

Zamora attends recent veterans services training event

Hopes to clear up number of Uvalde County's unanswered medical claims

Everardo "Lalo" Zamora, veterans' service officer in Uvalde County, has returned from recent training with a wealth of information to assist local veterans work with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Zamora said leaders of the May 20-23 training set in San Antonio stressed the importance of submitting fully-developed claims, highlighted that all pending claims over two years old must be wrapped up within one year, and encouraged recruitment of female veterans.

Zamora said officers were instructed on what determines good medical information and what is deemed incomplete. The most important aspect, he said, is that a doctor's diagnosis be listed on any medical claims sent to the veteran's affairs agency.

Regarding pending claims, he said Uvalde County has a number of unanswered claims, and the average turnaround time is 12 to 18 months.

The push by the VA is to clear out all two-year claims by next July, a

big goal considering that Zamora learned during training that there are 5,000 pending requests over two years old in both Waco and Houston alone.

"The VA works slow," he said, going on to say it is important for local veterans to visit him now, even if they have no medical issues or needs, so that he can put them in the system and speed up the process they will surely encounter at some point down the road.

"I know there's more than 1,500 vets in the county," he said, referring to the number of veterans who have visited him for assistance.



Area veterans service officers including (left to right) Val Verde's George Sosa, Maverick's Ismael Castillo and Uvalde's Everardo "Lalo" Zamora, recently attended training in San Antonio.