

WE NEED TO TALK

We very seriously need to talk. We need to hear from every Sailor, Coasty, or Marine who served under fleet or shipboard command, and falls into one of the following categories. Please respond. The more responses we get, the better we can assess the strength of our numbers. If you have ever wanted to DO SOMETHING about how the VA has been mis-handling your claim, NOW is the time to get involved! At this point, we are only taking a head count, so please send a very short email WITH ONLY the following information:

Name

Address

Phone number (optional but will be very useful)

Which category do you fit into?

(For the rest of you, don't loose hope. This is just the initial head count for some possible actions. We'll get to all of you very soon.)

Send your email to navy@bluewaternavy.org

Category A - dual status Your claim is being held because of the Haas Stay (or for some unknown reason) AND you are in the dual status of being shipboard but also had boots-on-the-ground, and you have some sort of documentation to prove that. (If that documentation or other proof is with your claims folder, that's fine.)

Category B - compelling cases for extraordinary relief

Your current situation is such that one or more parts of the following statement applies to you:

1. Due to Health

I face a significant risk that I will experience harm that cannot adequately be compensated after the fact by monetary damages. My health is such that neither I nor the VA has any way to predict if I will live long enough to appeal my claim through normal channels such as the BVA, and no way to determine if and when I will expire due to my Agent Orange disability. The time which a claim can expect to be in the VA system is substantial, and can be measured in years if it is remanded for a multitude of reasons and re-entered into the system at the local Regional Office level.

2. Due to Financial Strain

I face a significant risk that I will experience harm that cannot adequately be compensated after the fact by monetary damages. My current financial situation is such that I may not be able to provide the basic necessities of life to myself and/or members of my immediate family, or that I may become homeless before my claim has been adjudicated. The time which a claim can expect to be in the VA system is substantial, and can be measured in years if it is remanded for a multitude of reasons and re-entered into the system at the local Regional Office level.

Category C - inland waterways

You were on a ship that entered a harbor or sailed inland up a river such that the ship was literally surrounded by land and it is unquestionable that you entered into and were surrounded by the territorial landmass of Vietnam. However, you did not get off the ship but you have documentation to support that claim of the ship's location.
