



Disabled American Veterans Department of Florida Newsletter

By Al Linden, Executive Director



October 31, 2016

As of October 31, 2016 our membership was 61,610 needed to make goal are 1,427 life members.

State Commander Jack Johnson Message

I have has the pleasure of visiting several chapters in the past few months. Thanks for the hospitality. I have been honored to be introduced by you as the Commander of the Department, and have been very proud of the service I observed being offered to the veteran and his family. This is what the DAV is all about. I have also observed in most chapters that I have visited, violations of your department by-laws. This violation is illegal fundraisers. If you are having a fund raiser, it must be approved by the Department, and the department receives 10% after expenses. The only exception is the Veterans Day Golden Corral campaign. This of course includes anything that generates a profit. If you receive unsolicited donations, they are exempt. Please review your department and chapter by-laws, we do not want to suspend chapters, so please have a meeting with your executive committee and review your activities, making sure your chapter is in compliance.

MEMBERSHIP is vital. I can assure the membership letter still works. Please start mailing minimum of 200 letters per month and you will meet your quota. Let's do it for ANDY. If you are having problems with membership, call me for help. We can't afford to wait until June to work membership.

IRS 990-N Report Due by November Each Year

The IRS has complicated the filing of the 990N for those chapters who have total income of less than \$50,000. Login on to <https://www.irs.gov/.../new-form-990-n-submission-website>. Then follow instructions for first time users .You must follow the instructions and create a username and a password. If you have any questions, please call me as I did it successfully for my chapter.

Also be reminded that **Chapter Annual Financial Reports are due by September 30 each year.** **Chapter Officers Reports** are due within 10 days after installation each year or when changes are made. ALL chapters make \$50,000 and less and do not file any other IRS form must file a N990 by November 15 each year. Last year 4 chapters failed to do so and their tax exempt was removed and it cost them over \$400 to get it

Service School and Midwinter Conference

The Service School and Midwinter Conference will be held January 16-22,2017 at the Lake Mary Marriott.

BALANCE SHEET		
As Of Oct 31, 2016		
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,339,642	
TOTAL LIABILITIES		\$179,822

TOTAL LIABILITIES&FUND BALANCES	\$1,339,642	

Bay Pines VAVS	\$2304
Gainesville VAVS	\$1000.00
Tampa VAVS	\$1950
Lake City VAVS	\$2225
WPB VAVS	\$1000
Miami VAVS	\$2200
Orlando VAVS	\$7550
Eglin CBOC	\$0

**It doesn't cost much
to show you care**



**about
Disabled
American
Veterans**

**on your next
drivers license application,
then they know you care!**

VA Selects USDA as its Federal Shared Service Provider

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has selected the Department of Agriculture (USDA) as its federal shared service provider to deliver a modern financial management solution that will replace the existing system and improve financial transparency and processing across the Department.

“The Department followed a rigorous process in selecting USDA,” said Interim Assistant Secretary for Management and Interim Chief Financial Officer Edward J. Murray. “Demonstrating a truly integrated decision-making process, subject matter experts across VA participated in intense week-long workshops and provided feedback to ensure we selected the right partner for transformation success.” In making this selection, VA also leveraged best practices and lessons learned from Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Government Accountability Office (GAO), Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and others.

Partnering with USDA allows VA to utilize an established and proven IT solution to better serve its financial management needs. This partnership demonstrates VA’s commitment to work with other agency partners to reduce duplication and redundancy across the government, while also improving both the quality and agility of administrative services.

“As a top FY17 VA priority, this effort will increase the transparency, accuracy, timeliness and reliability of VA’s financial information,” said Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson. “It’s critical that VA continues to implement solutions that result in improved care and services to our Veterans with fiscal accountability to American taxpayers.”

VA now taking health benefits applications by phone

By: [Patricia Kime](#), September 12, 2016 (Photo Credit: (AP Photo/Russell Contreras))

Veterans can now apply for Veterans Affairs health benefits over the phone.

The VA published a final regulation on Monday that allows former service members to complete VA health care applications by calling 877-222-8387.

The line is manned by VA employees who walk the veterans through the process, including providing them information on copayment requirements and third party insurance.

Previously, VA required veterans to apply in person at a VA medical center or submitting a paper application to the department. But the system was beset with problems, creating a backlog of 847,882 applications that stretched back nearly 15 years and included submissions from more than 300,000 deceased veterans.

INCOME / EXPENSES VS BUDGET
Oct 31, 2016

Actual Budget Difference

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

6001 · Convention Income	1,540.00	5,680.00	-4,140.00
6030 · Midwinter Income	0.00	8,700.00	-8,700.00
6050 · Dues from National	149,080.00	140,000.00	9,080.00
6100 · Donation fr Service Fd-Principl	0.00	383,695.00	-383,695.00
6140 · National Fund Raisers	0.00	180,000.00	-180,000.00
6200 · Chapter & Unit 10%	23,131.17	40,000.00	-16,868.83
6310 · Chapter Closeouts	0.00	4,000.00	-4,000.00
6311 · Donations	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00
6315 · Orange City Income	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00
6330 · Lake Panosofkee	1,366.72	4,000.00	-2,633.28
6331 · Lakeland Bldg Mortgage	4,080.00	12,000.00	-7,920.00
6333 · Orange City Mortgage	0.00	13,000.00	-13,000.00
6350 · Drivers License Income	7,570.17	50,000.00	-42,429.83
6410 · 2015 Service Officer's	0.00	10,000.00	-10,000.00
6411 · Service Program Donations	55.99	100.00	-44.01
6450 · VAVS Donations	2,257.50	20,100.00	-17,842.50
6800 · Miscellaneous	16,917.27	1,000.00	15,917.27

Total Income	211,998.82	877,275.00	-665,276.18
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Gross Profit	211,998.82	877,275.00	-665,276.18
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Expense

7000.2 · Convention Expense	1,835.94	16,100.00	-14,264.06
7030.1 · Midwinter Expenses	0.00	19,700.00	-19,700.00
7040.1 · Service Expenses	217,053.06	686,800.00	-469,746.94
7570.1 · Legislative Expenses	0.00	5,100.00	-5,100.00
8000.3 · VAVS Expenses	4,040.00	28,250.00	-24,210.00
8260 · Headquarters Expense	20,470.08	120,600.00	-100,129.92
9500.1 · Foundation expenses	118.34	725.00	-606.66

Total Expense	243,517.42	877,275.00	-633,757.58
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Net Ordinary Income	-31,518.60	0.00	-31,518.60
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Other Income/Expense

Other Income

11001.4 · Testimonial Income	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00
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Total Other Income	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00
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Other Expense

11000.4 · Testimonial Expenses 2015	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00
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Total Other Expense	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00
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Net Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00
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	-31,518.60	0.00	-31,518.60
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MEMBERSHIP

FOR

Oct 31, 2016

Chanter	Last yr	trial	part life	full life	total	Goal	% goal	needed	chanter name 8/31/16	
001		1,906	8	150	1,717	1,875	1,779	96.51%	-62	JACKSONVILLE #1
002	G	11,164	1,479	985	8,482	10,946	8,479	100.04%	3	EVERGLADE STATE #2
004		2,567	3	143	2,403	2,549	2,463	97.56%	-60	JOHN C MCCARTHY II #4
005		583	1	58	521	580	548	95.07%	-27	THE TALLAHASSEE #5
006		291	1	26	262	289	274	95.62%	-12	ST AUGUSTINE #6
007		849	2	241	628	871	741	84.75%	-113	W WASHINGTON #7
011		1,681	1	80	1,535	1,616	1,574	97.52%	-39	CLEARWATER #11
012		1,497	1	94	1,384	1,479	1,420	97.46%	-36	CORAL GABLES #12
013		2,503	0	110	2,351	2,461	2,396	98.12%	-45	BAY PINE HLDY ISL #13
016		2,777	1	163	2,556	2,720	2,629	97.22%	-73	CENTRAL #16
017		761	0	36	726	762	738	98.37%	-12	PANAMA CITY #17
018		1,780	1	148	1,624	1,773	1,682	96.55%	-58	MANATEE COUNTY #18
020		356	1	21	332	354	343	96.79%	-11	LAKE CITY #20
022		309	0	14	289	303	296	97.64%	-7	JACKSON COUNTY #22
023		2,151	3	93	2,018	2,114	2,056	98.15%	-38	AL GRAY #23
029		617	1	48	570	619	590	96.61%	-20	PEMBROKE PINES-MIRAMAR
030		1,303	0	100	1,183	1,283	1,228	96.34%	-45	SEMINOLE #30
032		1,361	2	95	1,207	1,304	1,244	97.03%	-37	J L GOLIGHTLY #32
038		1,502	1	187	1,298	1,486	1,388	93.52%	-90	ORANGE PARK #38
042		1,834	0	85	1,736	1,821	1,772	97.97%	-36	WEST PALM BEACH #42
049		322	0	22	296	318	305	97.05%	-9	RIDGE #49
050		238	1	9	222	232	226	98.23%	-4	CENTRAL BREVARD #50
057		445	5	28	404	437	413	97.82%	-9	CRESTVIEW #57
063		164	0	7	151	158	155	97.42%	-4	TRI-COUNTY #63
065		555	0	31	511	542	524	97.52%	-13	ZEPHYRHILLS #65
067		1,249	0	55	1,162	1,217	1,190	97.65%	-28	HERNANDO COUNTY #67
070		597	0	37	542	579	560	96.79%	-18	GERALD A SHONK #70
073		367	2	25	336	363	343	97.96%	-7	TAMARAC #73
078		1,205	0	55	1,119	1,174	1,141	98.07%	-22	NEW PORT RICHEY #78
082		1,120	0	53	1,065	1,118	1,082	98.43%	-17	R L COCHRAN JR #82
083		1,042	2	137	915	1,054	969	94.43%	-54	C W BYERS SR #83
084		1,282	3	69	1,190	1,262	1,213	98.10%	-23	GREATER DAYTONA #84
085		1,141	0	41	1,065	1,106	1,080	98.61%	-15	SOUTH MARION #85
086		632	0	71	554	625	587	94.38%	-33	JIM BOOE #86
87		759	2	40	708	750	723	97.93%	-15	SGT WM E HILL #87
90		891	1	75	810	886	845	95.86%	-35	GATOR #90
94		1,059	0	35	1,003	1,038	1,021	98.24%	-18	C GUSTAFSON #94
97		564	0	39	499	538	518	96.33%	-19	BEE RIDGE #97
98		243	1	11	230	242	233	98.71%	-3	EUCHEE VALLEY #98
101		809	0	45	755	800	774	97.55%	-19	VENICE GULF #101
108		658	0	61	612	673	633	96.68%	-21	JAMES D RADER #108
109		509	0	27	481	508	488	98.57%	-7	TITUSVILLE #109
110		507	0	29	482	511	490	98.37%	-8	SUN CITY CENTER #110
112		790	6	40	745	791	760	98.03%	-15	BAY AREA #112
113		710	1	43	655	699	673	97.33%	-18	PORT ST LUCIE #113
119		368	0	14	352	366	357	98.60%	-5	ANTHONY P DADDI #119
122		540	0	68	462	530	493	93.71%	-31	MARATHON #122
123		637	0	18	593	611	596	99.50%	-3	SPACE COAST #123
125		548	2	25	526	553	536	98.13%	-10	CPL P D LYON JR #125
126		179	0	8	169	177	173	97.69%	-4	SUWANNEE MEM #126
129		358	0	15	336	351	343	97.96%	-7	SO BREVARD BCHS #129
133		951	0	79	882	961	909	97.03%	-27	THE GOLD COAST #133
144		99	0	9	87	96	91	95.60%	-4	LA BELLE #144
148		834	4	81	761	846	795	95.72%	-34	AGNES M TAYLOR #148
150		945	0	35	957	992	961	99.58%	-4	ORANGE BLOSSOM GDNS #150
152		708	0	41	657	698	674	97.48%	-17	SOUTH PALM BEACH #152
155		367	0	16	345	361	350	98.57%	-5	SEBASTIAN RIVER AREA #155
158		201	0	31	189	220	202	93.56%	-13	CRYSTAL RIVER #158
159		20	0	22	0	22	11	0.00%	-11	Miami Springs Chapter #159
Dept. Total		62,405	1,536	4,424	55,650	61,610	57,077	97.50%	-1,427	



**Legislation
FOR
Oct 31, 2016**

Subject: Herbicide use in Thailand during the Vietnam Era

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The Compensation and Pension Service has reviewed a listing of herbicide use and test sites outside Vietnam provided to our office by the Department of Defense (DoD). This list contains 71 sites within the U.S. and in foreign countries where tactical herbicides, such as Agent Orange, were used, tested, or stored. Testing and evaluations of these tactical herbicides were conducted by or under the direction of the U.S. Army Chemical Corps, Fort Detrick, Maryland. The list does not contain names of individuals. Additionally, it does not contain any references to routine base maintenance activities such as range management, brush clearing, weed killing, etc., because these vegetation control activities were conducted by the Base Civil Engineer and involved the use of commercial herbicides approved by the Armed Forces Pest Control Board. The application of commercial herbicides on military installations was conducted by certified applicators. DoD has advised us that commercial herbicides were routinely purchased by the Base Civil Engineer under federal guidelines and that records of these procurements were generally kept no longer than two years. We have also reviewed a series of official DoD monographs describing in detail the use, testing, and storage of herbicides at various foreign and domestic locations. In addition, the *Project CHECO Southeast Asia Report: Base Defense in Thailand*, produced during the Vietnam era, has been reviewed.

Regarding your veteran claimant with Thailand service, the DoD list indicates only that limited testing of tactical herbicides was conducted in Thailand from 2 April through 8 September 1964. Specifically, the location identified was the Pranburi Military Reservation associated with the Replacement Training Center of the Royal Thai Army, near Pranburi, Thailand. The Report of these tests noted that 5 civilian and 5 military personnel from Fort Detrick, Maryland conducted the spray operations and subsequent research. This location was not near any U.S. military installation or Royal Thai Air Force Base.

Tactical herbicides, such as Agent Orange, were used and stored in Vietnam, not Thailand. We received a letter from the Department of the Air Force stating that, other than the 1964 tests on the Pranburi Military Reservation, there are no records of tactical herbicide storage or use in Thailand. There are records indicating that commercial herbicides were frequently used for vegetation control within the perimeters of air bases during the Vietnam era, but all such use required approval of both the Armed Forces Pest Control Board and the Base Civil Engineer. In Vietnam, tactical herbicides were aurally

applied by UC-123 aircraft in Operation RANCH HAND or by helicopters under the control of the U.S. Army Chemical Corps. Base Civil Engineers were not permitted to

purchase or apply tactical herbicides. There are no records of tactical herbicide spraying by RANCH HAND or Army Chemical Corps aircraft in Thailand after 1964, and RANCH HAND aircraft that sprayed herbicides in Vietnam were stationed in Vietnam, not in Thailand. However, there are records indicating that modified RANCH HAND aircraft flew 17 insecticide missions in Thailand from 30 August through 16 September 1963 and from 14 –17 October 1966. The 1966 missions involved the spraying of malathion insecticide for the “control of malaria carrying mosquitoes.” These facts are not sufficient to establish tactical herbicide exposure for any veteran based solely on service in Thailand.

While the Thailand CHECO Report does not report the use of tactical herbicides on allied bases in Thailand, it does indicate sporadic use of non-tactical (commercial) herbicides within fenced perimeters. Therefore, if a veteran’s MOS (military occupational specialty) or unit is one that regularly had contact with the base perimeter, there was a greater likelihood of exposure to commercial pesticides, including herbicides. Security police units were known to have walked the perimeters, especially dog handlers. However, as noted above, there are no records to show that the same tactical herbicides used in Vietnam were used in Thailand. Please consider this information when you evaluate the veteran’s claim.

If the veteran’s claim is based on servicing or working on aircraft that flew bombing missions over Vietnam, please be advised that there is no presumption of “secondary exposure” based on being near or working on aircraft that flew over Vietnam or handling equipment once used in Vietnam. Aerial spraying of tactical herbicides in Vietnam did not occur everywhere, and it is inaccurate to think that herbicides covered every aircraft and piece of equipment associated with Vietnam. Additionally, the high altitude jet aircraft stationed in Thailand generally flew far above the low and slow flying UC-123 aircraft that sprayed tactical herbicides over Vietnam during Operation RANCH 17

HAND. Also, there are no studies that we are aware of showing harmful health effects for any such secondary or remote herbicide contact that may have occurred.

If the veteran’s claim is based on general herbicide use within the base, such as small-scale brush or weed clearing activity along the flight line or around living quarters, there are no records of such activity involving tactical herbicides, only the commercial herbicides that would have been approved by the Armed Forces Pest Control Board and sprayed under the control of the Base Civil Engineer. Since 1957, the Armed Forces Pest Control Board (now the Armed Forces Pest Management Board) has routinely provided listings of all approved herbicides and other pesticides used on U.S. Military Installations worldwide.

The Compensation and Pension Service cannot provide any additional evidence beyond that described above to support the veteran’s claim. Therefore, unless the claim is inherently incredible, clearly lacks merit, or there is no reasonable possibility that further VA assistance would substantiate the claim [see 38 CFR 3.159(d)], regional offices should send a request to JSRRC for any information that this organization can provide to corroborate the veteran’s claimed exposure.

Veterans Day discounts and deals

Every year more and more businesses are giving discounts or gift to veterans and their families for Veterans Day. Below is a list of restaurants and stores that are advertising deals. Many of the businesses are offering specials for the full month of November. You should call your local business or go on their website to make sure they are giving the special. We will start with Meals:

Applebee's

Arby's

[BJ's Restaurant](#)

Black Angus Steakhouse

Bob Evans

[Bonefish Grill](#)

[California Pizza Kitchen](#)

California Tortilla

Carrabba

Chili's

Chuck E. Cheese

Centraarchy Restaurants

(this chain includes California Dreaming, New York Prime, Chophouse '47, The Tavern at Phipps, Carolina Roadhouse, Joey D's Oak Room, Burro Loco, Gulfstream Cafe, Chophouse New Orleans)

Charlie Brown's Steakhouse

Chevys Fresh Mex

Chicken Salad Chick

Cracker Barrel Old Country Store

Denny's

Don Pablo's

Friendly's (Free Breakfast, Lunch or Dinner)

Golden Corral

[The Green Turtle](#)

Hickory Tavern

Hooters

[Hurricane Grill and Wings](#)

Hy-Vee

IHOP

Krispy Kreme

[Little Caesars](#)

[Logan's Roadhouse](#)

Longhorn Steakhouse

McCormick and Schmick's

[Mission BBQ](#)

[O'Charley's](#)

[Olive Garden](#)

[Outback Steakhouse](#)

Panera Bread

Petro Shopping Centers

Red, Hot and Blue

Red Lobster

Red Robin

Rib Crib

Rock & Brews

Shoney's

Burn Pit Toxic Exposure Update 38 ► GAO SEP Report Issues

The Pentagon needs to study the long-term health effects of exposure to the chemicals inhaled from burn pits at its overseas military bases, the Government Accountability Office says in a report. While the report, released in September, credited the Department of Defense with improving practices to mitigate the risks of exposure to the burn pits, the department still needs to ensure that “research specifically examines the relationship between direct burn pit exposure and long-term health issues.”

The GAO found there hasn’t been enough progress on this issue over the past five years, when it first said more study was needed. “The current lack of data on emissions specific to burn pits and related individual exposures limits efforts to characterize potential long-term health impacts on service members and other base personnel,” the report warned. Open-air burning has always been a mainstay of waste disposal during times of war. But the technology of modern warfare means that such new items as plastic bottles and electronics are being burned, presenting new health risks. Burn pits were constructed at more than 230 U.S. military bases across Iraq and Afghanistan before their use was restricted in 2009.

Although the military gave assurances that the air quality was within safe levels, troops returning home began complaining of problems as early as 2004. Massive open-air burn pits at the bases billowed the toxic smoke and ash of everything from Styrofoam, metals and plastics to electrical equipment and even human body parts. The flames were stoked with jet fuel. While it took nearly three decades for the U.S. government to eventually link Agent Orange, the defoliant used in Vietnam, to cancer, President Obama has pledged quick action to make determinations about the effect of the burn pits on perhaps as many as 60,000 U.S. troops.

A 2011 report by the Institute of Medicine outlined the data needed for assessing exposures and potential related health risks. In response, the Department of Veterans Affairs established a registry to collect information. However, the Department of Defense has not undertaken data-gathering and research efforts to specifically examine this relationship to fully understand any associated health risks, the GAO report said. To date, the VA’s official position is that research has not established evidence of long-term health problems from exposure to burn pits. The magnitude of the issue, however, may not be clear for decades as delayed war casualties slowly emerge. In Minnesota alone, it is estimated that more than 14,000 Minnesota Army and Air Guard troops qualify to be part of a national registry for potential burn pit exposure, based on where they were stationed during deployments.

The Star Tribune recently documented the plight of Minnesota Air National Guard veteran Amie Muller, who is battling pancreatic cancer and several other maladies after returning from deployments to Balad Air Base in Iraq, site of one of the most notorious military base burn pits. Despite the mounting public outcry from vets, their families and members of Congress, the VA continues to say research does not show evidence of long-term health problems, and that most irritation is likely temporary. U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar has proposed a national center to study the long-term affects of burn pits. While generally agreeing with the GAO report, the Pentagon said the report should have acknowledged research that the Department of Defense already has completed with other organizations. [Source: Minnesota Star Tribune | Mark Brunswick | October 24, 2016 ++]

Gulf War Syndrome Update 40 ► Claim Time Limit Extension

The VA is seeking to expand the time limit that veterans can claim disability benefits for Gulf War Syndrome by five years. In a document to be published in the Federal Register on 17 OCT, the VA seeks to expand the time limit that veterans of the Gulf War may claim disability benefits for the chronic multi symptom illness known as Gulf War Syndrome from December 31, 2016 until December 31, 2021. The VA is inviting the public to comment on their plans by December 18, 2016. The document, with instructions for commenting can be found on the Federal Register website <https://www.federalregister.gov/agencies/veterans-affairs-department>. Gulf War Syndrome is defined by the VA as a cluster of medically unexplained chronic symptoms that can include fatigue, headaches, joint pain, indigestion, insomnia, dizziness, respiratory disorders, and memory problems. REfer to Gulf War Syndrome page www.military.com/benefits/veterans-health-care/gulf-war-syndrome.html for more details. There is no medical or scientific evidence about the nature and cause of the illnesses suffered by Gulf War veterans, however the VA says that studies by the National Academy of Sciences proved that these conditions occur in Gulf War Veterans three times more than they do in the civilian population. Based on that fact, the VA grants what it calls "presumptive disability" to veterans suffering from these conditions. Presumptive Disability means that Gulf War Veterans suffering from these conditions don't need to prove their military service caused the health problems in order to receive VA disability compensation. 13

In their request to extend the time period that veterans may claim disability for Gulf War Syndrome, the VA cited a study done earlier this year by the National Academy of Sciences that stated "at present, there is insufficient basis to identify the point, if any, at which the increased risk of chronic multi symptom illness may abate". That means the symptoms may still show up in veterans more than 25 years after the war's end. In order to provide fairness to affected veterans the VA says they want to continue to provide disability benefits to veterans suffering from Gulf War Syndrome no matter when the illnesses begin. [Source: Military.com | Jim Absher | October 14, 2016 ++]

Traumatic Brain Injury Update 57 ► Improperly Examined Vets

Thousands of veterans may have been improperly diagnosed by the VA. The federal department admits it was improperly testing for traumatic brain injuries from 2007 through 2015. The VA sent out letters to all veterans they believe may have had an improper screening. If you are a veteran who is concerned about your TBI exam you can call 1-800-749-8387.