



CORRECTIONAL TRAINING FACILITY

**SOLEDAD VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE
SERVICE CENTER**

Highway 101 North P.O. Box 689
Soledad, CA 93960-0689



**CORRECTIONAL TRAINING FACILITY ACTIVITY REPORT
OF THE CTF- VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE SERVICE
CENTER TO THE CALIFORNIA STATE SENATE VETERANS
AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

HONORABLE JIM NIELSEN CHAIRMAN

MAY 10, 2016

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

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May 2, 2016

S. HATTON
Warden (A)

E.A. DaRosa
Correctional Lt.
Directing Supv.

Edwin V. Munis,
K59703

M. "Doc" Piper,
J49677

Service Officers
Vietnam Veterans

Michael Hoskins
H33794

Service Officer
Adjutant

Honorable Jim Nielsen Chairman, Honorable Members of the California State Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs... Mr. Secretary S. Kernan, CDCR, Distinguished guests.

My name is Eric Darosa a Correctional Lieutenant with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation at the Correctional Training Facility Soledad, California. I am the Directing Supervisor of the Correctional Training Facilities Veterans Service Office Service Center, established May 2005, the only Veterans' Office within any U.S. Prison.

Authorized by Public Law 107-95 (2001) Title 38 United States Code §2023 Referral and counseling services: veterans at risk of homelessness who are transitioning from certain Penal Institutions.

California Assembly Bill 2490 September 12, 2012 establishing §2695, Article 6 Chapter 4, Title 1 Part 3 Relating to Veterans'.

Since 2005 the CTF-VSO has assisted in the recovery of over \$15,069,340.00 in earned disability compensation due incarcerated veterans for injuries sustained while serving in the United States Military requiring an honorable discharge.

This honorable committee should note that this revenue is considered subvention funding.

Over \$14 millions dollars are available to the families of those veterans' who remain incarcerated; among these benefits are educational tuition waivers for the eligible children in our state colleges and university's including institutions that specialize in vocational training.





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SERVICES OFFERED

The following services are offered the incarcerated veteran and their eligible family members, by the CTF-VSO.

- ◆ Comprehensive benefit counseling.
- ◆ Veterans Administration Medical care.
- ◆ Education benefits including benefits for eligible dependants.
- ◆ V.A. claims assistance for incarcerated veterans and eligible dependants (apportionment).
- ◆ Networking with state, county and federal agencies offering assistance to incarcerated veterans and their families.
- ◆ Employment services offered by the California State Department of Labor through its Division of Apprenticeship Standards and employment service offered by the United States Department of Labor.
- ◆ Vocational training offered by accredited trade schools.
- ◆ Transitional housing (state wide) for veterans' and non-veterans'.
- ◆ V.A. Compensation, service connected disability claims filings with the V.A. including direct assistance for claim denials, filing of Notice of Disagreement.
- ◆ Filing with the Veterans Board , Washington D.C. and the United States Court of Veteran Appeals Washington including pro bono attorney services with attorneys registered to practice before the U.S. Veterans' Court, full claims follow up.
- ◆ Dependent Indemnity compensation and aid assistance.
- ◆ V.A. Apportionment of compensation due eligible family members of veterans who remain incarcerated.
- ◆ V.A. Education benefits and resources for veterans and family members.
- ◆ Requests for military records via Freedom of Information Act.
- ◆ State veteran homes eligibility and applications.
- ◆ Burial benefits for veterans' and eligible family members.
- ◆ Pension benefits for non-service connected injuries (not available to veterans while incarcerated, (family member may be eligible based on financial need).
- ◆ Parole plans assistance for the Board of Prison Hearings BPH for veterans' and non-veterans'.
- ◆ Comprehensive substance abuse counseling by State Certified Forensic abuse counselor.
- ◆ Post Traumatic Stress counseling provided by State licensed Board Certified Psychologist.
- ◆ Mindfulness counseling by certified mindfulness counselor.
- ◆ Substance abuse, PTS and mindfulness counseling offered on Saturdays and each requires a one year commitment.

All of the above services are provided by the Correctional Training Facility without direct assistance from the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs, the California State Department of Veterans' Affairs or the local county veteran service offices.

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SHORTCOMINGS

The CTF-VSO currently lacks the ability to directly link up with other California prisons. Funding and prudent planning may solve this matter thus preventing duplication of services and providing a central point of claims processing, accreditation by the USDVA, including state and federal agencies who provide service for incarcerated veterans and their families. Direct accreditation with the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) by legislative process is suggested. A written examination would be necessary.

It must be noted that no coordinated effort exists between any California agency serving incarcerated veterans', due to lack of expertise, fear of entering prison facilities' by county veteran service officers. Bakersfield VSO has flatly stated that our veterans' are not entitled because of their incarceration.

The United States Department of Justice Bureau of Prisons estimates 180,000 veterans currently incarcerated in state and federal prisons, based on these assumptions it is safely estimated that California alone houses 17,000 incarcerated veterans with this number unfortunately, exponentially growing. The USDVA is ill prepared to provide any services within any U.S. prison. Departments of Corrections across the country are left on their own to develop any services focused on the veterans' or their families.

One difficulty is the resentment displayed by free and custody staff towards the veteran as benefits are granted, even to some extent having the ability to apply for benefits can lead to unnecessary delays in claims processing, i.e., reproduction of documents, obtaining copy's of medical reports that may help establish a nexus between military service and continued need for medical care.

POSITIVE CLAIMS ASSISTANCE BY CTF-VSO

CTF-VSO; assistance with claims processing, knowledge of VA requirements for establishing a well grounded claim to the VA., CTF-VSO success ratio has proven to be higher than those granted claims by county veteran service offices. This has been accomplished by a focused goal and dedication to the incarcerated veteran and their families, gained by experience and dedication.

The trial and error of developing a program suited for a custodial environment has been established aiding with the high rate of successful claim and positive claims granted after filing Notice of Disagreements' with the VA and claims follow up with the Board of Veterans Appeals, Washington, DC, including the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, Washington, DC. The CTF-VSO works with attorneys granted authority to practice before the Veterans' Court

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The veterans' also experience time restraints with timely filed claims due to lock downs, modified programs and available research materials such as Title 38 United States Code, Title 38 \Codes of Federal Regulations, these manuals are the backbone of information required to present a complete claim to the Veterans Administration.

The CTF-VSO contains its own library which includes access to the CD-ROM of Veteran Court Cases and precedents, MR21-1 the VA's own rules and regulations required for their processing of claims. The CTF-VSO maintains an accurate and complete source of information from transitional housing assistance to education and employment services, due to the accessibility, the CTF-VSO is in the position to relay this information to other claimants' state wide saving both time and expense.

It should ne noted at this point that the expense of operating the CTF-VSO has been shared by the veteran representatives who have personally paid for postage, Manuals on Federal Veterans Laws Rules and Regulations, over the past 12 years the amount of nearly \$4,000.00 has been expended via out of pocket expense.

It would be exceedingly helpful if CDCR would authorize a postage budget to include materials such as those directed specifically utilized to aid and assist veteran claimants and their families. The Correctional Training Facility has provided the necessary office space, computers with applicable soft ware.

An Operations Procedure should be developed and adopted for Electronic Data Processing, management and supervision. The entire process of EDP is new to CDCR and requires dedicated evaluation for access by the inmate service officers.

The CTF-VSO has put in place OP-61 establishing the Operations and Procedure for the day to day operation of the CTF-VSO; this OP has been reviewed and authorized by former Warden M.E. Spearman and is under current review by Warden S. Hatton (A), all VSO established OP's are in compliance with the CDCR Title 15 and Department Operations Manual, current review includes an OP specifically for EDP.

CTF-VSO operates under CTF approved by-laws, developed for presentation to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs under the authority of P.L. 107-95 (2001) Title 38 United States Code Subpart III §2023 demonstration programs. By-Laws presented to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Secretary Eric Shinseki and Counsel General Wm. Gunn Esq. Original copy forwarded to President B. Obama (2010). CTF-VSO is eligible to participate in Title 38 U.S.C 501 Part 61- VA HOMELESS PROVIDERS GRANT AND PER DIEM PROGRAM, Capital Grants upon accreditation. Grant participation will aid with the operations of this program in benefit for all correctional facilities within the jurisdiction of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

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On September 12, 2012 the California State Legislature passed and Governor Brown signed AB2490 creating CA.P.C §2695, Article 6 Chapter 4, Title 1 Part 3 Relating to veterans. The CTF-VSO developed a rough draft of AB 2490 in 2009 before being carried by Assembly member Betsy Butler in 2012. This Legislation was passed with the full support of the California Correctional Peace Officers Association, including victim rights organizations, District Attorneys, the American Legion and the Vietnam Veterans of America

**AGE AND EDUCATION OF THE INCARCATED VETERANS BY ERA'S OF SERVICE
VIETNAM, IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, WAR ON TERRORISM**

The current age of Vietnam Veterans average from the late fifties through their early to mid seventy's. Veterans serving in both Gulf Wars average early forties through early sixties, these veterans are required to have a completed high school education or a completed GED.

Due to their age they tend to be more settled and less of a programming problem, they work well with others focusing on tasks ranging from janitorial work to computer programming, many have earned Associate Degrees, Graduate Degrees, and Vocational Certifications before and during incarceration.

Becoming part of organized Inmate Leisure Time Activity Groups focusing on military experience helps develop a strong sense of Patriotism, community service, mentors within the general inmate population, who assist free staff and correctional officers. These inmates help maintain positive daily activities thus building stronger relationships within a structured environment, so critical to harmony within a correctional environment. These inmates have the advantage of finding and maintaining employment, assimilating into the community resulting in a successful parole as well as having the lesser risk of recidivism.

The California State Department of Labor, Division of Apprentice Standards has presented informational seminars here at CTF promoting stable state wide employment, professional job training and careers. The CTF-VSO maintains contact with these agencies and has experienced direct requests for employment of parolees. Due to living in a structured environment our parolees has proven better suited for becoming dependable employees.

TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

In 2013 the CTF-VSO developed and implemented and work study training program for both veterans' and non-veterans' inmates in the skills needed to learn rules and regulations, claims assistance and development. The success of this program has been evidenced by inmates who have transferred to other facilities and are maintaining contact with Lieutenant E.A. Darosa,

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Directing Supervisor CTF-VSO. Graduates must obtain a grade of 70% or higher in the field of Veterans Laws Rules and Regulations. The CTF-VSO has graduated 12 students with a score of 80% and higher.

The course of training is taught on a once weekly basis and tutored by inmate Curtis E. Smith T47513 Honorably Discharged U.S. Navy, (Cold War) Edwin V. Munis K59703 Honorably

Discharged U.S. Army (Vietnam veteran) Michael D. Piper J49677 Honorably Discharged U.S. Navy (Vietnam veteran) Michael A. Hoskins H33794 (Proud civilian no prior military service)

Continuing education is completed daily, due to the Veterans Administration constant changes in regulations directed by Congress and its own constant administrative requirements.

CALIFORNIA PRISONS SERVED BY THE CTF-VSO

- ◆ Correctional Training Facility (all four Facilities)
- ◆ California Men’s Colony West
- ◆ California Men’s Colony East
- ◆ California state prison Corcoran
- ◆ California state prison Chino
- ◆ California state prison Avenal
- ◆ California state prison San Quentin
- ◆ California state prison Tehachapi
- ◆ California state prison Solano
- ◆ California state prison Vacaville
- ◆ Salinas Valley state prison Salinas (serviced by the Monterey County Office of Veterans Affairs since 2015)
- ◆ Pleasant Valley state prison Coalinga
- ◆ California state prison Ironwood
- ◆ California state prison Jamestown
- ◆ Sierra Conservation Corps Jamestown
- ◆ California Rehabilitation Center Norco
- ◆ California state prison Susanville
- ◆ California State prison Old Folsom
- ◆ California state prison Represa
- ◆ California state prison Chuckwalla Men and Women facility both served
- ◆ California state prison Wasco reception center
- ◆ California state prison Ione
- ◆ San Diego County Jail, Great Highway
- ◆ R.J. Donovan San Diego
- ◆ Central California Women’s Facility Chowchilla

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- ◆CDCRSP Action California
- ◆CDCR fire camps are serviced on limited bases due to the higher rate of turn over.

The above mentioned state prisons contain active claimants, some have transferred to other facilities' and some have paroled, the CTF-VSO maintains an active claimant roster of 1015 incarcerated veteran claimants.

INCARCERATED SERVICES OUTSIDE CALIFORNIA

The CTF-VSO also has incarcerated claimants in the following states:

Alabama DOC, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Oregon, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, New Mexico.

The CTF-VSO utilizes advertising by the Human Rights Defense Center West Brattleboro, VT., Sentencing and Justice Reform Olivehurst CA., Coalition for Prisoners Rights New Mexico; these periodicals provide pro-bono advertising.

BOARD OF PRISON HEARINGS (BPH)

Since 2005 the CTF-VSO has directly been involved with 573 paroled veterans and non-veterans, only 3 veterans' have returned on parole violations, no new cases have developed, violators have once again paroled. No new Recidivists'!

ACCREDITATION BY USDVA, CDVA, COUNTY VETERANS OFFICES

The Correctional Training Facility applied for direct accreditation with the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs in 2010 as authorized by Public Law 107-95 (2001). Mr. Wm. Gunn General Counsel United States Department of Veterans Affairs has refused direct accreditation or opportunity to be examined for inmates Edwin V. Munis K59703 and Michael D. Piper J49677 due to Mr. Gunn's subjective opinion of Mr. Munis and Piper lacking the character required for examination by the USDVA, although an exception does lie within Title 38 USCS due to the unique nature of the program developed at the Correctional Training Facility.

The fact is no other programs currently exist in any U.S. prison directed to assist incarcerated veteran and their families. We point once again to Public Law 107-95 (2001) Title 38 Code Of Federal Regulations §14.626 purpose, §14.628 Organizations et al., §14.629 et al. §14.630 et al. §14.631 et al. §14.632, and §14.633 Termination of Accreditation or Authority to provide Representation under §14.630.

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PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

Mr. Munis and Piper developed the veterans' service office in 2004 and in 2005 were granted the authority to implement the program by former Warden A.P. Kane. Having the continuous support of former wardens B. Curry, R. Grounds, M. Spearman and currently S. Hatton (A).

With the continued support of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the California State Legislature the Correction Training Facility is currently in the position to expand the CTF Veterans' Service Office to meet the needs and requirements to all California state prisons.

Funding mechanisms' implemented by the State Legislature may be put in place offsetting costs to the state are available.

In 2001 \$6.6 billion dollars was made available under P.L. 107-95 to enhance the enactment of Title 38 USCS which included Subchapter III. Training and Outreach Homeless Veterans' reintegration programs; \$50 million dollars per year was to be set aside by Congress specifically for implementation of §2023 demonstration program, through 2012 as of May 2, 2016 no direct funding, was made available to any prison under the jurisdiction of the Bureau Of Prisons. CDCR being one of those prisons, originally the legislation called for 5 demonstration programs with the continuous legislative amendments' Title 38 USCS §2023 now calls for one program.

SERVICE CONNECTION FOR DISABILITY COMPENSATION

Currently the CTF-VSO has 196 service connected claims granted for incarcerated veterans' 252 claims are pending rating decision, 448 claims currently filed.

- 65 veterans' are rated at 0%
- 19 veterans' are rated at 10%
- 12 veterans' are rated at 20%
- 28 veterans' are rated at 30%
- 15 veterans' are rated at 40%
- 11 veterans' are rated at 50%
- 6 veterans' are rated at 60%
- 10 veterans' are rated at 70%
- 4 veterans' are rated at 80%
- 1 veteran is rated at 90%
- 25 veterans' are rated at 100%\

Those claims rated at 0% although service connected, require the veterans attend a medical examination provided by the Veterans Administration, before any level of compensation may be

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granted. All claims rated at 0% are considered plausible, by the VA and worthy of a numerical rating above 0%.

Although the VA Medical Center in Palo Alto has scheduled earned compensation and pension examination as required by regulation, the VA refuses to allow the Correctional Training Facility to participate in beneficiary travel mandated by Title 38 USCS §111 and CFR Part 70 VHA beneficiary travel under §111.

Claims rated at the following levels of service connection are compensated at the following rates.

- 0% \$0 compensation
- 10% \$133.97 monthly compensation
- 20% \$258.83 monthly individual veteran
- 30% \$400.00 monthly
- 40% \$577.54 monthly
- 50% \$822.15 monthly
- 60% \$1,041.30 monthly
- 70% \$1,312.40 monthly
- 80% \$1,525.55 monthly
- 90% \$1,714.34 monthly
- 100% \$2,858.24 monthly

Authorized Compensation payments upon parole:

- 0% x 65 veterans' = 0.00 monthly & annually need ratings
- 10% x 19 veterans' = \$2,545.43 monthly x 12 = annual \$30,545.16
- 20% x 12 veterans' = \$3,105.96 monthly x 12 = annual \$37,271.52
- 30% x 27 veterans' = \$11,200.00 monthly x 12 = annual \$134,400.00
- 40% x 15 veterans' = \$8,663.00 monthly x 12 = annual \$703,956.00
- 50% x 11 veterans' = \$9,043.65 monthly x 12 = annual \$108,523.80
- 60% x 5 veterans' = \$5,206.50 x 12 = annual \$62,478.00
- 70% x 10 veterans' = \$13,124.00 x 12 = annual \$157,488.00
- 80% x 3 veterans' = \$4,576.65 x 12 = annual \$54,919.80
- 90% x 1 veteran = \$1,714.34 x 12 = annual \$20,572.08
- 100% x 25 veterans' = \$71,456.00 x 12 = annual \$857,472.00

**TOTAL ANNUAL COMPENSATION ENTITLED INCARCERATED VETERANS':
\$2,167,626.29**

Authority, compensation authorized while incarcerated Title 38 CFR §3.665 & 3.666.

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- 10% = \$66.98 monthly x 19 = \$1,272.62
- 20% = \$133.97 x 12 = \$1,607.64 x 12 months = \$19,291.68
- 30% = \$133.97 x 27 = \$3,617.19 x 12 months = \$43,406.28
- 40% = \$133.97 x 15 = \$2009.55 x 12 months = \$24,114.60
- 50% = \$133.97 x 11 = \$1473.67 x 12 months = \$17,684.04
- 60% = \$133.97 x 5 = \$669.85 x 12 months = \$8,038.20
- 70% = \$133.97 x 10 = \$1339.70 x 12 months \$16,076.40
- 80% = \$133.97 x 3 = \$401.91 x 12 months = \$4,822.92
- 90% = \$133.97 x 1 = \$133.97 12 months = \$1,607.64
- 100% = \$ 133.97 x 25 = \$3,349.25 x 12 months = \$83,731.25

\$220,045.64 annual compensation retained by incarcerated veterans.

\$1,947,580.62 in annual compensation lost due to incarceration, now being withheld by the USDVA. VA has provided no explanation where these funds are held or how they are used to the benefit of the incarcerated veteran.

CLAIMS DENIED FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR BY VETERANS'

22 claims denied due to failure to appear for examination, scheduled for compensation & pension by VAMA Palo Alto, claims are plausible and worthy of medical examination and rating. The medical hospitals within the areas of CSP Chino, CSP Ironwood, CSP CMC West have experienced VA representative visit these prisons for the purpose of providing medical examination, it must be noted that the mentioned prisons are within the Los Angeles catchment, VAMC, L.A. provides the services denied by the VAMC Palo Alto, CA.

CTF-VSO is pursuing legal grounds for unsubstantiated denials. The medical department of the Correctional Training Facility has offered to provide examination space for VA physicians, use of CTF Telemedicine equipment for examinations, VA continues to consider the offer by citing financial considerations as well as staffing concerns. A question posed by the CTF-VSO is the withheld \$1,947,580.62 in annual earned compensation that a portion of that amount be set aside to cover the financial issues raised by Dr. Lori Danzi MD, CMT. The veterans who remain incarcerated at CTF have by their very loss of \$1,947,580.62 symbolically covered the costs of any VA financial concerns. The USDVA has within its annual budget already determined all these amounts in the USDVA annual budget as authorized by Congress; this would be no new budget expenditure.

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CONFIDENTIALLY

Last and not nearly least the subject matter of confidentially within a correctional setting is of the utmost importance. Confidential information privileged or confidential Title 38 United States Code 5701.generally. The United States Department of Veterans Affairs requires a strict rule when utilizing claimants' information while processing claims. In 2004 the CTF-VSO established policy for handling and processing claims by developing the Soledad Veterans Service Office notice of Non-Confidentially and Release of Information Authorization. This form establishes the basis for allowing the CTF-VSO the means to assist the claimant and their families. When the VA files a claim on behalf of the veteran a specific identifier is assigned each veteran and access is only authorized by the claimants established representative on file with the VA.

After a claim is granted the veteran has the option of apportioning his compensation to an immediate family member who, due to financial need, may receive a portion of the compensation directly by the VA. This may be by monthly check or direct deposit, again individual identifiers are issued be they social security numbers or bank account numbers, this information must be protected and that protection has been the reason for the success of the CTF-VSO. No claimant has their information put into the public domain by the CTF-VSO.

An exception exists when the issue of confidentially involves the Warden or the Associate Warden of Business Services after review by the Directing Supervisor and will only be allowed as relative to the specific issues and security of the institution.

It is not uncommon for a claimant to receive amounts equaling \$10,000 due to retroactivity caused by date of filing and date of the claim being granted. If a claimant decides to share his personal information, that is his responsibility and his alone.

The United States Department of Veterans Affairs has no policies established by Congress addressing the issue in state or federal prisons; the CTF-VSO knew early on that this would be an area of concern that will create success or failure to this program. If a representative at any time violates this trust his/her certification will be revoked. All of a claimant's information is handled in this manner without exception. See exhibit B.

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AUTHORIZATION FOR FUNDING OF C&P MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

§70.1 Title 38 USCS §111 along with Title 38 CFR Part 70 VHA is the authority for beneficiary travel under Title 38 §111. (a) This part provides a mechanism under 38 USC 111 for the Veterans' Health Administration to make payments for travel expenses incurred in the United States to help veterans' and other persons obtain care or services from VHA.

It is safely estimated that the unwarranted claim denial represents an additional \$20 million dollars in subvention funding, family support and a lesser financial burden on social service providers who are continually under strict competition for grant dollars, becoming extremely limited by public resources.

The report analysis provided as a result of objective activities formally began in 2005, from a concept developed by Edwin V. Munis K59703 and Michael D. Piper J49677.

Edwin V. Munis K59703
Service Officer
Chairman Veteran Services CTF

Michael D. Piper J49677
Service Officer
Vice Chairman Veteran Services

Michael A. Hoskins H33794
Service Officer
Adjutant

Report compiled by Edwin V. Munis K59703 Chairman CTF Veteran Services.

May 6, 2016
DATE

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February 8, 2016

EXHIBIT A

On May 16, 2005 the Correctional Training Facility established within any prison the first Veterans Service Office Service Center in the United States in compliance with Public Law 107-95(2001). On September 12, 2012 the California State Legislature introduced to Governor Brown, Assembly Bill 2490. This legislation was signed into law and directed the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation establish programs to assist incarcerated veterans and their families with access to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, State, County and various other agencies regarding programs available to honorably discharged veterans who served in the U.S. Military. The CTF-VSO currently maintains a roster of 1767 claimants, 1001 veterans and 766 non-veterans. In 2007 the VSO began servicing non-veterans, by request. The CTF Veterans Service Office is not supported or endorsed by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. Contrary to Public Law 107-95, Title 38 USCS §2023. Demonstration program (2001). Calif. State Law PC §2490 (2012). The CTF-VSO is the only program of its kind in any U.S. Prison.

The following services are offered by the CTF-VSO;

- Comprehensive benefit counseling
- V.A. Medical Care
- Education, including benefits for eligible dependent children
- V.A. claims assistance
- Networking with Federal, State and County agencies
- Employment
- Vocational Training
- Public assistance
- Transitional Housing
- V.A. compensation (disability) claims
- Dependent, Indemnity compensation aid and assistance
- V.A. compensation apportionment for eligible spouse, dependent children and eligible dependent parents
- Vocational rehabilitation
- Education benefits and resources
- Requests for Military Records
- State veterans homes
- Burial benefits
- Pension benefits
- Parole plans for the BPH (Board of Prison Hearings)
- Comprehensive Substance Abuse Counseling. Mentored by a Certified California Forensic Abuse Counselor

As of February 8, 2016 the CTF-VSO has assisted in the recovery of over \$15,069,340.00 in earned disability compensation. 444 plausible claims have been filed. 569 inmates have been assisted with gaining a positive parole. \$14,289,278.00 is available to the families of veterans that remain incarcerated through the VA program of apportionment of benefit. The CTF-VSO serves 33 California prisons including and additional 43 prisons in 23 other states, 4 federal prisons and the U.S. Army Disciplinary Barracks located at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

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Soledad Veterans Service Office

Notice of Non-Confidentiality and Release of Information Authorization

Please Print Name _____

CDC# _____

- **I acknowledge that all of the information I provide is for the purpose of establishing my veterans disability claim or military discharge review. All information I provide is made on a voluntary basis only.**
- I understand that this provided information may be reviewed by the facility Veterans Service Representatives, the Monterey County Veterans Service Office, and by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. This provided information may also be reviewed by the Military Review Boards of the appropriate branch of service for military discharge review.
- **I hereby waive confidentiality of all information I provide. This waiver of confidentiality will continue until the completion of all administrative claim processes; my file will then be returned to me, or if I am not reasonably available my file will be destroyed.**
- I hereby authorize _____ to release
(Inmate Munis: Inmate Piper)

my provided information to the above parties for the purpose of filing my Veterans Disability Claim and or Military Discharge Review.

- **I have received a copy of this authorization.**

YES NO _____
(Initial)

- I also understand that upon my written request, my file will be promptly returned to me with no retained copies remaining on file.

-
- **Interpreter/Reader Needs:** (complete only if needed)

The information on this form needs to be:

interpreted into _____
or

read /explained to the inmate.

Interpreted/Read by: _____ Date: _____

Inmate's Signature: _____ Date: _____

-
- **I understand that this provided information may be subject to routine activities including review by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, civil or criminal law enforcement, and debt collection.**

By signing I acknowledge that I have read and understand the contents of this document and accept the foregoing conditions:

Name: _____ CDC #: _____ Date: _____

Housing: _____

Witness: _____ Date: _____

End of Document