



Veterans-For-Change Newsletter

A Voice of the Veterans

Week Ending Sunday, August 28, 2016
Volume 7, Issue 32

This-N-That

Theft, mismanagement, poor treatment or no treatment for Veterans is so rampant within the VA healthcare system it's far worse than pathetic. In my eyes it's blatant murder!

VA employee's who report mismanagement, or wrong doing no matter what it is always trying to do the right thing seem to always have something that amounts to retaliation and putting fear into others preventing them from reporting problems.

And VA upper echelon doesn't seem to give a damn as long as it doesn't affect them directly, then bring in the good old boys protection nothing ever changes.

In Los Angeles, a VA Employee reported missing vehicles from the motor pool, misuse of travel card for non VA purchases which brought down on them an intense investigation.

And all that happened was the person in charge was given a letter of reprimand and allowed to keep his job, but the same person found a way to terminate without cause the person who reported it in the first place.

Then in New York, a Veteran visited the ER in Long Island for urgent medical care, and was turned away, not provided any care, walked back out to his car and shot himself. All part of the TWENTY-TWO suicides per day and all at the hands of the VA.

How many lives must be lost needlessly before Veterans get angry and begin to take action? How many lives must be lost needlessly before CONGRESS takes serious and immediate action?

Delays and denials on Veteran claims, refusal of service in VA Hospitals, long waits in patient lounges to see a Doctor if you're lucky or a Nurse Practitioner, who may or may not actually provide the medical attention needed all needs to come to halt.

Every week I receive on average 8-30 complaints regarding medical care, claims denials, etc. And every week I am sending those complaints (Names and E-Mail addresses redacted) to that Veterans Senators, and every week I am sending those same complaints via fax blast to all 535 members of Congress to show them all is not well and urging them all to take heed and actually do the right thing and produce legislation forcing change in

the VA to provide the services and benefits to all those who served in a timely fashion as they themselves would expect when they visit a doctor or hospital.

But we need YOUR help as well. Further down in every newsletter are numbers you can use to call your Congressman and Senators to voice your opinions, expectations and demands needing their attention to help ALL Veterans.

We need you to call them, tell them we need their help. Then go to their websites and send the exact same message. And to help push it, we also ask you send an E-Mail to your entire address book asking all your family, friends, and fellow Veterans to do the same thing.

Just be brief, polite, and be sure to thank the person you spoke with for their time.

If we keep putting pressure on them, WE can all help force change!

And as always, if you have a problem with a claim, appeal, getting appointments, receiving proper, and timely delivered medical care, suffered abuse at the hands of a VA Employee, please keep writing me.

Tell me your story, and if you're able to provide VA employee names, please do. It's important we weed out the bad apples, we know there are tons of medical people out there that need jobs and are willing to do the best they can, they just need the job to do it and again WE can force change, but we need YOU to help make it happen!

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

State of Emergency Declared in Several Washington Counties due to Wildfires

The governor of Washington has declared a State of Emergency in the following counties due to wildfires:

- Adams
- Asotin
- Benton
- Chelan
- Columbia
- Douglas
- Ferry
- Franklin
- Garfield
- Grant
- Klickitat
- Lincoln
- Okanogan
- Pend Oreille
- Spokane
- Stevens
- Yakima
- Walla Walla
- Whitman
-

Emergency refill procedures are in place from August 23, 2016 through September 22, 2016.

Click [here](#) for more information.



Tricare Now Covering Transgender Treatment Options

The U.S. military's Tricare health care system now covers transgender military family members and retirees, despite the official policy not yet going live, a top official said. "I'm not going to wait for the final policy," Navy Vice Adm. Raquel Bono, head of the Defense Health Agency, said in a wide-ranging interview with Military.com on Thursday at [Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson](#). "We're going to go ahead and do that because that's what our patients need," she said. The policy, published for public comment [in the Federal Register](#) in February, will allow for hormone therapy and mental health counseling for "gender dysphoria," the clinical term for those who identify as a different gender than the sex they were assigned at birth. Tricare is prohibited by law from covering sex-change surgery.

Consumer Protection Resources

In the aftermath of the economic crash nearly a decade ago, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) was created in 2011. The CFPB [website](#) offers a collection of free programs and resources. There is also a dedicated [webpage](#) for veterans and servicemembers where they can access information, resource and file a complaint. CFPB also has certified financial coaches at 40 locations nationwide, stationed at Department of Labor American Job Centers. For more information, visit the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau website.

Eliminate RX Costs TRICARE Doesn't Cover

Doctor and hospital bills are expensive even when you're covered by TRICARE. Help minimize or even eliminate out-of-pocket expenses with the [TRICARE Insurance Supplement Plan](#).

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

VA Office Undergoes Transformation

The Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Office of Information and Technology (OI&T) has launched new functions, overhauled cumbersome processes, mitigated more than 21 million cyber vulnerabilities, and refocused on "doing" over "documenting" — all to improve the Veteran experience. OI&T released its *Midyear Transformation Review* earlier this month, a comprehensive report and corresponding public webpage that tells the story of the office's transformation efforts.

Alabama's New One-Stop Vet Resource

Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley has announced the launch of a new [website](#) designed to be a one-stop source for Alabama veterans seeking resources and services. The AlaVetNet website provides links to the services offered through the Alabama Executive Veterans Network, which unites non-profits, state agencies and businesses to develop policies to serve Alabama veterans. The website contains a directory of these services divided into regions: behavioral health, legal, education, medical, employment, transportation, family services, VA benefits and services, housing and living and miscellaneous.

Operation Mail Call

*Troops resting on long deployments
- your support matters*



Veterans-For-Change - Operation Mail Call

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

Our men and women in uniform often go months without hugging their children, walking through the park with a significant other or enjoying Mom's home-cooked Sunday dinners.

Ask them where they'd go if they had a free plane ticket anywhere in the world, and the overwhelming majority would say, "home."

Of course, we can't replace the hugs, the love or the secret family chili recipe – but with your help, we can provide them a connection to their fellow Americans who are grateful for their service.

Now, we're hoping you'll take your support to the next level by sending more cards and letters. Hand made cards by your children, or class mates are a terrific means of putting smiles on their faces even if only for a moment.

Cards and Letters of encouragement to help boost moral and let them know we sincerely appreciate the job they are doing and look forward to they day they are all brought home. Your card or letter will show your appreciation and help thousands more American heroes feel connected to the people they love and the country they serve.

Please help us to make a powerful expression of how much their fellow Americans care about them.

Thank you so much for all you're doing to show our service men and women they are appreciated missed and loved.

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>

Government Accountability Reports

Patriot Modernization: Oversight Mechanism Needed to Track Progress and Provide Accountability.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-488>

SEC Conflict Minerals Rule: Companies Face Continuing Challenges in Determining Whether Their Conflict Minerals Benefit Armed Groups. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-805>

Flood Insurance: Review of FEMA Study and Report on Community-Based Options.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-766>

Force Structure: Better Information Needed to Support Air Force A-10 and Other Future Divestment Decisions.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-816>

Medicare Part B: Data on Coupon Discounts Needed to Evaluate Methodology for Setting Drug Payment Rates.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-643>

Navy Obligated Service Guidance

The Navy Personnel Command (NPC) recently released guidance to the fleet on obligated service (OBLISERV) requirements. NPC policy states Sailors must obtain the required OBLISERV within 30 days of receipt of orders and prior to executing permanent change of station (PCS) orders. If OBLISERV has not been met 35 days after orders have been released, then a general administration (GENADMIN) note will be sent to all applicable commands. This GENADMIN will advise Sailors to expedite reenlistment/extension, let NPC know if there are any constraints, or if an extension waiver is required. The new guidance provides predictability to both the Sailor and the detailers. For more information, read [MILPERSMAN 1306-106](#).

VA Leads Genetic Research

The Veterans Health Administration now has the world's largest genomic database. VA has collected 500,000 samples from U.S. military veterans to aid in gene-based research of conditions such as cancer, diabetes and PTSD to develop future treatments and possible cures for these illnesses and others. The voluntary project is called the Million Veteran Program (MVP). No other medical research facility has ever had such a massive data set in this field. The program aims to help doctors understand the genetic component of why some patients respond to treatment, why others do not and whether some people are more prone to illnesses. For more information, visit the Million Veteran Program website at [website](#).



Protect Your TRICARE Health Information

A thief can use your name or health insurance numbers to see a doctor, get prescription drugs, file claims with your insurance provider, or get other care. Protect your personal health data when entering it into your wearable devices, mobile apps and websites, especially those with interactive tools that track your information. Limit the number of apps that can access your healthcare data directly, and adjust the app settings to restrict the number of other apps they share data with. Set your preference to update them often. Research apps before downloading them. For more information about cyber fitness, visit the TRICARE Cybersecurity Awareness [webpage](#).

VA Conducts Colon Cancer Trials

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has embarked on a landmark study to understand which test is best for colorectal cancer screening. The CONFIRM trial is a large randomized study directly evaluating the two most commonly used approaches to colorectal cancer screening in the United States. Specifically, the study will compare an annual stool-based fecal immunochemical test (or FIT) to a one-time screening colonoscopy. The study is intended to provide a definitive answer to the question of which test is best. 40,000 participants have already enrolled in the study through study coordinators at 40 VA centers. The results of the study are still many years away. For more information on becoming a participant, visit ClinicalTrials.gov.

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

Veterans Sought for TV Series

Metal Flowers Media & Leftfield are looking to cast military women and men to serve as coaches in a new broadcast network competition. The series is searching for former elite military individuals, who have the ability to transform and inspire everyday Americans. They are casting heavily credentialed and experienced veterans who can lead teams through mental and physical challenges. Through these challenges, these veterans will help their teams discover an inner strength they didn't know they had. This show will include real-life heroes from diverse backgrounds and TOP branches of the United States armed forces. Natural leaders, mentors, and motivators with transformational mentoring abilities are a definitive plus. For more information, visit the Metal Flowers [website](#).

Veterans-For-Change Web Site

The Veterans-For-Change website has been under construction since day one back in 2009 and every day since then. The looks pretty much stay the same, but in the background constant improvement and change is being done to make our website the most user friendly "One-Stop-Shop" website to find almost everything you might have tried to find searching the internet.

Almost a hundred people have been involved; collecting web links to documents now houses on the VFC website, collecting thousands of web links for various issues, illnesses and benefits. Creating forums for all eras of service and two forums one just for men and one just for woman where you can go question, comment, share medical and personal concerns, what ever you'd like it to be.

We also have a forum with a licensed Mental Health Worker, again where you can seek help or just ask questions.

We average 1,700 hits per day, and downloads average 1,400 per day with a total **2,956,024** visitors as of Friday.

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.

www.veterans-for-change.org

- Documents Library with over 15,616 documents on-line (Updated: **08/02/16**)
- FAQ's with more than 1,600 FAQ's and answers (Updated: **02/20/16**)
- Multiple Forums
- Job Postings (Updated: **08/20/16**)
- Memorial Pages (Updated: **01/02/16**)
- News (Articles On-Line: **5,963**)
- Polls
- Web Links, more than 3,443, Added 1 New Links (Updated: **08/22/16**)

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

Voting Assistance Officers Help Soldiers

The Army Voting Assistance Program oversees the more than 3,000 voting assistance officers Army-wide who are dedicated to ensuring Soldiers everywhere have the tools and information they need to be able to vote. Soldiers who want to vote in November should act now. The way to do that is by seeking out a unit voting assistance officer and then filling out a Federal Post Card Application. Soldiers can also download the form from the Federal Voting Assistance Program [website](#). The FVAP.Gov website provides deadlines for registering to vote, requesting a ballot, and mailing a ballot. Each state has different requirements. For more information, contact your voting assistance officer where you are stationed.



<https://twitter.com/Veterans4Change>

A provides service dog benefits to Veterans with mental health disorders

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that it is piloting a protocol to implement veterinary health benefits for mobility service dogs approved for Veterans with a chronic impairment that substantially limits mobility associated with mental health disorders.

“We take our responsibility for the care and safety of Veterans very seriously,” said VA Under Secretary for Health, Dr. David J. Shulkin. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to providing appropriate, safe and effective, compassionate care to all Veterans. Implementing the veterinary health benefit for mobility service dogs approved for Veterans with a chronic impairment that substantially limits mobility associated with mental health disorders may prove to be significantly beneficial for some Veterans. The Service Dog Benefits Pilot will evaluate this premise.”

VA has been providing veterinary benefits to Veterans diagnosed as having visual, hearing or substantial mobility impairments and whose rehabilitation and restorative care is clinically determined to be optimized through the assistance of a guide dog or service dog. With this pilot, this benefit is being provided to Veterans with a chronic impairment that substantially limits mobility associated with a mental health disorder for whom the service dog has been identified as the optimal way for the Veteran to manage the mobility impairment and live independently.

Service dogs are distinguished from pets and comfort animals because they are specially trained to perform tasks or work for a specific individual with a disability who cannot perform the task or accomplish the work independently. To be eligible for the veterinary health benefit, the service dog must be trained by an organization accredited by Assistance Dogs International in accordance with VA regulations.

Currently, 652 Veterans with approved guide or service dogs receive the veterinary service benefit. This Pilot is anticipated to provide the veterinary service benefit to up to 100 additional Veterans with a chronic impairment that substantially limits mobility associated with a mental health disorder.

The VA veterinary service benefit includes comprehensive wellness and sick care (annual visits for preventive care, maintenance care, immunizations, dental cleanings, screenings, etc.), urgent/emergent care, prescription medications, and care for illnesses or disorders when treatment enables the dog to perform its duties in service to the Veteran.

Additional information about VA’s service dog program can be found at <http://www.prosthetics.va.gov/ServiceAndGuideDogs.asp>

Links to Other Stories

- [*1\) A Civil War Veteran goes home via cross-country motorcycle ride*](#)
- [*2\) Dog Tag Brewing Signs Partnership Agreement With Pabst Brewing Company*](#)
- [*3\) Health and Wellness Expo held during 2016 NVGAG*](#)
- [*4\) I am here to help, that is my gift to you*](#)
- [*5\) Navy Veteran blind for 19 years sees hope again*](#)

- 6) [One-Handed Woman Pedaling 1,000 Miles to Honor 12 Fallen Marines and Raise Money for 12 Service Dogs for Wounded Vets](#)
- 7) [Tri-Agency Partnership Working to Tailor Cancer Care Based on Genes, Proteins](#)
- 8) [VA Whistleblower Gets the Boot](#)
- 9) [Veterans Memorial Vandal Stole Truck Off Dealer Lot, Led Cops on Slow-Speed Chase: Police](#)

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



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



~We Proudly Support our Military Personnel & Families~

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>



Veterans-For-Change, Inc.

Riverside County, CA

Visit our website today

www.Veterans-For-Change.org

Serving those who served!

Please pass on to all your Veteran Friends and Family

Distribution	
Express Mail	144,571
Boston	73,619
Courtesy Copies	3,500
Department of VA	12,145
DoD	12,435
Face Book Pages	3,306
Google	7,858
Los Angeles	133,083
Microsoft	3,709
National Guard	1626
New York	150,578
Other Social Media	30,485
San Francisco	80,284
Twitter	33
US House of Reps & Staff	829
US Senators & Staff	99
University of So. California	3,699
US Air Force	30,968

US Army	39,925
US Marines	22,236
US Navy	22,057
Veterans	19,068,373
Washington DC	143,891
Yahoo	134
	19,989,443

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