



DEFENSE THREAT REDUCTION AGENCY
AND
UNITED STATES STRATEGIC COMMAND CENTER
FOR COMBATING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
8725 JOHN J. KINGMAN ROAD, STOP 6201
FORT BELVOIR, VA 22060-6201

AUG 23 2013

Lieutenant General Charles H. Roadman, II, USAF, (Ret.)
Chairman
Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction
801 North Quincy Street, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear General Roadman:

Thank you for your letter regarding the recommendations that were approved at the July 23, 2013, meeting of the Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction (VBDR). The Defense Threat Reduction Agency and United States Strategic Command Center for Combating Weapons of Mass Destruction (DTRA/SCC-WMD) concurs with, and accepts the Board's general, DTRA/SCC-WMD-specific, and joint recommendations. The Nuclear Test Personnel Review (NTPR) will release a detailed plan of compliance with the recommendations by September 15, 2013.

On behalf of DTRA/SCC-WMD and the NTPR Program, I wish to express my appreciation to the Board for its hard work and assistance over the past nine years. The Board's efforts have assisted in improving the Atomic Veterans' claim process and have helped Atomic Veterans tremendously. If you require any further information, please contact me at 703-767-4883 or have your staff contact Dr. Paul Blake of the NTPR Program, Nuclear Technologies Directorate, at 703-767-3384 or Paul.Blake@dtra.mil.

Sincerely,

Kenneth A. Myers
Director

cc:
Under Secretary for Benefits, Veterans Affairs

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR EFFORTS
AND PERSISTENCE. YOU AND
THE BOARD HAVE MADE A GREAT
IMPACT.
KM

VBDR

Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction



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August 1, 2013

Mr. Kenneth A. Myers III
Director, Defense Threat Reduction Agency
8725 John J. Kingman Rd., Stop 6201
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-6201

Dear Mr. Meyers:

The Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction (VBDR) met in a plenary public session in Arlington, VA on July 23, 2013. At that meeting, the Board approved three general recommendations and one recommendation solely for DTRA. The Board also had joint recommendations for DTRA and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA). We request a response to these recommendations by September 15, 2013.

We feel the VBDR has successfully completed its primary objectives and one of the recommendations that we approved is that that the Board be shut down at the end of FY13. However, we feel that many of the processes the Board have set in motion need to continue. The majority of the recommendations put forward reflect the desire to maintain these practices.

The Board recognizes and appreciates your continued support for the NTPR program. Please contact me if you require any additional information concerning these recommendations.

Very respectfully,

//S//

Charles H. Roadman, II, M.D.
Lt. Gen., USAF, (Ret.)
VBDR Chairman

Enclosure: Formal VBDR recommendations

Cc: Stephen Polchek (DFO)
Dr. Paul Blake

VETERANS' ADVISORY BOARD ON DOSE RECONSTRUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS FROM JULY 23, 2013 PLENARY MEETING

On the basis of its audits and assessments of Nuclear Test Personnel Review (NTPR) Program radiation dose assessments (RDAs), Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claim procedures, and other meetings and interactions with both DTRA and VA, the Veterans' Advisory Board on Dose Reconstruction (VBDR) offered a number of recommendations at the July 23, 2013 meeting held in Arlington, Virginia. The Board believes that these recommendations, if implemented, would improve the DTRA/NTPR Dose Reconstruction and VA compensation programs for Atomic Veterans.

General Recommendations:

Recommendation 1: The VBDR has reviewed the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, Interactive Radio Epidemiological Program (NIOSH-IREP) and find the tool is an appropriate method for the evaluation of the McMurdo Station Veteran cases.

Recommendation 2: The VBDR has reviewed DTRA-TR-12-003: Upper Bound Radiation Dose Assessment for Military Personnel at McMurdo Station, Antarctica, between 1962 and 1979 and feel the report provides an adequate technical basis for dose reconstruction.

Recommendation 3: We recommend that the VBDR close at the end of FY13.

For the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA):

Recommendation 1: The VBDR recommends that NTPR maintain existing QA programs implemented under the VBDR including the double blind analyses; continues to conduct periodic independent audits of a sampling of RDAs, the QA programs, and double blinds analyses; and obtain independent peer-reviews of technical documents and revisions or updates in SOPs.

For the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA):

Recommendation 1: We recommend that by September 13, 2013 the VA correct the problem which causes the delay in transferring veterans' claims from the Office of Original Jurisdiction (OOJ) to Jackson VARO.

Recommendation 2: We recommend that by September 15, 2013, the VHA (Office of Public Health) complete production and distribute the briefing package material to the "Big 6" Veterans organizations to inform Veterans about the atomic Veterans claim process.

Recommendation 3: We recommend the VA conduct a focused System Technical Accuracy Review (STAR) of the radiation claims every three years.

For both the VA and DTRA:

Recommendation 1: We recommend that by September 15, 2013 the VA and NTPR provide the board with a formal plan (to include staffing and other needed resources, ie. VPN) to remove the backlog.

Recommendation 2: We recommend semi-annual meetings of NTPR, VA and the Department of Justice (DOJ) include detailed reports demonstrating case accuracy and timely performance, including current performance, performance trends, corrective action, and related improvements.

Recommendation 3: We recommend the semi-annual NTPR, VA and the DOJ meetings include an agenda item to coordinate DTRA and VA Public Affairs outreach efforts, and a report describing the effort is written and reported on the public websites of DTRA and VA.