

HB

130

COMMITTEE REPORT  
SENATE

FURTHER: Finance

5/20/81

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. President:

The Committee on HEALTH, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES has had CSHB 130 (Fin) am

making special appropriations to establish programs to deal with post-traumatic stress disorder

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)  same title
- replace with CS for \_\_\_\_\_  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

MEMBERS HAVING  
OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS:

\_\_\_\_\_

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CHAIRMAN

A M E N D M E N T

OFFERED IN THE SENATE:

By: Senate HESS

To: CSHB 130(Fin) am SENATE BILL No. \_\_\_\_\_

HOUSE BILL No. \_\_\_\_\_

1

17 - 21

PAGE: \_\_\_\_\_

LINE: \_\_\_\_\_

Delete section 2 and replace with the following:

\* Sec. 2. The sum of \$100,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, for payment on a competitively bid request for proposal to a non-profit veterans service organization for a Vietnam veterans post traumatic stress disorder outreach program for Southeast Alaska, modeled on the United States Veterans Administration outreach program. A condition of the contract award shall be that the contract recipient shall hire Vietnam veterans for principle management and all counseling positions.

Original sponsor: Moss

Offered: 5/18/81

Referred: Rules

Funding Information

General Fund \$315,000

Other Funds -0-

\$315,000

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2 CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 130 (Finance) am

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

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

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10 \* Section 1. The sum of \$165,000 is appropriated from the general fund  
11 to the Department of Health and Social Services, division of mental health  
12 and developmental disabilities, to establish a training and technical assis-  
13 tance account in the division to assist mental health, crisis, drug and  
14 alcohol programs to identify post-traumatic stress disorder in Vietnam  
15 veterans, and to identify and treat veterans and their families affected by  
16 the disorder.

17 \* Sec. 2. The sum of \$100,000 is appropriated from the general fund to  
18 the Department of Health and Social Services, division of mental health and  
19 developmental disabilities, for payment ~~as a grant to the Vietnam Veterans~~  
*on a competitively bid request for*  
*proposal to a non-profit veterans service organization*  
20 ~~Alaska, Inc.~~ *for Southeast Alaska* for a Vietnam veterans post-traumatic stress disorder outreach  
21 program based on the United States Veterans Administration outreach program.  
*A condition of the contract award shall be that the contract recipient shall hire*

22 \* Sec. 3. The sum of \$50,000 is appropriated from the general fund to  
23 the Department of Health and Social Services, office of the commissioner,  
24 office of information systems, to develop, in conjunction with other state  
25 agencies, a needs assessment of Alaska Vietnam veterans, and to gather data  
26 on the capability of state information systems to identify and monitor these  
27 veterans.

28 \* Sec. 4. The unexpended and unobligated portions of the appropriations  
29 made by secs. 1 and 3 of this Act lapse into the general fund on June 30,

SENATE AMENDMENT

By \_\_\_\_\_

To: \_\_\_\_\_ SENATE BILL No. \_\_\_\_\_

To: \_\_\_\_\_ HOUSE BILL No. CSCSHB 130 (am)

PAGE: 1

LINE:

Section Two should be changed to read:

The sum of \$100,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, for payment on a competitively bid request for proposal, to a non-profit veterans service organization (GRANT TO THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF ALASKA, INC.) for a Vietnam veterans post traumatic stress disorder outreach program for Southeast Alaska, modeled on the United States Veterans Administration outreach program. A condition of the contract award shall be that the contract recipient shall hire Vietnam veterans for principle management and all counselling positions.

Proposed amendment for HB 130:

replace section 2 with the following:

\* Sec. 2. The sum of \$100,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Health and Social Services, division of mental health and developmental disabilities, for payment on a competitively bid request for proposal, to a non-profit veterans service organization for a Vietnam veterans post traumatic stress disorder outreach program for Southeast Alaska, modeled on the United States Veterans Administration outreach program. A condition of the contract award shall be that the contract recipient shall hire Vietnam veterans for principle management and all counseling positions.

SUBMITTED BY VIETMAN VETERANS OF ALASKA, INC.

5/29/81

TELECOPY COVER SHEET

TO: SENATOR MIKE COLLETTA

PHONE: 465-3732

FROM: William C. Oleson

PHONE: 277-1501

INSTRUCTIONS: Please call for pick-up.

RECEIVED: DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_ :

SENT: DATE 5/28 TIME 1:55 pm

BY ANCHORAGE INFORMATION OFFICE (278-3668)

DISPOSAL OF ORIGINAL:  THROW AWAY

HOLD FOR PICK UP

NUMBER OF PAGES: \_\_\_\_\_ (NOT COUNTING COVER SHEET)

From Wm. C. Olson Team Leader,  
Anchorage Vet Center  
To Senator Mike Callista  
Reference HB 130

This is in reply to questions by  
several members of the Senate  
regarding H. B. 130 and the  
possible coordination and  
commingling of State and Federal  
funds to set up a satellite  
Vietnam veterans counseling  
center (Vet Center Outreach) in  
Juneau, Alaska.

I have been instructed  
by my supervisor, Mr. Robert  
Malone, Coordinator Region ~~VI~~ II  
Vet Center ~~Outreach~~ Outreach Programs  
that a letter of proposal of  
intent be extended from the  
State of Alaska to the Administrator  
of the Veterans Administration,  
Washington D. C. to provide for  
State of Alaska funds to the V. A.  
to provide for an additional  
Vietnam Outreach ~~Center~~ satellite  
in Juneau, Alaska. ~~From the~~  
These funds would be forwarded  
to the Anchorage Veterans Administration  
Regional Office to be used to lease  
office space, fund staffing, provide  
for travel, office operation,

and communication.

Coordination of the Satellite.

Junear would be under the Anchorage Vet Center Team Leader who would be responsible for the entire operation of the Satellite including staffing & staff training, etc.

The existing Vet Center (Vietnam Veterans Counseling Outward) in Anchorage includes the main office in Anchorage and three Satellite operations in Fairbanks, Kenai, and Wasilla. Each of the Satellite operations are staffed with one counselor (no other support staff). The Anchorage Vet Center is staffed with 3 counselors and one office administrator. All coordination of the 4 offices goes thru the Anchorage office.

It has been proposed that the 100,000 identified in N.B. 130 be increased to 200,000. - so that satellite services from Junear could be expanded to include all of Southeastern Ak., i.e. at least two counselors, one secretary and enough travel allowance to set up city -

3 of 3

help services in Sitka,  
Ketchikan, Valdez, etc.

If there are any questions  
please call Bill Olson,  
277-1501.

Proposed amendment for HB 130:

replace section 2 with the following:

\* Sec. 2. The sum of \$100,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Health and Social Services, division of mental health and developmental disabilities, for payment on a competitively bid request for proposal, to a non-profit veterans service organization for a Vietnam veterans post traumatic stress disorder outreach program for Southeast Alaska, modeled on the United States Veterans Administration outreach program. A condition of the contract award shall be that the contract recipient shall hire Vietnam veterans for principle management and all counseling positions.

SUBMITTED BY VIETMAN VETERANS OF ALASKA, INC.

5/29/81

# 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

## 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 residences 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*

504 B, Kennedy St., Juneau, Ak.

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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 14<sup>th</sup> day of Jan. 1981.

*Lydia V. Randolph*

Lydia V. Randolph

My commission expires 5-24-84

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.



PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF  
HB 130

Make  
Copies

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

HB 582

HOUSE BILL NO. 582 by Meekins, Carney, Gardiner, Miller, Barnes, Cato, Grussendorf, Hayes, Clocksin and Rogers, entitled:

"An Act making special appropriations for the promotion of tourism and tourist attractions and for the operation and improvement of parks and other facilities used by tourists; and providing for an effective date."

was read the first time and referred to the State Affairs and Finance Committees.

CONSIDERATION OF THE DAILY CALENDARSECOND READING OF HOUSE BILLSHB 130

HOUSE BILL NO. 130 (making special appropriations to establish programs to deal with post-traumatic stress disorder; effective date) was read the second time with the Health, Education & Social Services Committee report (page 1009 of the journal) and the Finance Committee report (page 1466 of the journal).

Representative Meekins moved and asked unanimous consent that COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 130 (Finance)(same title) be adopted in lieu of the original bill. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

CSHB 130(Fin)

Amendment No. 1 by Moss and Clocksin:

Page 1, line 22 - 28

Delete \*Sec. 3.

Add \*Sec. 3 of CSHB 130(HESS)

Representative Moss moved and asked unanimous consent that Amendment No. 1 be adopted.

CSHB 130(Fin) continued

Representative Hayes objected and withdrew his objection. There being no further objection, Amendment No. 1 was adopted.

CSHB 130(Fin)am

Representative Meekins moved and asked unanimous consent that CSHB 130(Fin)am be considered engrossed, advanced to third reading and placed on final passage. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

CSHB 130(Fin)am was read the third time.

The question being: "Shall CSHB 130(Fin)am pass the House?" The roll was taken with the following result:

CSHB 130(FIN) AM

Yeas:	40	Abood, Adams, Anderson, Barnes, Beirne, Bettisworth, Brown, Buchholdt, Bylana, Carney, Cato, Chuckwuk, Clocksin, Cotten, Cuddy, Duncan, Fanning, Freeman, Fuller, Gardiner, Grussendorf, Halford, Haugen, Hayes, Hurlbert, Malone, Martin, Meekins, Metcalfe, Miller, Montgomery, Moss, O'Connell, Phillips, Randolph, Rogers, Smith, Sutcliffe, Vaska, Zharoff
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Nays:	0
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Not Voting:	0
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And so, CSHB 130(Fin)am passed the House.

Representative Meekins moved and asked unanimous consent that the roll call on the passage of the bill be considered the roll call on the effective date clause. There being no objection, it was so ordered.

CSHB 130(Fin)am was referred to the Chief Clerk for engrossment.

Vietnam Veterans/Alaska, Inc.

Working Budget: FY 82

Personnel:

1 Executive Director/Counsellor:	\$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>
Operations Total:	\$129,875

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.						
<b>TOTAL</b>	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86
GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Fund Source)						
	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-0-

POSITIONS

	FY 81	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86
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

*Thomas R. Brown*

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

*Wesley H. Hubbard*

Date 2/18/81

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.

One of the current successful recovery process methods for the PTSD is the veteran and a mental health professional preferably with Vietnam war experience. The methods employed in these rap groups vary from the traditional individual and group psychotherapy since the focus is not on individual pathology but on a process of recovery of shared meaning.

The recent acknowledgement of the existence of the PTSD and the young age of the Vietnam veteran make this group excellent candidates for preventive interventions. However, before such interventions take place mental health, drug abuse, and alcohol programs have to be aware of this new syndrome. The identification and proper management of crisis and preventive interventions require training and technical assistance to the existing mental health and alcohol/drug treatment delivery system.

POSITION PAPER / Department of Health & Social Services

The Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities endorses the provisions of HE 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, MD  
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

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.						
<b>TOTAL</b>	-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 *Thomas R. Bean*

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 *Wesley Hubbard*

Date *2/19/81*

## NATIONAL AFFAIRS

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 Chiles, 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 with ELEANOR CLIFT,  
THOMAS M. DeFRANK, JAMES DOYLE  
and RICH THOMAS in Washington  
and bureau reports

# The Troubled Vietnam Vet

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're being 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.

**Cook:** 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

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 stung 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 Almedina, 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



James D. Wilson—Newsweek

*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 slow-fuse emotional reaction that is often known as the "Vietnam syndrome."

\*Legacies of Vietnam: Comparative Adjustment of Veterans and Their Peers

## 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 Reggie 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 disast 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 Laufer, 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 SHAHAD in New York, MARY LORD in Washington, JACOB YOUNG in Detroit and GERALD C. LUBENOW in San Francisco



Diane Walker



John Ficara—Newsweek



Wally McNamee—Newsweek

## 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 Foster 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.

# Anchorage Daily News

Winner, 1976 Pulitzer Prize Gold Medal for Public Service

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## A salute to our forgotten soldiers

Memorial Day is a little more than a pleasant outing for many Americans, another three-day weekend to break the monotony of Monday-to-Friday jobs.

For a few others, the occasion is remembered for reasons more akin its original intent, as a opportunity to honor those who fought and died in American wars.

Each of those approaches serves a purpose, but there is a better goal we could pursue today. Rather than simple recreation for ourselves or even memories of fallen soldiers, we could use the opportunity to dedicate ourselves to a more pressing and relevant task — the problems of America's Vietnam veterans.

Unlike the fighting men of our other wars, veterans of Vietnam returned not to cheers but approbation and chilling silence. The cause for which they fought was never clear and their contribution never honored. The physical and psychological torments of that conflict introduced new and unmanageable conflicts. Economic and political factors at home combined to work against their integration back into the fabric of society.

The hundreds of thousands who fought for us in that war deserve far better than they have received. Slowly — too slowly, to be sure — the country is beginning to recognize its debt to the men who served, regardless of the travesty of policy involved with the war they fought.

The Alaska House of Representatives has taken a positive step in that direction. Last week members voted 40-0 to fund \$315,000 in assistance to Vietnam veterans in Alaska. Most of that money will go for studies of "post-traumatic stress disorder," a clinical name for the variety of problems that have followed too many of the vets like unwelcomed ghosts since their service. Some \$100,000 of that sum also goes to Vietnam Veterans/Alaska for outreach programs designed to help identify and help those who need assistance.

The reasons for such unanimous action are varied, but all valid. Rep. Pappy Moss, a World War II veteran, recalled the cheers that greeted his return from war and felt what the pain of their very different homecoming must have been for Vietnam vets. Rep. Brian Rogers, a Vietnam War protester during the conflict, had different reasons for his "yes" vote. He protested a war he felt was criminal, but said last week, "more criminal has been the treatment of those who served in the war."

On Memorial Day, reflections of the status of our Vietnam veterans should center on how society can belatedly begin to help them. A few moments of thought today cannot solve the problems that have been years in building, but it can give needed impetus to solutions.

# JUNEAU EMPIRE

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## Vietnam vets welcome

Posted in the second-floor window of the Juneau Veterans of Foreign Wars hall is a sign many Vietnam veterans believe may be the only in existence.

It says, "Vietnam vets welcome."

The Vietnam veteran. He — or she — is like any other war veteran, really. He was a volunteer. He was a draftee. He was anxious to test his mettle in battle. He was scared stiff. He was a hero. He was a coward. He lived. He died. All for the "honor" of his country.

Yet the Vietnam veteran is unlike any American soldier before him. He is the forgotten — some say he was purposely ignored — soldier. A pawn in a Southeast Asia political fiasco that left the U.S. scrambling just to save face, the Vietnam veteran served his year to 13 months in the rice paddies to return to an indifferent, sometimes hateful American public.

In wars before, veterans were welcomed home with open arms and hearts. For their efforts against Uncle Sam's enemies, they were heroes. When the last shot had been fired, those veterans returned home to a nation overflowing with gratitude.

Not the Vietnam veteran. How many "welcome home" parades do you recall for any Vietnam veteran, now matter how heroic?

None. While many returned to a normal life, still many other Vietnam veterans have been lost in the shadows of guilt, rage, flashbacks, nightmares, panic, depression, emotional numbing, job discrimination and peer group rejection, some of the many factors that add up to "delayed stress."

Just as "delayed stress" has many causes, it has as many, if not more, manifestations.

- Families have been shattered by the shock of men not being able to cope with civilian life.
- By some accounts, about 50,000 Vietnam veterans have died by suicide, more than the number who died in combat.
- According to a study by the Center for Policy Research in New York City, more than a third of those soldiers who saw heavy combat in Vietnam suffer from what is called "post-traumatic stress disorder," labeled the "Vietnam syndrome" in a recent Newsweek magazine article.

Most of the Americans who served in Vietnam have been home for at least 10 years, yet the slow-fuse syndrome persists.

To combat it, around the nation Vietnam veterans have banded together under federal and private programs to help each other cope. Whether it consists of counseling or just having another vet there to talk with, the programs have proved themselves valuable to the thousands of men and women who otherwise would be left alone to fight the toughest battle of their lives.

In Juneau, the Vietnam Veterans of Alaska, Inc., have taken up that battle. Upwards of 60 veterans from virtually every walk of life have taken it upon themselves to work with each other, lending an ear and support to any and all who ask for it. With the aid of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and other groups, the Vietnam Veterans here are putting together a program they hope will fill a gap left by Veterans Administration and other programs.

Funded by dances and other fund-raising efforts, the local group is struggling to breathe life into their program. They have members available for informal counseling in the lower level of the VFW hall and meet there once a month to plan their programs.

Right now, though, chief among their problems is funding. Admittedly on a nickel-and-dime budget, the group plans a fund-raising dance for Friday at the National Guard Armory. Playing will be the band Benroe.

Sock hops, however, cannot address the problems faced by the thousands of Vietnam veterans in Alaska. The only federally operated center in the state is in Anchorage — and it faces the possibility of losing its funds this year, leaving effectively no overall program for the many veterans there.

Currently pending in the Alaska Legislature is a bill that would help pick up the slack left by the Veterans Administration and other programs. Originally sponsored by Rep. Pappy Moss, D-Delta Junction, the bill would fund training for mental health counselors, coordination of the effort to get a handle on the extent of the statewide problem and a Southeast Alaska outreach program such as that now operated by the Veterans Administration elsewhere. It would also fund the Anchorage outreach program, if federal funding is lost.

Though Office of Management and Budget chief David Stockman said last weekend such programs could be best funded through block grants, the state-level funding would provide its own "safety net" for the program should that money not become available.

While the price at \$915,000 may seem steep, if federal funding is maintained for the Anchorage program, as promised by Mr. Stockman, two-thirds will return to the state.

We voice our unreserved support for this bill, committee substitute for House Bill 130, and urge legislators to support it, too.

While some persons may see a conflict in our position on local funding for charities and our support for the Vietnam veterans bill, there is one major difference. Every Vietnam veteran gave up something for every one of us. For that we owe the veterans a debt of gratitude and a shot at a normal life that military service may have threatened.

It may be one way Alaska as a whole can erect its own sign, "Vietnam veterans welcome."

# Problems plague Vietnam vets, new study says

Associated Press

3/23/81  
New York — Nearly one-fourth of the men who saw heavy combat in Vietnam have since been arrested on criminal charges, according to a government study which concludes that Vietnam veterans as a whole "are plagued by significantly more problems than their peers."

The degree of alcoholism, drug abuse and medical and psychological problems attributable to combat in Vietnam was found to be "statistically significant" by researchers in the government's most comprehensive post-war inquiry.

Vietnam combat veterans who are black or members of other minority groups were found to be severely disadvantaged in post-war schooling and jobs, the study said, noting that the age of most of those veterans now could make most of those career setbacks irreversible.

The five-volume study, to be made public today by the New York-based Center for Policy Research, was begun in 1973 by a group of Vietnam veterans with private grants. Sponsorship of the \$2 million project later was taken over by the National Institute of Mental Health and the Veterans Administration.

The study was based on interviews in 10 cities with 1,340 men. Half of those interviewed were veterans and about half of those veterans had served in Vietnam.

According to reports in this week's Newsweek magazine and today's New York Times, the study said that more than one-third of heavy-combat veterans are still suffering from delayed stress reactions and 24 percent have been arrested on criminal charges in the post-war period.

The latter figure compares with a 10 percent arrest rate among veterans of light combat, 17 percent among other Vietnam veterans and 14 percent among non-veterans.

On the other hand, the study concluded that many of veterans had been strengthened by their Vietnam experiences and were inclined to "work through" rather than suppress difficult problems.

A total of 2.8 million Americans are veterans of the Vietnam conflict, which began in the early 1960s and ended in April 1975 with the fall of Saigon.

The study found that while 70 percent of the veterans as a whole went back to school after leaving the service, only 20 percent of those who served in Vietnam completed college. Only 7 percent of black veterans did so.

Half the Vietnam veterans found white-collar jobs, compared to 69 percent of the non-veterans. Unemployment of black Vietnam veterans was triple that of white Vietnam veterans, the study showed.

The report, which goes to Congress, (See VETS, page A-3)

## Vets . . .

(Continued from page A-1)

gress, urges continued support for "well-trained veteran peer counseling."

Funds for 91 veterans' centers around the country, where Vietnam veterans are counseled by veterans who also served there, are on the "hit list" of federal budget director David Stockman, President Reagan's budget cutter.

Newsweek said some Vietnam veterans were critical of Stockman because he did not serve in the war, but had a deferment while attending divinity school.

The magazine said the report indicated that while the stability of family background could influence a veteran's reaction to light combat duty, those who saw heavy combat were likely to suffer delayed stress symptoms — such as nightmares, depression and panic — regardless of family background.

# Million Viet vets may need aid

4/7/81 By MIKE FEINSILBER  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Up to 1 million Vietnam veterans suffering from psychological battle wounds may need the storefront counseling centers that the Reagan administration intends to close, a confidential government study says.

The report, prepared by the Veterans Administration in November but never made public, warns that the delayed stress syndrome already shown by thousands of Americans who faced combat in Vietnam "will get worse in the years ahead."

Nevertheless, VA officials defended the administration's decision to cut \$31 million from the agency's \$24 billion budget by closing down the 91 centers where former servicemen help counsel their distressed comrades.

The study cited an estimate that between 500,000 and

1 million veterans will develop delayed post-war symptoms by 1985.

According to Yale psychiatrist Arthur S. Blank Jr., flashbacks, nightmares, insomnia, depression, withdrawal from normal activities, memory loss and guilt about war events already are showing up in veterans.

"Termination of the program in 1981-82 would mean that the program was dismantled prior to the period of its greatest need," the report said. A copy was obtained by The Associated Press.

At a hearing Wednesday of a House Veterans Affairs subcommittee, Dr. Carl W. Hughes, assistant chief medical director for professional services at the Veterans Administration, said the attempt to reach troubled veterans has been successful. He said 52,512 veterans have used the centers.

"The program has been highly effective as an out-

reach effort," he said, adding that it has brought in "great numbers of veterans who previously had had little confidence in or contact with the agency."

Hughes cited budgetary considerations as the reason for ending the program.

"The allocation of scarce budget dollars necessarily involves difficult judgmental evaluations among many fine programs and proposals," he said. "It must be recognized, as regards needs which may still be unmet among Vietnam veterans, that VA facilities do offer alternative programs that have successfully assisted veterans for many years."

Subcommittee members said the VA had bowed before to pressures from the Office of Management and Budget. The OMB defended the decision this week, saying: "A nationwide system of outreach centers is not a cost-effective way of reaching the remaining veterans in need of help."

# For some veterans

by Patti Epler  
Times Writer

ANCHORAGE

Times 5/17/81

**I**t was the longest military action in U.S. history, a war of bitter controversy from the start.

For 10 long years, American soldiers shed their blood in the jungles and rice paddies of Southeast Asia — Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand.

More than 57,000 Americans died in the Vietnam conflict. Their average age was 19 years old.

And when it ended, the survivors came home. There were no bands or parades or speeches glorifying their deeds. Instead, the hero's welcome that had greeted veterans of past wars was replaced by protesters, people who waited at airports to throw eggs and rocks, hurling accusations of "rapists" and "baby killers."

It's been six years since the fall of Saigon, eight years since American troops were pulled out of the fighting.

But for hundreds of thousands of combat veterans, the Vietnam war has never ended.

Today, the battle rages in the mind, deeply imbedded in the psyche of many combat veterans who fight the flashbacks, the unfocused anger, the mistrust of anyone who wasn't there with them.

It's called the "Vietnam Syndrome," formally known as post-traumatic stress disorder. Last year, the syndrome was classified by the federal government as a service-related disability and veterans who suffer from it are eligible for compensation the same as if they had lost an arm or a leg.

It can be as intangible as a feeling of frustration over a new job or as real as the Fort Richardson soldier who five years ago held two Anchorage residents hostage in a local church to protect them, he said, from the Viet Cong who were "surrounding" the building.

Sometimes violence is the way the syndrome becomes apparent. But for the most part, counselors and psychologists say, the Vietnam Syndrome is seen in sleepless nights, the inability to be content with surroundings or marital problems. If untreated, the syndrome can lead to broken homes, alcoholism, even suicide.

It's a problem that has touched the lives of all Vietnam combat veterans though many have been able to put the past behind them and get on with their lives. But for thousands of others, including many here in Anchorage, it's something they have to live with every day.

**ACCORDING TO** A recent study done by a New York-based research center, more than one-third of Vietnam combat veterans suffer from the syndrome to some degree. And, says a separate study by the Veterans Administration, the problem will get worse in the years ahead with 500,000 to 1 million veterans developing symptoms by 1985.

"Post-traumatic stress is the main reason our center exists," says Bill Oleson, director of the Vietnam Veterans Outreach Center here. The Anchorage center is one of about 90 similar facilities established nationwide in 1979 to help Vietnam era veterans overcome the traumas they suffered as part of their military service.

The center here opened in March,

syndrome, the center provides job referral service, drug and alcohol counseling, marital counseling and helps unravel the snags in red tape veterans may face when applying for benefits.

Oleson and his staff estimate there are 10,000 Vietnam veterans in the Anchorage area. If, as the New York Center for Policy Research study says, one-third suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, there may be more than 3,000 Anchorage residents and their families who for a decade have carried the scars of an unwanted war.

Last month, three out of four men coming to the Anchorage center suffered from some form of the Vietnam Syndrome, Oleson said.

**THE LONG-TERM** problems of post-traumatic stress were not fully known until many years after combat veterans had returned home. Military officials had learned to deal with "shell shock" or "combat fatigue" — the equivalent syndromes in past wars — but treatment that worked then did not apply to the Vietnam war for a number of reasons.

• The average age of the Vietnam combatant was 19 years old, compared to the World War II average of 26. Many Vietnam soldiers who wondered every day if they would survive the firefights, the ambushes, the booby traps or sniper attacks were as young as 17.

"They took him right out of his home and trained him to be a killer," Oleson said. "But no one ever de-emphasized the learned aggression, no one ever thought to uncock the trigger."

• Equally as important, according to a recent study on the disorder by Denver-based Outreach counselor Jim Goodwin, was that Vietnam soldiers knew they would only be in Southeast Asia for 12 months, 13 months if they were in the Marines. The attitude was one of getting there and just hanging on until the year was up and it was time to rotate home.

Instead of units of men going to the same area together as happened in World War I and World War II, the Vietnam tour was a solitary, individual episode.

"The war becomes a highly individualized and encapsulated event for each man," psychologist P.G. Bourne wrote in 1970. "His war begins the day he arrives in the country and ends the day he leaves."

Morale suffered and feelings of mistrust began to grow as "seasoned" veterans with several months experience were replaced by green recruits. It was hard to trust the man next to you to do the job when he'd only been "in country" a few days.

• During World War II, most veterans spent weeks or months with their units returning from combat. The long ride home gave them time to talk over the horror and tragedy with men who had been through it, who knew what they were feeling.

But for the Vietnam veterans, it was a different story. Forty-eight hours after leaving Da Nang airport they were landing in California, a quick but lonely trip home.

• When they arrived, it was hard to find someone to help them get over the traumatic experience. Talking about it, knowing that you aren't



**Feeling depressed? Nervous? down?**

If you're a veteran of the Vietnam conflict, you may be suffering from stress syndrome stemming from experiences in Southeast Asia.

The Vietnam Veterans Outreach Center here would like to help, even if you have no one else to talk to.

lived, is the best therapy there is, counselors say.

But for the returning veterans, no one was there to listen. In fact, veterans found they had to hide the fact that they had just returned from Southeast Asia to avoid the hostility and accusations of the people, their countrymen, they thought they were serving.

Gerald Thomas, president of the Alaska branch of the Vietnam Veterans of America, got on a bus at Norton Air Force Base in California a few days after leaving an intense combat position in Vietnam. The bus was greeted by demonstrators who threw rocks and eggs at the returning soldiers and called them names.

"I don't think anybody expected any kind of special welcome," said Charles Olsen, a former rifleman with the Ninth Infantry Division. "But I really didn't appreciate being greeted by Joan Baez at the air-



? Job got you

Vietnam con-  
a traumatic  
om your ex-

each Center  
you just need

They can provide counseling for a wide range of problems, set you up with job interviews and help break through the red tape many veterans find when they apply for benefits under the GI Bill.

Call the office at 277-1501 for information or drop by the center, at 550 W. Eighth Ave., between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

**FIGHTING THE** war in Vietnam was different than fighting in the European theaters. In World War II, Goodwin said, the U.S. was clearly threatened by a uniformed and easily recognizable foe. But in Vietnam, it appeared the whole country was hostile to American forces.

Instead of taking an area and holding it, areas of ground were frequently given up only to be taken again with more lives lost.

"The rage that such conditions generated," Goodwin said, "was widespread among the American troops. It manifested itself in violence and mistrust toward the Vietnamese, toward the authorities and toward the society that sent these men to Vietnam and then would not support them.

"Rather than a war with a just ideological basis, Vietnam became a private war of survival for every American individual involved."

For Oleson, who served his time in

the Mekong Delta, it was the booby traps that were most frightening. "People would get killed and maimed," he said, "but there was no way to fight back, nobody to take it out on.

"A lot of guys really felt they'd rather get dusted (killed) than be crippled or lose an arm or leg."

Instead of psychological breakdown in the field, as happened during past wars where men stayed in combat for longer periods, the Vietnam soldiers tried to hold on, knowing they only had a few more months to go. Others turned to drugs as a shield and, psychologists found, their stress-related symptoms didn't show up until much later, after they had returned home, because of the effectiveness of drugs as a buffer.

**IN MOST CASES**, symptoms of the post-traumatic stress disorder have taken years to surface. The reasons are still not clear but coun-

selors, like Bill Oleson, speculate that programs like the Outreach centers have helped to bring veterans with stress problems out of the closet.

"It seems to be snowballing," Oleson said, "possibly because they're finding out that they're not crazy. It's a symptom of war like the loss of a kidney."

Some nights, as many as 60 men will come to rap sessions at the Anchorage center, a modern office-type building on Eighth Avenue and F Street. They come just to talk, to be with others who shared the tragedies of Vietnam, to know that others have problems with their jobs and families that seem to stem from their military service.

In a lot of cases, it's hard to put your finger on exactly what the problem is. It might be sleepless nights, a feeling that your job is boring, a fight with your wife for no apparent reason.

In other cases, it's more evident. Like the veteran who was backpacking and suddenly found himself looking for mines and watching the treeline for signs of enemy movement.

Or James David Houston, who on June 3, 1976, shot and killed a man in the bathroom of a Fourth Avenue bar. Houston, then a 26-year-old sergeant stationed at Fort Richardson, later defended himself against the murder charges on the grounds that he was suffering from a chronic form of post-traumatic stress disorder.

The shooting occurred when David Burwell walked into the bathroom while Houston was showing a friend a gun. Houston had told his friends earlier in the day that he felt uncomfortable and believed that he was being watched.

When Burwell saw the gun, he apparently started to leave the men's room and Houston shot him twice.

A Michigan psychologist noted for expertise in Vietnam syndrome cases, Emanuel Tanay, testified that Houston suffered a traumatic neurosis of war, complicated by severe alcoholism problems. Houston acted "in a reflex type manner as the result of mental illness," Tanay testified.

Although Houston was convicted of second-degree murder charges in that trial, the Alaska Supreme Court later reversed that conviction on the basis that Houston was not allowed a separate proceeding on his mental state. Houston eventually pleaded guilty to manslaughter charges.

**BUT FOR EVERY** veteran who gets into trouble, there are a hundred who don't, Oleson pointed out. And counselors believe the problem of post-traumatic stress to be so serious they are quick to act when it appears someone is faking symptoms.

In January, Glennallen resident Stanley Neitzel went on trial for the murder of his girlfriend. Neitzel had shot the woman in the forehead after firing several bullets on either side of her head.

Neitzel initially claimed he suffered a mental breakdown following a head injury he sustained in combat during the Vietnam war. But that defense was shot down after it was learned, with the help of veterans officials, that Neitzel had actually suffered the head injury when he fell off a truck while stationed in Hawaii.

Acts of serious violence committed by Vietnam veterans are the

(See VIETNAM, page B-2)

# Vietnam ...

(Continued from page B-1)  
ones that get the most publicity but are far and away the fewest and most chronic examples of the Vietnam Syndrome.

The most common symptom is depression, accompanied by sleeplessness, feelings of worthlessness and the inability to concentrate on one thing for too long.

"We see guys coming in here in three-piece suits who have excellent jobs and are well-placed in this community," Oleson said. "But they say their job just doesn't interest them any more. Nothing will ever come to the level of intensity and life-threatening situation of combat in Vietnam."

Helplessness about their condition is another sign indicative of post-traumatic stress, Goodwin said.

"Essentially, Vietnam-style combat held no final resolution of conflict for anyone. Regardless of how well one worked, sweated, bled and even died, the outcome was the same. Our GIs gained no ground, they were constantly rocketed or mortared. They found little support from their friends and neighbors' back home, the people in whose name they were drafted into military service. They felt helpless. They returned to the U.S., trying to put together some positive resolution of this episode in their lives, but the atmosphere at home was hopeless. They were still helpless. Why even bother anymore?"

Isolation, the feeling or the reality of having few friends and cynicism are other words used to describe those suffering from post-traumatic stress.

Rage and anger are big problems, according to Goodin, particularly because they take out their anger on those close to them, including wives and children. Reasons for the intense rage seem to stem from a type of combat where the enemy is not easily seen and there is no one to attack when they themselves were attacked. The feelings were transferred to figures of authority when the veterans have returned home and can now be seen in the veterans' general mistrust of anyone in the "system," Goodwin said.

**VIETNAM VETERANS** tend to alienate themselves from their family and friends, feeling that no one can understand what they've been through or why they have become the way they are.

"They learned how to turn the emotions off over there," said Gene Nelson, a former Marine who now works as a counselor at the Anchorage center. "But they never learned how to turn them back on."

"The only thing you can experience are absolutes," added Don Soldato, another Marine-turned-counselor. "When you hate, you really hate."

"You came back in three ways,"

he said. "In a black plastic suit, with your chin on your chest or a chip on your shoulder. The ones who came back with a chip on their shoulder are the ones who are aggressively fighting for their rights. Those with their chin on their chests are the ones who aren't making it."

Today, men like Nelson, Soldato and Thomas are waging a different kind of war. It's not a personal war or a battle within themselves to overcome the problems associated with post-traumatic stress.

Instead, they're fighting to help every Vietnam veteran they can, whether it's giving them support and friendship, counseling or helping them secure a loan for a house or overcoming a drinking problem.

"We're finding out now that this (Outreach) program is about 10 years too late," said Soldato. "And the next five years are going to be the worst."

"Here we are, we're 30 years old now," said Thomas, "and we're just starting to realize we're still two or three steps below where our peers are in terms of jobs and education."

"We're not asking for something we didn't earn," he added. "Because we've damned well earned these things."

Thomas said veterans are fighting for specific things like the right to have an Outreach center, to extend benefits under the GI Bill including education and job training and low-income housing loans — "things that should have been done 10 years ago."

**THE FEELING** of cynicism is apparent in these men. They pointed to the hostages who spent more than a year in captivity in Iran and were treated to a hero's welcome when they returned.

"They were honored and glorified when they returned," said Soldato. "But they didn't hold their position like they should have, like we had to. But they get free passes to baseball games for the rest of their lives and job security, too."

Thomas said he thinks the military today could be stronger if the Vietnam veterans had been treated better. "How can you build a military up and ask people to serve when you're telling the past veterans that you've forgotten them?"

"The programs we want only cost as much as two MX missiles," he added.

The Anchorage center, which operates on a budget of \$200,000 per year, has expanded its operations to include satellite centers in Wasilla and Fairbanks. A third satellite office will open soon in Kenai, Oleson said.

Veterans were worried that President Reagan's proposed budget cuts would include closing down some centers but Oleson said both houses of Congress have indicated the centers should remain open. Earlier this week, the Senate Veterans Affairs



Committee voted to fund the centers for at least two more years.

Oleson said he plans to start some new programs at the Anchorage center including a session for wives, girlfriends and family members of Vietnam veterans so they can better understand what is troubling their spouse.

POSITION PAPER/Department of Health & Social Services

POSITION PAPER

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 130 (Finance) am

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

CS for 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 assessing needs and determining what services are delivered to Vietnam era veterans.

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 clinics. 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.

One of the current successful recovery process methods for the PTSD is the rap group run by a mental health professional and a veteran preferably with Vietnam war experience. The methods employed in these rap groups vary from the traditional individual and group psychotherapy since the focus is not on individual pathology but on a process of recovery of shared meaning.

The recent acknowledgement of the existence of the PTSD and the young age of the Vietnam veteran make this group excellent candidates for preventive interventions. However, before such interventions take place, mental health, drug abuse, and alcohol programs have to be aware of this new syndrome. The identification and proper management of crisis and preventive interventions require training and technical assistance to the existing mental health and alcohol/drug treatment delivery system.

Section three, as presently worded, is not specific enough as to the type of project intended and to its scope. In communications with the bill's sponsor,

the following wording was agreed upon as better meeting the needs of the sponsor and is endorsed by the Department of Health and Social Services. It is recommended that the following be substituted for section three:

Sec. 3. The sum of \$50,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Health and Social Services, Office of Information Systems, to develop, in conjunction with other state agencies, a needs assessment of Alaska Vietnam veterans, and to gather data on the capability of state information systems to identify and monitor these veterans.

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

Date: 5/26/81

Recommended by: *Lee Hendrickson*  
Lee Hendrickson, Coordinator  
Office of Information Systems

Date: 5/26/81

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

Date: 5/27/81

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST  
Bill/Resolution No. Committee Substitute for House Bill 130 (Finance) am  
Title Making special appropriations to establish programs...post-traumatic stress disorder.  
Requested by Commissioner's Office Date 5/20/81

II. FISCAL DETAIL  
Agency Affected Dept. of Health & Social Services  
Program Category Affected Mental Health & 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.						
<b>TOTAL</b>	-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)

No cost impact is foreseen of the Department of Health and Social Services as as result of this legislation.

IV. DATE May 26, 1981 PREPARED BY Verner Stillner, M.D., M.P.H., Director  
AGENCY H&SS/Mental Health & DD  
PHONE 465-3370  
Original: Legislative Finance  
cc: Budget and Management  
Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named) Morgan M&B Approval [Signature] Date 5/24/81

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.

One of the current successful recovery process methods for the PTSD is the veteran and a mental health professional preferably with Vietnam war experience. The methods employed in these rap groups vary from the traditional individual and group psychotherapy since the focus is not on individual pathology but on a process of recovery of shared meaning.

The recent acknowledgement of the existence of the PTSD and the young age of the Vietnam veteran make this group excellent candidates for preventive interventions. However, before such interventions take place mental health, drug abuse, and alcohol programs have to be aware of this new syndrome. The identification and proper management of crisis and preventive interventions require training and technical assistance to the existing mental health and alcohol/drug treatment delivery system.

CAUTION PAPERS/Department of Health & Social Services

The Division of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities endorses the provisions of HE 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, MD  
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

HB 130

Bill Dixon  
277-1501  
Jet Center

Last yr. requested \$ from VA  
for a program in S.E.  
but....  
not enough \$ for S.E.  
from Reds.

should be accountability

OR 1) <sup>↓</sup>Steilnes                      somewhere  
2) Arch office

Red. \$ to extend for 2 yrs.

\* there should be something\*

~~if \$~~ if \$ three Vet Centers:

1) letter agreement  
w/ Nimmo

2) \$ → ~~25,000~~  
V.A. Regional Office - Anch.  
David Barrett

25,000 @ quarter - 100,000  
year -

---

will cooperate  
ethical way

good feeling  
w/ Stillner

Original sponsor: Moss

Offered: 5/18/81

Referred: Rules

Funding Information

General Fund \$315,000

Other Funds -0-

\$315,000

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

2

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 130 (Finance) am

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6

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

7

8

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

10

\* Section 1. The sum of \$165,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Health and Social Services, division of mental health and developmental disabilities, to establish a training and technical assistance account in the division to assist mental health, crisis, drug and alcohol programs to identify post-traumatic stress disorder in Vietnam veterans, and to identify and treat veterans and their families affected by the disorder. *L -> "peer group rap sessions"*

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\* Sec. 2. The sum of \$100,000 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 the Vietnam Veterans/Alaska, Inc. for a Vietnam veterans post-traumatic stress disorder outreach program based on the United States Veterans Administration outreach program. *for S.E. Alaska - Kenai - Anch. - Foks -*

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\* Sec. 3. The sum of \$50,000 is appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Health and Social Services, office of the commissioner, office of information systems, to develop, in conjunction with other state agencies, a needs assessment of Alaska Vietnam veterans, and to gather data on the capability of state information systems to identify and monitor these veterans.

26

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29

\* Sec. 4. The unexpended and unobligated portions of the appropriations made by secs. 1 and 3 of this Act lapse into the general fund on June 30,

1 1982.

2 \* Sec. 5. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.-  
3 070(c).

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8 271-4053 Veterans Admin.

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11 600,000 for Anch. (main operation)  
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13 currently Fed\$ Kenai Wasilla Fairbanks.  
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15 may not be funded after Oct.  
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April 30, 1981

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

Honorable H. Pappy Moss  
House of Representatives  
Pouch V  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Mr. Moss:

At the request of several members of the legislature, I have been asked to respond to recent testimony given in behalf of HB 130 (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Vietnam Veterans).

I am presently employed by the Federal Government to administer a Veterans Outreach Center in Anchorage. The Center employs myself, two other counselors and an office administrator to provide counseling services for all Vietnam Era Veterans who have needs related to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, unemployment, drug and alcohol, marital, legal, vocational or educational, service connected disabilities, and a dozen other kinds of problems. All of the staff are Vietnam Combat Veterans. In addition, there are two satellite programs; one each in Fairbanks and Wasilla, Alaska. Each satellite is staffed by one counselor (Vietnam Combat Veteran). Neither counselor has secretarial assistance. There will also be a Kenai satellite in the near future.

I fully support some type of Vietnam Veteran's Outreach program in Southeast Alaska. If the Federal government cannot, at this time, stretch limited funds to staff such a program, then hopefully, the State of Alaska can.

However, I want to correct some of the statements attributed to me, William Oleson, made by, or quoted by Allen Blume in his testimony on HB 130 to the Committee. Mr. Blume is in error on the following statements: ---

1. The present Anchorage program, including satellites, will terminate on September 30, 1981.

The present program, in its' entirety, will be extended for at least one year through September, 1982, and possibly to September, 1983.

2. Mr. Blume stated that the program nationally cost \$75 million to start up. The program, nationally, was allocated \$9 million. Six million dollars was actually spent to get 91 Centers operational, including Alaska's Vet Center.

3. Mr. Blume stated that Public Law 96-142 was the guiding law passed by Congress authorizing Veterans Outreach programs.

The program was authorized by Public Law 96-22.

4. Mr. Blume stated that there were 9 million veterans in Vietnam, with 2.8 million in combat.

There were 9 million Era veterans total, stationed around the world between 1964 through 1975. 2.8 million veterans were in Vietnam and approximately 1.2 million were in combat.

5. Mr. Blume stated that 1.3 million dollars were allocated to the Anchorage Vet Center and satellites for start up and operation.

The cost of the Anchorage Outreach program and satellites is considerably less than \$300,000. The cost of the Anchorage Center alone for one year was less than \$200,000. The satellites are still being organized with leases being negotiated, etc.

6. Mr. Blume stated that monies for operation of the Center are appropriated through the Veterans Administration directly to William Oleson.

The Vet Center Outreach program is completely supported by the Alaska Veterans Administration Regional Office. This VARO pays all salaries, rent, communications, local travel, etc. No monies come directly to the Center. The Center staff reports to me, the Team Leader. I report to the Regional Coordinator located in Los Angeles, CA. There are six Regional Coordinators. The Regional Coordinators report to one National Director stationed within the V.A. in Washington, D.C.

7. Mr. Blume refers to four (4) Outreach Centers.

There is one Center, staffed by four people, including one office administrator; and three satellites, two of which are partially operational, one is not, and staffed with one Outreach Technician in each satellite.

Attached is a copy of a printout identifying the number of veterans visiting the Anchorage Center only, from October, 1980, to March, 1981. Please note the problems identified, the number of visits (approximately four per eligible veteran), and the number of contacts per problem areas. Also note in addition the number of phone conversations in addition to face-to-face contacts.

The critical areas, related to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, as the Prime Problem are: #10, Anxiety/Fears; #11, Bad dreams/Flashbacks; #12, Suicide/Homicide, is related to these.

This printout should alleviate any fears concerning testimony by Mr. Lindley about veterans not responding to Outreach services.

Dr. Stellner gave excellent testimony which was directly on target in identifying the problems of the Combat veteran. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is the Problem. Drugs, alcohol, marital difficulties, unemployment, etc. are symptoms of the problem. Dr. Stellner's testimony directly supports testimony given by myself and other veterans (Dr. Dennis Thomason, and Mr. Gary Thomas, President of the Vietnam Veterans of America) to Mr. Russ Meekin's Violence and Crime Committee requesting that all social services serving veterans within the State of Alaska be trained to recognize Post Traumatic Stress and to be able to directly deal with the veteran on the veteran's level.

Needed is an awareness by all Mental Health therapists, as well as: Job Services, Vocational Rehabilitation programs, etc., that PTSD is the central problem of most combat veterans. Mental Health can complement, but will not replace, Rap Groups and other identified therapy conducted by Veterans helping Veterans to readjust.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to respond. I wish I could have served on the teleconference to give testimony. I was alerted by Mr. Blume two hours before the time and date; unfortunately, I had clients scheduled and could not break the appointments.

Sincerely,

*Bill Oleson*

William C. Oleson,  
Outreach Team Leader

cc: Don Clocksin  
Mike Beirne  
Betty Cato  
Jim Duncan  
Terry Martin  
Brad Bradley

Attachment: printout

*Juneau branch?*

VETERAN COUNSELING PROGRAM

PEOPLE'S DISTRIBUTION

PAGE 1  
COIN YYY210  
RCS 11-52

VETERAN VETERANS

ECF MARCH

03/26/81  
SITE # CO2 ANCHORAGE

VETERANS COUNSELING  
PLISHED INCLIGLE: VETERANS

ACTUAL TABULATION 203 2

TABULATION BY PEOPLE'S

PEOPLE'S AREAS	VETERANS COUNSELING PLISHED	INCLIGLE:	VETERANS	NUMBER
1. MARITAL	17	1	1	0
2. LEGAL	12	1	1	0
3. VOCATIONAL	102	0	0	0
4. EDUCATIONAL	16	0	0	0
5. FINANCIAL	66	0	0	0
6. VA (OR OTHER BENEFITS)	75	1	1	0
7. PHYSICAL	10	0	0	0
8. MENTAL	6	0	0	0
9. ALCOHOL/DRUGS	50	0	0	0
10. ANXIETY/FEARS	42	0	0	0
11. PAC DREAMS/FLASHBACKS	42	0	0	0
12. SUICIDE/HOMICIDE	5	0	0	0
13. AGENT ORANGE	14	0	0	0
14. INTERPERSONAL	45	0	0	0
15. SKILL TRAINING	0	0	0	0
16. DISCHARGE UPGRADL	13	0	0	0
17. OTHER	25	0	0	0

NUMBER OF CONTACTS BY CATEGORY

OUTREACH REFER FOLLOW-UP

NUMBER OF CONTACTS BY CATEGORY	OUTREACH	REFER	FOLLOW-UP
0	2435	0	2
0	244	0	0
0	140	0	0
0	739	0	2
0	71	0	2
0	523	0	0
0	422	4	2
0	200	0	0
0	118	0	0
0	637	0	0
0	1,119	0	0
0	1,050	0	0
0	188	0	0
0	107	0	2
0	635	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	113	0	0
0	245	2	0

TELEPHONE CONTACTS  
VETERANS OTHER

TELEPHONE CONTACTS	VETERANS	OTHER
97	120	
9	0	
1	2	
32	48	
4	6	
4	8	
39	39	
5	11	
1	2	
9	21	
13	20	
11	18	
0	0	
4	5	
15	11	
0	0	
7	12	
11	6	