

LONGSHORE

WHAT'S NEW IN OWCP?

Defense Base Act

- Enormous Issue Now
- Claims Numbers
 - Large & Growing Monthly
- Claims Challenges
 - Claim Documentation
 - Locating Survivors
- Public Focus
 - Media Scrutiny on Costs & Performance

New Regulations

- Insurance Company Security Deposits
- Full Deposits from All Companies
- Exceptions
 - Highest Ratings from 3 Rating Agencies
 - Where State Guarantee Funds Cover LS
- Effective Date: August 25, 2005

Statutory Revision Proposals

- Recreational Boat Building Exclusion
- Special Fund Closure
- Special Fund Assessment Formula Change
- Benefit Changes
- Administrative Reforms

Budget Considerations

- Staffing
- Initiatives
 - Automation
 - Outreach & Education
 - Travel

District Office Structure

- No Immediate Changes Planned
- Future Consolidation Possible
- Recent Changes
 - Chicago
 - Philadelphia

Special Fund Administration

- Jack Martone Retires in December
- Replacement Soon with Overlap
- No Major Policy or Procedural Changes
- Public Introductions As Possible

Role Of OWCP in Longshore

- Recognize Some Concern in Participants
- Pressure on District Offices to Perform
- Congress, OMB, and OWCP
- Goal is Productivity
- Productivity = Dispute Resolution

Pressures on District Offices

- OMB
- Congress
- OWCP

OMB

- Budget & Admin. Arm of White House
- Programs: Perform or Perish
- Outsource

Congress

- Budget Authorization
- Staffing
- Sunset Reviews
- Outsourcing

OWCP

- Four Federal Workers' Comp Programs
- Budget Balancing Act
- Performance = Funding & Staffing

Bottom Line

- Performance Measures
- Performance = Dispute Resolution
- Dispute Resolution = "Ripe" Disputes
- Ripe = Ready on Both Sides
- Disallowance of Delaying Tactics
- Discouragement of OALJ Referrals

LS Office Expectations

- No Delaying Tactics
- Send Reps Who Can Make Decisions
- Submit Only 'Ripe' Disputes
- Provide All Documentation & Reports
- Obtain Needed Medical Reports
- Be Reasonable & Realistic
 - Avoiding patterns of behavior on all cases

Recourse

- Call Me (202)693-0944
- Appeal Cases to OALJ
- Spend More Money than Necessary
- Submit Congressional Complaints

Considerations

- Equal Number of Calls from Claimants
 - Complaining About You
 - Accusing Us of Being Biased Against Claimants
- Two Sides to Every Story
- District Office Goal = Neutrality
- Egregious Behavior by Some on Both Sides

Role & Stance of District Office

- Role
 - Dispute Resolution
 - Record Maintenance
 - Regulation of Benefit & Reporting System
- Stance
 - Neutral
 - Objective
 - Liberal Construction

On the Horizon

- Additional Automation
 - Forms
- Benchmarking Performance
 - State Systems
- More & More Focus on Outcomes
- Possible Statutory Reforms
- Rehabilitation
 - New Performance Measures
 - New Contract Format With Providers

Long Range Focus

- Season of Changes in Government
- Outsourcing
- Budget Reductions
- Staffing Reductions
- Defense Base Act Claims Load Increases
- Implementing New Regulations
- Implementing Any New Statute Changes

Summary

- Lots of Changes
- Lots of Concerns on All Sides
- Call Me To Talk About Your Concerns
- (202)693-0944