

# Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC)

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# What is CRSC?

The Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) Program is designed to provide compensation to qualifying Coast Guard retirees with “Combat-Related” or other disabilities caused by certain operational situations and exposures.

- Disabled veterans must have retired from the Coast Guard and have a minimum Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability rating of 10% to be eligible for CRSC.

# Why is CRSC Important?

The Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) was created to provide military retirees with “combat” related disabilities a monthly tax-free entitlement to accompany retirement pay already received.

- All retroactive pay is limited to six years from the date the VA awarded compensation for each disability. In other words, don't delay!
- Significant additional benefits also apply if the retiree seeks follow-on federal (GS) employment.

# What Qualifies?

As of February 2016, Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) IS NOT JUST FOR COMBAT. Injuries and illnesses under the following conditions qualify:

1. Disability incurred during aviation duty, diving duty, rescue swimmer or similar duty, and hazardous service duty onboard a small vessel (such as duty as a surfman), in the performance of duties for which special or incentive pay was paid;
2. Disability incurred in the performance of duties related to a statutory mission of the Coast Guard, such as: Law enforcement, including drug or migrant interdiction; defense readiness; or search and rescue; or
3. Disability incurred while engaged in a training exercise for the performance of a duty described above.
4. The program was further amended in December 2022 to allow for eligibility for disabilities due to chemical or hazardous material exposure.

# How to Apply

To apply for CRSC, the retiree must submit the completed CRSC Application (DD Form 2860) one of two methods:

Email address: [ARL-SMB-CGPSC-PSD-CRSC@uscg.mil](mailto:ARL-SMB-CGPSC-PSD-CRSC@uscg.mil)

**OR**

Postal system: 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

# What's Needed

The burden is on the member to prove their claim. A well-founded CRSC Package should include:

- a. DD214s and DD215s (especially those that reflect combat awards and retirement).
- b. Retirement orders and supporting documents.
- c. Reserve retirement point computation, including any 15 or 20 letters (Res).
- d. Copies of all VA rating decisions, letters, and code sheets.
- e. Medical records that verify how the disability occurred. (Contemporaneous with the injury recommended).
- f. MEB/PEB summaries and findings (for those medically retired).
- g. Any administrative or other official records that can be used to verify events or circumstances. (For example, Mishap Reports, Unit logs, Line of Duty determinations, or other investigative reports).
- h. Completed DD Form 2860.

# Application Completion Tips

- Each diagnosis will require a “Page 2.” For example, if there are 5 diagnoses, please have 5 individual “Page 2”s.
- The only exception to the above is if it is a "Secondary" diagnosis to the originally claimed diagnosis . This will go towards the bottom in Blk 13 rather than a Page 2.
- Appendix A of DD Form 2860 provides detailed explanation of the various eligibility combat-related codes and qualification criteria.

# Page 2 of Application

<b>12. VA FILE NUMBER</b> <i>(If known)</i>							
<b>13. DISABILITY DESCRIPTION</b>							
a. TITLE OF DISABILITY <i>(As written on the VA rating decision.)</i>					b. BODY PART AFFECTED. <i>(e.g., right knee)</i>		
c. VA DISABILITY CODE <i>(If known)</i>		d. DATE AWARDED BY VA <i>(YYYYMMDD)</i>		e. INITIAL RATING % BY THE VA		f. CURRENT RATING % BY THE VA	
g. COMBAT-RELATED CODE <i>(Mark (X) the code that best describes what caused the disability.) (See Appendix A for code descriptions.)</i>							
<b>PH</b> PURPLE HEART	<b>AC</b> ARMED CONFLICT	<b>HS</b> HAZARDOUS SERVICE	<b>SW</b> SIMULATING WAR	<b>IN</b> INSTRUMENT OF WAR	<b>AO</b> AGENT ORANGE	<b>RE</b> RADIATION	<b>GW or MG</b> GULF WAR or MUSTARD GAS
h. UNIT OF ASSIGNMENT WHEN INJURED				i. LOCATION/AREA OF ASSIGNMENT WHEN INJURED			
j. IN YOUR OWN WORDS, DESCRIBE THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE DISABILITY AND HOW IT MEETS THE GUIDELINES OF COMBAT-RELATED.							



- Purple Heart (PH)** – The disability resulted from an injury for which you were awarded the Purple Heart.
- Direct Result of Armed Conflict (AC)** – The disability was incurred in the line of duty as a direct result of armed conflict. Armed conflict includes a war, expedition, occupation of an area or territory, battle, skirmish, raid, invasion, rebellion, insurrection, guerilla action, riot, or any other action in which service members are engaged with a hostile nation, faction, force, or terrorists.
- In The Performance of Duty Under Conditions Simulating War (SW)** – The disability was incurred in the line of duty as a resulting simulating armed conflict. This covers disabilities resulting from simulated combat activity during military training, such as war games, practice alerts, tactical exercises, airborne operations, grenade and live fire weapons practice, bayonet training, hand to hand combat training, rappelling, and combat obstacle courses while in full combat gear. Physical training activities such as calisthenics, jogging, and sports are not included.
- While Engaged in Hazardous Service (HS)** - The disability was incurred during performance of duties that present a higher degree of danger to service personnel due to the level of exposure to actual or simulated armed conflict.
- Instrumentality of War (IN)** – An instrumentality of war is a vehicle, vessel, or device designed primarily for Military Service and intended for use in such Service at the time of the occurrence or injury. Examples are: Wounds caused by military weapons, accidents involving a military combat vehicle.
- Agent Orange (AO)** – The disability was incurred as a result of Agent Orange exposure (herbicides).
- Radiation Exposure (RE)** The disability was incurred as a result of combat related radiation exposure.
- Gulf War (GW), Mustard Gas (MG)** – These codes relate to disabilities awarded by the VA on the basis of presumption relating to service in the Persian Gulf War or exposure to Mustard Gas.

# CRSC: A Service Run VA Program

The VA determines service-connected disabilities based on their own policy and standards. The VA resolves doubt in the interest of the veteran and grants service connection for injuries or diseases incurred while in service.

While CRSC is a VA program, they rely on the Services to administer it. Therefore, while service connection for disabilities is required for initial eligibility for CRSC consideration, the determination of CRSC eligibility is stringent and evidence-based. CRSC guidance requires credible, objective, documentary evidence to support a combat-related determination.

# Conclusion

There are many deserving veterans that may never find the evidence to verify their CRSC claim. This may be due to lost records or a whole host of other reasons. Unfortunately, this does not excuse the burden of proof or cancel/reduce the requirement for credible supporting evidence.

You are your own best advocate! Coast Guard policy supports conducting a report or investigation of any incident/accident that results in loss of duty. Make sure the event is documented and remember to mention the nature/origin of the injury to your PCM for entry into your service treatment record.

Look out for yourself and look out for your shipmates! Reporting mishaps prevents future injury!

# Need Assistance?

More information and resources can be found on the Coast Guard's CRSC site:

[https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Portals/10/CG-1/psc/MED/Combat-Related%20Special%20Compensation%20\(CRSC\).pdf?ver=2017-03-14-133845-407](https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Portals/10/CG-1/psc/MED/Combat-Related%20Special%20Compensation%20(CRSC).pdf?ver=2017-03-14-133845-407)

Contact us via email at: [ARL-SMB-CGPSC-PSD-CRSC@uscg.mil](mailto:ARL-SMB-CGPSC-PSD-CRSC@uscg.mil)

Or by conventional mail at: COMMANDER CG PERSONNEL SERVICE CENTER  
(PSC-PSD-med)  
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