

**From:** [Cross, Gerald M. \(SES EQV\)](#)  
**To:** [Flohr, Brad \(SES EQV\), VBAVACO](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]; [Koopmeiners, Michael](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Camp Lejeune Cases  
**Date:** Thursday, April 18, 2013 4:58:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Brad,

DMA, is aggressively developing a number of strategies to enhance the review of the Camp Lejeune claims. For the short time the program has been in existence (Jan 2013), 291 medical opinions have been completed, 113 are currently under review, and 61 are waiting to be assigned to SMEs. We have also assigned 13 high priority DIC claims. Las Vegas is a unique situation, the SME will no longer be conducting CJ cases and we are making arrangements to send one or two providers to Las Vegas to complete the 10 remaining opinions. Since VHA and VBA are jointly servicing Veterans and their families, to that end, it would very helpful if VBA would establish a method to track the number of developing CJ claims and share that with DMA for planning purposes.

We should probably have regular meetings / calls to discuss Lejeune progress.

GM

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**From:** Flohr, Brad (SES EQV), VBAVACO  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2013 10:52 AM  
**To:** Cross, Gerald M. (SES EQV)

[REDACTED] Koopmeiners, Michael; [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Subject:** FW: Camp Lejeune Cases  
**Importance:** High

Dr. Cross,

Please see the email string below concerning a problem with the VAMC in Las Vegas providing medical opinions in Camp Lejeune claims. I don't know if the same difficulties are being encountered elsewhere in the system, but given the publicity about our claims inventory, we can't just let claims file sit until it is decided to return them to the Louisville RO. If we need to change the process in place now, or modify it to address fluctuations, we will be happy to work with you. Please let me know how you feel about this. Thanks,

Brad

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[REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 17, 2013 7:49 AM  
**To:** VAVBANAS/SAREA

[REDACTED]

**Subject:** Camp Lejeune Cases  
**Importance:** High

SAREA,

On April 12, 2013, I submitted the attached e-mail which included a White Paper regarding a problem that has developed in the DMA process for obtaining medical opinions for CLCW claimants. The process was developed by VHA/DMA, with full cooperation from VBA, to resolve inconsistencies among examiners by providing a trained staff of SME physicians who are assigned cases by the DMA in VACO. The VBA Chief of Staff, Deputy Under Secretary for Field Operations, and Compensation Service was involved in establishing this procedure. It was my understanding that the DMA had authority and oversight of the CLCW SME process.

Apparently, VAMCs are now reassigning these SMEs to other duties and allowing their assigned CLCW cases to languish. The DMA does not appear to be timely reassigning the claims or advising VAMCs that they do not have the option to remove physicians from their CLCW SME duties. I also understand that I am not seeing the entire picture and that the DMA may be in the process of resolving these issues.

I received the below e-mail from [REDACTED]; regarding the reassignment of CLCW cases from the SME at the Las Vegas VAMC. It appears that they are concerned because the ages of the cases are adding to their timeliness and have requested to 'return' them to Louisville.

Please communicate with VACO and obtain a resolution to this issue. Since the DMA assigned the cases, and we shipped them to the assigned SME, the DMA has the responsibility to resolve this issue, not the Louisville RO.

Please advise as soon as possible.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2013 04:57 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** FW: Camp Lejeune Cases

[REDACTED]

Please see the below email concerning Camp Lejeune Cases. It appears VAMC Las Vegas would like to return them to you so that they can be sent to the appropriate RO. This is strange since they get exams done for us in less than 25 days. Who should he contact about returning these cases?

Thanks

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[REDACTED]

12 Cases.

MP

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[REDACTED]

**Subject:** RE: Camp Lejeune Cases

How many cases do you have that need to be returned?

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[REDACTED]

**Subject:** FW: Camp Lejeune Cases

[REDACTED]

I would be eternally grateful if you could help make contact with a pertinent party at the Louisville RO that handles all camp Lejeune cases.

Thank you very much,  
Milan

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am not sure if you are in charge of the Camp Lejeune cases.

Here is the present situation.

We had a displaced Occ health physician transferred to C&P. We had assigned her to obtain training to become a Camp Lejeune SME.

Unfortunately, she has not picked up on the concept of C&P exams – opinions and timeliness issues. She has been unable to complete any of the assigned cases she has received thus far and many are 76 to 80 days old now.

I discussed my concerns with Dr. Koopmeiners and that I would be removing her from C&P duties. I offered one of my regular C&P providers to do the cases, however, he said that they have had issues with regular C&P examiners and need a SME to do it.

He informed me that he would contact me as to which VHAs to transfer the cases to.

However, despite couple of reminders, I have yet to receive the redirection information.

Meanwhile, these cases remain open and is affecting our overall timeliness numbers.

Can we return the cases back to your VBA RO and then sent to the appropriate VAMC ?

[REDACTED]

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Dr. Koopmeiners,

I understand you may be struggling with finding alternate examiners for the Camp Lejeune cases. Can we return them to the Louisville RO for now and they can later distribute it to where they will ultimately need to be sent ?

Since we are in possession of these cases, they are adding to our timeliness clock.

I appreciate your response.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]

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