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# Addendum

## Compensation & Pension

## Service Bulletin

April 2009

### **Subcategories of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma Qualifying for Presumptive Service Connection under 38 CFR 3.313**

VA regulations at 38 CFR 3.313 provide for a presumption of service connection for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma based on service in Vietnam during the Vietnam era, including naval service in the offshore waters of Vietnam. When this regulation was promulgated, the United States Center for Disease Control identified a number of subcategories that are manifestations of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. If a Vietnam veteran claims service connection for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and the medical evidence shows a diagnosis of any of these subcategories, the presumption of service connection should be extended to the veteran. The subcategories are classified by grade and are listed below.

#### **Low Grade Lymphomas**

- Small lymphocytic with plasmacytoid features
- Small lymphocytic
- Intermediate cell
- Follicular, mixed small and large
- Mantle zone
- Follicular, small cleaved

#### **Intermediate Grade Lymphomas**

- Diffuse, small and large
- Diffuse, small cleaved
- Diffuse, large cleaved
- Diffuse, large non-cleaved
- Diffuse, large
- Follicular, large

## **High Grade Lymphomas**

- Small, non-cleaved
- Lymphoblastic
- Immunoblastic
- Burkitt's

The information above will be added to M21-1MR shortly.

## **Outreach Letter on Presumptive Diseases Associated with Herbicide Exposure is not Sufficient Evidence to Establish Veteran's Service in Vietnam**

Compensation and Pension Service issued an outreach letter on November 4, 2008, intended to alert Vietnam veterans to the presumptive diseases associated with herbicide exposure and encourage filing disability claims if they develop one of the diseases. The names of veterans who were sent the letter came from lists provided by the Department of Defense and the Veterans Health Administration. In some cases, the lists contained the names of veterans who received a Vietnam Service Medal or who volunteered for the Agent Orange Registry medical examination, but who did not serve in Vietnam. The letter explains that service in Vietnam means service in the country itself or on its inland waterways, but it begins with the phrase, "you were stationed in the Republic of Vietnam during your military service."

Several VA Regional Offices (VAROs) have notified us that they received disability claims based on herbicide exposure from veterans who presented this outreach letter as evidence of their service in Vietnam. In these cases, there was no other evidence of Vietnam service. Because some veterans without actual Vietnam service received this letter, VAROs should be aware that the letter alone, without other evidence, is not sufficient to establish service in Vietnam or a presumption of herbicide exposure.

## **CRSC/CRDP Refresher Training**

Compensation and Pension (C&P) Service rescheduled the refresher training on Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) and Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payment (CRDP). The training will now be conducted on May 19, 2009, rather than April 30, 2009. On May 14, 2009, C&P Service will send the training agenda to all Area Directors, Veterans Service Center Managers, and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). We will also send Live Meeting invitations to the SMEs listed under [Special Military Retirement Benefits, CRSC and CRDP Super Users Listing](#). Please contact [Brian Mathewuse](#) to request any changes to this list.

## **Verification of Participation in “Special Operations” Incidents**

The Military Records Specialist (MRS) at each VA Regional Office is authorized to submit requests to verify a claimant’s participation in missions involving Special Operations Forces. The MRS should provide the information in the attached *Special Operations Forces Incident* as either a Word or PDF document, and then encrypt and e-mail it to [Barry Bromley](#).

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the Procedures for Recouping Voluntary Separation Pay (VSP)**

The [April C&P Bulletin](#) provided information on recouping Voluntary Separation Pay (VSP) and indicated an addendum would provide additional information regarding the reformatting of VETSNET to accommodate recoupment. Instead, C&P Service will issue a Fast Letter to discuss using VETSNET to recoup VSP payments.

## **Scanning of Original Service Treatment Records (STRs) Received After Copies of STRs Were Previously Scanned**

If a Rating Activity Site (RAS) receives original Service Treatment Records (STRs) not included in the electronic STR, a Rating Veterans Service Representative must request that a “source comment” be added to the image repository indicating that the new documents are originals. RAS personnel must then fax those STRs to (612) 970-5488 at the St. Paul VA Regional Office for the staff to scan them into Virtual VA.