



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**

*P.O. Box 1437, Room 231, VARO 317, St Petersburg, Florida 33731 \* Telephone (727) – 319-5921, Fax (727) – 319-7730*

*A Not-For-Profit Veterans Service Organization Chartered by the United States Congress*

**Report Ending Oct 1, 2016**

Status of Service Office at St Petersburg Regional Office

Office is staffed by Bureau Chief/NSO Marc McCabe

Office hours varies based on docket dates, staff the office 3 days a week for office time of the service officer program

Status of Claims:

VVA Power of Attorney :

New claims 599 new pending original claims

New pending appeal claims 265, these include the following:

1. Notice of Disagreements (NOD's) typically takes approx. 18 -36 months to resolve via a DRO decision (Decision Review Officer)
2. Board of Veterans Appeals Hearing (Video) average wait time for this hearing is 542 days
3. Board of Veterans Appeals Hearings (Travel Board) average wait time for this hearing is 685 days
4. Remand if your case is sent back for development for any reasons the average pending days for the remand to be completed is approx. 587 days, now if the remand is denied it is sent back to the Board of Veterans Appeals for final determination average time is over 400 days for the Board to respond.

Events:

1. Participate in Florida Agent Orange Town Hall Meetings 5 cities in 5 days some were well attended some were as Ft Lauderdale and Punta Gorda were very well executed and presentation and participation very well planned
2. Participated in Agent Orange Town Hall meeting in Texas

3. Held DRO (Decision Review Hearings), RVSR hearings, BVA Travel Board Hearings and BVA Video Board Hearings during last quarter of fiscal year (July thru Sept 30<sup>th</sup>)
4. Will be attending the National Board of Directors Meeting in Silver Springs during Oct 20<sup>th</sup> thru Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>.
5. As some may have heard Steven Anderson left our staff and joined the staff of Florida Department of Veterans Affairs (FDVA) Steve left due to monetary concerns. We wish him well - thanks for a job well done - a thankless task. One of Steve's concerns was the lack of support from both the State Council (who is on record that they do not support the service officer program) and the same from the national level.
6. We continue to operate the office effectively within our limited budget, we are still processing and developing over 141 claims per month at St Petersburg.
7. Our outreach program is very effective with assisting elderly rural veterans in Florida especially in the southwest and southeast rural counties. We would not be able to assist these veterans without the direct support we receive from the Seminole Tribe of Florida., Tribal Chairman James Billie, Steven Bowers and the Seminole Tribe Veterans Committee.

#### More Stats:

1. VVA Florida represents and has running awards for 1,891 Floridian Veterans which represents over **\$45 Million Dollars a Month. That's \$540 Million Dollars a year!!!** For example Okeechobee Veterans receive over **\$4.8 Million Dollars a Month**, or \$57.6 Million Dollars a Year. But for the veterans that utilize the Seminole Veterans Building at Brighton Reservation the monthly running awards is **\$16.2 Million Dollars a Month which equates to \$194.4 Million Dollars a year into those rural communities. .**
2. Month end Sept 30 2016 Production:
  - a. Reviewed and developed for decisions with awarded grants **\$4.85 Million Dollars** in September for 52 Florida Veterans and due to the new National Work Que we developed and reviewed 98 decisions which resulted in excess of **\$7.92 Million Dollars.**