

**Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)  
Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)**

**Responses to Veterans' Advisory Committee on  
Rehabilitation (VACOR) Recommendations  
(2005 Annual Report)**

**Recommendation 1: VACOR recommends the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) appoint a chairperson to Committee.**

VACOR's Chair has been vacant since May of 2005. The Committee requests that a Chair be appointed to fill this important role. The members of the committee are committed to the responsibility of VACOR to provide well informed recommendations to the Secretary, on the needs of veterans with disabilities and the administration of VA's programs to meet those needs.

**VA Response: Concur.**

VA recognizes the value of VACOR's work and the importance of having a chairperson to provide leadership and focus. Dr. Griffin Dalianis has been appointed Chairman of the Committee and Mr. Louis Irvin has been appointed as Vice Chairman. Both are appointed to serve through February 2008.

**Recommendation 2: The Committee recommends that a representative from the Department of Defense be appointed to the Committee.**

A representative from the Department of Defense would be an asset to the Committee by providing an informed perspective on the transition from active duty to veteran. This process has increased in focus due to the current war effort and the returning wounded service men and women. Much of the information the committee receives is based on a VA perspective. This additional member would help bridge the information provided to the Committee.

**VA Response: Concur.**

VA works closely with the Department of Defense to ensure coordinated efforts in providing a full range of transition services to returning service members and to veterans. Dr. Lynda C. Davis, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Military Personnel Policy, was recently appointed to this Committee. Her expertise in public policy development and military issues makes her a valuable addition to the Committee.

**Recommendation 3:** The Committee recommends that the VA provide special recognition to Chad Colley, former VACOR Chair, for his extraordinary leadership and contributions to veterans with disabilities. Mr. Colley's resignation was a loss for VACOR and veterans with disabilities. During his tenure he assured committee members received the necessary direction and information to make viable recommendations to the Secretary resulting in improved or expanded services to veterans with disabilities. His leadership, dedication and direction will be long remembered and missed by the Committee.

**VA Response:** Concur. VA acknowledges the outstanding leadership and direction that Mr. Chad Colley brought to the VACOR Committee. His unique insight, energy, and focus paved the way for meaningful recommendations and on-going projects that continue to further rehabilitation efforts. VA has recognized Mr. Colley for his extraordinary leadership and contributions to veterans with disabilities.

**Request for Information:** The Committee requests an update on the number of regular active duty vs. Guard and Reservists injured in OEF/OIF operations and requests a list of all rehabilitation programs in VA.

**VA Response:** Information requested by the Committee is being developed and will be available at the next VACOR meeting.



THE SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

October 27, 2006



*Commemorating 75 Years of Service*

Mr. Louis Irvin  
Associate Executive Director  
Department of Veterans Benefits  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
801 18<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006-3517

Dear Mr. Irvin:

I received the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation's report. Thank you for taking the initiative in the absence of a chairman to convene the Committee and to continue their work. Our responses to the Committee's recommendations are enclosed.

I appreciate your bringing these issues to my attention. Please express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Committee for their contributions and continued commitment to helping Department of Veterans Affairs serve the rehabilitation needs of veterans with disabilities.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. James Nicholson".

R. James Nicholson

Enclosure