



# Addendum Compensation Service Bulletin

May 2011

## **Grants of Service Connection under the Provisions of 38 CFR § 3.313**

Under the provisions of 38 CFR § 3.313, Veterans who served in Vietnam, including service in the waters offshore, are entitled to a presumption of service connection for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

We have received questions about the connection between non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, and small-cell lymphocytic lymphoma. Discussions with medical professionals at the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) and with our attorneys at the Office of General Counsel (OGC) led to the conclusion that these diseases should **all** be considered the same disease for purposes of § 3.313. We will update the manual to reflect this determination.

## **Copies of Claims Folders for Attorneys**

Recently Compensation Service has received some inquiries from the National Organization of Veterans' Advocates, Inc. (NOVA) regarding the length of time it takes regional offices (ROs) to copy claims folders and provide the documents to attorneys. They are concerned that it can take up to a year for them to get the requested documents and sometimes the ROs respond to a request from a Veterans Service Organization (VSO) much faster. ROs are reminded that they must respond to both attorney and VSO requests for copies in a timely manner, preferably within 90 days of the request.

## **New Eight Week Curriculum for Centralized Challenge: Revised**

Compensation Service requests that all Challenge 2011-6 participating stations submit prerequisite reports to the C&P Training Mailbox (VAVBAWAS/CO/C&PTraining) by **July 8, 2011**. The new due date will allow the home stations more time to complete all external and internal hire RVSR and VSR prerequisite training. We notified Training Managers of the change via email on May 19, 2011.

Centralized Challenge FY 2011	Centralized Session Dates	Beginning Date Prerequisites			Prerequisite Completion Date
		External RVSRs * (35 Days)	Internal RVSRs** (20 Days)	Combined VSRs (10 days)	
Session #	First and Last Day of Class	External RVSRs * (35 Days)	Internal RVSRs** (20 Days)	Combined VSRs (10 days)	Deadline to submit to C&P Training Staff -- NLT Noon
5	05/02/11 to 05/25/11	March 14, 2011	April 4, 2011	April 18, 2011	April 26, 2011
6	7/11/11 to 9/1/11	May 19, 2011	June 10, 2011	June 24, 2011	July 8, 2011

\* An External RVSR is defined as those individuals hired as RVSRs internally and have not had at least 1 year of experience on the Pre-Determination Team within the last 4 years, or hired as RVSRs externally.