

VBDR

Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VBDR Addresses Improvements for Claims Processing and Dose Reconstruction on Behalf of Veterans

BETHESDA, Md.—The Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction (VBDR) made further advancements in support of veterans through recommendations and enhancements to the radiation dose reconstruction and claims review processes during its ninth public meeting in Bethesda, Md., on June 10, 2009.

Presentations were provided by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) regarding dose reconstruction enhancements, and by the Veterans Health Administration and VA's Compensation and Pension Service that provided updates on their activities and progress on veteran outreach initiatives.

The Board approved six formal recommendations that were sent to DTRA and VA on June 30, 2009, and offered assistance by the VBDR subcommittees to assist them in addressing these recommendations.

Since the formation of VBDR, both VA and DTRA have decreased their backlog of cases and have instituted a more effective compensation system. The Board wants to continue to monitor their efforts and to increase outreach to veterans on eligibility for compensation.

Eleven veterans and 21 members of the public attended the meeting. Six people spoke at the public comment sessions. They asked for information regarding dose reconstruction, benefits and the history of the nuclear testing program.

The Board will hold its tenth meeting in the spring of 2010 in Bethesda, Md., to continue its focus on improvements in the dose reconstruction and claims review processes. The meeting location and date will be announced in the Federal Register in advance of the meeting.

About the VBDR

The Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and the VA established the VBDR at the request of Congress to provide guidance and oversight of the dose reconstruction process and claims compensation program for veterans of the 1945-1946 occupation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, and veterans of U.S. sponsored atmospheric nuclear weapons tests from 1945-1962. The Board's primary goals are to improve the processing of claims for medical benefits and other compensation, and to assist the VA and DTRA in communicating with veterans.

For additional information contact VBDR at 1-866-657-VBDR (8237), or visit the VBDR website at www.vbdr.org.

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