

REPORT OF AVP, VETERANS AFFAIRS AMM 2009

Dear Members, Veterans Affairs continues to be a matter of primary concern and indeed it is a pleasure to be able to contribute to the health, welfare and comfort of our military service members, active, reserves and retired. My continued gratitude to those that help me by providing timely and valuable information and thanks to the Home Office, Don, Dave and other staff members.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has seemingly come alive under the new leadership at the National Level. There are several ongoing actions to improve the quality of life issues for the veterans and their families; educational benefits have been upgraded, homeless veterans are seeing more funding made available, Agent Orange has finally been acknowledged as presumptive service-connected, survivors of veterans and service member benefits have been strengthened by the establishment of an office for their advocacy, Secretary's of VA and Defense are now collaborating to provide better care of military personnel and VA is in the process of improving many other provider services to include customer friendly attitudes. However, it is still incomprehensible why DoD will not allow military installations like Fort McPherson to serve retired soldiers and their dependents.

Needless to state, our Nation continues to be engaged in several conflicts outside our borders and your continued support to the soldiers is still required. Moreover, as a military organization, we must continue support our deployed troops and those returning veterans during their transition back home and those continuing on active duty; all communities throughout our Nation are tasked with insuring that our soldiers and family members that are in need and should receive the care and concern necessary for readjustment and benevolence by supporting the many veterans service organizations and charities.

Thanks for continuing to provide information to retirees relative to educational studies, Warrant Officer staffing, and current active duty events; the Corps does not have a program in place to update retired Warrant Officer on matters relating to operational matters in the same as other senior officers. Hopefully, the matters relating to the Senior Warrant Officer (W-5) will result in better participation and concern for the Junior Warrant Officers.

Mr. President, thank you for the continued opportunity to serve and to give back to those that are serving and have served this great Nation. It has been a great pleasure to serve you and the Association and should you desire I am willing to continue to serving the **CORPS**.

Respectfully submitted,

PERCY D. BUTLER
CW4, USA, Retired

Here is a ruling that I received concerning my own case whereby an award of 40% for combat related disease/injury was approved retroactively to August 2005; however, a guideline for payment from DFAS refused to pay the entitlement of \$572 based on Method A (Chapter 61) Disability Retirement CRSC **REDUCTION**: “The CRSC payment will be reduced by the amount by which a member’s Method A disability pay exceeds the amount of Method B retired pay. The CRSC payment cannot exceed pay entitled based on years of service (Method B). Clarification for this guidance was implemented June 1, 2004.” Over a 20 year period, this represent an annual loss of \$6864 or over a 20 year life expectancy \$137,280 to my family. Remember this applies only to those of us medically retired after 20 YOS (voluntary or involuntary).

Due to family considerations, I did not get an opportunity to discuss this issue one on one with the National President during his recent visit to Atlanta nor through telephone attempts, however, hopefully it can be discussed during the AMM.

In recent months, you may not have noticed the publication of articles in the NEWSLINER because the Home Office has done a tremendous job in extracting breaking news that is available to them, thanks for a job well done. In lieu of articles, I have had the privilege of visiting chapters within the Southeast Region upon their request and it has been grand to do so.