DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
CHARTER OF THE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON OIF/OEF VETERANS AND FAMILIES

A. OFFICIAL DES IGNATION: Advisory Committee on OIF/OEF Veterans and Families.

B. OBJECT IVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITY: The Advisory Committee on OIF/OEF Veterans and Families will advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on the full spectrum of health care, benefits delivery and related family support issues that confront servicemembers during their transition from active duty to veterans' status and during their post-service years. The Committee will focus on the concerns of all men and women with active military service in Operation Iraqi Freedom and/or Operation Enduring Freedom, but will pay particular attention to severely disabled veterans and their families.

C. PERIOD OF TIME NECESSARY FOR THE COMMITTEE TO CARRY OUT ITS PURPOSE: There is a continuing need for the Committee. The Secretary will determine when the Committee's work has been completed.

D. OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Committee will report to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

E. OFFICE RESPONS IBLE FOR PROVIDING SUPPORT TO THE COMMITTEE: The Office of Policy and Planning is responsible for providing support to the Advisory Committee on OIF/OEF Veterans and Families.

F. DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE: As the Committee carries out its responsibilities to examine the full spectrum of available benefits and services, it will make recommendations on how to tailor those benefits and services to the needs of OIF/OEF veterans and their families. During its deliberations, the Committee is expected to assess both the effectiveness of existing programs and the demand for new initiatives that address the following priorities:

- Treatment for severe disabilities, to include polytrauma
- Issues of particular concern to National Guard and Reserve members
- Treatment for mental health problems, to include PTSD
- VA research targeted at problems associated with OIF/OEF service
- Issues of particular concern to female OIF/OEF veterans
- Issues affecting families to include dependents and survivors
- Educational assistance and job training
- Transitional benefits and services
- Other significant issues as identified by the Committee

The Committee may review the reports and recommendations of other VA advisory committees or official government entities and other affected groups or organizations that have examined any of the above issues.

The Committee will be comprised of approximately 20 members. The majority of the Committee's membership will be Special Government Employees. The Secretary will appoint individuals who can effectively represent the views of OIF/OEF veterans and their families.

G. ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS IN DOLLARS AND STAFF-YEARS: The estimated annual operating cost of the Advisory Committee on OIF/OEF Veterans and Families is $1,000,000 which includes the cost of three staff years. Members will receive travel expenses and a per diem allowance in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulation for any travel made in connection with their duties as members of the Committee.

H. ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS: The Committee will meet as often as is necessary to provide timely advice to the Secretary. The Designated Federal Officer (DFO), a full time VA employee, will approve the schedule of Committee meetings. The DFO or a designee will be present at all meetings, and each meeting will be conducted in accordance with an agenda approved by the DFO. The DFO is authorized to adjourn any meeting when he or she determines it is in the public interest to do so.

I. COMMITTEE TERMINATION DATE: The Committee will terminate when the Secretary determines that it has fully met its responsibilities and completed all necessary reports.

J. DATE CHARTER IS FILED:

Approved: _____ Date: 4/20/07

R. James Nicholson
Secretary of Veterans Affairs