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

**Veterans Benefits Administration June 25, 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 Notification.”  ***Notes***:   * The term regional office (RO) also includes pension management center (PMC), where appropriate * 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 * to replace “Improved Pension” with “current-law pension,” where appropriate * update obsolete terminology, where appropriate * reassign alphabetical designations to individual blocks to account for new and/or deleted blocks within a topic * update section and topic titles to more accurately reflect their content * clarify block labels and/or block text, and * bring the documents into conformance with M21-1 standards. |

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| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation |
| To state that retroactive stop-loss pay paid by the Department of Defense (DoD) between September 11, 2001, and September 30, 2009, is not considered retirement pay for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) purposes. | M21-1 Part III, Subpart v, Chapter 5, Section A, Topic 1, Block a  (III.v.5.A.1.a) |
| * To include Veterans Information Solution (VIS) as a source for determining if military retirement pay has been granted. * To include a reference for the *VIS User Guide*. | III.v.5.A.1.f |
| To delete the note that instructs readers to retain a copy of *VA Form 21-651, Election of Compensation in Lieu of Retired Pay or Waiver of Retired Pay to Secure Compensation From Department of Veterans Affairs (38 U.S.C. 5304(a)-5305)*, in the claims folder or eFolder. (These forms are now uploaded into the appropriate Veteran’s eFolder as a matter of routine.) | III.v.5.A.2.b |
| To add *VA Form 21-0819, VA/DOD Joint Disability Evaluation Board Claim* to the list of forms constituting an election or waiver. | III.v.5.A.2.d |
| * To eliminate the requirement to enclose VA Pamphlet 22-73-3, *Summary of Educational Benefits Under the Dependents’ Educational Assistance Program, Chapter 35 of Title 38, U.S. Code*, and VA Form 22-5490, *Application for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance*, in decision notices, as this form and the content of the pamphlet are now automatically included in decision notices when eligibility exists. * To state that VA must notify Veterans of all ancillary benefits to which they are entitled, regardless of whether or not VA ultimately denies the Veteran’s claim because he/she elected to receive military retirement pay. | III.v.5.A.3.g |
| To replace the table containing instructions for establishing a future issue control with a cross-reference to III.iv.3.C.2.b and c. | III.v.5.A.3.i |
| To delete (old) III.v.5.4.b as it contained coding instructions for Benefits Delivery Network (BDN), a system that is now obsolete. | --- |
| To update instructions for handling a service department’s finding of incompetency so that it aligns with the instructions in Fast Letter (FL) 14-07, *Fiduciary Hub Promulgation Teams*. | III.v.5.A.5.c |
| To clarify the following:   * A Veteran with 20 or more years of service may receive retirement pay based on disability instead of length of service. * If a Veteran with 20 or more years of service is receiving retirement pay based on disability, Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) is limited to what his/her retirement pay would be based on years of service. * In order to receive CRDP, Veterans are currently required to waive military retirement pay only if the retirement pay is based on disability. | III.v.5.A.6.b |
| To rewrite content as the phase in period for eliminating the offset of military retired pay for disability compensation is now complete and the information is historical. | III.v.5.A.e-h |
| To add a new Block a with general information about Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) previously located at the beginning of the introduction block for Topic 7 and in III.v.5.A.7.b. | III.v.5.A.7.a |
| To delete information about CRSC that is now located in III.v.5.A.7.a | III.v.5.A.7.b |
| To delete old Block e as the information contained therein is now incorporated in the new Blocks h through n. | -- |
| To add new a block that   * describes what information/records CRSC boards may request from regional offices (RO)s, and * states ROs are responsible for designating their Military Records Specialists (MRS) as liaisons with CRSC boards. | III.v.5.A.7.f |
| To add a new block that identifies the end product (EP) MRSs must use to control requests from CRSC boards, and clear for work credit after responding to a request. | III.v.5.A.7.g |
| To add new Blocks h through n which revise content formerly found in old III.v.5.A.7.e and incorporate instructions/information from FL 08-35, *Regional Office (RO) Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) Liaison*. | III.v.5.A.7.h-n |
| To add a new topic that discusses how to process audit error worksheets (AEWs), including the incorporation of FL 08-40, *Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) and Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP) Audit Error Worksheet (AEW) Processing Procedures within the Veterans Service Network (VETSNET)*.) | III.v.5.A.8 |

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| Rescissions |  |

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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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