

Okaloosa County News Release

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VA Announces Support for ALS Patients & Families

Veterans diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS or also called Lou Gehrig's disease) who have **90 days or more of continuously active service in the military** may be eligible for much-needed support for themselves and their families. "Veterans are developing ALS in rates higher than the general population, and it was appropriate to take action," Secretary of Veterans Affairs Dr. James B. Peake said.

Secretary Peake based his decision primarily on a November 2006 report by the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine (IOM) on the association between active-duty service and ALS. ALS is a neuromuscular disease that affects about 20,000 to 30,000 people of all races and ethnic backgrounds in the United States.

For more information, contact Veterans Services office or visit at a location near you, see office listings below:

Okaloosa County Veterans Services

601-A N. Pearl St, **Crestview**

850-689-5922

6 11th Ave Suite G-3, **Shalimar**

850-651-7258

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