

(YOUR OWN LETTERHEAD IF YOU CHOOSE)

The Honorable Dr. Phil Roe
Chairman, House Veterans Affairs Committee
335 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
Sent To Fax: (202) 225-5486

RE: H.R. 299

Dear Chairman Roe:

Available information concerning HR 299 shows that there is no need to specify sailors who were 'within the Territorial Seas of Vietnam' because the headcount used by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) for costing the legislation includes all sailors who served within the Theater of Combat of Vietnam. The area of the Territorial Seas is just a small portion of the Theater of Combat. <[http://www.oldbluewater.com/three line map.pdf](http://www.oldbluewater.com/three_line_map.pdf) >

The CBO Cost Estimate dated May 15, 2018 for H.R. 299 tells which Vietnam veterans were used to develop the estimated costs of the legislation. They are defined as "about 174,500 service members [who] served offshore during the Vietnam War." The number 174,500 includes all sailors of the Seventh Fleet who served within the Vietnam Theater of Combat and was taken from periodic DoD OASD (Comptroller) reports by the Directorate for Information Operations and Control. <http://www.oldbluewater.com/ADA150910_1-3.pdf >

By the title of the Bill and by frequent references within the Bill, the target individuals are also defined as "veterans who served in the territorial seas of Vietnam during the Vietnam War." Navy veterans who served within the Territorial Seas are only a portion of the total number of veterans that were used in the costing of the H.R. 299. This could cause confusion.

The number 174,500 is shown in the Defense Manpower Data Center report titled "Vietnam Conflict – Casualty Summary" which provides an estimated breakdown of

active duty service members from each branch of the Armed Forces who served during the Vietnam War.

<https://dcas.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/report_vietnam_sum.xhtml> [As of May 29, 2018.]

The categories for “[Total] Number Serving” are broken down by Branch as well as by ‘location’ and are given for NAVY as:

- Number Serving Worldwide – 1,842,000
- Number Serving Southeast Asia – 229,000
- Number Serving South Vietnam – 174,000

<http://www.oldbluewater.com/Congressional_Research_Service.pdf>

Aside from 174,500 Navy Personnel (estimated by the CBO to be 500 more than the Data Manpower Data Center number), there are no other naval personnel eligible for presumptive exposure by virtue of service in Vietnam. The 174,500 individuals represent both those who served in the Vietnam Theater of Combat and those within that subset group which served in the Territorial Seas of Vietnam and there are no other naval personnel to consider.

Given these facts, H.R.299 could go to the Committee of the House without mention of the Territorial Sea. This would facilitate much clearer instructions for the VA to implement this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of this data.

Sincerely,

Signature

Name

[Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veteran 1969] (Please Change As Necessary)

(Optional)

Address

Phone Number