

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 March 28, 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)

- The VTC is currently accepting bids for Additional Housing Units (ADU's) to expand by an increase of 24 beds.
- VTC will host its annual gala on May 11th at Pasadera Country Club, and their July 4th 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 and the Presidio of Monterey will sponsor a joint Memorial Day ceremony this year. More information at the April meeting.

Cemetery Foundation

- The Foundation's Appreciation Wall construction has begun!
It is everyone's hope that it will be completed by Memorial Day.
The Board is in the process of strategic planning. Anyone who has ideas or concerns regarding future projects is urged to contact the Foundation.

Ord Military Community

- The Director of Family Morale and Welfare Recreation is hoping to expand weekday activities at Stillwell Center.
- They are close to establishing an RV park near the old PX and Credit Union.

Ft. Ord Retiree Council

- The Retiree Appreciation may have to be moved to a different date because of a venue conflict. There will be more info after the next Retiree Council meeting on April 4th ,, and will be shared with VIAC at our April meeting.
- Louise Goetzelt will be attending Chief of Staff Army Retiree Council meeting in-person from April 14 to 19 at the Pentagon.
- Retiree issues that need to be addressed should be brought up before the November meeting

VA-DOD Clinic Update

- VA Health Chat will be implemented to VA Palo Alto Network. This is intended to streamline communication between the patient and their medical team.
- MVAI is temporarily closing the Marina VA Clinic office due to staffing issues, They will be increasing walk-in days at the main office to Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Municipalities

- **City of Del Rey Oaks**
No pertinent update at this time.

- **City of Monterey**

The City Manager and the VIAC Representative for the City of Monterey will be attending the Defense Communities National Conference in Washington DC from April 10 to 12. Updates will be shared at the April VIAC Meeting.

The Monterey Bay Defense Alliance will be formulating an updated economic impact report.

- The City of Monterey will again be sponsoring the 4th of July Parade. Interested military groups are interested to apply to be part of the parade.

- **City of Seaside**

Nothing to Report

- **City of Marina**

The City of Marina is continuing work on its General Plan. Of particular interest to veterans is to possibly establish a small Fort Ord Museum in one of the old barracks.

Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO)

- The MVAO Annual Activity Report was submitted, please see attached.
- Jack Murphy discussed the current legislative climate and its impact on veteran services.
- Explained the recent PACT ACT expansion to all veterans who were exposed to toxic substances during various periods of service and participation in certain military operations.
- Veteran of the Year nominations are now open. Nominations can be submitted to MVAO.org
- MVAO met with the county HR Director to discuss veteran related HR initiatives the county is wanting to implement. These programs include: Veterans Preference Policy, Military Spouse Hiring Policy, Military Leave Policy, the DoD Skillbridge Program, and Operation Greenlight.



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



County of Monterey Military & Veterans Affairs Office



MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE

MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT



March 2024



11

Outreach Events

156

New Contacts



482

Phone Calls

360

Vet Rep Appointments

454 Claims Actions



224 Unique Veterans

163 Compensation Awards

5 College Fee

Waiver valued

\$23,445

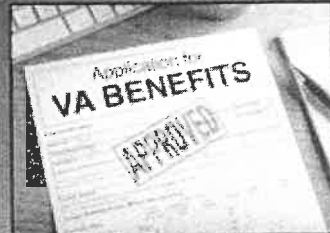
New Disability Compensation Awards

\$425,684

Retroactive Payments

\$96,599

Recurring Monthly Payments



Customer Satisfaction Survey

80% Very Satisfied

www.mvao.org

Serving those who served

(831) 647-7613