

- 6. Section 21.3333 is amended by:
 - a. In paragraph (a)(1), removing “September 30, 2001, and before January 1, 2002.” and adding, in its place, “September 30, 2002, and before October 1, 2003.”
 - b. In the rates table immediately following paragraph (a)(1), under the “Monthly rate” column, removing “\$608.00” and adding, in its place, “\$680.00”; and under the “Accelerated charges” column, removing “\$190.00” each place it appears, and adding, in its place, “\$213.00”.

- c. In paragraph (a)(2), removing “December 31, 2001:” and adding, in its place, “September 30, 2003, and before July 1, 2004:”.
- d. In the rates table immediately following paragraph (a)(2), under the “Monthly rate” column, removing “\$670.00” and adding, in its place, “\$695.00”; and under the “Accelerated charges” column, removing “\$210.00” each place it appears, and adding, in its place, “\$218.00”.
- e. Adding a new paragraph (a)(3) immediately following the authority

citation at the end of paragraph (a)(2) rates table.

- f. Revising paragraph (b)(1).

The addition and revision reads as follows:

§ 21.3333 Rates.

(a) * * *

(3) For special restorative training that occurs after June 30, 2004:

Course	Monthly rate	Accelerated charges
Special restorative training	\$788.00	If costs for tuition and fees average in excess of \$247.00 per month, rate may be increased by training such amount in excess of \$247.00.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3542)

(b) * * * (1) VA may pay the additional monthly rate if the parent or guardian concurs in having the eligible child’s period of entitlement reduced by 1 day for each—

(i) \$22.67 that the special training allowance exceeds the basic monthly rate of \$680.00 for the period October 1, 2002, through September 30, 2003;

(ii) \$23.17 that the special training allowance exceeds the basic monthly rate of \$695.00 for the period October 1, 2003, through June 30, 2004; and

(iii) \$26.27 that the special training allowance exceeds the basic monthly rate of \$788.00 for months after June 30, 2004.

* * * * *

[FR Doc. 04–23755 Filed 10–22–04; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320–01–P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 21

RIN 2900–AL81

Veterans Education: Increased Allowances for the Educational Assistance Test Program

AGENCIES: Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The law provides that the Secretary of Defense shall adjust the rates of subsistence allowance and educational assistance under the Educational Assistance Test Program annually. The law further provides those rates must be adjusted based upon the average actual cost of attendance at public institutions of higher education

in the 12-month period since the rates were last adjusted. After obtaining data from the Department of Education, the Department of Defense has determined that the rates for the 2003–04 academic year should be increased by 9.6 percent over the rates payable for the 2002–03 academic year. The regulations dealing with these rates are amended accordingly.

DATES: Effective Date: October 25, 2004.

Applicability Date: The changes in rates are applied retroactively to October 1, 2003, to conform to statutory requirements. For more information concerning the applicability date, see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lynn M. Nelson, Education Adviser (225C), Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 273–7294.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 2145 of title 10, United States Code, provides that the Secretary of Defense shall make adjustments in the amount of educational assistance offered in any academic year under the Educational Assistance Test Program and likewise, in the amount of subsistence allowance authorized under that program. This provision further requires that these adjustments will be consistent with the change in the average actual cost of attendance at public institutions of higher education over the preceding 12-month period. As required by sections 2145, 2143, and 2144 of title 10, the Department of Defense has obtained data from the Department of Education. The Department of Defense has calculated that the costs of educational assistance and subsistence allowance have each increased by 9.6 percent. Accordingly, this final rule changes 38

CFR 21.5820 and 21.5822 to reflect a 9.6 percent increase in the rates payable in the 2003–04 academic year, including changes needed to compensate for rounding.

The Secretary of Defense delegated the authority to administer the benefit payment portion of the Educational Assistance Test Program, also known as Section 901 benefits, to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA). Thus, VA regulations include the educational assistance amounts payable under the program.

The changes set forth in this final rule are effective from the date of publication, but the changes in rates are applied from October 1, 2003, in accordance with the applicable statutory provisions discussed above.

Administrative Procedure Act

Since changes made by this final rule only reflect statutory requirements and adjustments based on previously established formulas, there is a basis for dispensing with notice-and-comment and a delayed effective date under 5 U.S.C. 552 and 553.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This document contains no provisions constituting a new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501–3521).

Unfunded Mandates

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act requires, at 2 U.S.C. 1532, that agencies prepare an assessment of anticipated costs and benefits before developing any rule that may result in expenditure by State, local, or tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of \$100 million or more in any given year. This rule would have no such consequential effect on State, local, or tribal governments.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs hereby certify that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as they are defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 501–612. This final rule directly affects only individuals and does not directly affect small entities. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), this final rule, therefore, is exempt from the initial and final regulatory flexibility analyses requirements of sections 603 and 604.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

There is no Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for the program affected by this final rule.

List of Subjects in 38 CFR Part 21

Administrative practice and procedure, Armed forces, Civil rights, Claims, Colleges and universities, Conflict of interests, Defense Department, Education, Employment, Grant programs—education, Grant programs—veterans, Health care, Loan programs—education, Loan programs—veterans, Manpower training programs, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Schools, Travel and transportation expenses, Veterans, Vocational education, Vocational rehabilitation.

Approved: July 28, 2004.

Anthony J. Principi,

Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

August 26, 2004.

William J. Carr,

Acting Deputy Under Secretary (Military Personnel Policy).

■ For the reasons set out above, 38 CFR part 21, subpart H, is amended as set forth below:

PART 21—VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION

Subpart H—Educational Assistance Test Program

■ 1. The authority citation for part 21, subpart H, continues to read as follows:

Authority: 10 U.S.C. ch.107; 38 U.S.C. 501(a), 3695, 5101, 5113, 5303A; 42 U.S.C. 2000; sec. 901, Pub. L. 96–342, 94 Stat. 1111–1114, unless otherwise noted.

21.5820 [Amended]

■ 2. Section 21.5820 is amended by:

■ a. In paragraph (b)(1), removing “2002–03” and adding, in its place, “2003–04”, and by removing “\$3,849” and adding, in its place, “\$4,219”.

■ b. In paragraph (b)(2)(ii), removing “2002–03” and adding, in its place, “2003–04”.

■ c. In paragraphs (b)(2)(ii)(A) and (b)(3)(ii)(A), removing “\$427.67” and adding, in each place, “\$468.78”, and by removing “\$213.84” and adding, in each place, “\$234.39”.

■ d. In paragraphs (b)(2)(ii)(B) and (b)(3)(ii)(B), removing “\$14.26” and adding, in each place, “\$15.63”, and by removing “\$7.13” and adding, in each place, “\$7.81”.

■ e. In paragraphs (b)(2)(ii)(C) and (b)(3)(ii)(C), removing “3 cents” and adding, in each place “2 cents”, and by removing “6 cents” and adding, in each place “1 cent”.

■ f. In paragraph (b)(3)(ii) introductory text, removing “2002–03” and adding, in its place, “2003–04”.

21.5822 [Amended]

■ 3. Section 21.5822 is amended by:

■ a. In paragraphs (b)(1)(i) and (b)(2)(i), removing “\$959” and adding, in each place, “\$1,051”, and by removing “2002–03” and adding, in each place, “2003–04”.

■ b. In paragraphs (b)(1)(ii) and (b)(2)(ii), removing “\$479.50” and adding, in each place, “\$525.50”, and by removing “2002–03” and adding, in each place, “2003–04”.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Parts 52 and 81

[CO–001–0077a; FRL–7815–5]

Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Colorado; Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes, Steamboat Springs

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is taking final rule action to approve a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by the State of Colorado on July 31, 2002, for the purpose of redesignating the Steamboat Springs, Colorado area from nonattainment to attainment for particulate matter with an aerodynamic diameter less than or equal to a nominal 10 micrometers (PM₁₀) under the 1987 standards. The Governor’s submittal, among other things, documents that the Steamboat Springs area has attained the PM₁₀ national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS), requests redesignation to attainment and includes a maintenance plan for the area

demonstrating maintenance of the PM₁₀ NAAQS for ten years. On August 5, 2004, EPA proposed to approve (69 FR 47399) in parallel with a direct final rule (69 FR 47366) Colorado’s Steamboat Springs submittal in conjunction with Colorado’s submittal to redesignate Lamar, Colorado. However, adverse comments pertaining to the Lamar PM₁₀ redesignation were received during the public comment period, therefore, EPA withdrew the approval of Lamar and Steamboat Springs. Since no comments were received during the public comment period on the approval of redesignating Steamboat Springs, EPA is acting to approve the redesignation in this final rule. EPA is approving this redesignation request and maintenance plan for Steamboat Springs because Colorado has met the applicable requirements of the Clean Air Act (CAA), as amended. Upon the effective date of this approval, the Steamboat Springs area will be designated attainment for the PM₁₀ NAAQS. This action is being taken under sections 107, 110, and 175A of the Clean Air Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This final rule is effective November 24, 2004.

ADDRESSES: EPA has established a docket for this under Docket ID No. CO–001–0077a. Some information in the docket is not publicly available, *i.e.*, Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Publicly available docket materials are available in hard copy at the Air and Radiation Program, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 8, 999 18th Street, Suite 300, Denver, Colorado 80202–2466. EPA requests that if at all possible, you contact the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section to view the docket. You may view the docket Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., excluding federal holidays. Copies of the Incorporation by Reference material are also available at the Air and Radiation Docket and Information Center, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Room B–108 (Mail Code 6102T), 1301 Constitution Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Libby Faulk, Air and Radiation Program, U.S. EPA, Region VIII, 999 18th Street, Ste. 300 (8P–AR), Denver, Colorado, 80202–2466. Telephone: (303) 312–6083. E-mail Address: faulk.libby@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: For the purpose of this document, we are giving meaning to certain words or initials as follows: