

COST PROJECTION TABLE - PART B

- *1) The Defence Manpower Data Center reported that "As of May 16, 2008" the Number of **Navy Personnel** Serving in Southeast Asia, including those who served on Land and in Brown Water was **229,000**. This estimate was verified and used by the Congressional Research Service in their Report titled "American War and Military Operations Casualties Lists and Statistics"
- *2) When the VA established the Inland Water Service program, Policy 211, in January, 2010, they designated certain BWN Personnel to be eligible for Presumption of Exposure while on Inland Waters. This removed these personnel from the category of Blue Water Navy to be covered by the Agent Orange Act of 2010 since they already are receiving presumptive benefits. That represents the approximate number of personnel onboard the Policy 211 ships as of June 30, 2010 and is shown in C-3. Because this covers a 13 year period, we estimate that a minimum of 50% of every ship's crew was replaced at least once during that time. B-3 represents C-3 x 0.5. That leaves the TOTAL number of Blue Water personnel as shown in B-4.
- *3) We estimate that approximately 30% of BWN personnel are still alive as of 2010. This is based on BWNVVA research. We feel strongly that this is a correct number. It has caused major contention, so for the purposes here we use 40%
- *4) Vietnam veterans historically did not take advantage of their VA Health Care benefits. We project that there will likewise be a similar lack of response. About 30% of living Vietnam vets will want or need to take advantage of this program. This is based on the fact that many veterans will avoid this, and not all veterans will qualify as disabled. None the less, we will concede that as many as 40% will apply for Agent Orange based disability.
- *5) From the VA Statistical Update of March, 2000, we know they received 99,226 applications for AO benefits, and VA only granted 7,520 of these claims, or 7.5%. Because we could find no updated statistics, we have more than doubled that number of approvals for this project to 20%.
- *6) Less than 10% of "older veterans" receive a 100% disability rating. However, since the specific group we are working with have serious, end-of-life disabilities, we project that the VA will grant 100% disability to 20% of these veterans. That actually doubles their previous approval rate. Likewise, more than 30% of 'older veterans' receive only 10% disability rating and only 8% receive a 40% rating. For this program, we estimate that all remaining veterans (80%) will receive a 40% disability rating. The 2010 VA Health and Benefits states that receiptants of DIC are about 10% of the # of vets receiving compensation.
- *7) This cost per % rating is based on the 2009 and 2010 rate tables which have not increased. There is no projection of what a Cost Of Living increase might be like over the next 10 years. There has been no dollars projected as annual cost of living increases for this 10 year program. These provide the current monthly and annual payment amounts for both the projected 100% ratings and the projected 40% ratings for each of the next 10 years, until 2020.
- *8) These are the critical numbers for the COST OF THE AGENT ORANGE ACT OF 2010. This shows total annually cost and the cumulative costs for each of the next 10 years to 2020.
- *9) Based on what percentage is entered into the 100% and 40% disabled payments from 7) above, this shows the average cost per veteran per year.
- *10) This line provides the estimated monthly and annualized number of deaths for Blue Water personnel only.
- *11) This provides the annual mortality rate for Blue Water personnel only. It estimates the final year of payment for this program to be the year 2020. Following that, there will be no significant number of Blue Water veteran needing coverage under this program.

The spreadsheet of projections of costs for the Agent Orange Act of 2010 is downloadable and fully interactive. You can enter your own numbers and see what affect your changes make to the overall expense of this bill. The program under HR-2254/S-1939 has been reasonably estimated on the Blue Water Navy web site and those numbers should be used as the comparative against which to gauge your own. Previous estimates for the total number of veterans affected by this legislation were 518,000, which was far in excess of the current numbers developed by DMDC. Even using that extreme number with no other changes, the 10-year cost is about 1/2 a Billion Dollars. In all scenarios, this project does not extend beyond 2020.

As can be seen, these numbers are very liberal and actually provide "over cost". Yet, one can easily actually double the dollars we've arrived at here, and still be far below cost projections presented by the VA.