



**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS
FOR VETERAN'S APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION AND/OR PENSION,
VA FORM 21-526, PARTS A,B,C, & D**

What's in these instructions?

Use these instructions to help you complete VA Form 21-526 Parts A, B, C, and D to apply for compensation and/or pension. The "General Instructions" consist of the following four sections:

Section 1: Preparing your application. This section gives you information you should consider before you file your claim. It tells you why you should use VA Form 21-526 and then helps you decide what you are applying for, which parts to use, and which items you will need to fill out.

Section 2: Completing your VA Form 21-526. This section helps you complete your VA Form 21-526. It has specific advice for difficult parts and tells you where to send your forms after you've filled them out.

Section 3: Finding answers to other questions. This section tells you more about other issues that you may have questions about.

Section 4: Explanation of the Privacy Act and Respondent Burden: This section tells you what the Privacy Act is and explains how VA uses the requested information. It also explains the respondent burden and how long it will take to fill out this form.

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Before you start . . .

Where can I get help filling out my application?

- You can contact a County or National Veterans' Service Organization to help you complete the form, or
- You can ask VA to help you fill out the form by calling or visiting a regional office. Someone in the regional office will help you complete the form. If you go to a regional office, you should have all the materials that are listed on page 3 under "*Checklist: Things you will need to prepare for filling out your application.*" Before you call or go to the regional office, make sure you gather the necessary materials and complete as much of the form as you can.

How can I contact VA if I have questions?

If you have questions about this form, how to fill it out, or about benefits, you can contact VA in the following ways.

- **By mail:**
You can locate the address of the closest regional office in your telephone book blue pages under "**United States Government, Veterans**"
- **By telephone:**
Please call one of the following telephone numbers:
1-800-827-1000
1-800-829-4833 (Hearing Impaired TDD line)
- **By Internet:**
<http://www.vba.va.gov/benefits/address.htm>

Section 1: Preparing your application

What do I use VA Form 21-526 for?

Use VA Form 21-526 to apply for compensation and/or pension benefits.

You should apply for compensation benefits if any of the following are true:

- You were injured while you were in the service.
- You were seriously ill while you were in the service, and you believe you have continuing problems.
- You developed a mental or physical condition that may be related to your military service.
- You are permanently and totally disabled and you believe it is because of your military service.

You should apply for pension benefits if all of the following are true:

- You are permanently and totally disabled (but not as a result of your military service).
- You served on active duty during a wartime period.
- Your income is limited.

VA Form 21-526 has four parts. Everyone has to fill out Part A of the form. You fill out some or all of the other parts depending on the benefits you are applying for. Once you have decided what you are applying for, find out which parts you need to use by reading through the check list below called "Which Parts of VA Form 21-526 Should You Use?"

What can I do to help get my application processed faster?

The more complete your application is when you send it, the faster we can process it. A completed application contains "well grounded claim(s)." To ensure that your application is complete you should have evidence for the claims that you are making. "Evidence" is information that confirms that what you are telling us is correct. For instance, if you are claiming service connection for a certain disability, you should attach medical records to your application that tell us more about that disability. Your records should also show how that disability is related to your military service.

We know that it is difficult to gather all the different kinds of information we ask for in the form, but the check list on page 3 should help you prepare your application more quickly and easily.

CHECK LIST: WHICH PARTS OF VA FORM 21-526 SHOULD YOU USE?

Look at the table below to find out which parts of VA Form 21-526 you should use to apply for different benefits.

If you are applying for:	You must fill out:			
	VA Form 21-526, Part A: General Information	VA Form 21-526, Part B: Compensation	VA Form 21-526, Part C: Dependency	VA Form 21-526, Part D: Pension
Compensation only	✓	✓	✓	
Pension Only	✓		✓	✓
Compensation and Pension	✓	✓	✓	✓

CHECKLIST: THINGS YOU'LL NEED TO PREPARE FOR FILLING OUT YOUR APPLICATION

<i>When you fill out this VA Form. . .</i>	<i>You'll need this information ready to answer questions. . .</i>	<i>You should attach these pieces of information. . .</i>
21-526 Part A: General Information	<p>Active Duty Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● dates and places you entered and left duty ● mailing addresses of units you served in <p>Reserve Duty and National Guard Duty information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● dates and places you entered and left duty ● mailing addresses of units you served in <p>List of military benefits you receive and amounts</p>	An original or certified copy of DD214 or other separation papers for all periods of service
21-526 Part B: Compensation	<p>List of disabilities you are claiming, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● treatment dates in service ● name and address of the medical facility <p>Information about any exposures that caused the disabilities you are claiming, including dates that you were exposed</p>	<p>An original or copies of all service medical records you have</p> <p>Medical evidence showing you currently have this disability</p> <p>Medical evidence indicating that the disability was caused by or arose during your active service</p>
21-526 Part C: Dependency	<p>Information about your current spouse, including his/her Social Security number (and VA file number if he/she is a veteran)</p> <p>Information about you and your spouse's previous marriages including dates and places of those marriages and the dates and places those marriages ended</p> <p>Information about the children who live with you, including their names, Social Security numbers, dates and places of birth</p> <p>Information about children not living with you, including their names, dates and places of birth, Social Security numbers, and amounts that you contribute in child support for them</p>	<p>Copies of your marriage certificate and all divorce decrees (May be required in some cases)</p> <p>Copies of the public birth records for each child you claim as a dependent (May be required in some cases)</p> <p>Copies of the court records for adoption for each adopted child</p>
21-526 Part D: Pension	<p>Information about your training and employment history for the past year, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● name and address of employers ● beginning and ending dates of employment <p>Information about your nursing home, if you live in one</p> <p>Information about your net worth and your dependents' net worth</p> <p>Information about your recurring income and your dependents' recurring income</p> <p>Information about income you and your dependents expect to receive in the next 12 months</p>	<p>Current medical evidence telling us about your disabilities</p> <p>If you are in a nursing home, attach a statement signed by an official of the nursing home that includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the date you were admitted to a nursing home ● your level of care in the nursing home <p>Your nursing home payment status, which is Medicaid coverage or private pay</p>

Section 2: Completing your application

You will find instructions on each part of VA Form 21-526 to help you fill them out. However, there still might be some areas of the forms that are difficult. In this section, we've included the answers to some common problems that veterans have with the forms. They should help you fill out your forms more quickly and easily.

VA Form 21-526, Part A: General Information

Section III

What is the Gulf War registry? VA has a registry of veterans who served in the Gulf War theater of operations. The information in this registry will be shared only with the Department of Defense and others as permitted by law (such as the National Academy of Sciences). We will keep you informed of significant developments in research on health consequences found to be related to military service in the Gulf War. You may request a VA health examination that will include consultation and counseling covering the results of the examination. You should contact your nearest VA medical facility to request an examination.

Section VII

Should I waive military retired pay for VA compensation? If you currently receive military retired pay, you should be aware that we will reduce your retired pay by the amount of any compensation that you are awarded. However, this is to your advantage because VA compensation **is not taxable and most retired pay is taxable**. Based on your application, if you are awarded compensation, we will tell the Military Retired Pay Center to reduce your retired pay by the amount of compensation you have been awarded. If you do not want this to happen, you must sign **Item 21e** of VA Form 21-526, Part A to let us know.

VA Form 21-526 Part B: Compensation

Section I

What kind of disabilities should I list? When possible, try to list the actual disease and medical condition that a doctor has diagnosed. Be as specific as you can.

Why do I need to attach medical records? It is legally required and will help us process your claim faster. The medical records you give us must show you have a current disability and how it relates to your military service. If you provide these records and you have received treatment from a private physician complete the attached VA Form 21-4142, *Authorization and Consent to Release Information to the Department of Veterans Affairs*. VA may be able to help get additional medical records for you.

VA Form 21-526, Part C: Dependency

Section III

Who can I count as a dependent child? VA recognizes your biological children, adopted children, and stepchildren as dependents. But these children must be unmarried and:

- be under the age of 18, or
- be at least 18 but under 23 and pursuing an approved course of education, or
- have become permanently unable to support themselves before reaching the age of 18.

VA Form 21-526 Part D: Pension

Section IV

What do you mean by "net worth"? Your net worth is the market value of all the interest and rights you have in any kind of property. However net worth does not include your single family dwelling unit and a reasonable lot area. Net worth also does not include the personal things you use everyday like your vehicle, clothing, and furniture.

What do I do when I have finished my application?

1. *Make sure you sign and date VA Form 21-526, Part A.* You must provide your signature in Section IX, Item 25 of this form. If you don't sign the form, VA will return it for you to sign, and it will take longer for us to process it.
2. *Attach all the materials that support and explain your claim.* Be sure to look at the checklist on page 3 of these instructions to make sure that you have attached all important pieces of information to your application.

Section 2: Completing your application (Continued)

3. *It is your responsibility to first give us medical records that show evidence of your disability and how it relates to your military service.* You may complete the attached VA Form 21-4142, Authorization and Consent to Release Information to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with your VA Form 21-526 if you want help getting additional records. By signing VA Form 21-4142, you authorize any doctors and hospitals that have treated you to release information about your treatment to the VA. Be sure to sign and date the form. Make as many copies of VA Form 21-4142 as you need to give authorization to all the doctors and medical facilities that treated you. You do not need to complete this form for any treatment you received at a VA or military facility.

4. *Make a photocopy of your application and everything that you submit to VA.* By having copies, you will be prepared if VA has a question about your application.

Where do I send my application?

Mail the original application and your supporting materials to the closest VA office. You can find the address in your local telephone book or at the VBA internet web site:

<http://www.vba.va.gov/BENEFITS/address.htm>

What if I need to change or add information to my application after I give it to VA?

If you find that you need to change or add information to your application, contact VA where you submitted your application immediately. In a letter, make sure you specify:

- your name,
- claim number if you know it (or Social Security number if you don't know the claim number),and
- the item number you want to change or add to.

TIPS FOR FILLING OUT YOUR VA FORM 21-526

ATTACHING FORMS AND OTHER INFORMATION:

Throughout this form, you will be asked to attach certain pieces of information to the form itself. For example, you are asked to attach a DD214 to your Form 21-526, Part A. The **DD214 needs to be an original or certified copy**, other documents do not. To get a certified copy, you can take your original to the courthouse and have it copied and signed by an official of the court. A VA employee can also "certify" a copy for you.

ANSWERING QUESTIONS COMPLETELY:

Remember that the more questions you answer, the faster your claim can be processed. Try to answer every question that applies to your situation and fill out as much of the form as you can. The list below answers some questions that you might be wondering about:

- *What if my answer to a question is "none" or "0"?* Write that as your answer.
- *What if I need to include an address that is not in the United States?* Make sure that you include the name of the country in your answer.
- *What if I need more space to answer a question?* You can use Part A of the 21-526, page 5, Item 29 "Remarks" or attach a sheet of paper to your form. Write "Continuation of answers" at the top of the page, your name, and your VA claim number. If this is your first claim, you will not have a VA claim number, so write your Social Security number instead. For each question that you need more room, write "Continuation of Item"and the item number. For example, if you need more room to answer Item 16 on VA Form 21-526, part A, write "Continuation of Item 16, VA Form 21-526, Part A."

KEEPING RECORDS: It is important that you keep a copy of all the forms you fill out and give to VA. This way you will have your own complete record to refer to.

SIGNING FORMS: Be sure to sign every form you fill out before you send it to us.

Section 3: Finding answers to other questions

What can you tell me about VA benefits and how VA decides what I will or will not receive?

VA pays veterans disability compensation for disability(ies) that are a result of their military service. If VA determines that your disability(ies) are 30% or more disabling, VA can pay additional compensation for your spouse, children, and dependent parents. VA will pay a higher amount of compensation for a spouse when the spouse is a patient in a nursing home or is disabled and requires the regular aid and attendance of another person.

VA pays disability pension to veterans who are:

- permanently and totally disabled but not as a result of military service, or the Veteran's own willful misconduct
- served during:
 - Mexican Border Period
 - World War I
 - World War II
 - Korean Conflict
 - Vietnam Era
 - Gulf War

VA pays disability pension based on the amount of income that the veteran and family received and the number of dependents in the family. This is based on law. VA must include as income all sources that federal law specifies. You can find out what the current income limitations and rates of benefits are by contacting your nearest VA office. See page 1, "How can I contact VA if I have a question?" for ways to contact us.

VA may pay a higher rate of disability pension to a veteran who is a patient in a nursing home, otherwise needs regular aid and attendance, or who is permanently housebound due to disability.

I would like help in understanding the process of getting my benefits. What can I do?

You can ask someone to act as your representative. A representative can be:

- An accredited member of an accredited organization or other service organization that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs recognizes.

- An agent recognized by VA or a licensed lawyer. Agents and attorneys can charge you for services that you get from them only after the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) gives you their final decision about your application. That means you can use an attorney during any stage of your application for benefits. However, the agent or attorney cannot charge you for services unless you are trying to resolve a dispute with VA after BVA has made a decision about your claim.

If you want to use a representative to help you with your application, contact the closest VA office. Depending on the type of representative you want to designate, we will send you one of the following forms:

- VA Form 21-22, Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative
- VA Form 22A, Appointment of Individual as Claimant's Representative

What if I believe that VA has made an error in processing or deciding on my benefits?

You can ask for a personal hearing at any time during the processing of your claim. That means you can ask for the hearing while VA is processing your claim or after VA has made a decision. You should contact the nearest VA office and tell them that you want a personal hearing on your case. Someone in the local VA office will arrange a time and a place for your hearing. At this hearing, you can bring witnesses. VA will record whatever you and your witnesses say during the hearing and include it in the official record. VA will furnish the hearing room and officials, and prepare a transcript of the hearing. VA cannot pay your expenses or the expenses of anyone you want to bring with you to the hearing. After your claim has been decided you will have **one year** from the date of notice to appeal that decision.

Section 4: Explanation of the Privacy Act and Respondent Burden

PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION: No allowance of compensation or pension may be granted unless this form is completed fully as required by law (38 U.S.C. 5101). The responses you submit are considered confidential (38 U.S.C. 5701). VA may disclose the information that you provide, including Social Security numbers, outside VA if the disclosure is authorized under the Privacy Act, including the routine uses identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22 Compensation, Pension, Education, and Rehabilitation Records - VA. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine maximum benefits under the law. Information submitted is subject to verification through computer matching programs with other agencies. VA may make a "routine use" disclosure for: civil or criminal law enforcement, congressional communications, epidemiological or research studies, the collection of money owed to the United States, litigation in which the United States is a party or has an interest, the administration of VA programs and delivery of VA benefits, verification of identity and status, and personnel administration. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine maximum benefits under the law. Information that you furnish may be utilized in computer matching programs with other Federal or state agencies for the purpose of determining your eligibility to receive VA benefits, as well as to collect any amount owed to the United States by virtue of your participation in any benefit program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Income and employment information: The income and employment information furnished by you will be compared with information obtained by VA from the Secretary of Health and Human Services or the Secretary of the Treasury under clause (viii) of section 6103 (1)(7)(D) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Social Security information: You are required to provide the Social Security number(s), requested under 38 U.S.C. 5101(c)(1). VA may disclose Social Security numbers as authorized under the Privacy Act, and, specifically, may disclose them for the purposes stated above.

Respondent Burden: VA may not conduct or sponsor, and respondent is not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB Control Number. Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour and 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. If you have comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, call 1-800-827-1000 for mailing information on where to send your comments.

(DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE)
VA DATE STAMP

**VETERAN'S APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION AND/OR PENSION,
VA Form 21-526, Part A: General information**

Please read the attached "General Instructions" before you fill out this form.

SECTION I Tell us what you are applying for

Check the box that says what you are applying for. Be sure to complete the other Parts you need.

1. What are you applying for? If you are unsure please refer to the "General Instructions" page 2
Section 1: Preparing your application

Compensation ▶ Fill out Part A of Form 21-526 and Parts B and C

Pension ▶ Fill out Part A of Form 21-526 and Parts C and D

Compensation and Pension ▶ Fill out Part A of VA Form 21-526 and Parts B, C and D

2a. Have you ever filed a claim with VA

No (If "No," skip Item 2b and go to Item 3)
(If "Yes," provide file number below)

Yes _____ (Go to 2b)

2b. I filed a claim for

Compensation Pension

Other _____

SECTION II Tell us about you

We need information about you to process your claim faster.

Give us your current mailing address in the space provided. If it will change within the next three months, give us that new address in block 29 "Remarks." Also in block 29, give us the date you think you will be at the new address.

OWCP used to be called the U.S. Bureau of Employees Compensation

3. What is your name?

First Middle Last Suffix (If applicable)

4. What is your Social Security number?

5. What is your sex?

Male Female

6a. Did you serve under another name?

Yes (If "Yes," go to Item 6b)

No (If "No," go to Item 7)

6b. Please list the other name(s) you served under

7. What is your address?

Street address, rural route, or P.O. Box Apt. number

City State ZIP Code Country

8. What are your telephone numbers?

Daytime () _____

Evening () _____

9. What is your e-mail address?

10. What is your date of birth?

____/____/____

month day year

11. Where were you born?

City State Country

12a. Are you receiving disability benefits from the Office of Workers' Compensation (OWCP)?

Yes No

(If "Yes," answer 12b and 12c also)

12b. When was the claim filed?

____/____

month year

12c. What disability are you receiving benefits for?

13a. What is the name of your nearest relative or other person we could contact if necessary?

13b. What is this person's address?

13c. What is his/her telephone number?

Daytime () _____

Evening () _____

13d. How is this person related to you?

SECTION III Tell us about your active duty

1. Enter complete information for all periods of service. If more space is needed use Item 29 "Remarks"

2. Attach your original DD214 or a certified copy to this form. (We will return original documents to you.)

The VA has a registry of veterans who served in the Gulf War. This area has also been called the "Persian Gulf." If you served there, we will include your name in the registry. If you want your medical information included, you must check "Yes" in Item 16b. For more information about the registry, see page 4 of the **General Instructions for VA Form 21-526.**

14a. I entered active service the first time. . . / / mo day yr	14b. Place:	14c. My service number was . . .	
14d. I left this active service. . . / / mo day yr	14e. Place:	14f. Branch of Service	14g. Grade, rank, or rating
14h. I entered my second period of active service. . . / / mo day yr	14i. Place:	14j. My service number was . . .	
14k. I left this active service. . . / / mo day yr	14l. Place:	14m. Branch of Service	14n. Grade, rank, or rating
15a. Did you serve in Vietnam? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If "Yes," answer Item 15b also)		15b. When were you in Vietnam? from to / / / / mo day yr mo day yr	
16a. Were you stationed in the Gulf after August 1, 1990? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If "Yes," answer Item 16b also)		16b. Do you want to have medical and other information about you included in the "Gulf War Veterans' Health Registry?" <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
17a. Have you ever been a prisoner of war? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If "Yes," answer Items 17b , 17c , and 17d also)		17b. What country or government imprisoned you?	
17c. When were you confined? from to / / / / mo day yr mo day yr		17d. What was the name of the camp or sector and what are the names of the city and country near its location	

SECTION IV Tell us about your reserve duty

18a. Are you currently assigned to an active reserve unit? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If "Yes," answer Item 18b also)	18b. What is the name, mailing address, and telephone number of your current unit?
18c. Were you previously assigned to an active reserve unit within the last 2 years? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If "Yes," answer Item 18d also)	18d. What is the name, mailing address, and telephone number of that unit?

<p>SECTION IV (Continued) Tell us about your reserve duty</p>	<p>18e. Do you have an inactive reserve obligation? (You perform no active duty, but you could be activated if there was a national emergency)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Don't know</p> <p>(If "Yes," answer Item 18f also)</p>	<p>18f. What is your reserve obligation termination date?</p> <p>____/____/____ mo day yr</p>
<p>Instructions 18g-18k If you are currently or have ever been a full time reservist for operational or support duty,</p> <p>1. Complete 18g-18k for that service only.</p> <p>2. Attach proof of reserve service</p>	<p>18g. I entered reserve service. . .</p> <p>____/____/____ Place: _____</p> <p>mo day yr</p> <p>18h. My service number was . . .</p>	
<p>Instructions 18l-18p If your disability occurred or was aggravated during any period of reserve duty,</p> <p>1. Complete 18l-18p for the period when your disability occurred.</p> <p>2. Attach proof that your disability occurred during reserve service.</p>	<p>18i. I left reserve service. . .</p> <p>____/____/____ Place: _____</p> <p>mo day yr</p> <p>18j. Branch of service</p> <p>18k. Grade, rank, or rating</p> <hr/> <p>18l. I entered reserve service. . .</p> <p>____/____/____ Place: _____</p> <p>mo day yr</p> <p>18m. My service number was . . .</p> <hr/> <p>18n. I left reserve service. . .</p> <p>____/____/____ Place: _____</p> <p>mo day yr</p> <p>18o. Branch of service</p> <p>18p. Grade, rank, or rating</p>	
<p>SECTION V Tell us about your National Guard duty</p>	<p>19a. Are you currently a member of the National Guard?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not assigned yet</p> <p>(If "Yes," answer Item 19b also)</p>	<p>19b. What is the name, mailing address, and telephone number of your current unit?</p>
<p>Instructions 19e-19i If you were activated to Federal Active Duty under the Authority of Title 10, United States Code,</p> <p>1. Complete 19e-19i for that service only.</p> <p>2. Attach proof of this Federal Active Duty</p>	<p>19c. Were you previously assigned to a guard unit within the last 2 years?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(If "Yes," answer Item 19d also)</p> <hr/> <p>19e. I entered Federal Active Duty. . .</p> <p>____/____/____ Place: _____</p> <p>mo day yr</p> <p>19f. My service number was . . .</p> <hr/> <p>19g. I left Federal Active Duty. . .</p> <p>____/____/____ Place: _____</p> <p>mo day yr</p> <p>19h. Branch of service</p> <p>19i. Grade, rank, or rating</p>	
<p>Instructions 19j-19n If your disability occurred or was aggravated during any period of guard duty,</p> <p>1. Complete 19j-19n for the period when your disability occurred.</p> <p>2. Attach proof that your disability occurred during National Guard Service.</p>	<p>19j. I entered National Guard. . .</p> <p>____/____/____ Place: _____</p> <p>mo day yr</p> <p>19k. My service number was . . .</p> <hr/> <p>19l. I left National Guard. . .</p> <p>____/____/____ Place: _____</p> <p>mo day yr</p> <p>19m. Branch of service</p> <p>19n. Grade, rank, or rating</p>	

SECTION VI Tell us about your travel status	20a. Were you injured while traveling to or from your military assignment? <i>(If "Yes," answer Items 20b thru 20e and Section I of Part B: Compensation)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	20b. When did your injury happen? / / mo day yr	20c. Where did your injury happen? <i>(City, State, Country)</i>	20d. Where were you treated? (Provide name and address of Doctor's office, hospital, etc.)	20e. What agency did you file an accident report with?
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SECTION VII Tell us about your military benefits <i>When you file this application, you are telling us that you want to get VA compensation instead of military retired pay. If you currently receive military retired pay, you should be aware that we will reduce your retired pay by the amount of any compensation that you are awarded. VA will notify the Military Retired Pay Center of all benefit changes.</i> You must sign 21e if you want to keep getting military retired pay instead of VA compensation. <i>Please see page 4 of the General Instructions for VA Form 21-526.</i> <i>If you have gotten both military retired pay and VA compensation, some of the amount you get may be recouped by VA, or in the case of VSI, by the Department of De</i>	21a. Are you receiving or will you receive retired or retainer pay that is based on your military service? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>(If "Yes," answer Items 21b thru 21f. If "No," skip to Item 22)</i>	21b. What branch of service is paying or will pay your retired or retainer pay?	21c. What is the monthly amount? \$ _____													
	21d. What is your retirement based on? <input type="checkbox"/> Length of service <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> TDRL (Temporary Disability Retired List)															
21e. Sign here if you want to receive military retired pay <i>instead of</i> VA compensation _____																
21f. Have you received or will you receive any of the following military benefits? <i>(Please check the appropriate boxes and tell us the amount)</i>																
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Benefit</th> <th>Amount</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Lump Sum Readjustment Pay</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Separation pay under 10 USC 1174</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(3) <input type="checkbox"/> Special Separation Benefit (SSB)</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(4) <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Separation Incentive (VSI)</td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(5) <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Severance Pay <i>(name of disability _____)</i></td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(tell us the type of benefit _____)</i></td> <td>\$ _____</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Benefit	Amount	(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Lump Sum Readjustment Pay	\$ _____	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Separation pay under 10 USC 1174	\$ _____	(3) <input type="checkbox"/> Special Separation Benefit (SSB)	\$ _____	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Separation Incentive (VSI)	\$ _____	(5) <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Severance Pay <i>(name of disability _____)</i>	\$ _____	(6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(tell us the type of benefit _____)</i>	\$ _____
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(6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(tell us the type of benefit _____)</i>	\$ _____															

SECTION VIII Give us direct deposit information If benefits are awarded we will need more information in order to process any payments to you. Please read the paragraph starting with, " All federal payments... " and then either: 1. Attach a voided check, or 2. Answer questions 22-24 to the right.	All federal payments beginning January 2, 1999, must be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT) also called Direct Deposit. Please attach a voided personal check or deposit slip or provide the information requested below in Items 22, 23 and 24 to enroll in Direct Deposit. If you do not have a bank account we will give you a waiver from Direct Deposit, just check the box below in Item 22. The Treasury Department is working on making bank accounts available to you. Once these accounts are available, you will be able to decide whether you wish to sign-up for one of the accounts or continue to receive a paper check. You can also request a waiver if you have other circumstances that you feel would cause you a hardship to be enrolled in Direct Deposit. You can write to: Department of Veterans Affairs, 125 S. Main Street Suite B, Muskogee OK 74401-7004 and give us a brief description of why you do not wish to participate in Direct Deposit.
	22. Account number <i>(Please check the appropriate box and provide that account number, if applicable)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Checking <input type="checkbox"/> I certify that I do not have an account with a financial institution or certified payment agent <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account number _____
	23. Name of financial institution _____ 24. Routing or transit number _____

SECTION IX Give us your signature

1. Read the box that starts, "I certify and authorize the release of information:"
2. Sign the box that says, "Your signature."
3. If you sign with an "X," then you must have 2 people you know witness you as you sign. They must then sign the form and print their names and addresses also.

I certify and authorize the release of information:

I certify that the statements in this document are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. Any physician, dentist, or hospital that has treated or examined me, or that I have consulted professionally, may give the Department of Veterans Affairs any information about me, and I waive any privilege which makes the information confidential.

25. Your signature	26. Today's date ____ / ____ / ____ <i>mo day yr</i>
27a. Signature of witness (If claimant signed above using an "X")	27b. Printed name and address of witness
28c. Signature of witness (If claimant signed above using an "X")	28b. Printed name and address of witness

SECTION X

Remarks - Use this space for any additional statements that you would like to make concerning your application for Compensation and/or Pension

IMPORTANT

Penalty: The law provides severe penalties which include fine or imprisonment, or both, for the willful submission of any statement or evidence of a material fact, knowing it to be false, or for the fraudulent acceptance of any payment which you are not entitled to.

29. Remarks (If you need more space to answer a question or have a comment about a specific item number on this form please identify your answer or statement by the item number)

