



# The EAGLE

The Newsletter of the Indiana Veterans' Service Officers' Association

Edition 2004-002

INVSOA - To Better Serve the Veterans Of Indiana

April 1, 2004

## Concurrent Receipt Update

"Concurrent Receipt" is a term used to describe the receipt of both military retired pay and VA compensation by military retirees who have service-connected disabilities. These veterans fall into two categories:

**Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC):** Military retirees receiving VA compensation for a disability or disabilities which were incurred as a direct result of armed conflict; or while engaged in hazardous service; or in the performance of duty under conditions simulating war (training); or through an instrumentality of war (such as accidental gunfire, exposure to Agent Orange, accidents in military vehicles, Gulf War Syndrome) and has been rated by VA as 10% or higher disabling can draw their VA compensation equal to whatever their VA rating is and their full military retired pay.

**Concurrent Disability Payments (CDP):** Military retirees who have a VA rated disability or disabilities which are service connected but not related to the conditions outlined above and who are rated as 50% or higher disabling can draw their VA Compensation and their retired pay phased in increasing increments over a ten-year period until they are getting their full retired pay by the year 2014.

### COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION (CRSC)

Effective January 1, 2004, CRSC will be paid for any combat- or training-related disabilities rated anywhere from 10% to 100%. Retirees must apply to their parent service for CRSC payments, and they will continue to receive their full retired pay.

Previously, Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) laws paid only for

disabilities which were rated by VA as 60% or higher disabling and were caused by combat conditions, or simulated combat conditions (such as training), or for disabilities which resulted in the award of the Purple Heart medal, regardless of the rating.

#### Army

The Army web site is [www.crsc.army.mil](http://www.crsc.army.mil) Direct questions toll free to 1-866-281-3254, local (703) 325-5163 Fax: (703) 325-0144

#### Navy/Marines

The Navy website is <http://www.hq.navy.mil/ncpb/CRSCB/combatrelated.htm>

Neither the Branch nor the NCPB Webmaster is staffed to accept or respond to telephone or email inquiries. Mail requests to the Branch and they will respond to them as soon as practicable. In order to more efficiently process the large volume of applications received, please allow the time specified in the Initial Notification of Receipt to expire before making inquiries into your case. Additional information is available at the CRSC Branch toll-free information line at 1-877-DON-CRSC (1-877-366-2772), or by mailing to the CRSC Branch..."

Previous Denials for 10-to-50% Ratings:

For those retirees who were previously denied CRSC under the 2003 program because their combat-related disabilities were rated at 10-to-50% an automatic approval process was implemented. If you are in this category, **please do not reapply**. You should receive an approval letter by February 2004. If you do not receive an approval letter within this timeframe and you believe you should have, feel free to mail an inquiry to the Branch. (See the address at the end of this section).

Previous Purple Heart-Related Approvals Containing other Combat-Related

Disabilities:

For those retirees who were previously approved for CRSC under the 2003 program because they had Purple Heart-related disabilities but who did not receive CRSC for other combat-related disabilities because their total combat-related percentage was below 60%, they have implemented an automatic approval process. If you are in this category, **please do not reapply**. You should receive an approval letter by February 2004. If you do not receive an approval letter within this timeframe and you believe you should have, feel free to mail an inquiry to the Branch at the address listed below.

Department Of The Navy  
Naval Council Of Personnel Boards  
Combat Related Special Compensation Branch  
720 Kennon Street SE Suite 309  
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5023

#### Air Force

The Air Force website is: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/disability/CRSC/CRSCnew.htm>

Supporting documentation is essential to the review of each CRSC claim. The burden is upon you to provide supporting documentation to the best of your ability. They need to verify the cause of your diagnosis, or we cannot determine it to be combat related. Please include a complete copy of all documentation you have from the VA, especially documents that provide original VA rationale for determining your disabilities are service connected, documents that provide diagnostic codes, documents that indicate the current rating of your disabilities, and documents that show a condition as secondary or presumptive.

The address for applications from retired Air Force members is:

*(continued on next page)*

## Concurrent Receipt Update (continued from page 1)

United States Air Force  
Disability Division (CRSC)  
550 C Street West Ste 6  
Randolph AFB TX 78150-4708

If you need assistance or have any questions, please contact the AF Contact Center, DSN 665-5000; Commercial (210) 565-5000 or toll free 1-866-229-7074.

### Coast Guard

The US COAST GUARD website is <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/psc/customerconnection/cr.htm>

General tips: There is no particular problem with VA records verification, because the Coast Guard simply denies applications that are not verifiable with the M-13 record or the initial VA rating summary.

The CR Legislation advice to a Coast Guard applicant is more pointed than to retirees of the other Services. Take your time, document your block 13 description and correlate it to your condition especially well and stay credible. Remember, a large and amorphous bureaucracy is not handling your application, but by the Coast Guard, whose leadership is focused and bright. If you take these steps, we feel your service will do the best it possibly can to accommodate credible and well-documented and correlated applications.

The address for US Coast Guard CRSC and CDP inquires:

Commander (Adm-1-CRSC)  
US Coast Guard  
Personnel Command  
4200 Wilson Blvd  
Arlington, VA 22203-1804

Telephone: 1-800-772-8724

### CONCURRENT DISABILITY PAYMENTS (CDP)

Those military retirees who have service-connected disabilities rated at 50% or higher which are not combat- or combat training-related, but were incurred or aggravated while serving in the military, will receive all of their VA compensation, at whatever current rating they have, but only a percentage of their military retired pay until the year 2014, when they will get full concurrent receipt of both.

Effective January 1, 2004, they will receive their full VA disability compensa-

tion, but the amount of retired pay they will be able to draw depends on their VA disability rating.

Veterans rated at 100% disabled will be able to draw an additional \$750 per month of their retired pay and full VA compensation, currently \$2,239; more if the veteran has dependents.

Veterans rated 90% draw an additional \$500 of their retired pay and full VA, currently \$1,344; or more if dependents.

The remaining schedule is as follows:

80% disability, additional \$350 per month;

70% disability, additional \$250 per month;

60% disability, additional \$125 per month; and

50% disability, additional \$100 per month.

No concurrent receipt for retirees rated 40% or below. They must continue to have their VA disability compensation payments subtracted from their military retired pay.

Each year for the next 10 years, the amount of the retired pay they will be able to draw in addition to their VA disability compensation will increase thusly:

In 2005 the retiree would get an additional 10% of the remaining offset in his retired pay. Example: if the veteran's retired pay was originally \$1500, he would start out getting the additional \$750, leaving an offset of \$750. In the year 2005 he would get 10% of the \$750, or \$75, leaving an offset of \$675. The amount of retired pay he is now drawing is \$750 plus the \$75, or \$825.

In 2006 the retiree would get an additional 20% of the remaining offset in his retired pay. Using the example above, he would get 20% of the remaining \$675, or \$135. Added to the retired pay he is already getting, he is now drawing \$960 retired pay with an offset of \$540. In 2007 an additional 30% of the offset. In 2008 an additional 40% and so on until January 2014 when they will be receiving their full military retired pay.

A service member who is 50% service-connected disabled and retires in the year 2008 starts out at the additional \$100 per month and the additional 40% of the offset immediately, not the 10%. A service member who is 50% service-connected disabled and retires in the year 2014 will get full VA compensation for the 50% rating and full military retired pay.

National Guard and Reservist career retirees will be treated the same as active duty retirees and are included in both pro-

grams and no longer are required to have 7200 retirement points, as they were under an earlier program.

Disabled retirees who qualify for both programs would have to choose between one or the other. Retirees cannot draw compensation from both programs. Because the CRSC program provides full payment immediately, rather than the 10-year phase-in, legislators plan to allow an annual election option for the CRSC-eligibles. This recognizes that a retiree who is 100% disabled, but only 60% of that is due to combat-related conditions, may find it advantageous to elect CRSC payments for a few years until the concurrent receipt payment rises to a level that exceeds the CRSC payment. Because CRSC payments are tax-free and retired pay is not, this could also figure into the qualifying retirees decision of which pay to accept.

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## American Legion Post 408 Hosts All Veterans Reunion

We are honoring all American Veterans. This is a reunion for all Branches of Service. The dates are 11-13 June 2004.

We get together every year and have a great time. We have a horseshoe, steel dart, and pool tournament planned this year. We have a playground for the youngsters. Children must be supervised. Let's keep it safe and watch the kids.

This event is getting bigger and better every year. We will have live music and DJs most of the time. We have campsites available at \$10.00 for the entire weekend on a first come basis. Please let me know how many people you are bringing. The local farmers will let us use their land for camping. We always respect their property. There is firewood available. There will be food vendors there. The bar will be open. We are always open to suggestions for improvement. The address is:

American Legion # 408  
5100 Mounds Road  
Chesterfield, IN 46017  
(Phone) (765) 378-7827  
Point of Contact: Bob Thorpe (317) 510-4382; Cell (317) 697-6432; E-Mail [bob.thorpe@dfas.mil](mailto:bob.thorpe@dfas.mil)

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# Upcoming Reunions

The men who served with the 10th Div Support Groups are organizing their first reunion. Please contact Ray Martineau for more information. He can be reached by mail at 387 Boynton St, Bedford, NH 03110, by phone at 603-622-6243, or by email at xpunm@aol.com.

The men who served with the 62nd Tank Bn in Kitzingen, Germany, during the time frame of 1955-1958 are organizing their first reunion. Please contact Sonny Vanderpool for more information. He can be reached by mail at PO Box 151, Russellville, KY 42276, by phone at 270-725-4214, or you can contact Kent Denton by email at kdenton4@cox.net.

The ASA men who were stationed in Helemano, HI as part of 8605th AAU; 5th ASA FS; or Det 5, 2nd Sig Svc Bn are asked to contact George Akerhielm, 7636 Sturbridge Dr, Manlius, NY 13104. Phone: 315-682-9460. He may also be reached by E-Mail at gjaker@juno.com. The next reunion for this group will be in the spring of 2005 in Baltimore, MD.

The very first reunion for Co K, Schweinfurt Group, 1956-1958 will be held Sept 17-19, 2004 in Branson, MO. If you were a part of this unit, please contact Kent C Denton, 8712 Charlotte Dr, Oklahoma City, OK 73159. Phone: 405-681-6762. E-mail: kdenton4@cox.net

The Combat Infantrymens Association will be holding their next reunion October 7-10, 2004 in Louisville, KY. Please contact Larry Eckard by email at LarryMLRS@charterinternet.com, or by regular mail at PO Drawer 11399, Hickory NC 28603. Phone: 828-256-6008. Web Site: www.cianathq.org

ASA Okinawa will be having their next reunion September 30 - October 3, 2004 in Colorado Springs, CO. If you served with the 111th Sig Svc Co (49-52); 327th Comm Recon Co (1952); 8603rd AAU (1952-1954); 8603rd DU (1954-1956); or the 3rd US ASA FS (1957-1960's), please contact Membership Chairman Paul Watson at 17 Baker Rd, Salisbury, MA 01952-1442. Phone: 978-465-7473. e-mail: W562236@aol.com

The Newport Dealeys ( USS CROMWELL (DE-1014); USS DEALEY (DE-1006); USS JOHN WILLIS (DE-1027); USS VAN VOORHIS (DE-1028); USS LESTER (DE-1022); USS HARTLEY (DE-1029); USS JOSEPH K TAUSSIG

(DE-1030); USS COURTNEY (DE-1021); USS HAMMERBERG (DE-1015) will be holding their next reunion Sept 16-19, 2004 in Warwick, RI. If you served on board any of the Dealey-Class DEs out of Newport, please contact Marc Arsenault at 98 Oxbow Rd, Charlton, MA 01507. Phone 508-248-5072. Email: marc-a@rcn.com. Web site: http://newportdealeys.com

The former crewmen of the USS BEXAR (APA-237) will be holding their next reunion September 16-19, 2004 in Seattle, WA. If you served on the USS BEXAR, please contact James Redding. His address is 221 S Joaquin St, Coalings, CA 93210. Telephone number is 559-935-1439 E-mail: DinaMLRS@aol.com.

The USS BLAKELY (FF-1072) held their very first reunion in 2002 and had such a great time, they've planned another one for June 24-27, 2004. To get more information and to get your name and address added to the mailing list contact Merle Houk at 429 Hill Top Lane, Portersville, PA 16051; Phone: 724-368-3780; E-mail: mhok20@hotmail.com; Web: www.uss-blakely.org.

Former crewmen from the USS ENGLAND (DLG/CG-22) will be holding their next reunion in the summer of 2005 in Charleston, SC. For more information please contact Dennis O'Brien, 909 E Yorba Linda Blvd H218, Placentia, CA 92870. Phone: 714-961-6840. E-mail: dennis@ussengland.net. Check out their web site at www.ussengland.net .

A reunion is planned for the officers and crew who took part in Operation Sea Orbit on the USS ENTERPRISE. For more information on this reunion, please contact Gary M Arlaud ADR3; 111 E Leland; Des Moines, IA 50315; Phone: 515-285-7568; Email: arleaux@msn.com

The crew of the USS EUNICE (PCE-846) are working on their second reunion! It is planned for June 3-6 2004 in Omaha, NE. If you served on this vessel, please contact Harry Kalbach immediately! Address: 613 Sherman St, Menlo, IA 50164. Phone: 641-524-2811. E-mail: Hkalbach@netins.net.

The former crewmen of the USS Fargo (CL-106) will be holding their next reunion in October 21-24, 2004 in San Antonio, TX. If you served on the USS Fargo, please contact Clarence "Tex" Simmons at 131 Georgia Pl, New Braunfels, TX 78130. Phone: 830-629-7137. E-mail: cepatrsim@axs4u.net

The crewmen of the USS HALSEY POWELL (DD-686) will be holding their

next reunion in September 22-26, 2004 in Albuquerque, NM. For more information about this reunion, please contact Mike Baker at 109 Dunton Ave, Holland MI 49424. His phone number is 616-392-3547; e-mail: skippermike@wmol.com

The crewmembers of the USS HOLLAND (AS-32) are planning their 2nd reunion! It is planned for Feb 17-20, 2005 in Charleston, SC. If you served aboard the Holland, please contact Jose Garcia to get your name on the list! He can be reached at 1313 East Plum St, Laredo, TX 78040. Phone: 956-791-2039. E-mail: jgarcia@stx.rr.com

The crewmen of the USS HUNTINGTON (CL-107) will be holding their next reunion Sept 30 - Oct 3, 2004 in Nashville, TN. For more information about this reunion, please contact Gene Volcik, 6311 Walnut Hills Dr, Austin, TX 78723. Phone: 512-926-7008. E-mail: evolcik@aol.com

The crewmembers from the USS ISLE ROYALE (AD-29) will be holding their first reunion August 5-8, 2004 in Biloxi, MS. For more information, please contact George Lowell at PO Box 307, Hatfield, AR 71945; Phone: 870-389-6516; Email: georgelowellsfp3@ussisleroyale.com; Web: www.ussisleroyale.com

The former crewmembers from the USS JONAS INGRAM (DD-938) will be having their next reunion in the Washington DC/Baltimore area Oct 28-31, 2004. If you served aboard the Jonas Ingram, please get in touch with Gary Weiss so we can get you added to our database! Address: 3616 Fairfield Dr, Clermont, FL 34711. Phone: 352-241-8582; E-mail: BooWise@aol.com; Web: www.geocities.com/dd938ji

The former crewmen of the USS KENNETH D BAILEY (DD/DDR-713) will be holding their next reunion April 22-25, 2004 in Charleston, SC. If you served on the KENNETH D BAILEY, please contact Robert Levine. His address is 439 Weld St, West Roxbury, MA 02132-1109. Telephone number 617-327-3286. E-mail: rhl713@aol.com

The crewmembers of the USS KISKA (AE-35) will meet for their next reunion July 8-11, 2004 in San Diego, CA. For more information please contact Dina Coffey at 3330 Springs Rd NE Hickory NC 28601, by phone at 828-256-6008 or by email at dinamlrs@aol.com.

The crew of the USS PASCAGOULA (PCE-874) are working on their next reunion! It is planned for June 3-6, 2004 in Omaha, NE. If you served on this vessel, please contact Harry Kalbach immediately!

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## Upcoming Reunions (continued from page 3)

Address: 613 Sherman St, Menlo, IA 50164. Phone: 641-524-2811. E-mail: Hkalbach@netins.net.

The former crewmen of the USS PAWCATUCK (AO-108) will be holding their next reunion May 16-19, 2004 in Pensacola, FL. If you served on the USS PAWCATUCK, please contact David Willis, 15807 Cimarron Dr, Surprise, AZ 85374. Phone: 623-214-9835; e-mail: dwshs53@aol.com

All officers and crew who served aboard the USS RANKIN (AKA-103/LKA-103) are cordially invited to attend the ship's reunion this fall. The dates are Oct 28-31, 2004 in Norfolk, VA. For more information, please contact Lou "Skip" Sander at 153 Mayer Dr, Pittsburgh, PA 15237. Phone: 412-367-1376. E-mail: ussraink@aol.com; Web: www.ussrankin.org



The former crewmen of the USS RIGEL (AR-11 & AF-58) will be holding their next reunion September 23-26, 2004 in Colorado Springs, CO. If you served on the USS Rigel, please contact Bill Short, 3845 Taylor Rd, Auburn, NY 13021. Phone: 315-252-5838. E-mail: DinaMLRS@aol.com.

The next reunion of former crewmembers of the USS Salomonie (AO-26) will be at Niagara Falls, and Buffalo, New York, June 17-20, 2004 at the Park Plaza Airport, Buffalo, 4243 Genesee Street, Buffalo, NY 14225. For reservations call (716) 634-2300 or 1-800-814-7000. Point of contact is: Tom Graham, 11 Wood Drive, Enfield, CT. 06082; Phone (860) 698-9911. Web site: <http://www.salomonie.homestead.com/reunion2004.html>

The next reunion for the crewmembers from the USS SCHOFIELD (DEG/FFG-3) will be held June 24-27, 2004 in San Diego, CA. If you served aboard this ship, please contact Richard Cohagan as soon as possible. Address: PO Box 223, Duluth, GA 30096. Phone: (770) 623-9022 E-mail: RetrDEMCS@aol.com



The crew of the USS SIRIUS (AF-60) will be holding their first reunion in the fall of 2004 in Augusta, GA. For more information, you are encouraged to contact Dr. Charles Wilson at 731 Riverbend Dr, Martinez, GA; Phone: 706-855-5242; Email: siriusaf60@yahoo.com.

The former crewmen of the USS Tarawa (CV/CVA/CVS-40) will be holding their next reunion April 15-18, 2004 in Andover, MA. If you served on the USS Tarawa, please contact Charlie Huck at 2842 Old Evansville Rd, New Harmony IN 47631. Phone: 812-682-4219. E-mail: ashuck@evansville.net



The former crewmen of the USS Tarawa (LHA-1) will be holding their next reunion April 15 - 18, 2004 in Andover, MA. If you served on the USS Tarawa LHA-1, please contact William Taylor at 48587 Spruce Court, East Liverpool, Ohio 43920-9717. Phone: 330-385-4622; or Email: taylorwm60@yahoo.com

The crewmembers from the USS TAYLOR (FFG-50) are organizing for their first reunion. It is planned for June 24-27, 2004 in Jacksonville, FL. If you served on the Taylor, please contact Patrick Bosco at 2027 E 218th Pl, Sauk Village, IL 60411. Phone: 708-757-9108; email: rjeremy379@cs.com; Web site: <http://www.taylorshipmates.com>

The former crewmen of the USS YANCEY (AKA-93) will be holding their next reunion Nov 4-7, 2004 in San Francisco, CA. If you served on the USS YANCEY, please contact George Clifton. His address is 4660 West 89th Pl, Hometown, IL 60456-1041. Telephone number is 708-425-8531. Email address is cliffs@ameritech.net

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# World War II Memorial Dedication to be Broadcast Live on History Channel

For those unable to attend the dedication of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., the History Channel and C-SPAN have both agreed to carry the dedication ceremony live from start to finish beginning at 2:00 p.m. EDT on Saturday, May 29, 2004.

Extensive news coverage of the events and special Memorial Day Weekend coverage focusing on the National World War II Memorial is also expected.

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## Rules Change for Presumptive Disabilities for Former POWs

The signing of the Veterans Benefits Act of 2003 by President Bush brought some changes to presumptive disabilities for former POWs.

Presumptions of service connection relating to diseases and disabilities of former POWs has been amended to remove the requirement that a former POW be held in captivity for a minimum of 30 days in order for certain disabilities to be service connected under the presumptive provisions of the law. These disabilities are:

- Psychosis;
- any of the anxiety states;
- dysthymic disorder (or depressive neurosis);
- organic residuals of frostbite; and,
- post-traumatic arthritis.

The requirement that a former POW be held for a minimum of 30 days remains in effect for the following conditions, including cirrhosis of the liver, which has been added to this list by the Act:

- avitaminosis;
- beriberi;
- chronic dysentery;
- helminthiasis;
- malnutrition;
- pellagra;
- any other nutritional deficiency;
- cirrhosis of the liver;
- peripheral neuropathy;
- irritable bowel syndrome; and,
- peptic ulcer disease.

Additionally, Public Law 108-170, the Veterans Health Care, Capital Asset, and Business Improvement Act of 2003, eliminates prescription drug copayments for all former POWs, meaning they won't have to pay the same fees as other veterans.

It also eliminates a rule that former POWs must have been held in captivity for at least 90 days to qualify for dental care. Now, anyone held as a POW can get dental care without having to show a service-connected cause for dental needs.

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# Participants of Project SHAD Now Eligible for VA Care!

We have outlined in these newsletters several times the problems encountered by military personnel who participated in one form or another in Project SHAD, (Shipboard Hazard and Defense).

The purpose of Project SHAD was, in part, to determine the effectiveness of shipboard detection and protective procedures against chemical, biological and possible nuclear threats.

Chemicals and other agents were used in the project and many veterans who participated were convinced that their disabilities were caused by this exposure.

Public Law 108-170, the Veterans Health Care, Capital Asset, and Business Improvement Act of 2003, provides that "a veteran who participated in a test conducted by the Department of Defense Desert Test Center as part of a program for chemical and biological warfare testing from 1962 through 1973 (including the program designated as 'Project Shipboard Hazard and Defense (SHAD)' and related land-based tests) is eligible for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care under subsection (a)(2)(F) for any illness, notwithstanding that there is insufficient medical evidence to conclude that such illness is attributable to such testing."

At long last, these veterans have won their battle with VA.

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# Jesse Brown VA Medical Center Named

The Department of Veterans Affairs health care facility located at 820 South Damen Avenue in Chicago, Illinois, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Jesse Brown Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center". Any reference to such facility in any law, regulation, map, document, record, or other paper of the United States shall be considered to be a reference to the Jesse Brown Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center. (PL 108-170) \*\*\*\*\*

# Korea Defense Service Medal now Available



The Secretary of Defense approved the implementing instructions for the Korea Defense Service Medal on February 3, 2004.

The Korea Defense Service Medal (KDSM) is authorized to members of the Armed Forces who have served on active duty in support of the defense of the Republic of Korea from 28 July 1954 to a date to be determined.

The area of eligibility encompasses all land area of the Republic of Korea, and the contiguous waters out to 12 nautical miles, and all air spaces above the land and water areas.

Effective 3 February 2004, the Overseas Service Ribbon (OSR) is no longer authorized for overseas tours in the Republic of Korea. Separate information will be published addressing previous awards of the OSR for normal overseas tours in the Republic of Korea, and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) for service in the Republic of Korea from 1 October 66 to 30 June 74.

**CRITERIA:** Service members must have been assigned, attached, or mobilized to units operating in the area of eligibility for 30 consecutive days or for 60 nonconsecutive days or meet the following criteria.

a. Be engaged in combat during an armed engagement, regardless of the time in the area of eligibility.

b. Is wounded or injured in the line of duty and requires medical evacuation from the area of eligibility.

c. While participating as a regularly assigned aircrew member flying sorties into, out of, or within the area of eligibility in direct support of military operations. Each day that one or more sorties are flown in accordance with these criteria shall count as one day toward the 30 or 60-day requirement.

d. Personnel who serve in operations and exercises conducted in the area of eligibility are considered eligible for the award as long as the basic time criteria is met. Due to extensive time period for KDSM eligibility, the nonconsecutive period for eligibility

remains cumulative throughout the entire period.

The KDSM may be awarded posthumously to any soldier who lost his or her life without regard to length of such service.

Only one award of the KDSM is authorized for any individual.

In order of precedence, the KDSM will be worn below the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal (GWOTSM) and above the Armed Forces Service Medal (AFSM).

Servicemembers currently on active duty who are eligible for the medal will have their Personnel Qualification Records updated and will be awarded the medal through their command channels. The medals, NSN 8455-01-512-7138, will be available through normal supply channels by May 2004.

Requests for award of the KDSM to veterans, retirees, or their next of kin will be submitted to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), www.archives.gov, in St. Louis, MO. NPRC's address is:

National Personnel Records Center  
9700 Page Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Requests will include documents supporting service in Korea from 28 July 1954 to a date to be determined. NPRC will add the KDSM to the DD Form 214 by issuing a DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty).

Current members of the Army Reserve and National Guard should contact their current records custodian to have their records updated.

County Veterans' Service Officers can assist veterans in obtaining this medal. Points of contact to CVSOs for further information are Ms. Harris (703) 325-4761 and SSG Mizner at (703) 325-9171.

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# County Service Officers to Meet in June

## Post Service Officers eligible to join

Indiana's County Veterans' Service Officers will meet at their annual conference in Indianapolis from 7-10 June 2004. The conference, sponsored by the Indiana (continued on next page)

## County Service Officers Meet (continued from page 5)

Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA), will be held at the Holiday Inn North, just off I-465 at the Pyramids.

Post Service Officers from the various veterans service organizations such as The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, AM-VETS, etc., are eligible to join the Indiana Veterans' Service Officers' Association (INVSOA) as non-voting members if they like.

Article III of the INVSOA by-laws provide for associate membership of "duly elected or appointed Service Officers (with credentials) of any Veterans' Organization in the State of Indiana." Associate Members, by payment of annual dues, shall have a voice without vote in any of the Business Meetings of the Association. This meeting will take place on Tuesday afternoon of the conference, following regular classes.

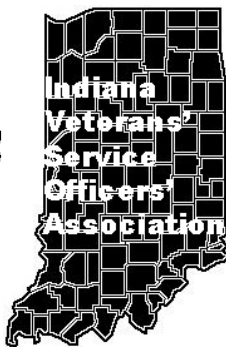
Post Service Officers who attend do so at their own or the Post's expense, and should contact the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs for reservation information at (800) 400-4520.

Regular and associate membership dues are \$15.00 and may be paid prior to or at the conference, but regular members may not vote on any issues brought up at the business meeting without a current 2004 membership card. It's much preferable to renew membership prior to the conference. Mail check or money order for \$15.00 payable to INVSOA to:

Howard County Veterans' Office  
ATTN: Allen Polsgrove  
120 E. Mulberry, Rm 103  
Kokomo, IN 46901-4632

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs will publish the agenda and release reservation information at a later date.

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# Discount Drug Advertisement Phone Calls

The VA is receiving numerous phone calls lately from people asking for free discount drug cards.

These calls are the result of a national CBS network advertisement from the US Pharmaceutical Group (NOT associated with the VA). The number they have advertised is 1-800-872-1000. The 872 phone number connects to the Pharmaceutical Group, so you can register for the free card.

But some veterans have mistakenly dialed the phone number for the VA, 1-800-827-1000, asking for the free discount drug card.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THIS OFFER AND ADVERTISEMENT IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH THE Federal Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) IN ANY WAY!!!**

Please share this information with others, and advise them of the correct phone number. Thank you!

Butch Miller, Veterans Liaison Office  
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# VA Launches New Web Site on Hepatitis C

WASHINGTON (Feb. 23, 2004) -- A new, comprehensive Web site on hepatitis C -- [www.hepatitis.va.gov](http://www.hepatitis.va.gov) -- was formally launched Feb. 25 through a collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the University of California at San Francisco's Center for HIV Information (CHI).



"Hepatitis C is another reminder that veterans rely on VA to care for a wide variety of illnesses and battlefield injuries," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi. "This Web site will help both veterans and medical practitioners to understand this complex, long-term illness."

Hepatitis C is the most common blood borne infection in the United States, affect-

ing 2 percent of the population. VA cares for more hepatitis C patients than any other medical system, with more than 200,000 patients since 1996. The department has the largest screening, testing and care program for hepatitis C in the nation.

The new hepatitis C Web site has a section for veterans and non-medical employees that includes general information and links to other Web sites.

It also offers information for health care providers that is searchable by topic and includes best practices, guidelines and slides.

"Hepatitis C is an important public health issue for our nation," said Dr. Laurence Deyton, VA's chief consultant for public health, who oversees VA's hepatitis C programs. "VA is pleased to join with CHI, a world-class medical Web site developer, to provide a user-friendly resource on hepatitis C for providers, patients and public health authorities."

CHI, based at the San Francisco VAMC, is directed by Dr. Laurence Peiperl, a medical staff member of both the university and the San Francisco VAMC. Dr. Paul A. Volberding, chief of the medical service at the San Francisco VAMC, chairs the CHI Advisory Board.

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# 'Gray Area' Reservists Get Unlimited Commissary Benefits

Fort Lee, VA - The 2004 National Defense Authorization Act has granted unlimited shopping privileges for "gray area" Reserve retirees and their families. "Gray area" Reservists are those who have earned at least 20 years of creditable service but are not yet age 60 and receiving retired pay.

Previously, veterans in this group and their families were allowed only 24 commissary shopping days per calendar year and they were required to have their privilege cards initialed at the commissary each day they shopped. They were not entitled to unlimited shopping until they reached age 60.

The extended benefit may not apply worldwide, however. Many overseas in-

*(continued on next page)*

## Commissary Benefits (continued from page 6)

stallations are impacted by host nation agreements that limit on-base shopping by non-active duty personnel. When visiting or living outside the U. S. or its territories, "gray area" Reservists should always check with appropriate installation authorities about local commissary shopping privileges.

*Army Echoes, Issue 1, Jan-Apr 2004*

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## VAMC Announces 2004 Means Test Thresholds

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) recently announced the new 2004 VA Healthcare System Means Test Thresholds.

This system determines the eligibility of veterans who do not meet special category requirements for priority VA health care services, such as, having a service connected disability rated at 10% or more, being a former POW, receiving the Purple Heart award, etc.

If veterans are not in any of those categories, their income and net worth must be under VA's means test threshold or HUD's Geographic-based means test threshold before VA will offer healthcare benefits.

The 2004 VA means test threshold for a single veteran is \$25,162.

The married veteran's 2004 means test threshold is \$30,197.

The means test threshold is also increased by the number of the veteran's dependent children.

HUD's geographic-based means test thresholds differ in different areas of the country as determined by the cost of living in various zip codes.

If the veteran's annual income falls **below** VA's means test threshold, VA inpatient and out-patient services are provided without charge to the veteran.

If the veteran's income falls **between** VA and HUD thresholds, the veteran is charged VA co-payments but in-patient co-payments are reduced by 80%. Veterans evaluated by the Means Test must also have

net worth under \$80,000, with the value of their home being exempt.

Veterans who have not yet enrolled or have not yet determined their eligibility to enroll in the VA health care system should contact their local County Veterans' Service Officer or the enrollment office at their nearest VA health care facility.

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## VA Community- Based Outpatient Clinics Coming to Peru and Goshen

Dr. Michael Murphy, Director of the Northern Indiana Health Care System (NIHCS), with VA Medical Centers in Fort Wayne and Marion, Indiana, announced on Wednesday, March 10th, that new Community-Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOCs) will soon be opened in Peru and Goshen, Indiana.

CBOCs are outpatient clinics conveniently located near veterans, making it possible for veterans to get VA medical care benefits without being required to travel great distances. Staffed usually by civilian doctors and staff, veterans get quality outpatient care while still enjoying low-cost prescription medications.

The Peru and Goshen clinics will join the nine CBOCs already established here in Indiana. Interested veterans are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible after they open, because only limited applications will be accepted. They are located at:

200 E. Winslow Rd.  
**Bloomington**, IN 47401  
Call: 812-353-2600

9330 S. Broadway  
**Crown Point**, IN 46307  
Call: 219-662-0001

500 E. Walnut St.  
**Evansville**, IN 47713  
Call: 812-465-6202

3500 W. Purdue Ave.  
**Muncie**, IN 47304  
Call: 765-284-6860

811 Northgate Blvd.  
**New Albany**, IN 47150  
Call: 812-542-0104

4351 South "A" Street  
**Richmond**, IN 47346  
Call: 765-973-6915

53830 Generations Drive  
**South Bend**, IN 46635  
Call: 574-273-0848

142 W. Honey Creek Pkwy  
**Terre Haute**, IN 47804  
Call: 812-232-2890  
1-800-427-5882

3851 N. River Rd.  
**West Lafayette**, IN 47906  
Call: 765-464-2280

The full-service VA Medical Centers located in Indiana are located at:

1481 W. 10th St.  
**Indianapolis**, IN 46202  
Call: 1-888-878-6889  
Locally call: (317) 554-0175

2121 Lake Ave.  
**Fort Wayne**, IN 46805  
Call: 1-800-360-8387  
Locally call: (260) 426-5431

1700 E. 38th St.  
**Marion**, IN 46953  
Call: 800-498-8792  
Locally call: (765) 674-3321

And in Kentucky:

800 Zorn Avenue  
**Louisville**, KY 40206  
1-800-376-8387 \*\*\*\*\*

## Free Guide Helps Deployed Families

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, March 10, 2004 -- A new, free guide being offered by the National Fatherhood Initiative is designed to help service members maintain their important role in their children's lives during military deployments.

(continued on next page)

## Free Guide (continued from page 7)

"The Deployed Fathers and Families Guide," released in January, offers tips to help families cope with the practical as well as emotional aspects of family separations caused by deployments, explained Vincent DiCaro of the National Fatherhood Initiative.

The guide expands upon the institute's popular brochure, "10 Ways to Stay Involved With Your Children During Deployment."

DiCaro said the new guide builds on tips in the brochure to help family members prepare to handle the many day-to-day issues within households typically handled by the service member who is about to deploy. The guide also addresses the emotional challenges families face during deployments, particularly those to dangerous regions of the world.

"Fathers play a unique and irreplaceable role within the family," said DiCaro. "Our goal is to help them stay as connected as possible when they are gone."

For a free copy of the guide or brochure, fill out the electronic request form on the institute's Web site at <https://fatherhood.safesaver.com/default.asp>. The site also allows military children to post an online message to their deployed fathers.

The brochure and guide also are available by calling (301) 948-0599 or writing to National Fatherhood Institute, 101 Lake Forest Blvd., Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

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# House Set to Challenge Pentagon on Global War on Terrorism Medal

By Rick Maze, Navy Times staff writer  
15 March 2004

The Pentagon's determination to award a single campaign medal for the entire global war on terrorism will come under fire Wednesday when the House Armed Services Committee is expected to pass a bill ordering creation of separate campaign medals for combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. This is a bipartisan bill, first

introduced in September, with 84 cosponsors. It is expected to pass the committee Wednesday with little or no discussion, but the next step is unclear, House aides said.

The Defense Department has stood firm in the face of complaints about having a single Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal instead of separate campaign medals, and is likely to lean on House Republican leaders to prevent passage of the bill, aides said.

Exactly who would get the campaign medals would be left to the Pentagon to determine. The bill, HR 3104, only orders the medals to be established and leaves eligibility rules to the military.

Passage by the full House still wouldn't ensure the separate medals would ever be issued. The Senate debated the issue last year and by a 48-47 vote ended up siding with the Pentagon. Defense officials have argued that a single medal treats all deployments for the war on terrorism equally, whether the operations are in Iraq, Afghanistan, Africa, Columbia or the Philippines.

The chief cosponsors of the House bill are all Vietnam veterans who serve on the armed services committee: Vic Snyder, D-Ark., a former Marine, and Army veterans Rob Simmons, R-Conn., and Silvestre Reyes, D-Texas.

Snyder, the chief sponsor, said his combat experience is part of the reason why he is pushing for separate campaign medals. "I know the incredible pride and sense of accomplishment our military personnel feel about how well they have done in our most recent wars," he said.

"In past wars, millions of soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines have received combat medals that have held intense meaning for them," Reyes added. "Soldiers who fought and are fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan deserve a medal of equal significance."

"As a Vietnam veteran and reservist, I am proud of the sacrifices made by our military men and women," said Simmons, who remained in the Army Reserve after his combat experience and retired from the military in 2000. "Whatever one thinks about the war on terror, our service men and women did what their country asked of them and did it very well. Congress should recognize these accomplishments."

In addition to the campaign medal bill, the House Armed Services Committee is scheduled to take up three other measures on Wednesday. One bill would order the reimbursement of travel expenses for service members who used the Central Command's rest and recuperative leave

program in its early stages last fall, a measure passed by the Senate last week.

Also planned are votes on a bill attempting to expand access for military recruiters to college campuses and a non-binding resolution asking the Defense Department, banks and credit unions and the Federal Trade commission to all work to reduce the financial hardships of mobilized reservists.



**Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal**



**Global War on Terrorism Service Medal**

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