

MACOM: USAREUR

INSTALLATION: Army in Europe

SUBJECT: Permanent VA Counselors in the European Theater

DISCUSSION: There are no permanent Veterans Administration counselors in the European Theater to support the thousands of veterans and families.

Although there is a VA office at the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, it is staffed with VA medical professionals who perform pre-retirement medical evaluations.

Although, under the auspices of ACAP and at DOD expense, VA counselors do visit Europe, they are here only intermittently on a temporary-duty basis and provide only pre-retirement counseling to separating active duty personnel.

If you are a Retiring Soldier who is processing out while a VA counselor does not happen to be passing through or a Retired Soldier who resides in Europe, there are no VA counselors available for you to meet with.

In light of the current and future population of veterans, eligible family members, and retirees in the European Theater, there is a great need for permanent VA counselors in Europe to provide both pre-retirement and post-retirement services.

Recommend Chief of Staff, Army, support a permanent, full-service counselor in the existing VA offices in Europe to educate, assist, and meet the needs of eligible veterans, including eligible retirees.

APPROVED BY MACOM RETIREE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON: Robert Mentell, Colonel, 7 June 1998

MACOM COMMENT: USAREUR supports this initiative.