

# Warren County Veterans Service Officer's Report for May 2018

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The **U.S. Department of Education has partnered with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)** to make it easier for America's disabled veterans to have their federal student loans discharged. Starting this month, the Department of Education will begin matching borrowers on the National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS®), who have federal student loans or aid through the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program, to the VA database. Borrowers positively identified in the match will be mailed a customized letter that will explain eligibility for loan discharge and include a total and permanent disability (TPD) application. The borrower can sign and return the application to complete the process of applying for a TPD discharge. For more information about TPD discharge, including the TPD discharge application, visit [disabilitydischarge.com](http://disabilitydischarge.com).

Earlier this year, the CFPB highlighted this issue in a blog about new protections for disabled veterans with student loans. We highlighted a recent change in federal law that ensured disabled veterans with student loans forgiven on or after Jan. 1, 2018, due to "death or total and permanent disability" no longer have to pay federal income taxes on those forgiven loans.

Read our blog to learn more: <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/about-us/blog/help-here-people-severe-disabilities-struggling-student-loans>

**New VA appeals status tool provides tracking and transparency for Veterans on [www.vets.gov](http://www.vets.gov)**

VA launched a new update for the appeals status tracker and now Veterans with a compensation appeal can view their past and current appeals issues, receive alerts for deadlines when action is required, preview the next events in their timeline, and see estimates of how long it will take to reach those events.

The new tool, designed with help from Veterans, is an effort to improve data and provide transparency. The appeals status tracker now clearly answers three questions the team consistently heard during feedback sessions:

- What's happening with my appeal and what happens next?
- What do I need to do?
- How long will my case take?

**Army: Memo Warning of Bad Anthrax Vaccine Batches Is 'False'**

*Military.com 19 Apr 2018 By Matthew Cox*

U.S. Army officials in Korea announced late last night that an Eighth Army memo warning soldiers about potentially "bad Anthrax" vaccinations given on a large scale is "completely without merit."

The announcement follows an explosion of activity on social media after an April 10 memo from the 2nd Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, in Korea began circulating on Facebook. The memo was intended to advise soldiers who possibly received bad Anthrax vaccinations from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and Fort Drum, New York, from 2001 to 2007 for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom that they may qualify for Veterans Affairs benefits.