

1997 Current Fiscal Year Report: Veterans' Claims Adjudication Commission

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

2. Fiscal Year

1997

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Veterans' Claims Adjudication
Commission

3b. GSA Committee No.

1984

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

No 01/13/1995 01/13/1997 03/11/1997

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

Yes Public Law 103-446,
38 USC 401 03/11/1997

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

Terminate Yes Enacted

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority 13. Effective Date 14. Committee Type 14c. Presidential?

Public Law 103-446, 38 USC 401 11/02/1994 Continuing No

15. Description of Committee National Policy Issue Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports 1

16b. Report Date Report Title

12/11/1996 Report to Congress - Veterans'
Claims Adjudication Commission

Number of Committee Reports Listed: 1

17a. Open 1 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 1

Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
Final Report	12/11/1996	- 12/11/1996

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$50,700.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$140,711.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$4,745.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$9,884.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$972.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$4,251.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$234.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$18,439.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$229,936.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	1.60	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

Pursuant to Title IV of Public Law 103-446, which established the Commission, the Commission is mandated to conduct a study of the Department of Veterans Affairs system or the disposition of claims filed by veterans for benefits (primarily disability compensation and disability pension) administered by the Secretary. The Commission is required to submit to the House and Senate

Committees on Veterans' Affairs, and to the Secretary, two reports, one setting forth its preliminary findings and conclusions regarding its assessment of the VA claims adjudication system; and another containing its final findings, conclusions, and recommendations regarding the system. The first report entitled Preliminary Findings and Conclusions was released on February 7, 1996. The final report was released on December 11, 1996. The Commission terminated 90 days after submission of its final report (March 11, 1997).

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The composition of the Commission is directed by statute (section 401(b) Public Law Number 103-446). It was composed of nine members, appointed by the Secretary, and included one member who was a former official of the Department (such individual is the Chairman of the Commission); two members from the private sector who have expertise in the adjudication of claims relating to insurance or similar benefits; one member employed by the Federal Government (Department of Labor); one who has retired from the Federal Government (Social Security Administration); two members representing veterans service organizations; one member appointed based on a recommendation from the American Bar Association or a similar organization (in this instance, the National Bar Association); and one member who is a current official of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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

The Commission met once during FY 1997 in order to issue its Final Report to the Congress.

The Commission's Final Report provided the Congress with findings, conclusions and recommendations regarding the Department of Veterans Affairs system for the disposition of claims filed by veterans for benefits (primarily disability compensation and disability pension.)

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

The Congress mandated this review with a particular goal in mind; that is, determining the best approach to improving the efficiency of VA's claims disposition process. Since the Commission is an independent body, its views and recommendations will not be skewed towards a particular interest group and will provide Congress with objective and credible opinions.

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

N/A- None of the meetings were closed

21. Remarks

NA

Designated Federal Officer

Darryl W. Kehrer Executive Director

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Chavez, Ernest	10/01/1996	09/30/1997	(Retired) Paralyzed Veterans of America	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Davis, Rhonda	10/01/1996	09/30/1997	(Retired) SSA, Director for Strategic Management	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
High, Lois	10/01/1996	09/30/1997	Veterans Affairs	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

LaVere, William	10/01/1996	09/30/1997	Author/Consultant	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Leach, William	10/01/1996	09/30/1997	(Retired) Disabled American Veterans	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Mansanares, Robert	10/01/1996	09/30/1997	Department of Labor, Workers Compensation Program	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
McCormick, Harvey	10/01/1996	09/30/1997	(Retired) ADJ	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Melidosian, S.	10/01/1996	09/30/1997	(Retired) Veterans Affairs	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Merritt, Lynn	10/01/1996	09/30/1997	Insurance Industry Executive	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 9

Narrative Description

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

Checked if
Applies

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

Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements

☐

Other

☐

Outcome Comments

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

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

0

Number of Recommendations Comments

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

%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

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

%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

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

Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable ☒

Agency Feedback Comments

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

Checked if Applies

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

Action Comments

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

No

Grant Review Comments

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

Checked if Applies

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

Other



Access Comments