#### Department of Veterans Affairs M21-1, Part IV, Subpart ii

**Veterans Benefits Administration May 21, 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 IV, “Compensation, DIC, and Death Compensation Benefits,” Subpart ii, “Compensation.”***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
* update obsolete terminology, where appropriate
* 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 provide clarification that a *VA Form 21-0781, Statement in Support of Claim for Service Connection for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD),* is not to be sent in any case in which there is already credible supporting evidence that the claimed in-service stressor occurred as this would unnecessarily delay an examination. | M21-1, Part IV, Subpart ii, Chapter 1, Section D, Topic 2, Block f(IV.ii.1.D.2.f) |
| * To provide clarifying information that Personnel Information Exchange System (PIES) request code O18 is to be used for claims that are not processed in Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS).
* To provide information that PIES request code O50 is to be used for claims that are processed in VBMS.
 | IV.ii.1.D.2.h |
| To provide guidance that the determination that a claimed in-service stressor cannot be corroborated is to be made based on the objective evidence of record and not the U.S. Army and Joint Services Records Research Center (JSRRC) Coordinator’s own personal feelings about the believability of the stressor. | IV.ii.1.D.4.a |
| To revise terminology from “Women Veterans Coordinator (WVC)” to “Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Outreach Coordinator.” | IV.ii.1.D.5.e |
| * To provide text to include in the development letter to the Veteran to inform him/her of a regional office (RO) and Veterans Health Administration (VHA) contact for questions related to a claim.
* To provide information on and link to the MST Resource Sharepoint Page for determination of what VHA contact information to include in the development letter.
 | IV.ii.1.D.5.k |

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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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