

**Kings County
Military and Veterans Coalition
January 12, 2016
Meeting Agenda**

- Introductions

- Previous Issues

- **Veterans Service Office Status** –*Walk-ins are now Monday through Thursday for claims from 8:30 to 5:00 (no new claims processing after 3:30). Appointments are also available.* The office is open for business on Friday too! Support staff can answer many questions without seeing a VSR. Feel free to stop by anytime to ask for assistance. The Kings County Veterans Service Office can complete the DMV Veteran Status Verification Form for the new California Veteran Designation on your driver's license. We can also issue Veteran I.D. cards to honorably discharged Veterans!

- **Mental Health First Aid Training – Jan 15 or Mar 25** – (See attached)

- New Issues

- **Guest Speaker – David Rose – CALVET Local Interagency Network Coordinator**

- **Self Check Site for Hack Victims** – (See attached)

- **Career and Resource Expo – 27 January** - (See attached)

- **Expanded Benefits for Camp Lejeune Water Contamination** – (See attached)

- **Operation Homefront – 13 January** – (See attached)

- **Extra Help Positions Available** – (See attached)

- **VA Intent to File** – (See attached)

- Round Table –

- Next Meeting – February 9 at the Kings County Government Center, Multi-Purpose Room.



Mental Health First Aid Training

You may ask:

- **What is Mental Health First Aid?**

It is the initial help given to a person showing symptoms of mental illness or in a mental health crisis (severe depression, psychosis, panic attack, suicidal thoughts and behaviors.) until appropriate professional or other help, including peer support and family support can be engaged.

- **Who can be a Mental Health First Aider?**

- Educators/School Administrators
- Human Resource Professionals
- Members of Faith Communities
- Homeless Shelter Staff/Volunteers
- Nurses/Physician Assistants/Primary Care Workers
- Police/First Responders/Personnel
- Mental Health Authorities
- Social Workers
- Substance Abuse Professionals
- Consumers and Family Members
- Caring Citizens

- **How much does it cost?**

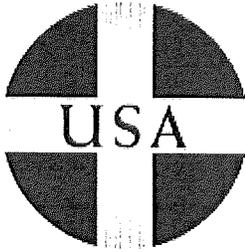
There is a \$5 Registration fee.

In this 8-hour course, you will learn:

- The prevalence of mental health illnesses in the U.S. and their emotional and economic cost.
- The potential warning signs and risk factors for depression, anxiety disorders, trauma, psychotic disorders, eating disorders, and substance abuse disorders.
- A 5-step action plan to help an individual in crisis connect to professional care.
- Resources available to help someone with a mental health problem.

Kings County Behavioral Health Department
450 Kings County Drive, Suite 104
Hanford, CA 93230

For More Information
Call Behavioral Health Department
Chris Prewitt (559) 852-2372



MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID



MENTAL
HEALTH
FIRST AID

DATE: January 15 or March 25, 2016
TIME: 8am-5pm
LOCATION: Behavioral Health, Hope Conf. Rm.
COST: \$5.00

Mental Health First Aid is an 8 hour certification course to educate participants and help them identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health illness or crisis, until professional help is received or the crisis resolves.

This is a one day event which includes the course manual. Payment may be made in cash or check (made out to Kings County Behavioral Health). Payment is due on the day of training.

Which would you like to attend?

- January 15, 2016** (Registration due January 8th)
 March 25, 2016 (Registration due by March 18th)

Your Name: _____

Affiliation: _____

Phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Mail, e-mail, or fax completed registration to:

Kings County Behavioral Health

Attn: Christine Prewitt

450 Kings County Drive, Ste 104

Hanford, CA 93230

Phone: (559) 852-2372

Fax: (559) 589-6916

E-Mail: Christine.Prewitt@co.kings.ca.us

Wright, Joe

From: retvet-info-bounce@freelists.org on behalf of RETVET-INFO@freelists.org
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2015 9:23 AM
To: RetVet-Info@freelists.org
Subject: MVC - [MILRETVET-INFO] OPM Announces Official Launch of Self-Check Site for Hack Victims

OPM Announces Official Launch of Self-Check Site for Hack Victims

The Office of Personnel Management on Tuesday announced the official launch of a Pentagon-hosted website that allows visitors to check if their personal data was stolen in a massive breach of sensitive background investigation files.

The OPM Verify Site can be found here (<https://opmverify.dmdc.osd.mil/>).

About 21.5 million federal employees, contractors and retirees were affected by the breach, which OPM disclosed last summer. The agency has been mailing letters to hack victims since October. Late last month, OPM said it had mailed over 13 million notification letters and was sending an average of about 800,000 a day.

The self-check site is designed to allow hack victims who never received a letter from OPM to check if their data was stolen. In addition, the site can help users who received a letter but lost the PIN provided to sign up for free identity-protection services.

OPM is still in the process of notifying all hack victims and expects to finish in the next two weeks, agency head Beth Cobert said in a blog post about the official launch of the verification system.

"We want to make sure that all those impacted are notified and have the opportunity to take advantage of these services," Cobert said. "So I urge anyone who has not received a letter by the middle of this month and who believes his or her data may have been taken, to reach out to the verification center so we can confirm your correct address and send you a letter."

So far, about 1.2 million people have signed up for the free credit monitoring offered by the government.

SOURCE: NextGov News Release at <http://www.nextgov.com/cybersecurity/2015/12/opm-announces-official-launch-self-check-site-hack-victims/124105/?oref=nextgov> today nl

NOTICE: Links to archived copies of this and other mailing list messages, mailing list subscribe\unsubscribe instructions, retiree\veterans-related events list and links to other useful information for active duty, guard\reserves, retirees and veterans, and their families, are available on the LINKS FOR MIL\RET\VETS website at www.hostmtb.org

If you prefer not to receive future RETVET-INFO mailing list messages, please go to www.hostmtb.org and unsubscribe manually or contact the Mailing List Mgr (Milton.Bell126@gmail.com).

State Senator Andy Vidak
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
Congressman David Valadao
AND **The Wonderful Company**
INVITE YOU TO ATTEND A

Career & Resource Expo

in collaboration with
Tachi Palace



Wednesday, January 27, 2016
9 am – 1 pm

Tachi Palace

17225 Jersey Ave. • Lemoore, CA 93245

The Senator's staff will provide legislative updates, constituent services and resources.

With high unemployment in our Central Valley, connecting people looking for a job with people who have jobs to fill is one of the Senator's top priorities. That's why the Senator is hosting more than 70 local employers with immediate openings at his Job Fair. Many job opportunities do not require college degrees and include vocational careers in the agriculture and oil industries, the military and military-related services, just to name a few. If you have been searching for a job, the Senator encourages you to attend.

For questions, contact district office representative Claudia Salinas at 559.585.7161 or CLAUDIA.SALINAS@SEN.CA.GOV.

VAU.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

News Release

Office of Public Affairs
Media RelationsWashington, DC 20420
(202) 461-7600
www.va.govFOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 17, 2015

VA Plans to Propose Expanded Disability Benefits Eligibility for Veterans Exposed to Contaminated Water at Camp Lejeune

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today that it plans to propose expanded disability compensation eligibility for Veterans exposed to contaminated drinking water while assigned to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

From 1953 to 1987, water sources at the base were contaminated with industrial solvents that are correlated with certain health conditions. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald decided to propose presumptions of service connection for certain conditions associated with these chemical solvents following discussions between environmental health experts at the Veterans Health Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR).

“The water at Camp Lejeune was a hidden hazard, and it is only years later that we know how dangerous it was,” said Secretary McDonald. “We thank ATSDR for the thorough review that provided much of the evidence we needed to fully compensate Veterans who develop one of the conditions known to be related to exposure to the compounds in the drinking water.”

ATSDR determined that the drinking water at Camp Lejeune was contaminated with perchloroethylene, trichloroethylene, vinyl chloride, benzene and other petroleum contaminants from leaking storage tanks from 1953 to 1987. ATSDR also determined that prolonged exposure to these chemicals increases the risk of certain health conditions.

Based upon VA’s review of current medical science and ATSDR’s findings, Secretary McDonald intends to propose creation of a presumption of service connection for the following conditions:

- Kidney Cancer
- Liver Cancer
- Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma
- Leukemia
- Multiple Myeloma
- Scleroderma
- Parkinson's Disease
- Aplastic Anemia / Myelodysplastic Syndromes

The Secretary’s proposal would also expand benefits eligibility to Reserve and National Guard personnel who served at Camp Lejeune for any length of time from August 1, 1953, through December 31, 1987. These personnel would be presumed to have been exposed to the contaminated water during their Reserve or National Guard service and, in appropriate circumstances, to have been disabled by such exposure during service, thus allowing them to qualify for VA benefits under the statutory definition of “Veteran.”

This would make them eligible for VA disability compensation and medical care for any of the presumptive conditions, and their surviving dependents would be eligible for dependency and indemnity compensation and burial benefits.

VA is working on regulations that would establish these presumptions, making it easier for affected Veterans to receive VA disability compensation for these conditions. While VA cannot grant any benefit claims based on the proposed presumption of service connection for these conditions until it issues its final regulations, it encourages Veterans who have a record of service at Camp Lejeune between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, and develop a condition that they believe is related to exposure to the drinking water at the base, to file a disability compensation claim with VA.

VA will continue to grant claims for disabilities claimed to be associated with exposure to the contaminants that can be granted under current regulations and review of the evidence in each case. If a claim for service connection for one of the proposed presumptive conditions would be denied under current regulations, the denial will be stayed until VA issues its final regulations. VA will announce when the regulations are final and presumptive benefits can begin to be awarded. For more information on applying for these benefits, visit:
http://benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-postservice-exposures-camp_lejeune_water.asp.

Veterans who served at Camp Lejeune for 30 days or more between August 1, 1953, and December 31, 1987, are already eligible to receive VA healthcare for up to 15 health conditions. More information, including a full list of covered conditions, can be found online at:
<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/PUBLICHEALTH/exposures/camp-lejeune/index.asp>.

Veterans can establish eligibility for healthcare benefits by submitting VA Form 10-10EZ online at www.1010ez.med.va.gov/, downloading it at www.va.gov/vaforms/medical/pdf/1010EZ-fillable.pdf and returning it to any VA Medical Center or Clinic, or by calling 1-877-222-VETS (8387), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM (Eastern Time).

VA is reimbursing certain veterans' family members for eligible out-of-pocket medical expenses related to the 15 covered conditions. More information can be found at: <https://www.clfamilymembers.fsc.va.gov>

###

The Lemoore Chamber of Commerce is inviting the Veterans Service Organizations to their next meeting to hear about Operation Homefront. I encourage you to try to have someone from your organization attend.

Thanks, Joe

Joe Wright

*Kings County Public Guardian
Veterans Service Officer
(559)852-2659
joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us*

Subject: Operation Homefront

Good afternoon all!

I was contacted by Jeanette Homan today from Lemoore Van & Storage (Lambert Moving and Storage) about a gentleman named Mr. Jack Chirrick, from Operation Homefront, who will be in Lemoore in January. Jeanette has been working with the organization for a number of years, since 99% of her clientele is military families. Mr. Chirrick had originally wanted to meet with all of the service clubs in town, but then I suggested that he might want to be our guest speaker at our Chamber luncheon, so that everyone could come to one place instead of him running around to six!

So, he is all set to be our guest speaker on **Wednesday, January 13th**, from noon-1pm at the Tachi Palace banquet rooms. Jeanette and I would appreciate you spreading the word to your club members and making some time that day to come out and listen to the great work he and his organization are doing for military communities.

If you'd like to get a brief preview, follow this link to their website:

<http://www.operationhomefront.net/>

I wish you all Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Jenny MacMurdo

Jenny MacMurdo

CEO, Lemoore Chamber of Commerce
300 E St. Lemoore, CA 93245

(w) 559-924-6401

(c) 618-521-6497

<http://lemoorechamberofcommerce.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/LemooreChamberofCommerce>

****PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS: ceo@lemoorechamber.org ****



The Kings County Public Guardian/Veterans Service Office is looking to hire two Extra-Help Transportation Aids to assist our office in transporting Public Guardian clients. The Transportation Aid position is normally used several hours a month as needed to assist our regular staff in transporting clients from out of the Kings County area.

This is an actual Extra Help position within Kings County and will require a DMV and background check. The typical applicant could be a retiree looking to supplement their income a bit... If this is something you are interested in, please contact Deputy Public Guardian Carolyn Oliveira-McCann at (559)852-2665 or Deputy Public Guardian/Veterans Service Officer Scott Holwell at (559)852-2661.

Thanks, Joe

Joe Wright

Kings County Public Guardian

Veterans Service Officer

(559)852-2659

[*joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us*](mailto:joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us)





INTENT TO FILE

INTENT TO FILE

A new *intent to file* process has been established for Veterans and Survivors who intend to file a claim for VA compensation, pension, or survivors benefits, but need additional time to gather all of the information and evidence needed to support their claim.

WHAT IS THE INTENT TO FILE PROCESS?

The *intent to file* process allows you additional time to collect all of the information needed to support your claim while protecting the earliest possible effective date for any award of benefits or increased benefits resulting from your claim. The date VA receives your *intent to file* will be protected as your effective date as long as the correct application form is completed and submitted within 1 year.

WHAT DOES AN INTENT TO FILE A CLAIM CONTAIN?

Your *intent to file* must contain: (1) sufficient personal information to identify the Veteran and claimant (if not the Veteran); (2) an election of the general benefit(s) you are seeking (i.e., compensation, pension, or survivors benefits); and (3) you or your representative's signature.

HOW DO VETERANS OR SURVIVORS NOTIFY VA OF THEIR INTENT TO FILE

There are three ways you can notify VA of your intent to file a claim.

1. **Electronically** via eBenefits or with the support of a VSO through the Stakeholder Enterprise Portal.
 - a. When submitting through eBenefits, you must initiate a claim, complete the personal information page, and hit “save”, which then establishes your effective date while allowing you up to 1 year to complete your application.
2. **Completing and mailing paper VA Form 21-0966, *Intent to File a Claim for Compensation and/or Pension, or Survivors Pension and/or DIC.***
3. **Over the phone or in person.** Claimants can call VA's National Call Centers (800-827-1000), or tell a public contact representative in person at one of VA's regional office.

You may also appoint a recognized representative, such as a Veterans Service Organization (VSO), who can notify VA on your behalf using one of the above three methods.



INTENT TO FILE PRESERVES THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF A POTENTIAL CLAIM

Once VA is notified of your *intent to file*, you have up to 1 year from the date VA receives your *intent to file* to submit a formal claim for benefits and any supporting documentation.

The *intent to file* process also allows VA to award benefits retroactive to the date of your medical diagnosis or treatment as long as the *intent to file* is filed within 1 year of the diagnosis/treatment and the required claim form is filed within 1 year of the *intent to file*.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT INTENT TO FILE

- VA will only recognize one *intent to file* per general benefit at any given time.
- Your completed claim must be received within 1 year of the date VA receives your *intent to file* for the same general benefit in order for VA to consider your *intent to file* when assigning an effective date.
- Once you have submitted a completed claim, your *intent to file* for that general benefit will no longer be active. If you intend to file another claim, but require time to complete your claim, you must submit a new *intent to file* for the general benefit you are seeking.

For example: VA receives an *intent to file* for compensation benefits on April 1, 2015, an application for compensation benefits (i.e., VA Form 526EZ, *Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits*) on August 1, 2015, and another application for compensation benefits on January 1, 2016. In this case, VA will consider an effective date of April 1, 2015, the date VA received the *intent to file*, for any benefits awarded as a result of the August 1, 2015 application. However, the April 1, 2015 *intent to file* date will not be used for any benefits awarded as a result of the January 1, 2016 application.

Consider the same circumstances as above, but a second *intent to file* for compensation benefits is received on October 1, 2015. In this case, VA will consider an effective date of April 1, 2015, the date we received the *intent to file*, for any benefits awarded as a result of the August 1, 2015 application. VA will also consider an effective of October 1, 2015 for any benefits awarded as a result of the January 1, 2016 application.

For More Information, Call Toll-Free 1-800-827-1000 or Visit <http://explore.va.gov/intent-to-file>

