

Because of the recent heavy snowstorms survey mailing operations for the National Survey of Veterans were thrown off schedule. Westat, the NSV contractor missed a few days and fell behind on our outbound mailing schedule. Despite our effort to make up the lost time and mailings, Westat is still behind and have about 1,300 surveys to mail out. I request to get your permission to mail out the remaining 1,300 surveys during the first week of March. VA attorneys are aware and support this plan.

In terms of passive data collection operations, VA would like permission to continue receipt of inbound surveys until March 19<sup>th</sup> then we would close down all data collection activities. The OMB clearance is valid through July 2012.