



VBDR

Veteran's Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction

Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction (VBDR): Responsibilities, Scope and Accomplishments

Charles H. Roadman II, MD
Lt.Gen. USAF (Ret.)
VBDR, Chairman



July 23, 2013

Responsibilities of the Advisory Board

The Board is required by Section 601 of Public Law 108-183 to:

- Provide guidance and oversight of the dose reconstruction and claims compensation programs for veterans
- Assist DTRA and VA in communicating with veterans



Board Composition

- World Experts in Radiation and Process
- Serve in Pro bono Status
- Serve Because of Interest of Atomic Veterans
- Individual Biographies in Handouts and on Web



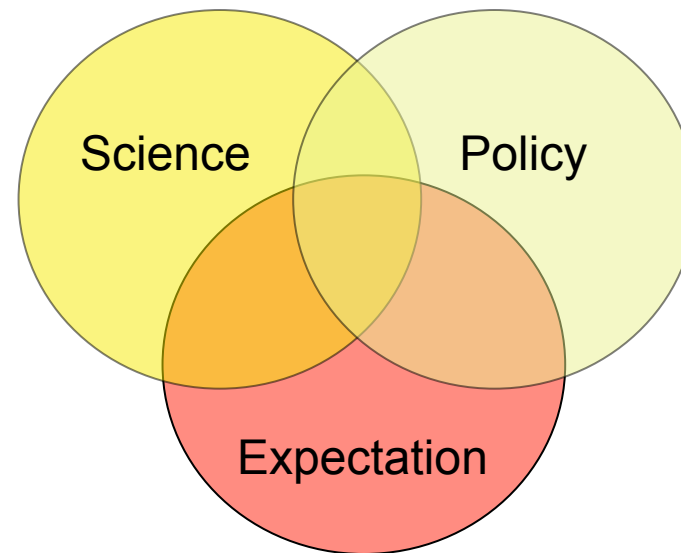
Sub-Committees

- SC1: DTRA Dose Reconstruction Procedures
- SC2: VA Adjudication Procedures
- SC3: Quality Management and VA Process Integration with DTRA Nuclear Test Personnel Review (NTPR) Program
- SC4: Communication and Outreach



VBDR “at Nexus”

- Science
- Politics
- Expectation



VBDR

Improving communications with veterans and resolving issues related to dose reconstruction and claim adjudication



Responsibilities that the Advisory Board does not Have

- Reviewing individual dose reconstruction cases for claimants
- Serving as an appeals board for claimants
- Helping a claimant with his/her claim
- Changing or revising the provisions of the Radiation-Exposed Veterans' Compensation Act law



The Board was initially chartered on 4 November 2004 and is now hosting its 13th Meeting; what have we accomplished?



The Board has Helped the Dose Reconstruction Process for the Atomic Veterans

- NTPR implementation of VBDR recommendations In 2006 resulted in the elimination of a four year backlog of NTPR RDA requests.
- In 2007, average NTPR response time dropped to 50 days (or less), with all cases being completed in under six months¹.
- Service connection increased for VA atomic veteran radiogenic disease compensation from 9% to 29%.



VA Implemented the Board's Recommendation to Consolidate Radiation Claims at the Jackson, MS VARO

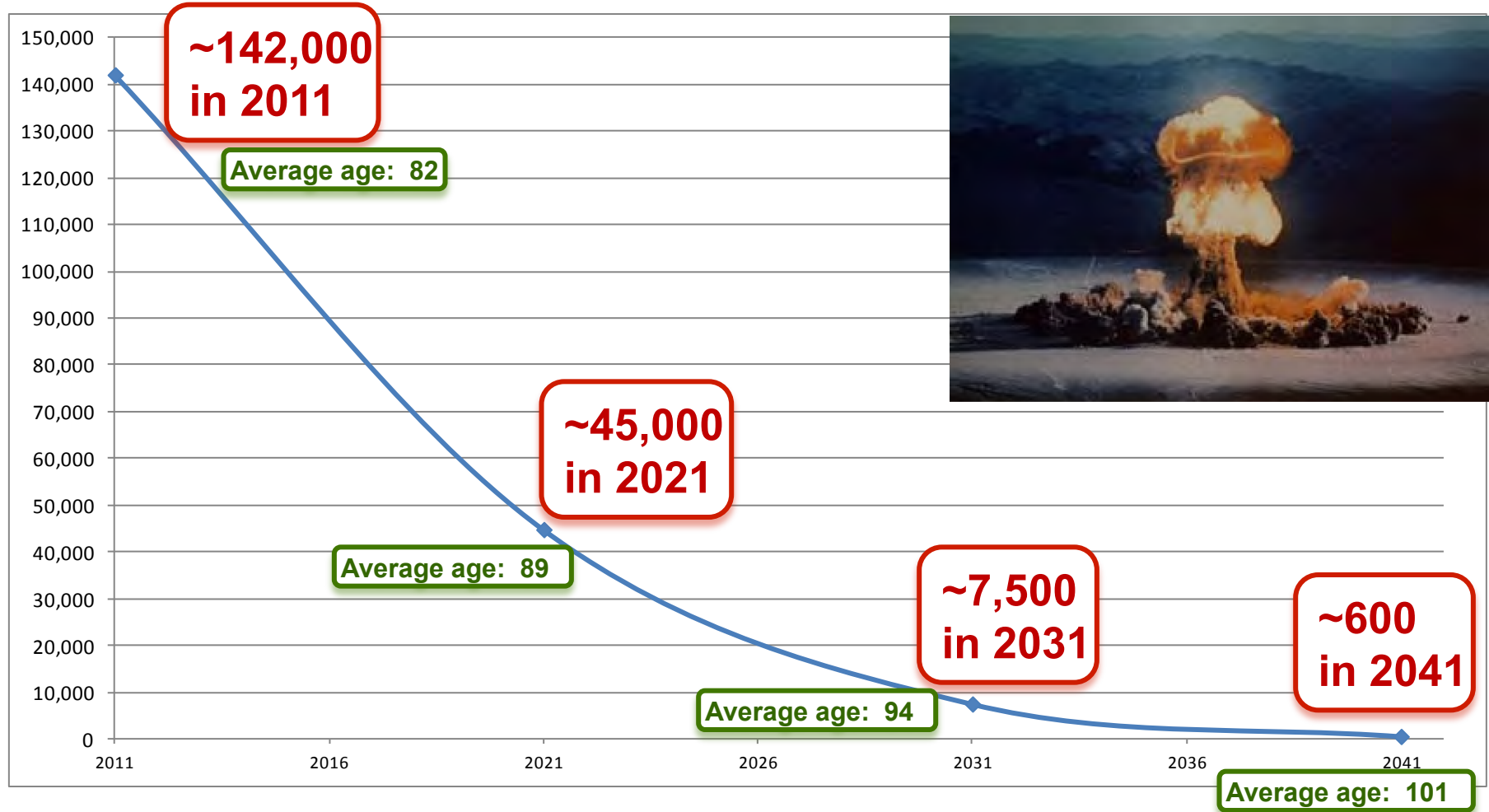
- Jackson VARO handles all radiation claims, including:
 - Atomic Veterans
 - Occupational and other potential exposures
- Consolidation helped the VA develop a core competency in radiation claims processing
- Simplifies ability to address issues related to radiation claims



The Board Worked to Improve Communication and Outreach to Atomic Veterans

- Worked with the VA on the Ionizing Radiation Registry (IRR) Newsletter
- Drafted letters, post cards, news articles and other materials that were sent to inform Atomic Veterans
- Helped update the “Are you an Atomic Veteran” brochure
- The Board established and maintains a website to provide information to Atomic Veterans and their families

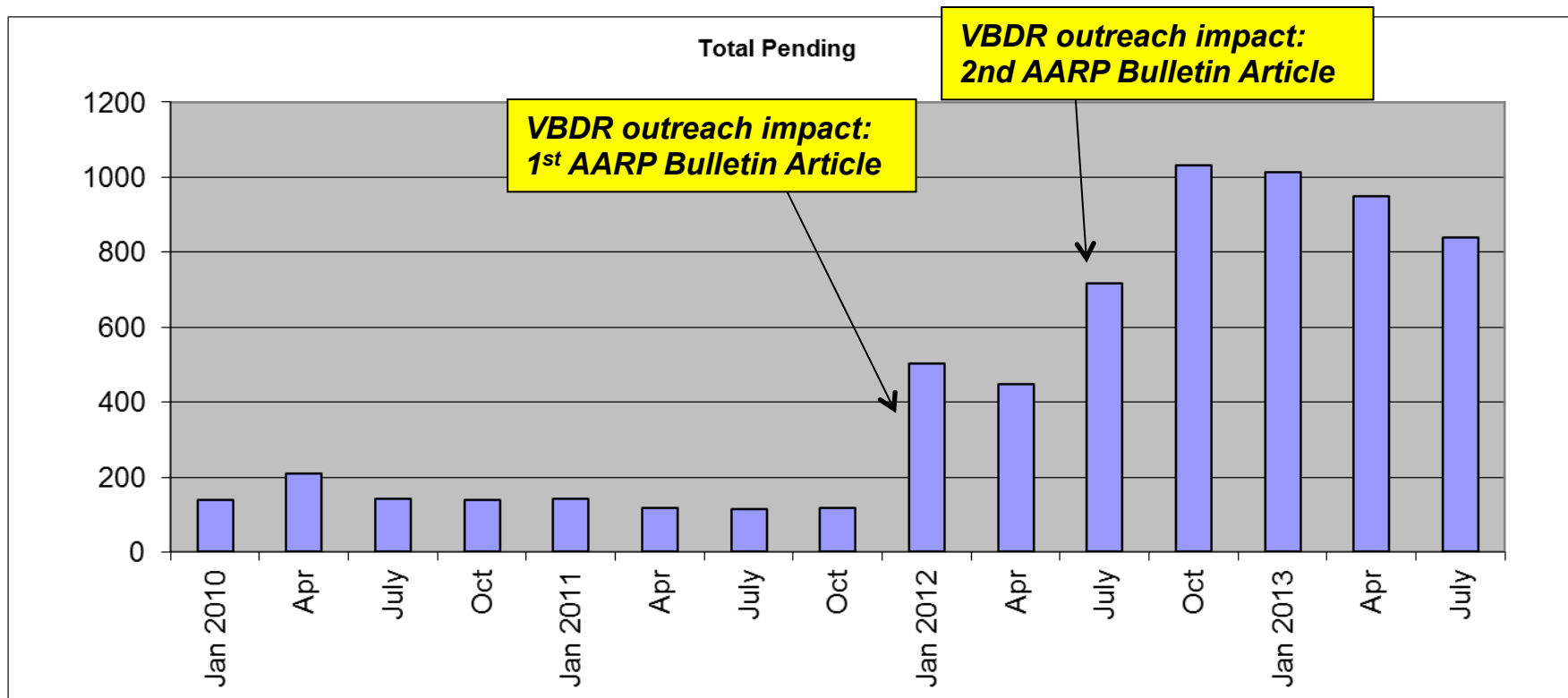




This graphic demonstrates the “rate” that the Atomic Veterans are leaving the population. They are representative of any other “older” population in their death rates (actually a little lower as most had access to health care).



Caseload for the NTPR Increased as a Result of VBDR Outreach



AARP: American Association of Retired Persons



Other VBDR Activities

- Conducted Double-Blind dose reconstructions to verify SOPs and reduce uncertainties
- Conducted audits of Veteran cases to identify bottlenecks in processing and recommend corrective actions
- Reviewed and provided recommendations for the dose reconstruction procedures being used for:
 - Operation Tomodachi
 - McMurdo Station
 - Coast Guard LORAN Units



The Primary Objectives of the Board Have Been Accomplished

- Therefore, the Chairman of the Board has recommended that the VBDR is closed.
- DTRA and the VA have agreed that the Board is no longer required.
- Congress has ultimate authority on the recommendation for closure.

