

Coast Guard Personnel Services Division (de) Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)

The Program: Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) provides military Retirees a tax-free monthly compensation that is intended to replace some or all of the retired pay that is withheld due to receipt of VA compensation. CRSC is payable for disabilities that are found to be related to combat, including disabilities that were incurred in actual combat, while engaged in hazardous service, in the performance of duty simulating war, training for combat or as a result of an instrumentality of war. The amount of CRSC payable is directly related to the evaluation(s) assigned to combat-related disabilities, but cannot exceed the amount of withheld retired pay. Retirees cannot receive benefits simultaneously under both, CRSC and Concurrent Retirement and Disability Payments (CRDP), programs. The program became effective May 31, 2003. The qualifying criteria for eligible members was expanded effective January 1, 2004, January 1, 2008, and again with the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2015, Section 221, clarification of eligibility of members of the Coast Guard for combat-related special compensation. Payments are retroactive for members who meet previously existing qualifying criteria.

Eligibility: To be eligible during any time period, an individual must have disabilities that are determined by the parent Military Service to be the direct result of armed conflict, especially hazardous military duty, training exercises that simulate war, or caused by an instrumentality of war. Such disabilities must be compensated by the Department of Veterans Affairs and result in an offset to military retired pay. To receive CRSC if they have a Combat-Related VA service connected disability rating of 10% or higher and are drawing retirement pay which is reduced by a VA waiver.

In the case of a member of the Coast Guard, a disability under section 1413a(e)(2)(B) of title 10, United States Code, includes a disability incurred during aviation duty, diving duty, rescue swimmer or similar duty, and hazardous service duty onboard a small vessel (such as duty as a surfman).

1. In the performance of duties for which special or incentive pay was paid pursuant to section 301, 301a, 304, 307, 334, or 351 of title 37, United States Code;
2. In the performance of duties related to a statutory mission of the Coast Guard under paragraph (1) or paragraph (2) of section 888(a) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 468(a)), including—
 - (i) law enforcement, including drug or migrant interdiction;
 - (ii) defense readiness; or
 - (iii) search and rescue; or
3. While engaged in a training exercise for the performance of a duty described in subparagraphs (1) and (2).

- (a) Applicability of procedures and criteria
The procedures and criteria issued pursuant to subsection (a) shall apply to disabilities described in that subsection that are incurred on or after the effective date provided in section 636(a)(2) of the Bob Stump National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2003 (Public Law 107-314; 116 Stat. 2574; 10 U.S.C. 1413a note).
 - (b) Reapplication for compensation
Any member of the Coast Guard who was denied combat-related special compensation under section 1413a of title 10, United States Code, can reapply for CRSC. The denial memorandum from the Coast Guard will state the reason or reasons for rejection and list the documents necessary to comply with CRSC guidelines for reconsideration.
4. In addition, the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) expands CRSC eligibility to cover those who were medically retired under Chapter 61, Temporary Early Retirement Act (TERA), and Temporary Disable Retirement List (TDRL) with less than 20 years of service. Medical and TERA Retirees must still provide documentation that shows a causal link between a current VA disability and a combat related event.
 5. **Note: There is a Six Year Statute of Limitations:** CRSC is subject to the 6-year statute of limitations, 31 U.S.C., Section 3702(b). In order to receive the full retroactive CRSC entitlement, you must file your CRSC claim within 6 years of the date of any VA rating decision that could potentially make you eligible for CRSC or the date you become entitled to retired pay, whichever is more recent. If you file your claim more than 6 years after initial eligibility, you will be restricted to 6 years of any retroactive entitlement. Any questions relating to the payment of this claim must be addressed to Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) who is the pay authority for CRSC. The six year statute of limitations extends backwards from the original date of application where the retiree meets all eligibility requirements.
 6. The Coast Guard has the authority to determine eligibility of combat-related disabilities and authorize payments. Payment authorizations will be sent directly to Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS). The application process is the same for both the CRSC I, CRSC II and Chapter 61/TERA programs with the only difference being the eligibility requirements and retroactive payment dates. It is important to note that CRSC is not a VA program, and does not directly handle disbursement of VA or CRSC payments.
 7. If you are receiving Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP), you cannot receive both CRDP and CRSC payments, per Public Laws 107-314 and 108-136. If CRSC is more beneficial than CRDP, DFAS will make this election for you. CRSC payments will be made in the same manner as your retired pay (i.e., EFT or check). For more information on CRDP, please review the DFAS website at: <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crdp.html>

- **Points of Contact:**

Coast Guard

Please mail CRSC Applications to:
COMMANDER (PSC-PSD)
Personnel Service Center
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, DC 20593-7200

For CRSC Reconsideration:
COMMANDER (PSC-PSD-Legal)
Personnel Service Center
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, DC 20593-7200

CRSC Coordinator:

[HSC Vinkel Valentin](mailto:HSC.Vinkel.Valentin@uscg.mil)

(202) 795-6631

Web site: <http://www.uscg.mil/psd/de/crsc.asp>

Army

Department of the Army
U.S. Army Human Resources Command
ATTN: AHRC-PDR-C (CRSC), Dept 420
1600 Spearhead Division Avenue
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5402
Phone: 1-888-721-2769
Website:

[http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Home/Benefit Library/Federal Benefits Page/
Combat-Related Special Compensation \(CRSC\) .html?serv=148](http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/Home/Benefit%20Library/Federal%20Benefits%20Page/Combat-Related%20Special%20Compensation%20(CRSC).html?serv=148)

Navy and Marine Corps

Department of the Navy
Secretary of the Navy Council of Review Boards
ATTN: Combat-Related special Compensation Board
720 Kennon Street SE, Suite 309
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5023
Recorded information line: Toll Free: (877) 366-2772 (877-DON-CRSC)
FAX: (202) 685-6610
Website: <http://www.secnav.navy.mil/mra/CORB/Pages/CRSCB/default.aspx>

Air Force

Mail:

CRSC Program Office
550 C Street West
JBSA - Randolph, TX 78150

Email:

AFPC.DPPDC.AFCRSC@us.af.mil, Phone: 1-800-525-0102

Website: [http://www.afpc.af.mil/Combat-Related-Special-
Compensation](http://www.afpc.af.mil/Combat-Related-Special-Compensation)

- **Benefit Highlights:**

CRSC Programs: The Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) program was enacted by Congress on 2 December 2002. In accordance with specific guidance, the CRSC program provides compensation for certain Uniformed Service Retirees with combat-related disabilities. The original CRSC program (CRSC I) began 1 June 2003 for active duty Retirees with 20 years of service. The CRSC II program was created 1 January 2004 to offer compensation for a larger group of combat-disabled Retirees, including reserve Retirees at the age of 60.

- **Essential Documents:**

- All available DD 214s/215s
- All complete Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Rating Decisions/ VA Physician Reports/VA Medical Records (including the VA letter, the actual VA rating decisions and the VA code sheets).
- **Application Required:** Members must apply to their own branch of service using DD form 2860, Claim for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC). Select Forms on the left-hand side of the page and then select DD2860 Claim for CRSC. The form is available at:
<https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/forms.html>.

Highly Recommended Documents:

- Medical Records
- Award Certificates and/or narratives
- Military Medical Treatment Facility Records
- Military Orders
- Physical Evaluation Board Proceedings

Suggested Documents:

- Military Physical Examinations
 - Military Retirement Physicals
 - Clinical Records or Notes
 - Sick Slips
 - Western Union Casualty Notification Telegrams
 - Officer Record Brief (ORB)
 - Enlisted Record Brief (ERB)
- **Payment Amount:** The CRSC benefit is equal to the amount of VA compensation that is determined to be attributable to combat-related disabilities. However, the CRSC benefit amount may not exceed the total amount that is offset from military retired pay due to receipt of VA disability compensation, regardless of combat-relatedness. **CRSC payments are tax exempt.**

- **Calculating CRSC:**
 - (1) Subtract each disability percent from 100% to obtain the remaining efficiencies
 - (2) Multiply the remaining efficiencies together
 - (3) Subtract the result from 100%
 - (4) Round to the nearest 10%, round up for 5% or above
- **Example Calculation:** Assuming a retired Service member has three disability ratings of 40%, 30% and 20%, using the above formula results in a combined disability of 70%, as follows:
 - (1) $100\% - 40\% = 60\%$; $100\% - 30\% = 70\%$; and $100\% - 20\% = 80\%$
 - (2) $60\% \times 70\% \times 80\% = 34\%$
 - (3) $100\% - 34\% = 66\%$
 - (4) 66% rounds up to a 70% combined disability.

Note: Any questions relating to the payment of CRSC claims must be addressed to Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) who is the pay authority for CRSC.
- **Special Rules for Chapter 61 Disability Retirees:** According to law, members retired for disability under Chapter 61 of title 10 United States Code must have the CRSC entitlement reduced by the amount their military disability retired pay exceeds the retired pay they would otherwise be entitled to for retirement with at least 20 years of service. Disability retirees with less than 20 years of service must have the CRSC entitlement reduced by the amount their military disability retired pay exceeds the amount calculated as for a regular retirement (i.e. $2\frac{1}{2}$ percent x years of service x pay base). Note: this may result in a significant reduction or elimination of CRSC for members with few years of service.
- **Service Determinations:** Each Branch of Service must review the applications of their own retirees to determine which disabilities, if any, are combat-related. The Department of the Navy reviews applications for both the Navy and Marine Corps. Payments will be made retroactive to the date of initial qualification, for all approved applications no matter when received, to the extent otherwise allowed in law, providing the applicant is qualified for the period of entitlement.
- **Service Presumptions:** The Services will presume that disabilities awarded VA disability compensation based on service-connected exposure to hazards, which are clearly combat-related, are combat-related for the purpose of CRSC. These include Agent Orange, Gulf War illnesses, Radiation Exposure, Mustard Gas and Lewisite. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) will require combat-related documentation.
- **Retiree Notification:** Retirees will be notified by their Branch of Service regarding the outcome of their claim, including, when applicable, the reason for denial. Retirees may reapply, if they are able to produce additional documentation showing they meet the program criteria. Retirees may appeal a decision in accordance with Service regulations, if they believe their disabilities were combat-related, but were denied compensation by their CRSC Board.