

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

2. Fiscal Year

2024

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Advisory Committee on Disability
Compensation

3b. GSA

Committee No.

41849

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

10/29/2008

6. Expected Renewal Date

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

n/a

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

Public Law 110-389

13. Effective Date

10/10/2008

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

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 to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on establishing and supervising a schedule for the periodic review and update of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD). The Committee shall assemble and review relevant information relating to the needs of Veterans with disabilities; provide information relating to the nature and character of the disabilities arising from service in the armed forces; provide an ongoing assessment of the effectiveness of the VASRD; and provide ongoing advice on the most appropriate means of responding to the needs of Veterans relating to disability compensation in the future. In carrying out its duties, the Committee shall take into

special account the needs of Veterans who have served in a theater of combat operations. Not later than October 31, 2010, and not less frequently than every two years thereafter, the Committee shall submit to the Secretary a report on the programs and activities of the Department that relate to the payment of disability compensation. Each such report shall include an assessment of the needs of Veterans with respect to disability compensation; and such recommendations (including recommendations for administrative, regulatory or legislative action), as the Committee considers appropriate. The Committee may submit to the Secretary such other reports and recommendations as the Committee considers appropriate. The Committee delivered its Biennial report in October 2022. The complex recommendations are under going VA Staff vetting and have not been finalized or reviewed by the Secretary of VA. The Committee is expected to deliver its next Biennial Report in October 2024.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Committee consists of no more than 18 members appointed by the Secretary from among individuals who have experience with the provision of disability compensation by the Department, or are leading medical or scientific experts in relevant fields. The Secretary determines the terms of pay and allowances of the members of the Committee. The terms of service for Committee members may not exceed four years and are staggered to ensure that the dates for the termination of the members' terms are not all the same. The Secretary may reappoint any member for one or more additional terms of service. The Secretary selects a Chair from among the members of the Committee. Several members may be Regular

Government Employees, but the majority of the Committee's membership will be Special Government Employees. Committee members were selected, as noted above, from among recognized subject matter experts, Veterans (stakeholders), and others with special competence in areas such as disability claims adjudication, vocational rehabilitation, disability program management, workers' compensation, rehabilitative medicine, mental health research, military medical services management, Veterans' benefits advocacy, and survivor benefits advocacy.

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

By charter, the Committee will meet as often as necessary to perform its functions and provide timely advice to the Secretary. In FY 2023, the Committee held four (4) meetings: May 22 - 23, 2023 (Virtual); June 27 - 28, 2023 (Virtual); August 22 - 24, 2023 (Hybrid, Washington, D.C.); and September 19 - 21, 2023 (Hybrid, Reno, NV).

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

The Committee was established under section 214 of Public Law 110-389 to specifically advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the maintenance and periodic readjustment of the Department of Veterans Affairs' Schedule for Rating Disabilities. Advice from the committee members, individuals with varied expertise to do so (as described above), is essential for an objective review of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities.

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

Advisory Committee on Disability Compensation (ACDC) meetings are, generally, open to the public. If a VA facility site visit is conducted, the meeting will be partially closed in accordance with law to protect Veteran privacy. This is in accordance with FACA: FAC (Federal Advisory Committee) meetings may be closed in whole or in part under limited circumstances, such as when discussing trade secrets, personal information, and/or criminal matters. Per FACA, there are three common exemptions to “close” a meeting: 1.) Discussion of classified information (i.e., Veterans' PII) 2.) Reviews of proprietary data submitted in support of Federal grant applications (i.e., research committee) 3.) Deliberations involving considerations of personal privacy (i.e., Veterans' PII, VA Medical Center tours, etc.) Only numbers (1.) and (3.) above would apply to the ACDC should a site visit occur during a scheduled meeting.

21. Remarks

The Committee received valuable input from various VA business lines to aide the Committee's deliberation in constructing recommendations for the Secretary. Although VA has already been actively engaged in the processes and procedures set forth in a number of the recommendations, such recommendations reiterated the importance of those processes and procedures and broadened the scope for the Secretary's consideration.

Designated Federal Officer

Jadine S. Piper Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
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Bruner, Alfred	04/24/2020	12/31/2023	Lieutenant Colonel and Director, DoD DES Policy	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Hazell, Bradley	11/06/2018	12/31/2024	Assistant Director for Compensation and Pension Policy with Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Co-developed the Warrior centric healthcare training system, US Army Medical Research and Material Command and AMEDD Advanced Technology	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lewis, Evelyn	11/06/2018	12/31/2024	Medical Research and Material Command and AMEDD Advanced Technology	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
LoGalbo, Frank	03/24/2021	12/31/2024	Wounded Warrior Project, Benefits Training Manager	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Maney, Thomas	03/24/2021	12/31/2024	Chairman of the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame Council and on the Okaloosa County Vet Center Stakeholders Board;	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Taméz, Eloisa	03/24/2021	12/31/2024	Professor and Associate Dean of Student Affairs, School of Nursing, Univ. of Texas (Rio Grande Valley)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Wolf, Steven	03/24/2021	12/31/2024	Currently employed with DAV	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 7

Narrative Description

The Committee will provide advice to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on establishing and supervising a schedule to conduct periodic reviews of the VA Schedule for Rating Disabilities (VASRD) and provide the most appropriate means for responding to the needs of Veterans.

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 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 checked="" 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?

123

Number of Recommendations Comments

123 reflects the number of formal recommendations from FY 2010 through FY 2023 that have been conveyed formally to the decision maker. The Committee submitted its unvetted 2022 Biennial Report on October 31, 2022. The vetted 2022 Biennial Report is pending finalization.

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

24%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The FY-23 annual comprehensive report on percentage of implemented / partially implemented recommendations updates this calculation by using enhanced analytics.

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

16%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

A thorough review of the recommendations which have been submitted by the Committee since establishment is underway. As of 9/28/2023, the review shows that 20 recommendations out of 123, were found to have been partially implemented. 44 recommendations are still being reviewed for whether VA fully (or partially) implemented them.

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.

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

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities ☐

Reallocated resources ☐

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Issued new regulation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Proposed legislation | <input 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

NA