

1. What is the process for submitting an application for Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC)?

- a. Visit the CRSC Website to view program details at: <https://dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Human-Resources-CG-1/Personnel-Service-Center-PSC/Personnel-Support-Division-PSC-PSD/Disability-Evaluation-Branch-PSC-PSD-MED/Combat-Related-Special-Compensation-CRSC/>
- b. Complete the DD Form 2860 (CRSC Application) and mail it to:

COMMANDER CG PERSONNEL SERVICE CENTER (PSC-PSD-MED)
US COAST GUARD STOP 7200
2703 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR AVE SE
WASHINGTON, DC 20593-7200
ATTN: CRSC Department

NOTE: When filling out the application, ensure that:

- i. Each diagnosis will require a separate page 2 of the DD 2860 (For example if there are five diagnoses, please have five page 2's).
 - 1. The exception is if the condition is a "Secondary" diagnosis to an original diagnosis. This item will be entered in box 13.M.

2. Can any veteran apply for CRSC?

- a. The applicant must be in a paid-retired status to qualify for CRSC, successfully completed 20 years (15 possible in Res) of service or medically retired.
 - i. A reservist not yet entitled to retired pay due to not yet attaining age 60 is not eligible to receive CRSC payments.
- b. If a member does not satisfy the preliminary CRSC criteria, no further consideration by the Coast Guard is necessary. The member does not meet preliminary CRSC criteria, and the application will be denied accordingly. A member should reapply when the ratings satisfy the specified thresholds and meet preliminary CRSC criteria.

3. What is not acceptable evidence?

- a. Some examples of what we cannot accept as official evidence are:

- i. Personal statements - It is important that we read the veteran's account of events, but they cannot be accepted as stand-alone evidence. The board must possess official documentation to support claims in the application.
- ii. "Buddy Statements" - A "buddy" statement is any written statement from a fellow veteran that describes what occurred in the past. These will be taken on a case-by-case basis and not be used as sole evidence to award CRSC. When used as evidence, they should be from a person in a position of authority, such as the commander, supervisor, NCOIC/OIC, etc. at the time of the injury. Statements from persons in a position of authority, who are still active duty, bear more weight in the decision making process.
- iii. Civilian medical provider letters.
- iv. Internet articles or research supplied by the veteran.
- v. Newspaper/Magazine articles written by the claimant newspaper/magazine articles (creditable source i.e. Time Magazine) identifying the veteran by-name and providing sufficient detail of the injury and event.

4. What are examples of acceptable evidence?

- a. DD-214 (Required)
- b. Retirement orders and supporting documents.
- c. Medical records from the time of service in the Coast Guard (Please do not send your entire medical record, just the records that pertain the conditions in the application)
- d. Physical Evaluation Board (If Applicable) Not the whole board, just the main pages, such as the findings, narrative summary, and coversheet.
- e. Any additional evidence that can be used to verify the events or circumstances, such as: Award citations, certifications, unit reports, mishap reports, unit logs, and etc.

5. Is there a deadline in applying for CRSC?

- a. A retiree can apply for CRSC at any time, as long as they have a minimum disability of 10% rated by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- b. Reimbursement is only retroactive up to six years from the date of retirement.

6. The VA said my disability was service connected. Why was my CRSC claim denied?

- a. The Department of Veterans Affairs awards service-connected disabilities based on their standards. They resolve doubt in the interest of the veteran and grant service connection for injuries or diseases incurred while in service. While service connection for disabilities is required for initial eligibility for CRSC consideration, CRSC criteria is more stringent. CRSC guidance requires credible, objective, documentary evidence in order to support a combat-related determination. The Coast Guard will determine whether a disability is combat-related.

7. Why does my CGHQ-4808 say combat related but you guys denied my claim?

- a. The CGHQ-4808 form is a recommendation. The Physical Evaluation Board is not the CRSC board, so their findings indicate that the member “may” be eligible and “can” apply for CRSC. An official CRSC determination requires specific evidence in order to be approved.