

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Regional Office

OCT 17 2017

In Reply Refer To: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. [REDACTED]

Board of Veterans Appeals made a decision on your Appeal on August 10, 2017.

This letter tells you about your entitlement amount and payment start date and what we decided. It includes a copy of our rating decision that gives the evidence used and reasons for our decision. We have also included information about additional benefits, what to do if you disagree with our decision, and who to contact if you have questions or need assistance.

Your Award Amount and Payment Start Date

Your monthly entitlement amount is shown below:

Monthly Entitlement Amount	Payment Start Date	Reason For Change
\$363.00	Nov 1, 2005	Original Award
377.00	Dec 1, 2005	Cost of Living Adjustment
389.00	Dec 1, 2006	Cost of Living Adjustment
398.00	Dec 1, 2007	Cost of Living Adjustment
1,006.00	Feb 1, 2008	Compensation Rating Adjustment
1,064.00	Dec 1, 2008	Cost of Living Adjustment
2,823.00	Jul 1, 2011	Individual Unemployability Adjustment, Compensation Rating Adjustment
2,924.00	Dec 1, 2011	Cost of Living Adjustment
2,973.00	Dec 1, 2012	Cost of Living Adjustment
3,017.60	Dec 1, 2013	Cost of Living Adjustment
3,068.90	Dec 1, 2014	Cost of Living Adjustment
3,078.11	Dec 1, 2016	Cost of Living Adjustment

[REDACTED]

We are paying you as a veteran with one dependent. Your payment includes an additional amount for your spouse. *Let us know right away if there is any change in your marital status (for example, death, divorce, annulment).*

You Can Expect Payment

Your payment begins the first day of the month following your effective date. You will receive a payment covering the initial amount due under this award, minus any withholdings. Thereafter, payment will be made at the beginning of each month for the prior month. For example, benefits due for May are paid on or about June 1.

Your payment will be directed to the financial institution and account number that you specified. To confirm when your payment was deposited, please contact that financial institution.

*If this account is no longer open,
please notify us immediately.*

What We Decided

We determined that the following condition(s) was/were related to your military service, so service connection has been granted:

Medical Description	Percent (%) Assigned	Effective Date
Degenerative disc disease, cervical spine (formerly rated as degenerative disc disease, cervical spine with radiculopathy and previously claimed as peripheral neuropathy)	10%	Oct 19, 2005
Degenerative disc disease, lumbar spine (claimed as lumbar spine disability)	10%	Oct 19, 2005
Radiculopathy, left lower extremity (wholly sensory) associated with degenerative disc disease, lumbar spine	10%	Dec 6, 2011



(claimed as lumbar spine disability)		
Radiculopathy, right lower extremity (wholly sensor) associated with degenerative disc disease, lumbar spine (claimed as lumbar spine disability)	10%	Dec 6, 2011

Your overall or combined rating is as follows:

30% from 10/19/2005

60% from 01/07/2008

80% from 06/13/2011

80% from 12/06/2011 (Bilateral factor of 1.9 Percent for diagnostic codes 8620, 8620)

Individual Unemployability Granted from June 13, 2011

We do not add the individual percentages of each condition to determine your combined rating. We use a combined rating table that considers the effect from the most serious to the least serious conditions.

We have enclosed a copy of your Rating Decision for your review. It provides a detailed explanation of our decision, the evidence considered, and the reasons for our decision. Your Rating Decision and this letter constitute our decision based on your claim received on August 10, 2017. It represents all claims we understood to be specifically made, implied, or inferred in that claim.


We enclosed a VA Form 21-8764, "Disability Compensation Award Attachment-Important Information," which explains certain factors concerning your benefits.



Are You Entitled to Additional Benefits?

You may be eligible for government life insurance if you

- were released from active duty after April 25, 1951,
- are in good health (except for any service connected conditions), and
- apply within two years of this notification of your disability rating.



If you are totally disabled, you may be eligible to have your government life insurance premiums waived. The Insurance is called Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance (S-DVI), and you should receive a package within two weeks. This package will contain information about the insurance and an application. If you do not receive an S-DVI package, please contact the Insurance Center to request additional information. Call the Insurance toll free number, 1-800-669-8477, or visit the Insurance web site, <http://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/>, for further information about Service-Disabled Veterans Insurance.

If you served overseas in support of a combat operation you may be eligible for mental health counseling at no cost to you at the Veteran's Resource Center. For more information on this benefit please visit <http://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/>.

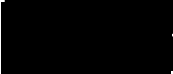
You may be eligible for medical care by the VA health care system for any service connected disability. You may apply for medical care or treatment at the nearest medical facility. If you apply in person, present a copy of this letter to the Patient Registration/Eligibility Section. If you apply by writing a letter, include your VA file number and a copy of this letter.

REDUCE OR ELIMINATE
YOUR MEDICAL CO-PAYMENTS

If you receive care at a VA medical facility, **please call our Health Benefits Call Center at 1-877-222-VETS (8387) or notify your Local VA medical center** of this change in your compensation 28879016. This rating decision may reduce or eliminate your co-payments for your VA-provided medical care. You may also be eligible for a refund based on this rating decision. Information regarding VA health care eligibility and co-payments is available at our website <http://www.va.gov/healthbenefits/cost/>.

You should contact your State office of Veteran's affairs for information on any tax, license, or fee-related benefits for which you may be eligible as a Veteran (or surviving dependent of a Veteran). State offices of Veteran's affairs are available at <http://www.va.gov/statedva.htm>.

The VA provides Blind Rehabilitation services to eligible blind, low vision, or visually impaired Veterans to help them regain their independence and quality of life. The Veteran's blindness, low vision, or vision impairment does NOT have to be related or caused by military service. If you need help with your vision loss, please contact your nearest Visual Impairment



Services Team Coordinator (VIST) at the eye clinic at your nearest VA Medical Center. For more information, go to <http://www.rehab.va.gov/blindrehab/>.

You may be able to receive vocational rehabilitation employment services. The enclosed VA Form 28-8890, "Important Information About Vocational Rehabilitation Benefits," explains this benefit completely. To apply for this benefit, complete and return the enclosed VA Form 28-1900, "Disabled Veterans Application for Vocational Rehabilitation."

Your combined evaluation is 30 percent or more disabling; therefore, you may be eligible for additional benefits based on dependency. If you wish to submit a claim for dependents, please complete and return the attached VA Form 21-686c, *Declaration of Status of Dependents*. Please fill out every blank on the form. We may be able to pay you retroactive benefits for your dependents if you submit the VA Form 21-686c, *Declaration of Status of Dependents* or report dependents within a year from the date of this letter.

What You Should Do If You Disagree With Our Decision

If you do not agree with our decision, you must complete and return to us the enclosed VA Form 21-0958, "Notice of Disagreement", in order to initiate your appeal. You have *one year from the date of this letter to appeal the decision*. The enclosed VA Form 4107, "Your Rights to Appeal Our Decision," explains your right to appeal.

What Is eBenefits?

eBenefits provides electronic resources in a self-service environment to Servicemembers, Veterans, and their families. Use of these resources often helps us serve you faster! Through the eBenefits website you can:

- Submit claims for benefits and/or upload documents directly to the VA
- Request to add or change your dependents
- Update your contact and direct deposit information and view payment history
- Request a Veterans Service Officer to represent you
- Track the status of your claim or appeal
- Obtain verification of your military service, civil service preference, or VA benefits
- And much more!

Enrolling in eBenefits is easy. Just visit www.eBenefits.va.gov for more information. If you submit a claim in the future, consider filing through eBenefits. Filing electronically, especially if you participate in our fully developed claim program, may result in faster decision than if you submit your claim through the mail.

If You Have Questions or Need Assistance

If you have any questions, you may contact us by telephone, e-mail, or letter.

If you	Here is what to do.
Telephone	Call us at 1-800-827-1000. If you use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the Federal number is 711.
Use the Internet	Send electronic inquiries through the Internet at https://iris.va.gov .
Write	VA now uses a centralized mail system. For all written communications, put your full name and VA file number on the letter. Please mail or fax all written correspondence to the appropriate address listed on the attached <i>Where to Send Your Written Correspondence</i> .

In all cases, be sure to refer to your VA file number [REDACTED]

If you are looking for general information about benefits and eligibility, you should visit our website at <https://www.va.gov>, or search the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) at <https://iris.va.gov>.

We sent a copy of this letter to your representative, [REDACTED], whom you can also contact if you have questions or need assistance.

Sincerely yours,

RO Director
VA Regional Office

Email us at: <https://iris.va.gov>

Enclosure(s): Rating Decision
VA Form 21-8764
VA Form 28-1900
VA Form 28-8890
VA Form 21-686c
VA Form 4107
VA Form 21-0958
Where to Send Your Written Correspondence

