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

**Veterans Benefits Administration May 8, 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***: * 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 dependent(s) file with VA.
* Minor editorial changes have also been made to
* update incorrect or obsolete references
* update obsolete terminology, where appropriate
* renumber each topic based on the standard that the first topic in each section is Topic 1
* reassign alphabetical designations to individual blocks and repaginate, where necessary, 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 document into conformance with M21-1 standards.
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| Reason(s) for the Change | Citation |
| To remove the old Topic 23, “General Information on Claims Based on Former Prisoner of War (FPOW) status”, which is covered under Part III, Subpart v, Chapter 1, Section C (III.v.1.C).  | Part IV, Subpart ii, Chapter 1, Section G, Topic 23 (old) (IV.ii.1.G.23)  |
| To remove content from the introduction block. The change constitutes an amendment which deletes the block titles * obtaining FPOW service records
* handling questions on FPOW status, and
* verifying FPOW status.
 | IV.ii.1.G.1 |
| * To relocate the information previously found in III.v.1.C that discusses developing for service department information on FPOW status
* To remove the duplicate guidance that was covered under verifying FPOW status. The guidance is covered under the block topic that discusses developing for service department information on FPOW claims
* To remove old Block c about obtaining FPOW service records, and restructure the information as a reference into this Block a for requesting service records for FPOWs, and
* To update and clarify the procedures for obtaining service department information on FPOW status found in the step action, to include
* adding a step to review the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) website, formerly Defense POW/Missing Personnel Offices (DPMO)
* adding PIES code O50 for electronic claims, and
* reflecting Benefits Assistance Service (BAS) as the custodian of the VAVBAWAS/CO/OUTREACH email address.
 | IV.ii.1.G.1.a |
| To provide contact information for Compensation Service and references. | IV.ii.1.G.1.b |
| To remove the old Block c about requests for medical evidence from the Veteran, as it creates duplicative efforts satisfied by standard claims processing, and contradicts information contained in III.iv.3.A.11.c. | -- |
| To add a new Block c and create a cross reference regarding examination procedures contained in III.iv.3.A.11. | IV.ii.1.G.1.c |
| To add a new Block d that discusses handling statements from Veterans and former comrades. | IV.ii.1.G.1.d  |
| To remove old Block d that discussed verification of FPOW status as this information is contained in IV.ii.1.G.1.a. | -- |
| To provide additional contact information when unable to locate a defender of Wake Island *DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty.*  | IV.ii.1.G.2.b |
| To add an updated mailing address for U.S. Department of Labor.  | IV.ii.1.G.2.c |

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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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