



Medical Affairs Branch
Division of Commissioned Personnel
5600 Fishers Lane, Room 4C-06
Rockville, MD 20857-0001

From: Senior Medical Evaluations Officer
Division of Commissioned Personnel

Subject: Pre-Retirement Physical Examination/Veterans Administration Benefits

Prior to your retirement from the Commissioned Corps, it is recommended that you complete your retirement physical examination at least 90 days before your requested date of retirement to allow as much time as possible to process your retirement papers and to avoid any unnecessary delays. Please fill out DD Form 2808, "Report of Medical Examination" and DD Form 2807-1, "Report of Medical History." PHS funding for retirement examinations by non-Government examiners is provided only in unusual circumstances and must be pre-authorized by Beneficiary Medical Program Branch (BMP), (1-800-368-2777). Likewise, funding for travel for retirement examinations at sites outside the local travel area must be pre-authorized by BMP.

Should you decide to file a claim for service-connected benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), please fill out the application form (VA Form 21-526) which will expedite the processing of your records. (Chronic conditions which officers have had while on active duty do not ordinarily entitle officers to PHS disability benefits, but they may entitle officers to VA benefits.) The form should be completed in duplicate and returned to this office prior to your separation date. When completing the form, enter the address where you will be residing after you leave the Service. After receipt of the VA Form and shortly after your retirement, your application form, state of service, and accompanying records will be sent to a VA Regional Office near your retirement address.

If you have received medical treatment which you believe is not documented in your central medical file, please be sure that copies of the necessary records and service data are sent to us for inclusion in the packet of medical records which we may forward to the VA. In evaluating claims for service-connected benefits, the VA may accept only records sent from Medical Affairs Branch. However, Medical Affairs Branch does not routinely receive documentation of medical evaluation and treatment received by active-duty officers. Contrary to the impression of many officers, military and contract medical facilities do not routinely forward to Medical Affairs Branch copies of records of medical treatment records unless specifically requested to do so by the officer. Therefore, in addition to the retirement physical examination, officers should assure that their central medical files contain copies of pertinent medical records regarding the evaluation and treatment of conditions that may be claimed, now or in the future, as service connected.

You may, of course, file a claim with the VA any time after separation from the Service.

However, to initiate the action after your separation date, you must contact your local VA Regional Office. In either event, the final outcome on your claim is decision of the VA.

You should notify Medical Affairs Branch promptly if there is any significant change in your medical status subsequent to your retirement examination. If you have questions concerning this memorandum, please call Medical Affairs Branch at (301) 594-2452. The mailing address is:

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Medical confidential teletax: (301) 594-3299

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