

Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation (FVEC) Points of Interests

- 1) The Manila Regional Office is doing their best to process each application accurately and timely. Within two months after the law as passed, VA established an adjudication process, payment system, accounting system, and payment delivery system to successfully issue the first FVEC payment on April 8, 2009. The claims process is provided below:
 - a. Each application is submitted to the Manila VA Regional Office via a VA Form 21-4138, and is examined for eligibility based on the criteria established in “American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009” HR 1, Sec. 1002, the Filipino Veterans Equity Compensation (FVEC) Fund.
 - b. All applications received by the Manila VA Regional Office are verified and a receipt confirmation is sent back to the applicant. If any development is necessary to determine FVEC eligibility, a Veterans Claims Assistance Act (VCAA) letter notice will be sent to inform the claimant of the necessary evidence needed to complete the claim. If you have questions concerning FVEC benefits, or would like more information about VA benefit programs and how to apply, various options are available.
 - Contact VA on the Internet at <http://iris.va.gov> and submit an on-line inquiry
 - United States residents may call VA at 1-800-827-1000
 - Philippine residents within Metro Manila may call 632-528-2500
 - Philippine residents outside Manila may call 1-800-1888-5252
 - If you use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the number is 1-800-829-4833 (United States residents only).
 - c. Once all of the evidence and service verification is received and reviewed, a decision is made. Concurrently, a notification letter is sent to the claimant, to explain the reasons and basis used to determine the decision.

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- 2) As of December 23, 2010, there are 1,366 FVEC claims pending. In addition to these claims, the Manila Regional Office (RO) has received more than 3,300 duplicate or incomplete applications.
- 3) As of December 23, 2010, 41,234 applications have been processed: 8,878 approved for non-United States citizens, 8,914 approved for Filipino Veterans with U.S. Citizenship, and 23,442 applications disapproved. The initial benchmark for the number of eligible applicants was estimated at 18,000 Filipino WWII Veterans
 - a. Qualifying military service which has not been previously verified must be verified through the appropriate service department in accordance with 38 CFR 3.203(c). This is accomplished by submission of requests to the Philippine Army Group at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, MO. as the custodian of the Department of the Army's records. Under current VA regulations, this is the only entity given the authority to verify U.S. military service in these cases.
- 4) VA conducted numerous successful outreach programs to inform Veterans and their families about this benefit. This aggressive outreach continued until February 16, 2010. To ensure all Filipino WWII Veterans are provided ample opportunity to apply, various outreach events were scheduled prior to February 16, 2010.

The Manila RO has established a dedicated team of employees who solely process FVEC claims. To date, over \$213 million has been awarded to eligible Filipino Veterans.

- 5) Two options are available to claimants who do not agree with a VA decision. The first option is to provide VA with evidence that may lead VA to change the decision. The notification letter will clearly identify any potential missing evidence the claimant should provide in order to substantiate their claim.

The second option is to file a notice of disagreement (NOD), in writing, explaining the reasons for disagreement. The time frame to file a notice of disagreement is one year from the date of the notification letter explaining the reasons and basis VA used to make their decision. VA encloses a VA Form 4107, *"Your Rights to Appeal Our Decision,"* with FVEC notification letters to help explain appeal rights to claimants.

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Once an appeal is received, the claimant will be provided hearing options to include a video hearing or a face-to face hearing at the nearest regional office.

As of December 23, 2010, the Manila RO has received more than 3,630 NODs on FVEC denials. As more denials are processed, it is expect the number of NODs will increase significantly.

- 6) Due to Privacy Act provisions the list of applicants and claimants are not subject to public disclosure.
- 7) As a reminder, applications must be submitted no later than **February 16, 2010**.

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As 12/23/2010

Status	Number
Pending Claims	1,366
Claims Granted (\$9,000)	8,878
Claims Granted (\$15,000)	8,914
Claims Denied	23,442
Claims Completed	41,234