

Veteran Service Officer (VSO)

SUMMARY

The Veteran Service Officer (VSO) is appointed by the Organization Service Director (SD) and serves as an official veteran's representative as recognized by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. In Alaska our VSO's work under the following Organizations: Veterans of Foreign Ward (VFW), American Legion, Disabled American Veterans (DAV) and the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA).

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Technical Responsibilities:

- Advises and aids veterans or dependents in presenting disability, insurance, or pension claims for benefits under federal, state, or local laws;
- Reviews legislation, regulations, and precedents, and studies veteran's medical reports and service histories to evaluate and determine validity of claims;
- Obtains claimant's Power of Attorney (POA);
- Prepares claim forms and briefs and assembles pertinent evidence;
- Requests hearings before government boards and presents briefs;
- Reviews board decisions for grounds for appeal;
- Prepares and represents clients at all court hearings;
- Advises veteran on insurance, vocational, and other matters, working in cooperation with Veterans Administration and other agencies;
- Prepares bulletins and correspondence to acquaint field representatives with current activities and legislation;
- Participates in or initiates civic functions, such as panel discussions and mass communication programs, to inform public of services rendered and rights and benefits of
- May offer technical advice at congressional or other governmental hearings

Each of the service organizations have headquarters in Alaska and we have today a total of 18 service officers. They are located in Anchorage and the VA facility and in my office, they are also located in Kenai, Juneau, Kodiak, Wasilla and Fairbanks. We have a person who is a volunteer in Craig and one in Homer and are accredited by the VFW.