

Combat-Related Special Compensation

Department of Defense (DoD) retirees who receive Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability payments have their retired pay “offset” (reduced) by the amount of VA disability pay. Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) is a monthly compensation that replaces a portion of the VA disability offset for those retirees with a combat-related disability. CRSC is not subject to either taxation or division with a former spouse (but it can be garnished).

Applies to Military retirees and medical retirees, to include reservists, who have a DoD disability rating of 30 percent or greater and a VA disability rating of 10 percent or greater and the disabling medical conditions were caused by a combat-related event.

Who is Eligible for CRSC?

Applicants may apply for CRSC under one of four conditions:

- 1. Armed Conflict (AC)** - Armed Conflict includes war, expedition, occupation of an area or territory, battle, skirmish, raid, invasion, rebellion, insurrection, guerrilla action, riot or any other action in which service members are engaged with a hostile or belligerent nation, faction, force, or terrorists.
- 2. Hazardous Service (HS)** - Such services includes aerial flight, parachute duty, demolition duty, experimental stress duty, and diving duty. The injury or disease must be the direct result of actions taken in the performance of such service.
- 3. Conditions Simulating War (SW)** - This covers disabilities resulting from military training, such as war games, practice alerts, tactical exercises, airborne operations, leadership reaction courses, grenade and live fire weapons practice, bayonet training, hand-to-hand combat training, rappelling and negotiation of combat confidence and obstacle courses.
- 4. An Instrumentality of War (IN)** - An instrumentality of war is a vehicle, vessel, or device designated primarily for military service and intended for use in such service at the time of the occurrence or injury.

Compare to:

Concurrent Retirement Disability Payments (CRDP), which allows a retiring service member with 20 years of service to receive VA disability payments regardless of a combat-related medical condition.

How to apply:

Applications are made using the form DD-2860 (dated Jan 2008 or beyond).

<http://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/applyforcrsc.html>.

Related Fact Sheets

- CRDP
- Survivor Benefit Plan
- SGLI/VGLI
- Retirement Checklist

Wounded Warrior Call Center 24/7—1.877.487.6299

Stay Connected—www.woundedwarriors.marines.mil



Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)

How is a decision made?

A combat-related determination is made by the Department of the Navy CRSC Board for each disability claimed. The CRSC Board considers evidence on the cause of the disability/injury. There must be a direct causal relationship between the armed conflict, hazardous service, training exercise, or instrumentality of war and the resulting disability. The “burden of proof” is on the claimant.



How do I get my results?

Approval letters are sent to the retiree and Defense Finance and Accounting Service.* Reconsiderations with new evidence or a new rating by the VA may be sent to the Board for Corrections of Naval Records.

Where can I get additional information on CRSC?

Visit: <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crsc.html>

Information needed to accompany your application

- DD Form 214 and DD Form 215 (especially if for retirement or showing combat ribbons).
- Retirement orders and supporting documents.
- Reserve retirement point computation including any 15 year or 20 year letters.
- Copies of ALL VA rating decisions, letters, and code sheets (current and prior). Do NOT remove any pages. All VA documents discussing changes in benefits including Special Monthly Compensation (SCM) and/or Individual Unemployment (IU).
- Medical notes that verify how the injury/disability occurred. Do not send EKGs, lab slips, CDs, diskettes or other electronic media.
- Physical Evaluation Board (MEB-PEB) results and/or summaries.
- Any other evidence which can be used to verify the events or circumstances.

* Approval letters will be sent to the retiree and Defense Finance and Accounting Service; denial letters are only sent to the claimant.