

CRSC & CRDP (Summer 2012)

There are two **concurrent receipt** programs available to Navy and Marine Corps **retirees** who have **VA rated disabilities**. They are the **Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP)** program and the **Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC)** program. Retirees who receive VA disability payments have their retired pay “offset” (reduced) by the amount of VA pay. These programs “**restore**” **some or all of that retired pay**. The **Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS)** calculates and pays monthly CRDP and CRSC compensation.

In order to be eligible for these programs, disabled retirees **must be eligible for retired pay and be in receipt of VA disability compensation**. Medical retirees with less than 20 years service are eligible for CRSC only. 20 year and Temporary Early Retirement Authority (TERA) retirees (15-19 years of service) are eligible for both CRSC and CRDP. Retirees who are eligible for both can receive compensation from only one program. Applicants must apply to the service CRSC Board from which they retired.

CRDP is automatic and is paid to **20 year and TERA retirees** who have VA rated **service connected** disabilities of **50% or higher**. There is no application required, nor accepted. DFAS determines eligibility and pays monthly CRDP compensation. CRDP is being phased in over 10-years and in 2012 is 99% phased-in. CRDP payments are taxed.

CRSC is for **military retirees** with **combat-related disabilities of 10% or greater**. Combat related determinations are made by the CRSC Board for the branch of service from which the member retired. A combat related determination is made for each disability that is claimed. **The retiree must apply using the CRSC application form (DD-2860 July 2011)**. The "burden of proof" is on the claimant and the claim should include the member's DD-214, VA Rating Decisions, applicable Service Medical Records (SMR's), the PEB Findings Letter (for medical retirees) and pertinent service personnel records. **Reconsiderations are accepted if new documentary evidence as to the cause of the disability is provided or for any new disabilities rated by the VA**. Appeal authority for CRSC is the Board for Correction of Naval Records (BCNR).

CRSC compensation for medical retirees is calculated by DFAS using a complicated formula that takes into account the PEB, VA and CRSC percentages. CRSC pay can never exceed what would have been the years of service retirement amount, but can be much less and sometimes zero. CRSC pay is not taxed. Medical retirees can go to <http://www.dfas.mil/militarymembers/woundedwarrior/disabledretireest.htm> to determine the approximate CRSC pay they will receive.

Applicants may apply for CRSC under one of four categories: 1) Direct result of **Armed Conflict (AC)**, 2) while engaged in **Hazardous Service (HS)**, 3) in the performance of duty under conditions **Simulating War (SW)** and 4) disabilities resulting from the operation of an **Instrumentality of War (IN)**.

In order for a CRSC claim to be approved, there must be a direct causal relationship between the armed conflict or training exercise that simulates war and the resulting disability. The CRSC board only considers **VA rated service connected disabilities**. Slips, trips, and falls, lifting heavy objects, as well as physical training, are not combat-related disabilities. The fact that a veteran incurred a disability during a period of war or simulated war; or in an area of armed or simulated conflict, or while participating in combat or simulated combat operations; is not sufficient to support a combat-related determination. **Only the CRSC Board for each branch of service is authorized to make combat-related determinations.** "Combat Zone" notations in VA and PEB documents are not combat related determinations.

The VA has added three new disabilities "presumptive to Agent Orange (AO)." They are Ischemic Heart Disease, Parkinson's Disease, and certain Leukemia's. If you are a Vietnam vet who was "boots on the ground" or a riverine or "brown water" Sailor in Vietnam, those disabilities "presumptive to AO" are combat related.

Retroactive payments are paid for CRSC, but CRSC compensation is subject to the **6-year Barring Statute**. DFAS or the VA can pay back pay/VA Retro back six years from your application, but can go no further back than the VA effective date, age 60 birth date for reserve retirees, or the applicable CRSC program effective date.

The primary means of communication with the Board is email.
The **email address** for DoN CRSC Board is: **CRSC@navy.mil**
If you want a call from the CRSC Board, send an email with your phone number.

The **FAX number** for the DoN CRSC Board is: **(202) 685-6610**.
Voice mail is: (202) 685-1683.

Please review the CRSC website prior to applying or contacting the Board.
Website is: <http://www.donhq.navy.mil/corb/crscb/crscmainpage.htm>

DoN CRSC Board address:

**Secretary of the Navy Council of review Boards
Combat-Related Special Compensation Board
720 Kennon Street SE Suite 309
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5023**