



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

**Ad Hoc Veterans Task Force  
2007 Report**

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Members: AAHD, AAIDD, AAN, AAPD, AARP, ACA, APTA, ATRA, Easter Seals, Epilepsy Foundation, NACBHD, National Assoc. for Disability, NASHIA, NCCBH, NOSSCR, NRA, NRCA, RESNA, TIICANN, The Arc, UCP, United Spinal Association.

This ad hoc task force was organized this year in recognition of the growing interest among disability organizations in issues affecting veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with serious injuries. The year began with a briefing on veterans programs by representatives from Paralyzed Veterans of America's Veterans Benefits Department. The task force crafted a section on the Veterans Administration budget for the CCD fiscal policy task force's annual appropriations document. During the year, the task force wrote letters in support of the Inclusive Home Design Act (IHDA), a VA Center of Excellence on epilepsy research, and the BRAVE Act, legislation to enable 100% service-connected disabled veterans to claim Social Security disability benefits in a timely fashion.

For 2008, the Ad Hoc Veterans Task Force recommends that it become a permanent task force and meet on the second Friday of every other month from 10-noon at PVA. The schedule would be Feb. 8, April 11, June 13, Aug. 8, Oct. 10 and Nov. 8.

The first meeting of the year will feature a roundtable discussion between CCD organizations and veterans' service organizations (VSOs) to share issues of common interest. The task force will continue working with Cong. John Sarbanes' office on HR 2943, the Benefit Rating Acceleration for Veterans Entitlement [BRAVE] Act and with Cong. Jan Schakowsky on IHDA. The task force will support the Independent Budget for the Department of Veterans Affairs and will work to raise the visibility of veterans' issues throughout CCD by conducting joint briefings with other task forces on areas of mutual interest.