

Retiree Corner:

Filing for VA Disability after Retiring

By Jack Terwiel

Military Retiree Assistance Office

There's a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) office at Yongsan identified as BDD, that is, 'Benefits Delivery at Discharge.' The primary purpose of the office is to provide separating and retiring military members of all services the opportunity to start the VA claim for service-connected disability compensation before they retire. That's the primary purpose of the BDD office, but the VA personnel also provide assistance to retirees as time allows. Their number is 0505-738-5121.

Filing a claim for a service-connected disability becomes more complicated as time passes. But that doesn't change the fact that retirees experience some problems that are invariably a result of their time on active duty. The problem the retiree faces is to **prove** that the disability first appeared on active duty and that an assignment job or assignment location was the cause of the problem that now surfaced.

Some situations and illnesses are easy to prove, such as Diabetes and Vietnam service. Others may be less clearly proved and require considerable proof of evidence. If you don't have your active duty military and medical records, place the order on-line at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html>, or mail Standard Form 180 to:

National Personnel Records Center
(Military Personnel Records)
9700 Page Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100