

# **VBDR**

## **Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 22, 2007**

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

BETHESDA, MD—VBDR made further advancements in support of veterans through recommendations and enhancements to the dose reconstruction and claims processes for veterans during its fifth meeting in Las Vegas, Nev., March 7-8, 2007. The consideration of alternative methods for dose reconstruction and a proposal to form an ad hoc dose reconstruction subcommittee were among the Board's accomplishments.

The meeting included briefings on the veterans' view of VBDR, dose reconstruction and claim compensation programs. Other presentations explained how a typical dose reconstruction is performed in accordance with the Nuclear Test Personnel Review Standard (NTPR) Operating Procedures and how interactive radio-epidemiological tables are used in adjudicating claims. In addition, current activities of the NTPR dose reconstruction and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) radiation claims compensation programs were discussed, as well as the actions and accomplishments of the four VBDR subcommittees.

During the meeting, 10 veterans gave public testimony regarding their cancers and expressed concerns about problems with the dose reconstruction procedures and claims decisions made by the VA. A representative from the Reno VA Regional Office was available to provide further assistance to veterans with the processing of their claims.

The Board plans to hold its sixth meeting in September 2007 in Chicago, Ill., to continue its focus on improvements to this program. Meeting locations and dates will be announced at a later date.

### **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

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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 goal is 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 the VBDR at 1-866-657-VBDR (8237) or visit the VBDR website at [www.vbdr.org](http://www.vbdr.org).

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