

### **VA Submission Best Practices**

- Get help from a well-qualified Veteran Service Officer. They may be State employees or come from one of a number of Veteran groups like VFW, American Legion, AmVets, etc.
- You may want to (need to) get legal assistance, if necessary.
- You are the chief advocate for your healthcare, but the VSO's can really help.
- For those classmates that are in need of Witness letters, please send an email to Bill Ungvarsky at [ungvarskyw@hotmail.com](mailto:ungvarskyw@hotmail.com). Please indicate whether you were on Cleveland LPD-7 or Vancouver LPD-2. He will arrange to send you several different witness attestation letters. The more the better.
- Gather medical records from service and civilian providers. Common areas qualifying for VA benefits include Agent Orange related illnesses, hypertension, hearing loss, etc. See link:
  - [http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-postservice-agent\\_orange.asp](http://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation/claims-postservice-agent_orange.asp)
- New Agent Orange illnesses may be covered soon. It is a changing environment. See this article:
  - <https://militaryadvantage.military.com/2017/08/va-to-decide-on-new-agent-orange-ailments-by-nov-1/>
- If you can get letters from VA medical supporting your claims that will help.
- In Chicago, they have an Assessment Center that will work with you to identify all potential areas for claims. Avail yourselves of that help.
- Your VA Agent Orange Medical Assessment should be free. Again, your local VA resources can really help here to let you know what is available locally.

### **Additional Resources for help with submitting claims.**

- Website: [www.veteranslawblog.org](http://www.veteranslawblog.org) This site is "*Leading Veterans through the Fog of VA Claims*" The Blog has great information. There are other resources that are available for purchase.