



Veterans Service Program Newsletter



February 2010

WELCOME ABOARD

To the New Service Officer
Northwest Region: Dennis McElroy

Social Security- Special Extra Earnings for Military Service

If you had military service prior to 2001, you may be entitled to an extra monetary benefit when filing for Social Security benefits. Use the information below to ask Social Security officials the right questions. This benefit is not just for the military retiree community, but includes all military veterans with active duty service from 1957 through 2001. Under certain circumstances, special extra earnings for your military service from 1957 through 2001 can be credited to your record for Social Security purposes. These extra earnings credits may help you qualify for Social Security or increase the amount of your Social Security benefit. The information that follows applies only to active duty military service earnings from 1957 through 2001. Here's how the special extra earnings are credited on your record:

Service in 1957 Through 1977: You are credited with \$300 in additional earnings for each calendar quarter in which you received active duty basic pay.

Service in 1978 through 2001: For every \$300 in active duty basic pay, you are credited with an additional \$100 in earnings up to a maximum of \$1,200 a year. If you enlisted after September 7, 1980, and didn't complete at least 24 months of active duty or your full tour, you may not be able to receive the additional earnings. Check with Social Security for details.

Special extra earnings credits are granted for periods of active duty or active duty for training. Special extra earnings credits are not granted for inactive duty training.

Based on your period of military service, you may qualify for an increased social security payment, but payment may not be automatic. Using your DD-214 to establish eligibility is the key for up to \$1200.00 per year of earnings credited at time of application. Bring your DD-214 with you to the Social Security Administration when making your application for benefits. Ask them to ensure you are being credited with the extra earnings for your military service.

In January 2002, Public Law 107-117, the Defense Appropriations Act, stopped the special extra earnings that have been credited to military service personnel. Military service in calendar year 2002 and future years no longer qualifies for these special extra earnings credits. Visit the Social Security website for more information:
<http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>

INFORMATION FROM BOB HARVEY

When a veteran wants to file a claim for presumptive service connection based on herbicide exposure (Agent Orange), please remember that chloracne related skin conditions; peripheral neuropathy as a stand alone disability; and, porphyria cutanea tarda (a kidney related skin disability); must be shown to a ten percent level within one year of leaving the exposure area (Vietnam). We see lots of these claims, and they are mostly frivolous. Unless the veteran can show with medical evidence that he has had the condition continuously since leaving Vietnam, he has no chance for service connection. Peripheral neuropathy is most commonly service connected as a secondary disability related to diabetes or stroke or disc disease. Please try to shut down the frivolous claims.

Informal claims for death pension and/or DIC are unnecessary, if the claim is filed within one year of death.

If you have news or events you would like to post, please submit the information to:
Cindy Stivers, VSO at Cindy.Stivers@mvc.dps.mo.gov or
Karla Alsberge, OSA at Karla.Alsberge@mvc.dps.mo.gov for submission
www.mvc.dps.mo.gov



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EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Central Office/Veterans Services Program/Cemeteries Program.

Steve Sullivan, Cemetery Worker for the Higginsville Cemetery was selected for the Central Office/ Veterans Services Programs/ Cemetery program Employee of the month for February 2010. Steve was selected because he consistently demonstrates an extremely high level of performance and constantly exceeds expectation in all areas. He has a common sense approach to every task and the ability to look at every assignment as an opportunity to improve procedures and equipment which has resulted in the creation of unique tools to make tasks safer and easier. He consistently performs at levels far beyond established exceptions and he consistently displays a positive attitude which is a valuable asset to MVC.

Congratulations, Steve!

UPCOMING CONFERENCE



4th Annual State Women Veterans Conference
May 6th 2010
10:00 a.m. – 2:00p.m.
Community Center
2344 McKelvey Road
Maryland Heights, MO

If you have information, would like to participate
or would like to set up a display contact
Karen Etzler (816)-387-2841 or email
Karen.Etzler@mvc.dps.mo.gov



FEBRUARY Birthdays

Celia Thompson	2/08
Mark Jones	2/23
Paula Nordin	2/27
Ron Sharp	2/27

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