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ARMY CRSC ESTABLISHES NEW FAX OPTION for SUBMISSION of CLAIMS

Washington, DC – The process of submitting a claim for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) just got easier for retired Soldiers, thanks to the establishment of a new toll-free fax number – 877-368-9208 (or 703-325-2956) – specifically for Army CRSC claim submissions.

Prior to the creation of the fax number, Army CRSC claims were submitted via U.S. Mail. Although this option will remain available to Military Retirees, using the fax number is the most prompt and efficient way to submit a claim to the Army's CRSC program office. The fax option is also secure and a notification of receipt for all claims submitted to 877-368-9208 will be confirmed with a fax transmittal notice.

Enacted by Congress on December 2, 2002, CRSC is a form of concurrent receipt, which is paid monthly. It restores military retired pay that is offset when a Retiree accepts compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for a disability or condition, which is combat-related. This allows eligible Retirees to concurrently receive an amount equal to or less than their length of service retirement pay and their VA-disability compensation, if the injury is combat-related.

CRSC is available to Retirees from each Branch of Service. Those covered by the CRSC program include 20-year, Medical Chapter 61, Temporary Disabled Retired List (TDRL- a component of Chapter 61), and Temporary Early Retirement Act (TERA) Retirees. Retirees receiving retirement under section 12731b of Title 10 United States Code are not included.

To qualify for CRSC, Retirees must meet three basic criteria: 1) they must be receiving military retired pay, 2) they must have had their military retired pay reduced by VA-disability payments (VA Waiver), and 3) they must have a 10% or greater VA-rated disability that can be linked to a combat-related event through official military documentation. Combat-related injuries are defined as those that are a result of armed conflict, hazardous duty, an instrumentality of war or training that simulates war.

Military retirees can verify that they meet the CRSC eligibility requirements by supplying to their Branch of Service CRSC office, copies of all VA-rating decisions, DD-214s, and medical documentation stating "how" the injury is linked to a combat-related event.

For more information about CRSC, Retirees can visit the Army's CRSC Web site at <u>www.crsc.army.mil</u>, e-mail: <u>crsc.info@us.army.mil</u> or call 1-866-281-3254.

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