

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

2. Fiscal Year

2024

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Committee on Former
Prisoners of War

3b. GSA

Committee No.

1330

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter Renewal Date

05/23/2022 05/23/2024

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

38 U.S.C. 541

13. Effective Date

08/14/1981

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Non Scientific Program Advisory
Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for
this Fiscal Year

17a. Open

0

17b. Closed

0

17c. Partially Closed

0

Other Activities

0

17d. Total

0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

Current Next
FY FY

18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00 \$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00 \$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00 \$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00 \$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00 \$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00 \$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00 \$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00 \$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00 \$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00 \$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00 0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Committee provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the care of and support for the rapidly decreasing former prisoners of war (FPOWs) community. The Committee closely monitors VA programs and policies to ensure that the needs of FPOWs are met. Committee recommendations are specifically tailored to address the unique circumstances of POW confinement, and those recommendations routinely require active collaboration among VA's respective administrations. The Committee continues to be very successful in affecting VA policies and federal legislation mandating improved services to FPOWs [This aligns to VA Strategic goal 1

Veteran choose VA for easy access, greater choices, and clear information to make informed decisions]. The Committee recommended, and VA implemented the automated processing of DIC claims for surviving spouses of FPOWs [This aligns to VA strategic goal 2: Veterans receive timely and integrated care and support that emphasizes their well-being and independence throughout their life journey]. The Committee also has concerns regarding the Care and Benefit teams' proper staffing at each VA medical center. Some of the challenges faced by the POWs include matters that are supported by the Secretary's current top priorities -- many POWs experience increased risk of death by suicide, adverse outcomes related to opiate usage, and getting access efficient and timely access to mental and physical healthcare. VA is committed to ensuring adequately trained employees are staffed at each hospital [This aligns to VA Strategic goal 4: VA will modernize systems and focus resources more efficiently to be competitive and to provide World Class capabilities to Veterans and its employees].

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Committee will be comprised of approximately 14 members and includes representatives of Veterans who are former prisoners of war (FPOW); representatives of disabled Veterans; individuals who represent various race and ethnicity groups, and authorities in fields pertaining to disabilities prevalent among FPOW's, including epidemiology, mental health, nutrition, geriatrics, and internal medicine. The Committee will also include ex officio members, a representative from the Department of Defense, the Under Secretary for Health and Under

Secretary for Benefits, or their designees. Several members may be Regular Government Employees, but the majority of the Committee's membership will be Special Government Employees.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Committee host a minimum of two parent meetings a year. The meeting location varies and is based on the needs of the FPOW community. The purpose of meetings is for local FPOWs and Veterans service organizations to have the opportunity to meet and interact with the Committee. This process has resulted in beneficial legislation and improved services for FPOWs and is expected to continue to do so. The Committee has received numerous briefings by senior and mid-level VA officials on how the Department addresses the unique needs of FPOWS, both nationally and at local VA facilities. They have received status reports on revised VA processes and policies designed to comply with the Committee's recommendations. In FY 2023, the Committee held three hybrid meetings: on November 16-17, 2022, April 26-27, 2023, and August 30-August 31, 2023.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Committee represents a unique segment of our Veteran population which is able to review recommendations and ideas objectively. Proposals from the Committee are intended to assist all FPOWs regardless of age, war or personal circumstance.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

The Committee meetings are open to the public. However, if the Committee tours a VA facility, the meetings are closed to the public to protect patient privacy.

21. Remarks

By charter, the Committee is composed of no more than 12 member SGE members and two ex-officio members. In FY 2023, the Secretary approved a temporary increase of members. In FY 2022, Shereef Elnahal (Ex-officio member) was erroneously excluded from the report.

Designated Federal Officer

Julian Wright Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Albano, John	05/27/2020	05/31/2024	Naval Air Station	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Black, Karen	12/19/2018	12/31/2023	Survivor of FPOW	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Bobb, Kailyn	06/24/2022	05/31/2024	Clinical Psychologist/Professor	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Corre, Harry	10/01/2016	10/31/2023	Retired	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Elnahal, Shereef	06/22/2022		Under Secretary for Health	Ex Officio Member
Jacobs, Joshua	04/26/2023		Under Secretary for Benefits	Ex Officio Member
Marshall, Marion	05/27/2020	05/31/2024	FPOW	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

McClenney, Lucretia	12/19/2018	12/31/2023	Retired	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
McDaniel, Norman	05/27/2020	05/31/2024	FPOW	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
McGrath, John	06/24/2022	05/24/2024	Retired	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Milligan, Joseph	05/27/2020	05/31/2024	FPOW	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Newsome, Earl	12/19/2018	12/31/2023	Retired	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Sherman, Marion	12/19/2018	12/24/2023	Retired	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Stokes, James	12/19/2018	12/31/2023	Retired	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Williams, James	12/19/2018	12/31/2023	FPOW	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 15

Narrative Description

The Committee advises the Secretary on the health and welfare of former POWs, and makes specific recommendations for the improvement of benefits and services as they affect former POWs.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

223

Number of Recommendations Comments

This is a total of recommendations for FY 2003 through FY 2023.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

97%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

NA

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

NA

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The Department submits a formal response to each Committee recommendation, and Department officials brief the Committee on actions taken to implement recommendations. Published Annual Reports can be found online:
<https://www.va.gov/ADVISORY/FormerPrisonersofWar.asp>.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

To access the Committee's website, please click here:

<https://www.va.gov/ADVISORY/FormerPrisonersofWar.asp>