



Presentation 12 – Susan Perez

Veterans Benefits Administration
Data and Information Services



**GULF WAR VETERANS
INFORMATION SYSTEM (GWVIS)**




GWVIS

Briefing For:

Department of Veterans Affairs
Research Advisory Committee
On Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses

October 28, 2003

Prepared by: VBA/DSIE October 2003




Briefing Overview

Four Main Topics Requested by the RAC:

- VBA
- PA&I
- GWVIS
- Gulf War data


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VBA Overview

- VBA adjudicates claims
- VBA claims process
- VBA does not diagnose veterans
- VBA maintains data about decisions

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PA&I Overview

Office of Performance Analysis and Integrity (PA&I):

- List of 5.8 million Gulf War service members, from 1990 to present
- Data on how many veterans have a claim with a decision
- VBA diagnostic code data for those claims with a decision

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PA&I Overview

Data limitations:

- Current VBA awards system limitation- does not hold all diagnostic codes
- Diagnostic code \neq ICDM-9 code
- PA&I counts number of veteran deaths, but does not conduct mortality studies
- This is raw data not subjected to analysis


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Purpose of GWVIS

- Identifies Gulf War service member population and key sub-populations
- Monitors Gulf War veteran compensation and pension benefit use
- Provides data for quarterly reports
- Serves as a resource for *ad-hoc* data requests about Gulf War veterans

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GWVIS Data Sources

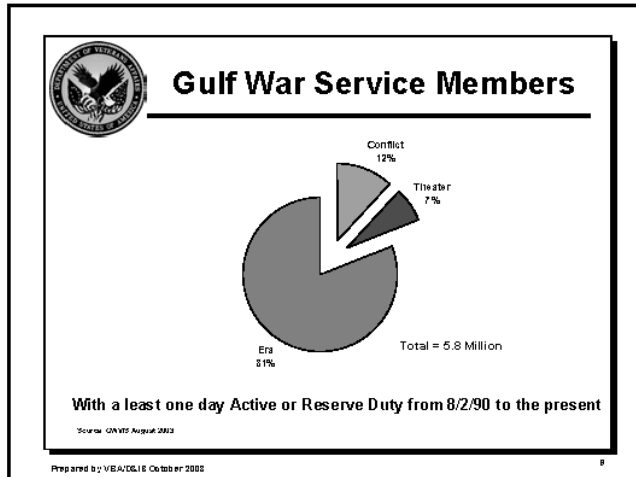
Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC)

- Identifies Active Duty and Ready Reserve service members since August 2, 1990
- Identifies Gulf War deployment status

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)

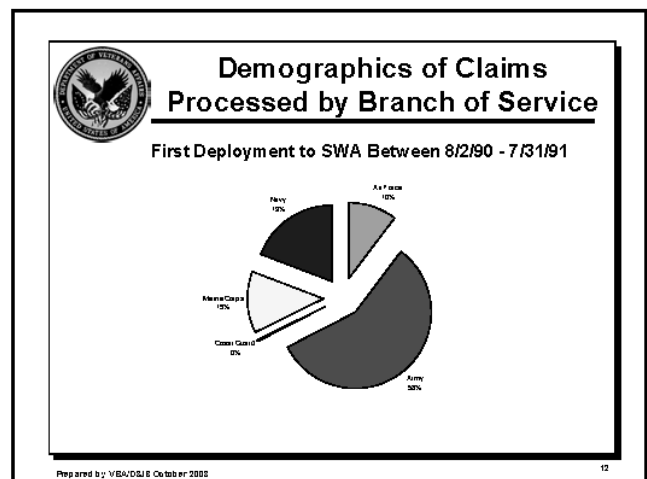
- Identifies granted, denied, and pending compensation and pension claims
- Identifies deaths

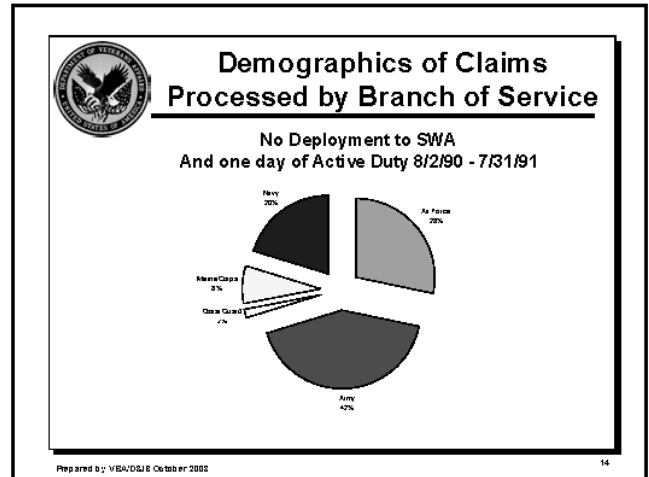
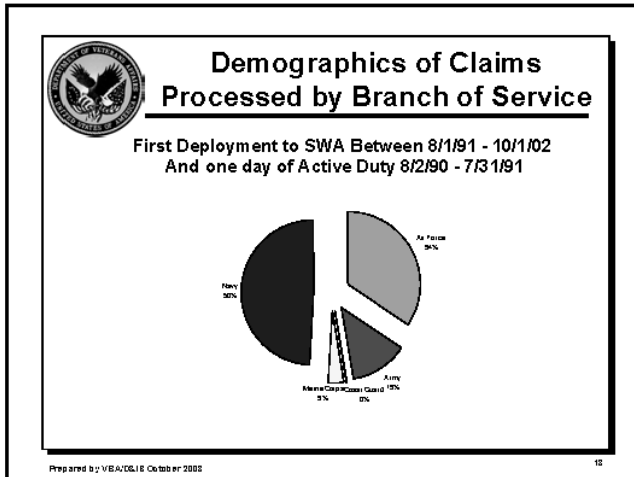
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- ### Gulf War Veteran Data
- Specific data requested by the RAC:*
- Gulf War veterans with at least one day of active duty from 8/2/90 - 7/31/91 and a processed claim for any VBA benefit
 - Gulf War veteran claim demographic data
 - Gulf War veteran claim data for three VBA diagnostic codes
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- ### Specific RAC Data Request
- Three New Deployment Categories:*
- First Deployment to SWA Between 8/2/90 - 7/31/91
 - First Deployment to SWA Between 8/1/91 - 10/1/02 and one day of Active Duty 8/2/90 - 7/31/91
 - No Deployment to SWA and one day of Active Duty 8/2/90 - 7/31/91
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Demographics of Claims Processed by Sex and Age

Veterans with one day of Active Duty 8/2/90 – 7/31/91
and a processed claim

Category	First Deployment to SWA Between 8/2/90 - 7/31/91		First Deployment to SWA Between 8/1/91 - 10/1/02		No Deployment to SWA		
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
	Claims Processed	245,545	100	77,869	100	519,023	100
Sex	Female	21,161	8.6	6,894	8.9	81,992	15.8
	Male	223,726	91.1	70,272	90.5	435,739	84.0
	Unknown	658	0.3	503	0.6	1,292	0.2
Age	< 44	162,808	66.3	50,360	64.8	282,674	54.5
	≥ 45	82,427	33.6	27,292	35.1	236,214	45.5
	Unknown	310	0.1	17	0.0	135	0.0


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Demographics of Claims Processed by Race/Ethnicity

Veterans with one day of Active Duty 8/2/90 – 7/31/91
and a processed claim

Category	First Deployment to SWA Between 8/2/90 - 7/31/91		First Deployment to SWA Between 8/1/91 - 10/1/02		No Deployment to SWA		
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	
	Claims Processed	245,545	100	77,869	100	519,023	100
Race / Ethnicity	American Indian or Alaska Native	1,593	0.6	530	0.7	9,696	1.9
	Asian or Pacific Islander	6,325	2.6	3,310	4.3	6,646	1.3
	Black, not Hispanic	65,325	26.6	14,768	19.0	112,597	21.7
	White, not Hispanic	154,130	62.8	53,588	69.0	347,545	67.0
	Hispanic	13,514	5.5	4,131	5.3	24,430	4.7
	Other	3,868	1.6	807	1.0	7,539	1.5
	Unknown	790	0.3	535	0.7	2,581	0.5
	Blank	0	0.0	0	0.0	7,989	1.5

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Gulf War Veteran Data

Claim data for three VBA diagnostic codes:

- Gulf War veteran service-connection and nonservice-connection percentages for ALS, MS, and Tinnitus claims
- Gulf War veterans with at least one day of active duty from 8/2/90 - 7/31/91 and a processed claim for any VBA benefit

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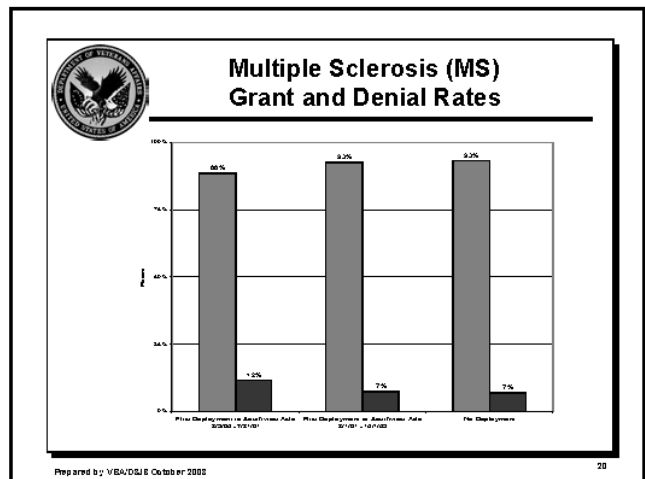
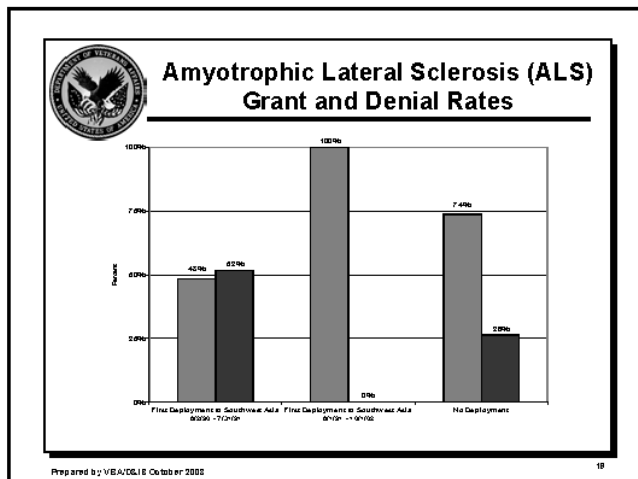


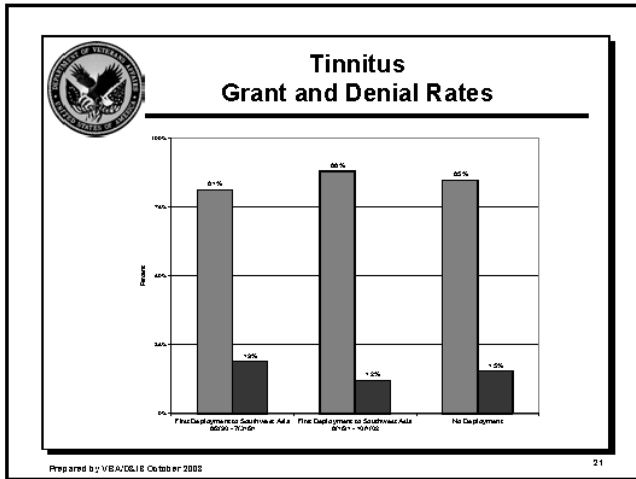
Gulf War Veteran Data

Veterans with one day of Active Duty 8/2/90 – 7/31/91 and a processed claim

Category:	First Deployment to Southwest ASAs 8/2/90 – 7/31/91		First Deployment to Southwest ASAs 8/1/91 – 10/1/92		No Deployment	
	Count	Percent	Count	Percent	Count	Percent
Claim Processed	2,456	100	77,669	100	519,823	100
Service-Connection	28	0.48	1	0.00	42	0.14
Nonservice-Connection	30	0.52	0	0.00	15	0.26
To All Claims	58	100	1	100	57	100
Service-Connection	380	0.36	126	0.30	1,155	0.30
Nonservice-Connection	47	0.12	10	0.07	87	0.07
To All Claims	427	100	136	100	1,242	100
Service-Connection	22,013	0.51	10,443	0.38	49,051	0.35
Nonservice-Connection	5,131	0.19	1,436	0.12	8,931	0.19
To All Claims	27,144	100	11,879	100	57,982	100

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Questions?

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