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BADGER BENEFITS BRIEF



WISCONSIN



4 Great Myths

Concerning National Guardsmen and VA Disability Compensation:

1. A service member cannot collect VA Disability Compensation while in the National Guard.
2. A service member with VA Disability Compensation must be discharged. (sometimes this is heard with, a 30% rating)
3. An enlistee cannot have any VA Disability Compensation to be eligible to enlist.
4. The VA Passes Disability Compensation information to the military.

ALL OF THESE STATEMENTS (RUMORS) ARE FALSE

Here's the facts:

1) True, a service member cannot receive "concurrent" pay and benefits from the military and VA Disability Compensation for the same day. Once a year, the VA will request information (VA Form 21-8951-2) from the service member to report the number of days served in the past year. The service member must elect which pay to waive, drill pay or disability compensation. A typical service member will have 63 days of service a year assuming 48 UTA's and 15 days of A.T. The VA would simply withhold 63 days of drill pay or VA benefits, depending on the service member's waiver selection.

2) In accordance with NGR 600-200, Table 2-1, an enlistee must not have more than a "30% disability" to meet enlistment criteria. NGR 600-200, table 2-1 clearly states that a 30% or greater Physical Exam Board rating is not waivable. A PEB is a military service designation, not a VA disability rating. The two are very different items and are not interchangeable.

3) There is **no** passing "sharing" of personal medical information at any level between the VA and the military. The VA information must come from the service member. Of course, the service member must identify any medical conditions on the Annual Medical Certificate (AMC), that has nothing to do with VA compensation or ratings. A service member may however elect to share personal medical information between the VA and military at their own discretion.

This information is very important. It is widely believed and reported there are many reserve component service members who have not applied for their rightful and justified VA Disability Compensation because someone has misinformed them it may adversely affect their military career, they're not eligible or they simply are not authorized to file a claim with the VA due to their membership in the National Guard.

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