

COMBAT-RELATED SPECIAL COMPENSATION (CRSC) OVERVIEW



What is CRSC?

- Definition: CRSC provides special compensation to members of the Uniformed Services who have their retired pay reduced because of receiving U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) disability compensation where a portion of such DVA disability compensation is due to a disability that is determined to be combat related.

Who is eligible for CRSC?

- General criteria: All of the following must be true. Service members must:
 - o Be retired and entitled to or receiving military retirement pay; and
 - o Have a VA disability rating of at least 10%; and
 - o Have their DoD retirement pay reduced by the amount of their VA disability payments; AND
 - o Must convey that their disability is combat-related through one of the following categories.



Combat-related disability criteria:

To qualify as combat related, the disability must be incurred:

- o As a direct result of armed conflict; or
- o While engaged in hazardous service; or
- o In the performance of duty under conditions simulating war; or
- o Through an instrumentality of war; or
- o From activities resulting in a Purple Heart

DD Form 2860 contains definitions and descriptions of qualifying conditions, visit here: <https://www.esd.whs.mil/Portals/54/Documents/DD/forms/dd/dd2860.pdf#page=5>



What are the steps to apply for CRSC?

1. Complete [DD Form 2860](#) – Claim for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)
2. Gather specific supporting documents related to the disability and the combat causes
 - a. Only send copies as originals will not be returned
3. Mail completed application to [Uniformed Service Branch](#) from which you retired.



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What documentation is required for a CRSC application?

- Evidence submitted must show a direct, documented, causal relationship between the disability and one of the combat-related causes.
- Documentation should include
 - DD Form 214/215s
 - Retired pay information
 - Your VA rating decisions, VA medical records, VA physician reports
 - Relevant military medical records

What additional documentation can support a CRSC application?

- Award certificates and/or narratives
- Military medical treatment records
- Orders
- Physical evaluation board proceedings
- Military quadrennial physical examinations
- Retirement physicals
- Clinical records or notes
- Medical board proceedings
- Line-of-duty investigations

How is CRSC taxed?

CRSC is tax free and issued separately from retired pay.



Application tips and frequently asked questions

Are spouses of deceased retirees eligible for CRSC?

No, spouses of deceased retirees are not eligible for CRSC.

Do I automatically qualify for CRSC if the VA or PEB say my disability is combat-related?

No. While these are helpful pieces of evidence, your Service CRSC Board will conduct their own review, and you must submit evidence showing a direct, documented causal relationship between your disability and a combat-related cause.

What type of records are helpful?

Medical records from around the time of the injury that describe how the injury was caused or occurred will be the most useful for your CRSC application.

My injury occurred while I was deployed, does that mean it is combat-related?

Not necessarily, being deployed or in a combat zone is not sufficient on its own to qualify for CRSC. Your disability must be directly tied to one of the combat-related criteria.

Can I receive CRSC for a secondary condition?

Yes, but the secondary condition must be explicitly tied to a qualifying primary condition by the VA.