



*Task Force
Report of the
Delivery of Services to South
Dakota's Veterans*

October 1, 2013

Prepared by the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

Executive Summary

In April 2013 the Interim Joint Appropriations Committee, in a letter of intent (Tab A), directed the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs to review SDCL33A-1-16 through 34 (Tab Q) and associated administrative rules article 50:03 (Tab R), to evaluate the delivery of services to South Dakota veterans through the County Veterans Service Officers and Tribal Veterans Service Officers and to identify any improvements or modifications that may be needed. And further, that the Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs select six individuals to serve on a work group to assist in the review of services to the state's veterans. The make-up of the task force and the meeting scheduled can be found at Tabs B and C respectively.

In June 2013, the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs randomly, surveyed 500 veterans regarding the delivery of services received from County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers to veterans and their families. A copy of the survey and the responses can be found at Tabs K and L respectively. Overall, 69% surveyed were very satisfied and 15% were satisfied with the services received from their County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers.

During the Task Force Meetings, the group reviewed the survey results, SDCL 33A-1-16 through 33A-1-34 (Tab Q), administrative rules 50:03 (Tab R), Definition of a veteran (Tab I), Department History (Tab J), CTVSO Job Description (Tab F), CTVSO statistics (Tab G), CTVSO salary supplement data (Tab H), VA expenditures by county (Tabs M and N), productivity of each county with regard to claims processed (Tab O), glossary of terms with regard to benefits and services (Tab P) and VSO consolidation map (Tab S).

Per SDCL 33A-1-22, each county is required to employ a county veterans service officer. Per 33A-1-29 South Dakota's Indian tribes may appoint a VSO who shall serve under the same terms and conditions as the county VSO. (Tab Q). These offices provide information on and process applications for both state and federal benefits such as disability compensation, non-service connected pension, healthcare, educational benefits, insurance, home loan guaranty, burial and memorial benefits, specialty license plates, honorary high school diplomas, bonus, property tax exemptions, hunting and fishing licenses, state park admission fees and the State Veterans Home. In addition to educating veterans on these benefits, the VSO needs to make house calls to incapacitated, nursing home or housebound veterans.

In addition to filing claims for veterans, VSOs conduct outreach and advocacy. They participate in stand downs, job fairs, expos, veteran's benefits forums, community awareness forums, SDNG Yellow Ribbon reintegration events, and veterans service organization meetings, as well as assist veterans in obtaining transportation assistance to and from their medical appointments. Fourteen of the CTVSOs serve as DAV van coordinators.

While VSOs are able to help many veterans over the phone, much of the assistance takes place at the VSO office. During these face-to-face contacts, VSOs guide veterans through the myriad of steps required to file a VA claim. Developing a solid claim is more than a matter of completing the application. Supporting documents, sometimes decades old, must be retrieved from federal

and state archives. The process is labor-intensive. A VSO may spend an hour interviewing a veteran, but then spend 20 hours or more finding records and completing the necessary supporting documentation. All of this hard work pays off, if the VA approves the claim.

According to the VA's FY12 Geographic Distribution of Expenditures Report, South Dakota presently has an estimated veteran population of 75,000. In addition to the veterans themselves, other residents of South Dakota are also potential recipients of veteran's benefits – including veteran's spouses and dependent children. The economic impact to the state is substantial. In FY12, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) dispensed through disability compensation, pensions, healthcare, education, insurance and construction over \$489M in South Dakota. (Note: These funds do not include Medicare and Medicaid funds received for veterans.)

General findings and recommendations can be found at Tabs D and E respectively.

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South Dakota Legislature

State Capitol, 500 East Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070

April 8, 2013

Larry Zimmerman, Secretary
SD Department of Veterans Affairs
Soldiers and Sailors Building
425 East Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

Letter of Intent Regarding Legislation Approved in the 2013 Session

Dear Secretary Zimmerman:

This Letter of Intent sets forth a particular view held by the Joint Committee on Appropriations in approving your appropriation in the 2013 Legislative Session. As such, it supplements that appropriation with a specific policy guideline as approved on March 25, 2013.

While the guideline does not have the direct force of statutory law, it rests solidly on a long-standing tradition of Legislative-Executive relationships in South Dakota and it will be used by the Joint Committee as one basis for the fiscal oversight of your agency and its continued funding.

The 2013 Legislature approved an ongoing appropriation of \$146,875 to fund the salary reimbursement for County Veterans Service Officer's (CVSO) and Tribal Veteran Service Officer's (TVSO) in accordance with SDCL 33A-1-31 and SDCL 33A-1-32.

The Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to review SDCL 33A-1-16 through 34 and associated administrative rules article 50:03 to evaluate the delivery of services to South Dakota veterans through the CVSO's and TVSO's and to identify any improvements or modifications that may be needed. The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall select six individuals to serve on the work group to assist in the review of services to the state's veterans. One individual from each of the following shall be selected:

Department of the Military
SD Veterans Council
County Veterans Service Officer

Tribal Veterans Service Officer
SD Veterans Commission
SD County Commissioners Association

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs will act as Chairperson. A written report will be provided to the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations by 1 October, 2013.

In addition, it is also expected that you will be prepared to address this guideline in your FY15 budget presentation to the Joint Committee next January.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Representative Fred Romkema
Co-Chair, Interim Joint Appropriations



Senator Deb Peters
Co-Chair, Interim Joint Appropriations

cc: Marty Guindon, Auditor General
Jason Dilges, Commissioner, Bureau of Finance and Management

Task Force Members

Department of the Military

Penny Dickes/William Meirose (South Dakota National Guard)

South Dakota Veterans Council

Warren Aas (American Legion)

County Veterans Service Officer

Loyson Carda (Veteran Service Officer for Corson and Perkins Counties)

Tribal Veterans Service Officer

Orlando Morrison (Veterans Service Officer for Rosebud Sioux Tribe)

South Dakota Veterans Commission

Wade Hubbard

South Dakota County Commissioners Association

Denny Kiner (Davison County Commissioner)

**** This Task Force was chaired by South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary
Larry Zimmerman

Task Force Meeting Dates

June 27, 2013

July 25, 2013

September 9, 2013

TASK FORCE FINDINGS

After extensive review of the information presented and intense discussions, the Task Force believes that the biggest challenge impacting the delivery of benefits and services to South Dakota's veterans is the lack of understanding of the role and duties of the VSO. This may sound simplistic, but it is not. Many factors weigh in on the service received by the veteran - - office hours, training, ability to work a claim in a timely manner, outreach budget and availability and use of technology. It is important that political leaders, county commissions and tribal councils understand that the service veterans receive are attributable to the VSO.

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs ensures that veterans and their families are provided their benefits in a responsive, timely, and compassionate manner in recognition of their service to the Nation. Their role is to train, certify and be the subject matter experts for the VSOs. They do not have the authority to hire, fire, or evaluate the VSO. The Department does:

- counsel and assist veterans and their family members with preparing and submitting claims
- advocate for the claimant(s) by ensuring that all award actions and decisions by the VA or other agencies are accurate and in compliance with existing laws and regulations
- evaluate, approve, supervise and conduct educational opportunities
- serve as the primary liaison between state agencies, the SD Veterans Commission, Veterans Service Officers, the veteran's network and other service partners on the federal, regional, state, and local level.

Most County Commissioners and Tribes do not have a thorough understanding of the duties required by their Veterans Service Officer. Although they do have the authority to hire, fire and evaluate their VSO, they are perhaps not cognizant of the merit that a good, full-time VSO can bring to the veteran, their county and to the state.

Many do not understand that applications for non-service connected pension and death pensions increase as WWII and Korean War Veterans and/or their surviving spouses, now in their 70's, 80's and 90's, are coming in for the first time to apply for benefits to help with costs of healthcare to include nursing home and assisted living care.

Perhaps they are not aware that Vietnam Veterans are reaching retirement age, seeking healthcare and prescription drug options for the first time. Many health conditions are attributed to the over 30 presumptive diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange.

Post-Vietnam-Era Veterans, especially those deployed over the last decade to Iraq and Afghanistan are coming in unprecedented numbers to establish contact, sign up for healthcare and education benefits and to file disability claims.

Among Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans, rates of psychological and neurological injuries are high and rising. Recent studies indicate that 27% screen positive for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI). Service members are still deploying on long and repeated combat tours which increase the risk of these numbers growing.

TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Task Force recommends that all of the key players within the veteran network need to continue to communicate and collaborate, always working in the direction to benefit the delivery of services to South Dakota's veterans.

The network, to include the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, the South Dakota Veterans Commission, the South Dakota Veterans Council, the Veterans Service Organizations, the South Dakota Department of the Military and the South Dakota Veterans Service Officers Association; with the Department serving as the conduit, must work together.

At the most fundamental level, the County and Tribal Veterans Service Officers are the store front for the Department. They have the ability to make that first contact with the veteran and their family. The legislative issues that have been generated over the years, have developed due to lack of communication and education. In an effort to ensure that communication free flows and that education continues to reach the necessary players, the Task Force recommends the following:

Recommendation 1

That those entities within the Veteran Network utilize every opportunity possible to educate County Commissioners and Tribal Councils on the role of the CTVSO and the economic impact that can be gained by having a well-trained CTVSO and the importance of having adequate office hours to accommodate veterans.

Recommendation 2

That those entities within the Network educate County Commissioners and Tribal Councils on the value of educational training programs for their VSOs, as well as the need for updated computer equipment and the use of today's technology, such as VetraSpec, to ensure that they are prepared to file claims electronically by the VA's goal of being paperless by 2015.

Recommendation 3

That the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs develop a reporting tool for the CTVSOs to use to educate their Commissioners/Councils on what they have accomplished and the benefits they have secured for their veterans.

Recommendation 4

That those entities within the Network support the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs in their endeavor to implement a Quality Control/Quality Assurance program. Utilization of this program will detect, reduce, and correct deficiencies.

COUNTY/TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER JOB DESCRIPTION

DEFINITION

This is professional work which involves counseling and assisting military veterans and their dependents or survivors. Work involves assisting and advising claimants in their pursuit of benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other agencies. Duties include studying and explaining State and Federal veterans legislation, regulations and procedures, consulting with medical care providers, preparing veterans benefit claims, and consulting with other government agencies to ensure that their clientele are receiving the maximum level of assistance and benefits to which they are entitled.

EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED. (Any one position may not include all of the duties listed nor do the listed examples include all tasks which may be found in this position).

- Interviews veterans and their dependents, reviews the veterans' military, social and medical history to gather accurate information pertinent to the claim.
- Assists claimants in the preparation of necessary forms for benefits such as compensation, pension, insurance, education and hospitalization.
- Corresponds and consults with other Veteran Service Officers and appropriate entities relative to background information which may materially affect the applicants' benefit entitlements.
- Consults with medical care providers concerning specific benefits to which veterans or their dependents may be entitled and assists the individuals in obtaining these benefits.
- Advises claimants regarding other benefits to which they may be entitled, including social security, vocational rehabilitation and other forms of public assistance.
- Maintains liaison with, and delivers speeches to, veterans' organizations and other interested groups to ensure public awareness of available benefits and assistance.
- Performs other related work as necessary to ensure expedient delivery of benefits.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

Working knowledge of the benefits and services available to veterans and their dependents, and of State and Federal laws and regulations.

- Knowledge of the principles and methods of interviewing.
- Knowledge of available community resources and agencies, both public and private.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with veterans and their dependents, community organizations, and the general public.
- Ability to explain Federal and State veterans' legislation.
- Ability to operate standard office equipment such as a calculator, computer, typewriter etc. for use in the preparation of forms, reports and necessary correspondence.
- Ability to express ideas clearly, in written or oral form.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Must be a veteran as defined in South Dakota Codified Law 33-A-2-1 or 33A-2-2.

CVSO / TVSO STATISTICS

(As of November 19, 2012)

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*NOTE: Hours do not take into consideration a noon lunch break.
 Source: SDDVA website at http://mva.sd.gov/vet_service_officers.html

County	Community	*Per Week		
		Days	Hours	
Bennett	Martin	½	4	8-12 on Wednesday
Dewey	Timber Lake	½	4	1-5 on Wednesday
Miner	Howard	½	4	8-12 on Wednesday
Buffalo	Gann Valley	1	8	9-5 on Wednesday
Campbell	Herreid	1	8	8:30-4:30 on Wednesday
Corson	McIntosh	1	7	8-4 on Tuesday
Gregory	Burke	1	8	8-5 on Monday
Hanson	Alexandria	1	8	8-5 on Wednesday
Harding	Buffalo	1	8	8-5 on Wednesday
Perkins	Lemmon	1	8	8-4 on Monday
	Bison	1	7	8-3:30 on Thursday
Potter	Gettysburg	1	8	9-5 on Monday
Ziebach	Dupree	1	8	8-5 on Wednesday
Aurora	Plankinton	1 ½	12	Mon 12:30-4:30 / Tue 8-4:30
Brule	Chamberlain	1 ½	12	Thur 8:30-5 / Fri 8-12 noon
Clark	Clark	1 ½	10	Mon 9-4 / Tue 9-12 noon
Jerauld	Wessington Springs	1 ½	12	Mon 8-12 noon / Wed 8-5
Butte	Belle Fourche	2	16	Mon & Tue 7:30-4
Douglas	Armour	2	12	Tue & Wed 9-3
Edmunds	Roscoe	2	14	Tue & Wed 9-4
Haakon	Philip	2	16	Mon & Tue 8-4
Hand	Miller	2	16	Mon & Tue 8-5
Jackson	Kadoka	2	16	Wed & Thur 8-4
Lawrence	Deadwood	2	15	Tue & Thur 9-4:30
McCook	Salem	2	16	Mon & Wed 8-4:30
McPherson	Eureka	2	6	Tue & Thur 11-2
Turner	Parker	2	14	Tue & Wed 9-4
Union	Elk Point	2	16	Tue & Thur 8:30-4:30
Jones	Murdo	2/Mo	6	1 st and 3 rd Wednesday 9-12 noon
Lyman	Kennebec	2/Mo	14	1 st and 3 rd Tuesday 9-4:30
Mellette	White River	2/Mo	14	1 st and 3 rd Friday 9-4
Todd	Mission	2/Mo	16	2 nd & 4 th Monday 8-5

County	Community	*Per Week		
		Days	Hours	
Charles Mix	Lake Andes	2 ½	20	
Moody	Flandreau	2 ½	20	
Yankton	Yankton	2 ½	20	
Faulk	Faulkton	3	22 ½	
Custer	Custer	3	24	
Hutchinson	Olivet	3	24	
Lincoln	Canton	3	18	
Marshall	Britton	3	12	CVSO works 4 hour days
Shannon	Pine Ridge	3	21	
Spink	Redfield	3	15	CVSO works 5 hour days
Tripp	Winner	3	24	
Walworth	Mobridge	3	15	CVSO works 5 hour days
Day	Webster	4	32	
Grant	Milbank	4	17 ½	
McPherson	Leola	5	37	
Beadle	Huron	5	40	
Bon Homme	Tyndall	5	40	
Brookings	Brookings	5	40	Office Secretary
Brown	Aberdeen	5	40	Office Secretary
Clay	Vermillion	5	40	
Codington	Watertown	5	40	Office Secretary
Davison	Mitchell	5	40	
Deuel	Clear Lake	5	40	
Fall River	Hot Springs	5	40	
Hamlin	Hayti	5	40	
Hughes	Pierre	5	40	Office Secretary
Hyde	Highmore	5	40	
Kingsbury	De Smet	5	40	
Lake	Madison	5	40	
Meade	Sturgis	5	40	
Minnehaha	Sioux Falls	5	40	
Pennington	Rapid City	5	40	2 CVSO's
Roberts	Sisseton	5	40	Office Secretary

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TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS

Tribe	Community	*Per Week		
		Days	Hours	
Cheyenne River	Eagle Butte	3	24	
Crow Creek	Ft. Thompson	1	8	*1 day per month
Lower Brule	Position Vacant			
Oglala	Pine Ridge	5	40	
Rosebud	Rosebud	5	40	
Sisseton-Wahpeton	Agency Village	5	40	
Standing Rock	Ft. Yates, ND	5	40	
Yankton	Wagner	5	35	

CONSOLIDATED COUNTIES *Serviced by one CVSO

1. Aurora, Brule, Jerauld
2. Beadle, Sanborn
3. Buffalo, (Ft. Thompson)
4. Charles Mix, Gregory
5. Corson, Perkins
6. Haakon, Jackson
7. Hughes, Stanley, Sully
8. Jones, Lyman, Mellette
9. Todd, Tripp

TOTAL CONSOLIDATED COUNTIES: 21 (Includes 1 Tribe)

COUNTIES WITH ONE OR MORE CVSO'S

- McPherson (Eureka and Leola)
- Pennington (Rapid City)

TOTAL SOUTH DAKOTA COUNTIES: 66

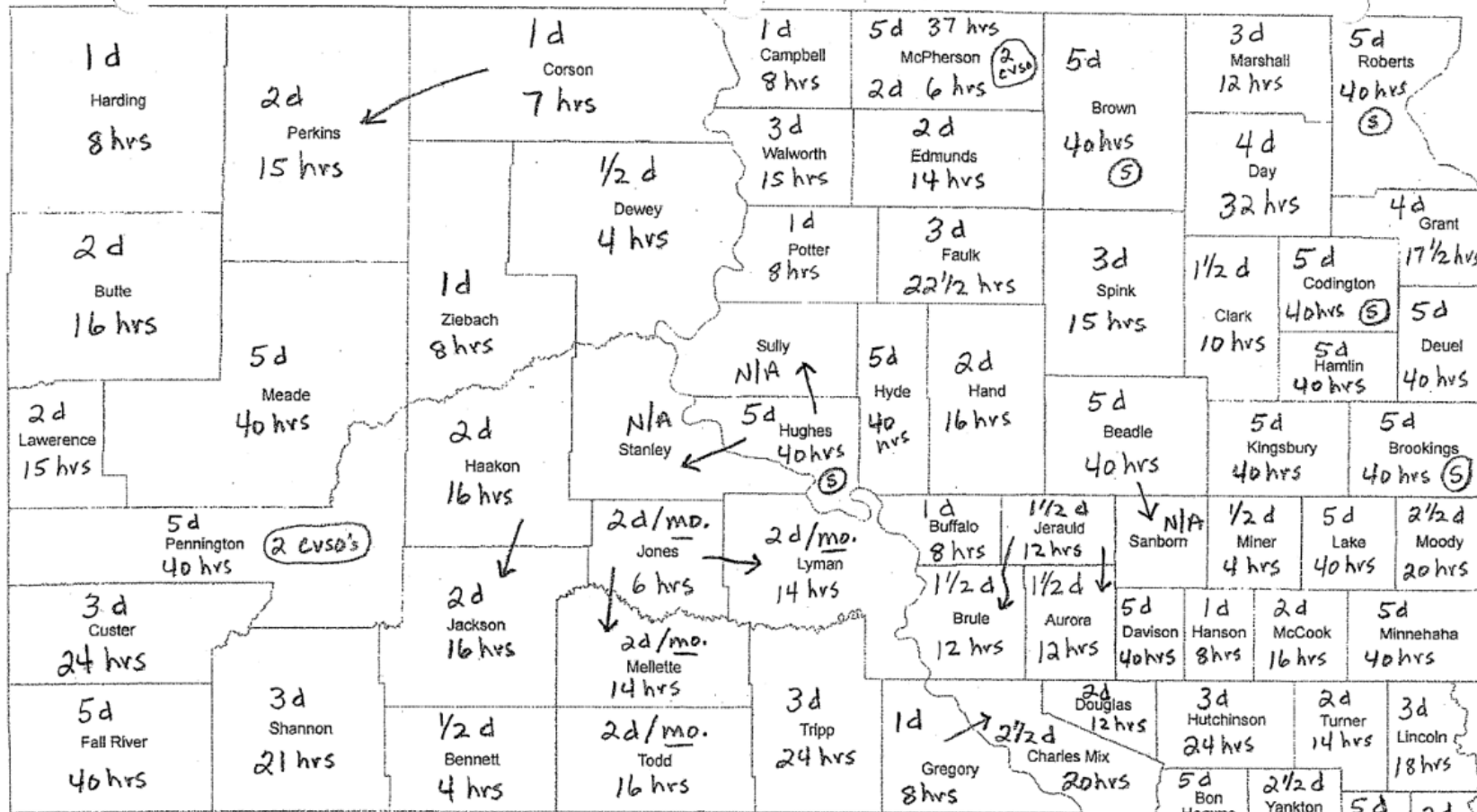
TOTAL CVSO'S: 57

TOTAL TRIBES: 8

TOTAL TRIBES WITH TVSO'S: 6

***Two Tribes listed a position vacancies as of Nov 19, 2012**

CVSO'S & TVSO'S



TVSO'S

Get Printable Maps From:
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Cheyenne River
Cheyenne Eagle Butte
3 days
24 hours

Lower Brule
Vacant

Crow Creek
Ft. Thompson
1 day/mo.
8 hours

Rosebud
5 days
40 hours
Rosebud, SD

Oglala
Pine Ridge
5 days
40 hours

Sisseton - Wah
Agency Village
5 days
40 hours

Yankton
Wagner
5 days
35 hours

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33A-1-16. Benefits secured by department--Instruction for county and tribal veterans service officers. The Department of Veterans Affairs shall cooperate with all national, state, county, municipal, and private social agencies in securing to veterans, National Guard or Reserve members, and their dependents the benefits provided by national, state, and county laws, municipal ordinances, or public or private social agencies. To that end, the department may hold schools of instruction for county and tribal veterans service officers, or call in for instruction individual county or tribal veterans service officers if, in the judgment of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the giving of such instructions or holding of such schools is in the best interest of the work of the department.

Source: SL 1944 (SS), ch 3, § 5; SL 1947, ch 184; SDC Supp 1960, § 41.0405 (5); SL 2007, ch 187, § 153; SDCL § 33-16-18; SL 2011, ch 1 (Ex. Ord. 11-1), § 149, eff. Apr. 12, 2011; SL 2011, ch 151, § 1; SL 2011, ch 152, § 9.

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33A-1-30. Salary reimbursement and services for Indian tribes and service officers--Tribes responsible for financial obligations. Such Indian tribes and veterans' service officers shall receive the same salary reimbursement and services from the Department of Veterans Affairs as those available to county commissioners and county veteran service officers under the provisions of this chapter.

Such Indian tribes shall be entirely responsible for all financial obligations accrued by veterans' service officers, appointed pursuant to the terms of § 33A-1-29, except as provided in this section.

Source: SL 1975, ch 215; SL 1979, ch 232; SDCL § 33-16-28.2; SL 2011, ch 1 (Ex. Ord. 11-1), § 20, eff. Apr. 12, 2011.

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FISCAL YEAR 2012
COUNTY/TRIBAL VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER
SUPPLEMENTAL SALARY PROGRAM

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>2000 POP.</u>	<u>REQUIRED SALARY</u>	<u>AMOUNT OF REIMBURSEMENT</u>	<u>2011 SALARY</u>
1. Aurora	3,058	\$ 7,500	\$1,875	\$ 7,731
2. Beadle	17,023	15,000	3,750	34,203
3. Bennett	3,574	7,500	1,875	7,500
4. Bon Homme	7,260	11,250	2,812.50	16,489
5. Brookings	28,220	17,500	4,375	33,976 (9 mo)
6. Brown	35,460	17,500	4,375	41,425
7. Buffalo	2,032	7,500	1,875	7,500
8. Butte	9,094	11,250	2,812.50	15,121
9. Charles Mix	9,350	11,250	2,812.50	11,380
10. Clark	4,143	7,500	1,875	7,500
11. Clay	13,537	15,000	3,750	17,340
12. Codington	25,897	17,500	4,375	36,868
13. Corson	4,181	7,500	1,875	7,500
14. Custer	7,275	11,250	2,812.50	17,964
15. Davison	18,741	15,000	3,750	36,442
16. Day	6,267	11,250	2,812.50	21,072
17. Deuel	4,498	7,500	1,875	9,500
18. Douglas	3,458	7,500	1,875	7,500
19. Edmunds	4,367	7,500	1,875	10,500
20. Fall River	7,435	11,250	2,812.50	24,923
21. Faulk	2,640	7,500	1,875	13,146
22. Grant	7,847	11,250	2,812.50	13,207
23. Gregory	4,792	7,500	1,875	
24. Haakon	2,196	7,500	1,875	10,189
25. Hamlin	5,540	11,250	2,812.50	11,259
26. Hand	3,741	7,500	1,875	7,500
27. Hanson	3,139	7,500	1,875	7,612
28. Hughes	16,481	15,000	3,750	17,181
29. Hutchinson	8,075	11,250	2,812.50	19,443
30. Jackson	2,930	7,500	1,875	7,760
31. Jerauld	2,295	7,500	1,875	7,500
32. Kingsbury	5,815	11,250	2,812.50	11,586
33. Lawrence	21,802	17,500	4,375	30,529
34. Lincoln	24,131	17,500	4,375	17,762
35. Lyman	3,895	7,500	1,875	7,878

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>2000 POP.</u>	<u>REQUIRED SALARY</u>	<u>AMOUNT OF REIMBURSEMENT</u>	<u>2011 SALARY</u>
36. Marshall	4,576	7,500	1,875	7,899
37. McCook	5,832	\$11,250	\$ 2,812.50	\$11,508
38. McPherson	2,904	7,500	1,875	16,200
39. Meade	24,253	17,500	4,375	39,336
40. Miner	2,884	7,500	1,875	8,895
41. Minnehaha	148,281	18,750	4,687.50	43,539
42. Moody	6,595	11,250	2,812.50	15,486
43. Pennington	88,565	18,750	4,687.50	43,385
44. Perkins	3,363	7,500	1,875	8,680
45. Potter	2,693	7,500	1,875	7,500
46. Roberts	10,016	15,000	3,750	25,583
47. Sanborn	2,675	7,500	1,875	7,500
48. Spink	7,454	11,250	2,812.50	18,056
49. Tripp	6,430	11,250	2,812.50	12,279
50. Turner	8,849	11,250	2,812.50	13,088
51. Union	12,584	15,000	3,750	15,356
52. Walworth	5,974	11,250	2,812.50	11,785
53. Yankton	21,652	17,500	4,375	23,066

FY 2012 Anticipated Expenditures

\$148,750

DEFINITION OF A VETERAN

VETERAN

33A-2-1. Veteran defined. For the purposes of all statutes relating to rights, privileges, exemptions, and benefits (except a state bonus) of veterans and their dependents, the term, veteran, means any person who:

- (1) Has served on continuous federalized active military duty for a period of at least ninety days for reasons other than training; and
- (2) Has been separated or discharged from such service honorably or under honorable conditions.

Source: New section implementing direction to Revisor of Statutes in SL 1967, ch 174, § 2, to provide for a single and uniform definition; SL 1994, ch 267, § 1; SL 2007, ch 187, § 160; SDCL § 33-17-1; SL 2011, ch 1 (Ex. Ord. 11-1), § 20, eff. Apr. 12, 2011; SL 2011, ch 152, § 13.

WARTIME VETERAN

3A-2-2. Wartime veteran and qualifying military service defined. For purposes of all statutes relating to rights, privileges, exemptions, and benefits of wartime veterans and their dependents, the term, wartime veteran, means any veteran who has performed qualifying military service or any person who has performed qualifying military service and then been released to any National Guard or Reserve component of the armed forces of the United States. Qualifying military service is:

- (1) Active duty in the armed forces of the United States for one day or more during the period from April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, inclusive;
- (2) Active duty for one day or more during the period from July 28, 1914, to November 11, 1918, inclusive, performed by a citizen of the United States in the armed forces of any nation that was allied with the United States during any part of the period from April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, inclusive;
- (3) Active duty in the armed forces of the United States for one day or more during the period from December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, inclusive;
- (4) Active duty for one day or more during the period from September 1, 1939, to December 31, 1946, inclusive, performed by a citizen of the United States in the armed forces of any nation that was allied with the United States during any part of the period from December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946, inclusive;
- (5) Active duty in the armed forces of the United States for one day or more during the period from June 25, 1950, to May 7, 1975, inclusive;
- (6) Active duty in the armed forces of the United States for one day or more during the period from August 2, 1990, until the end of hostilities as determined by the Legislature;

(7) Active duty in the armed forces of the United States for one day or more in a military action for which the veteran earned an armed forces expeditionary medal or other United States campaign, expeditionary, or service medal awarded for participation outside the boundaries of the United States in combat operations against hostile forces; or

(8) Active duty in the armed forces of the United States for one day or more if the veteran has established the existence of a service-connected disability.

Service on active duty by any Reserve or National Guard personnel for training may not be construed as service on active duty, unless the Veterans Commission determines, by rules promulgated pursuant to chapter 1-26, that such training involved the person in direct participation in or direct support of combat operations against a hostile force.

Source: SL 1967, ch 174, § 2; SL 1970, ch 194, § 2; SL 1976, ch 30, § 3; SL 1980, ch 236; SL 1990, ch 266; SL 1992, ch 237, § 1; SL 2003, ch 175, § 1; SL 2004, ch 224, § 1; SL 2007, ch 187, § 161; SDCL § 33-17-2; SL 2011, ch 1 (Ex. Ord. 11-1), § 20, eff. Apr. 12, 2011; SL 2011, ch 152, § 14.

BRIEF HISTORY OF VETERANS SERVICES IN SOUTH DAKOTA

During World War II, recognizing the need for veterans' assistance in the state, Governor M. Q. Sharpe called a special session of the State Legislature on July 10, 1944, to establish the South Dakota State Veterans Department and the Veterans Commission. Prior to this time, there existed what was described as a 'mere gesture' towards veterans' assistance. This gesture was in the form of a single contact officer whose total reimbursement was \$2,500 per year for salary and all expenses. The position of Contact Officer is believed to have existed from about 1923 until the establishment of the Department in 1944.

The legislation establishing the Veterans Department and the Commission included authority for counties to employ County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO). The law, however, did not include any requirements as to salary, term of office, or standards of performance. Many of the original CVSO's were individuals who had served voluntarily as Post Service Officers for various veterans organizations and, while they were dedicated in their efforts, meager salaries provided little incentive toward improvement. Through the years new legislation implemented the following changes:

- requirement that each county must employ, or join with another county in employing, a CVSO;
- supplemental salary assistance from the state for counties who maintain certain salary and service standards,
- authorization for the tribes to hire their own Tribal Veterans Service Officer (TVSO).

Legislation enacted in 1973 renamed the former Veterans Department to the Division of Veterans Affairs and placed it within the Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. In 2011, by Executive Order, Governor Dennis Daugaard created a separate Department of Veterans Affairs. Areas of service within our Department include: the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home in Hot Springs, the claims office in Sioux Falls, and the field staff and education staff in Pierre.

The mission of the Department is to ensure that all veterans, and their eligible family members, understand and receive all the benefits, support, care and recognition that were earned through the veteran's service to our nation, by administering all current programs and meeting their needs in the future.

The Field Staff is charged with training and assisting the network of County & Tribal Service Officers in veteran's benefits and the origination and development of well-grounded claims for submission to the US Department of Veterans Affairs. The Claims Office does the hands-on processing and representation of the claims at the Regional Office in Sioux Falls. The Education Representatives are responsible the approval and supervision of programs under the G.I. Bill. Our Veterans Home provides person-centered care designed and delivered according to the individual needs of each resident. We operate 24/7 facilities that provide a combination of skilled nursing care, special care units for dementia and Alzheimer's, domiciliary care, rehabilitation services, recreational therapy, and work therapy programs.

Currently, South Dakota has 56 County VSO's serving the 66 counties in South Dakota and we have six Tribal VSOs. Since the original legislation in 1944 our states' network of County & Tribal Veterans Service Officers and SDDVA personnel have assisted thousands of our veterans and their family members with receiving the benefits that were earned through service to our country, and our job is nowhere near done. World events over the last several years have led to a whole new generation of veterans who will need our assistance for years to come. These young men and women were raised in a much faster paced and technologically advanced environment than their fathers and grandfathers from previous wars and their needs and expectations are much different from those who served before them. Providing the professional level of service they will expect, well into the 21st century, is a challenge that our entire network must accept and be prepared for.

June 7, 2013

Dear Veteran:

The South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs is conducting a survey concerning your recent visit to your County or Tribal Veterans Service Officer (C/TVSO). This is a confidential survey and the Department will utilize the survey results to provide improved service to our veterans and their families.

After completing the survey, please send it back to the Department of Veterans Affairs in the envelope provided. Thank you for your service and completing the survey.

On a scale of 1-5 with 1 being unsatisfied and 5 being very satisfied, please rate the following questions. Thank you.

How satisfied are you with seeing your C/TVSO on the first visit? 1 2 3 4 5

How satisfied are you with your C/TVSO's office hours? 1 2 3 4 5

How satisfied are you with receiving the information requested? 1 2 3 4 5

How satisfied are you with your C/TVSO responsiveness to your needs? 1 2 3 4 5

How satisfied are you with your C/TVSO professional knowledge and customer service? 1 2 3 4 5

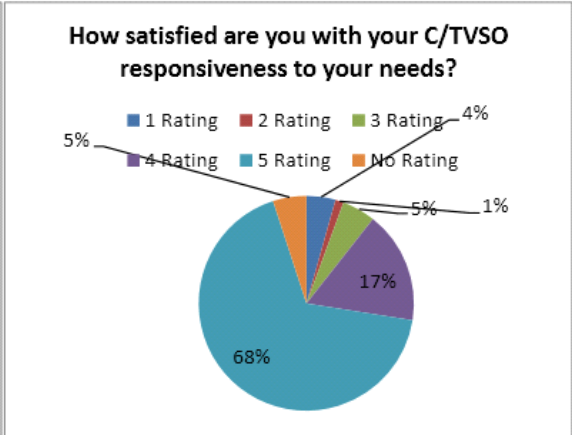
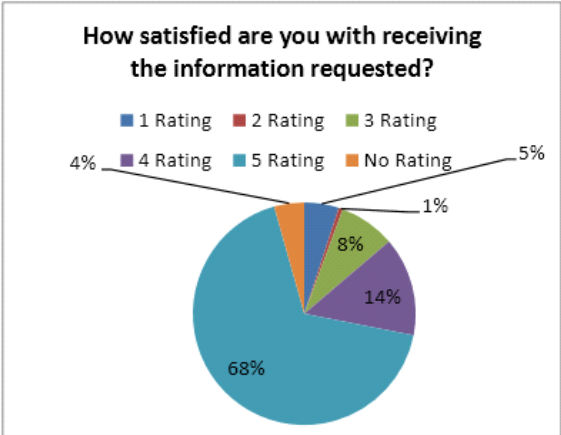
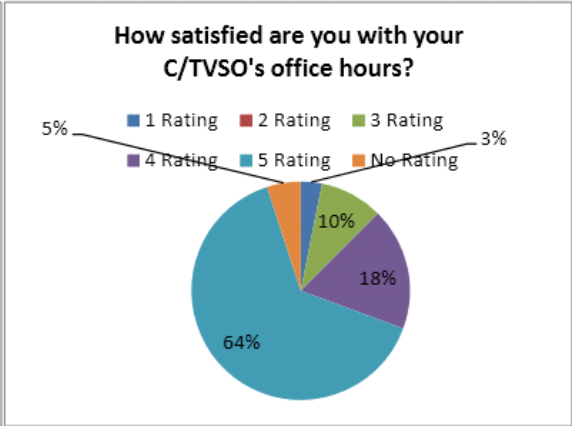
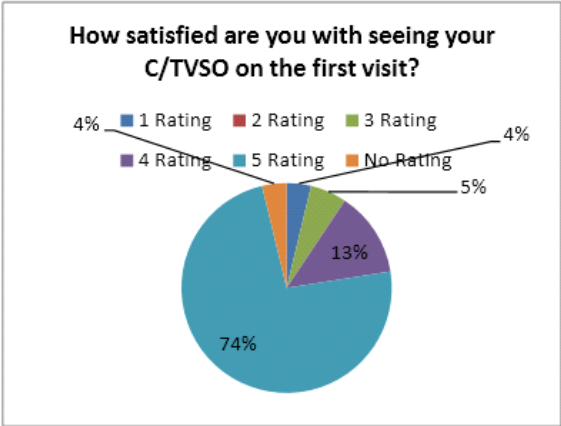
How satisfied are you with your overall visit to your C/TVSO? 1 2 3 4 5

Do you have any additional comments concerning your visit?

Thank you for completing the survey and returning it to the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs.

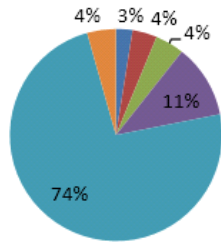
RESULTS OF VETERAN SURVEY REGARDING SERVICE RECEIVED

Randomly surveyed 500 veterans regarding the delivery of services. Of the 500 surveyed, 160 responses were received. Please keep in mind we asked veterans to use a scale of 1-5 with one being unsatisfied and five being very satisfied. A no rating means that the veteran did not provide a response.



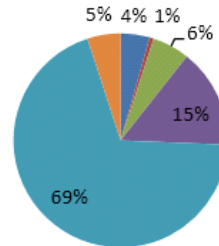
How satisfied are you with your C/TVSO professional knowledge and customer service?

■ 1 Rating ■ 2 Rating ■ 3 Rating
■ 4 Rating ■ 5 Rating ■ No Rating



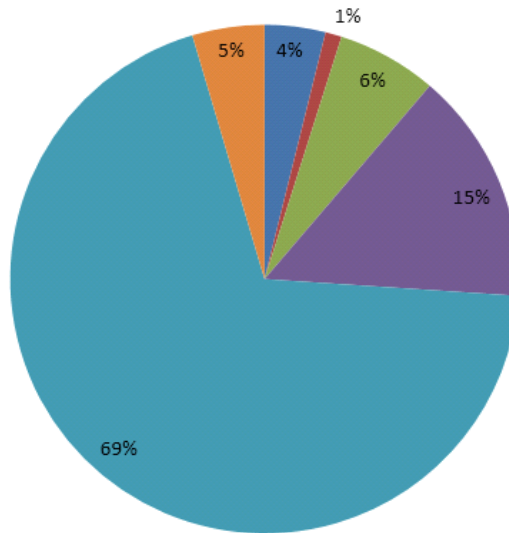
How satisfied are you with your overall visit to your C/TVSO?

■ 1 Rating ■ 2 Rating ■ 3 Rating
■ 4 Rating ■ 5 Rating ■ No Rating



Overall Veteran Affairs C/TVSO Rating:

■ 1 Rating ■ 2 Rating ■ 3 Rating ■ 4 Rating ■ 5 Rating ■ No Rating



Do you have any additional comments concerning your visit?

- 1.) "He does an excellent job and is very easy to talk to."
- 2.) "Our C/TVSO does the best job, you could ask for."- Dean Jordan, Watertown, SD
- 3.) "Have only visited with him on the phone. He sent an application, but I don't plan on applying."
- 4.) "Deceased 3-3-13."
- 5.) "Getting meds was not good. I got better price at my local drug store and less trouble."
- 6.) "My C/TVSO was great, but it took two to three months before the Department of Veterans Affairs let him know what was going on."- James, Webster, SD.
- 7.) "My husband died Nov. 6- 2012. You do not keep very good track of them. We got very little benefit from them, no help at all."- Beulah Hoops
- 8.) "Yes, I am considered a veteran, I served six years in the North Dakota Air National Guard and would really like to receive a Veteran's card."- Harold Thaden, Wilmot, SD
- 9.) "I need to get my ships logs but they cost too much."- Bob Evans, Aberdeen, SD
- 10.) "I was told to bring insurance cards but they didn't pick them up and then I got billed for office call, I can only see 2% vision so I can't read or see my area by feet. I fell down on the side walk and ended up in the hospital. The exam was supposed to be better than what I got with here but it was not as good. I had to pay for my trip to Sioux Falls. I live in an assisted living place and my wife is in a nursing home so I don't have any extra money. The whole trip was a waste of time and money. I get more help from the Department of Human Services the Vision Blind & Vision impaired, Nancy Kelsey than I did from the VA."- Ruben E
- 11.) "I think the VSO office should spend the time in the office that is posted on his office door. I don't like driving 20 miles one way to visit his office and then find out he is not there."
- 12.) "Scott was very nice. Seemed interested in his position. Very pleasant. We just went in on a meet & greet and congratulate him on his position."
- 13.) "Harley passed away Dec. 6, 2012."
- 14.) "Agent Orange in Thailand information seemed confusing or was changed between visits. Very hard to deal with."
- 15.) "My answers are for my county VA administrator. I have excellent results with the Hand Co. service officer."
- 16.) "The veteran service officer was very professional and helpful at my visit."
- 17.) "Mr. Beringer is an outstanding service officer who truly cares about the veterans he serves."
- 18.) "I met with 2 service officers and both were great. They took care of everything quickly and nothing for me to do."
- 19.) "I'm very disappointed of what the VA in Sioux Falls has done to my claim."- Dale Olson, Sturgis, SD
- 20.) "Mr. Locken does a superior job. JC
- 21.) "Very disappointed that after six months. Active duty and seven years in reserves that I'm not qualified for any benefits and not recognized for military duty."

- 22.) "The service officer does a good job. Appreciate his prompt reply to my call and handling my affairs."
- 23.) "My husband passed away on Nov. 27, 2012. I was the one in the office to see about a grave marker. Everyone was very helpful. I received the marker after about two weeks."- Nancy Nelson, Widow of Robert H. Nelson
- 24.) "I ask for a hearing test to receive a hearing aid and have not heard anything about a test or time and date."- Maynard Hirsch, Mitchell, SD
- 25.) "Concerned that it will take seven to nine months to approve claim for my mom for widow's benefit for nursing home care!"
- 26.) "We are fortunate to have him!"
- 27.) "Herman Oligmueller is deceased- he passed away April 16, 2009- Thank you Helen Oligmueller- Herman's widow. I'm trying to get a pension. Long list of widows.- Helen Oligmueller
- 28.) "Very helpful."
- 29.) "On May 7th, 2013, I talked to Dave Wells about getting assistance because I lost my job as a result of a fall, and 16 weeks recuperating. He told me I should get some help paying my bills in 30 days. Now he says 60 to 90 days if I get assistance at all. My question is why I'm receiving such conflicting information. Could you check into this? Thank you."- Dennis D Dannen
- 30.) "Need full time C/TVSO since being a veteran is also a full time event."
- 31.) "Bill Locken is an excellent resource for veterans dealing with the VA. His knowledge and experience are assets to both the SDDVA and its clients."
- 32.) "Very nice helpful guy and can call him anytime."- James Voldseth
- 33.) "All the people I dealt with were pleasant and polite, thank you."
- 34.) "Didn't visit County or Tribal veterans service officer. If you're talking about the veteran who is supposed to assist in my agent orange exposure never received a reply."- Danny Parker
- 35.) "This letter should have been addressed to me- Helen A. Peterson. My husband Donald died April 2, 2013. I am wondering if I will receive \$300 burial expenses. I still have the same address.
- 36.) "I came from Georgia and I got my last two pair of glasses and my hearing aids. I need my hearing aids fixed and need new glasses. I am told that I don't get them here in SD. Why I am a vet in Georgia and I am a vet in SD so why can't get what I need? My money goes to Georgia so why I can't get what I need here in SD?" -**J Wall**
- 37.) "I have great hearing aids. Thank you."
- 38.) "Lost job in 12/12 but couldn't get help w/in because served in Navy during Vietnam and didn't set foot on Vietnam land and made too much money to qualify for insurance. I'm sorry I served my country."
- 39.) "My local office is behind in knowing policies. No one at the office could give me a better understanding of my account. You have to wait at a minimum of 30 days for an appointment."
- 40.) "I wish he could be open more days or a few more hours."
- 41.) "Deceased as in dead."

- 42.) "Ken is one of the nicest people I have ever met, and has been more than helpful."
- 43.) "They were all very personable and caring and seemed very concerned with addressing my physical well-being."
- 44.) "My service officer was very approachable and knowledgeable."
- 45.) "Thanks."
- 46.) "We appreciate all the help we have received. Thank you." -Jim & LeAnn Orr
- 47.) "Tim is fantastic!" -Dave Sandberg
- 48.) "Due to deployment of 1 rep, rep seen was in training. The second representative sat in but didn't inspire confidence in information received. Also, took over four weeks to get in to see someone- unacceptable long delay."
- 49.) "Time it takes for processing could be sped up."
- 50.) "No results as of this date."
- 51.) "I filled out an app to get VA medical benefits about a month ago. I haven't heard anything back from them. Any suggestions?"
- 52.) "There needs to be a permanent service officer five days a week. Five days a week. In fact two officers would be better. We need a veterans affairs office in Rapid City where you can be seen five days a week on a walk in visit."
- 53.) "No he goes the extra mile and does a great job!" Brown County- Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Droog, Aberdeen, SD
- 54.) "It is a little easy to get lost in the VA hospital in Hot Springs the way the halls wind around every which way. I was very impressed with the professionalism and friendly attitudes of the staff."
- 55.) "Please don't send any more letters. Clifford Dalberg passed away in Dec of 2012."
- 56.) "Good to have less miles travel between home and offices."
- 57.) "My S-O did a very good job. Was right on top of things. Thank you."- John E. Vietnam Vet
- 58.) "Scott is a very valuable asset to this community."
- 59.) "Dave Wells was fantastic."- Frederick Beekhoff, Sioux Falls, SD
- 60.) "O.K."
- 61.) "Very thankful there are veterans service officers. Thanks."
- 62.) "Bill was very helpful. He helped me with paperwork for compensation which was H-bomb A-bomb fall out. I have heard nothing since we sent the paper work for the compensation. I should have heard something by now."- Howard
- 63.) "The officer was very knowledgeable and professional. I was very well pleased."
- 64.) "I am so grateful that there is someone to help service men (and their widows) with questions that are difficult- especially after a death. Thank you so very much for your assistance."- Dorothy Wells
- 65.) "What a good experience we've had with Pat Kroupa! She is amazingly knowledgeable and efficient. She took the time to guide us through a lot of paperwork. Her assistance was invaluable. I can't thank Pat enough for her help and you for your aid to dad."- Julie Slumskie
- 66.) "Thank you for all the help and services that you and the C/TVSO's provide."

- 67.) "Everything was handled in a professional manner."
- 68.) "Very professional."
- 69.) "My veteran service officer is outstanding!"
- 70.) "Our visit was well conducted and received by me. He received me and conducted the visit well in spite of not feeling well and was mourning the very recent death of his wife. I appreciated the visit with him in his office. He was very professional in performing his job."
- 71.) "Representative is ex-Army veteran. He only gives you the VA rules and tends to repeat them chapter and verse. He is supposed to be an advocate not just repeating them chapter and verse. He supports them 100% and will not agree to any deviation. He supposed to support your view not just his own. He does good work but have questionable views on his loyalty."
- 72.) "Big thanks to Pat Kroupa for being so helpful!"
- 73.) "I had to wait quite a long time to get an appointment."
- 74.) "Both of the Roberts County VSO's went the extra mile to help me, both with paper work and transportation. Larry drove me to the Sioux Falls VA Hospital (150 miles) for three appointments. Thank you!!"
- 75.) "Not very knowledgeable about Agent Orange process."
- 76.) "I am going on 20 years of your service and have been o.k. with all you have done for me."

FY12 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VA EXPENDITURES (GDY)

SOUTH DAKOTA Expenditures in \$000s										
County/ Congressional District	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Construction	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment	Loan Guaranty#	General Operating Expenses	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients**
AURORA	286	\$ 1,689	\$ 744	\$ -	\$ 28	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 45	\$ 871	104
BEADLE	1,635	\$ 6,359	\$ 2,879	\$ -	\$ 211	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62	\$ 3,207	477
BENNETT	199	\$ 1,915	\$ 663	\$ -	\$ 22	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2	\$ 1,228	104
BON HOMME	758	\$ 3,693	\$ 1,342	\$ -	\$ 135	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 79	\$ 2,137	275
BROOKINGS	2,185	\$ 9,825	\$ 3,817	\$ -	\$ 1,472	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 159	\$ 4,377	645
BROWN	2,898	\$ 13,763	\$ 5,827	\$ -	\$ 843	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 244	\$ 6,849	1,356
BRULE	465	\$ 1,419	\$ 716	\$ -	\$ 57	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23	\$ 623	134
BUFFALO	155	\$ 782	\$ 450	\$ -	\$ 29	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2	\$ 300	27
BUTTE	959	\$ 10,295	\$ 3,230	\$ -	\$ 191	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34	\$ 6,840	535
CAMPBELL	132	\$ 462	\$ 291	\$ -	\$ 4	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 168	64
CHARLES MIX	817	\$ 5,115	\$ 1,516	\$ -	\$ 173	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61	\$ 3,365	263
CLARK	301	\$ 1,453	\$ 849	\$ -	\$ 14	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 63	\$ 527	119
CLAY	1,007	\$ 4,941	\$ 1,821	\$ -	\$ 1,024	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12	\$ 2,084	304
CODINGTON	2,317	\$ 10,799	\$ 4,594	\$ -	\$ 681	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 66	\$ 5,459	911
CORSON	326	\$ 2,563	\$ 1,367	\$ -	\$ 46	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 16	\$ 1,134	140
CUSTER	995	\$ 8,162	\$ 3,161	\$ -	\$ 224	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 67	\$ 4,710	532
DAVISON	1,522	\$ 6,928	\$ 2,984	\$ -	\$ 617	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 91	\$ 3,236	492
DAY	626	\$ 2,929	\$ 1,419	\$ -	\$ 36	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12	\$ 1,462	275
DEUEL	480	\$ 1,805	\$ 825	\$ -	\$ 81	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15	\$ 885	160
DEWEY	486	\$ 3,353	\$ 1,223	\$ -	\$ 42	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12	\$ 2,076	181
DOUGLAS	349	\$ 1,117	\$ 433	\$ -	\$ 27	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3	\$ 653	90
EDMUNDS	331	\$ 1,328	\$ 493	\$ -	\$ 26	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6	\$ 803	172
FALL RIVER	1,173	\$ 28,360	\$ 7,700	\$ -	\$ 222	\$ -	\$ 504	\$ 91	\$ 19,843	1,004
FAULK	228	\$ 806	\$ 318	\$ -	\$ 13	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7	\$ 467	103
GRANT	771	\$ 3,270	\$ 1,518	\$ -	\$ 154	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 76	\$ 1,521	272
GREGORY	448	\$ 2,747	\$ 1,145	\$ -	\$ 29	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 46	\$ 1,527	188
HAAKON	160	\$ 700	\$ 228	\$ -	\$ 21	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 450	72
HAMLIN	458	\$ 2,034	\$ 861	\$ -	\$ 41	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 57	\$ 1,074	193
HAND	356	\$ 1,272	\$ 561	\$ -	\$ 37	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 39	\$ 636	154
HANSON	297	\$ 1,787	\$ 1,053	\$ -	\$ 43	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20	\$ 672	125
HARDING	93	\$ 287	\$ 143	\$ -	\$ 13	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ 131	28
HUGHES	1,473	\$ 6,683	\$ 3,300	\$ -	\$ 255	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 62	\$ 3,066	713
HUTCHINSON	625	\$ 2,711	\$ 1,086	\$ -	\$ 148	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 57	\$ 1,419	229
HYDE	148	\$ 771	\$ 286	\$ -	\$ 84	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 400	53
JACKSON	234	\$ 1,401	\$ 481	\$ -	\$ 3	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 14	\$ 904	89
JERALD	238	\$ 844	\$ 425	\$ -	\$ 32	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 23	\$ 364	72
JONES	114	\$ 185	\$ 46	\$ -	\$ 6	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 133	39
KINGSBURY	554	\$ 3,165	\$ 1,243	\$ -	\$ 175	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11	\$ 1,736	205
LAKE	876	\$ 5,608	\$ 2,349	\$ -	\$ 510	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47	\$ 2,702	380

FY12 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VA EXPENDITURES (GDY)

SOUTH DAKOTA Expenditures in \$000s										
County/ Congressional District	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Construction	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment	Loan Guaranty#	General Operating Expenses	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients**
LAWRENCE	2,368	\$ 21,612	\$ 6,675	\$ -	\$ 830	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 454	\$ 13,654	1,295
LINCOLN	3,447	\$ 15,222	\$ 6,146	\$ -	\$ 1,648	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 257	\$ 7,171	1,066
LYMAN	356	\$ 1,337	\$ 490	\$ -	\$ 29	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21	\$ 797	112
MCCOOK	485	\$ 3,240	\$ 968	\$ -	\$ 224	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 27	\$ 2,021	200
MCPHERSON	279	\$ 931	\$ 368	\$ -	\$ 2	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53	\$ 508	118
MARSHALL	395	\$ 1,656	\$ 714	\$ -	\$ 38	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4	\$ 900	167
MEADE	3,531	\$ 38,768	\$ 9,972	\$ 1,088	\$ 1,691	\$ -	\$ 3,155	\$ 572	\$ 22,290	1,557
MELLETTTE	158	\$ 1,143	\$ 496	\$ -	\$ 45	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 24	\$ 578	59
MINER	281	\$ 773	\$ 412	\$ -	\$ 16	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4	\$ 340	62
MINNEHAHA	14,773	\$ 92,446	\$ 34,243	\$ 449	\$ 5,618	\$ -	\$ 6,826	\$ 1,800	\$ 43,511	4,750
MOODY	681	\$ 1,990	\$ 898	\$ -	\$ 147	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7	\$ 938	171
PENNINGTON	12,363	\$ 96,728	\$ 41,265	\$ -	\$ 8,583	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 504	\$ 46,376	5,511
PERKINS	308	\$ 1,856	\$ 515	\$ -	\$ 39	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11	\$ 1,290	149
POTTER	281	\$ 1,023	\$ 443	\$ -	\$ 25	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53	\$ 503	132
ROBERTS	778	\$ 5,038	\$ 2,804	\$ -	\$ 148	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 65	\$ 2,021	335
SANBORN	300	\$ 1,105	\$ 465	\$ -	\$ 31	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ 608	75
SHANNON	713	\$ 8,666	\$ 3,494	\$ -	\$ 147	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 29	\$ 4,996	312
SPINK	703	\$ 2,644	\$ 1,108	\$ -	\$ 62	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 113	\$ 1,361	273
STANLEY	225	\$ 1,057	\$ 370	\$ -	\$ 57	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 67	\$ 563	127
SULLY	140	\$ 341	\$ 104	\$ -	\$ 4	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3	\$ 230	51
TODD	599	\$ 3,193	\$ 1,440	\$ -	\$ 73	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5	\$ 1,676	153
TRIPP	532	\$ 2,819	\$ 1,004	\$ -	\$ 37	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15	\$ 1,763	274
TURNER	823	\$ 4,097	\$ 1,532	\$ -	\$ 161	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10	\$ 2,394	278
UNION	1,105	\$ 5,538	\$ 2,754	\$ -	\$ 219	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 49	\$ 2,515	375
WALWORTH	547	\$ 3,103	\$ 1,086	\$ -	\$ 103	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 49	\$ 1,864	294
YANKTON	2,088	\$ 9,049	\$ 4,204	\$ -	\$ 543	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 180	\$ 4,123	532
ZIEBACH	197	\$ 595	\$ 231	\$ -	\$ 12	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1	\$ 350	41
SOUTH DAKOTA (Totals)	75,930	\$ 489,297	\$ 187,591	\$ 1,537	\$ 28,302	\$ -	\$ 10,485	\$ 6,004	\$ 255,378	29,748
CONG. DIST (01)	75,930	\$ 489,297	\$ 187,591	\$ 1,537	\$ 28,302	\$ -	\$ 10,485	\$ 6,004	\$ 255,378	29,748
SOUTH DAKOTA (Totals)	75,930	\$ 489,297	\$ 187,591	\$ 1,537	\$ 28,302	\$ -	\$ 10,485	\$ 6,004	\$ 255,378	29,748

FY12 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF VA EXPENDITURES (GDX)

SOUTH DAKOTA Expenditures in \$000s										
County/ Congressional District	Veteran Population*	Total Expenditure	Compensation & Pension	Construction	Education & Vocational Rehabilitation/ Employment	Loan Guaranty#	General Operating Expenses	Insurance & Indemnities	Medical Care	Unique Patients**
Notes:										
* Veteran population estimates, as of September 30, 2012, are produced by the VA Office of the Actuary (VetPop 2011).										
# Prior to FY 08, "Loan Guaranty" expenditures were included in the Education & Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (E&VRE) programs. Currently, all "Loan Guaranty" expenditures are attributed to Travis County, TX, where all Loan Guaranty payments are processed. VA will continue to improve data collection for future GDX reports to better distribute loan expenditures at the state, county and congressional district levels.										
** Unique patients are patients who received treatment at a VA health care facility. Data are provided by the Allocation Resource Center (ARC).										
Expenditure data sources: USASpending.gov for Compensation & Pension (C&P) and Education and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (E&VRE) Benefits; Veterans Benefits Administration Insurance Center for the Insurance costs; the VA Financial Management System (FMS) for Construction, Medical Research, General Operating Expenses, and certain C&P and Readjustment data; and the Allocation Resource Center (ARC) for Medical Care costs.										
1. Expenditures are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars. For example, \$500 to \$1,000 are rounded to \$1; \$0 to \$499 are rounded to \$0; and "\$-" = 0 or no expenditures.										
2. The Compensation & Pension expenditures include dollars for the following programs: veterans' compensation for service-connected disabilities; dependency and indemnity compensation for service-connected deaths; veterans' pension for nonservice-connected disabilities; and burial and other benefits to veterans and their survivors.										
3. Medical Care expenditures include dollars for medical services, medical administration, facility maintenance, educational support, research support, and other overhead items. Medical Care expenditures do not include dollars for construction or other non-medical support.										
4. Medical Care expenditures are based on where patients live instead of where care is delivered.										

VA GEOGRAPHIC EXPENDITURES REPORT

EXPLANATION

Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures: Each fiscal year, VA's Office of Policy and Planning publishes the annual Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures (GDX) report for the public and all stakeholders. The GDX report provides the estimated dollar expenditures for major VA programs at the state, county, and Congressional District levels. Expenditure data are grouped by the following categories: Compensation and Pension; Education and Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment; Insurance and Indemnities; Construction; General Operating Expenses; Loan Guaranty; and Medical Care. Additionally, the GDX Report includes Veteran population estimates at the state, county and Congressional District level and the number of unique patients who used VA health care services.

Compensation and Pension: For the purposes of the GDX Report, Compensation and Pension (C&P) applies to benefits expenditures for the following categories: compensation payments, pension payments, Dependency and Indemnity Compensation, and burial allowances.

Construction: For the purposes of the GDX Report, Construction applies to construction expenditures which include funding for Major Projects, Minor Projects, Grants for Construction of State Extended Care Facilities, and Grants for Construction of State Veterans Cemeteries.

Education & Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment: Though Education and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (E&VRE) are separate programs, they are combined into one category for display purposes in the Geographic Distribution of VA Expenditures (GDX) Report. Expenditures in this category include: automobile and adaptive equipment, specially adapted housing, Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (Chapter 35), Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Veterans (Chapter 31), Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance (Chapter 32), Montgomery G.I. Bill for Selected Reserves (Chapter 1606), Reserve Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 1607), Montgomery G.I. Bill (Chapter 30), and Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance (Chapter 33).

Fiscal Year: A fiscal year, abbreviated as FY, represents the yearly accounting or budgetary period without regard to its relationship to the calendar year. Each fiscal year begins October 1st and ends September 30th. VA operates under this schedule for accounting and budgetary purposes.

General Operating Expense: General Operating Expenses represent the costs necessary to provide administration and oversight for the benefits provided by VA. This includes costs for overhead and human resources. This category does not include payments made directly to beneficiaries.

Insurance and Indemnity (I&I): For the purposes of the GDX Report, Insurance and Indemnity (I&I) consists of VA expenditures for death claims, matured endowments, dividends, cash surrender payments, total disability income provision payments, and total and permanent disability benefits payments.

Loan Guaranty Program: This VA benefits program provides assistance to Veterans, certain spouses, and Servicemembers to enable them to buy and retain homes. Assistance is provided through VA's partial guaranty of loans made by private lenders in lieu of the substantial down payment and private mortgage insurance required in conventional mortgage transactions. This protection means that in most cases qualified Veterans can obtain a loan without making a down payment.

Medical Care: With respect to the GDX Report, medical care consists of operating expenses incurred through the provision of healthcare services to Veterans. The specific programs reported for this category are: medical care, General Post Fund, medical and prosthetic research, and miscellaneous accounts.

Unique Patients: A Veteran patient counted as a unique in each division from which they receive care. For example, if a patient receives Primary Care at one VA facility and specialty care from another VA facility, he/she will be counted as a unique patient in each division.

Month/Year	New S/C	Reopen S/C	DIC	Reopen DIC	New NSC (Vet)	New NSC (Death)	Re-open NSC (Vet)	Reopen NSC (Death)
2012								
Aurora	5	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
Beadle	17	4	0	0	5	7	1	1
Bennett	10	3	1	0	2	0	0	0
Bon Homme	10	4	1	0	5	3	0	0
Brookings	40	1	3	0	10	2	2	0
Brown	56	6	3	1	9	4	2	0
Brule	9	0	1	0	4	0	0	0
Buffalo	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Butte	13	1	4	0	5	6	0	0
Campbell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charles Mix	7	1	0	0	6	1	0	0
Clark	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Clay	9	1	0	1	4	1	0	0
Codington	44	1	4	1	8	4	0	1
Corson	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Custer	23	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Davison	23	2	1	0	6	7	1	1
Day	4	1	2	2	5	1	0	1
Deuel	4	0	0	0	4	2	0	0
Dewey	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglas	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Edmunds	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Fall River	43	7	0	4	12	8	2	0
Faulk	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grant	11	1	1	1	4	4	0	0
Gregory	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	0
Haakon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamlin	3	0	0	0	2	3	0	0
Hand	10	2	1	0	1	1	0	0
Hanson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harding	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hughes	43	10	2	0	4	1	2	0
Hutchinson	6	0	0	0	6	2	2	0
Hyde	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jackson	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Jerauld	3	0	0	0	1	4	1	0
Jones	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kingsbury	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Lake	11	0	1	0	0	1	2	0
Lawrence	20	1	1	1	4	4	1	0
Lincoln	12	1	0	0	4	0	0	0
Lymann	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Marshall	1	0	0	2	4	1	0	0
McCook	11	1	0	0	2	2	0	0
McPherson	3	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Meade	37	6	0	0	4	0	0	0
Mellette	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miner	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	0
Minnehaha/Claims Office	453	49	18	13	76	20	6	1
Moody	6	3	0	0	2	3	1	0
Pennington	354	33	11	0	32	15	1	1
Perkins	10	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Potter	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Roberts	23	2	2	0	7	4	0	0
Sanborn	2	0	1	0	2	1	0	0
Shannon	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Spink	8	1	2	0	2	2	1	0
Todd	2	0	1	0	3	0	0	0
Tripp	16	1	3	1	6	0	0	0
Turner	4	1	0	0	2	1	0	0
Union	12	2	0	0	5	1	0	0
Walworth	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Yankton	15	0	1	1	6	2	0	0
Ziebach	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cheyenne River	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crow Creek	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Brule	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oglala Sioux	7	3	4	0	2	1	0	1
Rosebud	8	1	1	1	3	1	0	0
Sisseton Wahpeton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Standing Rock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yankton Sioux	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total:	1454	159	74	30	280	122	25	8
	New Service connected claim	Reopen service connected claim	Dependency & Indemnity Compensation	Reopen Dependency & Indemnity Compensation	New Non service connected Pension	New Non service connected Spousal Pension	Reopen New Non service connected Pension	Reopen Non service connected Spousal Pension

Month/Year	NOD S/C	NOD NSC	NOD DIC	NOD Death NSC	Form 9	Hearing Requested	Reconsideration for var. Benefits	NOD/Appeal Supp.
2012								
Aurora	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beadle	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0
Bennett	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
Bon Homme	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Brookings	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	7
Brown	4	0	0	0	2	0	2	2
Brule	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Buffalo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Butte	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Campbell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Charles Mix	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Clark	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1
Clay	2	0	1	0	0	1	2	2
Codington	1	0	0	0	1	0	4	3
Corson	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Custer	5	0	0	0	1	0	2	6
Davison	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Deuel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dewey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Edmunds	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Fall River	5	0	0	0	2	0	2	5
Faulk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grant	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Gregory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Haakon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hamlin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hand	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Hanson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hughes	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
Hutchinson	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Hyde	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Jackson	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Jerauld	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Jones	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Kingsbury	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Lake	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Lawrence	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1
Lincoln	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Lymann	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Marshall	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
McCook	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
McPherson	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Meade	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Melette	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Miner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Minnehaha/Claims Office	37	2	0	1	15	1	32	62
Moody	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Pennington	12	0	1	0	3	1	23	25
Perkins	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Potter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roberts	3	0	1	0	1	0	5	5
Sanborn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Shannon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spink	2	0	1	0	1	0	1	2
Todd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tripp	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turner	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	4
Union	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Walworth	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Yankton	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	3
Ziebach	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cheyenne River	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Crow Creek	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Brule	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oglala Sioux	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rosebud	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sisseton Wahpeton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Standing Rock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yankton Sioux	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total:	91	2	4	2	34	10	109	149
	Notice of Disagreement for Service connected claims	Notice of disagreement for Non Service connected Pension	Notice of Disagreement for Dependency & Indemnity Compensation	Notice of Disagreement for Non Service connected Spouse Pension				

Month/Year	EDU Vet	EDU Dep.	ChampVA	Burial	Headstone	Supportive	Dependency	DMC	Misc.
2012									
Aurora	1	0	0	1	1	6	0	0	14
Beadle	0	2	1	2	3	28	8	10	45
Bennett	0	0	0	2	2	3	2	1	5
Bon Homme	0	0	1	0	2	8	0	0	16
Brookings	3	0	1	9	21	34	4	9	49
Brown	6	3	1	12	5	51	19	9	43
Brule	0	0	0	1	1	10	2	4	18
Buffalo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Butte	0	0	0	0	1	12	2	1	6
Campbell	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Charles Mix	1	0	0	0	1	4	0	3	13
Clark	0	0	0	0	1	6	0	0	15
Clay	0	0	0	2	0	9	1	4	23
Codington	1	1	0	4	2	40	5	5	30
Corson	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	0	4
Custer	0	0	0	0	0	21	7	1	17
Davison	1	1	0	0	2	13	1	2	27
Day	0	0	0	2	3	7	1	1	13
Deuel	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	4
Dewey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglas	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	1	4
Edmunds	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	4
Fall River	0	0	1	0	3	47	5	2	49
Faulk	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	5
Grant	0	1	1	1	3	12	2	2	34
Gregory	0	0	1	1	1	4	0	1	7
Haakon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Hamlin	0	0	0	0	1	6	0	2	6
Hand	1	0	0	1	4	4	0	0	6
Hanson	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hughes	1	2	1	9	5	49	10	6	49
Hutchinson	0	1	1	1	1	14	0	3	16
Hyde	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Jackson	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Jerauld	1	0	0	2	3	6	0	1	9
Jones	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3
Kingsbury	0	3	0	0	1	8	0	2	5
Lake	0	0	1	1	0	15	3	3	21
Lawrence	1	1	0	0	3	18	2	0	29
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	2	5	4	1	14
Lymann	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	1
Marshall	0	0	0	0	1	5	2	1	8
McCook	0	0	0	1	0	12	0	2	20
McPherson	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	5
Meade	4	2	0	0	1	36	7	3	27
Mellette	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2
Miner	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Minnehaha/Claims Office	15	10	4	7	45	489	75	76	533
Moody	1	1	0	0	0	7	0	0	9
Pennington	21	5	2	6	22	314	50	13	143
Perkins	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	6
Potter	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	3
Roberts	0	2	0	6	2	25	3	2	30
Sanborn	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	10
Shannon	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0
Spink	0	0	1	0	4	7	2	0	6
Todd	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	3
Tripp	0	0	0	0	1	17	8	1	5
Turner	0	1	0	0	2	11	1	2	11
Union	0	0	0	2	0	24	3	2	10
Walworth	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	2
Yankton	1	1	1	0	4	10	3	1	18
Ziebach	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cheyenne River	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Crow Creek	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lower Brule	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oglala Sioux	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	10
Rosebud	0	0	0	0	0	3	2	0	4
Sisseton Wahpeton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Standing Rock	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yankton Sioux	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total:	59	37	18	75	161	1445	243	188	1471

GLOSSARY

Aid and Attendance: Aid and Attendance may be payable to veterans or widows who are in receipt of non-service connected pension benefits or to certain veterans in receipt of service connected disability compensation. This special monthly payment is in addition to the basic pension or compensation payment. The meaning of Aid & Attendance includes, but is not limited to:

- Inability of claimant to dress or undress self; or
- Inability to attend to the needs of nature; or
- Inability of claimant to feed him/herself
- Incapacity, physical or mental, which requires care or assistance on a regular basis to protect the claimant from hazards or dangers incident to his or her daily environment.
-

Community Based Outpatient Clinics: A Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) is a VA-operated clinic or a VA-funded or reimbursed health care facility or site that is geographically distinct or separate from the parent medical facility.

Community Living Center: Formerly known as VA Nursing Home Care Units, Community Living Centers (CLCs) provide compassionate care to eligible Veterans with sufficient functional impairments. Veterans with chronic stable conditions including dementia, those requiring rehabilitation or short term specialized services such as respite or intravenous therapy, or those who need comfort and care at the end of life are served in the VA Community Living Centers.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation: Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits are generally payable to the survivors of Service members who died while on active duty or survivors of Veterans who died from their service-connected disabilities.

Disability Compensation: A monetary benefit paid to Veterans who are disabled by an injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated during active military service. These disabilities are considered to be service-connected. Disability compensation varies with the degree of disability and the number of a Veteran's dependents, and is paid monthly. Veterans with certain severe disabilities may be eligible for additional special monthly compensation. The benefits are not subject to federal or state income tax. The payment of military retirement pay, disability severance pay and separation incentive payments known as SSB (Special Separation Benefits) and VSI (Voluntary Separation Incentives), and Combat-Related Special Compensation affect the amount of VA compensation paid to disabled Veterans. To be eligible, the service of the Veteran must have been terminated through separation or discharge under conditions other than dishonorable.

Domiciliary: A VA facility that provides care on an ambulatory self-care basis for Veterans disabled by age or diseases who are not in need of acute hospitalization and who do not need the skilled nursing services provided in a nursing home.

Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program: The Domiciliary Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (DRRTP) is a short-term residential rehabilitation program where eligible Veterans live and learn skills needed to live in the community and avoid a return to homelessness. Residents in the Domiciliary Care Program participate in a full range of rehabilitation services. This includes physical, behavioral, spiritual, psychosocial, addiction counseling, vocational, dietary, Occupational Therapy and interventions. In addition to the Domiciliary programming, medical and mental health needs may be treated as needed by other staff during the resident's stay.

Education: The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) administers a variety of education benefit programs. Many veterans and active duty personnel can qualify for more than one of the following programs:

MGIB-AD: The Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty Educational Assistance Program (Title 38 U.S. Code, Chapter 30) provides a program of education benefits that may be used while on active duty or after separation. There are several distinct eligibility categories. Generally a Veteran will receive 36 months of entitlement and has 10 years after separation to use the benefit.

MGIB-SR: The Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve Educational Assistance Program (Title 10 U.S. Code, Chapter 1606) is a program funded and managed by the Department of Defense (DoD) and is available to members of the Selected Reserve. VA administers this program but DoD determines the member's eligibility. Generally a qualified member of the Reserve will receive 36 months of entitlement and will have 14 years in which to use the benefit.

DEA: The Dependents Educational Assistance Program (Title 38 U.S. Code, Chapter 35) is designed to assist dependents of Veterans who (1) have been determined to be 100 percent permanently and totally disabled due to a service connected condition, (2) died due to a service-connected condition, or (3) died while on active duty. Dependents typically receive 45 months of eligibility.

REAP: The Reserve Educational Assistance Program (Title 10 U.S. Code, Chapter 1607) is a program funded and managed by DoD and is available to members of the Selected or Ready Reserve who are called to active duty to support contingency operations. VA administers this program but DoD determines the member's eligibility. Generally a qualified member of the Selected or Ready Reserve will receive 36 months of entitlement and will be able to use the benefit as long as he or she remains in the Selected or Ready Reserve.

Post 9/11 GI Bill: The Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program (Title 38 U.S. Code, Chapter 33) is an education assistance program for certain individuals with a qualifying period of active duty service after September 10, 2001. Individuals will be eligible for educational assistance in the form of tuition and fees, a monthly housing allowance, and a books and supplies stipend. The new program also provides certain individuals the opportunity to transfer unused educational benefits to their spouses and children. The new program is effective August 1, 2009. The Post-9/11 GI Bill also includes the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Frye Scholarship Program for the children of Service members who died while on active duty.

Enrollment: The process of establishing eligibility for VA's "Medical Benefits Package." Most Veterans are required to "enroll" into the VA Health Care System to be

eligible for VA health care; however some can still receive care without enrolling. Applicants are only required to "enroll" once for VA health care unless they are determined ineligible for care at time of application or they have disenrolled.

National Cemetery Administration (NCA): A VA organizational component that honors our Nation's Veterans with final resting places in national shrines and with lasting tributes that commemorate their service to our Nation. NCA provides interment of eligible Service members, Veterans, Reservists, National Guard members, and eligible family members in national cemeteries, and furnishes headstones and markers for the graves of Veterans throughout the United States and the world. Additionally, NCA administers the State Cemetery Grants Program, which provides grants to states and tribal governments for establishing, expanding, and improving state Veterans' cemeteries. Finally, NCA provides Presidential Memorial Certificates to Veterans' loved ones to honor the service of honorably discharged deceased service members or Veterans.

Nonservice-Connected (NSC) Pension: A benefit program for qualifying Veterans with low income who are either permanently and totally disabled or age 65, and have 90 days or more of active military service, at least one day of which was during a period of war. Note: Veterans who entered active duty on or after Sept. 8, 1980, or officers who entered active duty on or after Oct. 16, 1981, may have to meet a longer minimum period of active duty. Additionally, the Veteran's discharge must have been under conditions other than dishonorable and the disability must be for reasons other than the Veteran's own willful misconduct. The current pension program is called Improved Disability Pension. Other grandfathered pension programs remain.

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD): PTSD is a psychological condition that affects those who have experienced a traumatizing or life-threatening event such as combat, natural disasters, serious accidents, or violent personal assaults.

Service Connected Disability: Veterans who are disabled by an injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated during active military service. These disabilities are considered to be service-connected.

South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs: The mission of the South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs (SDDVA) is to be the voice for the 75,000 veterans residing in South Dakota. This is done by assisting them in navigating the system of federal, state, and local resources and benefits; by providing long-term health care for eligible veterans in our Veterans' Home and by partnering with our county and tribal veterans service officers, our veterans service organizations and other agencies and non-profits to help veterans address education, mental health, housing, employment and other challenges

United States Department of Veterans Affairs: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), established as an independent agency under the President by Executive Order 5398 on July 21, 1930, was elevated to Cabinet level on March 15, 1989 (Public Law No. 100-527). VA's mission is to serve America's Veterans and their families with dignity and compassion and to be their principal advocate in ensuring that they receive medical care, benefits, social support, and lasting memorials promoting the health, welfare, and dignity of all Veterans in recognition of their service to this Nation. VA comprises a Central Office, which is located in Washington, DC, and

field facilities throughout the Nation administered by its three major line organizations: Veterans Health Administration, Veterans Benefits Administration, and National Cemetery Administration. Services and benefits are provided through a nationwide network of 153 hospitals, 784 community-based outpatient clinics, 134 community living centers, 90 domiciliary residential rehabilitation treatment programs, 264 Vet Centers, 57 Veterans benefits regional offices, and 131 national cemeteries.

VA Benefits: Eligible services and programs offered by VA such as pensions, education assistance, housing, burial aid, life insurance, employment preferences and other services. VA benefits vary depending on the Veteran's service record. A Veteran, his/her spouse and dependents may be eligible for different types of benefits provided by VA.

VA Medical Center (VAMC): VA hospital facilities that provide a diverse range of health care services to Veterans.

VA Regional Office (VARO): A collection of 57 benefits offices that provide benefits information and process claims. At least one VARO is located within every state and as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Republic of the Philippines. Some VAROs also provide out-based services to Veterans being discharged from active service at various military separation centers around the country as well as in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Republic of Korea.

Vet Center: A type of VA health care facility designed to provide outreach and readjustment counseling services through 232 community-based Vet Centers located in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Veterans are eligible if they served on active duty in a combat theater during World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, or the campaigns in Lebanon, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq and the Global War on Terror. Veterans, who served in the active military during the Vietnam-era, but not in the Republic of Vietnam, must have requested services at a Vet Center before Jan. 1, 2004. Vet Centers do not require enrollment in the VHA Health Care System.

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA): A VA organizational component that is responsible for administering the Department's programs that provide financial and other forms of assistance to Veterans, their dependents, and survivors. Major benefits include Veterans' compensation, Veterans' pension, survivors' benefits, rehabilitation and employment assistance, education assistance, home loan guaranties, and life insurance coverage.

Veterans Health Administration (VHA): A VA organizational component that is responsible for coordinating and providing health care for all enrolled Veterans based upon need and service. With over 160 VA medical centers (VAMCs) nationwide, VHA manages one of the largest health care systems in the United States. VAMCs within a Veterans Integrated Service Network work together to provide efficient, accessible health care to Veterans in their areas. Additionally the VHA also conducts research and education, and provides emergency medical preparedness.

South Dakota Codified Laws (33A-1-22 through 33A-1-33)

33A-1-22. County veterans' service officer--Approval by secretary of veterans affairs--Term of office. The board of county commissioners of each county in this state shall employ or join with another county or counties in employing a county veterans' service officer who, before such employment takes effect, is approved by the state secretary of veterans affairs. The county veteran's service officer's first appointment ends on the first Monday in January of the second year subsequent to the year of the appointment. The county veteran's service officer may be reappointed for terms of four years for each term. The appointment is subject to removal by the board or boards of county commissioners upon the recommendation of the state secretary of veterans' affairs or for cause.

33A-1-23. County commissioners to assist service officer. The board or boards of county commissioners shall furnish the county veterans' service officer with such assistance and clerical help as may be necessary, when, in the opinion of the board or boards of county commissioners and the Department of Veterans Affairs such action would be in the public interest.

33A-1-24. Duties of county veterans' service officer--Supervision by department. Each county veterans' service officer shall provide, within the county or counties employing the officer, local contact between fieldmen of the Department of Veterans Affairs and persons in the armed service or those discharged from such service, and the dependents of such persons. The county veteran's service officer shall aid or assist volunteer service officers in securing evidence and perfecting claims; advise those in the armed service and veterans or their dependents of benefits available to them; and aid them in completing required forms and complying with regulations. The county veteran's service officer works under the supervision and direction of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

33A-1-25. Qualifications of county veterans' officer. Each county veterans' service officer shall be a veteran who has served in the armed forces of the United States and is a citizen of the United States.

33A-1-26. Training program for county veterans service officers--Attendance and testing--Certification of compliance. The Department of Veterans Affairs shall establish a training program for county veterans service officers. Every county veterans service officer employed under the provisions of this chapter shall annually complete the training program established by the department and successfully complete a test administered by the department. The secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs shall certify training compliance to the board of county commissioners. The secretary shall recommend against reappointment of any county veterans service officer not in compliance with the provisions of this section.

33A-1-27. Promulgation of rules for training program. The Department of Veterans Affairs shall promulgate rules pursuant to chapter 1-26 establishing criteria and procedures for the county veterans' service officers training program pursuant to this chapter.

33A-1-28. Salary and expenses of county service officer--Office space and equipment. A county veterans' service officer may be employed either part time or full time. The salary and necessary mileage and expense allowance of the officer shall be determined by the board or boards of county commissioners employing the officer. The officer shall be provided with office space, office fixtures, furnishings, and equipment, either in the courthouse or some other central and accessible place.

33A-1-29. Tribal veterans' service officers. Indian tribes, as defined in subdivision 2-14-2(14), may appoint veterans' service officers who shall serve under the same terms and conditions as county veterans' service officers, as provided for in §§ 33A-1-22 to 33A-1-28, inclusive. Such officers shall be known as tribal veterans' service officers.

33A-1-30. Salary reimbursement and services for Indian tribes and service officers--Tribes responsible for financial obligations. Such Indian tribes and veterans' service officers shall receive the same salary reimbursement and services from the Department of Veterans Affairs as those available to county commissioners and county veteran service officers under the provisions of this chapter. Such Indian tribes shall be entirely responsible for all financial obligations accrued by veterans' service officers, appointed pursuant to the terms of § 33A-1-29, except as provided in this section.

33A-1-31. State aid for salaries of county service officers--Maximum reimbursement. The Department of Veterans Affairs may establish, implement, and maintain a program for providing financial assistance to counties in paying the salaries of county veterans' service officers. Any program established and maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs shall provide for assistance to applying counties on the basis of one dollar of state funds for each four dollars of county funds provided for payment of the salary of the county veterans' service officer of the applying county. No county may be reimbursed in excess of twenty-five percent of the basic salary schedule outlined in § 33A-1-32 for any fiscal year.

33A-1-32. Basic salary schedule for county service officers. The basic salary schedule for county veterans' service officers, which may be adopted by any board of county commissioners, is:

- (1) For counties with population of 50,000 and over, \$18,750 per annum;
- (2) For counties with population of 20,000 to 50,000, \$17,500 per annum;
- (3) For counties with population of 10,000 to 20,000, \$15,000 per annum;
- (4) For counties with population of 5,000 to 10,000, \$11,250 per annum;
- (5) For counties with population up to 5,000, \$7,500 annually.

33A-1-33. Training of county officer required for state reimbursement. A county may only be reimbursed pursuant to § 33A-1-31 if the county veterans' service officer employed has undergone training pursuant to §§ 33A-1-16 and 33A-1-26.

SOUTH DAKOTA ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

ARTICLE 50:03

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Chapter

- 50:03:01 Veterans' department revolving fund, Repealed.
- 50:03:02 State and county veterans' divisions.
- 50:03:03 Service officer salary supplement.

CHAPTER 50:03:01

VETERANS' DEPARTMENT REVOLVING FUND

(Repealed. 38 SDR 58, effective October 19, 2011)

CHAPTER 50:03:02

STATE AND COUNTY VETERANS' DIVISIONS

Section

- 50:03:02:01 Definitions.
- 50:03:02:02 Personnel utilization.
- 50:03:02:03 Representation of veterans by department employees.
- 50:03:02:04 Duties of county veterans' service officers.

50:03:02:01. Definitions. Terms defined in SDCL 33A-2-1 have the same meaning when used in this chapter. In addition, dependents include an unremarried spouse, unmarried children under 18 years of age or to their 23rd birthday if attending a full-time course of instruction at an accredited school, and dependent parents of a veteran who died while in the military service or as a result of service connected illness or injury.

Source: 2 SDR 4, effective July 27, 1975; 12 SDR 151, 12 SDR 154, effective July 1, 1986; 38 SDR 58, effective October 19, 2011.

General Authority: SDCL 33A-1-8.

Law Implemented: SDCL 33A-1-8.

50:03:02:02. Personnel utilization. The secretary shall establish representation at the United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The secretary may, within budgetary limitations, assign employees to handle claims for veterans' organizations with the consent of such organizations.

Source: 2 SDR 4, effective July 27, 1975; 12 SDR 151, 12 SDR 154, effective July 1, 1986; 38 SDR 58, effective October 19, 2011.

General Authority: SDCL 33A-1-8.

Law Implemented: SDCL 33A-1-8, 33A-1-13.

50:03:02:03. Representation of veterans by department employees. Employees of the S. D. Department of Veterans' Affairs accredited with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs shall act as agents of any veteran of the state or any eligible dependent or survivor having a claim against the United States arising from military service. Veterans' services field

representatives shall conduct continuous training of county veterans' service officers. Veterans' services field representatives may certify eligibility requirements for claims against the state for burial benefits and headstone placements.

Source: 2 SDR 4, effective July 27, 1975; 12 SDR 151, 12 SDR 154, effective July 1, 1986; 38 SDR 58, effective October 19, 2011.

General Authority: SDCL 33A-1-8.

Law Implemented: SDCL 33A-1-13, 33A-1-15, 33A-1-16, 33A-2-4, 33A-5-2, 33A-5-4.

50:03:02:04. Duties of county veterans' service officers. County veterans' service officers shall certify eligibility requirements of claimants who are residents of their county having claims against the state for burial benefits and headstone placement. They shall provide monthly reports of contacts to the S.D. Department of Veterans Affairs and their county commissions.

Source: 2 SDR 4, effective July 27, 1975; 12 SDR 151, 12 SDR 154, effective July 1, 1986; 38 SDR 58, effective October 19, 2011.

General Authority: SDCL 33A-1-8.

Law Implemented: SDCL 33A-1-15, 33A-1-16, 33A-1-24, 33A-2-4, 33A-5-2, 33A-5-4.

CHAPTER 50:03:03

SERVICE OFFICER SALARY SUPPLEMENT

Section

50:03:03:01 Basic salary schedule to be met for state aid -- Exception.

50:03:03:02 Work directly related to veterans' affairs required for state aid.

50:03:03:01. Basic salary schedule to be met for state aid -- Exception. A county shall pay the basic salary schedule set forth in SDCL 33A-1-32 to qualify for reimbursement of the salary supplement set forth in SDCL 33A-1-31. A county that pays at least 80 percent of the schedule to a county veterans' service officer during the officer's initial appointment qualifies for reimbursement. The basic salary schedule may be exceeded.

Source: 5 SDR 43, effective December 7, 1978; 12 SDR 151, 12 SDR 154, effective July 1, 1986; 38 SDR 58, effective October 19, 2011.

General Authority: 33A-1-31.

Law Implemented: 33A-1-28, 33A-1-29, 33A-1-31, 33A-1-32.

50:03:03:02. Work directly related to veterans' affairs required for state aid. To qualify for state aid for salaries, county veterans' service officers must be employed on work directly related to veterans' affairs.

Source: 5 SDR 43, effective December 7, 1978; 12 SDR 151, 12 SDR 154, effective July 1, 1986; 38 SDR 58, effective October 19, 2011.

General Authority: 33A-1-31.

Law Implemented: 33A-1-22, 33A-1-23, 33A-1-28, 33A-1-31.

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