

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1981-1982 86/2

1330 HHESS HB 130

Section V
Findings, Analysis and Recommendations

Recommendation #10

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

H. Private Sector Employment

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recommendation #11

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

Recommendation #12

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

I. Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA)

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

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

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Recommendation #13

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

Recommendation #14

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

J. Agent Orange and Health Problems

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

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

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

Recommendation #15

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

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

K. Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

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

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

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

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

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Recommendation #16

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

L. Miscellaneous Recommendations

Recommendation #17

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

Recommendation #18

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

Recommendation #19

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

Recommendation #20

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

Recommendation #21

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

SECTION VI

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

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

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

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(6) House Joint Memorial (Recommendation 5)

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



Alaska State Legislature

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

SENATE

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Oral E. Freeman, Vice-Chairman
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Charlie Parr

Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99811

MEMORANDUM

November 4, 1980

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

The Honorable George Hohman, Chairman
Legislative Council

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



November 18, 1980

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

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

Dear Allen;

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

WILLIAM C. OLESON
Outreach Team Leader



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

DATE ; MARCH 8, 1981

To; ALLEN BLUME

VIETNAM VETERANS ORGANIZATION

FROM : DANIEL A. HUFF

STATE SR. VICE COMMANDER

SUBJECT: VIETNAM VETERANS , ORGANIZATION OFF.

DEAR COMRADE BLUMT ,

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

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

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

YOUR'S ALWAYS FAITHFULL

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

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

SIT-REP

Sponsored by Sea-Vac and Seattle Vets-Center

October 1980

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

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

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

Benefit boost for veterans goes to Carter

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

Benefits for military survivors to increase

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

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

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

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

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

Court limits dishonorable discharges

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

Hanoi seeks M.I.A. mission

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

"Support The Candidate Who Supports The Vets"

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

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

Congress crushes Carter V.A. pay-raise veto

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

Veterans in "nontraditional" classes face aid cuts

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

Defoliants effect may be unknown

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

AO study proposed

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

AO traces found in cell tissue

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

AO suit pressed

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



SOUTH VIETNAM

Bill would remove one year AO limitation

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

Wisconsin AO program gears up

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

College bound urged to check work-study program

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

Cost of living increase a disadvantage?

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

VA would amend evidence of service reg.

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

Department of Labor expands veterans' employment efforts

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

Agent Orange assigned "hotline"

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

Post-traumatic stress neurosis reclassified

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

Marine receives Medal of Honor

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

VETERANS BENEFITS TIMETABLE

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

You Have

BENEFITS

WHERE TO APPLY

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

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

Any VA office

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

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

Any VA office
for information

No time limit

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

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

Limited time

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

State employment
service

90 days

REEMPLOYMENT: Apply to your former employer
for employment

Employer

No requirement

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

Not required

Some good people are helping with Agent Orange questions.

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

Agent Orange possible symptoms (DIOXIN)

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

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

Birth Defects

cleft palate
open eye
kidney abnormalities
enlarged liver

enlarged head
club foot
intestinal hemorrhage

Cancers

liver
kidney
lung carcinoma
ear-duct carcinoma

VETS-CENTER of Seattle News

Legal Advice

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

Overview of Vets-Center rap groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

written by Emmott Early
Seattle Vets-Center

VETNET

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

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

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

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

Dues: 10.00 per year

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

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

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

VETNET

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

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

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

NAME- _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ ZIP _____

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

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

LATE NEWS

VETERANS' DAY VISIT NAM VETERANS MEMORIAL CEREMONY NOON NOVEMBER 11

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

Your attendance is appreciated and needed..

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

Willard Waller
from Strangers at Home

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

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

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

ALCOHOL 24-HOUR HELP LINE
722-3700

CRISIS CLINIC
325-5550

OPEN DOOR CLINIC (FREE MEDICAL)
524-7404

POISON INFORMATION CENTER
634-5252

LANDLORD/TENANT PROBLEMS
464-6684

LEGAL SERVICE CENTERS (FREE)
464-5911

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION
624-7200

VOTING REGISTRATION
344-5282

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

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



ALASKAN
OUTREACH
EVALUATION

ALASKAN
OUTREACH
EVALUATION

R. M. McWatters
Outreach Specialist
Tacoma, Washington

March 14, 1980

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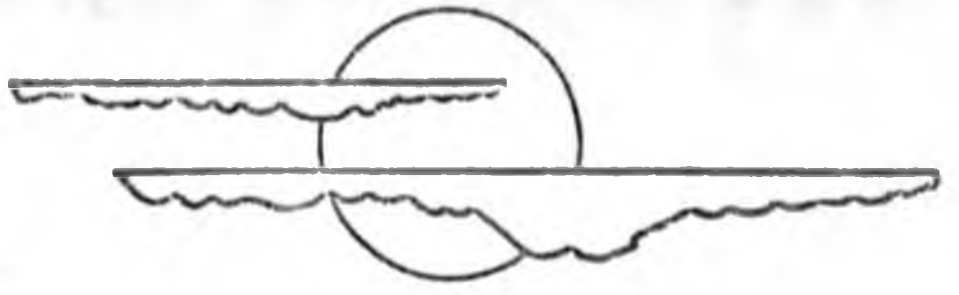
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Due to the vast amount of information to be processed and the quick turnaround time required, some liberties were taken with the structure and footnoting of some sections.

PURPOSE

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

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



ALASKA

VITAL STATISTICS



ALASKAN BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

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

HISTORY

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

SOME HIGHLIGHTS
OF ALASKA

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

SELECTED STATISTICS¹

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

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

Population Distribution ---- 12/31/78

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DETAILED STATISTICS.

TOTAL AND VETERAN POPULATION OF ALASKA
1970 CENSUS

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

ESTIMATES OF ALASKA VETERAN POPULATION
JULY, 1977

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

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

ALASKAN VETERANS

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

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

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

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION ACTIVE COMPENSATION CASES IN ALASKA
MARCH 1978

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

SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITY: One acquired during active service.

NON SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITY: Acquired after leaving active service.

ALASKAN VETERANS

Drawing Compensation
As of June 1978
(from Controllers Shop)

(2,935)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

INFLATIONS AND COST COMPARISONS¹

The Anchorage Consumer Price Index

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

Anchorage/Fairbanks Food Prices

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

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

INFLATIONS AND COST COMPARISONS

(Continued)

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

Energy Cost

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

INFLATIONS AND COST COMPARISONS

(Continued)

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

INFLATION AND COST COMPARISONS

(Continued)

Health Care

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

AIR QUALITY

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

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

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

CRIME

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

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

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

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

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



ALASKAN FORECASTS

PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH

1978 - 1985¹

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

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

ESTIMATING VETERAN POPULATION OF ALASKA¹

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

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


² VACO Stastical Report, June 1977

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

ESTIMATING VETERAN POPULATION OF ALASKA

(Continued)

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



EMPLOYMENT

Employment Trends^{1, 2}

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

¹ Alaska Economic Trends, Department of Labor, May 1979

² Alaska Veterans Report, July 1976

EMPLOYMENT

(Continued)

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

Unemployment^{1, 2}

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

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

1

Alaska Economic Trends, Department of Labor, May 1979.

2

Alaska Veteran Report, July 1978.

EMPLOYMENT

(Continued)

TransAlaska Pipeline Employment^{1, 2}

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

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

² Alaska Veteran Report, July 1978

HOUSING TRENDS

Availability of Rental Housing

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

New Housing Construction^{1, 2}

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

¹ Community Information Quarterly, February 1979

² The Alaska Economy, December 1977

HOUSING TRENDS

(Continued)

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

Cost of Rental Housing^{1, 2}

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

¹ Community Information Quarterly, February 1979.

² The Alaska Economy December 1977



SPECIAL PROBLEMS

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED VETERAN^{1, 2}

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

Clerical and Sales

Structural Work

Service Occupations

Professional, Technical, and Managerial

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

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

² Alaska Veteran Report, Department of Labor, July 1978

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE UNEMPLOYED VETERAN

(Continued)

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

Unemployment

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

CHARACTERISTICS OF APPLICANTS	Total Pool		Veterans			Individuals		Veterans		Percent
	Total	Percent	Tested	Percent	Percent	Counted	Percent	Counted	Percent	
AGE	1,136	100	172	100	15	1,138	100	331	100	29
Under 25	114	12	0	0	0	83	7	4	1	5
25-29	164	14	11	7	7	116	10	18	5	16
30-34	267	23	33	19	16	191	17	54	16	29
35-39	254	22	66	38	26	214	19	72	22	34
40-44	201	18	35	20	17	267	23	78	24	29
45-49	69	6	8	5	16	65	6	21	7	35
50-54	69	6	16	9	23	127	11	54	16	43
55-59	17	1	3	2	18	65	6	27	8	42
60+	1	0	0	0	0	10	1	1	0	10
SEX	1,136	100	172	100	15	1,138	100	331	100	29
Male	834	73	153	88	35	537	47	317	96	60
Female	302	27	19	11	2	601	53	14	4	23
HIGHEST SCHOOL GRADE	1,136	100	172	100	15	1,138	100	331	100	29
0-7	9	1	1	0	11	25	2	4	1	18
8-11	182	16	18	10	10	254	22	35	11	14
12	687	60	103	60	15	611	54	195	59	32
Over 12	278	24	50	30	18	268	23	90	29	39
RESIDENCE	1,136	100	172	100	15	1,138	100	331	100	29
Urban	1,067	94	162	94	15	1,097	96	314	95	29
Rural	67	6	10	6	15	41	4	17	5	41
ETHNIC GROUP	1,136	100	172	100	15	1,138	100	331	100	29
White	896	79	137	80	15	837	74	258	78	31
Black	71	7	18	10	25	81	7	43	13	53
Am. Ind.	129	11	12	7	9	165	14	20	6	12
Other	26	2	3	2	18	67	6	8	2	19
Unknown	10	1	0	0	0	11	1	7	1	18
VETERAN	172		172	100	100	331		331	100	100
Benefit Exp.	26		26	15		30		30	9	
Disabled	19		19	11		43		43	13	
Vietnam Era	60		60	35		126		126	38	
Initial Veterans	9		9	5		22		22	7	
UNEMPLOYED	129	11	42	24	11	156	13	80	24	51
Phys. Disabled	122	11	42	24		150	13	77	23	31
Menl. Disabled	4		0	0		4	0	1	0	24
Menl. Disabled	1		0	0		2	0	2	1	100
FROM DISADVANT.	109	10	26	15	11	395	35	70	21	18
From Stamp	79	7	12	7	17	127	11	36	11	33
W/Job	66	6	3	2	1	230	21	3	1	1
Other	6	1	4	2	10	9	1	3	1	33
EMPLOYMENT STATUS	1,136	100	172	100	15	1,138	100	331	100	29
Full Time	75	7	9	5	12	38	3	6	1	14
Part Time	28	2	2	1	7	25	2	6	1	24
Not Working	1,031	91	161	94	16	1,075	95	319	96	30
Job Attachment	73	7	4	2	17	33	3	0	2	35

SOURCE: BLS



SPECIFIC ISSUES

REGIONAL OFFICE

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

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

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

MEDICAL

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

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

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

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

MEDICAL

(Continued)

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

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

	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77
<u>General/Family Practice</u>										
Board Certified	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	2	6	7
Non-Certified ^B	8	9	8	10	11	13	13	14	11	9
<u>Gynecology & Gynecology</u>										
Board Certified	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	5
Non-Certified	1	2	2	2	2	2	3	4	3	2
<u>Internal Medicine</u>										
Board Certified	-	-	-	1	1	2	3	4	5	7
Non-Certified	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	5	6
<u>Pediatrics</u>										
Board Certified	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	3	4
Non-Certified	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	3	3
<u>General Surgery</u>										
Board Certified	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
Non-Certified	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	2
<u>Orthopedics</u>										
Board Certified	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	4	4
Non-Certified	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	3	3	3
<u>Ophthalmology</u>										
Board Certified	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Non-Certified	-	1	1	1	1	3	4	4	3	2
<u>Otolaryngology</u>										
Board Certified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
Non-Certified	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	2
<u>Anesthesiology</u>										
Board Certified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Non-Certified	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-
<u>Neurology</u>										
Board Certified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Non-Certified	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1
<u>Radiology</u>										
Board Certified	-	-	-	1	2	2	3	3	4	4
<u>Pathology</u>										
Board Certified	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
<u>Psychiatry</u>										
Board Certified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Non-Certified	-	-	-	1	1	2	3	3	3	3
<u>Plastic Surgery</u>										
Board Certified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Non-Certified	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
<u>Urology</u>										
Board Certified	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Non-Certified	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-
<u>Miscellaneous</u>										
Non-Certified	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-
Total Certified	6	8	8	12	14	16	20	26	37	49
Total Non-Certified	26	29	27	31	35	33	31	37	51	60
Total M.D.'s	32	37	35	43	49	49	51	63	88	109

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

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

STREET DRUGS

A comparison of Seattle and Anchorage prices

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

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

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

COMMERCIAL SPACE COSTS
Fairbanks and Anchorage
1978

<u>Monthly Rent</u>	<u>Anchorage</u>	<u>Fairbanks</u>	<u>% Differential</u>
<u>Office Space</u>			
Range	\$1.00-1.60/sq ft	\$.90-1.25/sq ft	15-25%
Average	1.35/sq ft	1.15/sq ft	17.4%
<u>Class. Space</u>			
Range	\$.75-1.25/sq ft	\$.75-1.10/sq ft	0-13.6%
Average	1.10/sq ft	1.00/sq ft	9.1%
<u>Warehouse Space</u>			
Range	\$.25-.70/sq ft	\$.25-.75/sq ft	0%
Average	.50/sq ft	.50/sq ft	0%
<u>Airport Terminal Space</u> (with normal utility requirements)	\$.91/sq ft	\$1.16/sq ft	27.5%

COMMERCIAL SPACE INSURANCE COSTS*
Fairbanks and Anchorage
1978

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

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

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



RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended:

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

(Continued)

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

NOTE:

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

B I B L I O G R A P H Y

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Akella House Drug Treatment Program - 524 Mumford, Mountain View, Alaska 99501.

Salvation Army Alcohol Treatment Program - Point Woronzoff at the International Airport at Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

Anchorage Dental Center - Jim Case, D.M.D., Pediatric Dentistry, 235 East 9th Avenue, Cordova, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

Department of Natural Resources - Dennis R. Thomason, 941 East Dowling, Anchorage, Alaska 99502.

Office of the Commissioner/Office of Information Systems - Lloyd D. Pukis, Acting Coordinator, Anchorage, Alaska.

A Community Information Quarterly - review of social economic indicators, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Alaska Population Overview - Alaska Department of Labor, 1st Edition, December 1979 - Research and Analysis Section, John E. Post, Director, Anchorage, Alaska.

Department of Labor Veteran Report - Prepared by James Wilson, Labor Economist, State of Alaska Extension Service, Anchorage Alaska.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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University of Alaska - Professor Drahn, Dean of the Department of Sociology, Fairbanks, Alaska.

Comprehensive Alcohol Program - Storefront operation - Benarsey Lal, Director, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

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

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

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

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

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

Office of Personnel Management - Anchorage Area Office, 701 "C" Street, Box 22, Anchorage, Alaska 99513.

State of Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development Francis E. Smith, Area Manager.

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Alaska Economic Trends - May 1977, Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section - Juneau, Alaska 98803.

The Alaska Vital Statistics 1977 - Prepared by the Statistical Support Unit Administrative Support - Helen D. Beline, Commissioner, Department of Health and Social Services, Juneau, Alaska 98803.

"BIBLIOGRAPHY"

(Continued)

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

Dave Baurrett, Director

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

Dennis Carraher - Chief Social Work

Mike Sheehy - Adjudicant Officer

Dick Borneman - Loan Guarantee

Bill Harrell - VSO & Staff Assistant

Richy Esposito - Finance, Acting Director

Clay Teem - Office Service Manager

Nancy Lykstad - Personnel

Vernessa Brunner - Management Analysis

Pete Everingham - VVC in Fairbanks

PROBLEM AREAS	VETERANS COUNSELED		NUMBER OF VETERAN VISITS	NUMBER OF CONTACTS BY CATEGORY				TELEPHONE CONTACTS	
	ELIGIBLE	INELIGIBLE		OUTREACH	READJ	REFER	FOLLOW-UP	VETERANS	OTHER
ACTUAL TABULATION	195	1	349	0	475	0	1	226	405
TABULATION BY PROBLEM									
1. MARITAL	11	0	37	0	46	0	0	18	20
2. LEGAL	10	0	14	0	21	0	0	12	18
3. VOCATIONAL	92	0	125	0	190	0	1	66	162
4. EDUCATIONAL	71	0	81	0	113	0	0	59	134
5. FINANCIAL	56	0	71	0	55	0	0	57	122
6. VA (OR OTHER BENEFITS)	57	1	67	0	60	0	0	52	118
7. PHYSICAL	15	0	23	0	31	0	0	15	40
8. MENTAL	10	0	16	0	19	0	0	16	31
9. ALCOHOL/DRUGS	27	0	77	0	112	0	0	26	55
10. ANXIETY/FEARS	28	0	84	0	101	0	0	33	42
11. BAD DREAMS/FLASHBACKS	24	0	27	0	51	0	0	18	17
12. SUICIDE/HOMICIDE	6	0	6	0	6	0	0	7	12
13. GUILT	27	0	30	0	30	0	0	14	23
14. UNEMPLOYMENT	17	0	20	0	33	0	0	25	49
15. SKILL TRAINING	20	0	27	0	38	0	0	20	54
16. DISCHARGE UPGRADE	16	0	15	0	20	0	0	11	24
17. OTHER	68	0	79	0	108	0	0	72	97

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