

March 25, 2009

Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen
2442 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3011

Dear Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen;

I'm sure you receive many letters every day, all of the up-most importance, I know you will feel the same way after reading this travesty that our disabled veterans are encountering. Please find enclosed a copy of the Disabled Veterans Accomplishment Report for FY 2008, from the Equal Employment Opportunity Office (EEO) located at the Picatinny Arsenal. Under the direction of Mr. Marc McCloud, Picatinny's Director, Office of EEO their prepared report "Disabled Veterans Affirmative Action Plan." Upon review of the plan, it is nothing but "Boiler Plate" with little or no substance or any endeavor to employ our disabled veterans. One example can be found on the attached sheets, on page 6 under "2. Recruitment and Employment Methods, paragraph b. Recruitment Strategies" the last sentence ends with an incomplete thought, which is reflective of most of this document. The report further mentions two entities that treat hospitalized soldiers that could serve as possible recruitment sites for Disabled Veterans. Who, When and How do they propose to follow-up on that initiative? To add insult to injury, nowhere in this report is there any mention the Department of Veterans Affairs, Vocation Rehabilitation and Employment Division, or the Department of Labor Veterans Employment and Training Service. Both are viable sources for disabled veteran candidates looking for employment.

As President of the New Jersey Association of Veterans Service Officers (NJAVSO) and also the Director of the Ocean County Veterans Service Bureau (OCVSB) both of these organizations maintain an active liaison with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Division (VR&E) and its effort to place Disabled Veterans in jobs. Placement efforts have been particularly successful at Fort Monmouth, Fort Dix/McGuire AFB, Lakehurst Naval Base, and the Philadelphia Defense Logistics agency has been another significant contributor to the VR&E's efforts.

In my dialogue with the VR&E Division in Newark, it has been brought to my attention that Picatinny's Garrison Commander has chosen not to respond to questions concerning the plan and its inherent flaws. This is truly a disservice to our disabled veterans, who were willing to lay down their lives and give of their time to service their country. Every possible effort should be made on their behalf to aid and assist our disabled veterans in finding them jobs through all means, which should include the Department of Veterans Affairs, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Division (VR&E). Since, the EEO

Commission has recently been vilified for its dismal efforts in the placement of the disabled. This is another reflection of their laissez-faire attitude or whatever self-serving interests they have chosen to attend to.

Thank you for your time, devotion and effort you have given to the cause of our beloved country's disabled veterans and their families.

Very truly yours,

John P. Dorrity MSW, CVA
President, New Jersey Association of Veterans Service Officers
Director, Ocean County Veterans Service Bureau

JPD/ljm

Cc: Bob Filner, Chairman, HVAC
Eric K. Shinseki, Secretary of VA