

Interagency Group on Insular Affairs, February 23, 2010:

**Department of Veterans Affairs
Benefits for Veterans in or from the U.S. Insular Areas**

Veterans Benefits Administration is responsible for delivering non-medical VA benefits and services. San Juan and Honolulu Regional Offices provide outreach to these insular areas.

San Juan RO provides monthly itinerant service to the U.S. Virgin Islands – St. Thomas and St. Croix. Each month, a Veterans Service Representative (VSR) visits the two VA Outpatient Clinics in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The VSR works two days in St. Thomas and two days in St. Croix conducting interviews, filing claims, and providing general benefits information.

Honolulu RO serves the veteran population in the Pacific Region. The RO claims processing jurisdiction covers Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan, Tinian and Rota). The Honolulu RO is responsible for outreach in the Pacific Insular Islands to include the Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Our Guam benefits office employs two Veteran Service Representatives who deliver all non-medical VA benefits and services. Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors provide vocational rehabilitation and employment benefit briefings to Veterans on Guam at the Guam National Guard Readiness Center. The Loan Guaranty participate in providing Home Loan Program Briefings at the Affordable Housing Symposium in Guam; performing Native American Direct Loan servicing and Special Adaptive Housing inspections for veterans in Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Examples of the benefits and services administered by these two VA Regional Offices are as follows:

- Disability Compensation, including Death Compensation to Eligible Survivors
- Disability and Death Pensions for Veterans and their Dependents
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Programs
- Loan Guaranty and Native American Direct Home Loan Programs
- Special Benefits for the Disabled
- Outreach Seminars, Briefings, and Other Outreach Services
- Certain Burial Benefits