



T H E M I L I T A R Y C O A L I T I O N

201 North Washington Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 838-8113

Veterans' Disability Benefits Commission
1101 Pennsylvania Avenue NW (5th Floor)
Washington, DC 20004

February 21, 2007

Reference: **Concurrent Receipt Question 21**

Dear Chairman Scott:

The Military Coalition (TMC), a consortium of nationally prominent uniformed services and veterans associations representing more than 5.5 million current and former service members and their families and survivors, thank you for including us in the concurrent receipt panel discussion on January 19, 2007. We were encouraged that the VDBC will take into consideration the oral and written comments provided by the panel, specifically the American Legion's and the Coalition's comments on Chapter 61 retirees with less than 20 years of service.

We have reviewed the American Legion's written comments and fully support their "fifth option" – this option provides a true "full concurrent receipt" recommendation for the Commission's deliberation. Therefore, to facilitate your staff's rewrite of the issue paper, we recommend they add the following as modified:

"5. Endorse continuing to allow an annual election of CRDP or CRSC for those with dual eligibility without regard to longevity of service and expanding the current tiered approach to veterans rated 10 through 40 percent which will allow receipt of:

- The amount of his/her military retired pay that has been offset by VA disability compensation that would be paid as either CRDP or CRSC;*
- The balance if any, of their [longevity] retired pay; and*
- VA compensation."*

The nation has an obligation to appropriately vest members who were forced into retirement due to a service-connected disability and never had the option to serve to 20 years. Vesting allows members to receive their earned retired pay for service independent of their disability.

Sincerely,

The Military Coalition
(Signatures Enclosed)

Air Force Association
Air Force Women Officers Associated
American Logistics Association
AMVETS (American Veterans)
Army Aviation Association of America
Association of Military Surgeons of the United States
Association of the United States Army
Chief Warrant Officer and Warrant Officer Association, U.S. Coast Guard
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service, Inc.
Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States
Fleet Reserve Association
Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.
Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America
Marine Corps League
Marine Corps Reserve Association
Military Chaplains Association of the United States of America
Military Officers Association of America
Military Order of the Purple Heart
National Association for Uniformed Services
National Guard Association of the United States
National Military Family Association
National Order of Battlefield Commissions
Naval Enlisted Reserve Association
Naval Reserve Association
Non Commissioned Officers Association
Reserve Officers Association
Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces
The Retired Enlisted Association
United States Army Warrant Officers Association
United States Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association
Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States