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130

COMMITTEE REPORT

HOUSE

2/6/81

FURTHER: FINANCE

(5)

Date: April 16, 1981

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on HEALTH, EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES has had HB 130

"An Act making special appropriations to establish programs to deal with post-traumatic stress disorder; and providing for an effective date."

under consideration and (a majority of the committee) (the committee) reports it back with the following recommendations:

- do pass do not pass
- do pass with attached amendments(s)
- replace with CS for HB 130 same title
 new title
- and recommends _____
- AND attaches a "Letter of Intent" New Fiscal Note
- reports it back without recommendation
- referred to the _____ Committee

MEMBERS SIGNING
DO PASS

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

MEMBERS HAVING
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

[Signature]
 CHAIRMAN

PLEASE NOTE: THE FOLLOWING PAGES WERE TREATED
AS A UNIT IN THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.



**House of Representatives
State of Washington
Olympia**

REPORT TO HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

. Submitted by

House Select Committee on Vietnam Era Veterans;

January 19, 1981



House of Representatives
State of Washington
Olympia

FOREWORD

This report is in response to House Floor Resolution No. 80-187 creating the House Select Committee on Vietnam Era Veterans. The findings in this report are the result of four public hearings, numerous contacts between Committee members and veterans, discussions with veteran service providers and staff research. Public hearings were held in Seattle, Spokane and Tacoma. Committee members or staff met with representatives of the veteran service organizations numerous times, including five meetings with the Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee, the United Veteran Organization, King County Veterans Appeal Board, Tacoma and Seattle Mayors' Committees on Veterans and the Vietnam Era Veterans Network of Washington. Veteran service providers, some of these including the Department of Veteran Affairs, Veterans Administration, Vet Centers, SEA-VAC, Employment Security and the Department of Labor, were extremely helpful and cooperative. This assistance was a significant factor in the completion of this report and is gratefully acknowledged.

Steve Tupper

Representative Steve Tupper

Rick S. Bender

Representative Rick S. Bender

Co-Chairmen

House Select Committee on Vietnam Era Veterans

Members:

Representative Dan Dawson
Representative Dan McDonald
Representative Rollie Schmitt
Representative Roger Van Dyken

Representative Wendell Brown
Representative Jerry Hughes
Representative Paul Pruitt
Representative Gary Scott

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SECTION II

Summary of Major Items

House Floor Resolution 80-107 established a House Select Committee to study and report on feasible state actions concerning the "severe problem" of Vietnam Era Veterans.

The severe problems of readjustment to society are indicated at least in part by statistics, e.g., a twenty percent unemployment rate. Difficult to quantify but a significant contributor to readjustment problems is post-traumatic stress disorder -- "post-Vietnam stress". Several factors contributing to post-Vietnam stress (defined broadly) include the length of the Vietnam conflict, the rapid return to society, and the extreme unpopularity of American involvement. Recent studies show Americans are beginning to separate the war from the warrior and recognize an obligation to those who served during the Vietnam era.

Traditionally, veterans' programs have been based on two concepts. First as a form of recognition for extraordinary services rendered by a citizen. Second to assist the transition into civilian society after a career disruption due to military service.

To successfully deal with the problems of veterans the whole spectrum of needs must be addressed. Obviously, there are a number of good veteran programs. However, an extreme lack of coordination and knowledge of other programs was evident among many veterans' service providers. A state level Veterans Program Coordination Council should be established with members from the various state agencies with programs that impact upon veterans, business, labor, local government and ad hoc members from the Legislature. Participation should also be solicited from appropriate federal agencies. (Recommendation 1)

To help provide more efficient delivery of existing services to veterans, multi-service centers should be established where demand warrants. King, Spokane and Pierce counties have veteran aid offices which, statutorily administer the indigent veteran's relief fund (Chapter 73.08 RCW). These offices also attempt to deal with additional needs of veterans such as employment and benefit counseling. The statute should be amended with permissive language to allow counties to establish and operate veteran multi-service centers. State agencies, with veterans' programs, should provide assistance to veterans' multi-service centers. (Recommendation 3)

Washington has two public employment veteran preference statutes. The competitive preference is a point percentage, based on whether or not the veteran is receiving a retirement benefit. The Committee recommends a higher percentage for disabled veterans over other veterans and recognition for service during a congressionally declared period of war. (Recommendation 5)

Currently the noncompetitive preference is written in absolute terms. This has a tremendous impact upon affirmative action plans. As veterans are included in affirmative action protection, the Committee recommends a method to avoid the conflict. Again, there are provisions for disabled veterans and veterans who served during a period of war. (Recommendation 6)

Section II Summary of Major Items

To coincide with all statutory programs the basic definition of veteran was also reviewed. While certain programs justify a narrow definition of a veteran, recognition should be provided for all those who serve. Similar to the federal definition, consideration should be given to a general definition based on length of service and character of discharge. (Recommendation 4)

Education through the federal "G.I. Bill" has been a major veteran benefit. State institutions of higher education have various fee and tuition waiver programs designed to supplement, not replace, federal benefits. The State Council for Postsecondary Education has recently completed a review of all waiver programs. The Committee basically agrees with their recommendation for sunset review. (Recommendation 8) Additionally, the permissive waiver for veterans no longer entitled to federal benefits should be extended to community colleges. (Recommendation 9) Consistency among enrollment data requirements and the sunset review recommendations should also be considered. (Recommendation 10)

With an estimated twenty percent unemployment rate, lack of jobs are a severe problem. To ensure proper utilization of existing programs employer awareness seminars should be scheduled by Employment Security. (Recommendation 11) CETA is an additional employment program that, in part, focuses on Vietnam veterans and disabled veterans. Currently veteran participation is extremely low. Proper emphasis should be placed on following the federal regulations for involving veterans. (Recommendations 13 and 14)

Agent Orange is one of the most sensitive and complex issues faced by both veterans and the government. There is an extreme lack of knowledge as to the effects of herbicide exposure and how many Vietnam veterans were exposed. For a variety of reasons, doubts have been cast upon the Veterans Administration handling of this problem. The Veterans Administration should prepare an objective health study of Vietnam veterans. (Recommendation 15)

As mentioned earlier, post-traumatic stress disorder is a major component of readjustment problems. Post-traumatic stress disorder is not found only in Vietnam veterans. Any stressful event (Mt. St. Helens eruption) could cause similar symptoms. Several state agencies in conjunction with the Veterans Administration outreach counselors are conducting initial training and awareness sessions. Additional training needs to be provided, especially for community mental health professionals. (Recommendation 16)

Several other recommendations are in the text of this report.

SECTION III

Recommendations

Recommendation #1

That the Governor, by Executive Order, or the House of Representatives, by introduction of legislation, act to establish a Veterans Program Coordinating Council to facilitate coordination between existing programs and help insure consistency for future programs.

Recommendation #2

The Department of Veterans Affairs, representatives from the counties, and the Department of Veteran Affairs Veterans Advisory Committee shall meet to establish guidelines for the management of county veterans relief funds.

Recommendation #3

That the House of Representatives consider legislation to permit counties to establish veteran multi-service centers.

Recommendation #4

That the House of Representatives consider legislation removing the "period of war" requirement from the general veteran definition, instead using length of service and type of discharge as basic requirements.

Recommendation #5

That the House of Representatives consider legislation for veteran competitive point preference providing recognition of the greater needs of disabled veterans and a special recognition for veterans who served during a period of war.

Recommendation #6

That the House of Representatives consider legislation to provide veteran non-competitive preference be held in abeyance provided veterans are included in affirmative action goals. Also, to clarify agency positions exempt from non-competitive preference even when in effect.

Recommendation #7

That the House of Representatives consider legislation providing a home loan program involving the private sector to benefit the veteran and the housing market in general. An emergency assistance housing program should also be included following the concept of veterans assisting veterans.

Recommendation #8

That the House of Representatives consider all veteran fee and tuition waivers for sunset review in accordance with Chapter 43.131 RCW by June 30, 1983.

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Recommendation #9

That the House of Representatives consider legislation to extend the permissive waiver of fees and tuition for veterans no longer entitled to federal education benefits to community colleges.

Recommendation #10

That the House of Representatives consider legislation to provide the various waiver programs to statutorily qualified veterans enrolled by May 7, 1983. This date will insure consistency among the established programs and the recommended sunset review date.

Recommendation #11

That the House of Representatives consider budget legislation for employer awareness seminars to insure private sector knowledge of and support for veterans employment programs. These seminars shall be conducted by the Employment Security Department Veterans Services section and coordinated with the Department of Veterans Affairs. At least one seminar should have direct impact upon incarcerated veterans.

Recommendation #12

That the Employment Security Department should reestablish a high-level responsible position for veterans' services.

Recommendation #13

That prime sponsors shall take appropriate steps to increase participation by qualified veterans in accordance with federal regulations. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Comprehensive Employment and Training Act Regulations, 20 C.F.R. Sec. 676.30(a) (1980).

Recommendation #14

That the Washington Employment Service Council shall increase their monitoring of prime sponsor annual and master plans to insure compliance with CETA regulations calling for increased veteran participation.

Recommendation #15

That the House of Representatives consider a House Joint Memorial to the United States Congress and President requesting federal support for an objective Vietnam veteran health study, in particular Agent Orange exposure effects. Special emphasis should be placed on the identification and proper treatment of Vietnam veterans who were exposed or have significant health problems.

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Recommendation #16

That the House of Representatives consider budget legislation providing funding to the Department of Social and Health Services Mental Health Division to establish training sessions on post-traumatic stress disorder. This training shall be coordinated with the Department of Veterans Affairs and Community Mental Health Centers. The training shall focus on community mental health professionals. Consideration should be given to contracting with the Veterans Administration Vet Center staff.

Recommendation #17

That the Department of Veterans Affairs review all veteran laws to bring them up to date and insure consistency.

Recommendation #18

That the Department of Veterans Affairs, coordinated with the Attorney General, study the need for discharge upgrade counseling. Currently, only Seattle Veterans Action Center provides this service within the state.

Recommendation #19

That the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Social and Health Services study the need for increased counseling to veterans incarcerated within the state penal system.

Recommendation #20

That the Department of Veterans Affairs identify a staff member to be responsible for coordinating veteran programs of the various governmental agencies and private organizations.

Recommendation #21

That the Department of Veterans Affairs prepare a referral and resource list of available veterans programs.

SECTION IV

Scope

House Floor Resolution 80-187 was directed toward Vietnam Era Veterans, yet most of the Committee's recommendations will affect all veterans in the State of Washington. The objectives listed in HFR 80-187 are broad enough to cover all areas of veteran concern. Due to time and staff constraints, the Committee decided to focus on those areas of immediate and necessary concern. Many veteran programs are federally funded and created; these will be discussed only as they impact upon state or local government programs.

SECTION V

Findings, Analysis and Recommendations

A. Introduction

HFR 80-187 is predicated on the claim that Vietnam era veterans are, on the whole, experiencing "severe problems in adjusting to society". The scope of the problem is not easily defined. Certainly statistical data, to include an estimated twenty percent unemployment rate (September 1980 Washington State Employment Security Division, Veterans Services) and the increasing number of claimants at the County Veteran Aide Bureaus, begin to indicate the scope of the problem. Perhaps impossible to quantify, but a recurring theme that permeates nearly all Vietnam era veterans problems, is post-traumatic stress disorder. Post-traumatic stress disorder, often referred to as delayed stress or post-Vietnam stress, is a recognized anxiety disorder by the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (3rd Ed.). The recognized symptoms of post-Vietnam stress are varied and each contributes to a veteran's readjustment problem. One recognized symptom that vividly illustrates this affect is a numbing of response to or involvement with the external world as shown by markedly diminished interest in significant activities, i.e., a lack of commitment. It is also significant that the recognized symptoms may be periodic and may not always be severe. While "post-Vietnam stress" (used here in the broad sense related to a number of readjustment problems) may not be measured in precise percentages, it is a significant factor and does contribute to many of the problems manifested by Vietnam era veterans.

Many reasons, none absolute but all a factor, contribute to the presence of readjustment problems in Vietnam era veterans that are different in degree and kind from the problems facing previous war veterans even years after the cessation of fightings. Major American participation in World War I lasted approximately three years; World War II, five years; and Korea, five years. For the Vietnam conflict, the federal government has fixed the period of involvement as eleven years, and several states consider the period to be even longer. This period of involvement being at least twice as long as any other previous major hostility results in several unique problems.

At the end of the previous hostilities, people in the service were in large part returned to civilian life together as a unit. The length of the Vietnam conflict and the jet age created the added pressure of returning the person from the Vietnam theater in a matter of hours. People were not returned by units, and a person could be completely out of the service within 48 hours after leaving Vietnam. This rapid discharge and lack of comradeship caused additional stress for the returning veteran.

There can be no denying the unpopularity of the Vietnam conflict. The returning veteran often faced open hostility due to service during the Vietnam era. Most veterans learned to avoid this confrontation by never admitting to having served during the Vietnam era. A Louis Harris survey commissioned by the United States Veteran's Administration, conducted between November 1979 and March 1980, offers some hope. There is still a great sense that our involvement in Vietnam was wrong; however, a significant majority of the public now have a high regard for those who

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served in Vietnam, separating the war from the warrior. Veterans of previous wars and the general public feel Vietnam veterans have more serious problems than earlier veterans and deserve assistance in coping with their problems.

The rationale for veteran programs traditionally has been twofold. First, our nation desires service in the military. Veterans' programs are a form of recognition for extraordinary service rendered by a citizen. Second, the period of service causes a disruption in the life and career of the veteran, and many veterans' programs are designed to assist reentry into the civilian career market.

Having briefly discussed the scope of the problem and the basis for the obligation, the following sections will present a realistic discussion of areas in which action by the state is feasible and meaningful.

B. Coordination Between Existing Programs

From formal presentations before the Select Committee, staff research, and discussions with veterans, it is apparent there exists a number of significant veterans' programs. Neither the federal Veterans Administration nor the Department of Veterans Affairs have plenary control over the myriad of federal and state veterans' programs. The coordination and lines of responsibility between many federal and state programs are ambiguous, at best. The Committee has heard several veteran service providers profess a lack of knowledge of other veterans' programs, where the programs impact on each other, or followup services would be useful. This lack of coordination and knowledge was evident among all levels of service programs: federal, state, local and private sector.

Coordination between the Department of Veterans Affairs and the private sector nationally chartered veterans' organizations is facilitated by two relationships. The Department of Veterans Affairs has veteran service contract offices with the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veteran, American Veterans (Am Vets), and is considering an office with the Military Order of the Purple Heart. To advise the Governor and Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs, there is a Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee. This advisory committee consists of eleven members, with seven from nationally chartered organizations, two from the state veterans' facilities, and two at large.

To facilitate the coordination of programs and help insure consistency for future programs, a Veterans' Program Coordinating Council should be established. The Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs should be the chairman of this council. Members of the council should include:

- (1) Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services;
- (2) Commissioner of the Department of Employment Security;

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- (3) Director of the Department of Personnel;
- (4) Director of the Department of Labor and Industries;
- (5) Executive Coordinator of the Council for Postsecondary Education;
- (6) Executive Director of the Commission for Vocational Education;
- (7) Executive Director of the State Board for Community College Education;
- (8) Chairman of the Board of Prison Terms and Paroles;
- (9) Director of the Office of Financial Management;
- (10) Adjutant General of the Military Department;
- (11) Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Advisory Committee;
- (12) Representative from the business community;
- (13) Representative from organized labor;
- (14) Two representatives from Local Government Veteran Service Programs;
- (15) Two ad hoc members from the House of Representatives;
- (16) Two ad hoc members from the Senate; and
- (17) The council shall invite participation by pertinent federal agencies (e.g., Veterans Administration, V.A. Medical, Department of Labor, Department of Education, and Department of Human Services).

Each of these agencies have programs which impact upon veterans.

Recommendation #1

That the Governor, by executive order, or the House of Representatives, by introduction of legislation, act to establish a Veterans' Program Coordinating Council to facilitate coordination between existing programs and help insure consistency for future programs.

C. Veteran Multi-Service Centers

A common experience of many veterans is spending unnecessary time being referred from agency to agency. The needs of a veteran are often multiple, e.g., employment referral, veteran benefit counseling, emergency financial assistance, life support services, and educational counseling. There exists only one such center in the state that can truly offer "multi-service" to veterans. Seattle Veterans Action Center

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(SEA-VAC) is staffed by city personnel and has outreach assistance from federal and state agencies to provide employment counseling, veterans benefits counseling, educational counseling, emergency services, and discharge review services. While SEA-VAC is a City of Seattle agency, it is funded entirely by federal monies. Beyond 1981, future federal funding is questionable. In the future, it is reasonable to expect more of the funding responsibility for such programs will fall to state and local government.

Currently, Chapter 73.08 RCW mandates a property tax levy to establish an indigent veterans relief fund. With few exceptions (King, Pierce, Spokane, and Thurston), county administration of this fund is generally still subject to many of the shortcomings noted in the 1976 Performance Audit of Veterans' Service Program by the Legislative Budget Committee.

King, Pierce and Spokane Counties have formal veteran aid offices. Technically, the law provides the fund to be used in the relief of indigent soldiers and sailors, yet all three aid offices provide additional services beyond the mere administration of the veteran relief fund. These additional services include employment referral and benefits counseling. Yet there is no coordination with or assistance from Employment Security, the Department of Veterans Affairs, or other appropriate state or federal agency. This lack of coordination and support hampers the efforts of these offices in providing efficient and needed services to the veterans in their counties.

The statute could be amended to allow counties to provide more efficient service. Permissive language could be drafted retaining the requirement that the existing minimum amount of the levy be available for the relief of indigent veterans, while allowing any amount levied in excess of the minimum (not affecting the existing maximum rate) to be used to establish a veterans' multi-service center. Additional language would provide, if a county chooses to establish a veterans' multi-service center, then any state agency with programs that impact upon veterans located within the county must outreach to the county veterans' multi-service center on a regular basis.

Recommendation #2

The Department of Veterans Affairs, representatives from the counties, and the Department of Veteran Affairs Veterans' Advisory Committee shall meet to establish guidelines for the management of county veterans relief funds.

Recommendation #3

That the House of Representatives consider legislation to permit counties to establish veteran multi-service centers.

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D. Definition of Veteran

Washington's definition of a veteran has no impact upon federal programs administered by the state but does set the basis for state programs such as a veteran preference, veteran relief, and tuition assistance. Generally, Washington's statutory definition of a veteran requires service during a congressionally recognized "period of war". RCW 41.04.005. As an example, this narrow definition excludes those who served on military active duty from the end of the Korean conflict to the "beginning" of the Vietnam era (Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, August 5, 1964). Additionally, those serving today would also be excluded, as Congress declared an end to the Vietnam era on August 7, 1975.

Two of the primary reasons for any veteran programs are: (1) assistance in readjustment to society; and (2) recognition for service rendered. Neither need always be contingent upon services during a "period of war". Certainly, for specific programs, such as the Vietnam bonus program, a limited definition is valid. Service in the military, even during so-called "peace time", is still in the best interest of the State of Washington.

For most purposes, the federal definition of a veteran is not contingent on service during a period of war, but is controlled by length of service and type of discharge.

To recognize those who did spend a length of time for more than just training (to exclude National Guard and reservist prior to completion of their contract), the Legislature could consider language similar to the general federal definition. This language requires service in excess of 180 days continuous service and a discharge under honorable conditions.² For those receiving a service-connected disability, the length of service provision is waived.

Recommendation #4

That the House of Representatives consider legislation removing the "period of war" requirement from the general veteran definition, instead using length of service and type of discharge as basic requirements.

E. Veteran Preference in Public Employment

A major benefit extended to veterans by the state is preference in public employment. Veterans preference in public employment is provided

¹The type of discharge requirement for most federal programs is "other than dishonorable".

²Discharge "under honorable conditions" is not as broad as the general federal standard of "other than dishonorable".

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in two statutes, one dealing with competitive placement, the other with noncompetitive listings. Affirmative action must also be considered as some veterans are included in affirmative action protection and affirmative action overlays both the competitive and noncompetitive system.

RCW 41.04.010 is the competitive exam point veteran preference statute. Currently, a veteran (as defined in RCW 41.04.005) must first receive a passing score on the exam, then may receive an additional ten percent or five percent of the initial score. Ten percent is awarded to a veteran who is not receiving veteran's retirement payments and five percent is awarded a veteran receiving veteran's retirement benefits. This point preference is for initial appointment only, not for any promotional exam, and must be used within eight years of release from active duty.

The main reason for veteran preference is assistance in returning to the civilian work force. Certainly a disabled veteran, even if receiving veterans benefits, deserves more assistance than the nondisabled veteran. Additionally, even though receiving a veteran benefit, there are advantages to the citizens of the state in having any veteran a member of the productive work force. Federal civil service, while recognizing the needs of veterans, provides greater support to disabled veterans. Even within the class of disabled veteran, it is reasonable to require that disabled veterans be rated a certain percent disability to qualify for the additional support. For federal affirmative action, thirty percent is the qualification and is considered to be severely disabled.

The stipulation that competitive veterans preference cannot be used for promotional examination is valid. Competitive veterans preference is designed to assist veterans in reentry to the civilian job market; once reentered the veteran stands on equal footing with all other employees. However, in light of post-Vietnam stress and the fact that the preference cannot be used for promotional examination removes the need for having the eight year limit for all veterans. While the definition of veteran is not generally tied to a period of war, a specific definition for certain programs is feasible. As with veteran's bonus, preference is a substantial benefit and special recognition for a period of war is appropriate. Thus, a time limit for a non "wartime" veteran is a way to preserve this special recognition.

RCW 73.16.010 is the noncompetitive statutory veteran preference. As written, veterans are to be preferred over nonveterans, providing the veteran is at least minimally qualified. The Washington Department of Personnel, in light of affirmative action and a court case on appeal,³ does not give an "absolute" preference in the noncompetitive area.

³Stahl v. Washington State Personnel Board, Thurs. Super. Ct. (mem. 55940, 1978)

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By Governor's Executive Order, disabled and Vietnam era veterans are a protected group to be included in state affirmative action plans. State agencies, in conjunction with the Department of Personnel, set goals for protected groups based on demographic data. In essence, affirmative action allows the hiring agency to expand the register in the competitive field and enhances the possibility of employment for a protected group applicant in the noncompetitive field to insure the meeting of affirmative action goals. Competitive field point preference is compatible with the expanded "rule of three plus three" affirmative action program. However, the possible "absolute" interpretation of veteran preference in the non-competitive field is not compatible with affirmative action. Noncompetitive preference should be tied to affirmative action to promote the attainment of the recognized goals of affirmative action.

Recommendation #5

That the House of Representatives consider legislation for veteran competitive point preference providing recognition of the greater needs of disabled veterans and a special recognition for veterans who served during a period of war.

Recommendation #6

That the House of Representatives consider legislation to provide veteran noncompetitive preference be held in abeyance provided veterans are included in affirmative action goals. Also, to clarify agency positions exempt from noncompetitive preference even when in effect.

F. Home Loan

Several states, most notably Oregon, provide home loan assistance to veterans. With the extreme cost of housing, many veterans are precluded from even entering the housing market. A home loan program involving conventional mortgage lenders will insure private sector participation and help free funds for additional mortgages.

There is a demonstrated need for short-term emergency assistance housing. Veterans make up a significant portion of the demand on existing emergency housing. To provide additional funds for veteran emergency assistance housing, a dedicated fund could be created from the home loan program. This would promote the concept of veterans assisting other veterans.

Recommendation #7

That the House of Representatives consider legislation providing a home loan program involving the private sector to benefit the veteran and the housing market in general. An emergency assistance housing program should also be included following the concept of veterans assisting veterans.

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G. Fees, Tuition and Higher Education

Veterans are afforded various fee and tuition waivers. The Council for Postsecondary Education (CPE) in response to Senate Resolution 1979-95 has completed policy recommendations on all higher education waivers (Report No. 81-2, September 1980). CPE presented the section of their report on veteran waivers to the Committee.

Since World War II, a major federal program for veterans has been educational benefits -- the "G.I. Bill". State veteran education benefits are designed to enhance or fill in, not supplant the federal program. The statutory definition of veteran is qualified depending on the thrust of the educational benefit program. As a special recognition of service and readjustment problems, veterans "who have served in the Southeast Asia theater" are exempted from fee and tuition increases above the level in existence on October 1, 1977. This applies to all state institutions of higher education. However, the veteran must be enrolled prior to May 7, 1983. CPE recommends this provision be scheduled for sunset review by June 30, 1987.

Veterans, no longer entitled to the federal G.I. Bill (beyond their ten-year delimiting date), may receive fee waivers at the discretion of the school controlling body. This extends only to the University of Washington, Washington State University, Evergreen State College, Western Washington University, Central Washington University, and Eastern Washington University, not to community colleges. The veteran must be enrolled by October 1, 1977. CPE recommends these provisions be scheduled for sunset review by June 30, 1983, and if reenacted be made mandatory.

Community colleges are very popular with veterans and a major thrust of community colleges is to prepare students for entry or reentry to the job market. It would certainly stand to reason that this permissive waiver for needy veterans should be extended to a community college board of trustees.

Recommendation #8

That the House of Representatives consider all veteran fee and tuition waivers for sunset review in accordance with Chapter 43.131 RCW by June 30, 1983.

Recommendation #9

That the House of Representatives consider legislation to extend the permissive waiver of fees and tuition for veterans no longer entitled to federal educational benefits to community colleges.

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Recommendation #10

That the House of Representatives consider legislation to provide the various waiver programs to statutorily qualified veterans enrolled by May 7, 1983. This date will insure consistency among the established programs and the recommended sunset review date.

H. Private Sector Employment

Washington Employment Security Department estimates a twenty percent unemployment rate for Vietnam era veterans. Certainly this unemployment rate is unacceptable, but in light of the economy and governmental budget demands, an easy solution is not apparent.

Generally, the programs of Employment Security are in response to federal programs. Two federal employment programs that impact upon Vietnam era veterans are:

- (1) Targeted Jobs Tax Credit. A federal program providing tax credits to private sector employers who hire employees from any of seven targeted groups. One targeted group is economically disadvantaged Vietnam era veterans under the age of 35.
- (2) Mandatory Jobs Listing. This program applies to private sector employers who seek federal contracts valued at \$10,000 or more. Not only must the employer list job openings with local state employment offices; the employer must also take "affirmative action" to employ disabled and Vietnam era veterans.

Counseling for veterans seeking employment and outreach to employers is accomplished by local veteran employment representatives (VER's) and the disabled veteran outreach program (DVOP's). These employment security personnel are located throughout the State of Washington.

While most large employers are aware of the available programs, many smaller firms are not. To send DVOP's or VER's to the unaware employers may be beyond their current manpower. The National Alliance of Business (NAB) has conducted employer awareness seminars with success. Due to their budget constraints, NAB no longer places a great deal of emphasis on veterans programs. The Employment Security Department Veteran Services Section, with budget assistance, could conduct employer awareness seminars to enhance the knowledge of available veterans programs and the virtues of veterans as employees. At least one of these seminars should be directed toward assisting incarcerated veterans in looking for employment upon their return to society.

As late as July 1979 Employment Security had a veterans program chief reporting directly to the Commissioner's Executive Assistant. This helped insure input to all agency programs and an awareness of veterans

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programs. Recently the United States Department of Labor elevated the head of their veterans program from Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor to an Assistant Secretary of Labor. Also with the unacceptable unemployment rate for Vietnam era veterans, it would seem logical that Employment Security should again create a responsible position for veterans programs to insure the proper emphasis on available veteran programs.

Recommendation #11

That the House of Representatives consider budget legislation for employer awareness seminars to insure private sector knowledge of and support for veterans employment programs. These seminars shall be conducted by the Employment Security Department Veterans Services section and coordinated with the Department of Veterans Affairs. At least one seminar should have direct impact upon incarcerated veterans.

Recommendation #12

That the Employment Security Department should reestablish a high-level responsible position for veterans services.

I. Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA)

CETA is a federal program administered by the Department of Labor. The emphasis in CETA is on local administration by prime sponsors. Prime sponsors are tied to local units of government based on population. CETA prime sponsors in Washington are: (1) City of Tacoma; (2) Pierce County; (3) Seattle-King County consortium; (4) Snohomish County (just recently became a prime sponsor); (5) Kitsap County; (6) Clark County; (7) Spokane County; (8) Thurston County (became a prime sponsor last year); (9) Yakima County; and (10) balance of the state (managed by a state joint agency committee). There are also CETA funds entitled "the Governor's discretionary fund".

Federal rules for CETA include Vietnam era veterans and disabled veterans as "targeted groups" to be focused on. The CETA regulations require prime sponsors "to take appropriate steps to provide for increased participation" of these qualified targeted veterans. Specific steps to increase veterans' participation are outlined in the regulations. Fourth quarter fiscal year 1980 figures show that only two prime sponsors have more than a fifteen percent total participation rate by veterans. Currently, only one local government prime sponsor has a CETA employment program targeted on veterans. Again, in light of the unacceptable twenty percent unemployment rate for Vietnam era veterans, greater emphasis should be placed by prime sponsors on involving qualified veterans.

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Findings, Analysis and Recommendations

Recommendation #13

That prime sponsors shall take appropriate steps to increase participation by qualified veterans in accordance with federal regulations. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Comprehensive Employment and Training Act Regulations, 20 C.F.R. Sec. 676.30(a) (1980).

Recommendation #14

That the Washington Employment Service Council shall increase their monitoring of prime sponsor annual and master plans to insure compliance with CETA regulations calling for increased veteran participation.

J. Agent Orange and Health Problems

Without a doubt, Agent Orange is an extremely emotional and complex issue. Veteran after veteran has testified concerning a lack of sensitivity and knowledge on the part of the federal government, especially the Veterans Administration and Department of Defense. The Veterans Administration is taking steps to improve the sensitivity of their medical staff in dealing with the Vietnam veteran. The lack of knowledge concerning herbicide exposure is not just in regard to the effects of exposure, but also a serious lack of information as to who was exposed.

The Veterans Administration is attempting to compile data from Vietnam veterans who are examined in their hospitals. This data will be centralized in a national registry. A real concern is that many Vietnam veterans who fear they were exposed to Agent Orange, or other herbicides used during the Vietnam war, are extremely reluctant to be examined by the Veterans Administration. The basis for this is twofold; first, many Vietnam veterans (rightly or wrongly) have a distrust of the Veterans Administration, and secondly, some benefits counselors are reluctant to recommend that a Vietnam veteran process a claim for disability based on herbicide exposure until the Veterans Administration has a more definite policy.

The testimony establishes the need for the Veterans Administration to conduct an objective Vietnam veterans health study. Special emphasis should be placed on the effects of herbicide exposure, proper treatment for exposure, and an attempt to determine which Vietnam veterans were exposed.

Recommendation #15

That the House of Representatives consider a House Joint Memorial to the United States Congress and President requesting federal support for

Section V Findings, Analysis and Recommendations

an objective Vietnam veteran health study, in particular Agent Orange exposure effects. Special emphasis should be placed on the identification and proper treatment of Vietnam veterans who were exposed or have significant health problems.

K. Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

As discussed earlier in this report, the symptoms of post-Vietnam stress contribute greatly to readjustment problems of Vietnam era veterans. In recognition of the serious readjustment problems related to post-traumatic stress disorder or post-Vietnam stress, Congress authorized establishment of unique counseling centers. Vet Centers are located in major metropolitan centers throughout the United States, with one in Seattle and one in Tacoma. Vet Centers are designed to be "store-front" operations as free from government "red tape" as possible. Eligibility for assistance is not based on medical diagnosis or prior contact with the Veterans Administration. A requirement is active duty service during the Vietnam era.

Vet Centers are staffed by counselors specially trained to deal with post-traumatic stress disorder, many are Vietnam veterans. Counseling is done one-on-one and in informal group sessions. Families may be included. Currently funding for these centers is through fiscal year 1982.

Testimony at each Committee hearing indicates how successful these centers have been. Yet being located in Seattle and Tacoma does little to meet the needs of veterans in the remainder of the state. Even within the Seattle Tacoma area, the demand well exceeds the capability of the centers. The Departments of Veterans Affairs, Social and Health Services, and Personnel have established six training sessions for public employees who deal with veterans on post-Vietnam stress with instruction by staff from the Veterans Administration counseling centers. These six sessions will not adequately meet the needs of demand or training. Additional training sessions should be provided with emphasis on community mental health professional staff. All training sessions should also include a discussion of the various veterans' service providers and programs available. This discussion would facilitate proper referrals to agencies best suited to handle the variety of readjustment problems often contributing to post-traumatic stress disorder.

Community mental health centers are located throughout the state, and this training will be useful for dealing with more than Vietnam veterans. Remember, the technical term is post-traumatic stress disorder. The stressful event can be related to any event, such as the Mt. St. Helens eruption or other crisis events.

Section V
Findings, Analysis and Recommendations

Recommendation #16

That the House of Representatives consider budget legislation providing funding to the Department of Social and Health Services Mental Health Division to establish training sessions on post-traumatic stress disorder. This training shall be coordinated with the Department of Veterans Affairs and Community Mental Health Centers. The training shall focus on community mental health professionals. Consideration should be given to contracting with the Veterans Administration Vet Center staff.

L. Miscellaneous Recommendations

Recommendation #17

That the Department of Veterans Affairs review all veteran laws to bring them up to date and insure consistency.

Recommendation #18

That the Department of Veterans Affairs, coordinated with the Attorney General, study the need for discharge upgrade counseling. Currently, only Seattle Veterans Action Center provides this service within the state.

Recommendation #19

That the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Social and Health Services study the need for increased counseling to veterans incarcerated within the state penal system.

Recommendation #20

That the Department of Veterans Affairs identify a staff member to be responsible for coordinating veteran programs of the various governmental agencies and private organizations.

Recommendation #21

That the Department of Veterans Affairs prepare a referral and resource list of available veteran programs.

SECTION VI

Summary of Legislation and Appropriations Items Recommended by the House Select Committee on Vietnam Era Veterans

- (1) H-224 (Recommendations 1 and 3)
- (a) Establishes a Veterans Program Coordination Council of state agencies with representation from the business community, labor, local government, and ad hoc participation by members of the Senate and House. The Council shall solicit participation from appropriate federal agencies. Major purposes include: to help effect coordination between existing programs, to provide an ongoing forum for discussion of veterans' problems, and to discuss methods to meet the problems.
 - (b) Amendment to the existing authority of the Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs to allow the Director to contract not only with nationally-chartered organizations but also with recognized state-incorporated veterans' services organizations and local government veteran programs. The rationale for this is to follow the system of the federal Veterans Administration and provide flexibility for the Director to work with all effective veterans' service providers.
 - (c) Amendment raising the amount from one hundred eighty dollars to three hundred fifty dollars that a county may pay to veterans' service organizations to assist in rent. The money comes from the veterans' relief property tax, chapter 73.08 RCW. Also elaborates on the definition of a veterans' service organization as in (b).
 - (d) Amendments to Chapter 73.08 RCW, veterans' relief, to provide: definition of "veteran" in accordance with RCW 41.04.005, an increase for burial expense from one hundred eighty dollars to three hundred dollars, the elaborated concept of veterans' service organizations as in (b), and permissive authority for counties to use tax levy amounts above the minimum required (without affecting the existing maximum) to establish veterans' multi-service centers. A new section mandates state agencies to provide assistance to established county veterans' multi-service centers.
- (2) H-388 (Recommendations 4, 5 and 6)
- (a) Amending the definition of "veteran" in RCW 41.04.005 from a period of war basis to a length of service and type of discharge basis, with consideration for service connected disability.
 - (b) Amendments to RCW 41.40.170 Washington public employees' retirement system, RCW 28B.16.100 state higher education personnel law, and RCW 41.06.150 state civil service law removing restrictive language concerning a veteran receiving retirement benefits from these specific definitions of a veteran.

Section VI
Summary

- (c) Amending RCW 73.04.110 authorizing certain disabled veterans to receive free license plates to also include prisoners of war and those veterans rated totally disabled.
 - (d) Amending the noncompetitive veteran preference in public employment to remove the time limit for veterans who served during a congressionally declared period of war while imposing a four-year time limit for other veterans. An abeyance of noncompetitive preference as long as veterans are included in public agency affirmative action plans.
 - (e) Amending the competitive veterans preference in public employment to provide a higher percentage for certain disabled veterans over nondisabled veterans. Special recognition for certain disabled veterans and nondisabled veterans who served during a congressionally declared period of war by removing the time limit for use. Imposing a four-year time limit for other veterans.
- (3) H-387 (Recommendations 9 and 10)
- (a) Amends the existing permissive waiver system for veterans, as defined in RCW 41.04.005 that are no longer entitled to federal benefits. Changes the required enrollment date from October 1, 1977, to May 7, 1983, to provide consistency between other programs and coincide with recommended sunset review process.
 - (b) Extends the permissive waiver for veterans no longer entitled to federal educational benefits to community college boards of trustees.
- (4) H-_____ (Recommendation 7)
- A veteran home loan program to provide assistance to a veteran's entry into the housing market and ensuring participation by the private sector mortgage lenders. The program is one-time only and eligibility is tied to Veterans Administration certification.
- (5) Appropriation Requests (Recommendations 6 and 11)
- (a) Ten thousand dollars for veteran employer awareness seminars by the Employment Security Department. These seminars are to promote and explain available federal programs to smaller employers. The programs are to be coordinated with the Department of Veterans Affairs.
 - (b) Ten thousand dollars for post-traumatic stress disorder training and veteran awareness to the Mental Health Division of the Department of Social and Health Services. This training should focus on community mental health professionals.

Section VI
Summary

(6) House Joint Memorial (Recommendation 5)

A House Joint Memorial to the President, Congress, Administrator of the Veterans Administration and Secretary of Defense calling for an objective study on herbicide exposure during the Vietnam conflict and significant health problems of Vietnam era veterans.



Alaska State Legislature

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

SENATE

Don Bennett, Chairman
M. "Ed" Dankworth
George Hohman

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Oral E. Freeman, Vice-Chairman
M.F. "Mike" Beirne
Charlie Parr

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

MEMORANDUM

November 4, 1980

To : The Honorable Don Bennett, Chairman
Administrative Regulation Review Committee

The Honorable George Hohman, Chairman
Legislative Council

From : Allen D. Blume
Administrative Assistant
Economic Development/Administrative Regulation
Review Committee

Subject: Viet Nam Veterans Outreach (Delayed Stress and Herbicide Exposure) - Summary of Activity to Date

Since beginning this research effort approximately two months ago, numerous pieces of information have surfaced, which would seem to encourage an increased role for the State of Alaska in extending mental health and diagnostic services to our resident veteran population.

At the outset, it is now established that there is a pathology of stress which can be directly diagnosed in our Viet Nam veteran population. Research provided by Dr. Emmett Early, Senior Therapist with the Seattle Veteran's Outreach Program (VA), (enclosed) compiled from a number of professional sources suggests a number of directions that can be taken in evaluating and assisting veterans faced with delayed stress and other physiologic problems.

Last year, Congress passed Public Law 96-22 relating to the Veterans Administration, and specifically creating 86 outreach centers throughout the United States to assist and treat Viet Nam

Veterans suffering from the stress reaction. Further, the bill provided for specialized screening of those personnel that were suspected of having been exposed to the herbicide defoliant Agent Orange (2,4-D and 2,4,5-T).

In subsequent communications I learned that the Washington State Legislature last year created a Select Committee of Viet Nam Veterans, and provided an appropriation to community mental health centers for training of professionals to treat veterans suffering from delayed stress.

Locally I have contacted representatives of the Community Mental Health Program, the Veterans Administration, the Department of Labor and military service organizations to determine if any service delivery was being provided to the veterans. Without prejudicing the integrity and legitimate intent of these groups, I have found them inadequate and to an extent unwilling to look at the Viet Nam Veteran as a special class of individual, needing somewhat extraordinary services.

Subsequently I contacted Dr. Vern Stillner, Director of the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities (DHSS) to discuss larger state programs that might also meet the needs of this client population. After a substantial review of the research materials provided, Dr. Stillner startled me by saying that he concurred in the summary information as to pathology and potential treatment methods, and thanked me for bringing this to his attention.

Subsequently we explored potential connections that need greater research to determine if there is a direct path between delayed stress and other types of anti-social or heavy dependence behavior. For example, we speculate that a data analysis of male clients for various services, between ages 26-34, may reveal a Viet Nam Veteran suffering from the stress factor. This line of inquiry should generally be applied in the areas of:

1. Alcohol Detoxification Programs
2. Substance Abuse (Drug) Detoxification Programs
3. Spouse Abuse/Shelter Programs
4. Division of Corrections
5. Welfare and Habilitation Support Services
(Food Stamps)
6. Labor Force and Unemployment entry/exit

Generally we suspect that a pattern of multiplied abuses can be traced to a distinct population, who if treated for the other factor (stress) may alleviate a substantial social burden in the above six areas.

I am planning to request from the Research Sections of DHSS and Labor, a statistical print-out that attempts a cross-correlation between the clients in each of these areas against the age/sex criteria, and against prior service if it can be determined.

I have also been working with Gene Kennedy in the LAA Washington Office, to determine what actions other states have taken in dealing with their Viet Nam Veterans problems. He has been most helpful already, and has provided me with substantial data concerning the pathology and use of Agent Orange and related herbicides which may open up another area of inquiry.

A week-and-a-half back I travelled to Anchorage on this and regulatory reform (Sunset) work, and had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Bill Oleson and Mr. Tony Uzzele of the Federal Veterans Outreach Program. This is the effort created under P.L. 96-22 and modelled after that created by the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Program. In the eight months since they opened their doors they have acquired a client population in excess of five hundred (500), utilizing a staff of four counselors and one secretary.

Their effort is oriented to counseling and self-directed therapy, but is in fact a "brush-fire" response to the more heavily stressed and/or troubled veteran. Oleson has travelled to the Kenai Peninsula, the Interior and the West Coast of the State (Bethel), and is creating rising interest in the program. The reality is, however, that he does not have the staff to support a potential client population in excess of 20,000. (Department of Labor statistics for 1977 (adjusted) indicate roughly 15-16,000 Viet Nam era vets in Alaska).

During the next week I expect to meet with representatives of the Disabled American Veterans and Viet Nam Veterans of America in both Chicago and Seattle, to evaluate their efforts and determine whether or not there is a further role that can be performed by State Government.

Because the Federal VA program is scheduled for termination in 1982, the possibility of the State of Alaska assuming the counseling and therapy program appears reasonable. Representatives of the state-wide Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion are receptive to a state supported program which will extend levels of delivery on a more efficient basis.

I would stress that the intent is not to replace or duplicate the efforts of the Veterans Administration, but to augment them through community based efforts.

Using the Washington State program as a model, it would seem likely that a pilot program could be established with a maximum dollar figure in the \$250,000 range. This would provide for a pilot program in Southeastern Alaska at a top end cost of \$85,000. The remaining monies could be dedicated to a Training and Technical Assistance Account within the Department of Health and Social Services to provide specific counseling training to Community Mental Health, Drug and Alcohol Abuse, and Spouse Abuse professionals to identify and treat veterans identified as suffering from delayed stress.

I have talked with some women's shelter counselors about the stress factor, and their response has been very positive. They believe that further research and work in this area may give them a positive means of identifying and assisting the abuser, as well as their women and children victims.

The appropriations effort and subsequent training and therapy would be on a one-time cost, and would hopefully extend community control in mental health services.

Hidden behind P.L. 96-22 and implicit in any Alaskan effort is the termination factor. If the veterans population can be dealt with in the ensuing time, the program need not be refunded from state monies, but in fact becomes the prerogative of local entities. Further, aiding this client community to reorientation of priorities can do more to get them off the welfare and service roles and get them fully into the labor force.

I realize that this effort appears self-serving to anyone outside the arena of Viet Nam, and that increasing concern with social services expenditures makes this approach vulnerable to criticism. Nevertheless, more needs to be done.

I would appreciate your counsel on how to proceed from this point.



November 18, 1980

Room 101
550 West 8th Ave
Anchorage, AK 99501
Tel: (907) 277-1501

Mr. Allen D. Blume
Administrative Assistant
Economic Development Commission
Alaska State Legislature, Senate
Pouch V
Capital Building
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Allen;

Thank you for the excellent summary report in support of Vietnam Veterans needs as identified to Senators Don Bennett and George Hohman.

The only suggestion that I could add would be in the form of a two prong thrust supported by the State.

1. The State now supports (with funds) State Service officers who represent the VFW and American Legion. These officers are supposed to provide a variety of services to veterans statewide. At present their services do not include any form of traumatic stress counseling service. I would recommend that if these officers are continued to be funded that traumatic stress be a priority. In addition, I rarely see any support being extended to Vietnam Era veterans.

2. The State already has a network of Mental Health offices under the direction of Dr. Vern Stillner. These offices could be expanded to assist all combat veterans who still experience stress related to combat. Monies could be made available to provide special training related to counseling to relieve stress and anxiety. This in effect would provide an outreach into every corner of the state. Training could be provided initially by Figley and others who have written the "book" on traumatic stress. Follow-up training would need to be conducted on a regular schedule.

Finally, provisions would need to be made statewide (on a community or area basis) to continue to assist veterans with many of the other problems you have identified in your report (page 2), i.e., alcoholism, unemployment, etc.

Allen you have made a fine start. You can count on me and my staff to assist whenever possible.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM C. OLESON
Outreach Team Leader



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U. S.
DEPARTMENT OF ALASKA

DATE ; MARCH 8, 1981

To; ALLEN BLUME

VIETNAM VETERANS ORGANIZATION

FROM : DANIEL A. HUFF

STATE SR. VICE COMMANDER

SUBJECT: VIETNAM VETERANS , ORGANIZATION OFF.

DEAR COMRADE BLUMT ,

I AM HIGHLY INTERESTED AND CONCERNED THAT THE OPORTUNITY THAT WAS PRESENTED TO US AS VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS NOT BE LET GO TO WASTE . I AM CONTACTING YOU TO LET YOU KNOW THAT I HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SEVERAL MEMBERS FROM KODIAK AS WELL AS WASILLA . BOTH PLACES HAVE PARTIES WHO ARE INTERESTED IN WHAT YOU HAVE DONE AND ARE DOING. THE INTEREST HAS BEEN , HOW TO FORM A BRANCH OR JOIN THE PARENT ORGANIZATION . THERE ARE AT LEAST SEVEN VFW POST'S IN THIS ARREA WHO WOULD MAKE PRIME CONTACT POINTS FOR INTERESTING GROUPS TO FORM BRANCH'S OF YOUR VETERANS ORGANIZATION.

I AM WILLING TO WORK WITH YOU TOWARD FORMING A COMMON MEETING PLACE IN EACH COMMUNITY TOWARD THAT END. COMRADE , JOE DECOSTA IS ALSO VERY INTRESTED , AS WE BOTH ARE AWARE OF THE NEED'S OF A COMMON COMMUNICATION POINT. IF YOU CAN , PLEASE SEND ME SOME INFORMATION OR IF YOU WANT I CAN SEND YOU SOME NAMES TO CONTACT.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS PROGRAM GOING STRONG WHEN I TAKE OFFICE AS THE STATE COMMANDER IN JUNE. I AM GOING TO WORK TOWARD THAT END DURING MY MONTHS AS COMMANDER IN HOPES THAT WE CAN PRESENT TO NATIONAL , A LARGE GROUP OF MEMBERS FROM VIETNAM ERA , WORKING WITH THE VFW TOWARD THE COMMON GOAL , VETERANS SERVICE . PLEASE LET ME KNOW AS MUCH OF THIS INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE . WE NEED YOUR HELP.

YOUR'S ALWAYS FAITHFULL

DANIEL A. HUFF
Daniel A. Huff
STATE SR. VICE COMMANDER

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

SIT-REP

Sponsored by Sea-Vac and Seattle Vets-Center

October 1980

This is the second issue of the Sit-Rep and in it we will attempt to present all news stories that we have accumulated to date. The following issues will have more editorial articles as space will allow. In this issue we have also included a form to be filled out by you if you would like the Sit-Rep sent to you. We will no longer send copies unless we have your ok., so please fill it in and return it to either of the above agencies. Once again we would like to remind our readers that this newsletter is put together by Vietnam Vet. volunteers, so the need still exists for help in typing, find-articles, writing articles, paste-up, and feedback from you on what you think of it and where we can further inform you. Thanks!

G.I. bill checks should arrive by month's end

Students whose G.I. bill checks have not come yet they have been delayed since August 29 because of a lack of Veterans Admin. funds should receive payments by the end of the month. Last month, the V.A. ran out of funds before the end of the fiscal year, Sept. 30. President Carter Wednesday signed a \$40 million supplemental budget to cover this month's educational benefits.

Benefit boost for veterans goes to Carter

The Senate approved and sent to the White House Sept. 24 a bill authorizing a \$1.06 billion cost-of-living increase starting Oct. 1 for millions of disabled veterans, veteran's widows and dependants. The bill, passed by voice vote, provides the increase in compensation for 2.25 million vets disabled during military service and 360,000 of their widows and dependent children. The measure also increases from \$25,000 to \$27,500 the maximum V.A. loan guarantee on conventional homes and condominiums, and raises from \$17,000 to \$20,000 the ceiling on V.A. guarantees for mobile homes.

Benefits for military survivors to increase

The Senate gave final congressional approval Sept. 29 to legislation increasing benefits for widows and other survivors of military personnel. The bill would prevent the more than 40 per cent reduction of survivor benefits. That reduction was supposed to be compensated for by social security.

Congress passes "urgent" funds for census and V.A.

Congress passed and sent to the White House Sept. 16 supplemental appropriation bill granting \$40 million to the V.A. and \$27 million to the Census Bureau. The House originally passed the V.A. appropriation Monday. The Senate added the census money and the House quickly agreed. Both houses acted by voice vote. The V.A. money was intended to help the V.A. handle a crush of applications for veteran readjustment benefits.

V.A. and F.H.A. interest rates go up

The government is raising interest rates as much as a full percentage point on F.H.A. and V.A. mortgages to make them more competitive with conventional loans and therefore more acceptable to lenders and home sellers. Government officials said that allowable rates for mortgages backed by the two agencies will rise to 13 per cent. Lending institutions now are limited to charging 12 per cent interest on F.H.A. and V.A. mortgages for single-family and multi-family homes, so they make up the difference between that rate and higher prevailing rates—14 per cent or more in many markets—by charging sellers extra cash payments known as discount points. Each point is equal to 1 per cent of the total mortgage, and common charges of 9 points or higher --\$4,500 or more on a \$50,000 mortgage-- are making sellers less than eager to see buyers hoping to use V.A. or F.H.A. coming.

Court limits dishonorable discharges

A federal judge has ordered the Defense Department to give honorable discharges to members of the inactive reserve who were dishonorably discharged for getting in trouble with civilian authorities. The Defense Dept. was unable to say how many were affected by the ruling, but a lawyer for the four men who brought the suit said they number in the thousands. The Judge Barrington D. Parker of the U.S.D.C. ruled that an undesirable discharge can only be based on conduct found to have affected directly the performance of military duties. Where the proper grounds do not exist for the issuance of a less-than-honorable discharge, an honorable discharge should be issued. One of the plaintiffs, Perry S. Wood, had received the Silver Star and the Bronze Star in three years of active duty.

Hanoi seeks M.I.A. mission

An American official will travel to Vietnam next month (Oct.) in another effort to find missing American servicemen who might still be alive in Indochina, the State Dept. announced Sept. 28. The State Dept. has been disappointed over Vietnam's failure to meet with our technical experts as agreed to in 1978. The fate of men listed as missing in action has been a particularly sore point in Washington-Hanoi relations since the end of the Vietnam war in 1975. Relatives of missing soldiers and government have long charged that Vietnam is dragging its feet in giving a full account of what happened to the American servicemen still listed as missing.

"Support The Candidate Who Supports The Vets"

So reads the bumper sticker issued by the Central Oregon Veterans Council, a project started by the Council under Commander Al Laver of Madras, Oregon. As of July, over 4,000 have been distributed within the state of Oregon. Many can be seen as a person drives the streets. The project was introduced

to the United Veterans Group of Oregon, comprised of all chartered veteran organizations in Oregon. The Group embraced the program wholeheartedly and all organizations ordered a liberal supply to issue their members. The Council intends to issue one each to every legislator in Oregon with a letter requesting their assistance in veterans legislative activity in the upcoming legislative session beginning in January. No attempts have been made to measure whether or how much this program has helped them in membership, Russel O. Chase, Council secretary/Treasurer, said, "but we did gain some by the realization that the veterans were again on the move."

Congress crushes Carter V.A. pay-raise veto

Congress crushed President Carter's veto of a salary increase for doctors and dentists at veterans' hospitals yesterday, overriding the President's by a unanimous vote in the Senate and a lopsided margin in the House. The Senate forced the V.A. pay-raise bill into law over Carter's veto by an 85-to-0 vote. It came after the House voted, 401-to-5, to strike down the veto. In a written statement, President Carter said he was disappointed by the override. "I continue to believe (it) is an unsound piece of legislation." He said he would have preferred that Congress rewrite the bill to give more money to "concrete and tangible improvements in the veterans' health-care system. I regret that this was not done." But the Senate Majority Leader said that the President had received singularly bad advice and took inappropriate action. The President vetoed it saying it would allow V.A. doctors, who earn an average of \$55,000 a year, to increase their annual pay to as much as \$75,200. But the House Veterans Affairs Committee countered that V.A. hospitals have 723 physicians vacancies because salaries are not competitive. V.A. doctors and have not received a raise in five years they said.

Veterans in "nontraditional" classes face aid cuts

Seventeen students attending Evergreen State College on the G.I. Bill had to make a costly decision this month. By remaining in programs deemed nontraditional by the V.A., the students forfeited eligibility for full-time educational benefits, amounting to as much as \$727 a quarter. Several students who were receiving the benefits in August had to choose between dropping their nontraditional academic programs in mid-session and retaining their full-time financial benefits or staying with their program and forfeiting a major portion of their educational income. Willie Jackson, V.A. coordinator at Evergreen, said he expects a slight decrease in fall enrollment for vets at Evergreen because of the benefit cuts. But, he does not expect the reductions will hurt veteran enrollment in the long run. He said that vets will either have to find other means of financial aid or take classes that don't really meet their needs. The benefit reduction will appear on student checks issued Sept. 1. The new rule came from a June decision by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco which overturned a 1978 federal district court ruling in Seattle that stopped the V.A. from imposing what is known as the "seat-time" rule. Evergreen plans to take the issue back to federal court on constitutional grounds. That the vets are being treated differently than other students receiving federal aid.

Defoliants effect may be unknown

The V.A. said Sept 25 that science may never be able to determine the precise effect of Agent Orange on the health and offspring of Vietnam vets exposed to the defoliant. Max Cleland, chief of the V.A. told a House subcommittee that AO was a highly toxic contaminant that had caused cancer and birth defects in the offspring of laboratory animals. But he said it was not yet clear how it affected humans. Rep. Thomas Daschle, S.D. Demo. proposed the Justice Dept. be asked to investigate Dow Chemical, the agent's manufacturer, on the charge that the company failed to notify the Pentagon that the herbicide contained small amounts of dioxin. "We do not yet know precisely how dioxin affects humans," Cleland said in a statement prepared for the panel. "Nor do we know very much about the likelihood of vets developing disease as a result of exposure to dioxin in Vietnam." Agent Orange was the most widely used defoliant in Vietnam between 1965 and 1970.

AO study proposed

A prominent scientist is proposing a world-wide study of what happened to workers exposed to dioxin in industrial accidents so that vets exposed to the same compound in Vietnam may be able to anticipate the consequences to their health. Philip Handler, president of the Nat. Acad. of Science, says establishing a registry of industrial workers exposed to dioxin—the world's most toxic man-made chemical substance—would be invaluable in determining if health effects show up decades later. Some 30,000 troops who served in Vietnam have expressed fears of future ailments or complain of illnesses they attribute to contact with AO, a dioxin herbicide. About 12 million gallons of AO were sprayed during the war in Southeast Asia.

AO traces found in cell tissue

Traces of AO were found in tissue samples from an entire test group of 33 men in a recent experiment, says a Univ. of Nebraska researcher. Dr. Michael Gross, director of the university's Spectrometry Lab, said the study was performed for the V.A.. He said samples from 20 vets who claimed exposure to the chemical defoliant were brought to the lab for testing. The control group consisted of samples from 10 vets who did not believe they had been exposed. Three additional samples came from Air Force officers who had been involved in research on Agent Orange. The study found that all 33 had traces of AO in fat cells, but that none of the samples had lethal amounts.

AO suit pressed

A "megafirm" of more than 100 top lawyers is pressing a multibillion-dollar suit that could affect 40,000 Vietnam vets. Victor Yannacone, Jr., chief of the consortium, said 2.48 million of the nation's 2.5 million Vietnam veterans were exposed to AO, a defoliant linked to cancer, liver problems and birth defects. He filed a federal classaction suit against 10 chemical companies in Jan. 1979, on behalf of veterans exposed to the defoliant. About 7,000 vets and their families in 50 states have asked to join the suit. The chemical companies have since sued the federal government, saying the government should pay any damages because it used the chemicals.



SOUTH VIETNAM

Bill would remove one year AO limitation

Rep. Don Mitchell (R-NY), has cosponsored legislation to ease VA restrictions on disability claims stemming from exposure to Agent Orange. According to him the bill will waive the one-year limitation on claims for compensation from the VA for disabilities or diseases incurred in or aggravated by military service of Vietnam vets who seek compensation for disabilities relating to AO exposure. Mitchell, who is also a cosponsor of the Vietnam Veteran's Agent Orange Relief Act, stated, "The National Cancer Institute has concluded that dioxin causes cancer in lab animals. These recent findings are particularly significant because of the low levels of exposure of the animals. It directly confronts the contention that only extremely high levels of exposure could be considered dangerous. However, the VA has yet to react to these findings." "The neglect of the AO issue is a sad symbol of the treatment of the Vietnam Vet," Mitchell said. "No American veteran should be denied the benefits, compensation and respect that this nation owes to him."

Wisconsin AO program gears up

An attempt to contact and inform Wisconsin vets who served in Vietnam concerning possible exposure to AO is underway in that state. Ted Fetting, special projects coordinator for that state's Dept of Vets Affairs, said the state legislature has authorized \$125,000 of vet trust fund monies to be used to contact that state's Vietnam vets and inform them of the possible dangers to their health and the health of their offspring from the vets' service in Vietnam. The main thrust of the program will be carried out by the Wisconsin Dept. of Health and Social Services after the veteran's dept. prepares an updated mailing list of the approximately 60,000 targeted vets. The Health agency will mail a questionnaire and information sheet to each vet and tailor a follow up mailing based on the responses to the initial mailing. Extensive data will be gathered on these vets. County vet service officers, vets' organizations and various governmental and private agencies will be called on in the attempt to contact the vets. Various spin offs are expected from this program that will hopefully yield more knowledge aimed at resolving the AO dilemma. One such project underway in concert with the Wisconsin program is a doctoral student's study of the incidence of birth defects of children of Vietnam veterans.

College bound urged to check work-study program

GI Bill students can work up to 250 hours per semester for the VA and receive \$775 in additional money to regular education assistance allowance. Priority for participating in the work-study is given veterans who have a 30 percent or greater service connected disability. Consideration is given to financial need, motivation and the nature of the work to be done. Veterans aren't required to work the full 250 hours. They may work any portion of the time that meets their financial needs and fits their individual study programs. An advance of up to \$250 is available as soon as the employment agreement is processed. The advance covers the first 100 hours. The VA will then pay after each 50 hours of work. Contact your nearest VA office or counselor.

Cost of living increase a disadvantage?

While it is true that more than 300,000 veterans and their survivors will be getting larger pensions this month as a result of a 14.3 percent increase in the government's cost of living index, the New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs points out that word-of-mouth publicity relative to this increase can work to the disadvantage of many pensioners. Increases go to those who have switched to the "improved" VA pension plan approved in 1979. This plan links VA pension rates to adjustments in Social Security payments. Pensioners who chose to stay under the rules in effect before 1979 will not receive the increase. They will, however, avoid the reduction in pension that the Social Security increase would have caused before the legislation went into effect. For many "old plan" pensioners, the 14.3 Social Security increase would have meant a similar increase in the maximum amount of income they could receive from other sources and still remain eligible for VA pension. The Division cautions that "old plan" pensioners contemplating making application for transfer to the "improved" plan should seek the advice of a State Veteran Counselor. A personalized assessment of the pensioners current and future income potential is of vital importance in ensuring that he or she will receive the largest possible monthly pension benefit. Detailed information on pension and all veterans' benefits should be obtained at local counseling centers of the State Veterans' Affairs Division.

VA would amend evidence of service reg.

The VA is proposing to amend its regulation concerning evidence of service. The need for this change results from a July 1, 1979 revision of DD-form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge From Active Duty, by the Dept. of Defense. The original copy of the revised DD Form 214 no longer contains information as to character of service and type of separation.

Department of Labor expands veterans' employment efforts

Secretary of Labor Ray Marshall announced that an additional \$10 million in CETA funds will be made available in Fiscal Year 1981 for veterans' employment programs. The money will be used to maintain the Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP) through Fiscal Year 1981 at a staffing level of 1,500, and enable a minimum of 40 state and local governments operating CETA programs to expand community-based jobs programs for disabled and Vietnam-era veterans.

Agent Orange assigned "hotline"

The Vietnam Veterans of America has begun a national telephone "hotline" to which veterans can address questions about the defoliant. The toll-free number is 1-800-424-5402. "No issue is raising more concern among Vietnam veterans than Agent Orange," Robert O. Muller, executive director of the group, said.

Post-traumatic stress neurosis reclassified

VA begins this month to use a new procedure for classifying victims of post-traumatic stress neurosis. Until October 1, VA had to examine six or so classifications to consider a veteran's claim that he suffered from this illness. Now, the condition has its own subcategory and clear guidelines that can be used by the VA physician for diagnosis and the rating board of compensation. The Board of Veterans Appeals will also guide this into its' guide for its' policy. The new classification offers veterans means of qualifying for medical care and/or financial compensation under a policy which enables them to claim service-connection for a condition that is for the first time manifested months or even years subsequent to service. It is not necessary for the veteran to have been diagnosed or treated for this condition while he was in the service. Rather, two conditions must be met to qualify him or her for treatment or compensation: 1) an exact diagnosis by a VA physician, 2) a history of a life-threatening situation including prisoner of war experience during service in the armed forces. This experience during service must be consistent with the nature and circumstances of his service and considered by a VA medical examiner to be the precipitating cause of a traumatic stress disorder. The new classification describes the syndrome as encompassing a life-threatening stressor, reexperiencing the event, numbing of response to or involving other and having at least two of several specific symptoms prior to the traumatic event. These may involve such disorders as hyperalertness, troubled sleep, guilt feelings about surviving when others have not, memory impairment, avoidance of activities that arouse recollection of the traumatic event and intensification of symptoms by exposure to events that resemble the traumatic event. To make a claim, a veteran should seek the assistance of a veterans benefits counselor at the nearest VA regional office. As an alternative he may get help in filing his claim from a representative of one of the national service organizations. He may receive treatment in a VA mental hygiene clinic, a psychiatric ward, a day hospital or in alcohol or drug abuse dependence treatment programs. Techniques that have been especially successful include rap sessions, group therapy, Pentothal or hypnotic interviews or individual psychotherapy. Staff is asked to use the method best suited to each patient's needs.

Marine receives Medal of Honor

The Navy on May 17 conferred the Medal of Honor on Marine Col. Donald C. Cook, who sacrificed his life to help fellow prisoners in a Viet Cong camp more than 12 years ago. Cook, a native of Brooklyn, NY., whose family lives in Essex, VT., was the 238th man to receive the Medal of Honor for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity" in the Vietnam War. The citation said Cook, as a 30-year-old captain, gave "more needy men his medicine and drug allowance while constantly nursing them" and risked infection "while in a rapidly deteriorating state of health". Cook, who was a prisoner for three years, was a captain when he was captured a month after arriving in Vietnam in December, 1964, as an adviser to a South Vietnamese marine battalion.

VETERANS BENEFITS TIMETABLE

<u>You Have</u> (after separation from service)	<u>BENEFITS</u>	<u>WHERE TO APPLY</u>
10 years or until Dec. 31, 1989, whichever comes first	GI EDUCATION: The VA will pay you while you complete high school, go to college, either on the job or in an apprenticeship program. Vocational and educational counseling is available.	Any VA office
No time limit	GI LOANS: The VA will guarantee your loan for the purchase of a home, mobile home, or condominium.	Any VA Office
No time limit	DISABILITY COMPENSATION: The VA pays compensation for disabilities incurred in or aggravated by military service. Payments are made from date of separation if claim is filed within 1 year from separation.	Any VA office
No time limit	MEDICAL CARE: The VA provides hospital care covering the full range of medical service-connected conditions, or non-service connected conditions in certain cases. Alcohol and drug dependence treatment is available.	Any VA office
Within 2 years of discharge or before Oct. 1, 1981, which ever is later.	COUNSELING: General or psychological counseling is provided to assist in readjusting to civilian life.	Any VA office or hospital
1 year	ONE-TIME DENTAL TREATMENT: The VA provides one-time dental care for certain service-connected dental conditions.	Any VA office or hospital
No time limit	DENTAL TREATMENT: Treatment for veterans with dental disabilities resulting from combat wounds or service injuries and certain POW's and other service-connected disabled veterans.	Any VA office or hospital

You Have

BENEFITS

WHERE TO APPLY

1 year
(from date of
notice of VA
disability
rating)

GI INSURANCE: Low cost life insurance
(up to \$10,000) is available for vets
with service-connected disabilities.
Veterans who are totally disabled may
apply for a waiver of premiums on these
policies.

Any VA office

120 days (or
1 year with
evidence of
insurability): or
up to 1 year if
totally disabled

VGLI: SGLI may be converted to a 5 year
nonrenewable term policy. At the end of the
5-year term, VGLI may be converted to an
individual policy with a participating
insurance company.

Any VA office
for information

No time limit

EMPLOYMENT: Assistance is available in
finding employment in private industry,
in Federal service and in local government.

Local or state
employment service
U.S. Office of
Personnel Management
Any VA office

Limited time

UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION: The amount of
benefit and payment period vary among States.
Apply immediately after separation.

State employment
service

90 days

REEMPLOYMENT: Apply to your former employer
for employment

Employer

No requirement

SELECTIVE SERVICE: Veterans are no longer required
to contact the Selective Service after separation
from service, regardless of whether they previously
registered with that agency or not.

Not required

Some good people are helping with Agent Orange questions.

If you, like some of the rest of us, go to Sea-Vac with Agent Orange questions you will be put in touch with a law firm from Seattle. By going through the intake ourselves we had hoped to gain an insight into the firm so we could report to you on what their game might be. We had heard no complaints about them and quite honestly came away with none ourselves. They will listen to your problem, questions, give good pragmatic advice about dealing with all the usual problems of getting the ball rolling, and give you the feeling of efficiency. To put it another way, I felt they knew what they were looking for without making you feel like an object. On top of that Sea-Vac has given them space to meet there with you. We also liked the idea of them meeting you at Sea-Vac so they are out of downtown and more convenient for us to get to. All-in-all, we would commend Sea-Vac and the law firm for their help and efficiency. Please keep up the good work. If you have a question about AO make sure you contact Sea-Vac at 206-625-4656 or call the law firm we have been talking about. Their name and number is: Schroeter, Goldmark & Bender, 540 Central Bldg., Third & Columbia, Seattle Wa. 98104. In Seattle call 206-622-8506 and in Bremerton 479-1281. We would suggest you talking to them before going to the VA hospital.

Agent Orange possible symptoms (DIOXIN)

Chloracne (skin eruptions)
loss of sensations in extremities
fatigue
nervousness
irritability
intolerance to cold
palpable and tender liver
insomnia
loss of libido
headaches
upper respiratory distress
stomach & kidney pain
edema

gastric hyperplasia &
ulceration
hemoragias
decreased immuno-response
vascular lesions
gastric ulcers
acute psychosis
severe depression
memory disturbed
concentration losses

Birth Defects

cleft palate
open eye
kidney abnormalities
enlarged liver

enlarged head
club foot
intestinal hemorrhage

Cancers

liver
kidney
lung carcinoma
sar-duct carcinoma

VETS-CENTER of Seattle News

Legal Advice

Vietnam vet attorney, Mr. Leo Raaen, will be at the Vets-Center Wednesday nights from 7pm. to 8pm. beginning October 8th to offer legal advice without charge. This service is being donated by Mr. Raaen to Vietnam vets. It does not include legal representation.

Overview of Vets-Center rap groups

I want to give a description of the people who come to the Vets-Center and it's pretty hard to generalize. I'd say most of our clients are working and most have some kind of blue collar job like construction trades, truck driving. I've been in most of the rap groups and they're composed of say; a salesman, a lawyer, a truck driver, a carpenter, a plumber, two guys who are unemployed and a 30-year-old student. Most are between 30 and 35-years-old. A couple in each group will be troubled by alcoholism or drugs. Someone might be on a work release from jail, and almost absurdly, a couple of people will be getting divorced.

With regard to Vietnam, most group participants were in combat. Being in combat increases the likelihood of going through delayed stress reaction. Many people benefit from being in rap groups and a person doesn't have to experience delayed stress to be in a group. There are plenty of common problems that Vietnam vets have encountered when they returned from Vietnam. It is true that the Vets-Center staff encourages combat vets to enter the groups. We find that chances for delayed stress reaction goes up with months spent in combat in Vietnam.

What gets talked about in rap groups? Vietnam mostly at first. Its sort of a collective free association. Lots of extra ordinary things happened in Vietnam that never got talked about. Probably the most terrifying and horrible didn't get talked about at all. But also funny things and ordinary routine bits of heroism. Names of geography, people, pieces of equipment, slang-terms, descriptions of colors and sounds.

In the later weeks of the group, the discussion leaves Vietnam and moves toward the present, although Vietnam is always the common touchstone. Each group is so different because it depends on the participants to decide what to discuss. Conversation just flows effortlessly and what's important gets talked about.

There's a lot of talk about anger and violence, especially anger at authority and government. Relationships get discussed. Weapons. Politics. Problems getting or keeping a job. Sports. Nightmares. Drugs or alcohol problems. Hatred of Vietnamese. Fear. Depression. Death.

We all agree to keep the conversation confidential. There are no taboo subjects and nobody has to talk. If somebody decides to leave nobody stops him, although it seldom happens that someone leaves unannounced. The group members respect each other.

written by Emmott Early
Seattle Vets-Center

VETNET

Vietnam Era Veterans Network of Washington (VETNET) was formed on September 7, 1980 by Vietnam Veterans who recognize the fact that after a decade of trying as individuals, we have accomplished very little in forcing those in authority to recognize our unique problems, or doing anything about them. We further recognize that the only ones who will do anything are ourselves, or other Vets with the same problems.

With these facts in mind VETNET was formed with the idea of vets helping other vets. VETNET cannot offer anything, except the opportunity to help yourself, and with the help of other vets to improve conditions for all Vietnam Era Vets.

VETNET hopes to impact legislation pertaining to Veterans health care, education and employment in the upcoming 1981 legislative session. We need your voice and assistance in attaining these goals. Please join us so we can effectively represent all Vietnam Era Veterans in the State of Washington

Next general meeting-Oct. 25, 1980-Seattle Central Community College-PB 108

Dues: 10.00 per year

OFFICERS:	PRESIDENT	LES CONLEY
	VP	RAY LEWIS
	RECORDER	KLAUS ZUPP
	TREASURER	BRUCE BURDEN

for more information contact the VET-NET representative at SEA-VAC,
2024 E. Union St., Seattle, WA 98122, telephone 625-4656

VIETNAM VETERANS interested in forming an alcoholics anonymous group
please call Les at 367-3648.

VETNET

if you would like to have SIT-REP sent to you please fill out the following form and return it to SEA-VAC or the Vet Center. You may also call in the following information if you prefer.

SEA-VAC
2024 E. Union St.
Seattle, WA 98122
625-4656

VET CENTER
2322 E. Pike St.
Seattle, WA 98122
442-2706

NAME- _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ ZIP _____

Where did you first see a copy of SIT-REP? _____

REMEMBER THAT YOU WILL ONLY RECEIVE SIT-REP IF YOU GIVE US YOUR NAME FOR THAT PURPOSE!

LATE NEWS

VETERANS' DAY VISIT NAM VETERANS MEMORIAL CEREMONY NOON NOVEMBER 11

Sponsored by VIT NET, will be held in the plaza in front of the Public Safety Building 610 Third Avenue, Seattle

Your attendance is appreciated and needed..

"While the man selected for military service is giving time to the collective effort, others forge ahead in the competitive race of civilian life. Imagine a foot race in which one hundred performers start even, all with high hopes of winning. When the race has just begun, we take a few of the runners out of the race and demand that they fix the track. When the work is over and the laborers are fatigued, we release them in the same haphazard way, give them our hearty thanks, and tell them to resume the race. That is the way the system works."

Willard Waller
from Strangers at Home

Sound familiar? VETNET is working to change this--We need your support-- Remember if we don't help ourselves, who else will?

REP. STEVE TUPPER
Washington State House of Representatives
Room 202 House Building
Olympia, WA 98504
(206) 285-2222

FAMILY RECONCILIATION COURT
Will help with visitation rights to see children of divorced parents.
583-4670

ALCOHOL 24-HOUR HELP LINE
722-3700

CRISIS CLINIC
325-5550

OPEN DOOR CLINIC (FREE MEDICAL)
524-7404

POISON INFORMATION CENTER
634-5252

LANDLORD/TENANT PROBLEMS
464-6684

LEGAL SERVICE CENTERS (FREE)
464-5911

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
624-7200

VOTING REGISTRATION
344-5282

CONSUMER LINE
Taped information on such subjects as credit, auto, employment,
health, home improvements, etc.
464-6811

See the Peoples Yellow Pages for lots of information. Both Vet-Center and
SEA-VAC have copies



**ALASKAN
OUTREACH
EVALUATION**

ALASKAN
OUTREACH
EVALUATION

R. M. McWatters
Outreach Specialist
Tacoma, Washington

March 14, 1980

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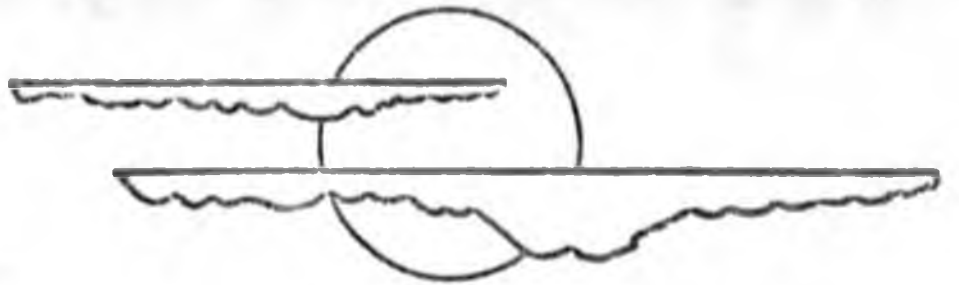
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Due to the vast amount of information to be processed and the quick turnaround time required, some liberties were taken with the structure and footnoting of some sections.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this mission is to represent Dr. Donald Crawford Veterans Administration Central Office in making inquiries regarding the feasibility of developing a Vet Center in Anchorage, Alaska. The mission was to:

1. Contact Mr. David Burrett, Director VA Regional Office and
2. Contact Dr. Glasgow, the VA Clinic Director to discuss the potential Alaska Vet Center.
3. In addition to these visits, the mission is to contact other community leaders with regards to:
 - a. Identifying the availability of community base support for an Outreach effort.
 - b. Attempt to assess the need for services in terms of numbers and availability of Vietnam veterans.
 - c. Assessing in so far as is reasonable the availability and cost for space for a Vet Center.
 - d. Submit a written report to Dr. Crawford at the VACO within a week following the return.
4. The mission was changed to include initial recruitment of Team members and provide some insight to some selected specific issues.



ALASKA

VITAL STATISTICS



ALASKAN BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

Alaska is a land of contrast. It's large boundaries encompass several languages and a wide range of population densities and life styles. Alaskans inhabit the most expansive state in the United States. The population of Alaska, however, is the smallest in the nation and approximately one-half of all the Alaskans reside in the municipality of Anchorage. Alaskan life styles vary significantly from place to place and through seasons and years. While maintaining a definite frontier aspect the Alaskan population is gradually becoming more like that of the rest of the United States. The Alaskan native population - in spite of its high natural rate of growth - is expanding much less rapidly than the general population which is bolstered by migration. The increasing technology in transportation and communications bring mixed blessings to the state. From the wide varieties of food and produce available to the centralization which may accompany these advancements. The phenomenal growth rate accompanying pipe line construction days has raised questions concerning desirable rates of growth for Alaska's population and the economy. These social and economic changes will continue to draw the demographic composition of Alaska near to national norms.

HISTORY

The greatness of Alaska is reflected in the population of the state. Alaska offers a vast land mass, great natural wealth and a prime strategic location in combination for severe weather, transportation and communications difficulties. Attempts to overcome the obstacles in order to tap the benefits have by and large shaped the population of Alaska. Certain marked changes in population size are related to historical events such as construction of the Alcan Highway in 1942. Changes in the age, sex profile on the other hand correspond with the economic and military conditions. For example, increased readiness for World War II was reflected in the doubling of the number of males 20-24 years of age.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS
OF ALASKA

1. With roughly 0.2 percent of the United States population, Alaska is the nations least popul:ce state.
2. Due in large part to migration, the Alaska population has grown an estimated 37 percent between 1970 - 1978, a growth rate five times greater than the comparable United States rate.
3. Nearly 40 percent of the Alaska residents of 1970 had been living outside of Alaska five years previous.
4. Although the age, sex profile of Alaska is drifting near to that of the United States, the Alaska population maintains distinctive elements of a frontier population.
5. The military population in Alaska has declined an average of 3 percent annually since 1970. On July 1, 1979, the number of active duty military was roughly 23,3000.
6. The seven most rapidly growing census divisions between the years 1970 - 1978 all received direct or indirect stimulus from petroleum development. Moderate growth divisions were sustained by renewable resource industries.
7. In the 1980 census, 23 census areas will be used as Alaska counties. In 1970, 29 census divisions were used. In 1960, 24 election districts served as county equivalence for Alaska. Alaska's population size appears to have responded to several major historical events over the past Century. Several distinct periods of population growth divide this hundred years of Alaska history. The first appears at a very low growth and extends from the pre-Gold Rush Era to the Great Depression. The second appears as a rapid growth rate that spans from the construction of the Alcan Highway. The third as an area of phenomonal growth in response to the TransAlaska pipeline. The fourth - or current - state of one of gradual stability while waiting to see the outcome of the TransCanada gasline.
8. Alaska occupies four time zones:
 - Pacific
 - Yukon
 - Alaska/Hawaii
 - Bering.

SELECTED STATISTICS¹

Total Population	---- 12/31/77	421,000
	12/31/78	438,901
Total Military	----- 12/31/77	24,984
Non Military	----- 12/31/77	300,382

White	-----	78.8%
Eskimo	-----	9.3%
Indian	-----	5.4%
Black	-----	3.0%
Aleut	-----	2.2%

Population Distribution ---- 12/31/78

44.5%	Anchorage
13.3%	Fairbanks
5.4%	Kenai-Cook Inlet
4.7%	Juneau
3.7%	Matanuska - Sustina
3.0%	Ketchikan

NOTE (1) 53.6% have direct road access to Anchorage

(2) VBC Office in Fairbanks report of total clients
12/31/79

Vietnam Veterans	--	60.0%
Black	-----	17.5%
Native	-----	8.0%

Vietnam Vets constitute 15% (estimate) of the population and
consume 35.0% of Unemployment Security Commission Services²

¹ Department of Commerce & Economic Development, The Alaskan
Economy" Year end Performance Report, 1977.

² Department of Labor, Alaska Veterans Report, July 1978.

DETAILED STATISTICS.

TOTAL AND VETERAN POPULATION OF ALASKA
1970 CENSUS

<u>Census Division</u>	<u>Total Population</u>	<u>Veteran Population</u>
TOTAL	300,382	39,490
Aleutian Islands	8,057	463
Anchorage	124,542	17,177
Angoon	481	61
Barrow	2,685	369
Bethel	7,579	479
Bristol Bay Borough	944	91
Bristol Bay Division	3,688	273
Cordova-McCarthy	1,769	364
Fairbanks	45,952	5,378
Haines	1,461	269
Juneau	13,599	2,251
Kenai-Cook Inlet	14,250	2,318
Ketchikan	10,041	1,632
Kobuk	4,434	381
Kodiak	9,409	1,035
Kuskokwim	2,275	193
Matanuska-Susitna	6,540	1,162
Nome	5,749	610
Outer Ketchikan	1,771	154
Prince of Wales	2,011	459
Seward	2,021	416
Sitka	6,424	922
Skagway-Yakutat	2,037	260
Southeast Fairbanks	4,299	382
Upper Yukon	1,608	279
Valdez-Chitina-Whittier	3,174	565
Wade Hampton	3,917	250
Wrangell-Petersburg	4,913	765
Yukon-Koyukuk	4,752	532

ESTIMATES OF ALASKA VETERAN POPULATION
JULY, 1977

TOTAL	54,000
Aleutian Islands	442
Anchorage	27,009
Angoon	71
Barrow	1,315
Bethel	509
Bristol Bay Borough	106
Bristol Bay Division	261
Cordova-McCarthy	459
Fairbanks	5,180
Haines	276
Juneau	3,126
Kenai-Cook Inlet	3,208
Ketchikan	2,031
Kobuk	438
Kodiak	978
Kuskokwim	210
Matanuska-Susitna	2,797
Nome	618
Outer Ketchikan	176
Prince of Wales	602
Seward	686
Sitka	1,012
Skagway-Yakutat	354
Southeast Fairbanks	435
Upper Yukon	210
Valdez-Chitina-Whittier	1,763
Wade Hampton	234
Wrangell-Petersburg	815
Yukon-Koyukuk	557

Figures will not add up to total because of rounding criteria and possible inconsistencies in the total population estimates upon which this is based.

ALASKAN VETERANS

2,935 as of June 1978
 Drawing Compensation
 (From Controller 3/1/79)

2,898 as of December 1978
 Drawing Compensation
 (Total from RCS 21-14)

<u>Actual Numbers</u>	<u>Percent of Veterans Drawing Compensation in 1978</u>	<u>Estimated Numbers</u>	<u>8</u>
70	2.3	67	0
1,127	38.4	1,113	10
586	20.0	580	20
446	15.2	439	30
238	8.1	235	40
113	3.9	113	50
155	5.3	154	60
66	2.2	64	70
40	1.4	41	80
13	.4	11	90
81	2.8	81	100
<hr/> 2,935	<hr/> 100.0	<hr/> 2,898	

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION ACTIVE COMPENSATION CASES IN ALASKA
MARCH 1978

	<u>Disability Cases</u>	<u>Disability Amounts</u>
TOTAL	3,069	433,391
Service Connected	2,718	394,450
Non Service Connected	351	48,941
WORLD WAR I	74	10,173
Service Connected	5	403
Non Service Connected	69	9,770
WORLD WAR II	1,263	182,349
Service Connected	1,025	150,492
Non Service Connected	238	31,857
KOREA	341	54,640
Service Connected	306	48,556
Non Service Connected	35	6,048
VIET NAM	1,049	148,275
Service Connected	1,040	147,045
Non Service Connected	9	1,230

SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITY: One acquired during active service.

NON SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITY: Acquired after leaving active service.

ALASKAN VETERANS

Drawing Compensation
As of June 1978
(from Controllers Shop)

(2,935)

0% to 10%	70 =	2.3%
10% to 20%	1,127 =	38.4
20% to 30%	586 =	20.0
30% to 40%	446 =	15.2
40% to 50%	238 =	8.1
50% to 60%	113 =	3.9
60% to 70%	155 =	5.3
70% to 80%	66 =	2.2
80% to 90%	40 =	1.4
90% to 100%	13 =	.4
100%	81 =	2.8
	<hr/>	
	2,935 =	100.0%

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE
 IN ALASKA UNDER CHAPTER 34
 MARCH, 1978

	<u># In Training At End of March, 1978</u>	<u>Total In Training Mar. 77-Mar. 78</u>
Inst. of Higher Learning	822	4,509
Schools Below College Level	310	3,550
On Job Training - Apprentice	146	560
On Job Training - Other	43	163
Educ. Disadvant. - Included Above	8	96
Flight Training - Included Above	145	1,667
Coop. Farm Train. - Included Above	0	1
TOTAL	1,321	8,782

CHAPTER 34: Regular "GI Bill" Educational Assistance for Veterans

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
 ASSISTANCE IN ALASKA UNDER CHAPTER 31
 MARCH, 1978

	<u># In Training At End of March, 1978</u>	<u>Total In Training Mar. 77-Mar. 78</u>
Inst. of Higher Learning	17	74
School Below College Level	2	14
On Job Training	0	0
TOTAL	19	88

CHAPTER 31: Educational Assistance for Veterans With a 30% or Greater Disability.

INFLATIONS AND COST COMPARISONS¹

The Anchorage Consumer Price Index

Since Fairbanks will not have a Consumer Price Index until late 1979 or early 1980, the Anchorage Consumer Price Index is the only official bench mark for living cost in the state. Between October 1976 and October 1977, the Anchorage Consumer Price Index rose 5.8 percent, this represents a lessening of inflationary pressures which were high during the pipeline years. In 1975, for example, the Anchorage Consumer Price Index rose 13.7 percent between July 1977 and October 1977. The Anchorage Consumer Price Index fell .1 percent, the first decline since January 1973.

Anchorage/Fairbanks Food Prices

In December 1977 the Community Information Center staff surveyed food prices in Safeway, Market Basket, Food Land, and Quick Shop stores in Fairbanks, and Safeway, Proctors, Carls, and Quick Shop stores in Anchorage. The data was analyzed using Consumer Price Index weighting procedures. The survey revealed that food prices in Fairbanks average 9 percent higher than Anchorage. When the former Impact Information Center had a similar Anchorage/Fairbanks food price comparison in 1976, it found that food prices in Anchorage were 10 percent higher than Fairbanks.

¹ Community Information Quarterly: Fairbanks Community Information Center, August 1978.

INFLATIONS AND COST COMPARISONS

(Continued)

Additionally at that time Fairbanks had a 5 percent sales tax on food and drugs. Since Anchorage does not have a sales tax, the total difference in food prices was 15 percent. In January 1978, the 5 percent Fairbanks sales tax on food and drugs was removed, thus in comparison, 1976 Fairbanks food prices were 15 percent higher than the Anchorage prices. The Community Information Center estimates that the 1978 Fairbanks prices are 9 percent higher than Anchorage. The Anchorage/Fairbanks comparison found a wide variation in price differential for some items, for example, meat, poultry, and fish prices in Fairbanks were only 4 percent higher than Anchorage while fruit and vegetables were 13 percent higher than Fairbanks. Non-food items such as housekeeping supplies, toilet goods, and aspirin were also an average of 9 percent higher in Fairbanks than Anchorage.

Energy Cost

The Community Information Center conducted surveys of heating oil prices, propane cost, electricity, and coal prices. The survey found that between 1976 - 1978 Fairbanks fuel prices rose from 56.9¢ per gallon to 58.9¢ per gallon, an increase of about 4 percent. In the same period, heating oil prices in Anchorage, Juneau, and Seattle increased an average of 12 percent. The low rate of price increase in Fairbanks is

INFLATIONS AND COST COMPARISONS

(Continued)

attributable to the North Pole Refinery which produces heating oil for local distribution. In September 1977, just prior to the opening of the refinery, the Community Information Center surveyed Fairbanks heating oil prices. The results of that survey showed that the prices for February 1978 are below those for the period prior to the opening of the refinery. Propane prices in 1977 were an average 80¢ per gallon in Fairbanks compared to 76.5¢ per gallon in Anchorage. Fairbanks electrical rates continue to rise sharply in 1977. The cost for 1,000 kilo-watt hours in Fairbanks was \$67 - \$77 compared to \$30 - \$38 in Anchorage and Juneau, and only \$11 in Seattle. The increasing cost of electricity in Fairbanks is the result of greater dependence on oil fired turbines which cost significantly more to generate electricity than coal fired facilities. The results of the cost for different fuels were plugged into a model created for the Community Information Center by Axel Carlson of the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service. The model estimated that 1978 heating costs for a typical Fairbanks home would be \$959 for coal, \$2,860 for electricity, \$1,125 for fuel oil, and \$2,226 for propane. When the model was adjusted for temperature differences, it is estimated that the cost of heating a typical home with fuel oil was \$1,125 in Fairbanks, \$768 in Anchorage, \$577 in Juneau, and \$338 in Seattle.

INFLATION AND COST COMPARISONS

(Continued)

Health Care

Between June 1976 - January 1978, the cost of a semi-private room at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital increased from \$110 to \$150 a day. However, the cost of intensive care increased from \$240 - \$318 a day. However, these rates are still considerably below Anchorage where the Alaska Teamsters Hospital charges \$153 a day for semi-private care and \$425 a day for intensive care. The Providence Hospital charges \$175 a day for semi-private and \$395 a day for intensive care.

AIR QUALITY

Although Carbon Monoxide concentrations in Fairbanks still exceed the allowable Environmental Protection Agency Standards in 1977, air quality in downtown Fairbanks improved somewhat over prior years. This change is attributed to several factors including:

1. Construction of shopping malls in the outlying areas which reduced downtown traffic.
2. Completion of the by-pass which diverted traffic away from downtown.
3. Installation of traffic signals which facilitate a more efficient flow of traffic in the core areas.
4. A decline in the area population and subsequent overall reduction in traffic volume.

Generally the severity of carbon monoxide has decreased in the downtown areas but levels of carbon monoxide pollution above the Environmental Protection Agency's Standards are now being recorded in a broader geographic area - despite the apparent improvement in air quality Fairbanks was recently designated a nonattainment area by the Environmental Protection Agency. Thus, Fairbanks is required to make further efforts to reduce carbon monoxide pollution.

CRIME

The evidence of most crimes reported to the Fairbanks Police Department and the Alaska State Troopers declined in 1977 from the 1976 levels. One of the most notable categories was a reduction in the number of aggravated assaults. The Police reported a decline from 98 aggravated assaults cases in 1976 to 59 cases in 1977. Similarly the Troopers reported a drop from 153 to 97 cases. City Police cases revealed a drop in robbery from 93 cases to 46 cases in 1977. However, the State Troopers reported 33 robberies in 1976 and 1977. Both burglary and vehicle theft declined in City Police statistics from 1976 but increased in the State Troopers statistics. The number of juvenile offenses dropped from 1,360 in 1976 to 1,243 in 1977, a decline of 9 percent. Declines in larceny, shoplifting, joy riding, and runaways accounted for most of the drop in juvenile crime, however, the incidence of liquor violations and drug/narcotic offenses among juveniles increased.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Public Assistance case loads which declined during the pipeline boom rose sharply in 1977 - the primary increase was in aid to families with dependent children. Cases which rose from 158 cases in October 1976 to 264 in October 1977 - showed an increase of 67 percent. However this is still 20 percent below the 329 cases of aid to families with dependent children which was recorded for October 1973. It is likely that the increase in Public Assistance cases is the result of the high unemployment levels in Fairbanks which has occurred since the completion of the pipeline.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

In 1977, 755 marriage applications and 695 divorce applications were filed in Fairbanks. This represents a 5 percent decline in the number of marriages as compared to 1976 and a 10 percent drop in the number of divorces. These statistics corrolate with the decline in the areas population.



ALASKAN FORECASTS

PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH

1978 - 1985¹

Between 1970 - 1978 total employment increased by merely 10 percent per year in Alaska. Over this same period of pipeline stimulated growth, the population is estimated to have grown slightly less than 5 percent per year. At present the economic growth of Alaska is primarily absorbed in taking up slack left by the completion of the TransAlaska Pipeline. Presumably population growth fueled by economic expansion is also in a lull. Over the seven years between 1978 - 1985 a reasonable population growth rate would be 4 percent per year, however, higher growth rates may occur if major construction projects are undertaken in the state. The TransCanada Gas Pipeline should be kept in mind when considering these figures. As of 1978, the total population of Alaska officially was 438,901. It is projected that the aforementioned 4 percent a year by 1985 would mean a population of 525,000. Forecast of accelerated population growth due to construction of the proposed North West Alaskan Gas Pipeline has been estimated using the Department of Labor's Econometric Model. The gas pipeline faces many financial, regulatory, and right of way hurdles similar to those encountered by the construction of the TransAlaska Pipeline. Estimates of annual increases in the population induced by the Pipeline Project were assumed to peak in the third year of construction with an additional 33,400 people.

¹ Alaska Population Overview, Alaska Department of Labor, First Edition, December 1979

ESTIMATING VETERAN POPULATION OF ALASKA¹

Currently the VA estimates the number of veterans in each state using methods and figures based on the 1970 census.² Since 1970 Alaska has experienced a dramatic increase in its population. The current estimate of population by census divisions is presented. Examination of the population figures reveals a 36 percent increase in the state population. Data provided by the Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section shows that a 61 percent of the increase in the population is due to migration.³ Whereas only 39 percent of the increase is due to natural increase. The increase in Alaska's population has been due mainly to inland migration. It is likely that a part of this inland migration are veterans as represented at least to some degree as they are in the total population. It may be, however, that there is a greater portion in this migrating population because the number of younger persons coming to Alaska may include more young veterans with greater mobility than other groups. In calculating estimates of the current estimates of the veteran population of the state, the rates of population change when multiplied by the 1970 census Veteran figures. It must be remembered

¹ Department of Labor, Alaskan Veteran Report, July 1978.


² VACO Stastical Report, June 1977

³ Alaska Population Overview, Alaska Department of Labor, First Edition, 1979.

ESTIMATING VETERAN POPULATION OF ALASKA

(Continued)

that these figures are based on the best information available at the time. Recent figures from the VA on the number of veterans shows that the Vietnam Era veterans population accounts for 27.8 percent of the total veteran population nationally. If these ratios are applied to the estimated total number of veterans in Alaska, a figure of 15,000 Alaskan Vietnam veterans results.



EMPLOYMENT

Employment Trends^{1, 2}

Major impact of the end of Pipeline construction in 1977 was a significant drop in employment. In Fairbanks the employment rate fell from an average 30,143 in 1976 to 21,445 for the first three-quarters of 1977 - a decline of 29 percent. Between 1976 and 1977 employment fell 71 percent in construction; 9 percent in transportation; 13 percent for trade; 34 percent for services; and 9 percent for government. However, the average 1977 employment was still 48 percent above the 1973 prepipeline level of 15,558. Between 1973 and 1977 employment increased 68 percent for construction; 93 percent for transportation, communications and public utilities; 57 percent for trade; 109 percent for services; and 9 percent for government. In 1973, one year prior to the beginning of pipeline construction, government employment in Fairbanks accounted for 43 percent of total employment compared to only 8 percent for construction. However, during 1976 portion of government employed dropped to 25 percent and constructions increased to 24 percent of the total employment. In 1977 the portion of government employment increased to 32 percent as construction fell to 10 percent of the total. Prior to the pipeline construction employment was highly seasonable with low levels of employment in the Winter and sharp brief Summer peaks. In contrast, 1974 - 1976

¹ Alaska Economic Trends, Department of Labor, May 1979

² Alaska Veterans Report, July 1976

EMPLOYMENT

(Continued)

pipeline years were characterized by high levels of year round construction and employment. We also see the impact of the upsurge in construction employment on the support sector of the economy which includes transportation, communication, public utilities, trade, finance, insurance, real estate, services, and miscellaneous industries.

Unemployment^{1, 2}

Unemployment in the Fairbanks labor market area averaged an record high of 19.9 percent. In 1977 by comparison the average annual employment in Fairbanks was 6.8 percent in 1974, 5.9 percent in 1975, and 9.9 percent in 1976.

NOTE: In 1976 the Alaska Department of Labor began calculating its employment figures by a new method. Figures calculated under this new method result in slightly lower unemployment rate, however, to provide comparison with data from 1970 - 1975 the statistics calculated were done so using the old method.

1

Alaska Economic Trends, Department of Labor, May 1979.

2

Alaska Veteran Report, July 1978.

EMPLOYMENT

(Continued)

TransAlaska Pipeline Employment^{1, 2}

Alyeska-Pipeline Service Company provided the Community Information Center with a detailed breakdown of pipeline construction employment by craft. These figures were for the total project including headquarters, construction camps, pump stations, and the Veldez Terminal. Peak employment for 1977 was 14,004 in April but dropped to only 1,809 by November 1977. The figures also illustrate the change in the mix of employment during the duration of the project. In 1975 16 percent of the work force were professional, technical, and clerical positions; 15 percent were teamsters; 8 percent were welders, 26 percent were operating engineers; 17 percent were laborers, 6 percent were culinary, 3 percent were carpenters, and the remaining 9 percent were other construction trades. By April 1977, one-half of the work force was professional, technical and clerical positions; 14 percent were teamsters; 5 percent were plumbers and pipefitters, 4 percent were welders, 19 percent were operating engineers, 13 percent were laborers, 6 percent were electricians, 3 percent culinary, 3 percent carpenters, and 8 percent other construction trades. By November 1977, 59 percent of the work force were professional, technical, and clerical positions.

¹ Alaska Economic Trends, Alaska Department of Labor, May 1979

² Alaska Veteran Report, July 1978

HOUSING TRENDS

Availability of Rental Housing

The Community Information Center's Monthly Survey of Housing advertised for rent in the Fairbank's Daily News - Miner for a record 1,061 units available in January 1978 which compares to 91 units available in January 1975, 129 units in January 1976, and 577 units available in January 1977.¹ Several factors led to this sharp rise - the addition of a large number of newly constructed rental units to the housing market, the end of pipeline construction with a subsequent drop in population, and an increase of those who left the rental market to purchase homes. Apartment units accounted for 87 percent of the housing units available in January 1978. Seventy-two houses were advertised for rent in January 1978 compared to 15 in January 1975, 26 in January 1976, and 58 in January 1977.²

New Housing Construction^{1, 2}

Despite the end of the pipeline in 1977, 1977 was a record year of new housing construction in Fairbanks. A total of 1,561 units were begun in 1977 compared with 998 in 1976, an increase of 56 percent. In 1977, the year prior to the pipeline construction, only 446 new housing units were built in the Fairbanks Metropolitan area. The 64% new single family

¹ Community Information Quarterly, February 1979

² The Alaska Economy, December 1977

HOUSING TRENDS

(Continued)

houses built in 1977 were similar to the number built in the three previous years, however there were a record 920 units in new multi-family units in 1974, 372 units in 1975, and 485 units in 1976. The increasing investment in housing in 1977 is linked to greater availability of mortgage financing.

Cost of Rental Housing^{1, 2}

The increased supply in rental housing has caused a corresponding drop in average advertised rents. The price of a one-bedroom furnished apartment rose from \$256 in 1974 to \$441 in 1975 but declined to \$393 in 1976, and declined still further to \$359 in the fourth quarter of 1977. Similarly the average advertised rental for a three-bedroom house rose from \$465 in 1974 to \$659 in 1975 and then declined to \$560 in 1976, and then to \$532 in 1977

¹ Community Information Quarterly, February 1979.

² The Alaska Economy December 1977



SPECIAL PROBLEMS

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED VETERAN^{1, 2}

Alaska's Employment Service Offices offer a range of services to unemployed persons including veterans. Primarily the Employment Service Office provides a referral of persons to job openings. Other services provided include: testing, counseling, and other related services. In order of rank, the largest number of applicants by group are:

Clerical and Sales

Structural Work

Service Occupations

Professional, Technical, and Managerial

Twenty-six percent of all applicants were veterans. The majority of veteran applicants were in structural work and accounted for 43 percent of all applicants for these occupations. The second group of veterans were from the professional, technical, and managerial occupations which accounted for 18 percent of the veterans. Thirty-eight percent of all applicants having these occupations were veterans. The third largest occupational group were the service occupations both for the total applicants and veterans. Unlike the total applicant population which had the largest number of applicants in clerical and sales occupations, only nine percent of the veterans applicants were affiliated with this type of work. This is due to the fact that these occupations were dominated by women whereas the vast majority of veterans are men.

¹ Office of Personnel Management Report, January 22, 1980.

² Alaska Veteran Report, Department of Labor, July 1978

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED VETERAN

(Continued)

Compared to the total, portionally few veterans were under 25 years of age. Veterans showed an edge in educational attainment over unemployed Alaskan s. Ninety-five percent of the unemployed veterans were males, 76 percent were white, 8 percent indicated physical disability, and 26 percent gave service during the Vietnam Era. Fifteen percent of the individuals given tests were veterans as were 29 percent of those counseled. Of the veterans given these services, at least 35 percent were Vietnam Era. Twenty-three to 24 percent indicated a physical disability.

Unemployment

APPLICANTS THROUGH CHANNELS AND TESTING
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE 7-31-78

APPLICANT CHARACTERISTICS	Total		Veterans		Percent		Individuals		Veterans		Percent
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
AGE	1,136	100	172	100	15	1,138	100	331	100	29	
Under 25	114	10	0	0	0	83	7	4	1	5	
25-29	164	14	11	7	7	116	10	18	5	16	
30-34	267	23	33	19	16	191	17	54	16	29	
35-39	254	22	66	38	26	214	19	72	22	34	
40-44	201	18	35	20	17	267	23	78	24	29	
45-49	69	6	8	5	16	65	6	21	7	15	
50-54	69	6	16	9	23	127	11	34	10	43	
55-59	17	1	3	2	18	65	6	27	8	42	
60+	1	0	0	0	0	10	1	1	0	10	
SEX	1,136	100	172	100	15	1,138	100	331	100	29	
Male	834	73	153	88	33	537	47	317	96	60	
Female	302	27	19	11	2	606	53	14	4	23	
HIGHEST SCHOOL GRADE	1,136	100	172	100	15	1,138	100	331	100	29	
0-7	9	1	1	0	11	25	2	4	1	10	
8-11	182	16	18	10	10	254	22	35	11	14	
12	687	60	103	60	15	611	54	195	59	32	
Over 12	278	24	50	30	18	268	23	98	29	39	
RESIDENCE	1,136	100	172	100	15	1,138	100	331	100	29	
Urban	1,067	94	162	94	15	1,097	96	314	95	29	
Rural	67	6	10	6	15	41	4	17	5	41	
ETHNIC GROUP	1,136	100	172	100	15	1,138	100	331	100	29	
White	896	79	137	80	15	837	74	258	78	31	
Black	71	7	18	10	25	81	7	43	13	53	
Am. Ind.	129	11	12	7	9	165	14	20	6	12	
Other	26	2	3	2	19	67	6	8	2	19	
Unknown	10	1	0	0	0	11	1	7	1	18	
VETERAN	172	100	172	100	100	331	100	331	100	100	
Benefit Exp.	26	15	26	15	30	30	9	9	9	9	
Disabled	19	11	19	11	43	43	13	13	13	13	
Vietnam Era	60	35	60	35	126	126	38	38	38	38	
Initial Veterans	9	5	9	5	22	22	7	7	7	7	
UNEMPLOYED	129	11	42	24	13	156	13	80	24	51	
Phys. Disabled	122	11	47	27	17	150	13	77	23	31	
Menl. Disturbed	4	0	0	0	4	4	0	1	0	24	
Menl. Disturbed	1	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	1	100	
From Disability	109	10	26	15	13	395	35	70	21	18	
From Stamp	79	7	12	7	17	127	11	36	11	33	
Unlaid	66	6	3	2	3	230	20	3	1	1	
Other	8	1	4	2	10	9	3	3	1	33	
EMPLOYMENT STATUS	1,136	100	172	100	15	1,138	100	331	100	29	
Full Time	75	7	9	5	12	38	3	6	1	14	
Part Time	28	2	2	1	7	25	2	6	1	24	
Not Working	1,031	91	161	94	16	1,075	95	319	96	30	
Job Attachment	73	7	4	2	17	33	3	8	2	35	

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS



SPECIFIC ISSUES

REGIONAL OFFICE

The Alaska Regional Office moved on the Labor Day weekend from Juneau to temporary offices in Anchorage. No days of service were lost to Alaska veterans. The Department of Medicine and Surgery portion of the Regional Office lost three full-time positions. The DM&S now has 21 FTP's and the DVB portion has 37 FTP's and 39 FTEE's.

The Regional Office in Anchorage is the smallest in the VA System and has some unique problems. The average salary in Alaska in 1979 was \$34,200 (Department of Labor Letter, dated January 1980) and quite frankly the wages offered by the Federal Government are quite low by Alaska standards. This combined with a 5 percent cut in the Cost of Living Allowance has led to a 58 percent turn over rate in personnel. In spite of problems of this magnitude the Director Mr. Baurett, his VSO Mr. Bill Harrell and Joe Glasgow, M.D., Clinic Director are providing a quality of care and services that will rival that of any Regional Office in the system.

It should be noted that the Regional Office provided unlimited assistance to the mission that is the subject of this report. This support, while sometimes straining their meager resources, was none the less cheerfully provided mostly by the persons Mr. Baurett, Mr. Harrell, Ms. Lystad, and Ms. Bruner.

MEDICAL

There are zero VA medical facilities in the state of Alaska. The closest VA hospital to Anchorage, Alaska is in Seattle, Washington. The public sector provides the vast majority of any medical or psychiatric or psychological help that is available. There are some difficulties with that. There are a great number of bad feelings in the public sector, professionally, since the physician will see a client and have the VA send him away to a facility in Seattle and then get him back for follow-up after surgery - there is a very strong argument in favor of continuity of care.

The biggest service provider in the city of Anchorage and in the state of Alaska is Providence Hospital - they get between 20 - 25 percent of the dollars spent by the Regional Office.

The VA Regional Office has contracted with Elemendorf Air Force Base Medical Facility to provide some medical support on a space available basis but that has been largely unsatisfactory. Elemendorf is the facility that's charged with doing the Agent Orange screening. Elemendorf has not been following the protocol set up by the VA. They are not keeping the accurate statistics and they are largely unavailable for comment when questioned about it.

Basically, a realistic picture of the medical services that the VA is capable of providing in Alaska is that they are slim and none. There is a very cumbersome system that just appear to

MEDICAL

(Continued)

the consumer to be somewhat like a patchwork quilt - this causes a great deal of hardship and confusion on the part of the service provider and the consumer as well as to the already understaffed regional office.

MEDICAL DOCTORS BY SPECIALTY
Board Certified* and Non-Certified
Fairbanks Area
1968-1977

	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77
<u>General/Family Practice</u>										
Board Certified	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	6	7
Non-Certified	8	9	8	10	11	13	13	14	11	9
<u>Gynecology & Gynecology</u>										
Board Certified	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	5
Non-Certified	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	3	2
<u>Internal Medicine</u>										
Board Certified	-	-	-	1	1	2	3	4	5	7
Non-Certified	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	6
<u>Pediatrics</u>										
Board Certified	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	4
Non-Certified	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	3	3
<u>General Surgery</u>										
Board Certified	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
Non-Certified	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2
<u>Orthopedics</u>										
Board Certified	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	4	4
Non-Certified	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	3	3	3
<u>Ophthalmology</u>										
Board Certified	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Non-Certified	-	1	1	1	1	3	4	4	3	2
<u>Otolaryngology</u>										
Board Certified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Non-Certified	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	2
<u>Anesthesiology</u>										
Board Certified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Non-Certified	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-
<u>Neurology</u>										
Board Certified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Non-Certified	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1
<u>Radiology</u>										
Board Certified	-	-	-	1	2	2	3	3	4	4
<u>Pathology</u>										
Board Certified	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
<u>Psychiatry</u>										
Board Certified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Non-Certified	-	-	-	1	1	2	3	3	3	3
<u>Plastic Surgery</u>										
Board Certified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Non-Certified	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
<u>Urology</u>										
Board Certified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Non-Certified	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
<u>Miscellaneous</u>										
Non-Certified	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-
Total Certified	6	8	8	12	14	16	20	26	37	49
Total Non-Certified	26	29	27	31	35	31	31	37	51	60
Total M.D.'s	23	28	27	31	40	49	63	70	77	77

*To be board certified an M.D. must take a residency in a particular specialty and then pass an examination.

Source: Fairbanks Memorial Hospital and the Alaska State Medical Association.

STREET DRUGS

A comparison of Seattle and Anchorage prices

<u>Seattle</u>		<u>Anchorage</u>
\$50/75	Cocaine - $\frac{1}{2}$ Gram	\$150/200
\$75/125	Colombian Marijuana - $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.	\$150
\$50/60	Heroin - China White	\$75/100
\$5/10	Liquid Crystal Speed	\$20/30
\$10/25	LSD/Peyote	\$25/50
\$20/30	MDA	\$76

Etoh. - Liquor usually is 20% higher in Alaska - as an example, a fifth of Yukon Jack retails in Seattle for an average of \$8.70. A one-half pint (that's equal to one cup) cost an average of \$4.50 in Anchorage.

NOTE: It should be noted that PCP or Angel Dust is almost non-existent while many, many prescriptions are being written for synthetic and non-synthetic opiates such as Diludid, Percidan, and Tussinex - which are then abused. This situation seems to be statewide in a state that has decriminalized the use and possession of marijuana.

COMMERCIAL SPACE COSTS
Fairbanks and Anchorage
1978

<u>Monthly Rent</u>	<u>Anchorage</u>	<u>Fairbanks</u>	<u>% Differential</u>
<u>Office Space</u>			
Range	\$1.00-1.60/sq ft	\$.90-1.25/sq ft	15-25%
Average	1.35/sq ft	1.15/sq ft	17.4%
<u>Class. Space</u>			
Range	\$.75-1.25/sq ft	\$.75-1.10/sq ft	0-13.6%
Average	1.10/sq ft	1.00/sq ft	9.1%
<u>Warehouse Space</u>			
Range	\$.25-.70/sq ft	\$.25-.75/sq ft	0%
Average	.50/sq ft	.50/sq ft	0%
<u>Airport Terminal Space</u> (with normal utility requirements)	\$.91/sq ft	\$1.16/sq ft	27.3%

COMMERCIAL SPACE INSURANCE COSTS*
Fairbanks and Anchorage
1978

<u>Business Classification</u>	<u>Anchorage (Protection Class 1)</u>	<u>Fairbanks (Protection Class 2)</u>	<u>% Higher in Fairbanks</u>
<u>Office Space</u>			
5,000 sq ft	\$.57/100.00	\$.62/100.00	8.8%
10,000 sq ft	.43/100.00	.46/100.00	7.3%
<u>Retail Space (building only)</u>			
5,000 sq ft	\$1.26/100.00	\$1.37/100.00	8.7%
10,000 sq ft	1.09/100.00	1.19/100.00	9.2%
<u>Warehouse Space (building only)</u>			
5,000 sq ft	\$1.26/100.00	\$1.37/100.00	8.7%
10,000 sq ft	1.21/100.00	1.33/100.00	9.9%

*Average includes fire, extended coverage, and vandalism, annual premium.

Source: Fairbanks/Anchorage Business Cost Comparison, by Woodward-Clay Consultants, Community Information Center Special Report No. 2, July 1978.



RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended:

1. That the Team be located in Anchorage at a location deemed acceptable by the Outreach Team Leader. He may, if he chooses, seek advisement from Mr. Bill Harrell, VSO, Regional Office, and Mr. Dennis R. Thomason, Alaska Department of Natural Resources (See Bibliography) who are quite knowledgeable in the needs of the city.
2. That the Team be considered for augmentation if and when budget allows. It is suggested that the augmentation consist of either:
 - a. Two people, both Outreach workers free to move about the state as time, weather, and budget allow.
 - b. Two people, both Outreach workers, one co-located with the Veterans Benefits Counseling Office in Juneau and one co-located with the Veterans Benefits Counseling Office in Fairbanks.
3. That the Team ALL be familiar with the logistic difficulties of doing Outreach work in a town with no public facilities, no bars, no restaurants, no public restrooms, and no hotel or motel. It is also recommended that the Veterans Administration Central Office be aware of these special needs and be prepared to respond to unusual requests.
4. That the Team be familiar with the dangers of travel in Alaska - that is famous for its unpredictable and severe weather.
5. That the Team be aware of the number of weapons both concealed and non-concealed that are present on the streets of Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and other Alaskan cities.
6. That the Team be provided with a Zenith state-wide toll-free telephone line as well as the abilities to do conference calling.
7. That the Team be allowed to travel with
 - a. The Social Security Outreach Team that is charged with visiting each village in the state at least once a year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

(Continued)

7.
 - b. The AF of L/CIO Outreach Team that travels extensively in the South Central and South East portions of the state
 - c. The Alaska State Employment Security Outreach Team that travels extensively in a converted motor home. However, this will require some negotiations since current insurance requirements are prohibitive.
8. That the Team attempt to make contacts with the Clinic Director, Dr. Glasgow, to ensure that the very unique Medical Support System is fully understood.
9. That the Team make contacts with the VBC s in Juneau and Fairbanks that will ensure that those offices will be aware of the Outreach Team and vice-versa.
10. That the Team consider the area North of a line drawn from Bethel to Fairbanks a write off due to the size of the area and the small number of veterans in the area. This recommendation is to except the area of Barrow, Alaska which has a VFW Post that is 75% Vietnam veterans.
11. That the Team contact the Offices of Congressman Young and Senators Gravel and Stevens to make its presence known. This is suggested so that those offices can include information regarding the Team in its official mail to the residents.
12. That the Team make contacts with the Spenard Employment Security Office, specifically a Mr. Ron Wertz, the Veterans Employment Representative.
13. That the Team assist whenever possible an already overburdened Regional Office.

NOTE:

It is MOST IMPORTANT that both the Outreach Team Members and the Central Office Staff be aware that a number of situations WILL arise in Alaska that will prove to be unique. It should also BE UNDERSTOOD that some unique solutions will be required in response to these situations.

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Senator Gravel - 701 "C" Street, Box 1, Anchorage, Alaska 99513, Office Manager - Nancy Markley.

Senator Ted Stevens - 701 "C" Street, Box 2, Anchorage, Alaska 99513, Officer Manager - Barbara Andrews.

Representative Don Young - 701 "C" Street, Box 3, Anchorage, Alaska 99513, Office Manager - Ms. Wes Gregg

Veterans Administration Regional Office - Mr. Dave Baurrett, Director, 605 West 4th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

Alaska Department of Labor, Employment Security Division, Ed Musselwhite, Post Office Box 3-7000, Juneau, Alaska 99803.

Adjutant of American Legion for State of Alaska, Lloyd Johnson, 605 West 4th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

Family Intervention Center - Joan Swanson, 326 Fourth Street, Juneau, Alaska 99803.

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Fairbanks Comprehensive Mental Health Center - Dr. Ken Green, Ph.D., Lloyd Cripes, Ph.D., Jill Diane Bottrell, Ph.D., 209 Forty Mile Avenue, Grihe - Fairbanks, Alaska 99701.

Shorty O'Leary "Ph.D. from Sidewalk University" - Alaskan Hotel and Red Dog Saloon, Juneau, Alaska.

Alaska State Employment Security Commission - Ron Wertz, Spenard Office, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Team - Mr. Bill Oleso.. Team Leader.

Anchorage Westward Hilton - Director of Services, 3rd Avenue and "G" Street, Anchorage, Alaska.

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The following people are located at the Veterans Administration Regional Office in Anchorage:

Dave Baurrett, Director

Bill Alley, Supervisor, D.M. & S.

Dennis Carraher - Chief Social Work

Mike Sheehy - Adjudicant Officer

Dick Borneman - Loan Guarantee

Bill Harrell - VSO & Staff Assistant

Richy Esposito - Finance, Acting Director

Clay Teem - Office Service Manager

Nancy Lykstad - Personnel

Vernessa Brunner - Management Analysis

Pete Everingham - VVC in Fairbanks

PROBLEM AREAS	VETERANS COUNSELED		NUMBER OF VETERAN VISITS	NUMBER OF CONTACTS BY CATEGORY				TELEPHONE CONTACTS	
	ELIGIBLE	INELIGIBLE		OUTREACH	READJ	REFER	FOLLOW-UP	VETERANS	OTHER
ACTUAL TABULATION	195	1	349	0	475	0	1	226	405
TABULATION BY PROBLEM									
1. MARITAL	11	0	37	0	46	0	0	18	20
2. LEGAL	10	0	14	0	21	0	0	12	18
3. VOCATIONAL	92	0	125	0	190	0	1	66	162
4. EDUCATIONAL	71	0	81	0	113	0	0	59	134
5. FINANCIAL	56	0	71	0	55	0	0	57	122
6. VA (OR OTHER BENEFITS)	57	1	67	0	60	0	0	52	118
7. PHYSICAL	15	0	23	0	31	0	0	15	40
8. MENTAL	10	0	16	0	19	0	0	16	31
9. ALCOHOL/DRUGS	27	0	77	0	112	0	0	26	55
10. ANXIETY/FEARS	28	0	84	0	101	0	0	33	42
11. BAD DREAMS/FLASHBACKS	24	0	27	0	51	0	0	18	17
12. SUICIDE/HOMICIDE	6	0	6	0	6	0	0	7	12
13. GUILT	27	0	30	0	30	0	0	14	23
14. UNEMPLOYMENT	17	0	20	6	33	0	0	25	49
15. SKILL TRAINING	20	0	27	0	30	0	0	20	54
16. DISCHARGE UPGRADE	16	0	15	0	20	0	0	11	24
17. OTHER	68	0	79	0	108	0	0	72	97

PROBLEM AREAS	VETERANS COUNSELED		NUMBER OF VETERAN VISITS	NUMBER OF CONTACTS BY CATEGORY				TELEPHONE VETERANS
	ELIGIBLE	INELIGIBLE		OUTREACH	READJ	REFER	FOLLOW-UP	
ACTUAL TABULATION	404	1	982	18	1,248	3	7	684
TABULATION BY PROBLEM								
1. MARITAL	21	0	81	0	96	0	0	45
2. LEGAL	16	0	23	0	33	0	0	16
3. VOCATIONAL	156	3	347	4	452	0	3	198
4. EDUCATIONAL	136	0	221	3	285	0	2	124
5. FINANCIAL	110	0	254	3	310	0	0	185
6. VA (OR OTHER BENEFITS)	115	1	207	4	260	0	0	119
7. PHYSICAL	25	0	107	0	126	0	0	69
8. MENTAL	21	0	79	3	95	0	0	63
9. ALCOHOL/DRUGS	43	0	154	2	217	1	0	74
10. ANXIETY/FEARS	46	0	194	4	240	0	0	106
11. BAD DREAMS/FLASHBACKS	31	0	175	2	226	0	0	67
12. SUICIDE/HOMICIDE	14	0	43	2	64	0	0	43
13. AGENT CHANGE	127	0	160	2	191	2	1	192
14. INTERPERSONAL	25	0	33	0	109	0	0	66
15. SKILL TRAINING	39	0	92	3	110	6	0	66
16. DISCHARGE UPGRADE	25	0	40	0	55	0	0	21
17. OTHER	133	0	236	0	312	0	1	171

TE # 603 ANCHORAGE

	CURRENT MONTH	FISCAL YEAR-TO-DATE
NUMBER OF VETERANS SEEN		
1A. TOTAL NUMBER OF VETERANS SEEN	197 *	408
1B. NUMBER FOUND INELIGIBLE AT FIRST CONTACT	1	1
1C. NUMBER FOUND INELIGIBLE AFTER READJ. CCUNS.	0	0
1D. TOTAL FOUND INELIGIBLE	1	1
1E. TOTAL ELIGIBLE VETERANS SEEN	196	407
1F. TOTAL NUMBER OF VETERANS OUTREACHED	0	15
NUMBER OF VISITS (MULTIPLE CONTACTS ON ONE DAY COUNT AS ONE VISIT)		
24. IN-OUTREACH CATEGORY	0	14
2A. FOR READJUSTMENT COUNSELING	348	958
2C. FOR REFERRAL	0	3
2D. TOTAL VETERAN VISITS	348	975
2E. COLLATERAL VISITS	113	232
2F. TOTAL VISITS	461	1,207
NUMBER OF CONTACTS		
31. IN-OUTREACH CATEGORY	0	13
3A. FOR READJUSTMENT COUNSELING	475	1,243
3C. FOR REFERRAL	0	3
3D. FOR FOLLOW-UP	1	7
3E. TOTAL CONTACTS	476	1,276
TELEPHONE CONTACTS		
41. WITH VETERANS	226	684
4B. ON BEHALF OF VETERANS	405	1,243
4C. TOTAL TELEPHONE CONTACTS	631	1,927

* INCLUDES 93 NEW CLIENTS

VETS-CENTER of Seattle News

Legal Advice

Vietnam vet attorney, Mr. Lee Raaen, will be at the Vets-Center Wednesday nights from 7pm. to 8pm. beginning October 8th to offer legal advice without charge. This service is being donated by Mr. Raaen to Vietnam vets. It does not include legal representation.

Overview of Vets-Center rap groups

I want to give a discription of the people who come to the Vets-Center and its' pretty hard to generalize. I'd say most of our clients are working and most have some kind of blue collar job like construction trades, truck driving. I've been in most of the rap groups and they're composed of say; a salesman, a lawyer, a truck driver, a carpenter, a plumber, two guys who are unemployed and a 30-year-old student. Most are between 30 and 35-years-old. A couple in each group will be troubled by alcoholism or drugs. Someone might be on a work release from jail, and almost absurdly, a couple of people will be getting divorced.

With regard to Vietnam, most group participants wre in combat. Being in combat increases the likelihood of going through delayed stress reaction. Many people benefit from being in rap groups and a person doesn't have to experience delayed stress to be in a group. There are plenty of common problems that Vietnam vets have encountered when they returned from Vietnam. It is true that the Vets-Center staff encourages combat vets to enter the groups. We find that chances for delayed stress reactuon goes up with months spent in combat in Vietnam.

What gets talked about in rap groups? Vietnam mostly at first. Its sort of a collective free association. Lots of extra ordinary things happened in Vietnam that never got talked about. Probably the most terrifying and horrible didn't get talked about at all. But also funny things and ordinary routine bits of heroism. Names of geography, people, pieces of equipment, slang-terms, descriptions of colors and sounds.

In the later weeks of the group, the discussion leaves Vietnam and moves toward the present, although Vietnam is always the common touchstone. Each group is so different because it depends on the participants to decide what to discuss. Conversation just flows effortlessly and what's important gets talked about.

There's a lot of talk about anger and violence, especially anger at authority and government. Relationships get discussed. Weapons. Politics. Problems getting or keeping a job. Sports. Nightmares. Drugs or alcohol problems. Hatred of Vietnamese. Fear. Depression. Death.

We all agree to keep the conversation confidential. There are no taboo subjects and nobody has to talk. If somebody decides to leave nobody stops him, although it seldom happens that someone leaves unannounced. The group members respect each other.

written by Emmett Early
Seattle Vets-Center

A Decade After Vietnam

'Delayed Stress' Surfaces in Nation's Vets

By JO ANN WENDT

The Vietnam veteran is vibrating again.

Why?

Call it delayed stress. Or, call it the natural thing that happens to a person when he has denied a major experience, when he has refused to talk about it and, instead, locks it away, making it a separate and alienated part of himself.

Setting him vibrating, too, according to vet and peer counselor, Ken Harbart, are current events: Rumblings of a new draft. Hostages in Iran. The shadow of the Bear spreading over the middle East. The influx of Indochinese

refugees, many of whom — the vet suspects — probably fought against him in that blurred and bizarre warfare where friend was not easily distinguished from foe.

Harbart, a physician's assistant at Northern Virginia Psychotherapy Center in McLean, Virginia, and Jeffrey Jay, a psychologist at the center, are co-directing a 12-week educational and therapeutic group session for Vietnam veterans.

A 19-year-old marine when he arrived in Danang in 1966, Harbart functions as support peer in the group. Jay serves as support psychologist, drawing upon his work

with veterans in VA hospitals.

Seven vets comprise the group. In economic and educational status they run the gamut from professional to welfare recipient. But all share one common trait. Reticence. Reticence concerning the Vietnam experience.

"Almost every Vietnam veteran I meet says, 'I've never talked about the war with anyone else.' Many have been carrying the burden of not being able to talk to others about this for the past 10 years," Harbart told *Guidepost*.

Part of the veteran's reticence is tied into the reception he got from the American public when he

returned from the war, Harbart and Jay believe.

Jay told *Guidepost*, "He came back with the expectation of being integrated back into civilian life, of being welcomed back."

Neither happened. The returning vet found himself not a hero but a target, a scapegoat.

Incensed and suffering "corporate guilt" over the Vietnam debacle, the American public viewed the vet with derision and scorn. If the United States had "lost," the Vietnam veteran was a "loser."

Congressional treatment of vets reflected public sentiment. The G.I. Bill was weak. Federal

assistance to start small businesses (so available to vets of other wars) was not forthcoming. VA hospitals were overcrowded and understaffed, and even in those military bastions, says Harbart, the Vietnam vet was shunned and looked down upon as a "loser" or a long-haired "hippie."

He was left with a sense of guilt, a sense of having let his country down and a sense of having been let down by his country. Bitter, the Vietnam veteran "went into the closet," according to Harbart.

(See page 12)

Delayed Stress

(from page 1)

Jay explains, "There's a sealing-off of talking about it. It's avoided. You have a major experience which you keep inside. When you can't talk about it, it becomes a separate, alienated part of yourself. This is what makes people crazy — when there are parts of themselves which they can't deal with."

This reticence has fed into behavior that professionals are recognizing as typical of the Vietnam veteran. Harbart describes the behavior as "a psychic withdrawal from others." Jay sees it as a tendency to isolate oneself, an inability to get close to people.

The goal of Harbart and Jay's group is to crack that isolation, to take the Vietnam experience out of the locked closet and talk about it.

Jay told *Guidopost*, "The goal is not to forget or deny, but to lay it out and take responsibility for one's own actions. And to deal with survivor's syndrome because everyone has some sense of guilt or exaggeration."

Realizing the veteran's ambivalence (his sense of wanting to talk about his major experience, yet not wanting to), Jay and Harbart insisted each group member make a strong contract with the group, a strong commitment to see the 12 weeks through to the finish.

When *Guidopost* talked with Harbart and Jay, the group was in its fifth week. "The Easter Island stone statues," as Harbart described the men in early sessions, were beginning to thaw. They were beginning to demonstrate caring. They were beginning to reach out to each other. The change was not insignificant.

While early sessions focused on unlocking and examining the Vietnam experience, later sessions will include reading assignments, assessment of the media and how the media dealt with the war and its veterans, and assessment of the "peaceniks" and what happened to them.

Close to the ninth week, Harbart and Jay will try something experimental. They'll ask each

person to bring to the group a significant other — wife, friend, close relative.

When the group comes to an end, Harbart and Jay hope the men will have dealt with not only what was "bad" about the Vietnam experience but what was "good" about it. They will have sorted out the full range of emotions that accompanied those experiences. They will have dealt with what Jay calls "the legitimate madness" that typified American behavior in Vietnam.

For example, Jay told *Guidopost*, "Killing someone is a very mixed thing. It's awful! It's terrible! But there's a crazy power to it. For young guys, that's hard to deal with."

Deal with it, they have not.

That's why the Vietnam veteran is vibrating.

All 3 million of him.

Stress Statistics

There are 8.9 million Vietnam Era Vets. . .

• 2.9 million served in Southeast Asia

• 1.6 million served in combat

• 60 percent had problems upon returning

• 30 percent have continuing problems

• Latent problems will peak in 1983-84

• 6,116 are in VA hospitals for mental health care

• More than half of VA mental health ward patients are Vietnam vets

• 70,000 are in state, federal, county prisons

• 200,000 are out on bail, parole, probation

...according to Steve Champlain of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

Cynicism, alienation, anomie linger among Vietnam veterans

WHETHER ARE ABOUT 1.7 million Vietnam veterans who have not made a satisfactory adjustment to civilian life," according to Charles Stenger, Ph.D., Associate Director for Psychology at the Veterans Administration (V.A.) Central Office. Jack Ewalt, M.D., Director of the Mental Health and Behavioral Sciences Services at the V.A., maintains that the uniqueness of Vietnam veterans' problems warrants an unusual approach to helping these individuals. Cynicism, skepticism, and alienation among those who fought in Vietnam, and mistrust of authority and institutions in general, have rendered conventional V.A. treatment programs largely ineffectual in aiding veterans of this most recent era.

Of particular concern is a group, estimated to include as many as 800,000 veterans, who have "dropped out of life." These are men who do not avail themselves of opportunities offered by the V.A., but who show "considerable pathology characterized by social dissatisfaction, anomie, and distrust of the establishment rather than overt psychiatric illness." A preliminary report issued by the Center for Policy Research, a New York-based group commissioned by the V.A. to do a major new study of Vietnam veterans, states that "Most of the men with discernible problems present complaints that do not fall neatly within the delineations of any one standard service delivery system. We especially note the association of work-related difficulties and psychological distress."

Disorganization and discord

Other tentative findings presented in the report, based on a subset of the total 1,380-man sample, include the following indication of the nature and range of Vietnam veterans' problems. "Global complaints" were expressed by approximately 28% of those included in the initial case-by-case analysis. These men were divided into three groups. "Highly disorganized" veterans were those who are usually without jobs or intimate relationships, prone to drug abuse and other ill activities, and "unable or unwilling to assume more than minimal responsibility for themselves." "Erratic" veterans included those who work intermittently and maintain some relationships, though with protracted separations, and "are plagued by substance abuse and traumatic vestiges of their war experience." "Stable" veterans were those who maintain well-regulated life routines, but complain of job difficul-

ties, marital discord, troubling memories from Vietnam and an inability to establish direction in their lives.

Another 48% were characterized as having generally stable life routines while complaining of specific problems such as continuing combat nightmares, short tempers, troubling war memories and drinking problems. Also in this group were a number with "character disorders, distinguished by a self-reported incapacity to feel any sensitivity toward other people." Of those included in the overall analysis, only 24% reported no major complaints.

What differentiates Vietnam veterans from those of other wars? First of all, there was a lack of the usual unit morale and identification: after training, replacement recruits were shipped separately to Vietnam aboard various commercial jets instead of as a group aboard military aircraft. Once there, servicemen were rotated frequently during their tours of duty. Furthermore, there was never an all-out attempt to win the war, front lines did not exist, and hard-won territory was given up voluntarily only to be fought over again. The result was a denial of any sense of purpose or achievement. Moreover, American soldiers transported to foreign soil ostensibly to defend its people often found themselves objects of economic exploitation by those people according to Dr. Stenger. They were also unable to distinguish a friendly civilian from an unfriendly one, or even from a combat troop of the enemy, and thus bore feelings of guilt for the decimation of the civilian population.

"All of this led to severe morale problems, resort to drugs for support, ques-

tioning of the wisdom and the authority of the military leaders and a feeling among many of the troops, as well as a large number of the civilian population at home, that those fighting in Vietnam were 'suckers,'" according to Dr. Ewalt. He added that it is "extremely difficult for most people to acquire a deep and balanced perspective about Vietnam veterans."

Indeed, one of the most frequently voiced complaints of veterans concerning the public's attitude is that they "are confusing the warrior with the war." During an interview, Dr. Stenger recalled an incident in Philadelphia shortly before the end of the war. A parade held to honor the wounded and disabled had to be terminated midway. The injured veterans, riding in open cars, were being stoned by the crowds.

Establishing trust

"Almost every Vietnam veteran experienced some negative signals from at least a part of the society," he said. And while most people didn't respond in that way, they also failed to give any positive recognition or even just appreciation of the veterans' service.

"We recognize that many Vietnam veterans are angry at and alienated from the society that put them through all this, so we've designed a new program which just of all strives to establish personal trust in its clients." Following years of requests by the V.A., Congress recently approved \$9.9 million for a nationwide network of "store-front" counseling centers consisting of 80 four-man teams distributed among all 50 states and concentrated in the urban centers with the largest veteran populations, such as New York and Los Angeles.

The Outreach Program, according to David Huang, Ph.D. program staff assistant, has three basic aims: reaching out to the veterans in a nonclinical setting, pro-



Servicemen were unable to distinguish friendly civilians from the enemy so the possibility of inadvertently killing civilians was great, arousing deep-seated feelings of guilt in them.

viding counseling, and maintaining a referral service. We go and knock at their doors, write letters, put up bumper stickers, walk on the streets and go to the bars, to the places where there is a chance that we can reach these people. We make contact with them and then we start trying to relate to them, to react to their needs as we perceive them. Readjustment counseling consists of direct personal contact, either on a one-to-one basis or in groups. The third part of the program, referral, covers some services that we cannot allow ourselves. There may be psychiatric reactions to the war trauma, such as dreams and flashbacks, which we ourselves don't intend to treat.

Preventive factor

Drs. Ewalt and Stenger expressed the belief that the Outreach Program will have a preventive factor at least insofar as alcoholism and other substance abuse is concerned, and perhaps even tend to cut down the incidence and severity of affective disorders, neuroses and bring schizophrenia to treatment earlier." According to the Center for Policy Research report, "The data suggest that substance use among Vietnam veterans is indeed related to psychological problems or malfunctioning, though not as strongly as some might suspect. Moreover it appears that among 'vulnerable' groups in the population (e.g., blacks and individuals who might be clinically diagnosed as 'deniers'), substance use is more strongly related to psychological disorders than it is among other groups."

Vets helping vets

It is envisioned that the Outreach Program will be in operation for three years, with new clients being accepted only during the first two years and a gradual phasing out taking place during the third. Each of the 86 Outreach teams will have four members: one professional who is either a physician, psychiatric nurse, psychologist or social worker; two technicians with some special training for the program; and one clerical assistant. All team personnel, most of whom will themselves be Vietnam era veterans, will be hired locally, and operation of the Outreach Program will be largely independent of the V.A. Central Office.

"We must help veterans to work through their anger and frustration . . . to re-establish their belief that they are worthwhile and that the system gives a damn about them and can respond," said Dr. Stenger. In the past such specialized help has been virtually nonexistent. The Outreach Program may begin to remedy this situation.



Department
Of Labor

**ALASKA
VETERAN
REPORT
1980**

Jay S. Hammond
GOVERNOR

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ALASKA VETERAN REPORT

**Jay S. Hammond, Governor
State of Alaska**

**Edmund N. Orbeck, Commissioner
Department of Labor**

**John E. Post, Chief
Research and Analysis**

**In cooperation with the Employment and Training Administration,
U. S. Department of Labor**

January 1980

**Prepared by:
Steve Harrison, Labor Economist**

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ALASKA VETERAN PROFILE

Four sources of basic information concerning the status of Alaska Veterans have been utilized in preparation of this report.

(1) 1970 Census --

Performed once every ten years, the census is the most complete source of statistical socio-economic information available. The most recent census data is now nine years old. The 1970 census was taken mid-January 1970 in "bush" Alaska and on April 1, 1970 in "non-bush" Alaska and other states. Veteran statistics are derived from the question, "Has he (this person) ever served in the Army, Navy, or other armed forces of the United States?" asked of a 15 percent sample of those censused. This question was not asked of women. Detailed results from the 1980 census will be available by 1982. Until that time, results from the 1970 census will remain the cornerstone of veteran statistics.

(2) U. S. Veterans Administration Reports --

The U. S. Veterans Administration prepares estimates of the number of Veterans by state and county (using actuarial techniques of a national perspective) by incorporating data from various veteran programs. Based upon 1970 census results, these estimates are updated annually. Nationwide estimates such as these are not ordinarily sensitive to rapid fluctuations of Alaska's small population. As a result, Veterans Administration estimates appear to understate growth of the Alaska veteran population during the rapid population increase since the 1970 census.

(3) 1976 Survey of Income and Education (SIE) --

The SIE was performed in the spring of 1976 only and was an extended version of the Current Population Survey which is conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Census annually. Roughly 8,000 persons were surveyed (approximately 1,500 veterans). The

survey reflects conditions prevalent in 1976, a pipeline boom year. The elevated presence of age 20-24 male job seekers and the predominantly urban sample seem to have inflated the veteran count. Survey results are available on a statewide basis only.

(4) Employment Security Automated Reporting System (ESARS) --

ESARS is a federal report generation system which produces reports on job applications and placements made through the local Job Service offices. Job Service may take job orders from and make applicant referrals to any occupation or industry. However, professional and union positions are generally not made available through the Job Service system. As a result, ESARS statistics focus upon only a portion of the total job market. ESARS data is more likely to reflect the activity of younger Vietnam era veterans than those of older World War II veterans for example.

GROWTH OF THE ALASKA VETERAN POPULATION

Growth of the Alaska population between 1970 and 1978 has been rapid, nearly 5 times the comparable U.S. rate. Most of this growth had been due to migration. Less than half of this population growth was due to natural increase (births minus deaths). Between 1965 and 1970, males comprised nearly 70 percent of the growth due to migration in Alaska.* During that interval, roughly 85 percent of all net-migrants were 20 to 24 years of age. Since migrants to Alaska are predominantly young working age males the veteran population may grow rapidly in the state. Due to the factors mentioned above, percentage growth of the Alaska veteran population has probably been greater than that of the general population.

Substantial migration and a lack of good data reduce the accuracy of veteran population estimates. As a result, estimates produced using differing techniques tend to vary significantly.

Listed below are three estimates of the Alaska veteran population size.

Figure 1

NUMBER OF LIVING VETERANS: ALASKA

<u>Number of Veterans</u>	<u>Annual Growth Rate</u>	<u>Source of Figure</u>	<u>Reference Date</u>
39,500		Census	1970
41,000	4%	Vets. Admin.	1977
56,300	5%	1976 SIE**	1978

* See Discussion of Migration in Appendix.

** Survey of Income and Education (recalibrated to 1978).

Tables Introduced

While current data relevant to the population and labor force of Alaska veterans today is relatively scarce, we have drawn together eight concise tables of relevant veteran statistics. Essentially, two main types of data are included in this publication. Population information is the first type. Gathered through census and survey, population data is presented by characteristics such as: age, race labor force status, and marital status. The second type of information presented is characteristics of job service applicants. These characteristics include occupation, age, and race.

The balance of this publication is comprised of eight tables and a map of the 1970 census divisions. Following these is an appendix extracted from our publication Alaska Population in Brief. Inquiries regarding this information should be directed to the Alaska Department of Labor Research and Analysis Section Attn: Steve Harrison 465-4515.

Figure 2

LABORFORCE STATUS OF VIETNAM VETERANS BY RACE:
ALASKA - 1976*

<u>VETERAN STATUS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>WHITE</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
Total Vietnam Era Veterans	20,900	17,800	3,200
Aged 20-34 Years	16,800	13,900	2,800
Employed	14,400	12,800	1,700
Unemployed	1,400	600	800
Not in Labor Force	800	500	500

*Source - 1976 Survey of Income and Education

Figure 3

TOTAL AND VETERAN POPULATION
BY CENSUS DIVISION: ALASKA

<u>CENSUS DIVISION</u>	<u>1970*</u> <u>POPULATION</u>	<u>1970*</u> <u>VETERAN</u> <u>POPULATION</u>	<u>1977**</u> <u>TOTAL</u> <u>VETERAN</u> <u>POPULATION</u>	<u>1977**</u> <u>VIETNAM</u> <u>VETERAN</u> <u>POPULATION</u>	<u>1977**</u> <u>OTHER</u> <u>VETERAN</u> <u>POPULATION</u>
TOTAL	300,382	39,490	41,000	15,000	26,000
Aleutian Islands	8,057	463	500	150	350
Anchorage	124,542	17,177	18,770	7,040	11,730
Angeon	481	61	50	20	30
Barrow-North Slope	2,685	369	240	120	120
Bethel	7,579	479	520	240	280
Bristol Bay Borough	944	91	140	90	50
Bristol Bay	3,688	273	240	40	200
Cordova-McCarthy	1,769	364	350	130	220
Fairbanks	45,952	5,378	6,260	2,780	3,480
Haines	1,461	269	210	40	170
Juneau	13,599	2,251	2,120	630	1,490
Kenai-Cook Inlet	14,250	2,318	2,340	740	1,600
Ketchikan	10,041	1,632	1,530	470	1,050
Kobuk	4,434	381	300	120	180
Kodiak	9,409	1,035	1,110	400	710
Kuskokwim	2,275	193	160	-	160
Matanuska-Susitna	6,540	1,162	1,100	240	860
Nome	5,749	610	650	260	390
Outer Ketchikan	1,771	154	160	60	100
Prince of Wales	2,011	459	400	100	300
Seward	2,021	416	410	110	300
Sitka	6,424	922	860	270	590
Skagway-Yakutat	2,037	260	280	100	180
Southeast Fairbanks	4,299	382	340	100	240
Upper Yukon	1,608	279	280	80	200
Valdez-Chitina- Whittier	3,174	565	530	150	380
Wade Hampton	3,917	250	270	120	150
Wrangell-Petersburg	4,913	765	730	190	540
Yukon-Koyukuk	4,752	532	480	150	330

*1970 Census of Population

**Veterans Administration, County Veteran Population - March 31, 1977

Sum of parts may not equal total due to rounding

Figure 4

CHARACTERISTICS OF JOB SERVICE APPLICANTS PLACED: ALASKA
 (TOTAL AND VETERANS)*
 FISCAL YEAR TO DATE SEPTEMBER 30, 1979

<u>CHARACTERISTIC</u>	<u>VETERAN PLACEMENTS</u>	<u>TOTAL PLACEMENTS</u>	<u>PERCENT VETERANS/TOTAL</u>
AGE	3,672	22,895	16%
Under 20	43	5,926	1%
20-21	153	2,903	5%
22-24	521	3,595	14%
25-29	975	4,249	23%
30-39	1,155	3,767	31%
40-44	292	890	32%
45-54	383	1,057	36%
55-64	133	421	32%
65/over	17	78	22%
VETERAN	3,672	3,672	100%
Recently Separated	1,695	1,695	100%
Disabled	200	200	100%
Vietnam Era	1,933	1,933	100%
Special Veteran	451	451	100%
HANDICAPPED	334	649	51%
Physically Disabled	320	620	53%
Mentally Retarded	1	19	5%
Mentally Restored	3	3	100%
ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED	747	1,638	46%
FOOD STAMP	453	593	76%
WELFARE	31	366	8%
CETA	32	128	25%
EMPLOYMENT STATUS	3,672	8,086	45%
Full Time	165	335	49%
Part Time	61	216	28%
Not Working	3,446	7,535	46%

*EMPLOYMENT SECURITY AUTOMATED REPORTING SYSTEM: EXTRACTED FROM
 TABLES O3 AND C03

Figure 5

APPLICANTS BY OCCUPATION: ALASKA
FISCAL YEAR TO DATE, MARCH 31, 1978*

<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>VETERAN APPLICANTS</u> vertical percent	<u>TOTAL APPLICANTS</u> vertical percent
TOTAL	100%	100%
STRUCTURAL WORK	27%	17%
PROFESSIONAL, TECHNICAL and MANAGERIAL	18%	12%
SERVICE	11%	14%
CLERICAL, SALES	9%	20%
MACHINE TRADES	2%	5%
BENCH WORK	1%	1%
FARMING, FISHING and FORESTRY	1%	1%
PROCESSING	1%	2%
MISCELLANEOUS	18%	11%
UNKNOWN	12%	17%

*SOURCE: EMPLOYMENT SECURITY AUTOMATED REPORTING SYSTEM

Figure 6

MARITAL STATUS, BY AGE OF VETERANS: ALASKA - 1970*

<u>MARITAL STATUS</u>	<u>YEARS OF AGE</u>										
	<u>ALL AGES</u>	<u>16-24</u>	<u>25-29</u>	<u>30-34</u>	<u>35-39</u>	<u>40-44</u>	<u>45-49</u>	<u>50-54</u>	<u>55-59</u>	<u>60-64</u>	<u>65/over</u>
TOTAL	39,490	3,100	5,101	5,080	5,790	6,427	6,016	4,106	1,930	904	1,036
SINGLE	5,301	1,675	1,094	587	549	446	344	262	99	87	158
MARRIED	31,433	1,359	3,809	4,202	4,861	5,573	5,190	3,498	1,638	673	630
SEPARATED	531	10	55	90	55	78	102	94	--	33	14
WIDOWED	487	7	--	30	21	84	77	66	60	29	113
DIVORCED	2,269	59	108	261	359	324	405	280	133	115	135

*1970 Census of Population

Figure 7

VETERANS BY RACE: ALASKA
(1970 CENSUS AND 1976 SURVEY OF INCOME AND EDUCATION)

<u>VETERAN STATUS</u>	<u>TOTAL*</u>		<u>WHITE</u>		<u>BLACK</u>		<u>OTHER</u>	
	<u>1970</u> <u>CENSUS</u>	<u>1976</u> <u>SIE</u>	<u>1970</u> <u>CENSUS</u>	<u>1976</u> <u>SIE</u>	<u>1970</u> <u>CENSUS</u>	<u>1976</u> <u>SIE</u>	<u>1970</u> <u>CENSUS</u>	<u>1976</u> <u>SIE</u>
TOTAL	39,490	56,300	34,467	49,300	661	1,900	4,362	7,300
VIETNAM ERA	8,524	20,900	7,258	17,800	229	1,000	1,037	2,300
KOREAN WAR	7,736	11,500	6,736	10,200	91	500	909	800
W W II	14,613	15,800	13,094	14,400	237	100	1,282	1,200
W W I	562	200	512	200	5	0	45	0
OTHER SERVICE	6,651	7,800	5,514	6,700	81	400	1,056	700

*Sum of parts may not equal total due to rounding

Figure 8

ANALYSIS OF APPLICANT POPULATION AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1978
ALL APPLICANTS*: ALASKA

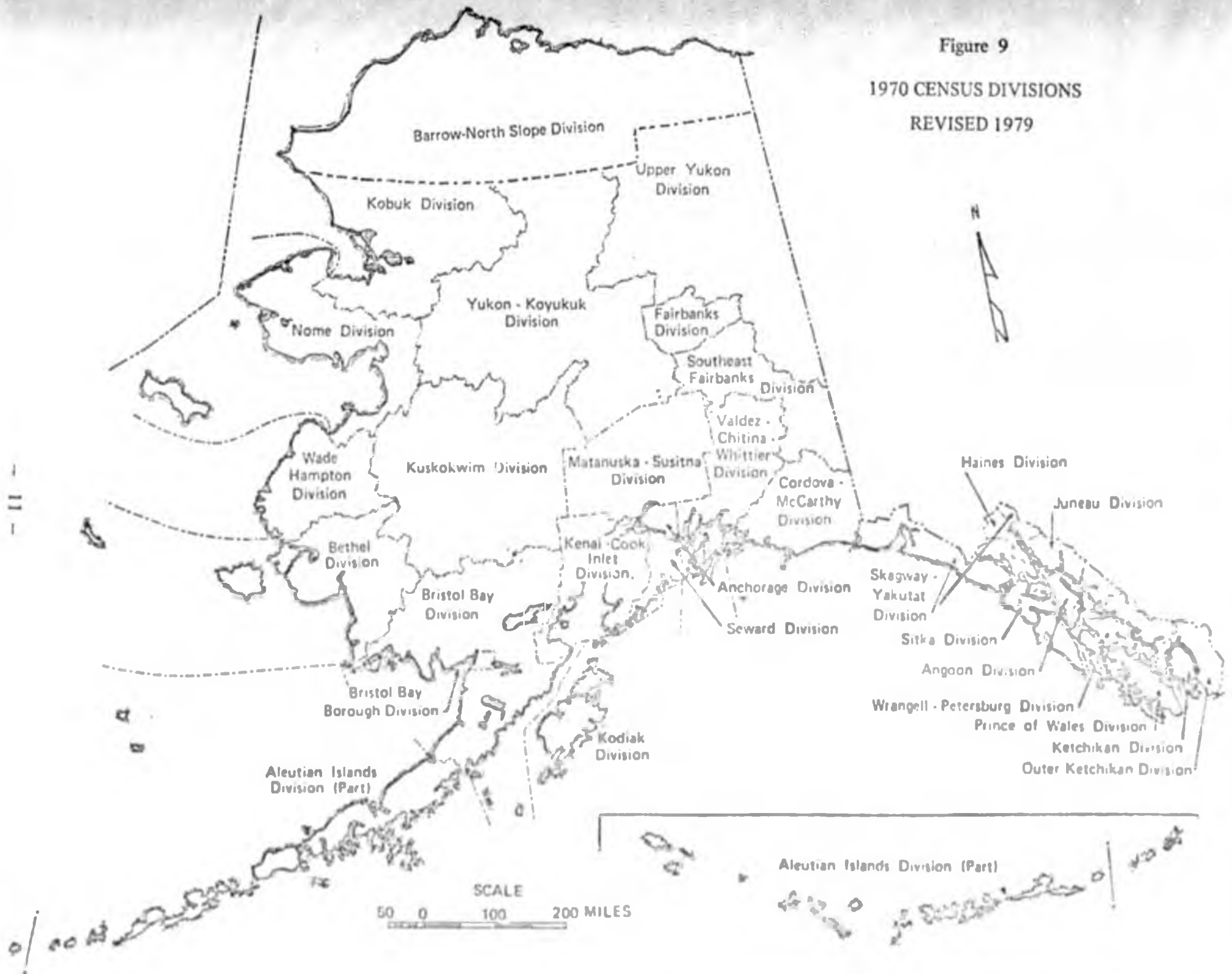
CATEGORY	TOTAL	VETERAN APPLICANTS		
		TOTAL	DISABLED	VIETNAM
AGE/SEX, TOTAL	73,073	14,219	41	6,700
MALE, TOTAL	41,459	13,575	620	6,274
18	1,571	15	0	9
19	1,895	36	1	35
20-21	4,175	318	6	280
22-24	6,517	1,390	37	1,224
25-44	19,352	8,776	382	4,449
45-54	3,000	1,893	122	219
55-64	1,695	1,035	75	46
65/over	363	108	3	8
FEMALE, TOTAL	31,614	644	21	426
18	1,404	2	0	2
19	1,690	2	0	2
20-21	3,761	41	0	39
22-24	5,361	160	5	146
25-44	13,782	367	13	235
45-54	2,188	36	1	0
55-64	1,054	33	1	2
65/over	196	3	1	0
RACE/SEX, TOTAL	73,072	14,227	640	6,703
MALE, TOTAL	41,464	13,581	619	6,277
WHITE	30,420	10,939	519	4,947
ALASKA NATIVE/ AMERICAN INDIAN	6,642	1,183	27	485
BLACK	1,659	728	43	506
ASIAN/PACIFIC	1,316	324	12	149
HISPANIC	736	216	11	123
INA	691	191	7	67
FEMALE, TOTAL	31,608	646	21	426
WHITE	23,615	529	14	338
ALASKA NATIVE/ AMERICAN INDIAN	4,487	23	2	13
BLACK	1,521	62	2	54
ASIAN/PACIFIC	1,036	16	2	11
HISPANIC	521	13	1	9
INA	428	3	0	1

*SOURCE - EMPLOYMENT SECURITY AUTOMATED REPORTING SYSTEM

Figure 9

1970 CENSUS DIVISIONS

REVISED 1979



APPENDIX

MIGRATION^{1/}

When the size and composition of a population changes, these changes may be traced to births, deaths, aging or migration.

Responses from the 1970 census question,^{2/} "Where was this person five years ago?" reveal the significance of migration in Alaska. *Net* migration (persons entering minus persons leaving) comprised nearly one half of the population growth occurring between 1965 and 1970. However, that is only the tip of the iceberg. Approximately 120,000 individuals moved to Alaska between the years 1965 and 1970; yet, almost 100,000 Alaskans left the state over that same period. Thus for every six individuals who moved to Alaska, five individuals left the state.

Nearly 40 percent of the 1970 residents of Alaska had been living outside the state 5 years previous. Since Alaska's population is estimated to be the smallest in the union, numerical changes which might go unnoticed in larger states may be striking statistics in the 49th state. Historically, migration has served as the principal avenue of population change in Alaska.

Significant changes in the balance or imbalance between males and females are usually caused by migration in Alaska. Large fluctuations in the racial composition of Alaska are principally fueled by migration, and much of the distortion of Alaska's age profile is also explained by migration.

The characteristics of migrants to and from Alaska are influenced by the characteristics of the Alaska population and by the characteristics of the population of the states from which most of the migrants originate. Between 1965 and 1970, more males (58 percent) migrated to Alaska than females (42 percent). Taking outmigration into consideration, males claimed an even greater share of growth due to *net* migration (68 percent). The following table displays the characteristics of inmigrants and net migrants in Alaska at the 1970 census. In the lower portion of this table, it is shown that 84 percent of Alaska growth due to migration is concentrated in the 20 to 24 age bracket, and that a net loss of 12 percent occurred in the 45 to 64 age group.

^{1/} Extracted from ALASKA POPULATION IN BRIEF to be released January, 1980. Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

^{2/} "Where was this person five years ago?" asked of a 15 percent sample of 1970 census respondents.

Appendix 1

GROSS MIGRATION BY SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS:
ALASKA 1965-1970**

Characteristics	Group	Percent of In Migrants	Percent of Net Migration
SEX	MALE	58%	68%
	FEMALE	42%	32%
	TOTAL	100%	100%
RACE	WHITE	92%	97%
	BLACK	4%	3%
	TOTAL	96%	100%
AGE	UNDER 15 YEARS	24%	10%
	15-19 YEARS	8%	5%
	20-24 YEARS	22%	84%
	25-29 YEARS	15%	5%
	30-44 YEARS	23%	16%
	45-64 YEARS	7%	-12%
	65 YEARS AND OVER	1%	- Pk
	TOTAL	100%	100%

* 'Other' not included

** Based upon data from: U. S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports Series P25, No. 70, "Gross Migration by County: 1965 to 1970" pp9, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1977.

PLEASE NOTE: THE PRECEDING PAGES WERE TREATED
AS A UNIT IN THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.

IN THE LEGISLATURE
of the
STATE OF WASHINGTON



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE FLOOR RESOLUTION NO. 80-187, by Representatives Bender, Brown, Hughes, Kreidler, McDonald, Nisbet, Pruitt, Schmitt, Scott, Tupper and Van Dyken.

WHEREAS, There are approximately two hundred thousand Washington State residents who are Vietnam era veterans and who, as a class, are manifesting severe problems in adjusting to society after returning from service during the Vietnam era; and

WHEREAS, Vietnam era veterans experience a thirty percent greater suicide rate, a twenty percent unemployment rate, a divorce rate twice that of nonveterans, and make up fifteen percent of all persons incarcerated in the Washington State penal system; and

WHEREAS, At least twenty percent of Washington State Vietnam era veterans are suffering from some form of delayed stress reaction and that is projected to increase to fifty percent by 1985;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives, That the House establish a Select Committee on Vietnam Era Veterans Affairs to determine the scope and nature of Vietnam era veteran problems in Washington, and that the committee shall submit a report to the Forty-seventh Legislature setting forth policy options and recommendations regarding, but not limited to:

(1) The nature and scope of the problem and how it affects the mental and physical health of the veteran and his family, job and productivity as a citizen of the State of Washington;

(2) The adequacy of veteran assistance programs including employment security, CITA funding, veterans' preference procedures and presently required outreach programs;

(3) The adequacy and effectiveness of established veterans' organizations and the success of their efforts on behalf of Vietnam era veterans;

(4) The ability and capacity of mental health organizations and health professionals (both private and government) and law enforcement agencies to recognize and deal with situations resulting from veterans' problems involving Agent Orange Exposure and Delayed Stress Reaction;

(5) The level of cooperation and communication between state and federal programs regarding Vietnam era veterans' affairs and whether such programs are effective for Washington Vietnam era veterans;

(6) The need for reorganization or expansion of present programs, personnel, and/or organizations to better serve the Vietnam era veteran;

(7) Potential sources of funding for the services recommended; and

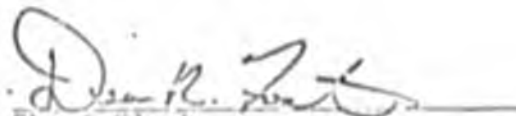
(8) Recommendations, including proposed legislation, to implement the policy options developed by the committee.

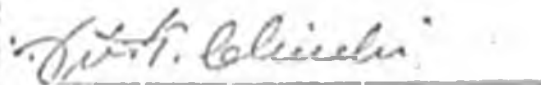
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Co-Sponsors of the House of Representatives appoint eight members for the Select Committee. The Select Committee shall report its findings to the House of Representatives by January 1, 1961, and the Committee shall exist on January 1, 1961; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted by the Chief Clerks of the House of Representatives to the Governor of the State of Washington; the Director of the Veterans Administration; the Director of the Department of Veterans Affairs; the Seattle Veterans Action Committee; the Department of Social and Health Services; the Council on Postsecondary Education; the President, Washington State American Veterans; the President, Washington State American Legion; the President, Washington State Veterans of Foreign Wars; and to the members of the Washington State Congressional Delegation.

ADOPTED March 13, 1960.

We hereby certify this to be a true and correct copy of resolution adopted by the House of Representatives March 13, 1960.


Chief Clerk
House of Representatives


Chief Clerk
House of Representatives



Veterans
Administration

News Release

FOR RELEASE
TUESDAY, JULY 1, 1980

While most Vietnam Era veterans now agree with a majority of the public that America should have stayed out of Vietnam, these same veterans are glad they served their country and would serve again if asked to.

This was among the findings in a survey conducted for the Veterans Administration by Louis Harris and Associates, which was released today by Max Cleland, Administrator of Veterans Affairs. The study was ordered by President Carter ". . .to better understand some of the issues that will continue to confront the Vietnam Era veteran."

The survey reflects strong patriotic feelings on the part of veterans, despite disillusionment with the war and a great deal of bitterness about their treatment after the war. Ninety-one percent of the veterans serving in Vietnam agreed with the statement: "Looking back, I am glad I served my country." Two-thirds of Vietnam veterans say that they would serve again if asked.

The survey also confirmed an advance sample finding that although only one in five Americans still supports America's involvement in the Vietnam war, a great majority of the public has a high regard for the veterans who fought that war.

Cleland said, "It appears that the public is finally separating the war from the warrior. Despite the unfriendly reception the Vietnam veterans received when returning home, which is verified in the survey, this group of veterans is beginning to find some understanding and sympathy among the American people."

There also is evidence that most veterans of the Vietnam Era are adjusting well to civilian life, although there remains much to be done in healing the physical and psychological scars. Cleland said, "The survey underscores the need for efforts such as the VA's new readjustment counseling program for Vietnam Era veterans. Since its authorization by Congress late last year 86 unique 'store-front' Vet Centers have been opened nationally to help those veterans who most need help with readjustment problems," he added.

Louis Harris and Associates interviewed 7,000 persons nationwide between November 1979 and March 1980. They fell into four groups: the general public, Vietnam Era veterans, educators and employers. The surveys are the most thorough and comprehensive ever undertaken of attitudes towards Vietnam Era veterans. An advance sample survey of the general public was released last November.

According to the independent Harris Survey, soldiers who had not completed high school at the time they went to Vietnam

were almost five times as likely to have seen heavy combat as those who had completed college.

Administrator Cleland said, "These same educationally disadvantaged veterans were identified as needing additional assistance in President Carter's message to Congress. Congress is currently considering the President's request to extend the GI Bill time limit to provide educational benefits targeted specifically to strengthen occupational skills of this special group. I urge Congress to pass this legislation to insure these veterans have ample time to pursue this necessary training."

The completed survey also showed that Vietnam veterans feel they have more serious problems than combat veterans of the World War II era, and the public, educators and employers agree. A majority of World War II and Korea veterans also feel Vietnam veterans have more serious problems than combat veterans of earlier wars. Significantly, recognition of the special problems facing Vietnam veterans is greatest among those groups which were most opposed to the war.

The survey also found that while the public and veterans are in substantial agreement that news media have had a significant effect in shaping American attitudes about the veterans of the Vietnam Era, they differ on whether this effect has been positive or negative. The Vietnam Era veterans feel television news stories have given the American public an unfavorable impression of them. Contrasting that is the view of a substantial majority of the public that they got a favorable impression of those veterans from the television news. Most agree the coverage was realistic.

Other survey findings included:

- Nearly three-quarters of the veterans of earlier wars feel that people their own age gave them a very friendly reception compared to less than half of the Vietnam Era veterans.

- Most of the veterans who served in the Vietnam area said that they experienced moderate or heavy combat conditions while there.

- Three-quarters of the Vietnam Era veterans feel the federal government should be doing more for them. A two-thirds majority of the American public agrees.

- Employers' commitments to hiring Vietnam Era veterans have declined over the decade of the '70s.

- The vast majority of educators report that neither age, nor military experience, nor discrimination has been a problem for Vietnam Era veterans at their schools. They rate the veterans frequently "better" than other students.

- Seven out of 10 Americans favor preferential hiring of veterans for federal jobs. There was nearly equal support for this among women as well as men.

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Vietnam legacy

Veterans' suicide toll may top war casualties

By Rick Anderson
Three staff reporters

The two warm Tuesday last night should have been the birthday of the 20th anniversary of the Vietnam War. There should have been the solemnity of the occasion, the solemnity of the occasion, the solemnity of the occasion. There should have been the solemnity of the occasion, the solemnity of the occasion, the solemnity of the occasion.

"I am not a soldier, but I am not a doctor," said a man in a dark suit, his face pale. He was sitting at a table in a restaurant, looking down at a letter in his hands. He had been waiting for someone to call, but no one had. He had been waiting for someone to call, but no one had.

The man in the dark suit was looking at a letter in his hands. He had been waiting for someone to call, but no one had. He had been waiting for someone to call, but no one had. He had been waiting for someone to call, but no one had.

A month earlier, Paul had started to write a letter to a man in a dark suit. He had been waiting for someone to call, but no one had. He had been waiting for someone to call, but no one had. He had been waiting for someone to call, but no one had.

"I was in Vietnam in part of 1967," Paul had written. "I was in Vietnam in part of 1967," Paul had written. "I was in Vietnam in part of 1967," Paul had written. "I was in Vietnam in part of 1967," Paul had written.

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Paul, however, is still in the complications of the syndrome that affects 10 to 20 percent of Vietnam veterans. The syndrome is a complex of symptoms that includes depression, anxiety, and a sense of isolation. It is a condition that is often overlooked and under-treated.

But, sometimes, before you can treat it, you have to recognize it. It is a condition that is often overlooked and under-treated. It is a condition that is often overlooked and under-treated.

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PHOTO BY AP/WIDEWORLD

You went over there with a mission, and you came back with a mission. You went over there with a mission, and you came back with a mission. You went over there with a mission, and you came back with a mission.

Say Dr. Wilson: "If you were drafted, you would have to go to Vietnam. You would have to go to Vietnam. You would have to go to Vietnam. You would have to go to Vietnam."

It is a condition that is often overlooked and under-treated. It is a condition that is often overlooked and under-treated. It is a condition that is often overlooked and under-treated.

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The Vietnam Veterans' Administration does not have the figures on the number of suicides, but it is beginning to compile data. It is beginning to compile data. It is beginning to compile data.

It is a condition that is often overlooked and under-treated. It is a condition that is often overlooked and under-treated. It is a condition that is often overlooked and under-treated.

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Women veterans: forgotten by most

By KATHLEEN HENDRIX
The Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — She is 36, friendly and hospitable in spite of the tension in her face, offering tea and a pretty plate of carefully arranged cakes. She had to give it some thought before she agreed to talk of her experiences as an Army nurse in Vietnam and the aftermath. She seldom talks about all that, she explains.

She decided it was best not to use her name, but she did not lack out. The whole subject of women Vietnam veterans and delayed stress syndrome sounded "interesting" to her.

She says "interesting" frequently when referring to Vietnam and once interrupted herself, saying, "Interesting" is maybe not the word but they haven't invented the words for what went on over there."

She honestly cannot recollect if she was for or against the war when she went — "I just sort of wanted to go and nurse, I think." So she went through two months of what she likes to call "basic aggravation" and then spent a year at an Army evacuation hospital in Da Nang, six months in emergency, six on a ward, and says, "After the second day in that emergency room, you look at one more of those boys and you know we were in the wrong place."

All of this is said quickly, in choppy phrases, accompanied at times with a little nervous ruffling as she calls her year in Vietnam "a cram course in living." It gives her sincerity a leaveny, arm's-length quality.

Then she slows down as she gets some distance, describing in detail the "gross cultural shock," the heat, dirt, cockroaches that vividly disturb her even as she recalls them nine years later in her city living room. Beyond the physical hardships, there was the war itself, of course, the long hours in the emergency room, her attempts to keep her sense of humor when her evening's entertainment was pouring herself a long one, sitting on the steps of her booth and watching the gunships battle below Monkey Mountain.

She would go around asking herself "What is going on?" "What?" "Why?" she says, still unable to formulate the overwhelming questions, using her hands and face to supply the missing words. She'd cry, she'd get depressed, she couldn't wait to get home and was tired if she'd ever make it.

When she did get home from Vietnam, she was a nervous wreck, she says after a silence. "Vietnam was really hard on me. I did not bounce well."

There was Vietnam to deal with, a nervous illness in her family and the fact she had yet to come to terms with being divorced, a situation that preceded Vietnam. About 18 months after she was back, she says, she crashed and went into therapy.

"I was just jangled," she said of her overall condition.

She has gotten on with her life and gotten on well. Overall, however, it seems there is much that has not still jangled and in pain.

Therapy was helpful to her, she says, although she never did deal with what went on in the emergency room.

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They went to war. They did not kill or get killed. They often went through hell, though, and whether they have told them or not, they have their war stories.

Not much is known about the women who served in the military in Vietnam or their whereabouts and conditions now.

Estimates abound, figures varying within and between military departments and the Veterans Administration. Depending on the source, there were 150,000-200,000 women in the military during the years of the Vietnam conflict. Anywhere from 7,000 to 25,000 of them are thought to have served in Vietnam. No one was keeping track, at the time, and now, "the records have been retired," military public affairs personnel tend to say, surrendered to the governor's massive destruction as

See Page E 11, Column 11



VIETNAM



Time hasn't healed wounds

By HOWARD SIMONS
The Washington Post

HANOI — We were on the final approach to the Hanoi airport when the young Western diplomat broke off our conversation and said, "Have a look at the bomb craters as we go down."

There they are. Just a few at first. Then tens of them. Tens more. Then hundreds in every direction. Brown, water-filled mudholes, round like those plastic backyard swimming pools. Five years later and undilled.

The arrival lounge is a shred. Passenger control is lax. Customs is perfunctory. If no one is at the airport to meet you, there is no way to get to Hanoi — more 30 miles away. There are no buses or taxis.

I was met by Nguyen Canh Tan from the press office of the Foreign Ministry. He would be my interpreter, guide and escort for a three-day stay in Vietnam. On the second day I would run into the language barrier:

To Tan I said, "Thank you for arranging today."

"It is not going to rain today," he replied.

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On the tarmac at the airport are Soviet-made MIG fighter aircraft and captured American F-4s. Vietnamese officials will state that some American equipment is working and some not. A colonel will explain that Soviet military equipment is being used by the Vietnamese army, whereas most American equipment is supplied to the militia. Western intelligence sources say that 60 percent of the American aircraft captured five years ago still is serviceable, a remarkable percentage.

In an interview with Nguyen Co Thinh, Vietnam's foreign minister, he hints darkly that a few years ago representatives for American firms approached him and offered to buy the captured American arsenal of tanks, heavy artillery, helicopters, planes. He provides no names. It is well known that the terms of after-sales have meant to buy the equipment despite rumors, there is no evidence that Vietnam has said it was bought. Thinh says flatly, "We do not want to be an arms dealer."

The evidence of war, not just the last short war or the last long war, is ubiquitous. My interpreter was wounded by shrapnel during a B-52 raid on his army unit; his father was killed fighting the French. My driver's brother was killed in the war against the United States.

As the driver takes you across the one-lane bridge leading to Hanoi, you are reminded it was recently bombed. On the road north from Hanoi, bridges still are down. There are signs painted anti-American war signs. But the bulk of the wall paintings now are anti-Chinese — the new enemy.

Hanoi, Hanoi, is remarkably unwarred. It is a rich little poor city. Its wealth is in architecture: a southern French villa style with an Oriental patina. Parts of Hanoi are stunningly beautiful. Most of French Hanoi is various shades of yellow and green. Land, municipal growth requirements the architecture and the color of French Hanoi. The best villas have been given to Vietnam's friends — the Russians, East Europeans, Chinese. New-angled construction has been built to a minimum; the Chi Minh's restaurant and the new parliament building, both on Ho Chi Minh square, are the two last — or worst — examples.

On Tran Hung Vuong Avenue, where some of the most handsome villas are now empty in the Army Museum, is the Army Museum, displaying the military equipment used and captured in the war.

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A reconstruction student on his way to Hanoi to visit his divorced parents for the holidays says, "Well, here we are, a nation of stars."

See Page E 12, Column 12

Howard Simons is the managing editor of The Washington Post.

Women Vietnam veterans

Continued from Page E-1

St. Louis. The informal consensus seems to be, however, that there were far fewer than 50,000 of them, and that the majority were in medical positions, especially nursing.

They came home, usually spent another six months to a year in service before being discharged and then disappeared into civilian life. Increasingly, however, there is question about how thoroughly or well they have been able to readjust to peacetime, American society and themselves.

Of those comparative few who have surfaced as Vietnam veterans with past or present problems related to the war, it is apparent that delayed stress syndrome is not necessarily a man's disease.

The syndrome — mild or severe delayed reactions to the stress of war — includes depression, flashbacks, nightmares, guilt, anxiety attacks, suicidal tendencies, migraine headaches, spontaneous anger, alcohol or drug abuse, inability to concentrate, inability to maintain relationships, avoidance of intimacy.

The syndrome is not peculiar to Vietnam. People come out of all wars suffering similar reactions. It is generally if not universally, acknowledged however that the circumstances of the war in Vietnam exacerbate it: an undeclared war played out in no-win conditions against a hard to define or identify enemy; an unpopular and increasingly unjustified war to many Americans; the absence of a unifying commonly accepted ideology that would justify one's presence or actions in Vietnam; an inglorious retreat; and anything but a hero's welcome upon coming home.

To these general conditions must be added, for the women who were there, the nature of their jobs, the fact they were women in a war, and that they are reacting as women now.

Shed Meshad saw the problems coming for women while he was over there. He was a social work/psychology officer with the Army in Vietnam and has been working with Vietnam era veterans as a clinical social worker with the Veterans Administration ever since, currently as regional director of the VA's Operation Outreach program of distressed Vet centers. He worked with and around women in Vietnam and he has contacted a number of them, individually and in groups, since his return.

Women in Vietnam were officers, and as such not allowed to fraternize with enlisted men, he said recently at his office at the VA hospital in Los Angeles.

"Then you see all the time-

ery," Meshad said of the nurses. "You're far away from. You can hear it but you never go there. It creates an unknown. It really affects you. It's the twilight zone and you keep seeing people come in bits and pieces...."

"You'd get angry, but you can't go out and shoot a war on, you can't punch somebody out, you can't go get drunk. I'm not saying women never do but generally they did the 'woman thing.' Hold it in as appropriate."

□

Shirley Van Devanter starting a new chapter in her life. Several of them in fact. She came out of the closet. She went through a phase of being the "care giver" she said, listening to the men talk rather than talk herself. She talked enough however, that VVA, a private organization that is an advocate for legislation, benefits and programs for Vietnam veterans, realized there were problems for women veterans that were not being addressed. They asked her to head a new unit.

The problems are not totally behind her, she said, but she has "worked through a great deal" and no longer reacts if a nightmare comes back.

Van Devanter is in "phase one" of her job as women's director of VVA now, she said — trying to track down women Vietnam veterans. How many are there? Where are they? How are they?

She wants the VVA to explore women veterans' knowledge and use of GI benefits, she said, and their overall experience with the VA. She wants to see an investigation of the effects of exposure to Agent Orange on women and their offspring. And she is determined to see that help is provided for the psychological problems she is convinced many are suffering.

The rap groups developing at the VA-sponsored distressed Vet centers for Vietnam veterans seem one appropriate method of beginning to work on the problem, she said. However, the ones in existence are staffed by men and geared more to their specific combat-related problems.

Not every woman who served in Vietnam regards herself as a victim of delayed stress nor thinks she needs therapy. Chris McGinley Schneider is one veteran who feels she handled Vietnam as well as could be expected and has successfully readjusted to the rest of her life.

That does not mean that she thinks being a 23-year-old nurse at the evacuation hospital in Vietnam and then coming home to hear a neighbor complain-

Combat stress: Vets are losing inner battles

by Rick Anderson
Times staff reporter

An estimated 60,000 of them have drug or alcohol problems.

At least 20,000 are unemployed.

More than 400 are in prisons and jails.

From 20 to 25 kill themselves each year.

They rate high in divorce, and low in education.

Some are black. Some are crippled. All are a minority.

They are the Vietnam veterans of Washington State.

And, for many of them, there is a whole new war to wage — the fight against Delayed Stress Syndrome.

Of the approximately 200,000 Viet vets in the state, an estimated 40,000 have some form of the syndrome, a chronic personality disorder that results from the stress of fighting in, or enduring the aftermath of, America's 11-year bloodletting in Southeast Asia.

"The more we learn about delayed stress in vets, the less we seem to know," said Hugh Walkup of the Seattle Veterans Action Center.

A recent compilation by the King County Medical Examiner's office showed that almost half the young and middle-aged men who committed suicide in the county the past two years were Vietnam veterans. An unsubstantiated estimate nation-wide is that 30,000 Vietnam vets have taken their lives, more than died in the war itself.

Some authorities now say there are signals that afflicted vets may be turning their anger outward, towards the society they think has made them the symbols and scapegoats of the long, losing cause. And the number of the afflicted is also expected to grow.

According to a recent state legislative report:

"At least 20 per cent (of the 200,000) Washington State Vietnam-era veterans are suffering from some form of delayed stress reaction, and that is projected to increase to 50 per cent by 1985 (as new cases are discovered or revealed)."

Coupled with recently proposed Reagan administration cut-backs in veteran-outreach programs that deal with stress reaction, officials wonder about the future not only of the victims of the disorder, but its affect on a society that fails to deal with it.

(Details C &.)



Staff illustration by Rob Covey



"Thoughts by a Young Veteran"

The years others knew as youth, I spent learning th. meaning of Death.
The times others spent learning to love, I passed hoping to live
through endless nights.
The moments others remember as laughs in classrooms, I remember as
terror in the jungle.
The instants of pleasure taken for granted by others, I remember as
forgotten hopes,--long ago crushed by the reality of war.
The unfulfilled dreams of others are yet to be thought by me since I
am in search of my elusive youth, looking for years lost in
combat, which are no more---and will never be.

APRIL 13, 1981

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE COMMITTEE FOR CALANDERING HB 130. I SPONSORED THIS BILL FOR MANY REASONS, BUT PRIMARILY BECAUSE I'VE BECOME AWARE OF AN INCREASINGLY EVIDENT PROBLEM THAT EFFECTS, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, A SIZABLE PERCENTAGE OF ALASKANS - THE VIETNAM SYNDROME OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS.

THERE IS AN ESTIMATED POPULATION OF 15,000 TO 20,000 VIETNAM VETERANS IN ALASKA. NOT ALL OF THESE HAVE READJUSTMENT PROBLEMS, BUT MANY DO, AND IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY EVIDENT THAT THIS IS A DELAYED STRESS - WHICH THE NUMBER OF CASES IS INCREASING. THE STATISTICS ARE ALREADY IN THAT VIETNAM ERA VETERANS EXPERIENCE A THIRTY PERCENT GREATER SUICIDE RATE, A TWENTY PERCENT UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, A DIVORCE RATE TWICE THAT OF NON-VETERANS, AND MAKE UP FIFTEEN PERCENT OF THE PRISON POPULATION.

A RECENT REPORT BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HAS URGED PROGRAMS ADDRESSED IN THIS BILL - "WELL TRAINED VETERANS PEER COUNSELING".

I HOPE YOU AGREE, AS I DO, WITH THE AUTHOR OF THIS REPORT, THAT, VIETNAM VETERANS ARE BEING USED POLITICALLY WITHOUT ANY SERIOUS EFFORT TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEMS THEY HAVE AND THAT WE HAVE WITH THEM. . . . IT IS TIME TO ATTEND TO THEIR NEEDS.

POSITION PAPER / Department of Health & Social Services

POSITION PAPER

HOUSE BILL NO. 130

"An act making special appropriations to establish programs to deal with post-traumatic stress disorder; and providing for an effective data".

House Bill 130 appropriates from the general fund 165.0 to the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities for training and technical assistance to mental health, crises, drug and alcohol programs to Vietnam era veterans and families experiencing post-traumatic stress disorders. The sum of 100.0 is appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities for payment as a grant to Vietnam Veterans/Alaska Inc., for a Vietnam Veteran post-traumatic stress disorder outreach program based on the United States Veterans Administration model. The sum of 50.0 is appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Health and Social Services for work in cooperation with the Department of Labor, the Department of Community and Regional Affairs, the Alaska Court System, and the Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation to gather data for the identification of Vietnam era veterans receiving state services relating to post-traumatic stress disorder.

It is estimated that Alaska has over 20,000 Vietnam era veterans. During the month of January 1980, approximately 56 Vietnam veterans were served in Alaska community mental health clinic. Research studies conducted on Vietnam era veterans find that 40-60% of these veterans experience some form of acute, chronic, or cyclical form of POST TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD). The 1980 Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders includes for the first time the Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. It is defined as a group of symptoms following a psychological traumatic event that is generally outside of the range of usual human experience (military combat, rape or assault, floods and earthquakes). Characteristic symptoms involve re-experiencing the traumatic event (dreams, recollections), numbing of responsiveness, reduced involvement with the external world, sleep disturbances, guilt about survival, and memory impairment.

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The Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities endorses the provisions of HB 130 that attempt to provide training and technical assistance, data collection, and support programs based on the United States Veterans Administration outreach programs to Alaska's Vietnam era veterans.

Recommended by: Verner Stillner, M.D., M.P.H.
Verner Stillner, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

Date: 2/17/81

Approved by: Heien D. Beirne
Heien D. Beirne, Commissioner
Department of Health & Social Services

Date: 3/24/81

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT(S) MAY NOT FILM
LEGIBLY BECAUSE OF POOR QUALITY OF THE
ORIGINAL.

Viet Force Is Unlik

By FRED S. HOFFMAN

Associated Press Bureau Column

WASHINGTON, April 14—Although another large increase seems probable, U.S. officials discount the likelihood of any dramatic immediate reinforcement of U.S. troops in South Viet Nam to counter the mounting infiltration of North Vietnamese soldiers.

The key to the pace of the buildup, which some say may be an eventual doubling of the present 125,000 U.S. fighting men in South Viet Nam, is the progress made in developing the port system and other facilities to receive the additional troops and to support them once they are in the country.

Work on the pivotal Cam Ranh base on the Vietnamese coast is moving ahead on a two-shift-a-day basis but even at that tempo, engineer officials say it will be quite a while before this and other new ports are in high gear.

Airfields Pushed
Priority construction also is being pushed on new airfields to handle heavier Air Force operations in prospect.

No reasonable official at the post will stand behind any

specific figure as the goal for Viet Nam.

Secretary of Defense McNamara, who Tuesday from a short Viet Nam, hasn't yet had latest findings in a President Johnson's view has the final say. The ultimate order of reinforcement will be the actions of the commander-in-chief—especially in view of the past year's experience that reinforcements have had to be lifted again.

May Go to 200
Some speculation is rife in Viet Nam circles that the force there will rise to 200,000 or 300,000. Probably, the event could mean even higher figures.

Not counted in the present 125,000 are 10 to 20,000 Navy men in Fleet units in South waters.

Gradually, the Army is pushing a greater and U.S. ground effort in

Three months ago U.S. 33,000 soldiers in the South. Now there are 100,000 troops, representing

per cent of total Army. Marine manpower in Viet Nam has remained steady over the past months. But the 20,000 on the ground are nearly 30 per cent of

Training Accelerated
Both ground fighting and training as part of all national military training in Vietnam last summer. New Army trainees are turning out new basic trainees at the Marine centers are nearly 7,000 from last month.

Enlistments are up all the services, and is taking in about 10,000 this month.

Drift calls are very high about this, but could go higher if the war becomes a long war.

Manpower plans are the need to beef up U.S. forces worldwide by 50 to a total just below 500,000, and by the need to replace the sick, whose enlistments as active duty expire.

Military authorities estimate of replacement needs is in good shape.

ES-North To
At present, the Department is holding a month tour for service Viet Nam. By spring, the problems even recently projected build-up—it may be that to station officials may face the question of Viet Nam duty in months to avoid loss of trained men from the area.

When the buildup program last summer weighed whether a military overhaul, needed to secure the services through draft and intensified.

In all probability held off on any new as long as they can.

The strategic reserve troops and Marine United States has in the Viet Nam War.

One Division
A total of two divisions and a brigade led support units, drawn into the South.

The Marines have division left in the of a division normal California has been ward and is largely in



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POSITION PAPER

HOUSE BILL NO. 130

4.13.81

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The Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities endorses the provisions of HB 130 that attempt to provide training and technical assistance, data collection, and support programs based on the United States Veterans Administration outreach programs to Alaska's Vietnam era veterans.

Recommended by: Verner Stillner, M.D. (M.P.H.)
Verner Stillner, M.D. (M.P.H.)
Director, Division of Mental
Health and Developmental
Disabilities

Date: 2/17/81

Approved by: Heleen D. Beirne
Heleen D. Beirne, Commissioner
Department of Health & Social
Services

Date: 2/24/81

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. House Bill No. 130

Title "An Act making special appropriations to establish programs...post-traumatic stress dis-
Requested by Commissioner's Office Date 2/18/81 order

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected Dept. of Health & Social Services

Program Category Affected Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

BRU, Program, or Subprogram(s) Affected _____

(Note: If more than one budget component is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analysis section.)

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
TOTAL	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Fund Source)						
	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS

FULL TIME						
PART TIME						
TEMPORARY						
	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instructions, Section III)

IV. DATE Feb. 19, 1981

PREPARED BY 

AGENCY Division of Mental Health & Dev. Disabilities

PHONE 465-3370

Original: Legislative Finance

cc: Budget and Management

Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named) M&B Approval 

Date 2/20/81

5 copies
March 24, 1981

The Honorable Donald Clocksin
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education &
Social Services

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to formally request a hearing on House Bill 130: "An Act making special appropriations to establish programs to deal with post-traumatic stress disorder; and providing for an effective date."

As you know, HJR 11: "Recognizing the service of Vietnam war veterans and calling on the Federal government to establish programs benefiting those veterans", passed the House unanimously. It addressed some very real, pertinent, and important problems facing veterans of the Vietnam war. In conjunction with this resolution was the issuance of a report by the National Institute of Mental Health and the Veterans Administration. As you can see from the enclosed articles, Vietnam veterans as a whole "are plagued by significantly more problems than their peers." These problems range from alcoholism, drug abuse, medical and psychological problems, and involvement in violent crimes.

The Department of Labor estimates that there are between 15,000 and 20,000 Viet Nam veterans in Alaska, the vast majority being men. That constitutes a very significant percentage of the adult male population. With the proposed elimination of aid by the Federal government, I feel we should look into state participation.

I hope you will agree, as I do, with Robert Laufer, who directed the Vietnam report "that it is time to attend to their needs."

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

H. Pappy Moss

POSITION PAPER / Department of Health & Social Services

6 Copies
1/27/80

POSITION PAPER

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Recommended by: Verner Stillner, M.D., M.P.H.
Verner Stillner, M.D., M.P.H.
Director, Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities

Date: 2/17/81

Approved by: Helen D. Beirne
Helen D. Beirne, Commissioner
Department of Health & Social Services

Date: 2/24/81

PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF
HB 130

This bill appropriates \$165,000 to establish a training and technical assistance account to assist mental health, crisis, drug and alcohol programs to identify post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in Vietnam veterans and to identify and treat veterans and their families affected by the disorder.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

A. Training conference: Statewide training would be offered through three training workshops to be held in Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks. Transportation would be paid for four people from each mental health district or sub-district. This should include one person from mental health, one Vietnam vet (chosen by the Vietnam veterans organization if possible), and two people from alcoholism and crisis programs (this may include domestic violence workers). Additional care givers or vets could come at their own expense.

The workshop would be a 'professional' training experience. It would focus on:

1. Identification of PTSD, the history and symptoms.
2. Impact of PTSD on the individual, family, and community.
3. Approaches to treatment including rap groups, individual, marital and family therapy. (This would include the use of demonstrations such as the running of an actual rap group.)
4. Other related issues such as the effects of exposure to agent orange.
5. Work sessions to determine what can be done in individual communities. We would sponsor a recognized authority to run the workshop.

B. Local Programs: A Vietnam veteran (with counseling credentials and experience) would be hired to travel around the state to interested communities. He would stay in a community for approximately three weeks and while there would:

1. Advertise a series of meetings for Vietnam veterans at which PTSD and available services would be discussed.
2. Begin a rap group, co-leading it with a local mental health professional. The group would meet 2-3 times while he was in the community and would continue with the guidance of the mental health professional when he departed.

3. Provide training and consultation for the clinic staff and other interested community people in PTSD and related issues.

In order to facilitate this program in the community, minigrants would be made available to cover costs associated with advertising the group and other services and setting up the group.

(While this is written as if one person would do all of the traveling, it might be more appropriate for 2 vets to share this position, working the rest of the time in the center in Anchorage or at some other place).

COSTS

A. Summary:

The costs of this program would be approximately as follows:

Transportation for workshop participants	37,000
Workshop expenses	12,000
Workshop speakers	15,750
Traveling veteran/consultant	70,250
mini grants	<u>30,000</u>
	165,000

Any money not spent in these categories could go towards the cost of materials development. This would include developing radio and TV spots and training manuals to be distributed around the state.

B. Cost Detail

1. Transportation for workshop participants:

approximately cost/person airfare	250.00
3 days per diem @ 67/day	201.00
Cab, etc.	<u>10.00</u>
TOTAL	461.00

4 people from 20 districts @ \$461/person \$36,880

2. Workshop expense, room rental, food, brochures, training material:

\$4000/workshop X 3 workshops = \$12,000

3. Workshop facilitators (speakers)

cost per person:

transportation and per diem:	1,000
honorarium	<u>750</u>
total	1,750

3 facilitator for 3 conferences @ 1750 each = \$15,750

4. Traveling veteran/consultant

Salary at Clinician III (range 21) level = 39120
fringe @ 26.7% 10445

Travel and per diem:

to 15 communities X 300 airfare = 4500

per diem:

Average \$75 per day X 15 communities
18 days/community = 20,000

Total cost for consultant = 70,000

5. Mini grants:

\$2000 minigrants to 15 communities = 30,000

Vietnam's legacy of stress affects female vets, too

By GEORGIA DULLEA
The News' Staff Writer

NEW YORK — In the spring of 1979, a stress specialist at a volunteer firehouse in West Long Beach, N.Y., Lynda Van Devanter, a guest in a nearby house, began to scream. The last time she had heard that wailing noise was with an Army nurse in the control building of South Vietnam. It was directed to her as one of the red-shirt girls that sprayed riot-control gas at protesters in Phnom Penh.

"This is not Vietnam, this is Long Beach," she told herself, over and over, and yet she could not prevent herself from crawling combat-style out to the living room to find out what had happened.

Van Devanter had been back from Vietnam for eight years before her first flashback. Until then she saw no connection between her war experiences and the previous depression of her civilian life. She later cries that she was drinking heavily and crying continuously and had been unable to hold a job or form a close relationship with a man.

"At one point I was on unemployment and food stamps and in therapy," Van Devanter recalled the other day. "I never told my therapist I was in Vietnam. That's how deeply I buried it."

Mental health workers in the Veterans Administration's readjustment counseling program for Vietnam veterans fear stories like this every day. The difference is that women are now being treated. At a time when the program administrator's budget cutters are pressuring that the program be scrapped, the women who served in Vietnam are beginning to "come out of the closet," the counselors say, and into the forefront counseling centers around the country.

Of the estimated 125,000 women who served in the armed forces in the Vietnam era, 7,000 of them were stationed in Vietnam, according to Defense Department records. By far the largest number, 4,000, were members of the Army medical corps. Typically, the women signing up at the veterans' counseling centers nowadays are nurses.

Like the men who came for treatment when the first centers began operating in 1968, many of the women are said to be suffering from the disorder known as delayed stress syndrome. They are experiencing the same feelings of dejection, anxiety, guilt and alienation, the same painful flashbacks.

For instance, a Texas nurse, Cheryll Shickler, keeps reliving a scene in which she is forcing forward a soldier. The wounded are being brought off or stretched. A soldier's head falls from one of the stretchers. She looks to

pick up the head and finds a foot inside. "I was in one of those M.A.S.H. hospitals and I know the kind of trauma those nurses went through," said Shad Moshad, a former Army social work and psychology officer, sitting at his desk in a Los Angeles VA hospital.

As a retired director of the counseling program, Moshad has treated more than 200 women who are Vietnam veterans. He dismisses the argument, advanced by some, that their war stress was far less severe than that of men because they did not see combat.

What they saw in those operating rooms was an overwhelming procession of "the bits and pieces of people," as he put it, arriving from distant battlefields. What they felt, working 12-hour shifts in a kind of "twilight zone" removed from the war, yet dealing with its effects, was a sense of eeriness, of helplessness and anger. Because they were women, he said, "they could not go out and shoot a gun or punch somebody in the nose or get drunk."

"A lot of them reacted real early," Moshad went on, "but they were made to hold it in, which is contrary to a woman's nature. Women are usually pretty much out front with their emotions. They weren't allowed this in Vietnam and when they come home it was the same thing. Nobody wanted to hear their stories. Until now, no."

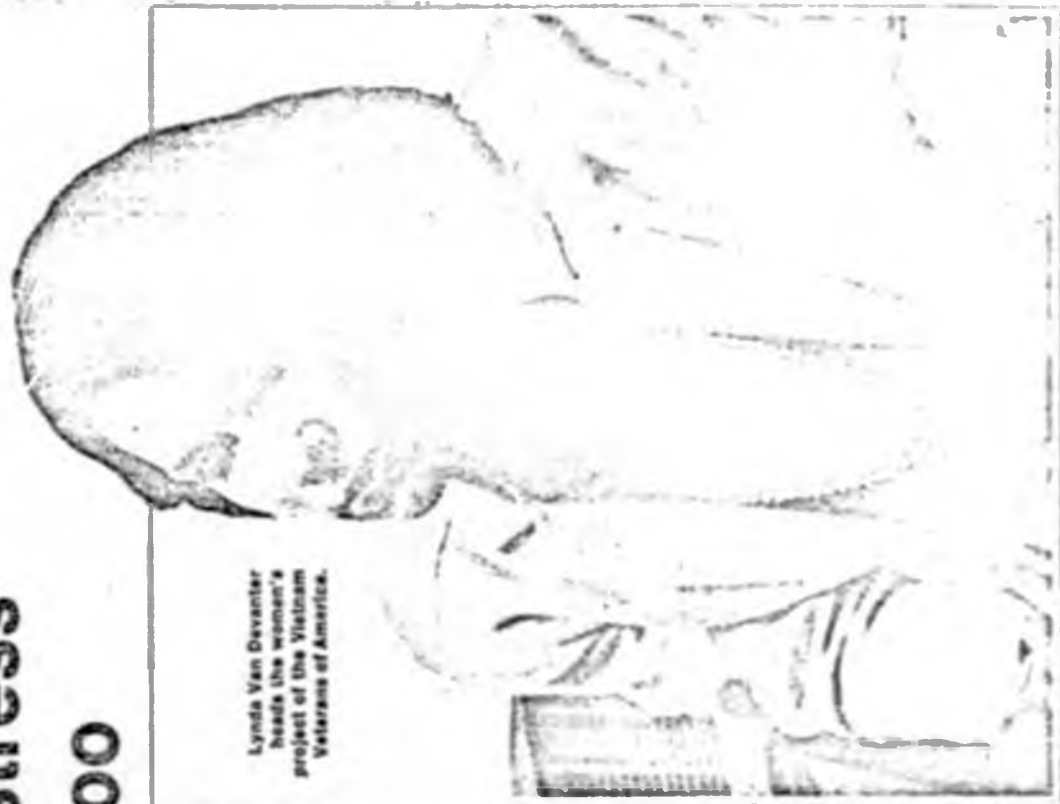
Why are they speaking out now, six years after the fall of Saigon? Moshad and other counselors give most of the credit to Van Devanter.

Seven months ago, the 35-year-old former surgical nurse, who has a bachelor's degree in psychology, went through the counseling program, a process known as "walking through Vietnam." Since then she has visited scores of storefront centers, training counselors there to deal with the special needs of women and urging references in those organizations, such as Marine Corps Headquarters, N.C., and Charlotte Capital Hill of Baltimore, to speak out.

Van Devanter has an even more ambitious vision: As head of the women's project of the Vietnam Veterans of America, which is based in Washington and has a membership of 6,000, she is trying to raise funds for a comprehensive study of the unique to women who are veterans of Vietnam.

It didn't take her long to receive a \$1,000 grant from the Playboy Foundation, and she said, "I've been turned down by some of the best foundations in the country, including the Mc Foundation. We are just not a very popular cause."

If the veterans of Vietnam are a "forgotten minority," as they have been called, the women



Lynda Van Devanter heads the women's project of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

who served as nurses there are the "most forgotten" in Van Devanter's view. She says the women comprise 10 percent of the population but are excluded in studies on Agent Orange, the toxic herbicide that was used extensively in the war as a defoliant, although some refuse to have children for fear of birth defects. She said the women also complain that veterans' hospitals

are generally not equipped to treat their needs — for example, that the hospitals have no obstetrical or gynecological clinics.

According to one study Van Devanter cited, women have been slow to make use of their GI Bill of Rights benefits because they were the wave they were entitled to them.

The Troubled Vietnam Vet

and spilled over into the media. Last week, under thinly veiled pressure, it scrubbed its TV show, released its donors from their pledges and went out of business. "I hope they'll stay involved," a relieved Reagan man said—but not too closely or aggressively next time.

Reagan and his recovery program, as it happens, have found allies aplenty in corporate America prepared to help without being prompted or pushed. John Swearingen, chairman of Standard Oil of Indiana, sent a letter to his stockholders endorsing the package in passionate tones—"The future of the nation is at stake"—and urging them to write their congressmen in its support. Boston's First National Bank dropped a plug into its newsletter, between some tips on spring house painting and a promo for the New England Aquarium, and will mail it to 300,000 depositors with their next statements. Dow Chemical urged its 22,000 employees in a mailer to "make your views known" to the Hill. W.R. Grace & Co. bought full-page ads in three newspapers defending Reagan's tax proposals. Eddie Chile, a septuagenarian Ft. Worth oil millionaire who has done more than 200 "I'm mad" radio commercials attacking Washington liberals, changed his run for Reagan and Reaganomics. "I'm not mad," his latest spots proclaim. "I'm glad."

More Than Sizzle: But the most imposing lobby of all may be the Budget Coalition, a germinating ad hoc alliance of hundreds of businesses and business associations including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the National Federation of Independent Business and the blue-chip Business Roundtable. They tested power together shellacking Big Labor in a series of lobbying wars three years ago and are regrouping now in Reagan's service, with high-tech computer and telecommunications capabilities that make his now defunct coalition of friends look like a cottage industry by comparison. "They were the sizzle," said an operative in the new group. "We are the steak."

There was a measure of political risk for Reagan in the enthusiasm of Big Business for a program he has doggedly advertised as equitable to everybody. The embattled Democratic left has already seized on it as an attack issue and fired some opening rounds against what Edward Kennedy called an effort by the privileged to "sell the Reagan plan like soap." But the President showed little inclination to turn away support, from the boardrooms or anywhere else. He is fighting to keep his honeymoon alive at least long enough to see his programs safely through to passage—a struggle in which he will need all the help he can get.

PETER GOLDMAN and ELEANOR CLIFT, THOMAS M. INFRAJE, JAMES DOYLE and BICH THOMAS in Washington and bureau reports

There are nights even now when Dan Spranger dreams of Vietnam. It is 1969 again: he is back with his buddies at Tiger Lair, a Ninth Infantry Division firebase in the Mekong Delta. They are laughing as they load the mortars, fire and load again. Spranger watches the mortar rounds arc upward, sees them fall and explode in a nearby hamlet. The villagers run screaming from their hootches, but they are not Viet Cong: they are women and children, Americans—and there, trapped in the barrage, are his wife and baby daughter. Like many dreams, it is a mixture of fantasy and reality, a metaphor for Spranger's fear that his family is among the casualties of the war. They

Its symptoms, ten and even fifteen years after the vet's return, are rage, guilt, flashbacks, nightmares, panic, depression and emotional numbing. Although it is more prevalent among black combat veterans, the researchers showed that Vietnam syndrome can afflict all races, all income groups and all personality types—even those who, because of their stable family backgrounds, were once thought unlikely to develop chronic stress.

Prodded by veterans' complaints and mounting evidence that such delayed reactions to the war were indeed common, Congress two years ago appropriated \$20 million to finance 91 storefront counseling

centers nationwide. This year, funding for the centers is on the hit list proposed by budget director David Stockman. The cutback, and Stockman's deferment from the draft in 1968-69, provoke many veterans to fury. "This is the one meaningful program for Vietnam veterans," says John Terzano of the Vietnam Veterans of America. "We've been slapped in the face by a guy who was hiding out in divinity school" during the war. The vets' allies in Congress are fighting to preserve the funds—and last week, the veterans' affairs committees in both houses agreed to restore funds for the centers.

Cooks: The Vietnam veterans' special burden, as angry returnees have insisted for years, was the nation's wholesale refusal to welcome—much less honor—those who served in the only war America has lost. Veterans were treated as "baby killers or drug freaks," says Dr. Jack Ewalt, a psychiatrist who is assistant chief of



Storefront help in San Francisco: 'I wake up screaming'

are: Spranger, 32, has lost his job, he and his wife are divorcing, and his daughter has congenital deformities he thinks may be the result of his battlefield exposure to Agent Orange.

Spranger is one of thousands of Vietnam veterans still haunted by the nation's longest and least-wanted war—and his dark dreams, like the slow disintegration of his life, bespeak his continuing inability to make a separate peace. According to a disturbing new study* by the Center for Policy Research in New York City, more than a third of those who saw heavy combat in Vietnam suffer from what is now recognized as "post-traumatic stress disorder," a pervasive emotional reaction that is often known as the "Vietnam syndrome."

*Legation of Vietnam Comparative Assessment of Veterans and Their Peers

mental-health services for the Veterans Administration, and the public's hostile indifference gave the vets little support for purging especially brutal memories. Spranger, proudly returning to his home in Detroit in the months before Kent State, was stunned by the hostility he encountered. He clammed up, telling acquaintances he had served his hitch as a cook. "At least," he says, "no one could ask me if I had killed any kids or women." Others complained of being rushed home without any time to decompress. "On Thursday I was in Vietnam," says Angel Almudina, a vet who runs a counseling center in New York City. "On Friday I was drinking beer on 109th Street."

The VA, backed by studies showing that 80 per cent of the war's veterans had made successful transitions to civilian life, was

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

slow to provide special programs for the troubled minority, and some of its officials still question the need. "There is a great deal of feeling that this program has performed its function," says a VA spokesman in New York, referring to the imperiled counseling centers. And some VA doctors, convinced that most vets traumatized in the war were predisposed to stress reactions by unstable family life during childhood, refused to concede the very existence of a Vietnam syndrome. "You'd be amazed at the number of guys who have been counseling at the VA and the subject of combat was never brought up," says Regg McCaw, a former 101st Airborne medic who works in a San Francisco counseling center. "When a vet brings it up, the psychiatrist says, 'That's all very interesting—now let's get back to your childhood.'"

Stable: The notion of a lasting stress reaction is now accepted by leading psychiatrists—and the new five-volume study, based on 1,380 interviews across the nation shows the Vietnam syndrome is more prevalent than previously believed. A crucial finding: the persistence of stress depends much more on the veteran's exposure to combat than on the emotional stability of his childhood. In light combat, soldiers from disadvantaged backgrounds did develop more psychological problems than their buddies who had more stable upbringings. But in heavy combat all such differences disappeared: soldiers from stable backgrounds were just as likely to report delayed stress symptoms as veterans from the least

stable homes. The study also found that combat-related stress is largely concentrated among veterans who served after 1968, when American involvement intensified and dissent became a powerful force at home.

To the VA's Ewalt, the Vietnam syndrome is much the same as "shell shock" among World War I doughboys or "combat fatigue" among veterans of World War II. But this time, he says, "it has a tendency to come on later, and as far as we can tell, there have never been so many cases"—up to 700,000 of the nation's nearly 3 million Vietnam veterans, by his estimate. Still, Ewalt says, "the idea that every Vietnam vet is a ticking time bomb or a druggie is simply not true."

But for those vets still suffering from the trauma of Vietnam combat, the problems are often acute. Arlen Tibbetts, an ex-marine who counsels vets in San Francisco, recently found one vet, an alcoholic, living in the weeds below San Francisco's Bay Bridge. "He said he felt more comfortable in the bush," Tibbetts said. "In his mind, he never left Vietnam." Brooklyn vet Steven Cytryszewski, 32, is also still fighting the war. He has flashbacks, nightmares and bouts of panic. "I smell the sulfur from the ammunition and I feel the heat from the sun," he says. "Sometimes I wake up screaming 'Incoming rounds!' When I drive along a road with trees on both sides, I don't look at the road, I look at the trees. I'm looking for snipers."

Like many veterans, Cytryszewski is critical of the VA's regular programs and enthusiastic about the counseling centers the vets run themselves. "Nobody laughs

at me," he says. "If I tell them I hit the ground when I hear sudden noises, they say they do, too." The centers' simple premise is that talk is the first step to exorcising the past. One anguished vet told Dr. John Caknipe, chief counselor at Detroit's Flight of the Phoenix center, about a hand-to-hand night battle that wiped out his unit. When dawn came, he found himself surrounded by the grotesquely mutilated bodies of his men and 36 wounded Vietnamese, all without hope of medical aid. In despair, he shot and killed all 36; his superiors ordered him never to tell what he had done. "When he finally broke," Caknipe says, "he cried for three hours. Then he stood up and said, 'I feel light . . . I feel light.' And he left."

Betrayal: Despite their support in Congress, the veterans have little assurance that their funding will survive the labyrinthine budget process—and the prospect of closing the storefront centers has already revived their sense of betrayal by an uncaring nation. The study's authors, who found the vets' approach can help, urge continued support for "well-trained veteran peer counseling." Vietnam veterans are "used politically without any serious effort to address the problems they have and that we have with them," says sociologist Robert Lauffer, who directed the study. "Our report suggests that it is time to attend to their needs." By doing so, the corollary seems to be, America can at last begin its own long-deferred reckoning with Vietnam.

TOM MORGANTHAU with STEVEN SHABAD in New York, MARY LORD in Washington, JACOB YOUNG in Detroit and GERALD C. LUBENOW in San Francisco



Diane Walker



John Frazee—AP/Wide World



Wally McNamee—AP/Wide World

Nancy's Ups and Downs

It was an up-and-down week for Nancy Reagan, but if anyone had to take a spill, better the First Lady than the Reagans' 22-year-old son, Ron, who danced for the first time at New York's Metropolitan Opera House in a performance to benefit the Joffrey Ballet. Ron, a member of the Joffrey training company, kept his balance in "Unfolding," an "abstract neoclassical" ballet, and was rewarded with a bravura hug from his mother at intermission. Three days later, at

a visit to St. Ann's Infant Home in Hyattsville, Md., the First Lady was bowled over by the greeting of a 5-year-old named Brian, who rushed to hug her when she crouched for a greeting. "That's all right," she reassured the youngster. "I thought you were being affectionate." She was inspecting one of her favorite projects, the federally funded Frater Grandparent Program. All was dignity, however, at the glittering Kennedy Center premiere of "The Little Foxes," where Nancy had a warm chat with the wife of Sen. John Warner of Virginia—the star of the show, Elizabeth Taylor.

M.E.N., Inc.
(Men Emerging Now)
211 4th Street, Room 304
Juneau, AK 99801
April 10, 1981

Representative Don Clocksin, Chairman
House Health, Education and Social
Services Committee
Capitol Building
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Clocksin
and Committee Members

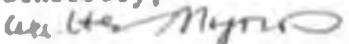
This letter is to register our complete support for House Bill 130, in its effort to establish services for Vietnam Veterans experiencing delayed stress reactions.

M.E.N., Inc. is a counseling program for men in crisis and particularly for men in violent relationships. We have been in operation for approximately seven (7) months. In that time period we have found that a substantial portion of our clients are Vietnam Veterans who have manifested symptoms of the post-traumatic stress syndrome. The symptoms that we have encountered in our clients include: self-destructive behavior (including suicidal feelings), emotional numbing, high anger levels, low self-esteem, social isolation, and difficulties establishing intimate relationships. For those clients where data is available, 70% are Vietnam Veterans suffering from various aspects of the stress disorder.

At this time, no specialized services exist to deal with the unique needs and problems of Vietnam Veterans. It can only be expected that a relatively small percentage of men suffering from the post-traumatic stress syndrome will utilize traditional mental health and other community counseling services. Without some form of direct outreach to this target population, a large number of men suffering from this problem will go undiagnosed and untreated. Similarly, there is a need for mental health professionals and other community agencies to receive training in recognizing and treating individuals and families affected by the stress disorder.

Finally, it should be noted that the issue of services to Vietnam Veterans experiencing delayed stress is a local and statewide problem, and not merely a Federal issue. Federal programs for Veterans are geared towards traditional needs in such areas as hospitalization and education. When Vietnam Veterans act out stress with coping mechanisms such as violence and alcoholism, the problem has a grave impact on our local and statewide communities.

There is a pressing need for local support mechanisms to be set up to assist Vietnam Veterans and their families to cope with the pervasive effects of delayed stress. We encourage the Legislature to act swiftly in approving this very important bill.

Sincerely,

Walter Majoron, Director

State of Alaska



Department of Commerce and Economic Development

Certificate

The undersigned, as Commissioner of Commerce and Economic Development, of the State of Alaska, hereby certifies that duplicate originals of the Articles of Incorporation of Vietnam Veterans of Alaska (VV/A)


duly signed and verified pursuant to the provisions of the Alaska Nonprofit Corporation Act, have been received in this office and are found to conform to law.

ACCORDINGLY the undersigned, as such Commissioner of Commerce and Economic Development, and by virtue of the authority vested in him by law hereby issues this Certificate of Incorporation of

Vietnam Veterans of Alaska (VV/A)

and attaches hereto a duplicate original of the Articles of Incorporation.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and
affixed my official seal, at Juneau, the Capital, this
15th day of January A.D. 1981


Charles R. Webber
CHARLES R. WEBBER
COMMISSIONER OF COMMERCE
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION FOR VIETNAM VETERANS OF ALASKA (VV/A)

We, the undersigned residents of the State of Alaska, being nineteen (19) years or more of age, do hereby associate ourselves together for the purpose of forming a corporation under the statutes of the State of Alaska.

Article One
NAME

The name of the corporation shall be Vietnam Veterans of Alaska (VV/A), and its location shall be 4501 Dredge Lake Ave., City of Juneau, Borough of Juneau-Douglas, State of Alaska.

Article Two
DURATION

The period of duration of this nonprofit corporation shall be until 11 November, 1984, unless otherwise terminated by affirmative vote of the corporation membership. ✓

Article Three
PURPOSE CLAUSE

The business and purpose of this corporation shall be to advocate for and act as spokespersons on behalf of the Alaskan Vietnam Veteran, Vietnam-era Veterans and their families. To achieve this purpose, the following goals are established:

Goal #1: To advocate through the Alaska State Legislature for the creation of a Vietnam Veterans Counseling Program for Southeastern Alaska, and the rest of the State of Alaska.

Goal #2: To create heightened awareness and involvement by Vietnam Veterans and the public to the issues of the Vietnam Veteran. These are specifically defined as:

- a. Employment
- b. Service connected counseling
- c. Continuance of Federal veterans benefits
- d. Discharge review
- e. Representation in the political sphere

FILED FOR RECORD
STATE OF ALASKA

JAN 15 1984

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
& ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Article Four
NONSTOCK CORPORATION

The corporation shall be nonstock, and no dividends or pecuniary profits shall be declared or paid to the members thereof.

Article Five
DIRECTORS

The number of Directors constituting the initial board of directors of the corporation is seven (7), and the names and addresses of the persons who are to serve as initial directors are as follows:

Paul Davis, 570 Seatter St., Juneau, Ak.

John Rear, Box 497, Douglas, Ak.

Allen D. Blume, 4501 Dredge Lake Ave., Juneau, Ak.

Kris Krestensen, 504-B Kennedy St., Juneau, Ak.

Mike Luque, 826 Calhoun, Apt. #7, Juneau, Ak.

Steven Hale, 319 Carol Way, Apt. B, Juneau, Ak.

Jim Benka, 1003 B Street, Juneau, Ak.

Article Six ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The manner in which the directors are to be elected by the members is as follows: At the biennial general membership meeting in December of each year.

Director vacancies may be filled by general membership vote during the biennial general membership meeting in June of each year.

Article Seven CORPORATE OFFICERS AND THEIR FUNCTIONS

The general officers of the corporation shall be Chairman, Vice-chairman for Finance, Vice-chairman for Communication, Vice-chairman for Organization, Vice-chairman for Employment, Vice-chairman for Legal Affairs, and Vice-chairman for Disabled Veterans.

The principal duties of the chairman shall be to preside at all meetings of the members and the board of directors and to have a general supervision of the affairs of the corporation. The chairman shall designate a member to preside over the general membership meetings, in the event he (the chairman) is unable to attend any such meeting.

The principal duties of the vice-chairman for finance shall be to keep an account of all monies, credits, and property of any and every nature of the corporation which shall come into his hands, and to keep an accurate account of all monies received and disbursed and of proper vouchers for monies disbursed, and to render such accounts, statements, and inventories of monies received and disbursed and of money and property on hand, and generally of all matters pertaining to his office, as shall be required by the board of directors.

The principal duties of the vice-chairman for communications shall be to countersign all deeds, leases, and conveyances executed by the corporation, affix the seal of the corporation thereto and to such other papers as shall be required or directed to be sealed, and to keep a record of the proceedings of the board of directors, and to safely and systematically keep all books, papers, records and documents belonging to the corporation, or in any way pertaining to the business thereof, except the books and records incidental to the duties of the vice-chairman for finance.

The vice-chairman for communications shall also act as primary liaison

to the legislature of the State of Alaska, and shall be responsible for appropriate publicity and public information programs.

The board of directors may provide for the appointment of such additional officers as they may deem for the best interest of the corporation.

Not more than two members of the board of directors may be veterans of the Vietnam-era, who have not seen service in the Southeast Asian theater.

Whenever the board of directors may so order, any two offices, the duties of which do not conflict, may be held by one person.

The officers shall perform such additional or different duties as shall from time to time be imposed or required by the board of directors, or as may be prescribed from time to time by the bylaws.

Article Eight ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The officers shall be elected by direct vote of the general membership of the Vietnam Veterans of Alaska.

Article Nine MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

The method and conditions on which members shall be accepted and discharged or expelled shall be as follows:

"Membership in the Vietnam Veterans of Alaska is open to all Vietnam Veterans (including those with service in any area of Southeast Asia and adjacent waters) and Vietnam-era veterans, without distinction to race, sex, creed or national origins, save that military service shall have been with a branch of the United States military."

It is not a condition of general membership that documentation of prior service be presented. However, by request of ten (10) percent of the general membership, or formal request of the executive committee, a member may be requested to submit proof of prior service.

Article Ten REGISTERED AGENT

The registered agent for Vietnam Veterans of Alaska is Mr. Charlie Deach, d.b.a. Charlie's Marine, P.O. Box 303, Douglas, Alaska 99824.

Article Eleven AMENDMENTS

The articles may be amended in the manner provided by statute at the time of amendment.

Article Twelve INCORPORATORS

The names and addresses of the persons forming this corporation are as follows:

Paul Davis

Paul Davis

570 Seatter St., Juneau, Ak.

Allen D. Blume

Allen D. Blume

4501 Dredge Lake Ave., Juneau, Ak.

Charlie Deach

Charlie Deach

P.O. Box 303, Douglas, Ak.

Kris Krestensen

Kris Krestensen

504 B, Kennedy St., Juneau, Ak.

**Article Thirteen
BYLAWS**

The conditions and regulations of membership and the rights and other privileges of the classes of membership shall be determined and fixed by the bylaws.

Bylaws are subject to ratification by vote of the general membership, and will be carried by simple majority vote. Amendments and modifications shall be subject to majority considerations of two-thirds vote of the general membership.

**Article Fourteen
LIMITATION ON MEMBERS LIABILITY**

The private property of the members of this corporation shall not be liable for its corporate debts.

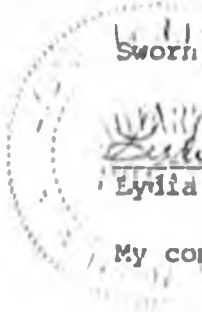
**Article Fifteen
PROHIBITION AGAINST ENCUMBERING PROPERTY**

This corporation shall never mortgage or place a deed of trust or other lien on any of its properties for any purpose, nor shall it, save for current expenses, incur indebtedness at any time during its term of existence.

**Article Sixteen
DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS UPON DISSOLUTION**

In the event, and as anticipated, of the dissolution of this corporation, or in the event it shall cease to carry out the object and purposes herein set forth, all the business, property, and assets of the corporation shall go and be distributed to such nonprofit charitable corporation, municipal corporation, or corporations, as may be selected by the board of directors of this corporation so that the business properties and assets of the corporation shall then be used for, and devoted to, the purposes of carrying a nonprofit veterans organization. In no way shall any of the assets or property of this corporation, or the proceeds of any of the assets or property, in the event of dissolution, go or be distributed to members, either for the reimbursement of any sums subscribed, donated, or contributed by such members, or for any other such purposes, it being the intent in the event of the dissolution of this corporation, or upon its ceasing to carry out the object and purposes herein set forth, that the property and assets then owned by the corporation shall be devoted to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans or Veterans Administration Vietnam Veterans Outreach Program as determined by the board of directors.

Sworn and subscribed before me on this 14th day of Jan 1981.


Lylia V. Randolph
Lylia V. Randolph

My commission expires 5-24-84

BY-LAWS VV/A

1. All business conducted by the organization will be done under Roberts Rules of Order (Newly Revised).
2. Officers of the Corporation will be elected to one year terms of office, subject to votes of "confidence" which may be requested during the biennial meeting.
3. The fiscal year for the Corporation shall coincide with the calendar year (1 Jan. to 31 Dec.)
4. The Corporation shall hold biennial meetings, one in June and the other in December. The December meeting will be for the election of officers, but is not limited to that topic.
5. Checks will be signed by two members of the Executive committee, of which three signatures will be authorized. These members being, the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman for Finance, the Vice-Chairman for Communications.
6. Membership in VV/A is open to all Vietnam Veterans (including those with service with U.S. Forces in any area of South East Asia Theater) and Vietnam Era Veterans.
7. It is a requirement for service on the Executive committee that persons seeking election show by presentation of appropriate documents their qualifications to serve.
8. VV/A does not recognize auxiliary and/or affiliate chapters, but may extend this privilege if approved by the general membership.
9. Effective November 11, 1984 the organization known as Vietnam Veterans of Alaska (VV/A) shall cease to exist. By recommendation of the Executive committee or request by ten (10%) percent of the membership the issue of continuance may be placed on the meeting agenda and shall be considered. The issue of continuance shall be placed on the agenda for each biennial meeting.
10. Dues for membership in Vietnam Veterans of Alaska (VV/A) will be \$5.00 yearly.

Vietnam Veterans/Alaska, Inc.

Working Budget: FY 82

Personnel:

1 Executive Director/Counselor:	\$25,000/yr
2 Paraprofessional co-therapists:	17,000/yr. each
1 Secretary/Researcher:	12,500
Personnel benefits:	<u>17,875</u>
TOTAL	\$89,375

Equipment:

1500 sq. ft. (store front) office x \$1.25/sq. ft.	18,000
Office operations/equipment:	<u>2,500</u>
TOTAL	\$20,500

Travel:

Haines, Skagway, Sitka, Wrangell, Petersburg, Ketchikan	<u>\$10,000</u>
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Operations Total: \$129,875

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Ave. 7135.7

ALASKA

STATE LEGISLATURE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Billy Berrier
Director
Legal Services

FROM: Pete Kelley
Administrative Assistant
Rep. Moss

SUBJ: CS changes to HB 130

Please prepare two committee substitutes for HB 130 to reflect the following changes:

1. Page 1, Line 22:

The sum of \$50,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the Office of the Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services to develop a full needs assessment, in conjunction with other executive agencies, of the Alaskan Vietnam veteran; and gather data on the capability of state information systems to identify and track on this special class of citizens.

The second CS should reflect the above change, and the following:

1. Page 1, Line 29: NEW SECTION FOUR

The sum of \$600,000 is appropriated from the general fund to a special contingency fund established in the DSHS, Div. of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, to assume operational funding for Veterans Administration Outreach Centers in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Kenai and Wasilla.

2. NEW SECTION FIVE

In the event that federal funding for programs listed in Sec. 4 is re-instated, the unexpended and unobligated portions of this appropriation shall immediately lapse into the general fund.

3. Sec. Six: EFFECTIVE DATE

Sec. Four of this act shall take effect on 1 October 1981.

4. Sec. Seven. (Renumber from existing Sec. 4).

Potential Language

Add-on: Sec. 3:

Office of Information

Systems

4. 13. 81

HTS 130

Dr. Vasan Stillman -

21 M^H clinics in state
uniqueness of V.N.V

Walter magazine rep. { MEN, etc
 } all network on domestic, + international

Choo Kueh - ch. of Bd of VVHK

Mike Lukoy - ch. of org. comm VNV

Paul Davis -

John Bison - AD labor - yes

Pat Marshall -

Gerry Shipman - no. analyst for all H.P.S
see part 3 of HTS 130

4.13.81 HTB 130

From Richard - vet -

% Volunteers vs DRAFT?

Al Blume -

just like a legislative aide -
Doesn't understand what 3-4
minutes means.