

BULLETIN – January 27, 2010

PTSD Class Action Lawsuit – *Lawyers Serving Warriors*

A recent development in the class action lawsuit, *Sabo v. United States*, will likely result in the payment of millions of dollars in financial benefits and improved healthcare for thousands of Iraq & Afghanistan veterans diagnosed with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and their families.

The lawsuit alleges that between December 17, 2002 and October 13, 2008, the military illegally denied benefits to an entire class of service members who returned from Iraq & Afghanistan with PTSD and were discharged from service due to the PTSD. The disability ratings which are the subject of the lawsuit are critically important to veterans with PTSD. A permanent disability of 30% or more by the military constitutes medical retirement and entitles a veteran to monthly disability benefits for the rest of the veteran's life, to free healthcare for the veteran and to his or her spouse for life.

Veterans must meet all the following criteria to be eligible for this class action settlement: All individuals who

- served on active duty in the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force
- were found by a Physical Evaluation Board to be unfit for continued service due, at least in part, to the individual's PTSD
- were assigned a disability rating for PTSD of less than 50%, and as a result
- were released, separated, retired, or discharged from active duty after December 17, 2002, and prior to October 14, 2008 (regardless whether such release, separation, retirement, or discharge resulted in the individual's placement on the Temporary Disability Retirement List).

Veterans who suffer from PTSD from any in-service trauma which resulted in their separation during the affected period are eligible.

Veterans who believe they meet these criteria should contact *Lawyers Serving Warriors* project through the website www.ptsdsuit.com. Veterans must contact the project no later than July 24, 2010 to be eligible. It is estimated that over 4,300 veterans may qualify under this class action.