

**DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Memorandum

Date:

From: Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Clinical Operations (10NC)

Subj: Subject Matter Experts Camp Lejeune Consultation Service

To: Network Directors (10N1-230)

1. The evaluation of claims for disabilities related to the contamination of drinking water at Camp Lejeune continues to be a major VA effort. Under the Office of Disability and Medical Assessment (DMA) we have established a consultation service of subject matter experts who are trained to handle these highly complex claims. The number of pending claims in this cohort continues to grow exponentially.
2. Additional subject matter experts (SMEs) are needed to provide advisory medical opinions (AMOs) for claims related to contaminated drinking water at Camp Lejeune. DMA is requesting participation for each VISN to ensure the consultation service distributes workload equally. Currently VISN 5, 10, 12 and 22 lack representation in the CLCW consultation service. Each VISN should identify two board certified or board eligible occupational physicians to evaluate these complex claims. Alternatively, an internist with experience in occupational/ environmental medicine or toxicology and experience in performing disability evaluations could be an expert for purposes of evaluating these claims.
3. As each AMO currently takes approximately two to three hours to complete, VA needs your support to ensure appropriate time is made available for these SMEs to complete Camp Lejeune Contaminated Drinking Waters AMOs.
4. DMA will provide training on specific topics related to Camp Lejeune and the development of a defensible medical opinion. The next training session is scheduled September 2-5, 2014 at the Louisville, Kentucky VBA Regional Office. Training is necessary to be considered an SME. After training is complete, the duty will be performed from the SME's home station.
5. The Point of Contact for this Memorandum is (b) (6)
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