

# Things you should know about Veterans benefits

**Q -** My VA pension is deposited directly into my bank account. I have decided to change banks. How do I get the direct deposit changed to my new bank?

**A -** Ask your new bank to complete a new SF1199A, Direct Deposit Sign-up Form, and send it to your VA Regional Office. Do not close your old bank account until the direct deposit starts at your new bank. It should take up to 60 days for the change.

**Q -** I recently separated from the military under the Special Separation Benefit (SSB) incen-

tive plan. I was determined to be 30% disabled by VA. Does the SSB payment affect the compensation I will be getting from VA?

**A -** It probably will because VA must recoup the SSB payment. The only instance this does not happen is when a veteran previously received compensation for a disability incurred during a period of service prior to the period of service used to compute the SSB payment.

**Q -** I am a veteran with a 30% service-connected disability. My wife is so severely disabled that we must have someone with her at all times. Are there additional benefits available through VA due to her disability?

**A -** A service-connected disabled veteran rated 30% or more is entitled to receive a special allowance for a spouse who is in need of the aid and attendance of another person.

**Q -** If I am convicted of a felony, will this affect my VA compensation benefit?

**A -** Yes. Compensation benefits may not be paid in excess of certain amounts for any person incarcerated in a federal, state or local penal institution for a felony conviction. Beginning on the 61st day of incarceration, veterans rated 20% or more are limited to 10% and veterans rated less than 20% are limited to one-half of the 10% rate. Dependents may have the right to an apportionment while the beneficiary is incarcerated. Any apportionments will be discontinued, and full benefits restored upon release or participation in a work-release or half-way house program.