



News From The ...

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 13, 2011

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Runyan Tours VA Regional Office and Insurance Center in Philadelphia

WASHINGTON, D.C. — This week, Rep. Jon Runyan (NJ-03), chairman of the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs (DAMA) and subcommittee staff toured the Veterans Affairs Regional Office and Insurance Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The site visit included several presentations, including an overview of VA's insurance programs, current processes for adjudicating disability claims, and the VA's new Veterans Disability Management System (VBMS), which administrators hope will automate the disability claims process.

"The challenge that we face with the untimely processing of VA benefits is a great disservice to America's veterans," Runyan said. "I look forward to seeing the cumbersome claims process streamlined so the backlog of benefits will begin to decline significantly and ultimately be eliminated. I would also like to thank Director Tom Lastowka and his team for giving me a firsthand overview of the facility, personnel, and practices at the Philadelphia Regional Office and Insurance Center."

Scheduled to come online in 2012, the VA expects VBMS to be a critical piece in its efforts to eliminate the current claims backlog.

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