



Veterans-*For-Change* Special Release

A Voice of the Veterans

Putting you in control of your disability claim

Last month, VA reached a historic low in the disability claims backlog by dipping below 100,000 to 98,535 – and the number of these claims (pending more than 125 days) has come down even further since. This milestone means that VA is processing disability claims faster and more efficiently so that Veterans, their families, and Survivors get the benefits they deserve.

By participating in the Fully Developed Claims program, Veterans and Survivors can take charge of their claims by submitting all relevant records with their claims at once. The fastest way to receive a decision on your disability claim is by filing an FDC electronically through eBenefits.va.gov.

Visit VA's website to learn more about filing an electronic Fully Developed Claim and what you can do to get started.

http://www.benefits.va.gov/FDC/index.asp?utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_content=message2&utm_campaign=FDC%20promotion

VFC Newsletter PDF Version

On Friday we mistakenly posted an incorrect web link to this weeks newsletter. Below is the correct link!

<http://veterans-for-change.org/documents-library/summary/139-2015-newsletters/38154-314-vfc-newsletter>

Veterans Need a Champion, is that Champion Donald Trump?

Trump has establishing a hotline and email address for veterans to share their stories on how the Veterans Administration should be reformed. He pledges that if elected president he will take care of the veteran complaints "very quickly and efficiently like a world-class businessman can do, but a politician has no clue."

The hotline is 855-VETS-352 and email is veterans@donaldtrump.com.

Trump stated, "This disgraceful omission is unacceptable and yet another example of our incompetent politicians. It is a simple yet meaningful and important gesture that signifies our respect and recognition for these great soldiers who lost their lives. We must do better for all Americans, especially our military. We must Make America Great Again!"

A senior member of Trump's campaign told News the hotline is a place for veterans to share their stories. Trump will be personally responding to some of the messages.

(This is not an endorsement of any candidate for office, but an outlet for Veterans to be heard!)

VA Health Care: When You're In, You're In

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) operates the largest health care system in the country, with over 1,400 sites of care nationwide. When you become enrolled in the VA health care system, it's for a lifetime. You are instantly and automatically entitled to receive care at any VA location without ever having to register for VA health care benefits again. Learn more at: http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/division_fish.asp?dnum=1

After you enroll, you can immediately start receiving your health care at a VA facility, or at a later date - the choice is yours. Enrolling in the VA health care system is quick and easy - just complete an online Application for Health Benefits online at: <https://www.1010ez.med.va.gov/sec/vha/1010ez/> Need help enrolling? Contact the VA toll free at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

Veteran reunions and 3,000 Agent Orange surveys

We wanted to let you all know that we reached our 3,000th story submission this week. Thank you all so much for sharing your stories. Every little bit helps our investigation.

Our goal is to get to 5,000 surveys completed by vets or their family members. So, please, if you know a Vietnam vet or group that supports vets, please share our survey with them. Here's the link: <http://propub.ca/1FChJQJ>.

We also wanted to give you a snapshot of who has submitted so far. Here's a quick breakdown of all the respondents:

Military Branch

Army: 1,530
Navy: 663
Air Force: 407
Marine Corps: 390
Coast Guard: 12

Location of Service

South Vietnam: 2,517
At Sea: 224
US: 59
Thailand: 53
Korea: 20
Cambodia: 17
Laos: 9
Other: 69

Did you handle any defoliants during the Vietnam War era?

Yes: 550
No: 1,216
Don't know: 1,222

Do you think you were exposed to Agent Orange?

Yes: 2,611
No: 38
Don't know: 351

Reunions

Many of you participate in various types of reunions for the ship you served on or the unit you were in, or attend other types of gatherings regarding your veteran status. We'd like to plug in to some of those groups to connect with more vets, share our Agent Orange work and survey. If you attend these gatherings, organize them or know about them in some capacity, we would really appreciate a heads up. If you could email us a link to the reunion group or where the reunion information is publicly listed, or put us in touch with an organizer, we'd like to reach out. Thanks so much!

Best,

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Tax Exemptions for Disabled & Benefits by State

Tax Exemptions for Disabled Veterans by State 2015
<http://veterans-for-change.org/documents-library/send/223-benefits-book/37219-tax-exemptions-for-disabled-veterans-by-state>

Veterans Benefits By State
<http://veterans-for-change.org/documents-library/category/223-benefits-book>

VA Disability Rating Calculator

<http://veterans-for-change.org/documents-library/summary/255-credit-finance/38060-va-disability-rating-calculator>

Herbicide Manual for Noncropland Weeds-03-1965

<http://veterans-for-change.org/documents-library/send/204-agent-orange/38115-herbicide-manual-for-noncropland-weeds-03-1965>

Courtesy: Steve House

Tactical Grade Herbicides and Pesticides Pages 6163-6200

<http://veterans-for-change.org/documents-library/send/204-agent-orange/38116-tactical-grade-herbicides-and-pesticides-pages-6163-6200>

Courtesy: Steve House

Veterans-For-Change, Inc.

Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today
www.veterans-for-change.org

Serving those who served!

Please pass to all your Veteran friends and family!

