

DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

Memorandum

Date:

From: Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and
Management for Clinical Operations

To: Director, VISN 1 New England Healthcare System

| Subj: Subject Matter Experts(SMEs) Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

1. The evaluation of claims for disability related to contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 has become a major VA effort. There are over 1200 pending claims for issues allegedly related to drinking contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.
2. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) is utilizing a "consultation service" to evaluate these more complex claims. We would like to identify at least one board certified or board eligible occupational physician within your VISN to evaluate these complex claims for facilities within the VISN. Alternatively, an internist or family physician with experience in occupational/environmental medicine or toxicology and preferably with experience in performing either VHA disability evaluations or independent medical evaluations could also be considered an expert for purposes of our consult service.
3. We have identified (b) (6) at the West Haven VAMC who have the desired credentials. Thisese individual-is s—are part of our disability evaluation service and has already volunteered to develop these medical opinions. We are asking that hethey be made available as necessary to provide advisory medical opinions for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune.
4. DMA will be providing training in the specifics of the Camp Lejeune issue for all SMEs and training on the development of a defensible medical opinion for those who are unfamiliar with these types of evaluations.
5. This is a highly visible endeavor which may affect the benefits of thousands of Veterans. I am sure you share with me the commitment to providing the most qualified individuals to undertake this important responsibility.—Thank you in advance for your support.
6. The Points of Contact for this Memorandum are (b) (6)

(b) (6)

William Gunnar, MD, JD

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date:

From: Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management for Clinical Operations

To: Director, VISN 2 Upstate New York Healthcare Network

Subj: Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

1. The evaluation of claims for disability related to contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 has become a major VA effort. There are over 1200 pending claims for issues allegedly related to drinking contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.
2. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) is utilizing a "consultation service" to evaluate these more complex claims. We would like to identify at least one board certified or board eligible occupational physician within your VISN to evaluate these complex claims for facilities within the VISN. Alternatively, an internist or family physician with experience in occupational/environmental medicine or toxicology and preferably with experience in performing either VHA disability evaluations or independent medical evaluations could also be considered an expert for purposes of our consult service.
3. So far we have not been able to identify a physician with the necessary credentials in your VISN. If you could please provide the name of a physician with the desired credentials who can perform this work and make her/him available as necessary to provide advisory medical opinions for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune. We are requesting this information by August 15, 2012, and it can be sent to (b) (6) at the contact information below.
4. DMA will be providing training in the specifics of the Camp Lejeune issue for all SMEs and training on the development of a defensible medical opinion for those who are unfamiliar with these types of evaluations.
5. This is a highly visible endeavor which may affect the benefits of thousands of Veterans. I am sure you share with me the commitment to providing the most qualified individuals to undertake this important responsibility.- Thank you in advance for your support.
6. The Points of Contact for this Memorandum are (b) (6)

(b) (6)

William Gunnar, MD, JD

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date:

From: Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management for Clinical Operations

To: Director, VISN 3 NY/NJ Veterans Healthcare Network

| Subj: Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

1. The evaluation of claims for disability related to contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 has become a major VA effort. There are over 1200 pending claims for issues allegedly related to drinking contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.
2. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) is utilizing a "consultation service" to evaluate these more complex claims. We would like to identify at least one board certified or board eligible occupational physician within your VISN to evaluate these complex claims for facilities within the VISN. Alternatively, an internist or family physician with experience in occupational/environmental medicine or toxicology and preferably with experience in performing either VHA disability evaluations or independent medical evaluations could also be considered an expert for purposes of our consult service.
3. We have identified (b) (6) in the WRIISC at the NJHCS-EO VAMC as having the needed credentials. We are asking that he or another physician with the desired credentials be made available as necessary to provide advisory medical opinions for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune.
4. DMA will be providing training in the specifics of the Camp Lejeune issue for all SMEs and training on the development of a defensible medical opinion for those who are unfamiliar with these types of evaluations.
5. This is a highly visible endeavor which may affect the benefits of thousands of Veterans. I am sure you share with me the commitment to providing the most qualified individuals to undertake this important responsibility.- Thank you in advance for your support.
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William Gunnar, MD, JD

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date:

From: Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management for Clinical Operations

To: Director, VISN 4 VA Healthcare

Subj: Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

1. The evaluation of claims for disability related to contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 has become a major VA effort. There are over 1200 pending claims for issues allegedly related to drinking contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.
2. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) is utilizing a "consultation service" to evaluate these more complex claims. We would like to identify at least one board certified or board eligible occupational physician within your VISN to evaluate these complex claims for facilities within the VISN. Alternatively, an internist or family physician with experience in occupational/environmental medicine or toxicology and preferably with experience in performing either VHA disability evaluations or independent medical evaluations could also be considered an expert for purposes of our consult service.
3. We have identified (b) (6) at the Altoona, VAMC in VISN 4, who has the desired credentials. This individual is part of our disability evaluation service and has already volunteered to develop these medical opinions. We are asking that he be made available as necessary to provide advisory medical opinions for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune.
4. DMA will be providing training in the specifics of the Camp Lejeune issue for all SMEs and training on the development of a defensible medical opinion for those who are unfamiliar with these types of evaluations.
5. This is a highly visible endeavor which may affect the benefits of thousands of Veterans. I am sure you share with me the commitment to providing the most qualified individuals to undertake this important responsibility.- Thank you in advance for your support.
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William Gunnar, MD, JD

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date:

From: Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management for Clinical Operations

To: Director, VISN 5 Capitol Health Care Network

Subj: Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

1. The evaluation of claims for disability related to contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 has become a major VA effort. There are over 1200 pending claims for issues allegedly related to drinking contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.
2. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) is utilizing a "consultation service" to evaluate these more complex claims. We would like to identify at least one board certified or board eligible occupational physician within your VISN to evaluate these complex claims for facilities within the VISN. Alternatively, an internist or family physician with experience in occupational/environmental medicine or toxicology and preferably with experience in performing either VHA disability evaluations or independent medical evaluations could also be considered an expert for purposes of our consult service.
3. We have identified (b) (6) in the DCVAMC WRIISC, who has the desired credentials. We are asking that he- or another physician with the desired credentials be made available as necessary to provide advisory medical opinions for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune.
4. DMA will be providing training in the specifics of the Camp Lejeune issue for all SMEs and training on the development of a defensible medical opinion for those who are unfamiliar with these types of evaluations.
5. This is a highly visible endeavor which may affect the benefits of thousands of Veterans. I am sure you share with me the commitment to providing the most qualified individuals to undertake this important responsibility.- Thank you in advance for your support.
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William Gunnar, MD, JD

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date:

From: Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management for Clinical Operations

To: Director, VISN 6 Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network

Subj: Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

1. The evaluation of claims for disability related to contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 has become a major VA effort. There are over 1200 pending claims for issues allegedly related to drinking contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.
2. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) is utilizing a "consultation service" to evaluate these more complex claims. We would like to identify at least one board certified or board eligible occupational physician within your VISN to evaluate these complex claims for facilities within the VISN. Alternatively, an internist or family physician with experience in occupational/environmental medicine or toxicology and preferably with experience in performing either VHA disability evaluations or independent medical evaluations could also be considered an expert for purposes of our consult service.
3. We have identified (b) (6) and (b) (6) at the Asheville VAMC in VISN 6, who have the desired credentials. These individuals are part of our disability evaluation service. We are asking that they be made available as necessary to provide advisory medical opinions for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune.
4. DMA will be providing training in the specifics of the Camp Lejeune issue for all SMEs and training on the development of a defensible medical opinion for those who are unfamiliar with these types of evaluations.
5. This is a highly visible endeavor which may affect the benefits of thousands of Veterans. I am sure you share with me the commitment to providing the most qualified individuals to undertake this important responsibility.- Thank you in advance for your support.
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(b) (6)

William Gunnar, MD, JD

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date:

From: Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management for Clinical Operations

To: Director, VISN 7 Southeast Network

| Subj: Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

1. The evaluation of claims for disability related to contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 has become a major VA effort. There are over 1200 pending claims for issues allegedly related to drinking contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.
2. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) is utilizing a "consultation service" to evaluate these more complex claims. We would like to identify at least one board certified or board eligible occupational physician within your VISN to evaluate these complex claims for facilities within the VISN. Alternatively, an internist or family physician with experience in occupational/environmental medicine or toxicology and preferably with experience in performing either VHA disability evaluations or independent medical evaluations could also be considered an expert for purposes of our consult service.
3. We have identified (b) (6) and (b) (6) at the Atlanta VAMC as having the needed credentials. We are asking that they or other physicians with the desired credentials be made available as necessary to provide advisory medical opinions for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune.
4. DMA will be providing training in the specifics of the Camp Lejeune issue for all SMEs and training on the development of a defensible medical opinion for those who are unfamiliar with these types of evaluations.
5. This is a highly visible endeavor which may affect the benefits of thousands of Veterans. I am sure you share with me the commitment to providing the most qualified individuals to undertake this important responsibility.- Thank you in advance for your support.
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(b) (6)

William Gunnar, MD, JD

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date:

From: Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management for Clinical Operations

To: Director, VISN 8 Sunshine Healthcare Network

Subj: Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

1. The evaluation of claims for disability related to contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 has become a major VA effort. There are over 1200 pending claims for issues allegedly related to drinking contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.
2. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) is utilizing a "consultation service" to evaluate these more complex claims. We would like to identify at least one board certified or board eligible occupational physician within your VISN to evaluate these complex claims for facilities within the VISN. Alternatively, an internist or family physician with experience in occupational/environmental medicine or toxicology and preferably with experience in performing either VHA disability evaluations or independent medical evaluations could also be considered an expert for purposes of our consult service.
3. We have identified (b) (6) at the Gainesville VAMC as having the needed credentials. We are asking that he or another physician with the desired credentials be made available as necessary to provide advisory medical opinions for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune.
4. DMA will be providing training in the specifics of the Camp Lejeune issue for all SMEs and training on the development of a defensible medical opinion for those who are unfamiliar with these types of evaluations.
5. This is a highly visible endeavor which may affect the benefits of thousands of Veterans. I am sure you share with me the commitment to providing the most qualified individuals to undertake this important responsibility.- Thank you in advance for your support.
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William Gunnar, MD, JD

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date:

From: Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management for Clinical Operations

To: Director, VISN 9 MidSouth Health Care Network

| Subj: Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

1. The evaluation of claims for disability related to contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 has become a major VA effort. There are over 1200 pending claims for issues allegedly related to drinking contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.
2. While some of these claims are straight-forward enough that the medical opinion can be rendered by the general disability evaluation community, most are highly complex cases that require the expert opinion of specialists in the area of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.
3. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) is utilizing a "consultation service" to evaluate these more complex claims. We would like to identify at least one board certified or board eligible occupational physician within your VISN to evaluate these complex claims for facilities within the VISN. Alternatively, an internist or family physician with experience in occupational/environmental medicine or toxicology and preferably with experience in performing either VHA disability evaluations or independent medical evaluations could also be considered an expert for purposes of our consult service.
4. We have identified (b) (6) at the James H. Quillen VAMC as having the needed credentials. We are asking that they or another physician with the desired credentials be made available as necessary to provide advisory medical opinions for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune.
5. DMA will be providing training in the specifics of the Camp Lejeune issue for all SMEs and training on the development of a defensible medical opinion for those who are unfamiliar with these types of evaluations.
6. This is a highly visible endeavor which may affect the benefits of thousands of Veterans. I am sure you share with me the commitment to providing the most qualified individuals to undertake this important responsibility.- Thank you in advance for your support.
7. The Points of Contact for this Memorandum are (b) (6)

(b) (6)

William Gunnar, MD, JD

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date:

From: Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management for Clinical Operations

To: Director, VISN 10 Healthcare System of Ohio

Subj: Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

1. The evaluation of claims for disability related to contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 has become a major VA effort. There are over 1200 pending claims for issues allegedly related to drinking contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.
2. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) is utilizing a "consultation service" to evaluate these more complex claims. We would like to identify at least one board certified or board eligible occupational physician within your VISN to evaluate these complex claims. Alternatively, an internist or family physician with experience in occupational/environmental medicine or toxicology and preferably with experience in performing either VHA disability evaluations or independent medical evaluations could also be considered an expert for purposes of our consult service.
3. We have identified (b) (6) at the Cincinnati VAMC in VISN 10, who has the desired credentials. This individual is part of our disability evaluation service and has already volunteered to develop these medical opinions. We are asking that she be made available as necessary to provide advisory medical opinions for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune.
4. DMA will be providing training in the specifics of the Camp Lejeune issue for all SMEs and training on the development of a defensible medical opinion for those who are unfamiliar with these types of evaluations.
5. This is a highly visible endeavor which may affect the benefits of thousands of Veterans. I am sure you share with me the commitment to providing the most qualified individuals to undertake this important responsibility.- Thank you in advance for your support.
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William Gunnar, MD, JD

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date:

From: Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management for Clinical Operations

To: Director, VISN 11 Veterans in Partnership

| Subj: Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

1. The evaluation of claims for disability related to contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 has become a major VA effort. There are over 1200 pending claims for issues allegedly related to drinking contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.
2. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) is utilizing a "consultation service" to evaluate these more complex claims. We would like to identify at least one board certified or board eligible occupational physician within your VISN to evaluate these complex claims for facilities within the VISN. Alternatively, an internist or family physician with experience in occupational/environmental medicine or toxicology and preferably with experience in performing either VHA disability evaluations or independent medical evaluations could also be considered an expert for purposes of our consult service.
3. We have identified (b) (6) at the Ann Arbor VAMC in VISN 11, who has the desired credentials. This individual is part of our disability evaluation service and has already volunteered to develop these medical opinions. We are asking that she be made available as necessary to provide advisory medical opinions for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune.
4. DMA will be providing training in the specifics of the Camp Lejeune issue for all SMEs and training on the development of a defensible medical opinion for those who are unfamiliar with these types of evaluations.
5. This is a highly visible endeavor which may affect the benefits of thousands of Veterans. I am sure you share with me the commitment to providing the most qualified individuals to undertake this important responsibility.- Thank you in advance for your support.

6. The Points of Contact for this Memorandum are (b) (6)

(b) (6)

William Gunnar, MD, JD

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date:

From: Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management for Clinical Operations

To: Director, VISN 12 Great Lakes Health Care System

|| Subj: Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

1. The evaluation of claims for disability related to contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 has become a major VA effort. There are over 1200 pending claims for issues allegedly related to drinking contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.
2. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) is utilizing a "consultation service" to evaluate these more complex claims. We would like to identify at least one board certified or board eligible occupational physician within your VISN to evaluate these complex claims for facilities within the VISN. Alternatively, an internist or family physician with experience in occupational/environmental medicine or toxicology and preferably with experience in performing either VHA disability evaluations or independent medical evaluations could also be considered an expert for purposes of our consult service.
3. So far we have not been able to identify a physician with the necessary credentials in your VISN. If you could please provide a name of a physician with the desired credentials who can perform this work and make her/him available as necessary to provide advisory medical opinions for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune. We are requesting this information by August 15, 2012, and it can be sent to (b) (6) at the contact information below.
4. DMA will be providing training in the specifics of the Camp Lejeune issue for all SMEs and training on the development of a defensible medical opinion for those who are unfamiliar with these types of evaluations.
5. This is a highly visible endeavor which may affect the benefits of thousands of Veterans. I am sure you share with me the commitment to providing the most qualified individuals to undertake this important responsibility.- Thank you in advance for your support.
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William Gunnar, MD, JD

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date:

From: Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management for Clinical Operations

To: Director, VISN 15 Heartland Network

| Subj: Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

1. The evaluation of claims for disability related to contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 has become a major VA effort. There are over 1200 pending claims for issues allegedly related to drinking contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.
2. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) is utilizing a "consultation service" to evaluate these more complex claims. We would like to identify at least one board certified or board eligible occupational physician within your VISN to evaluate these complex claims for facilities within the VISN. Alternatively, an internist or family physician with experience in occupational/environmental medicine or toxicology and preferably with experience in performing either VHA disability evaluations or independent medical evaluations could also be considered an expert for purposes of our consult service.
3. So far we have not been able to identify a physician with the necessary credentials in your VISN. If you could please provide a name of a physician with the desired credentials who can perform this work and make her/him available as necessary to provide advisory medical opinions for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune. We are requesting this information by August 15, 2012, and it can be sent to (b) (6) at the contact information below.
4. DMA will be providing training in the specifics of the Camp Lejeune issue for all SMEs and training on the development of a defensible medical opinion for those who are unfamiliar with these types of evaluations.
5. This is a highly visible endeavor which may affect the benefits of thousands of Veterans. I am sure you share with me the commitment to providing the most qualified individuals to undertake this important responsibility.- Thank you in advance for your support.
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William Gunnar, MD, JD

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date:

From: Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management for Clinical Operations

To: Director, VISN 16 South Central VA Health Care Network

| Subj: Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

1. The evaluation of claims for disability related to contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 has become a major VA effort. There are over 1200 pending claims for issues allegedly related to drinking contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.
2. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) is utilizing a "consultation service" to evaluate these more complex claims. We would like to identify at least one board certified or board eligible occupational physician within your VISN to evaluate these complex claims for facilities within the VISN. Alternatively, an internist or family physician with experience in occupational/environmental medicine or toxicology and preferably with experience in performing either VHA disability evaluations or independent medical evaluations could also be considered an expert for purposes of our consult service.
3. We have identified (b) (6) at the Fayetteville VAMC, in VISN 16, who has the desired credentials. This individual is part of our disability evaluation service and has already volunteered to develop these medical opinions. We are asking that Dr. DeSilva be made available as necessary to provide advisory medical opinions for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune.
4. DMA will be providing training in the specifics of the Camp Lejeune issue for all SMEs and training on the development of a defensible medical opinion for those who are unfamiliar with these types of evaluations.
5. This is a highly visible endeavor which may affect the benefits of thousands of Veterans. I am sure you share with me the commitment to providing the most qualified individuals to undertake this important responsibility.- Thank you in advance for your support.
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William Gunnar, MD, JD

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date:

From: Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management for Clinical Operations

To: Director, VISN 17 Heart of Texas Health Care Network

Subj: Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

1. The evaluation of claims for disability related to contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 has become a major VA effort. There are over 1200 pending claims for issues allegedly related to drinking contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.
2. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) is utilizing a "consultation service" to evaluate these more complex claims. We would like to identify at least one board certified or board eligible occupational physician within your VISN to evaluate these complex claims for facilities within the VISN. Alternatively, an internist or family physician with experience in occupational/environmental medicine or toxicology and preferably with experience in performing either VHA disability evaluations or independent medical evaluations could also be considered an expert for purposes of our consult service.
3. We have identified (b) (6) at the South Texas VAMC in VISN 17, who has the desired credentials. This individual is part of our disability evaluation service and has already volunteered to develop these medical opinions. We are asking that he be made available as necessary to provide advisory medical opinions for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune.
4. DMA will be providing training in the specifics of the Camp Lejeune issue for all SMEs and training on the development of a defensible medical opinion for those who are unfamiliar with these types of evaluations.
5. This is a highly visible endeavor which may affect the benefits of thousands of Veterans. I am sure you share with me the commitment to providing the most qualified individuals to undertake this important responsibility.- Thank you in advance for your support.
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William Gunnar, MD, JD

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date:

From: Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management for Clinical Operations

To: Director, VISN 18 Southwest Health Care Network

| Subj: Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

1. The evaluation of claims for disability related to contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 has become a major VA effort. There are over 1200 pending claims for issues allegedly related to drinking contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.
2. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) is utilizing a "consultation service" to evaluate these more complex claims. We would like to identify at least one board certified or board eligible occupational physician within your VISN to evaluate these complex claims for facilities within the VISN. Alternatively, an internist or family physician with experience in occupational/environmental medicine or toxicology and preferably with experience in performing either VHA disability evaluations or independent medical evaluations could also be considered an expert for purposes of our consult service.
3. So far we have not been able to identify a physician with the necessary credentials in your VISN. If you could please provide a name of a physician with the desired credentials who can perform this work and make her/him available as necessary to provide advisory medical opinions for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune. We are requesting this information by August 15, 2012, and it can be sent to (b) (6) at the contact information below.
4. DMA will be providing training in the specifics of the Camp Lejeune issue for all SMEs and training on the development of a defensible medical opinion for those who are unfamiliar with these types of evaluations.
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William Gunnar, MD, JD

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date:

From: Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management for Clinical Operations

To: Director, VISN 19 Rocky Mountain Network

Subj: Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

1. The evaluation of claims for disability related to contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 has become a major VA effort. There are over 1200 pending claims for issues allegedly related to drinking contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.
2. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) is utilizing a "consultation service" to evaluate these more complex claims. We would like to identify at least one board certified or board eligible occupational physician within your VISN to evaluate these complex claims for facilities within the VISN. Alternatively, an internist or family physician with experience in occupational/environmental medicine or toxicology and preferably with experience in performing either VHA disability evaluations or independent medical evaluations could also be considered an expert for purposes of our consult service.
3. So far we have not been able to identify a physician with the necessary credentials in your VISN. If you could please provide a name of a physician with the desired credentials who can perform this work and make her/him available as necessary to provide advisory medical opinions for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune. We are requesting this information by August 15, 2012, and it can be sent to (b) (6) at the contact information below.
4. DMA will be providing training in the specifics of the Camp Lejeune issue for all SMEs and training on the development of a defensible medical opinion for those who are unfamiliar with these types of evaluations.
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William Gunnar, MD, JD

DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS

Memorandum

Date:

From: Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and
Management for Clinical Operations

To: Director, VISN 20 Northwest Network

Subj: Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

1. The evaluation of claims for disability related to contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 has become a major VA effort. There are over 1200 pending claims for issues allegedly related to drinking contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.
2. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) is utilizing a "consultation service" to evaluate these more complex claims. We would like to identify at least one board certified or board eligible occupational physician within your VISN to evaluate these complex claims for facilities within the VISN. Alternatively, an internist or family physician with experience in occupational/environmental medicine or toxicology and preferably with experience in performing either VHA disability evaluations or independent medical evaluations could also be considered an expert for purposes of our consult service.
3. We have identified (b) (6) at the Seattle VAMC as having the needed credentials. We are asking that he or another physician with the desired credentials be made available as necessary to provide advisory medical opinions for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune.
4. DMA will be providing training in the specifics of the Camp Lejeune issue for all SMEs and training on the development of a defensible medical opinion for those who are unfamiliar with these types of evaluations.
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6. The Points of Contact for this Memorandum are (b) (6)

(b) (6)

William Gunnar, MD, JD

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date:

From: Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management for Clinical Operations

To: Director, VISN 21 Sierra Pacific Network

Subj: Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

1. The evaluation of claims for disability related to contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 has become a major VA effort. There are over 1200 pending claims for issues allegedly related to drinking contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.
2. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) is utilizing a "consultation service" to evaluate these more complex claims. We would like to identify at least one board certified or board eligible occupational physician within your VISN to evaluate these complex claims for facilities within the VISN. Alternatively, an internist or family physician with experience in occupational/environmental medicine or toxicology and preferably with experience in performing either VHA disability evaluations or independent medical evaluations could also be considered an expert for purposes of our consult service.
3. So far we have not been able to identify a physician with the necessary credentials in your VISN. If you could please provide a name of a physician with the desired credentials who can perform this work and make her/him available as necessary to provide advisory medical opinions for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune. We are requesting this information by August 15,- 2012, and it can be sent to (b) (6) at the contact information below.
4. DMA will be providing training in the specifics of the Camp Lejeune issue for all SMEs and training on the development of a defensible medical opinion for those who are unfamiliar with these types of evaluations.
5. This is a highly visible endeavor which may affect the benefits of thousands of Veterans. I am sure you share with me the commitment to providing the most qualified individuals to undertake this important responsibility.- Thank you in advance for your support.
6. The Points of Contact for this Memorandum are (b) (6)

(b) (6)

William Gunnar, MD, JD

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date:

From: Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management for Clinical Operations

To: Director, VISN 22 Desert Pacific Healthcare Network

Subj: Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

1. The evaluation of claims for disability related to contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 has become a major VA effort. There are over 1200 pending claims for issues allegedly related to drinking contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.
2. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) is utilizing a "consultation service" to evaluate these more complex claims. We would like to identify at least one board certified or board eligible occupational physician within your VISN to evaluate these complex claims for facilities within the VISN. Alternatively, an internist or family physician with experience in occupational/environmental medicine or toxicology and preferably with experience in performing either VHA disability evaluations or independent medical evaluations could also be considered an expert for purposes of our consult service.
3. We have identified (b) (6) at the Las Vegas VAMC as having the needed credentials. We are asking that she or another physician with the desired credentials be made available as necessary to provide advisory medical opinions for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune.
4. DMA will be providing training in the specifics of the Camp Lejeune issue for all SMEs and training on the development of a defensible medical opinion for those who are unfamiliar with these types of evaluations.
5. This is a highly visible endeavor which may affect the benefits of thousands of Veterans. I am sure you share with me the commitment to providing the most qualified individuals to undertake this important responsibility.- Thank you in advance for your support.
6. The Points of Contact for this Memorandum are (b) (6)

(b) (6)

William Gunnar, MD, JD

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date:

From: Acting Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and
Management for Clinical Operations

To: Director, VISN 23 VA Midwest Health Care Network

| Subj: Subject Matter Experts (SMES) Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

1. The evaluation of claims for disability related to contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune between 1957 and 1987 has become a major VA effort. There are over 1200 pending claims for issues allegedly related to drinking contaminated water at Camp Lejeune.
2. The Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) is utilizing a "consultation service" to evaluate these more complex claims. We would like to identify at least one board certified or board eligible occupational physician within your VISN to evaluate these complex claims for facilities within the VISN. Alternatively, an internist or family physician with experience in occupational/environmental medicine or toxicology and preferably with experience in performing either VHA disability evaluations or independent medical evaluations could also be considered an expert for purposes of our consult service.
3. We have identified (b) (6) and (b) (6) in VISN 23, who have the desired credentials. These individuals are part of our disability evaluation service. We are asking that they be made available as necessary to provide advisory medical opinions for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune.
4. DMA will be providing training in the specifics of the Camp Lejeune issue for all SMEs and training on the development of a defensible medical opinion for those who are unfamiliar with these types of evaluations.
5. This is a highly visible endeavor which may affect the benefits of thousands of Veterans. I am sure you share with me the commitment to providing the most qualified individuals to undertake this important responsibility.- Thank you in advance for your support.
6. The Points of Contact for this Memorandum are (b) (6)

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William Gunnar, MD, JD