

2018 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

2018

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Committee on Former Prisoners of War

3b. GSA Committee No.

1330

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year? 5. Current Charter 6. Expected Renewal Date 7. Expected Term Date

No 06/21/2018 06/21/2020

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year? 8b. Specific Termination Authority 8c. Actual Term Date

No

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate? 10b. Legislation Pending?

Continue No Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
38 U.S.C. 541	08/14/1981	Continuing	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 2 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 2 Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
2017 Fall Advisory Meeting	11/29/2017	- 12/01/2017
Advisory Committee meeting	09/19/2018	- 09/22/2018

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 2

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$15,000.00	\$25,000.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$40,000.00	\$60,000.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$25,000.00	\$30,000.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00
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	\$86,000.00	\$140,000.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.50	0.50

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 Veterans 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 proper staffing of the Care and Benefit teams 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 ensure properly 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 is composed of seven former prisoner of war (FPOW) Veterans and five non FPOWs. One FPOW member is a physician. The members of the Committee, who are former prisoners of war, represent WWII (Germany), Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf War eras. Together the Committee approaches the issues of FPOWs scientifically, medically and personally. There is one Ex-Officio member who represents the medical and benefits programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Committee is actively recruiting new members.

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

The Committee usually meets twice a year, in various locations based on the needs within the FPOW community. The purpose for 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 is addressing the special 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 recommendations of the Committee. In FY 2018, the Committee held two meetings a site visit on November 29 - December, 2017 to Atlanta, and site visit on September 19 - 22, 2019 to Loma Linda, CA.

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

NA

Designated Federal Officer

Leslie N Williams Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
CLANCY, CAROYLN	03/01/2017	03/01/2019	Under Secretary for Health	Ex Officio Member
CORRE, HARRY	10/01/2016	10/01/2019	VA EMPLOYEE	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Carson, Lane	05/01/2016	09/30/2019	Retired from Governor Jindal's cabinet as Secretary of Veteran Affairs	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Certain, Robert	08/01/2015	09/30/2018	Col., retired, Priest, author, FPOW (Vietnam)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
HAIN, ROBERT	10/01/2016	10/01/2019	RETIRED	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Milligan, Joseph	05/01/2016	09/30/2018	President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Environmental Decisions	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Moore, Jeff	05/01/2016	09/30/2019	Exec Dir, POW studies, Robert E. Mitchell Center	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Quarles, Shirley	05/01/2016	09/30/2018	Consultant to US Secretary of VA	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Richardson, William	05/01/2016	09/30/2019	President of Richardson and Sons Construction	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Sortillo, Elliott	05/01/2016	09/30/2019	Retired from Bethlehem Steel as HR Workman's Comp Investigator	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 10

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
- Trust in government
- Major policy changes
- Advance in scientific research
- Effective grant making
- Improved service delivery
- Increased customer satisfaction
- Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements
- Other

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

- None
- Unable to Determine
- Under \$100,000
- \$100,000 - \$500,000
- \$500,001 - \$1,000,000
- \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
- \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
- Over \$10,000,000
- Cost Savings Other

Cost Savings Comments

NA

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee

for the life of the committee?

220

Number of Recommendations Comments

This is a total of recommendations for FY 2003 through FY 2018.

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

90%

% 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?

10%

% 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

VA responds specifically in writing to each recommendation made by the Committee.

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
- Online Agency Web Site
- Online Committee Web Site
- Online GSA FACA Web Site
- Publications
- Other

Access Comments

N/A