December 2024

Volume 2, Issue 3

RAR RORC Quality Newsletter





***December 21, 2024***



**RORC Quality November 2024**

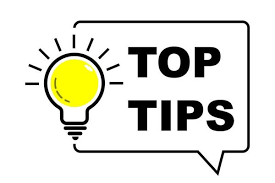
Number of RORC IPRs Completed: 449

Number of RORC IPR Errors: 131

Quality: 71%

Error Rate: 29%

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Highest Error Categories November 2024 | Qty |
| MRRC request contained insufficient/incorrect unit information | 22 |
| DD-1300 of deceased of record in VBMS | 14 |
| MRRC request should not have been submitted, stressor is not verifiable | 14 |
| Other available resources – i.e. .gov or .mil | 11 |



1. **Date Range for Stressor Research:**

When submitting a herbicide land based or PTSD stressor research request, the maximum research time frame cannot exceed 120 days. If more than 120 days are needed, you must submit a request for the first 120 days and wait for a response to be provided. Once a response has been received for this time frame, you may submit another 120-day request. No more than **one** 120-day request may be pending at one time.

The most specific date(s) available, at minimum the month and year, during which the stressor or herbicide exposure event occurred (RAR will research a period up to 120 days)

1. **Resources for research when the name of the casualty is provided.**

OMAR, VBMS, NARA, Internet, and DCAS are helpful resources for researching casualties when the name is provided for a stressor.

1. **Accuracy of Information in Research Request:**

Before you submit a research request, review the stressor information the veteran submits with the military documents in the veteran’s eFolder to ensure the information is correct. Additional information or clarification may be needed from the veteran if the information they submit conflicts with the information in their military documents.

1. **Role of Veteran:**

RAR verifies stressors and events. However, it will not typically verify what the role of the Veteran was during the stressor. Placing the Veteran, or Unit at the stressor/event becomes the responsibility of the RO. Occasionally, a Veteran’s name will incidentally be found in the records during research, but that is not their primary focus. The RO must then correlate the evidence to establish the Veteran's involvement in the verified stressor.

1. **Unit Information:**

The complete unit of assignment down to the lowest possible level at the time the event occurred is needed for an effective research request. The [Unit of Assignment Job Aid](https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/sites/RecordsResearchRequestSupport/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B406D2B4E-3118-40CE-BA2E-3D53ADBD8B3C%7D&file=Unit%20of%20Assignment%20Job%20Aid%201.2.docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true) is available to assist you with identifying the correct unit assignments for research requests.

1. **Circumstances surrounding exposure:**

Provide the specific circumstances of the claimed exposure. How was the Veteran exposed to herbicides?

For example, “Veteran states he was exposed to AO while delivering mail from Camp Casey to units stationed on the DMZ,” is a researchable request, whereas simply stating “AO exposure” is not.

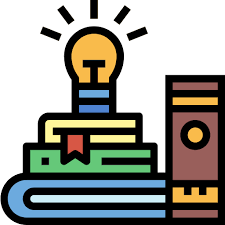
**Sufficient information for exposure research includes:**

* The complete unit of assignment
* A 120 day or less time-period
* The geographic location of the exposure event and
* The circumstances under which the Veteran was exposed to herbicides.

**Requests for stressor corroboration to RAR must include the following:**

* Detailed description of the claimed event: who, what, when and where.
* The most specific date(s) available, at minimum the month and year, during which the stressful event occurred (RAR will research a period up to 120 days).
* The Veteran’s complete tour dates related to the unit of assignment when the incident occurred.
* The designation of the Veteran’s unit of assignment at the time of the stressful event down to the lowest possible level.
* The specific geographic location where the stressful event took place. In the Unit Location block in VBMS, provide precise locations such as Fallujah, Iraq, instead of Iraq, or Seoul, Korea, instead of just Korea.
* For Air Force stressors, the Veteran’s military occupational specialty (MOS) at the time of the claimed event must be provided.

**Information needed for effective research.**





**Rebuttal Process**

Rebuttals that simply state, "I am not responsible for this because I just input what the VSR's send me" will not be considered for an additional review.

In order for an error rebuttal to be accepted for reconsideration, please clearly state the reason(s) for disagreement and provide supporting evidence or documentation and a thorough review of your rebuttal will be conducted, and a response will be provided in a timely manner.



Do Not Submit

Some reported stressor events are impossible to verify and should not be referred to RAR for research such as events that almost happened and mistreatment of enemy prisoners. If, after requesting/obtaining pertinent facts from the Veteran, it is obvious that verification simply is not feasible, the claim will be decided based on the evidence of record. A research request should not be submitted to RAR.

For example:

* I drove over a land mine, but it didn’t explode.
* The barber who cut my hair at the local barber shop was later found to be an enemy sniper.
* I almost shot a child.
* I came close to going off a cliff while driving a tank.





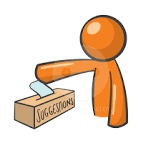
**Links to resources for casualty research.**

OMAR- [OMAR\_Casualties](https://app.powerbigov.us/groups/me/apps/00ece2c3-4e5e-4949-b0c0-abd5016b4989/reports/0a45e897-c171-44e5-a31c-6b5de22a23ee/ReportSection)

NARA - [National Archives | Home](https://www.archives.gov/)

VBMS -[VBMS](https://ssologon.iam.va.gov/centrallogin/Default.aspx?appname=core&URL=https://ssologon.iam.va.gov/centrallogin/core/redirect.aspx&TYPE=33619969&REALMOID=06-20d743f2-7684-410e-ae8e-145b9a4aa4bd&GUID=0&SMAUTHREASON=4&METHOD=GET&SMAGENTNAME=$SM$m%2fJ8oDP8WyOSD5TQLDvQmVHJWMOXWm5B3Axz%2bvZZattyAu0NG8IIznMg1XY%2bFbx5&TARGET=$SM$HTTPS%3a%2f%2fbss-prod%2eprod%2ebip%2eva%2egov%2fsso%2foauth%2fauthorize%3fscope%3dopenid%26state%3d5e3I8Nlv9oc2We7ar4E_5_XhOgzgFO-kq_3dNMEaRtw%2eUuB-a63AZX8%2eLHGCtvjoQxyCs_r8mpMw8Q%26response_type%3dcode%26client_id%3dbip%26redirect_uri%3dhttps$%3A$%2F$%2Fbss-prod%2eprod%2ebip%2eva%2egov$%2Fauth$%2Frealms$%2Fidp$%2Fbroker$%2Fvba-proxy-eks$%2Fendpoint%26prompt%3dlogin%26nonce%3dCegCallc69HuIC1LkyFoOA)

DCAS -[Defense Casualty Analysis System (osd.mil)](https://dcas.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/app/home)



Suggestions

Have information you would like to see included in our monthly newsletter? Please send suggestions to:

[VAVBAWAS/CO/OFO/RAR](mailto:rrc.vbaco@va.gov)