

From: Burke, Robert <Robert.Burke@vermont.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 5:39 PM
To: Gail Carrigan
Cc: Franklin, Crystal; Gragg, Ken; 'Ken Gragg2'
Subject: RE: TIME CHANGE: SGO is taking up S.111 (Burn Pit Registry)

Gail;

I am in DC at a conference this week and cannot appear in person, but Crystal Franklin from the office will be on-hand to provide some information. I would like to provide the following comments/concerns:

- * I believe the VT National Guard, both Army and Air, would be able to provide a list of current and former members that deployed to the subject geographic areas. With the passage of time (going back to August 2, 1990) the validity of contact information for former members may be an issue.
- * The Vermont Office of Veterans Affairs does not have a procedure or mechanism that identifies the era during which a veteran served, nor the location of that service. All DD-214s are filed alphabetically.
- * Department of Defense Form DD-214 (better known as a discharge) includes contact information (address) provided by the service member at the time of discharge; their current location is unknown to us.
- * The individual services provide us a copy of the DD-214 if the service member indicates that Vermont is (or will be) their home of record upon discharge. We have no record of veterans who move to the state and never seek services from our office and provide us with the DD-214. Active Duty members, unless they have prior service, are not yet veterans and we would not have copies of those DD-214s.

The ability to contact a percentage of this population, I believe, does exist; what that percentage is I do not know. I believe that a public information campaign would ensure widest dissemination of the information partnering with the Department of Veterans Affairs and the state Department of Health.

I can provide in-person testimony at a later date if the Committee determines that necessary.

R/

Robert E. Burke
Director
State of Vermont
Office of Veterans Affairs
118 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-4401
802.828.3380
robert.burke@vermont.gov (Note: new e-mail address)