


## Benefits and Financial Topics for the South Carolina MOAA Conference


Presented by  
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## Overview

Issues on...

- Health care
- Survivors
- Social Security
- Concurrent Receipt




## Health Care



## TRICARE/TFL

**The TRICARE Health Plan  
Serves more than 9.2 million beneficiaries!**

- **Standard – Fee for service**
- **Prime – Managed care (HMO)**
- **TRICARE For Life (TFL)**
  - Eligible for Medicare Part A
  - Enrolled in Medicare Part B
  - Valid Military ID Card



## TRICARE/TFL

- **TRICARE For Life (TFL)**
  - Eligible for Medicare Part A
  - Enrolled in Medicare Part B
  - Valid Military ID Card
  - Enrollment

**Greenville, SC, Social Security Administration Office (SSA)**  
**Address - 319 Pelham Road, Greenville, SC 29615**  
**Phone - 1-877-274-5433**  
**Hours - M-T and Th-F 9:00 – 3:00 W 9:00 – 12:00**  
**Google - Greenville SC SSA**



## Tricare For Life

- Tricare is a Medicare Supplement
- Tricare invisible to health care community
  - Just find a Medicare doctor
  - No need to mention Tricare
- Additional coverage adds complexities
  - Probably over insured
- May need to show Military ID Card



## 2013 TFL Pharmacy Change

- Requires...
  - TFL beneficiaries on maintenance meds to use base pharmacies or mail order for one year.
  - After the year, opt-out is option
- Effective TBD
- Safeguards to ensure enough meds to start mail order
- Some limited DOD waivers may apply



## Rx Copays

### NOW

#### Retail

Generic \$5  
 Brand \$12  
 Non-form. \$25

#### Mail Order

Generic \$0  
 Brand \$9  
 Non-form. \$25

### 2013

#### Retail

Generic \$5  
 Brand \$17  
 Non-form. \$44

#### Mail Order

Generic \$0  
 Brand \$13  
 Non-form. \$44



## Hearing Aids

### “Retiree At Cost Hearing Aid Program”

- Available at **some** base Audiology Clinics
- Call in advance, travel and lodging not included
- Usually a 2-day process
- Cost is greatly reduced-- <\$1000ish

Also check with VA— must be Service-connected



## Health Care Hodge-Podge

- Tricare dental – [www.trdp.org](http://www.trdp.org)
- Mail Order pharmacy – <http://www.tricare.mil/>  
 Prescriptions or (877) 363-1303
- Eye glasses –
  - Naval Ophthalmic Support & Training Activity
  - Free BC glasses
  - Email at: [NOSTRA-CustomerService@med.navy.mil](mailto:NOSTRA-CustomerService@med.navy.mil)
  - Phone at (757) 887-7600 Option 1
- Long Term Care –
  - Federal Long Term Care program
  - [www.ltcfeds.com](http://www.ltcfeds.com)



## Tricare “Reserve Select” and “Retired Reserve” Programs

- For Reserve members
  - Reserve Select –while in-between drills
  - Retired Reserve –while in gray zone
- Tricare Standard program
- Premiums payable only by EFT, credit or debit cards
- Premiums
  - Reserve Select—Ind: \$52mo Fam: \$196mo
  - Retired Reserve—Ind: \$402mo Fam: \$969mo



## Survivors



## Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)

- Establish your **Base Amount**
  - Min \$300 per mo up to full retired pay
- Beneficiary will get 55% of **base amount**
- Cost is 6.5% of **base amount**
- Not customer friendly; once choices are made, changes are rare
- Program is dirt simple—easier for survivor
- Survivor benefit is COLA adjusted
- Costs are subsidized so premiums are less
- Typically, the benefit far outpaces the premiums



## Dependency & Indemnity Compensation (DIC)

**DIC is awarded to a surviving spouse of a disabled veteran:**

- If the death is attributed to an injury or disease incurred on active duty
- Or -
  - If the retiree had 100% VA disability rating
    - 10+ years
    - 5 continuous years from release of active duty
- Or -
  - Former POW rated 100% one year prior to death



## SBP Still Not Fixed

- Social Security Offset was eliminated...
- The SBP-DIC Offset was not.
- Offset is dollar-for-dollar:

$$\frac{\text{SBP \$}}{\text{- DIC \$}} = \text{SBP "Benefit"}$$

- Premium refund provided after offset applied



## Compromise to Fix Offset

Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA)

2008/2009 First Legislative Steps:

- Special \$50/mo payment (2009)
- Add \$10/mo each yr for 5 yrs (2010-2014)
- Enhanced payments out to 2017
- Everything stops in 2018

Beginning	Monthly Amount
October 2008	\$50
October 2009	\$60
October 2010	\$70
October 2011	\$80
October 2012	\$90
October 2013	\$100
October 2014	\$150
Increases thru 2017	
October 2017	\$310



## What About That Sharp Case?

### The Sharp Case

Aug 2009 – Three widows win court case against the govt.

- The Decision—Remarriage after age 57 maintains full DIC-SBP

**Why?** It's how the law is written—law's wording is different for under 57 and 57+



## Personal Affairs

- **Gather Information Today**
- **Get the Facts:**
  - *Use creditable sources*
- **Review Annually**



## Personal Affairs

- **Get Personal Affairs in order**
  - **Update your Will, Trust, Living Will**
  - **Gather Documentation**
  - **Complete Personal Action Guide**



## Documentation Readily Available

- **Birth Certificates**
- **Marriage Certificates**
- **Divorce Decree**
- **Changes in name**
- **Death Certificate**
- **Separation Documents**
- **DD Form 214**
- **Retirement Orders**



## Service Records

- Order on-line at [www.archives.gov/veterans/](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/)
- Phone: 1-866-272-6272
- Mail
  - Use SF-180; get form on-line, VSO, VA, or request at: National Personnel Records Center, 1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63138
  - Mailing addresses are on the form
- Fax form to 314-801-9195



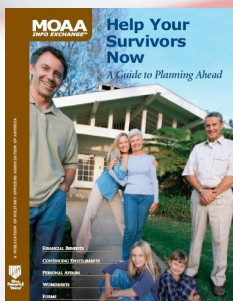
## Living Expenses

- **Money set aside**
  - **For surviving spouse**
  - **60-90 days**
  - **Immediate living expenses after sponsor's death**



## Help Your Survivors...Now!

- **Potential Financial Benefits**
- **Entitlements**
- **Personal Affairs**
- **Personal Affairs Action Guide**
- **Survivor's Checklist**



## Social Security



## Social Security Survivor Benefits

- Widow or widower, full retirement age or older
  - Full benefit
- Widow or widower, age 60 to full retirement age
  - Reduced amount
- Disabled widow or widower, age 50 through 59
  - Reduced amount
- Widow or widower, any age, caring for a child under age 16
  - Reduced amount
- A child under age 18 (19 if still in elementary or secondary school) or disabled
  - Reduced amount



## Social Security Survivor

- **Effect of Remarriage Before Age 60**
  - **Not Eligible on Members Record**
- **Remarriage Terminates**
  - **Eligibility Restored**



## Social Security Survivor

**Effect of Remarriage After Age 60**

**No Effect on Social Security Entitlements**



## Concurrent Receipt

**Full Payment of Retired Pay and VA Compensation**



## Concurrent Retired and Disability Pay--CRDP

- CRDP is simply the elimination of the VA Waiver from your retired pay
  - *A medical retiree may still have some VA Waiver\*\**
- In 2014, phase-in complete, VA Waivers disappear
- Eligibility:
  - 20 year (+) retiree, 50% or greater VA rating—period
- CRDP is automatic



## Combat-Related Special Compensation--CRSC

- A separate check to reimburse you for your VA Waiver amount
- Completely determined by illness/disabilities directly related to combat
  - NOTE: Not unusual from combat only rating to be less than total VA disability rating
  - VA has nothing to do with combat determination
  - Service CRSC offices make determination and report to DFAS
- Full VA Waiver remains in retired pay
- Eligibility: any retiree (medical or yos), any VA rating, with CRSC rating
- **NOTE: Reimburses vested Service time only**—medical retirees usually see only a portion of reimbursement\*\*



## \*\* From Previous Slides

Retired pay formula: 2.5% X YOS X Base pay/Hi-3

Medical Retirement: Medical Rating X Base pay/Hi-3


- Or YOS if higher than medical rating

Example, Medical Retiree with 5 YOS, 75% medical rating

5 YOS X 2.5% = 12.5% (Pay will be at 75%)

Concurrent Receipt reimburses the **vested Service years only**


People get upset when they realize CRSC is not near what they thought



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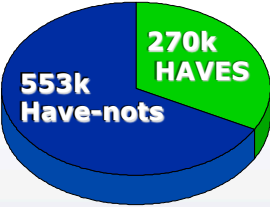
## Congress Has Fixed For Some

	<u>Combat Related</u>	<u>Non-Combat Related</u>
<b>20+ Yrs/100% and IUs</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>20+Yrs/50+% Disability</b>	Yes	Phasing In
<b>20+ Yrs/0-40% Disability</b>	Yes	No
<b>Under 20 Yrs—Med Retire</b>	Yes	No




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## Concurrent Receipt Haves vs. Have-nots



Category	Count
HAVES	270k
Have-nots	553k




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## Military Officers Association of America

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