

# VETS & MILITARY FAMILIES MONTHLY NEWS WINTER 2013

Grassroots  
*action  
team!*



## SUPPORT AMERICAN VETS

Because they have supported you.

Good afternoon and thank you for reading. We look forward to working with all of you to continue to grow the newsletter. We appreciate your involvement.

Remember, we have an online source for the online version of the newsletter is the website

[www.supportamericanvets.org](http://www.supportamericanvets.org). If you think, or if you have any questions about the online sources. We want to build the online presence as a way to reach out to more people.

As always, thank you very much for reading. Our hope is to continue to expand the newsletter. For that, we need your input. So, again, if anyone has any suggestions for topics to cover or wants to write their own piece, we will gladly try to work it in. We hope you enjoy, and please share your feedback with us. Thank you very much!



## VA ELIGIBILITY

### VERIFICATION REPORT (EVR)

*From: RAO Bulletin January 2013 (Lt. James —EMO Tichacek, USN (Ret) Associate Director, Retiree Assistance Office, U.S. Embassy Warden & IRS VITA Baguio City RPPSC 517 Box RCB, FPO AP 96517 Tel: (951) 238-1246 in U.S. or Cell: 0915-361-3503 in the Philippines. Email: raoemo@sbcglobal.net AL/AMVETS/DAV/FRA/NAUS/NCOA/MOAA/USDR/VFW/VVA/CG33/DD890/AD37 member)*

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced 20 DEC it is cutting red tape for Veterans by eliminating the need for them to complete an annual Eligibility Verification Report (EVR). VA will implement a new process for confirming eligibility for benefits, and staff that had been responsible for processing the old form will instead focus on eliminating the compensation claims backlog. Historically, beneficiaries have been required to complete an EVR each year to ensure their pension benefits continued. Under the new initiative, VA will work with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) to verify continued eligibility for pension benefits. "By working together, we have cut red tape for Veterans and will help ensure these brave men and women get the benefits they have earned and deserve," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. VA estimates it would have sent nearly 150,000 EVRs to beneficiaries in January 2013. Eliminating these annual reports reduces the burden on Veterans, their families, and survivors because they will not have to return these routine reports to VA each year in order to avoid suspension of benefits. It also allows VA to redirect more than 100 employees that usually process EVRs to work on eliminating the claims backlog.

Continued...



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# Stand Up For Veterans - They Stood Up For US

-The DAV



"Having already instituted an expedited process that enables wounded warriors to quickly access Social Security disability benefits, we are proud to work with our federal partners on an automated process that will make it much easier for qualified Veterans to maintain their

VA benefits from year to year," said Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security. "The IRS is taking new steps to provide critical data to help speed the benefits process for the nation's Veterans and Veterans Affairs," said Beth Tucker, IRS Deputy Commissioner for Operations Support. "The IRS is pleased to be part of a partnership with VA and SSA that will provide needed data quickly and effectively to move this effort forward." All beneficiaries currently receiving VA pension benefits will receive a letter from VA explaining these changes and providing instructions on how to continue to submit their unreimbursed medical expenses. More information about VA pension benefits is available at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/pension> and other VA benefit programs on the joint Department of Defense—VA web portal eBenefits at <http://www.ebenefits.va.gov>. [Source: VA News Release 20 Dec 2012 ++]

*We would like to express our appreciation to all of the fighting men and women in the United States Military. Thank you for your service to this county.*

## SOME USEFUL LINKS

Air Force Times

[www.airforcetimes.com](http://www.airforcetimes.com)

Navy Times

[www.navytimes.com](http://www.navytimes.com)

Marine Corps Times

[www.marinecorpstimes.com](http://www.marinecorpstimes.com)

Army Times

[www.armytimes.com](http://www.armytimes.com)

Military Times

[www.militarytimes.com](http://www.militarytimes.com)

TRICARE

[www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil)

American Legion

[www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

Veterans of Foreign Wars

[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

AMVETS

[www.amvets.org](http://www.amvets.org)

The DAV

[www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)

Department of Defense

[www.dod.gov](http://www.dod.gov)

Military/Veterans Report

[www.militray.com](http://www.militray.com)

The Pentagon Channel

[www.pentagonchannel.mil](http://www.pentagonchannel.mil)

Veterans Administration

[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)

Military Order of the Purple Heart

[www.purpleheart.org](http://www.purpleheart.org)

## IN CLOSING

Thank you to everyone for all the help you have given us so far. We have been able to reach more people with your help. However we are always in need of new ideas and articles. If you have anything you would like to share, any questions, or have an article idea, please let me know. You can contact us anytime at [gratnews@gmail.com](mailto:gratnews@gmail.com).

**Grassroots**  
*action team!*

Supporting American Veterans and the organizations that support their physical and mental health, they protected us we must help them.

Sincerely,

Lt. Col. Hank Fuhs & Matthew X. Hauser

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