



Service Officer Update Dec 2021/Jan 2022

VFW Magazine, Jan 2022

VA extends presumptive Period for Gulf War Veterans

In October VA extended the presumptive period for illnesses related to Gulf War burn pit exposure to Dec.31 2026.The original deadline was end of 2021. See page 10 for a long list of issues considered.

“A show for Veterans, by Veterans”

VFW’s newest communication platform, #Still Serving: The VFW Podcast, highlights critical issues , topics and legislation affecting veterans, military members and their families worldwide.

(www.vfw.org/podcast. #Still Serving: The VFW Podcast).

American Legion Magazine, Jan 2022

A.L. has a structured program in affect to reach out to members called Buddy Check.

(www.legion.org/buddycheck/tools) This site has the Buddy Check Toolkit which explains the program and has various scripts to follow depending on circumstances. More to come.

American Legion Alpha Lima Tango podcast (www.legion.org/tangoalphalima) season 3 kicks off with a special series dealing with PTSD and reducing veteran suicide. The site deals with military service, veterans issues and more.

VA’s National Center for PTSD

The Veterans Crisis Line is a free, confidential resource that connects Veterans or their loved ones to a real person specially trained to support Veterans. Call **1-800-273-8255 and Press 1**, text to **838255**, or chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Veterans don’t have to be enrolled in VA health care or registered with VA to use the Veterans Crisis Line.

VA-Dept. of Veterans Affairs

Go to :[:Veteran Resources - U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs \(va.gov\)](https://www.va.gov) for Vet Resources weekly newsletter. This newsletter is packed with Veteran related info.

VA seeks feedback to guide new copayment waiver program for Veterans at risk for suicide - To encourage outpatient mental health care and reduce any potential barriers associated with seeking it, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is proposing to eliminate copayment requirements for outpatient mental health visits and reduce the copayments for medications dispensed to Veterans who are identified as high risk for suicide by a VA clinician. (1/5/22)

VA designates flexible funding to support homeless Veterans - WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs disbursed \$20 million in American Rescue Plan funds, Dec. 21, 2021, to VA Medical Centers to provide critical and life-saving emergency assistance to Veterans experiencing homelessness or those enrolled in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program during the coronavirus pandemic. (1/4/22)

Service Officer: Bruce Ceneskie