

DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND PENSION BENEFITS



DISABILITY COMPENSATION

Disability Compensation is a monetary benefit paid to veterans who are disabled by an injury or illness that was incurred or aggravated during active military service. These disabilities are considered to be service-connected.

Disability compensation is paid monthly and varies with the degree of disability, the impairment of a veteran's earning capacity and the number of dependents. Veterans with certain severe disabilities may be eligible for additional special monthly compensation. The benefits are not subject to federal or state income tax.

NATIONAL GUARD / SELECT RESERVE

Reservists or National Guard service members who serve on active duty may be eligible for the full range of VA benefits. Activation for federal service during a period of war or domestic emergency is considered active duty.

Depending on the length of active military service and a discharge or release from active duty under conditions other than dishonorable, service members can establish eligibility for VA benefits with a copy of military orders that clearly demonstrates the nature of their federal service.

MILITARY RETIRED PAY

Historically, veterans have not been permitted to receive full military pay and VA compensation for benefits at the same time. Veterans who were entitled to both have had to either waive a portion of their retirement equaling the amount of awarded VA compensation or elect not to receive VA compensation at all. Receiving both benefits and retirement pay is commonly known as "concurrent receipt."

In 2004 Congress passed the Concurrent Retired and Disability Pay Act, allowing many veterans to receive 100 percent of their military retirement and VA compensation.

Because of the complexity of this issue, visit www.dfas.mil for more information.

VA DISABILITY PENSION BENEFIT

A non-service connected Disability VA Pension is a benefit paid to wartime veterans who have limited or no income, and who are age 65 or older, or, under 65 and are permanently and totally disabled, or, a patient in a nursing home, or, are receiving Social Security disability payments. The amount payable depends upon the type and amount of income the veteran and family members receive from other sources.

AID AND ATTENDANCE (A&A)

Aid and Attendance is a benefit paid in addition to monthly pension and compensation. It may not be paid without eligibility to a pension. A&A is allowed if the veteran: requires the aid of another person in order to perform his or her daily living activities; is bedridden; or a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity.

HOUSEBOUND BENEFITS may be paid eligibility to pension and compensation. Qualifying veterans must have a single permanent disability (rated 100 percent disabled) and need assistance, or have a single permanent disability (100 percent disabled) and another disability, or disabilities, evaluated as 60 percent or more disabling.

A veteran cannot receive both A&A and Housebound Benefits at the same time.



COPIES OF VA ELIGIBILITY LETTER AND ACCESSING OTHER DOCUMENTS AND RECORDS

Veterans can print a copy of their VA Eligibility letter using eBenefits, the federal VA's online benefit portal.

Register for eBenefits online at www.ebenefits.va.gov

Once your account is activated, hover on the "Manage" tab, and then choose "Documents and Records." From this portal you will be able to access many different VA letters, your military personnel file to include DD214's, medical and pay information.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
810 Vermont Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

October 20, 2015
Joe Veteran
Department of Veterans Affairs
Salem, OR 97301

In Reply Refer to:
xxx-xx-xxxx
2788benefits

Dear Mr. Veteran:

This letter is a summary of benefits you currently receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). We are providing this letter to disabled veterans to use in applying for benefits such as state or local property or vehicle tax relief, civil service preference, to obtain housing entitlements, free or reduced state park annual membership, or any other program or entitlement in which verification of VA benefits is required. Please safeguard this important document. This letter is considered an official record of your VA entitlement.

Our records contain the following information:

Personal Claim Information
Your VA claim number is: xxx-xx-xxxx
You are the Veteran.

VA Benefit Information
You have one or more service-connected disabilities: Yes
Your combined service-connected evaluation is: 10%
Your current monthly award amount is: \$133.17
The effective date of the last change to your current award was: December 01, 2014
You are considered to be totally and permanently disabled due solely to your service-connected disabilities: No

You should contact your state or local office of Veterans Affairs for information on any tax, license, or fee-related benefits for which you may be eligible. State offices of Veterans Affairs are available at <http://www.va.gov/stateofva.htm>

How You Can Contact Us
• If you need general information about benefits and eligibility, please visit us at: www.ebenefits.va.gov or www.va.gov
• Call us at 1-800-527-1000. If you use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the number is 1-800-527-4633.
• Ask a question on the Internet at <https://iris.va.gov>

Sincerely,

Robert T. Reynolds, Director
Benefits Assistance Service