

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

WEEKLY UPDATE

Week Ending — 01/10/2025

Division Operations

Meetings:

- January 6: Director attended the VA Undersecretary of Health's Roundtable to discuss VA budget submission draft for the 119th Congress.
- January 7: Director attended the Virtual Rudisell VBA meeting to discuss the changes in the education benefits that will impact Veterans who paid into Montgomery GI Bill.
- January 10: Director met with Health Policy Team to discuss System Worth Saving site visits for 2025. Director attended HVAC Subcommittee on Health discussion regarding the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Community Care Network (CCN) and related community care efforts.

Health Policy Team (HPT) Operations

Meetings:

- January 8: Discussion with the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) workgroup on the new proposed eligibility rules for the program
- January 9: Continuation of the January 8th PCAFC meeting.

Legislative Bill Reviews:

- **Helping Heroes Act**
 - To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish the Veteran Family Resource Program, and for other purposes

Position: **Support**

Supporting Resolutions: Support

- [Resolution No. 17](#): Continuum of Care and Mental Health Supports
- [Resolution No. 18](#): Comprehensive Supports for Caregiver Support Program

- **Support for Improving Veteran Access to Care Act**
 - To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish an integrated project team to improve the process for scheduling appointments for health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purpose

Position: **Support**

Supporting Resolutions: Support

- [Resolution No. 14](#): Access to Care

- **Barring Act**
 - To remove the six-year statute of limitations on certain claims against the United States Government by survivors of members of the Armed Forces who died in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001.

Position: **Support with changes**

Supporting Resolutions:

- [Resolution No. 22](#): Surviving Families Benefits | Digital Archive

Claims & Appeals Team Operations

Accreditations

- Applications Received from TAL Departments	10
- Certifications Submitted by TAL Washington Office	10
- Certifications Approved by VA's Office of General Counsel	0

The American Legion Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) Unit

- AMA Appeals Pending (125+ Days)	0
- Informal Hearing Presentations (IHPs) Prepared	336
- Memos Generated	3
- Phone Inquiries	146
- Internal Quality Reviews	0
- Individual Training	0 hours
- Team Training	0 hours
- Hearings	2
- Board Dispositions	134
o Appeals Granted	37 (27.6%)
o Remanded	74 (55.2%)
o Denied	20 (14.9%)
o Other	3 (2.2%)
- Retroactive Awards Won for Veterans	\$1,368,651

National Veterans Service Office

- Phone Calls	74
- Emails	8
- Referrals	0
- Discharge Upgrades	1
- Written Correspondence	0
- Claims Submitted	9
- Evidence Submitted	0
- POA Submitted	2
- Training Hours	0
- HLR Informal Conference Calls	0

Pension & Debt Management

- New Claims	34
- Supporting Submissions	3
- Sensitive Claims	7
- Rating Reviews/Audits	220
- Contacts	300
- Debt Notices Received	159
- Insurance Questions	0
- Waivers Granted	85
- Hearings	0
- Misc. Notification Letters Processed	0
- Debt Waiver Granted	\$1,446,788

Benefits Policy Team (BPT) Operations

Meetings:

- January 2: Deputy Director for Benefits & Claims (DDBC) and Legislative Associate met with House Veterans Affairs Committee Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs (DAMA) staff discussing Chairman Bost's Second Amendment Bill issues.
- January 7: Policy team attended the Virtual Rudisell VBA meeting to discuss the changes in the education benefits that will impact Veterans who paid into Montgomery GI Bill.
- January 8: With the claimant's permission, the Policy Team observed a live Board of Veterans' Appeals hearing.
- January 9: DDBC and Policy Analyst attended a roundtable hosted by HVAC DAMA staff with other organizations discussing the VA mental incompetency issue with firearms.
- January 10: DDBC hosted monthly Department Service Officer leadership call to collect information on current claims trends and issues.

Projects:

- Policy team has drafted a resolution on Congressional CUTGO issue.
- Policy team is preparing for presentation on 2024 ROAR visits scheduled during the Washington conference.
- Policy team is working on revising the Service Officer Code of Procedure.

DSO Program:

- January ALAT 101 Course begins on January 13.

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Director

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division

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End of VA&R weekly update – 01/10/2025