

SC4: Subcommittee on Communication and Outreach

Purpose:

This Subcommittee will review the current communication procedures of VA and DTRA with the veterans on matters related to dose reconstruction and claims adjudication. The Subcommittee will provide recommendations on improved communication mechanisms with veterans throughout the process of collecting information related to their claims and informing them of the outcome of the claims adjudication process. This activity will meet a requirement of item (3) (B) in Section 601 of Public Law 108-183.

Membership:

The Subcommittee for communication with the veterans will consist of a chair (Kenneth Groves) and four other members of the VBDR (John Boice, Ed Taylor, John Lathrop, and David Ropeik).

Function:

The Subcommittee is charged to perform the following tasks related to communication with the veterans:

1. Review the current mechanisms for communicating with veterans about the mission, procedures, requirements, decisions and administration of the dose reconstruction program. These will include communications about the procedures for establishing exposure scenarios, assumptions utilized in dose reconstructions, technical procedures for reconstructing doses, and claims evaluation procedures and decisions related to radiogenic and nonradiogenic disease compensation.
2. The Subcommittee will develop a set of recommendations on more efficient and effective communication procedures between veterans, VA, and DTRA.
3. The Subcommittee will coordinate communication and outreach functions both internal to the VBDR and external to veterans for public meetings.
4. Prepare a summary of the Subcommittee's findings and recommendations for Board consideration and approval.