



County of Monterey

Military & Veterans Affairs Office



Meeting Minutes Military & Veterans Affairs Office (MVAO) VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) March 23rd, 2023, Thursday, at 3:00 p.m.

<p>1. CALL TO ORDER/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to Order: Chair Oglesby • Roll Call to Establish Quorum: Chair Oglesby 	<p><u>Committee Members Present:</u></p> <p>City of Seaside – Chair Oglesby MVAAC – Vice-Chair, Dan Presser UVC – Mary Estrada UVC – John Gay UVC – Shane Strong MVAAC – Sid Williams City of Del Rey Oaks – Rick Johnson City of Marina – Wesley Haye City of Monterey – Nat Rojanasathira Ft. Ord Retiree Council – Louise Goetzelt Veterans Families – Walan Chang</p>
<p>2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE</p>	<p>Led by: Rick Johnson</p>
<p>3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None received
<p>4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (From February 23rd)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion: Rick Johnson • Second: Nat Rojanasathira <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll Call: Vote <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ayes – Unanimous • Motion Carried

5. BUSINESS ITEMS INFORMATION/ACTION

a. Affordable Housing

<p>i. VTC – General Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kurt Schake Reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VTC is currently housing 101 Veterans and family members. • The groundbreaking for Lightfighter Village will be at some point this Spring. • Erica Parker has been hired as VTC’s Director of Strategic Initiatives.
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b. Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report

<p>i. CCCVC Status Report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None Received
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c. Cemetery Foundation

<p>i. General Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Candy Ingram reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation has submitted 100% design drawings and has addressed CALVET's questions to date. They have prepared the Construction Support Plan, submitted the Environmental Report, and received a letter from the State Fire Marshall that no permits are required for the donor wall. CALVET has 30 days to respond.
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d. Ord Military Community

<p>i. Active-Duty General Update:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None received
<p>ii. Ft. Ord Retiree Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louise Goetzelt reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retiree Appreciation Day (RAD) is on July 15th from 8:00AM to 2:00PM at the Stillwell Community Center. • The local commissary was voted the best large commissary in the DoD. • Erica Parker has a draft agenda for the RAD and will be distributing it soon.

f. VA-DoD Clinic

<p>i. General Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kintina Edouard reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VA Palo Alto Healthcare Director Lisa Howard is retiring, and her replacement is Jean Gurga who will be serving as Interim Director. • Will follow up on questions regarding prescriptions, emergency care vouchers, VA pharmaceutical care.
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g. Municipalities

<p>i. City of Del Rey Oaks, General Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rick Johnson reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Del Rey Oaks did fairly well during the recent storms. • A sinkhole opened in the Safeway parking lot.
<p>ii. City of Monterey, General Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nat Rojasathira 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City of Monterey has activated the Emergency Operation Center three times in the past three weeks. • The city had over 20 street closed and over 50 downed trees during these recent storms. • The US Navy Band performed this past Sunday at the Monterey Conference Center with over 1000 in attendance. • The City of Monterey is looking to expand the DoD Skillbridge program to Law Enforcement. • The Panetta Lecture Series will be making a return on April 17th in Monterey.
<p>iii. City of Marina, General Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wesley Hays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was selected to be on the General Plan Advisory Committee.

iv. City of Seaside, General Updates:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No update at this time. • We must inform the Veteran community in Southern Monterey County of their new Congressional Representative, Zoe Lofgren.

h. Military & Veterans Affairs Office

i. General Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Murphy reported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AB 46 has been referred to the Committee on Revenue and Taxes. Which is the farthest it has made to date. • We are continuing to have conversations with Congressman Panetta’s Office in reference to the ongoing issue of a lack of a pharmacy at the VA Clinic. • Jack gave MVAO’s Budget Outlook which indicates a future budget cut to the County Military and Veterans Affairs Office. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Future support for public comment at the upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting on April 4th is appreciated. • Jack gave MVAO’s Annual report, see attached.
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6. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Receive Communication from Committee members as it pertains to future agenda items

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shane Strong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed adopting “Action Minutes” for the Committee. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair Oglesby stated no vote was needed for the adoption of action minutes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Louise Goetzelt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) luncheon is on April 20th.

7. ADJOURNMENT: Chair Oglesby

MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE



MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORT

February 2023

8

Outreach Events

94

New Contacts



751

Phone Calls

347

Vet Rep Appointments

503 Claims Actions



253 Unique Veterans

188 Compensation Awards

8 College Fee
Waivers valued
at nearly

\$35,000

New Disability Compensation Awards



THE 2022

**PACT
ACT**

\$509,978

Retroactive Payments

\$90,538

Recurring Monthly Payments



Customer Satisfaction Survey

80% Very Satisfied!

www.mvao.org

Serving those who served

(831) 647-7613



What Does Your County Veteran Service Office Do?



- ✓ Support, assist, and advocate for all Veterans, Active Servicemembers, Guard/Reserve, Retirees, Survivors, and Dependents
- ✓ Benefits counseling, claims development and submission- We are the County's **accredited connection** to the VA
- ✓ FY 21/22- MVAO served **2,929** unique Veterans, filed **6,009** claim actions, and was awarded **1,805** VA Disability Compensation claims totaling nearly **\$3.5M** in retroactive payments and over **\$7.3M** in recurring monthly compensation to **County of Monterey Veterans**
- ❑ 19,031 Veterans in the County of Monterey, however only 30% receive or use VA benefits

MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE



Monterey County Activity Report

FY 22-23 – YTD (Jul 22 – Feb 23)

Occupied

2

New Office Spaces
to Better Serve
Veterans



5,637

Phone Calls



4,104

Vet Rep Appointments

4,007 Claims Actions

2,037 Unique Veterans

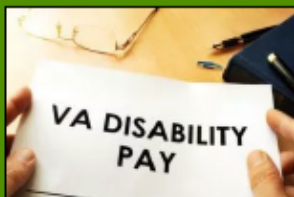
1,328 Compensation Awards



159

College Fee
Waivers Granted
\$1.2 million

Disability Compensation Awards



\$3,347,015

Retroactive Payments

\$6,228,904

Recurring Monthly Payments



\$270,000 in Grants and Contracts

\$220,438 in State Subvention



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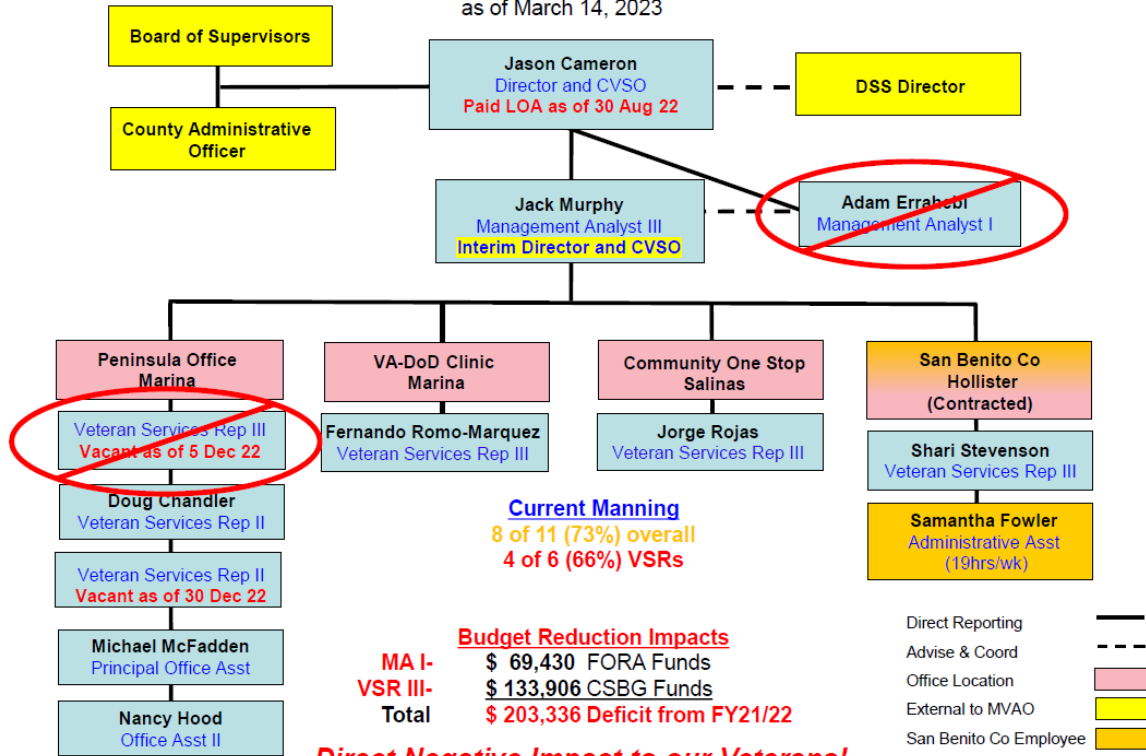


Military and Veterans Affairs Office

Proposed Personnel Cuts Due to FY 23/24 Budget Reduction



as of March 14, 2023





The Ask...



- ❑ Contact your Supervisor and ask them to approve MVAO's FY23/24 budget augmentation of **\$203,336**

- ❑ Make Public Comment at the April 4th Board of Supervisors Meeting
 - ✓ Resource MVAO to retain critical staff positions:
 - Management Analyst I (\$69,430)
 - Veteran Services Representative III (\$133,906)

 - ✓ Resource MVAO to best serve and honor the County of Monterey's 19,000 Veterans, 6,000 Servicemembers, and their Families!

