

VETERANS' DISABILITY BENEFITS COMMISSION

DRAFT ISSUE PAPERS

February 21-22, 2007

The Commission set up an [8-step process](#) to develop, evaluate, refine and finalize each of the Issue Papers addressing one of the topics related to the Commission's [approved Research Questions](#).

- ▶ [Slide presentation](#) (February 21, 2007) with an update on the overall Issue Paper process

----- NEW ISSUE PAPERS -----

1. **(Research Questions 26-31) – Transition**
February 2007: ▶ (Steps 1-2) - [Initial Slide Presentation](#).
2. **(Research Question 15b) – Reasonable Doubt**
February 2007: ▶ (Steps 1-2) - [Initial Slide Presentation](#).

----- ISSUE PAPERS IN PROGRESS -----

3. **(Research Question 15a) – Age As A Factor**
January 2007: ▶ (Steps 1-2) - [Initial Slide Presentation](#).
▶ (Step 7) - Tentative decision reached (see page 4 of the approved [minutes of the January 2007 meeting](#)).
4. **(Research Question 22) – Duty To Assist**
January 2007: ▶ (Steps 1-2) - [Initial Slide Presentation](#).
February 2007: ▶ (Step 3) - Agency (VA/DoD) technical review and comments on the Issue Paper requested.
5. **(Research Question 24) – Apportionment/ Garnishment**
January 2007: ▶ (Steps 1-2) - [Initial Slide Presentation](#).
February 2007: ▶ (Step 3) - Agency (VA/DoD) technical review and comments on the Issue Paper requested.

6. (Research Question 13) - Line of Duty

September 2006: ► (Steps 1-2) - [Initial Slide Presentation](#).

October 2006: ► Continued discussion on the topic; [updated slides](#).

November 2006: ► (Step 3) - Agency (VA/DoD) technical review and comments on the Issue Paper requested.

December 2006: ► (Steps 4-5) – [Revised Issue Paper](#) and released for public comment.

January 2007: ► (Step 6) - Received comments from military and veteran service organizations (VSOs) and the public. (See approved [minutes of the January 2007 meeting](#) for links to the military/VSO statements and summary of comments.)

February 2007: ► (Step 7) - Tentative decision discussed ([Slide Presentation](#))

7. (Research Question 21) - Concurrent Receipt (Military and Chapter 61 Retirees)

September 2006: ► (Steps 1-2) - [Initial Slide Presentation](#).

October 2006: ► (Step 2) - Continued discussion on the topic; [updated slides](#).

November 2006: ► (Step 3) - Agency (VA/DoD) technical review and comments on the Issue Paper requested.

December 2006: ► (Steps 4-5) – [Revised Issue Paper](#) and released for public comment.

January 2007: ► (Step 6) - Received comments from military and veteran service organizations (VSOs) and the public. (See approved [minutes of the January 2007 meeting](#) for links to the military/VSO statements and summary of comments.)

February 2007: ► (Step 7) - Tentative decision discussed ([Slide Presentation](#))

8. (Research Question 23) - Character of Discharge

October 2006: ► (Steps 1-2) - [Initial Slide Presentation](#).

November 2006: ► (Step 3) - Agency (VA/DoD) technical review and comments on the Issue Paper requested.

December 2006: ► (Steps 4-5) – [Revised Issue Paper](#) and released for public comment.

January 2007: ► (Step 6) - Received comments from military and veteran service organizations (VSOs). (See approved [minutes of the January 2007 meeting](#) for links to the military/VSO statements and summary of comments.)

February 2007: ► (Step 7) - Tentative decision discussed ([Slide Presentation](#))

9. (Research Question 21) – Survivors’ Concurrent Receipt

November 2006: ► (Steps 1-2) -[Initial Slide Presentation](#).

December 2006: ► (Step 3) - Agency (VA/DoD) technical review and comments on the Issue Paper requested.

January 2007: ► (Steps 4-5) – [Revised Issue Paper](#) and released for public comment.

February 2007: ► (Step 6) - Received comments from military and veteran organizations (VSOs) and the public.

10. (Research Question 18) – Time Limit To File

November 2006: ► (Steps 1-2) -[Initial Slide Presentation](#).

December 2006: ► (Step 3) - Agency (VA/DoD) technical review and comments on the Issue Paper requested.

January 2007: ► (Steps 4-5) – [Revised Issue Paper](#) and released for public comment.

February 2007: ► (Step 6) - Received comments from military and veteran organizations (VSOs).

11. (Research Question 19) – Pending Claim Ends with Death

November 2006: ► (Steps 1-2) -[Initial Slide Presentation](#).

December 2006: ► (Step 3) - Agency (VA/DoD) technical review and comments on the Issue Paper requested.

February 2007: ► (Steps 4-5) – [Revised Issue Paper](#) and released for public comment.

Please note: The Commission has contracts with the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies (IOM) and the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA) to address many of the [approved Research Questions](#). Monthly updates are provided by IOM and CNA at each of the Commission’s meeting. Please also see [Meetings and Minutes](#) for slide presentations and summaries of activities discussed at Commission meetings.

----- RESEARCH TOPICS PRESENTED BY CNA -----

12. (Research Question 10) – Lump Sum Alternatives for Compensating Veterans with Disabilities [Research conducted by the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA)]

September 2006: ► (CNA draft report) [Initial presentation](#) by CNA of its draft [Report on Lump Sum Alternatives to Current Veterans’ Disability Compensation](#) presented to the Commission.

October 2006: ► (Steps 6-7) Public Comment and interim decision reached
► Mr. Joseph A. Violante presented a [joint statement](#) on behalf of the Air Force Sergeants Association, The American Legion, AMVETS, the Blinded Veterans

Association, the Disabled American Veterans, the Fleet Reserve Association, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA, the Military Officers Association of America, the National Association for the Uniformed Services, the Non Commissioned Officers Association, the Paralyzed Veterans of America, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

▶ The Commission voted unanimously (13-0) **NOT** to recommend lump sum payments as an option for compensating veterans with disabilities. (See approved [minutes of the October 2006 meeting](#).)

January 2007: VA Acting General Counsel provided additional input to the Commission.

February 2007: ▶ (Step 7) – Previous decision reviewed and upheld ([Slide Presentation](#))

13. (Research Question 8) – Program Operations [Research conducted by the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA)]

January 2007: ▶ CNA preliminary report; [Slide Presentation](#), Slides 6-17

February 2007: ▶ CNA update, [Slide Presentation](#), Slides 8-18

14. (Research Question 16) – Individual Unemployability [Research conducted by the Center for Naval Analyses (CNA)]

January 2007: ▶ CNA preliminary report; [Slides](#), Slides 18-31

Issue Paper documents provided on the Commission’s website are for the expressed purpose of soliciting and encouraging input from stakeholders and interested parties. Any of these documents may be quoted or cited in

- Testimony
- Comments
- Written statements, or
- Other forms of written or verbal feedback to the Commission

Please be sure to reference the title/subject, DATE, and source of any document(s) included or referred to in your remarks.

If you have questions or wish to submit a written statement, please email the Commission at veterans@vetscommission.com or mail to:

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