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News Release

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Coast Guard Status Report on Retroactive Payments to Disabled Retirees

TOPEKA – The Coast Guard Personnel Service Center (PSC) just finished a major effort to make retroactive payments to all Coast Guard retirees rated 50% to 90% disabled and 100% unemployable by the Veterans Administration (VA). 550 payments totaling over \$12 million have been made as of 3 November 2008. PSC is now applying a “full court press” to complete reviews and payment of retroactive Concurrent Retirement & Disability Pay (CRDP) to all other potentially eligible retirees who may be due retroactive payments under this legislative change.

This is a significant undertaking, with over 3,500 total records to review. Each case requires a minimum of 2 hours, and up to 6 hours or more in some cases of manual review of Coast Guard and VA data to determine a retiree’s entitlements. Actual calculation of retroactive entitlements requires specialized knowledge of both military retired pay and VA pension benefits. PSC has reviewed 31% of the records potentially eligible for CRDP retroactive payments. Of those reviewed to date, 10.5% are due payments from both the Coast Guard and the VA, 10.5% are due payments just from the VA, and 10% are not due additional funds. For those who may be owed money by the VA, PSC will send a letter of notification when the files are sent to the VA. For those owed money by the Coast Guard, a Retiree/Annuitant Statement of Monthly Income (Form CG-5209-RET) will be mailed to the retiree when the payment is processed.

PSC is transmitting test data to the VA on 18 November 2008 to finalize secure transmission protocol and procedures. PSC will begin sending payment data to the VA immediately after successful testing is complete. They expect to review an average of 15-35% of the remaining records each month for the next several months, depending on pay cycle workload and end of year requirements. PSC established a date of 20 February 2009 to complete all CRDP reviews.

PSC asks for patience and understanding as they work diligently through this complex and large volume of work while continuing to provide required services to retiree and annuitant customers. PSC will be posting status reports twice a month on their web page to keep Coast Guard retirees up to date on CRDP progress. Just go to the Retiree and Annuitant Services (RAS) Branch webpage of the PSC Internet website (<http://www.uscg.mil/hr/psc/ras/>).

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