

**FERNANDO TERMENTINI**

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Questo mi arriva da Douglas Rokke ex-responsabile del pentagono per il DU.

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## **Iraq and Afghanistan Impact Report**

January 2012

For this quarterly report Veterans for Common Sense (VCS) combines several government documents about U.S. military service members and veterans who deployed to the Iraq - Afghanistan war zone since September 11, 2011. VCS uses only primary source documents from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and Department of Defense (DoD) obtained by VCS under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) on a consistent basis since 2006.

### **Military Deployments to War Zone <sup>1</sup>**

**2,333,972 Total Service Members Deployed**  
○ **1,002,106 Number Deployed Twice or More to War Zone (43%)**

### **Military Casualties in War Zone <sup>2</sup>**

**112,019 Total War Zone Casualties**  
○ **6,324 Deaths (5%), Includes 309 War Zone Suicides**  
○ **47,409 Non-Fatal Wounded in Action (42%)**  
○ **58,286 Non-Fatal Medical Evacuations Due to Injury or Disease (52%)**

### **Veteran Post-Deployment Healthcare Use <sup>3 4</sup>**

**1,526,746 Veterans Eligible for VA Healthcare**  
○ **741,954 Veteran Patients Treated (49% of Veterans Eligible)**  
○ **385,711 Veterans with Mental Health Condition (52% of Patients)**  
○ **223,609 Veterans with Potential PTSD (30% of Patients)**  
○ **~ 9,700 Average New Veteran Patients Each Month**

### **Veteran Post-Deployment Disability Claim Activity <sup>5</sup>**

**1,526,746 Veterans Eligible for VA Disability Benefits**

- o **676,774 Veterans Filed Disability Claims (44% of Veterans Eligible)**
  - o **158,238 Veterans Awaiting VA Decision (23% of Claims)**
  - o **119,446 Veterans with Approved PTSD Claim (53% of PTSD Patients)**
  - o **~ 9,500 Average New Claims Filed by Veterans Each Month**
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#### **Estimated Long-Term Impact on VA**

- ~ **1,032,000 Total New Veteran Patients, Dec. 31, 2013** <sup>6</sup>
- ~ **938,000 Total New Veteran Claims, Dec. 31, 2013** <sup>7</sup>
- up to \$900 Billion VA Healthcare and Benefit Spending Over 40 Years** <sup>8</sup>

#### **Service Member and Veteran Suicide**

- 541,360 Total Calls to VA's Veterans Crisis Line** <sup>9</sup>
- o **314,059 Calls from Veterans from Any Period of Service**
- o **7,152 Calls from Active Duty Service Members**
- o **220,149 Calls from Others / Family**
- 19,823 "Rescues" of Suicidal Veterans and Service Members**
- 2,293 Active Duty Suicides Since January 2011** <sup>10</sup>
- o **298 Suicides While Deployed in War Zone**
- o **1,995 Suicides After Deploying to War Zone**

#### **Unknown Suicides Among Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans**

- Veterans' Claims Pending at VA for All Periods of Service** <sup>11</sup>
- 1,131,556 Dec. 2011, Pending Veterans' Claims and Appeals**
- 568,711 Mar. 2003, Pending Veterans' Claims and Appeals**
- 562,785 Pending Claim Increase, Mar. 2003 to Dec. 2011**

<sup>1</sup> DoD, "Contingency Tracking System," Number of Deployments for Those Ever Deployed for Operation Iraqi

Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, as of Jul. 31, 2011.

<sup>2</sup> DoD, "Global War on Terrorism - Operation Enduring Freedom, By Casualty Within Service, Oct. 7, 2001, Through Jan. 3, 2012" (Afghanistan War), DoD, "Global War on Terrorism - Operation Iraqi Freedom, By Casualty Category Within Service, Mar. 19, 2003, Through Jan. 3, 2012" (Iraq War, Mar. 2003 through Aug. 2010), DoD, "Global War on Terrorism - Operation New Dawn, By Casualty Within Service, Sep. 1, 2010 Through Jan. 5, 2012" (Continuation of Iraq War since Sep. 2010).

<sup>3</sup> VA, "VA Facility Specific Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), and, Operation

New Dawn (OND) Veterans Coded with Potential PTSD Through 4th Qtr FY 2011," Nov. 2011.

<sup>4</sup> VA, "Analysis of VA Health Care Utilization Among Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), and, Operation New Dawn (OND) Veterans," 4th Qtr, Fiscal Year 2011," Nov. 2011.

<sup>5</sup> VA, "VA Benefits Activity: Veterans Deployed to the Global War on Terror," Through Oct 2011, Oct. 2011.

<sup>6</sup> VCS estimate based on current rate of 9,700 new patients per month.

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<sup>7</sup> VCS estimate based on current rate of 9,500 new claimants per month.

<sup>8</sup> Joseph Stiglitz and Linda Bilmes, House Veterans' Affairs Committee, "True Cost of War" Sep. 20, 2010.

<sup>9</sup> VA "VA National Suicide Prevention Hotline Call Report 2011, Totals YTD" Jan. 2012.

<sup>10</sup> Defense Manpower Data Center, "U.S. Active Duty Military Deaths" July 29, 2011.

<sup>11</sup> VA "Monday Morning Workload Reports," Mar. 22, 2004 and Dec. 12, 2011.

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## **Wait gets longer for VA disability benefits**

By [Patricia Kime](#) - Staff writer

Posted : Wednesday May 23, 2012 17:34:55 EDT

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Ill or injured service members now wait an average of 394 days to move through the military's disability evaluation process, an increase of more than 10 percent since 2010 and well off the goal of 295 days, according to the Government Accountability Office.

In fiscal 2011, just 19 percent of active-duty service members and 18 percent of National Guard and Reserve members completed the Integrated Disability Evaluation System, or IDES, process within the goal of 295 days for active-duty members and 305 days for Guard and Reserve personnel.

And at some installations, the average wait is nearly 18 months or longer. At Fort Belvoir, Va., for example, soldiers face an average processing period of 537 days, while guardsmen at Fort Carson, Colo., wait 651 days.

"Now that the joint system has been implemented nationwide, I have to say I am far from convinced the departments have implemented a disability evaluation process that is truly transparent, consistent or expeditious," Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., who chairs the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, said at a hearing Wednesday.

IDES was introduced in 2007 to streamline the disability evaluation process and integrate the Defense and Veterans Affairs department systems.

Before IDES, service members waited an average of 450 days to get through both the required Defense Department medical exams and the separate VA process to evaluate service members for benefits to which they may be entitled.

In fiscal 2008, with IDES operational at a fraction of the 139 total military treatment facilities, average wait time was 297 days.

But that figure has steady ticked upward since the new system went force-wide.

Last year, defense officials told the Senate Armed Services Committee it might be two years before DoD and VA reached their 295-day goal; on Wednesday, the senators learned the average processing time continues to lengthen.

But VA and DoD officials said changes underway, including new IT systems and additional staff, should move the process in the desired direction.

"We're down to production numbers where we believe we will be processing 2,500 [people] a month. If we can sustain that starting in August, we can move forward," VA Chief of Staff John Gingrich said.

Murray said six service members in her home state of Washington have died of suicide, car crashes or accidental drug overdoses while wading through the IDES process.

As members of the Senate panel questioned whether it was time to abandon the estimated \$700 million system, Sen. Mike Johanns, R-Neb., suggested VA and DoD keep the committee — and the public — periodically apprised on IDES' progress.

"In this town, sometimes it's hard to find bipartisanship as you all know," Johanns said. "I guarantee, the frustration with this is bipartisan."