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[Veterans-For-Change](#)

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If Veteran's don't help Veteran's, who will?

We appreciate all donations to continue to provide information and services to Veterans and their families.

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Social Security and Veterans Benefits

How they work....Or don't

Veterans & Social Security

- 9.4 million veterans receiving Social Security benefits – SSDI or retirement
- veterans and their families represent 40% of adult SS beneficiaries
- Veterans on Social Security < age 49 = 161,000; b/w 50 – 61 = 514,000

Military Service Credits & Social Security

- Service 1940 through 1956 - \$160/month credit to SS record
- Service 1957 – 1977 – \$300 credit for ea. Quarter of active duty pay
- Service 1978 – 2001 - \$100 credit for every \$300 active duty pay
- Ended with 1/02 Defense Approps

VA & Social Security Benefits

- Compensation & SSDI
- Compensation & SSDI-eligible
- SSDI
- SSDI-eligible
- VA Pension [SSI eligible]
- VA Pension & SSDI
- Childhood Disability Beneficiary
- SS Retirement

Compensation & SSDI

- Most service-connected veterans @ 60% rating +
- Compensation & SSDI - No offset – both “earned”
- Compensation & SSDI-eligible – earnings
^ SGA eliminate SSDI

Non-service connected veterans with disabilities

- SSDI-eligible -- Working ^ SGA –
- SSDI
- “Normal retirement age” – SSDI converts to SS Retirement benefits

Low income veterans with non-service connected disabilities

- VA Pension [SSI eligible] – very low income, no earnings record.
- VA Pension & SSDI – modest earnings record – small DI \$ offset pension up to pension level
- Aid and attendance and housebound benefits – not counted as income by SSA

How well do Social Security and VA benefits work together?

- SS Work incentives:

Pension/DI – cash cliff

Ticket to Work – VA excluded – Mass.
CWT program denied EN status

How well do Social Security and VA benefits work together?

- VA pensions count all income to reduce or eliminate the pension payment
- SSI, TANF, General Assistance, food stamps, housing aid *don't count* as income
- BUT -- SSI, TANF, General Assistance, food stamps, Medicaid and housing programs *do count* VA pension income
- Unreimbursed medical expenses

Social Security, Medicare & VA

- Medicare Modernization Act – Part D Prescription Drug Coverage – VA coverage is “creditable coverage” – no late sign up penalty
- No similar immunity for Medicare Part B and late sign up penalties

Future Veteran Social Security Beneficiaries

- largest call up of Guard & Reserve since WWII
- By Nov. 2005 – 525,475 mobilized
- 15,000 severely injured - SSDI eligible – own record or parents'
- 90 days active duty/1 in war time = veteran -- Pension-eligible; Pension/DI-eligible; SSDI-eligible

How well do Social Security and VA work together?

- DoD transition assistance and disabled transition assistance – DoD, Labor, VA
- Where is Social Security?

Resources to assist Veterans

- Within the VA medical system – VA Patient Advocates
- Veteran Service Organizations
- Centers for Minority and Women Veterans
- www.va.gov – Organizations link

Review

- Military service 1940 – 2001 = additional Social Security credits
- Veterans with significant disabilities = Social Security beneficiaries
- www.va.gov for additional resources

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