

From: David Ashley dbashley527@gmail.com
Subject: Fwd: USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2020-080
Date: December 27, 2020 at 10:59 AM
To: undisclosed-recipients;
Bcc: poc@cincysubvets.com



----- Forwarded message -----

From: USSVI POC: William C. Andrea <NJVC@ussvi.org>
Date: Thu, Dec 24, 2020 at 9:49 AM
Subject: USSVI OFFICIAL BUSINESS: SubVet News - #2020-080
To: David B. Ashley <DBAshley527@gmail.com>

Date: 12/24/2020
To: Distribution List

=====

NEWS-01: Blue Water / Agent Orange claim filing information
Submitted by: John Dudas, USSVI VSO on 12/24/2020

The USSVI has joined with the Military Veterans Advocacy inc. group (MVA) in a legal term called "STANDING" with their efforts to assist in getting the Agent Orange Presumptive benefits to all Blue Water Sailors who are eligible. The case for Submarines has been almost impossible due to the Deck Logs not containing any information for location of submarines who are on missions denoted as "Special Operations" which is a security classification and being able to prove they were actually within the 12 nautical mile territorial waters of Vietnam.

The MVA has the legal expertise and military and Federal Agency contacts to assist us in getting the Veterans Administration and the US Navy to be able to verify that our submarines who were in the Vietnam waters were actually there without releasing any "Special Operations" information. The MVA was one of the groups that sued the VA and won their case to get the Blue Water Act into Law and extend the old limit of Boots on the Ground out to the 12 mile water limit of Vietnam.

What the USSVI Submariners have to do at this point is to contact a local Veterans Service officer and get a claim submitted for any of the Presumptive Diseases you have been medically diagnosed with. You will need the help of a Veterans Service Officer to get through the VA Claims Process, so do not try and do it yourself. If any of you have already filed a claim and have received a denial Letter from the Veterans Administration, you need to submit an appeal immediately because the date of the denial letter starts a 1-year process that will end your claim if you do not appeal it within that time frame.

There are 22 states that use the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers and they are easy to find online at [HTTPS://www.nacvso.org](https://www.nacvso.org). Their website contains 2 links to locate your service officer. 1. by State and 2. By county. You can find a NACVSO right in your county for assistance. If your state is not covered by a County Veterans Service Officer, then the remaining states use their own State Veterans Service Officers which can be found by searching your State Veterans Service Division which are in the remaining 28 states.

There are currently 14 Presumptive Diseases established in the Agent Orange exposure list. They can be found at <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/index.asp>. There are 3 more possible diseases that were added to this years NDAA which the president gave the Veterans Administration 30 days to add coverage. They are Hypothyroidism, Bladder Cancer and Parkinsonism. If you have been diagnosed with any of these 3 then get your claim filed because they will soon be covered. You as an individual do not have access to the classified records in the Navy System to prove your claim by yourself. It will take the cooperation of both our organizations to produce an outcome beneficial to the Submariners who need their claims approved by getting the US Navy and the Veterans Administration to agree on the best method of providing the needed information so the VA can complete a successful claim.

Your very own Veterans Service Officer is your best choice for submitting a complete claim, and if you need help finding one, please contact me at this email: john.dudas.ssn571@gmail.com and I will assist you in contacting one close to your home.

Respectfully,

John Dudas USSVI Veterans Service Officer

This is an official email communication from the United States Submarine Veterans. Contact the sender if you do not want to receive these messages.

