



**VBDR**

Veteran's Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction

# VBDR Communication and Outreach Issues

Ken Groves (VBDR SC 4);

Jim Benson (VA Office of Public Affairs);

Dick Cole (DTRA Office of Public Affairs)

# VBDR Charter (Communications)

- Review mechanisms for communicating with Veterans including:
  - Exposure scenarios,
  - Technical procedures for reconstructing doses,
  - Claims evaluation procedures
  - Decisions related to radiogenic and non-radiogenic disease compensation.
- Develop recommendations on more efficient and effective communication procedures between Veterans, VA, and DTRA.
- Coordinate communication and outreach functions both internal to the VBDR and external to veterans for public meetings

**VBDR Charter (Communications) is the “mandate” for the primary actions of VBDR Subcommittee 4**



# VA/DTRA/VBDR Communications and Outreach Committee Members

- **Kenneth L. Groves, Chair (VBDR SC4)**
- **John Boice, Jr., Sc.D. (VBDR SC4)**
- **John Lathrop, Ph.D. (VBDR SC4)**
- **R.J. Ritter (VBDR SC2/ 'Atomic Veteran')**
- **Jim Benson, Senior VA PAO Rep**
- **Dick Cole, Senior DTRA PAO Rep**
- **Bruce Murray, DTRA (NTPR)**
- **Jerry Steele, VA (VBA) Claims Issues**
- **Steve Sloane, VA (VHA) IRR Newsletter**
- **Danny McClung VA (VHA) Public Health Issues**
- **Kyle Millage (ARA) VBDR Program Administrator**
- **Beki Gangi (ARA) VBDR Administrative Assistant**
- **Brian Sanchez (ARA) VBDR Web-Master**



## Status of Communication Issues

<u>Deliverable/Product</u>	<u>Timeline</u>
Information Brochure (Are You an Atomic Veteran?)	15 Dec '10 (review), 15 Aug '11 (distribution) COMPLETE
Update website for VA Home to link to VBDR and NTRP	April '11 COMPLETE
Wikipedia article upgrade + links	15 Jan '12 COMPLETE
VBDR website, revised	10 Feb '11 COMPLETE
Article, brochure(s), posters, display, letter to Post Commanders	April/May '12
Interview of Roadman as New Chair of VBDR (press release)	31 Jan '11 COMPLETE
AARP Article, w compelling bio/profile	15 Nov '11 COMPLETE
Article, IRR Newsletter	10 Jan '12 COMPLETE
Messages compatible with Facebook group, Twitter, YouTube	1 Feb '11 COMPLETE
Article in DTRA "The Shield", March, 2012 issue.	15 March '12 COMPLETE
Link DTRA website so that it is more clearly pointed to Atomic Veteran	1 Feb '11 COMPLETE
Instructions on Filing Claims, VA Quarterly Telecom	8 Feb '11 COMPLETE
Short piece, VA News	1 Mar '11 COMPLETE
Short piece for "News You Can Use", VA's The American Veteran	1 Mar '11 COMPLETE
Provide State Veterans Organizations with brochures, posters	April/May '12



# Key Communications Issues We Have Addressed

- Status of the IRR Newsletter (normally released to Atomic Veterans and other Veterans who had any exposure to ionizing radiation while serving on active duty AND have been added to the Ionizing Radiation Registry)
- Projected release date is January/  
February every year in order to describe the upcoming VBDR meeting and to review issues raised at the last VBDR meeting
- May be Special Issue to address concerns raised at this meeting on  
McMurdo/Fukushima



## VA/DTRA Brochure

- Reviewed the status of the VA Atomic Veteran Brochure explaining the Dose Reconstruction Program and the VA's Claims Program. Final draft came to VBDR prior to distribution in the Fall of 2011
- Discussed distribution to the VARO in Jackson, MS, all Medical Centers and Clinics, all VAROs and other VA Offices, and VA Cemeteries
- Will be the primary vehicle for communicating Atomic Veteran information to Veteran's organizations



## Additional Items Discussed

- Other VA and DTRA correspondence that can be reviewed by VBDR SC4
- Future of Joint Communications Plans for VA and DTRA for Atomic Veterans
- Prepared/Drafted agenda for the March 2012 VBDR Meeting (ongoing effort)
- Reviewed with RJ Ritter (VBDR Board Member and President of National Association of Atomic Veterans) his article in the VFW magazine



# Final Thoughts

There is a commitment the VA and DTRA, with support from VBDR, to work together to foster even better communication and outreach efforts, and programs to inform the Atomic Veterans' community on issues concerning dose reconstruction, compensation and medical care.

