

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**Adjustments in Rates for Disability Compensation and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation****AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: As required by the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2002, Pub. L. 107-247, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is hereby giving notice of adjustments in certain benefit rates. These adjustments affect the disability compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) programs.

DATES: These adjustments are effective December 1, 2002, the date provided by Pub. L. 107-247.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul Trowbridge, Consultant, Compensation and Pension Service (212B), Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273-7218.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 2 of Pub. L. 107-247 provides for an increase in each of the rates in sections 1114, 1115(1), 1162, 1311, 1313(a), and 1314 of title 38, United States Code. VA is required to increase these benefit rates by the same percentage as the percentage by which benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act are increased effective December 1, 2002. In computing increased rates in the cited title 38 sections, fractions of a dollar are rounded down to the nearest dollar. The increased rates are required to be published in the **Federal Register**.

The Social Security Administration has announced a 1.4 percent cost-of-living increase in Social Security benefits effective December 1, 2002. Therefore, applying the same percentage increase, the following rates for VA compensation and DIC programs will be effective December 1, 2002:

DISABILITY COMPENSATION (38 U.S.C. 1114)

Affected statute (evaluation)	Monthly rate
38 U.S.C. 1114(a) (10%)	\$104
38 U.S.C. 1114(b) (20%)	\$201
38 U.S.C. 1114(c) (30%)	\$310
38 U.S.C. 1114(d) (40%)	\$445
38 U.S.C. 1114(e) (50%)	\$633
38 U.S.C. 1114(f) (60%)	\$801
38 U.S.C. 1114(g) (70%)	\$1,008
38 U.S.C. 1114(h) (80%)	\$1,171
38 U.S.C. 1114(i) (90%)	\$1,317

DISABILITY COMPENSATION (38 U.S.C. 1114)

Affected statute (evaluation)	Monthly rate
38 U.S.C. 1114(j) (100%)	\$2,193
38 U.S.C. 1114(k)	\$81; \$2,728; \$81; \$3,827
38 U.S.C. 1114(l)	\$2,728
38 U.S.C. 1114(m)	\$3,010
38 U.S.C. 1114(n)	\$3,425
38 U.S.C. 1114(o)	\$3,827
38 U.S.C. 1114(p)	\$3,827
38 U.S.C. 1114(r)	\$1,643; \$2,446
38 U.S.C. 1114(s)	\$2,455

ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS (38 U.S.C. 1115(1))

Affected statute	Monthly rate
38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(A)	\$125
38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(B)	\$215; 64
38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(C)	\$85; 64
38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(D)	\$101
38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(E)	\$237
38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(F)	\$198

Clothing Allowance (38 U.S.C. 1162)

\$588 per year 1.

DIC TO A SURVIVING SPOUSE (38 U.S.C. 1311)

Affected statute	Monthly rate
38 U.S.C. 1311(a)(1)	\$948
38 U.S.C. 1311(a)(2)	204
38 U.S.C. 1311(b)	237
38 U.S.C. 1311(c)	237
38 U.S.C. 1311(d)	113

DIC TO A SURVIVING SPOUSE (38 U.S.C. 1311(A)(3))

Pay grade	Monthly rate
E-1	\$948
E-2	948
E-3	948
E-4	948
E-5	948
E-6	948
E-7	980
E-8	1,035
E-9\1	1,080
W-1	1,001
W-2	1,042
W-3	1,072
W-4	1,134
O-1	1,001
O-2	1,035
O-3	1,107
O-4	1,171
O-5	1,289
O-6	1,453
O-7	1,570

DIC TO A SURVIVING SPOUSE (38 U.S.C. 1311(A)(3))

Pay grade	Monthly rate
O-8	1,722
O-9	1,843
O-10\2	2,021

¹ If the veteran served as Sergeant Major of the Army, Senior Enlisted Advisor of the Navy, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, or Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, the surviving spouse's monthly rate is \$1,165.

² If the veteran served as Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of Staff of the Army, Chief of Naval Operations, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Commandant of the Marine Corps, or Commandant of the Coast Guard, the surviving spouse's monthly rate is \$2,168.

DIC TO CHILDREN (38 U.S.C. 1313(A))

Affected statute	Monthly rate
38 U.S.C. 1313(a)(1)	\$402
38 U.S.C. 1313(a)(2)	\$578
38 U.S.C. 1313(a)(3)	\$752
38 U.S.C. 1313(a)(4)	\$752; \$145

SUPPLEMENTAL DIC TO CHILDREN (38 U.S.C. 1314)

Affected statute	Monthly rate
38 U.S.C. 1314(a)	\$237
38 U.S.C. 1314(b)	402
38 U.S.C. 1314(c)	201

Dated: April 2, 2003.

Anthony J. Principi,*Secretary of Veterans Affairs.*

[FR Doc. 03-8724 Filed 4-9-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS****President's Task Force To Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans, Notice of Meeting**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that a meeting of the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans is scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2003, beginning at 9 a.m. and adjourning at 5 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Jefferson Ballroom of the Radisson Hotel Old Town, 901 North Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA. The meeting is open to the general public.

The purpose of the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans is to:

(a) Identify ways to improve benefits and services for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) beneficiaries and Department of Defense (DoD) military retirees who are also eligible for benefits from VA, through better coordination of the activities of the two departments;

(b) Identify opportunities to remove barriers that impede VA and DoD coordination, including budgeting processes, timely billing, cost accounting, information technology, and reimbursement; and

(c) Identify opportunities through partnership between VA and DoD, to maximize the use of resources and infrastructure, including buildings, information technology and data sharing systems, procurement of supplies, equipment and services.

The morning and afternoon sessions of the April 24, meeting will focus on consideration and approval of the Task Force's final report for submission to the President. It is expected that this will be the final meeting of the Task Force.

No time will be allocated at this meeting for receiving oral presentations from the public. Interested parties can provide written comments to Mr. Dan Amon, Communications Director,

President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans, 1401 Wilson Boulevard, 4th Floor, Arlington, Virginia, 22209.

Dated: April 2, 2003.

By Direction of the Secretary:

R. Philip Riffin,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 03-8725 Filed 4-9-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Enhanced-Use Lease Development of Property at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice of intent of designate.

SUMMARY: The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is designating 0.5 acres of underutilized space at the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota, for an enhanced-use leasing development. The Department intends to enter into a 35-year lease of real

property with a selected lessee/developer who will finance, design, develop, maintain and manage a Federal Credit Union, at no cost to VA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Vanessa Chambers, Capital Asset Management and Planning Service (182C), Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 565-6554.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: 38 U.S.C. Section 8161 *et seq.* specifically provides that the Secretary may enter into an enhanced-use lease if he determines that at least part of the use of the property under the lease will be to provide appropriate space for an activity contributing to the mission of the Department; the lease will not be inconsistent with and will not adversely affect the mission of the Department; and the lease will enhance the property or result in improved services to veterans. This project meets these requirements.

Approved: April 2, 2003.

Anthony J. Principi,

Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

[FR Doc. 03-8726 Filed 4-9-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-M