#### Department of Veterans Affairs M21-1, Part III, Subpart v

**Veterans Benefits Administration June 12, 2015**

**Washington, DC 20420**

#### Transmittal Sheet

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| Changes Included in This Revision | The table below describes the changes included in this revision of Veterans Benefits Manual M21-1, Part III, “General Claims Process,” Subpart v, “General Authorization Issues and Claimant Notifications.”  ***Notes***:   * Unless otherwise noted, the term “claims folder” refers to the official, numbered, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) repository – whether paper or electronic – for all documentation relating to claims that a Veteran and/or his/her survivors file with VA. * Minor editorial changes have also been made to * update incorrect or obsolete references * update obsolete terminology, where appropriate * updated regional office of jurisdiction (ROJ) to station of origination (SOO) * remove references to specific claims-processing systems, where doing so does not affect the clarity of the instructions or information provided * renumber each topic based on the standard that the first topic in each section is Topic 1 * reassign alphabetical designations to individual blocks, where necessary, to account for new and/or deleted blocks within a topic * clarify block labels and/or block text, and * bring the document into conformance with M21-1 standards. |

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| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation |
| * To add that regional offices (RO) can determine separation benefit amounts in Veterans Information Solution (VIS). * To add a reference about the Severance, Separation, and special separation benefit (SSB) Calculator on the Quick Reference page of the Compensation & Pension Training site. | M21-1, Part III, Subpart v, Chapter 4, Section B, Topic 2, Block b (III.v.4.B.2.b) |
| To add a new Block c with content and procedures regarding the use of VIS to verify separation benefit pay. | III.v.4.B.2.c |
| To add a new Block e with procedures for when compensation becomes a greater benefit than pension and the Veteran is in receipt of a separation benefit that has not been entirely recouped. | III.v.4.B.2.e |
| * To reference the special Personnel Information Exchange System (PIES) request code (050) for requesting the Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) report of a Veteran who was separated from service prior to certain dates. * To add an exception to the use of PIES code 050 for claims that are not processed in the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS). | III.v.4.B.3.a |
| * To add information about withholding the additional benefits payable because of the bilateral factor. * To add a note about procedures for the assignment of a compensable evaluation to a severance pay disability that was initially rated 0 percent disabling. | III.v.4.B.3.b |
| To add a reference to additional information pertaining to the recoupment of severance pay from an incarcerated Veteran’s award. | III.v.4.B.3.d |
| To remove the link to the enclosure to *Fast Letter 10-46*, *Processing Awards Involving Voluntary Separation Pay Questions?,* and add the instructions from enclosure about preparing an award to recoup Voluntary Separation Pay (VSP) for an Air Force Veteran. | III.v.4.B.4.b |

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| Rescissions | None |

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| Authority | By Direction of the Under Secretary for Benefits |

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| Signature | Thomas J. Murphy, Director  Compensation Service |

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