

Monterey County Veterans Issues Advisory Committee ((VIAC)

Report to the Del Rey Oaks City Council

The Monterey County Veterans Issues Advisory Committee (VIAC), is part of the Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO). VIAC meets the last Thursday of the month at the Veterans Transition Center (VTA) in Marina.

Approximately 10% of the overall population of Del Rey Oaks is either veterans or active duty military service members. This number increases significantly when spouses and dependents are factored in. VIAC is committed to the wellbeing and welfare of all who have answered the call to our nation's service. If any of you have questions about possible benefits, or have concerns related to your service, please don't hesitate to contact me through City Hall, or email me at rlj.dro@gmail.com.

-Rick Johnson

Date and location of Meeting February 22, 2024, Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO)

The following is an overview of issues reported to, and considered at, the February 22, 2024 meeting:

Correspondence

None reported

Veterans Transition Center (VTC)

- Lightfighter Village is on track to provide much needed housing for low and extremely-low income veterans, with a target date of January 2025.
- The VTC is planning to add additional housing units (ADU's), thus expanding housing space by 24 beds.
- The VTC will be hosting their Annual Gala at Pasadera on May 11th, and its July 4th benefit concert at Rancho Cielo.

Central Coast Veterans Cemetery

- Grounds-keeping staff at the cemetery have removed all of the shrubbery that was home to rattlesnakes
- The cemetery administration passed the State Audit.

Cemetery Foundation

- The Foundation's Appreciation Wall construction has begun!
It is everyone's hope that it will be completed by Memorial Day.

Ord Military Community

- Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Adam Bossart introduced himself and looks forward to being involved and supportive of the VIAC Committee.

Ft. Ord Retiree Council

- The Retiree Appreciation Day is scheduled for the third Saturday in July.
- The Retiree Council met on February 1, 2024 at Stillwell Community Center
- The in-person meeting of the National Retired Soldiers Council will be in April from the 14th to the 19th at the Pentagon. Louise Goetzelt will be participating.
- The Army Retirement Service Officer Mark Overberg is retiring effective July 1, 2024
- A study on retiree suicide by the VA should be released soon
- Retiree issues that need to be addressed should be brought up before the November meeting

VA-DOD Clinic Update

- The VA is working on tenant improvements at the clinic
- The handicap parking at the clinic has been reevaluated and improved
- A large medallion pedestal in the center of the roundabout honors the different branches of service

Municipalities

- **City of Del Rey Oaks**
The City is hiring a Deputy Permit Clerk. The posting is on the City website and on Indeed. The posting closes on March 15.
- **City of Monterey**
The City Manager has been authorized to enter into a five year Partnership Intermediary Agreement with Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) Foundation. The focus will be technology opportunities transfer from NPS and Silicon Valley to the local community.
- Bill Reichmuth, former Deputy City Manager and Navy Veteran recently passed away, as well as former Mayor Peter Coniglio, who was also a Navy Veteran.
- Cities of Seaside and Marina had nothing to report at this time.

Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO)

- The MVAO Annual Activity Report was submitted, please see attached.
- Jack Murphy discussed the current budget climate and its impact on veteran services.
- MVAO, VTC and the City of Marina Foundation recently met with the Marina City Planner to discuss veteran priorities and the General Plan in regard to housing, healthcare and Former Fort Ord preservation issues.
- MVAO met with Monterey County HR representatives regarding initiatives for implementation of programs relating to Veteran Preference Policies, Military Leave Policy, the Department of Defense (DoD) Skillbridge Program and Operation Green Light.
- Explained joint work between MVAO and Senator Rubio's Office (Southern California)) to make changes to the Los Angeles Housing Authority rule on Area Median Income (AMI). The change would allow 100% Disabled Veterans housing vouchers. Note: Monterey County already has this program in place.
- Thanked the Committee for our support for the Mental Health Substance Abuse Prop 63 Grant.
- Monterey County is in the process of changing its domain names to .GOV.

Note: The Heroes Open is scheduled for October 26, 2024



County of Monterey
Military & Veterans Affairs Office



MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE



MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

January 2024




3
Outreach Events
40
New Contacts


474
Phone Calls

365
Vet Rep Appointments

463 Claims Actions
238 Unique Veterans
158 Compensation Awards



7 College Fee
Waivers valued
at nearly
\$39,075

New Disability Compensation Awards

 **\$514,527**
Retroactive Payments

\$95,366
Recurring Monthly Payments



 **Customer Satisfaction Survey**
75% Satisfied or Better!

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County of Monterey
Military & Veterans Affairs Office



MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT



February 2024



10

Outreach Events

133

New Contacts



434

Phone Calls

297

Vet Rep Appointments

396 Claims Actions



211 Unique Veterans

124 Compensation Awards

1 College Fee

Waiver valued

\$7,815

New Disability Compensation Awards

\$220,855

Retroactive Payments

\$41,774

Recurring Monthly Payments



Customer Satisfaction Survey

80% Very Satisfied

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