

14. Environment

We have analyzed this rule under Department of Homeland Security Management Directive 023-01 and Commandant Instruction M16475.ID, which guide the Coast Guard in complying with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321-4370f), and have determined that this action is one of a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. This rule involves the establishment of security zones. This rule is categorically excluded from further review under paragraph 34(g) of Figure 2-1 of the Commandant Instruction. An environmental analysis checklist supporting this determination and a Categorical Exclusion Determination are available in the docket where indicated under **ADDRESSES**. We seek any comments or information that may lead to the discovery of a significant environmental impact from this rule.

List of Subjects in 33 CFR Part 165

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Waterways.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part 165, as follows:

PART 165—REGULATED NAVIGATION AREAS AND LIMITED ACCESS AREAS

- 1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C 1231; 46 U.S.C. Chapter 701; 50 U.S.C. 191, 195; 33 CFR 1.05-1, 6.04-1, 6.04-6, 160.5; Pub. L. 107-295, 116 Stat. 2064; Department of Homeland Security Delegation No. 0170.1.

- 2. Add § 165.1333 to read as follows:

§ 165.1333 Security Zones, Seattle's Seafair Fleet Week Moving Vessels, Puget Sound, WA.

(a) *Location*. The following areas are security zones: all navigable waters within 500 yards of each designated participating vessel while each such vessel is in the Sector Puget Sound Captain of the Port (COTP) zone, as defined in 33 CFR 3.65-10, during a time specified in paragraph (e) of this section. The Coast Guard will publish a notice in the **Federal Register** each year at least 03 days before the start of the Seattle Seafair Fleet Week to identify the designated participating vessels for that year. The Coast Guard will also provide this information in the Local Notice to Mariners.

(b) *Definitions*. For purposes of this section—

Designated participating vessel means a military vessel participating in the Seattle Seafair Fleet Week that has been designated by the Sector Puget Sound COTP in accordance with this section.

Designated representative means any Coast Guard commissioned, warrant, or petty officer who has been designated by the COTP to implement or enforce this section.

Seattle Seafair Fleet Week means an annual event involving a parade of U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, and foreign military ships in Seattle's Elliott Bay waterfront and tours of those ships while docked at Port of Seattle facilities.

(c) *Regulations*. Under 33 CFR Part 165, Subpart D, no person or vessel may enter or remain in the security zones described in paragraph (a) of this section without the permission of the COTP or a designated representative. The COTP has granted general permission for vessels to enter the outer 400 yards of the security zones as long as those vessels within the outer 400 yards of the security zones operate at the minimum speed necessary to maintain course unless required to maintain speed by the navigation rules. The COTP may be assisted by other federal, state or local agencies with the enforcement of the security zones.

(d) *Authorization*. All vessel operators who desire to enter the inner 100 yards of the security zones or transit the outer 400 yards at greater than minimum speed necessary to maintain course must obtain permission from the COTP or a Designated Representative by contacting the on-scene Coast Guard patrol craft on VHF 13 or Ch 16. Requests must include the reason why movement within this area is necessary. Vessel operators granted permission to enter the security zones will be escorted by the on-scene Coast Guard patrol craft until they are outside of the security zones.

(e) *Annual enforcement period*. The security zones described in paragraph (a) of this section will be enforced during Seattle Seafair Fleet Week each year for a period of up to one week. The Seattle Seafair Fleet Week will occur sometime between July 25 and August 14. The annual **Federal Register** notice identifying the designated participating vessels will also identify the specific dates of the event for that year.

Dated: June 15, 2012.

S.J. Ferguson,

Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port, Puget Sound.

[FR Doc. 2012-16782 Filed 7-9-12; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 3

RIN 2900-AO38

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Payable to a Surviving Spouse With One or More Children Under Age 18

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is issuing this final rule to amend its adjudication regulation regarding the additional statutory amount of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) payable to a surviving spouse with one or more children below the age of 18. The Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2006 redesignated the statutory section cited in VA's governing regulation. This amendment is necessary to conform the regulation to the statutory provision.

DATES: *Effective Date:* This final rule is effective July 10, 2012.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nancy A. Copeland, Consultant, Regulations Staff (211D), Compensation and Pension Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461-9685. (This is not a toll-free number.)

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2004 amended 38 U.S.C. 1311, Dependency and indemnity compensation [DIC] to a surviving spouse, by adding a subsection (e) which provides a \$250 increase in the monthly rate of DIC to which a surviving spouse with one or more children below the age of 18 is entitled. Sec. 301, Public Law 108-454, 118 Stat. 3610. This statutory change was incorporated as 38 CFR 3.10(e)(4). See 71 FR 44915, Aug. 8, 2006.

However, because 38 U.S.C. 1311 already contained a subsection (e), Congress amended 38 U.S.C. 1311 by redesignating the new subsection (e) as subsection (f). See Sec. 4, Public Law 109-361, 120 Stat. 2063. To reflect this statutory technical amendment, VA is amending the first sentence of 38 CFR 3.10(e)(4) to change the citation from 38 U.S.C. 1311(e) to 38 U.S.C. 1311(f).

We are also removing the authority citation at the end of paragraph (e). This citation is unnecessary because the regulation text itself contains the correct statutory citation and the authority citation at the end of § 3.10 includes § 1311 in its entirety.

Administrative Procedures Act

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs finds that there is good cause under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(B) to publish this rule without prior opportunity for public comment. The change made by this rule merely reflects a minor statutory technical amendment. Therefore, VA is issuing this rule as a final rule.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This document contains no provisions constituting a new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501–3521).

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Secretary hereby certifies that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as they are defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601–612. This rule would not affect any small entities. Only VA beneficiaries could be directly affected. Therefore, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), this rule is exempt from the initial and final regulatory flexibility analysis requirements of sections 603 and 604.

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess the costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, when regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety effects, and other advantages; distributive impacts; and equity). Executive Order 13563 (Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review) emphasizes the importance of quantifying both costs and benefits, reducing costs, harmonizing rules, and promoting flexibility. Executive Order 12866 (Regulatory Planning and Review) defines a “significant regulatory action,” which requires review by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), as “any regulatory action that is likely to result in a rule that may: (1) Have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more or adversely affect in a material way the economy, a sector of the economy, productivity, competition, jobs, the environment, public health or safety, or State, local, or tribal governments or communities; (2) Create a serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency; (3) Materially alter the budgetary impact of entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients thereof; or (4) Raise novel legal or policy

issues arising out of legal mandates, the President’s priorities, or the principles set forth in this Executive Order.”

The economic, interagency, budgetary, legal, and policy implications of this regulatory action have been examined and it has been determined not to be a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866.

Unfunded Mandates

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 requires, at 2 U.S.C. 1532, that agencies prepare an assessment of anticipated costs and benefits before issuing any rule that may result in the expenditure by State, local, and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of \$100 million or more (adjusted annually for inflation) in any year. This rule would have no such effect on State, local, and tribal governments, or on the private sector.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Numbers and Titles

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance program numbers and titles for this rule are 64.109, Veterans Compensation for Service-Connected Disability, and 64.110, Veterans Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for Service-Connected Death.

Signing Authority

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee, approved this document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs. John R. Gingrich, Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on July 3, 2012, for publication.

List of Subjects in 38 CFR Part 3

Administrative practice and procedure, Claims, Disability benefits, Health care, Pensions, Radioactive materials, Veterans, Vietnam.

Dated: July 5, 2012.

Robert C. McFetridge,

Director of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, VA amends 38 CFR part 3 as follows:

PART 3—ADJUDICATION

Subpart A—Pension, Compensation, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation

■ 1. The authority citation for part 3, subpart A continues to read as follows:

Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501(a), unless otherwise noted.

§ 3.10 [Amended]

■ 2. Amend § 3.10 by:

■ a. In paragraph (e)(4), removing “38 U.S.C. 1311(e)” and adding, in its place, “38 U.S.C. 1311(f)”.

■ b. Removing the authority citation at the end of paragraph (e)(4).

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 3

RIN 2900–AO22

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Benefits for Survivors of Former Prisoners of War Rated Totally Disabled at Time of Death

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is amending its adjudication regulation regarding benefits for survivors of former prisoners of war who were rated totally disabled at the time of death. This amendment is necessary to conform the regulation to the authorizing statutory provision. The effect of this amendment is to liberalize the eligibility criteria for dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) based on the death of a former prisoner of war whose service-connected disabilities had been continuously rated totally disabling for at least 1 year when he or she died.

DATES: *Effective Date:* This final rule is effective July 10, 2012.

Applicability Date: This final rule applies to an application for dependency and indemnity compensation that:

- Is received by VA on or after October 1, 2011;
- Was received by VA before October 1, 2011, but had not been decided by a VA regional office as of that date;
- Is appealed to the Board of Veterans’ Appeals (Board) on or after October 1, 2011;