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

**Veterans Benefits Administration April 20, 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***: Minor editorial changes have also been made to * update incorrect or obsolete hyperlink references
* add references to the Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS) user guides, where appropriate and relevant, and
* reassign alphabetical designations to individual blocks, where necessary, to account for new and/or deleted blocks within a topic.
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| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation |
| To clarify that concurrent receipt of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits and the *subsistence allowance* that some members of the Senior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps receive is ***not*** prohibited. | M21-1, Part III, Subpart v, Chapter 4, Section C, Topic 1, Block b (III.v.4.C.1.b) |
| * To relocate the instructions (previously found in III.v.4.C.3.b) for handling cases in which a Veteran chooses to waive drill pay so he/she may continue receiving VA benefits.
* To explain how regional offices notify Compensation Service that a Veteran has chosen to waive drill pay, now that *VA Form 21-8951, Notice of Waiver of VA Compensation or Pension to Receive Military Pay and Allowance*, is available in an electronic format only.
* To explain that unsuccessful attempts to contact a Veteran by telephone should be documented as a note in Modern Awards Processing – Development (MAP-D) or VBMS.
 | III.v.4.C.3.c |
| To clarify that VA must send notice of proposed adverse action before adjusting a Veteran’s award due to his/her receipt of drill pay if* VA must adjust the award *retroactively*, and
* the *VA Form 21-8951* that the Veteran submitted has a version date *earlier* than February 2015.
 | III.v.4.C.4.e |
| To add a new Block f which provides instructions for adjusting benefits when the monthly rate of payment at the end of the fiscal year during which the Veteran earned drill pay is $0.00.  | III.v.4.C.4.f |
| To add a new Block g which identifies circumstances under which VA must reissue notice of proposed adverse action.  | III.v.4.C.4.g |
| To remove the requirement that a Veteran must request a hearing within 30 days of receipt of a notice of proposed adverse action. | III.v.4.C.4.h |
| To add a reference to III.ii.6.2.c and d, which discuss full-time duty in the uniformed services. | III.v.4.C.6.a |
| To add a new Block k containing instructions for handling cases in which a Veteran was on active duty during a given fiscal year for more days than the number of training days shown on *VA Form 21-8951* for the same fiscal year. | III.v.4.C.6.k |
| To clarify that notice of proposed action is necessary in the example provided because the ***version*** date of the *VA Form 21-8951* the Veteran submitted is earlier than February 2015. | III.v.4.C.6.g |
| To explain that in the example provided, notice of proposed adverse action is necessary because the version date of the *VA Form 21-8951* is earlier than February 2015. | III.v.4.C.7.g |
| To create a new block containing an example of how to adjust benefits based on a Veteran’s receipt of drill pay when the Veteran has an ongoing partial recoupment of compensation benefits.  | III.v.4.C.7.j |

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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, DirectorCompensation Service |

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