

From: "White, Selvin, VBANYC"

Date: January 31, 2020 at 2:11:09 PM EST

Subject: **Blue Water Navy Town Hall Meeting - 02/13/2020 @ 10 am**

[EXTERNAL MESSAGE]

Good afternoon,

The New York Regional Office (NYRO) is hosting a **town hall meeting on Thursday February 13, 2020 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am**. It will be held at our office which is located at 245 West Houston Street, 3rd Floor (Room 321), New York, 10014. We are asking for your assistance in sharing this information with the Veteran community.

As you may be aware, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) began processing Blue Water Navy claims under Public Law 116-23 beginning January 1, 2020. This new law does the following:

- Expands the presumption of exposure to Agent Orange to Veterans who served on vessels operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia, between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975. The law may also qualify these Veterans for a presumption of service connection. To be entitled to disability compensation benefits, these Veterans must have one or more of the conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure;
- Allows previously denied claimants whose claims are granted under PL 116-23 to be eligible for a retroactive effective date;
- Moves the start date to be eligible for a presumption of service connection based on herbicide exposure in the Korean Demilitarized Zone from April 1, 1968 to September 1, 1967;
- May provide benefits for spina bifida (except spina bifida occulta) to children of Veterans with covered service in Thailand between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975.

Attendees will receive information about eligibility requirements and the acceptable methods to submit claims. If you have any questions, please contact the **Director's Office at 212-807-3055**.

Thank you,

/s/

Office of the Director