COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

Veterans Services Office

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County Veterans Service Officer
April 11, 2016
Section 970 of the California Military and Veterans Code states:

“The board of supervisors of each county may appoint an officer to be titled “county veterans service officer.” It shall be the duty of the county veterans service officer to:

• Administer the aid provided by the Veterans Administration
• Investigate all claims, applications, or requests for aid
• And to perform any other veteran related services as requested by the county board of supervisors.”
San Mateo County Veterans Services

- Established in 1946 by the County Board of Supervisors to assist military veterans and their families access veterans benefits in a compassionate and professional manner.

- Today consists of 3 Veterans Services Representatives, a Public Services Specialist, and the County Veterans Services Officer.

- Veterans Services Representatives (VSR) are trained and certified by the Office of the General Counsel of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

- The VSO staff are county employees, and not VA staff.
Who We Serve

• Military Veterans – anyone who served in the active military, including Guard and Reservists

• Veteran Dependents – biological, legally adopted, or step child

• Surviving Spouse, Child or Parent of a Deceased Veteran
Veterans In San Mateo

- Estimated 33,390 veterans living in San Mateo County (6% of county pop.)
- Represent roughly 12% of county’s homeless population
- Roughly 95% of veterans are Male, However, a higher percentage of younger veterans are women (18% 18-34)
- 54% are aged 65 or older
Benefits Available

- Disability Compensation and Pensions
- Dependency and Indemnity compensation (dependents / survivors)
- Health Care
- Shelter Services
- Education and Training
- Housing / Home Loans
- Access to Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health programs
- Burial Assistance
How We Help

• CVSO provides information about all these services and how to access

• Helps client craft and manage a case plan

• File Claims on behalf of clients

• Provide Advocacy on behalf of the client through the claims process
How We Help cont.

• Liaison with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, CalVet and Veterans Services Organizations

• Provide information and active referrals through our network of services for Shelter, Employment, PTSD, Vocational and Physical Rehabilitation, Veterans Court, Legal Assistance, and more…
How to Connect a Veteran with Our Services

• Have them contact us directly
  – Phone (650) 802-6598
  – E-mail us at: VeteranServices-SMC@co.sanmateo.ca.us

• Drop in to see a VSR at
  – 400 Harbor Blvd., Bldg. B, Belmont (M–F 8 to 4)
    • Walk-ins

• Visit our website at HSA.smcgov.org/veterans
Thank you for helping us serve our County Veterans