

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

WEEKLY UPDATE

Week Ending — 02/07/2025

Division Operations

Meetings:

- February 3: Division director attended VA&R Division's first session of brief for Commander's testimony.
- February 3: Director attended American Legion Board of Veterans Affairs Appeals monthly connect.
- February 4: Director attended Government Weekly Leadership Meeting.
- February 4: Director attended VA&R Brief for Commander's Testimony – second session.
- February 5: Director attended VA&R Brief for Commander's Testimony – third session.
- February 5: Director submitted a Statement for the Record for the House Veterans Affairs Committee on Community Care
- February 6: Director attended the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation Oversight Hearing titled, "[VA Accountability: What has Happened to Hampton?](#)".
- February 6: Director attended a Black Feather Foundation event.
- February 7: Director attended a Senate roundtable on VA's Workforce Posture

Health Policy Team (HPT) Operations

Meetings:

- February 3: Health Policy Team (HPT) and VA&R Director met with the Chairman of VA&R Commission and provided a brief regarding community care issues facing veterans and The American Legion's legislative positions.
- February 5: HPT and VA&R director met with the Chairman of VA&R Commission to discuss the implementation of VA's Electronic Health Record Modernization (EHRM) and The American Legion legislative positions.
- February 5: HPT virtually attended the VA's Center for Women Veterans monthly meeting that discussed heart disease and how it affects women veterans.

Legislative Bill Reviews:

- **H.R. X – 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:

- [Resolution No. 7: Ensuring VA Remain the Center of Care](#)
- [Resolution No. 30: Continued Operation of the Family Support Network](#)

Claims & Appeals Team Operations

Accreditations

- Applications Received from TAL Departments	18
- Certifications Submitted by TAL Washington Office	22
- Certifications Approved by VA's Office of General Counsel	9

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

- AMA Appeals Pending (125+ Days)	0
- Informal Hearing Presentations (IHPs) Prepared	249
- Memos Generated	3
- Internal Quality Reviews	3
- Individual Training	1 hour
- Team Training	0 hours
- Hearings	1
- Board Dispositions	88
o Appeals Granted	27 (30.7%)
o Remanded	46 (52.3%)
o Denied	12 (13.6%)
o Other	3 (3.4X%)
 Retroactive Awards Won for Veterans	 \$1,510,080

National Veterans Service Office

- Phone Calls	140
- Emails	33
- Referrals	12
- Discharge Upgrades	2
- Written Correspondence	0
- Claims Submitted	19
- Evidence Submitted	0
- POA Submitted	5
- Training Hours	0

Pension & Debt Management

- New Claims	35
- Supporting Submissions	3
- Sensitive Claims	4
- Rating Reviews/Audits	207
- Contacts	293
- Debt Notices Received	293
- Insurance Questions	0
- Waivers Granted	67
- Hearings	0
- Miscellaneous Notification Letters Processed	211
- Debt Waiver Granted	\$1,333,282

Benefits Policy Team (BPT) Operations

Meetings

- Jan 30th - Policy Team virtually attended a VSO PACT Act / Toxic Exposure Group meeting.
- Feb 3rd – Benefits Policy Team attended the House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) Majority “Call-in” to learn about proposed mark-up hearings and proposed legislation hearings on the horizon.
- Feb 5th – Deputy Director for Benefits & Claims (DDBC) attended Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) VSO Bi-weekly check-in meeting. The meeting discussed new VBA senior leadership changes and other mutually concerned issues.
- Feb 5th – Benefits & Claims Services conducted monthly Department Service Officer (DSO) Leadership Check-in to discuss mutually concerned matters from the field.
- Feb 5th – Benefits Policy Analyst and Legislative Associate attended a VSO meeting with legal experts from the National Organization of Veteran Advocates (NOVA) and National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) concerning anticipated legislation concerning unaccredited claims agents, hosted by Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

Projects

- The Policy team is working with Department of France and the Department of Latin America on a joint resolution regarding the Foreign Medical Program. A follow-up meeting will be held once VA OIG reports concerning FMP are published.
- The 2024 ROAR Report and presentation is under Review.
- The Service Officer Code of Procedure 2025 edition is being drafted.

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End of VA&R weekly update – 02/07/2025