits is available from local VA national cemetery offices, from the National Cemetery Administration [webpage](#) or by calling VA regional offices toll-free at 800-827-1000.

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## ***Study Looks at Suicide Risk Factors***

A new study looks at veterans most at risk for suicide attempts. The study looks at a large group of veterans and active servicemembers to help determine timing and other factors that put them at higher risk and ways to help combat the problem. The authors found some surprising results, including the fact that enlisted soldiers who had never been deployed accounted for 61.1 percent of the enlisted soldiers who attempted suicide. The study examined data from 163,178 enlisted soldiers. Of those, 9,650 had attempted suicide during the study period between 2004 to 2009. An abstract of the study is available on the [Journal of the American Medical Association \(JAMA\) Psychiatry website](#).

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***Veterans fought for us; we continue to fight for our Veterans!***

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## ***Wal-Mart Hires Veterans***

Walmart recently announced that it has hired 130,828 veterans since it announced its Veterans Welcome Home Commitment in May 2013. Of those 130,828 veteran hires, 15,176 have been promoted to jobs with higher pay and greater responsibility. Wal-Mart's Veterans Welcome Home Commitment guarantees a job offer to any eligible, honorably discharged U.S. veteran. For more information about Walmart's Veterans Welcome Home Commitment, visit the Wal-Mart Jobs for Veterans [website](#) and follow [@WalmartToday](#) on Twitter.

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### **Veteran Crisis Resources**

Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1  
Military Crisis Line 1-800-273-TALK (8255)  
National Call Center for Homeless Veterans  
1-877-4AID-VET (424.3838)  
VA Caregiver Support Line 1-855-260-3274

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## ***TRICARE to Cover TMS Treatment***

TRICARE recently announced coverage of Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS) as a treatment for major depressive disorder. TMS is used when other depression treatments have not been effective. During TMS treatment, an electromagnetic coil is placed against the patient's scalp. The coil delivers a magnetic pulse through the skull, inducing a low level electric current. The patient receives multiple pulses over several seconds, with each treatment session lasting about 40 minutes. This new benefit is effective May 24, 2016 and

is not a part of a pilot or demonstration program but a part of the basic TRICARE benefit. For more information, visit the TRICARE Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation [webpage](#).

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### ***Working With Horses Can Help Veterans***

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs reports that almost 20 percent of veterans suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). But, many patients say it can be difficult to seek help. That is where the equine-assisted therapy program at Boulder Crest Retreat in Bluemont, VA. Comes in. Veterans can learn to manage stress and begin to feel at peace through walking and grooming the animals at the retreat. The veterans do not ride the horses. In addition to bonding with the horses, the retreat offers free stress recovery programs for veterans and their families. For more information, visit the Boulder Crest Retreat [website](#).

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### ***Veterans-For-Change Website***

If you haven't visited in a while, maybe you should visit today! Since we went back on-line in October 2012 average visitors have been around 1,700 per day and we've had a total of 2,774,311 visitors.

If you subscribe you will have full access to the entire website and best of all it's **FREE** of charge! You just need a valid E-mail address so the system can send you a confirmation E-Mail. Once received, click on the link to be authorized automatically.

We feel we have the largest One-Stop-Shop Veterans website available, and 100% user friendly.

There are era Forums, VA Forums, Mental Health Forum with a licensed clinical worker, and much much more!

[www.veterans-for-change.org](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)

- Documents Library with over 15,000 documents on-line (Updated: **06/01/16**)
- FAQ's with more than 1,600 FAQ's and answers (Updated: **02/20/16**)
- Multiple Forums
- Job Postings (Updated: **05/28/16**)
- Memorial Pages (Updated: **01/02/16**)
- News (Articles On-Line: **5,765**)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than 3,435, Added 4 New Links (Updated: 05/21/16)

If you have a submission for the memorial pages, E-Mail: [Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org](mailto:Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org)

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### ***New Veterans Memorial Opens in Las Vegas***

The \$2.2 million Las Vegas Veterans Memorial was recently opened to the public. The Memorial is located on a 2-acre plaza at the Grant Sawyer State Building in Las Vegas, Nevada. The Memorial is a tribute to all American military sacrifice through history, not just one specific battle or aspect of war. The Memorial has been donated to the State of Nevada by the foundation that built it. For more information, visit the Nevada State Veterans Memorial - a National Tribute [website](#).

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### ***New Pets for Vets Program in Pittsburgh***

The 73-year-old animal adoption advocacy group Animal Friends has announced its new initiative "Pets for Vets Pittsburgh." The new program will pair trained companion pets with veterans who have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injuries (TBI). Another program, "Pets Supporting Vets," offers free pet adoptions for veterans and possibly helps with other needs, such as veterinary care. For more information, visit the [Animal Friends website](#).

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### ***TAPS Provides Care for Families***

The Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) is a national organization providing care for the families of America's fallen military heroes and has offered support to more than 50,000 surviving family members of fallen military and their caregivers since 1994. TAPS also provides peer-based emotional support, grief and trauma resources, grief seminars and retreats for adults, in-person support groups and a 24/7 resource and information helpline for all who have been affected by a death in the Armed Forces. For more information, visit the TAPS [website](#) or call the toll-free TAPS resource and information helpline at 1-800-959-TAPS (8277).

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***Follow us on Twitter***



**<https://twitter.com/Veterans4Change>**

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***Beware of E-mail Spoofs***

The word spoof means to falsify, hoax or deceive. A spoofed email is intentionally altered by the sender to imply that it is coming from a legitimate source such as a bank, company, friend or an online store. The sender will alter the email with a "letterhead" look to imply someone else is trying to contact you. In many cases the spoofed email is a form of phishing or (con man) attack. In other situations, spoofing is a way of dishonestly marketing an online service or trying to sell you a bogus product. Investigate before you click on that email. Opening it may do more harm than you are able to undo. When in doubt, delete the e-mail. Also, refrain from using the "reply all" option in your emails, and install a good anti-virus program.

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**IF YOU WANT US TO FIGHT TO GET YOU DENIED MEDICAL BENEFITS/CARE OR HAVING PROBLEMS GETTING YOUR DISABILITY EMAIL US.**

My non-profit company Minnesota Veterans Advocacy Group, Inc. and the American Legion are the only organization that are representing any veterans who is denied a medical benefit or care. No other VSO or certified advocate or attorney (maybe one still checking them out) doing this.

If this has happened to any of you email me at [mnvag@comcast.net](mailto:mnvag@comcast.net) with you name, phone#, and last 4. With a page or less of what happened and the name/s of who denied you and what department. Also tell us if you received a denial verbally or in writing. If in writing send a copy to us. I will forward that to Rosco Butler at the Legion Headquarters. He is in charge of the Healthcare division. He will then call you back and take action from there to solve the issue. You can now fight back legally to get the healthcare you need.

Do the same thing for disability cases not going right or taking to long. Also any rate increase issues.

Also anyone who thinks they might have a medical neglect malpractice suit against the VA send me the same thing. I have a list of Malpractice attorneys that goes after the VA. If you are still fighting for your disability this does not interfere with that action. As a matter of fact it will help it especially when you win. No fee till the win.

MY COMPANY DOES NOT CHARGE ANYTHING TO HELP YOU.

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### ***Links to Other Stories***

- 1) [\*\*\*Designated 'Fixer' for Troubled VA Hospital Missed The Signs For Years\*\*\*](#)
- 2) [\*\*\*Disgraced VA Director to Be Rehired?\*\*\*](#)

- 3) [For-profit colleges have been ripping off Veterans since World War II](#)
- 4) [Lamborn-backed proposal would dismantle VA's health care system](#)
- 5) [New bill could convert VA healthcare into a nonprofit corporation](#)
- 6) [Official fights to help Veterans](#)
- 7) [Sen. Joni Ernst Calls For Veterans Affairs Secretary's Resignation After Disney Comment](#)
- 8) [Senate NDAA Provision Would Narrow Veterans' Preference](#)
- 9) [VA Admits 25,000 Veterans Received Improper Brain Injury Screening](#)
- 10) [VA Announces Formal Removal of Three Phoenix Health Care System Officials](#)
- 11) [VA Secretary Says Appointment Wait Times Are Not What's Really Important](#)
- 12) [Veteran has Tongue Cancer Surgery - Home in 3 Days](#)

You can help VFC by reading articles posted and commenting at the bottom and rate the articles. If you don't have an account, sign up today, it's FREE. Your comments and rankings tell us what type of information you want most.

Check us out today: [www.veterans-for-change.org](http://www.veterans-for-change.org)

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## **Modernize Commissaries? OK. Privatize? No Way!**

Military associations and the resale industry that supplies groceries to base commissaries are sounding alarms over a provision in the Senate's fiscal 2017 defense authorization bill that would direct the Department of Defense to privatize up to five of its 240 base grocery stores for two years to assess if a commercial grocer can run the entire system. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, is behind the initiative. After years of debate, he wants to learn whether a supermarket chain can operate base grocery stores so efficiently as to generate profits and still deliver robust savings to shoppers.

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Are you seeking employment? Been looking and not found the right job?

Well Veterans-For-Change is working hard to bring you more information on Job Fairs and Job postings available across the country.

<http://veterans-for-change.org/documents-library/category/167-job-fairs-job-postings>

If you're an employer and have a job to post, send an E-Mail to: [Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org](mailto:Jim.Davis@veterans-for-change.org)

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*~We Proudly Support our Military Personnel & Families~*

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If you received this newsletter as a courtesy or a forward from a friend or relative, you can sign up to receive in your E-mail every week.

<https://gem.godaddy.com/signups/193302/join>

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## **Veterans-For-Change, Inc.**

Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today

[www.Veterans-For-Change.org](http://www.Veterans-For-Change.org)

*Serving those who served!*

*Please pass on to all your Veteran Friends and Family*

<b>Distribution</b>	
Express Mail	144,474
Boston	67,689
Courtesy Copies	3,500
Department of VA	11,926
DoD	10,347
Face Book Pages	3,251
Google	2,536
Los Angeles	117,952
Microsoft	3,200
New York	133,819
Other Social Media	23,505
San Francisco	68,704
Twitter	32
US House of Reps & Staff	829
US Senators & Staff	96
University of So. California	2,427
US Air Force	29,601

US Army	41,288
US Marines	21,059
US Navy	19,258
Veterans	19,051,561
Washington DC	141,756
Yahoo	134
	19,898,944