



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Board of Veterans' Appeals**  
**Washington DC 20420**

In Reply Refer To:  
11-00924-F

November 17, 2010

Michael Wishnie  
Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization  
PO Box 209090  
New Haven, CT 06520-9090

Dear Mr. Wishnie:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated October 15, 2010, in which you asked for copies of eighteen categories of statistics pertaining to claims for benefits for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) made to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in fiscal years 2006 through 2010. As I explained in my acknowledgement letter of October 28, 2010, I only have access to information concerning appeals of decisions by Regional Offices (ROs) of the VA. The other information being requested concerning claims will be separately provided by the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA).

In response to your first request, for the number and outcome of benefit [appeals] for PTSD benefits received by the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA, the Board) in fiscal years 2006 through 2010, I have enclosed statistics for those fiscal years with the numbers of PTSD appeals received, whether for service connection or increased rating, and whether granted, denied, remanded or otherwise resolved. Otherwise resolved claims include those that are vacated, withdrawn, or withdrawn due to death. These statistics are also broken down by gender as requested in number 18.

If data exist that are responsive to request numbers 2, 3, 10 and 16, they would be maintained by VBA. The Board does not keep track of the distribution of disability ratings.

BVA has no reliable means of distinguishing PTSD claims based upon the nature of the claimed stressor. The Veterans Appeals Control and Locator System (VACOLS) does contain a field listed under "Special Contentions" where "Sexual Assault/Harassment," may be checked, however, we feel that the reliability of the data in this field is very poor and is not being marked for all PTSD cases that involve a contention of personal assault. When it is used, there is no way of telling if the claimed incident was military related or not. This means that I have no reliable data in response to request numbers 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13 and 17.

For requests numbers 7, 8, 14 and 15, I will refer you to the published decisions and remands of the Board, which can be found in redacted and searchable form on Westlaw, Lexis-Nexis, or on

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the VA website at <http://www.bva.va.gov/>. The Board keeps no statistical data on the factual bases for its decisions.

Request number 9 seems to refer to a letter sent by VBA during the development period of a claim. The Board does not send any such letter, and has no data on the sending of these letters.

Finally, request number 18 is for a breakdown by gender and/or race of any information that falls within the scope of requests 1 through 17. A gender breakdown is included in the statistics being sent. The Board keeps no data on race.

If you consider this response to be a denial of any part of your request, you may appeal by writing to the Assistant General Counsel (024), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. Please include the reference number at the top of this letter in any appeal and state clearly why you disagree with the determination of this office. If you wish to request additional records or clarification, please write directly to me. Doing this will not change your appeal rights.

Sincerely,



Margaret L. Peak  
FOIA/Privacy Officer

**PTSD Issues by Disposition**

**11/18/2010**

**From: 10/01/09 To: 09/30/10**

	<u>Allowed</u>	<u>Denied</u>	<u>Remanded</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total Issues</u>
<b>FEMALE</b>					
IR	26 36%	16 22%	25 34%	6 8%	73
SC	87 27%	76 24%	155 48%	4 1%	322
<b>Gender Sub-Total:</b>	<b>113 29%</b>	<b>92 23%</b>	<b>180 46%</b>	<b>10 3%</b>	<b>395</b>
<b>MALE</b>					
IR	1009 32%	933 29%	1123 35%	131 4%	3,196
SC	1111 23%	1084 22%	2514 52%	139 3%	4,848
<b>Gender Sub-Total:</b>	<b>2120 26%</b>	<b>2017 25%</b>	<b>3637 45%</b>	<b>270 3%</b>	<b>8,044</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>2,233 26%</b>	<b>2,109 25%</b>	<b>3,817 45%</b>	<b>280 3%</b>	<b>8,439</b>

**PTSD Issues by Disposition**

**11/18/2010**

**From: 10/01/08 To: 09/30/09**

	<u>Allowed</u>	<u>Denied</u>	<u>Remanded</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total Issues</u>
<b>FEMALE</b>					
IR	16 29%	19 35%	18 33%	2 4%	55
SC	72 23%	97 31%	134 43%	6 2%	309
<b>Gender Sub-Total:</b>	<b>88 24%</b>	<b>116 32%</b>	<b>152 42%</b>	<b>8 2%</b>	<b>364</b>
<b>MALE</b>					
IR	873 29%	1100 37%	906 30%	119 4%	2,998
SC	929 20%	1630 34%	2049 43%	120 3%	4,728
<b>Gender Sub-Total:</b>	<b>1802 23%</b>	<b>2730 35%</b>	<b>2955 38%</b>	<b>239 3%</b>	<b>7,726</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,890 23%</b>	<b>2,846 35%</b>	<b>3,107 38%</b>	<b>247 3%</b>	<b>8,090</b>

**PTSD Issues by Disposition**

From: 10/01/07 To: 09/30/08

**11/18/2010**

	<u>Allowed</u>	<u>Denied</u>	<u>Remanded</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total Issues</u>
<b>FEMALE</b>					
IR	19 32%	17 29%	22 37%	1 2%	59
SC	60 21%	82 28%	141 49%	5 2%	288
<b>Gender Sub-Total:</b>	<b>79 23%</b>	<b>99 29%</b>	<b>163 47%</b>	<b>6 2%</b>	<b>347</b>
<b>MALE</b>					
IR	751 29%	983 37%	801 30%	92 4%	2,627
SC	705 17%	1579 37%	1882 44%	102 2%	4,268
<b>Gender Sub-Total:</b>	<b>1456 21%</b>	<b>2562 37%</b>	<b>2683 39%</b>	<b>194 3%</b>	<b>6,895</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,535 21%</b>	<b>2,661 37%</b>	<b>2,846 39%</b>	<b>200 3%</b>	<b>7,242</b>

**PTSD Issues by Disposition**

**11/18/2010**

**From: 10/01/06 To: 09/30/07**

	<u>Allowed</u>	<u>Denied</u>	<u>Remanded</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total Issues</u>
<b>FEMALE</b>					
IR	13 23%	20 36%	20 36%	3 5%	56
SC	43 17%	97 37%	111 43%	8 3%	259
<b>Gender Sub-Total:</b>	<b>56 18%</b>	<b>117 37%</b>	<b>131 42%</b>	<b>11 3%</b>	<b>315</b>
<b>MALE</b>					
IR	664 29%	884 38%	687 30%	80 3%	2,315
SC	611 17%	1343 36%	1664 45%	85 2%	3,703
<b>Gender Sub-Total:</b>	<b>1275 21%</b>	<b>2227 37%</b>	<b>2351 39%</b>	<b>165 3%</b>	<b>6,018</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,331 21%</b>	<b>2,344 37%</b>	<b>2,482 39%</b>	<b>176 3%</b>	<b>6,333</b>

**PTSD Issues by Disposition**

**11/18/2010**

**From: 10/01/05 To: 09/30/06**

	<u>Allowed</u>	<u>Denied</u>	<u>Remanded</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total Issues</u>
<b>FEMALE</b>					
IR	12 29%	13 31%	16 38%	1 2%	42
SC	29 15%	70 35%	97 49%	2 1%	198
<b>Gender Sub-Total:</b>	<b>41 17%</b>	<b>83 35%</b>	<b>113 47%</b>	<b>3 1%</b>	<b>240</b>
<b>MALE</b>					
IR	557 28%	693 35%	667 34%	57 3%	1,974
SC	507 16%	1234 39%	1387 43%	65 2%	3,193
<b>Gender Sub-Total:</b>	<b>1064 21%</b>	<b>1927 37%</b>	<b>2054 40%</b>	<b>122 2%</b>	<b>5,167</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,105 20%</b>	<b>2,010 37%</b>	<b>2,167 40%</b>	<b>125 2%</b>	<b>5,407</b>