



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Veterans Benefits Administration

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## Retired Pay and the Disability Evaluation System (DES)

Servicemembers retiring due to physical disability, either on a temporary or permanent basis, must apply for military retired pay and ensure a decision is received. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), which services military retired pay for retirees of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps, including the Reserves and National Guard, has a how to apply webpage at <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/apply/how-to-apply.html>.

Servicemembers who fail to apply for military retired pay or do not receive a decision on their military retired pay claim are not eligible for the following benefits:

- **Military Retired pay** – Military retired pay is always payable from the first day of retirement until the date VA compensation benefits begin, and military retired pay may be payable from the date VA compensation begins if retired pay is greater than the VA compensation amount.
- **Survivors Benefit Plan (SBP)** – For SBP eligibility, you must be entitled to and/or receiving military retired pay. For additional information, see the DFAS webpage at <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/provide/sbp.html>.
- **Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)** – To qualify for CRSC, you must be entitled to and/or receiving military retired pay. For additional information, see the DFAS webpage at <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crsc.html>.
- **Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay (CRDP)** – To qualify for CRDP, you must be entitled to and/or receiving military retired pay. For additional information, see the DFAS webpage at <https://www.dfas.mil/retiredmilitary/disability/crdp.html>.