

Veterans Corner
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Disability Compensation

VA pays monthly compensation to veterans for disabilities incurred or aggravated during military service. This benefit is not subject to Federal or State income tax. Entitlement is established from the date of separation if the claim is filed within one year from the date of separation. Income from Special Separation Benefits (SSB) and Voluntary Separation Incentives (VSI) affects the amount of VA compensation paid. For more information call the Saratoga County Veterans Agency at 884-4115.

Reemployment

The Department of Labor's web site www.dol.gov contains information on employment and reemployment rights of members of the uniformed services.

Unemployment Compensation

The unemployment compensation for ex-service members program is administered by the States as agents of the Federal government. The Department of Labor's web site www.dol.gov contains links for each States benefits, including District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Means Test and Geographic-Based Means Test Threshold for Calendar Year 2010

This Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Directive provides the Means Test (MT) Thresholds, Medicare Deductible Rate, and Child Income Exclusion for calendar year 2010. In addition, this Directive provides an Internet link to the United States Housing and Urban Development (HUD) income limits for Fiscal Year 2009 for use by VHA in Calendar year 2010. The following are the thresholds:

Veteran with no Dependents	\$29,402
Veteran with one Dep.	\$35,284
Veteran with two Dep.	\$37,304
Veteran with Three Dep.	\$39,324
Veteran with four Dep.	\$41,344

COLA update for 2010

A decrease in the Consumer Price Index means military retirees and annuitants will not receive a Cost of Living Adjustment increase in 2010. Also, Survivor Benefit Plan premiums will not increase. The CPI published by the Department of Labor, normally

increases as a result of inflation, leading to a COLA increase. This year, however, the CPI decreased resulting in no change to COLA.

Stimulus Package changes income tax withholding

February 17, 2009, President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into law, providing a refundable credit for many working individuals. In accordance with the new IRS tax tables, most single taxpayers' Federal Income Tax Withholding decreased by \$400 for the year, and most married tax payers' withholding decreased by \$800 for the year. Please keep in mind that tax tables do not account for individual circumstances. Some recipients of returned and annuity pay, especially those who are married filing jointly and those who worked in 2009, may owe taxes or receive a smaller refund in April 2010.