

## 2008 Current Fiscal Year Report: Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission

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### 1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

### 2. Fiscal Year

2008

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Veterans' Disability Benefits  
Commission

### 3b. GSA Committee No.

25152

### 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

### 5. Current Charter

### 6. Expected Renewal Date

### 7. Expected Term Date

No

02/21/2007

12/01/2007

### 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

Yes

### 8b. Specific Termination Authority

P.L. 109-163

### 8c. Actual Term Date

12/01/2007

### 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

### 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

### 10b. Legislation Pending?

### 11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority

Title XV of Public Law  
108-136

### 13. Effective Date

02/24/2005

### 14. Committee Type

Ad hoc

### 14c. Presidential?

No

### 15. Description of Committee

National Policy Issue Advisory Board

### 16a. Total Number of Reports

1

### 16b. Report Date

Report Title

10/03/2007 Veterans' Disability Benefits  
Commission Final Report

### Number of Committee Reports Listed:

1

17a. 0 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 0  
Open

### Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$55,800.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$116,377.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$33,555.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$300.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$105,450.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$311,482.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	1.50	0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

In accordance with Title XV of Public Law 108-136, the Commission shall carry out a study of the benefits under the laws of the United States that are provided to compensate and assist veterans and their survivors for disabilities and deaths attributable to military service. The Commission shall produce a report on the study. The Commission's study shall be a comprehensive evaluation and assessment of

benefits provided under current federal laws to compensate veterans and their survivors for disability or death attributable to military service. In carrying out the study, the Commission shall make recommendations concerning the appropriateness of such benefits under existing laws, the appropriateness of the level of such benefits, and the appropriate standard or standards for determining whether a veteran's disability or death should be compensated. The Commission shall also consult with the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences with respect to the medical aspects of contemporary disability compensation policies.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

The Commission is composed of 13 members appointed by the President and by the leaders of the Senate and House of Representatives. Of the 13 total members, not less than 7 shall be veterans who were awarded any of the following decorations: the Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, the Navy Cross, the Air Force Cross, and the Silver Star. Members of the Commission are appointed for the life of the Commission.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

There were no meetings in this fiscal year as the Commission completed its work and shut down its operations.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

The Commission is directed to submit its final report to the President and Congress. The Commission may hold hearings, take testimony,

and receive any evidence it considers advisable to carry out its purposes. The Commission may also secure from any federal department or agency such information as it considers necessary to carry out its purposes.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?**

Commission meetings are open to the public.

**21. Remarks**

**Designated Federal Officer**

Raymond Wilburn Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Bacon, Nick	03/24/2004	12/01/2007	Director, Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Brown, Larry	07/09/2004	12/01/2007	Colonel USA Retired	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Carroll, Jennifer	05/20/2004	12/01/2007	State Representative, Florida	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Cassiday, Donald	03/24/2004	12/01/2007	Director of Operations, Chicago's North Park University; Colonel USAF Retired	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Grady, John	05/20/2004	12/01/2007	Principal, Mellon Human Resources and Investor Solutions	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Joeckel, Charles	03/23/2004	12/01/2007	Sergeant USMC Retired	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Jordan, Ken	06/24/2005	12/01/2007	Retired Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps; government/corporate experience	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Livingston, James	05/20/2004	12/01/2007	Executive Vice President, Columbus Properties, LP; Major General USMC Retired	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Matz, William	09/28/2005	12/01/2007	President, National Association for Uniformed Services	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
McGinn, Dennis	02/10/2004	12/01/2007	Vice President, Strategic Planning, Battelle Science and Technology International	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Scott, James	05/20/2004	12/01/2007	Partner, Watson and Associates	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Surratt, Rick	01/21/2004	12/01/2007	Deputy National Legislative Director, Disabled American Veterans	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Wynn, Joe	07/09/2004	12/01/2007	DC Regional Director, National Association for Black Veterans, Inc.	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 13**

### **Narrative Description**

The purpose of the Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission is to carry out a study of the benefits under the laws of the United States that are provided to compensate and assist veterans and their survivors for disabilities and deaths attributable to military service, and to produce a report on the study.

**What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?**

Checked if  
Applies

Improvements to health or safety



Trust in government	<input type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Outcome Comments

### What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Cost Savings Comments

NA

### What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

110

### Number of Recommendations Comments

### What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

40%

## **% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

30%

## **% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒

## **Agency Feedback Comments**

NA

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

## **Action Comments**

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

## **Grant Review Comments**

Not applicable

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Access Comments**

N/A