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Dated: February 18, 2005.

By the Office of Thrift Supervision.

Nadine Y. Washington,

Corporate Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Adjustments for Service-Connected Benefits

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: As required by the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2004, Public Law 108-363, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is hereby giving notice of adjustments in certain benefit rates. These adjustments affect the compensation and dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) programs.

DATES: These adjustments are effective December 1, 2004, the date provided by Public Law 108-363.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Pamela C. Liverman, Consultant, Compensation and Pension Service (212A), Veterans Benefit Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420, (757) 858-6148, ext. 107.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 2 of Public Law 108-363 provides for an increase in each of the rates in sections 1114, 1115(1), 1162, 1311, 1313, and 1314 of title 38, United States Code. VA is required to increase these benefit rates by the same percentage as increases in the benefit amounts payable under title II of the Social Security Act. In computing increased rates in the cited title 38 sections, fractions of a dollar are rounded down to the nearest dollar. The increased rates are required to be published in the **Federal Register**.

The Social Security Administration has announced that there will be a 2.7 percent cost-of-living increase in Social Security benefits. Therefore, applying the same percentage, the following rates for VA compensation and DIC programs will be effective December 1, 2004:

DISABILITY COMPENSATION (38 U.S.C. 1114)

| Disability evaluation | Monthly rate |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| 10% | \$108 |
| 20 | 210 |
| 30 | 324 |
| 40 | 466 |
| 50 | 663 |
| 60 | 839 |
| 70 | 1,056 |
| 80 | 1,227 |
| 90 | 1,380 |
| 100 | 2,299 |

(38 U.S.C. 1114(k) through (s))

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 38 U.S.C. 1114(k) | \$84; \$2,860; \$84; 4,012 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1114(l) .. | 2,860 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1114(m) | 3,155 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1114(n) | 3,590 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1114(o) | 4,012 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1114(p) | 4,012 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1114(r) | 1,722; 2,564 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1114(s) | 2,573 |

Additional Compensation for Dependents (38 U.S.C. 1115(1))

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| 38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(A) | 130 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(B) | 224; \$66 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(C) | 88; \$66 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(D) | 105 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(E) | 247 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(F) | 207 |

Clothing Allowance (38 U.S.C. 1162)

\$616 per year

DIC TO A SURVIVING SPOUSE (38 U.S.C. 1311)

| Pay grade | Monthly rate |
|------------------------|--------------|
| E-1 | \$993 |
| E-2 | 993 |
| E-3 | 993 |
| E-4 | 993 |
| E-5 | 993 |
| E-6 | 993 |
| E-7 | 1,027 |
| E-8 | 1,084 |
| E-9 ¹ | 1,131 |
| W-1 | 1,049 |
| W-2 | 1,091 |
| W-3 | 1,123 |
| W-4 | 1,188 |
| O-1 | 1,049 |
| O-2 | 1,084 |
| O-3 | 1,160 |
| O-4 | 1,227 |
| O-5 | 1,351 |
| O-6 | 1,523 |
| O-7 | 1,645 |
| O-8 | 1,805 |
| O-9 | 1,931 |

DIC TO A SURVIVING SPOUSE (38 U.S.C. 1311)—Continued

| Pay grade | Monthly rate |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| O-10 ² | 2,118 |

¹ If the veteran served as sergeant major of the Army, senior enlisted advisor of the Navy, chief master sergeant of the Air Force, sergeant major of the Marine Corps, or master chief petty officer of the Coast Guard, the surviving spouse's monthly rate is \$1,221.

² If the veteran served as Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Chief of Staff of the Army, Chief of Naval Operations, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Commandant of the Marine Corps, or Commandant of the Coast Guard, the surviving spouse's monthly rate is \$2,272.

DIC TO A SURVIVING SPOUSE (38 U.S.C. 1311(A) THROUGH (D))

| 38 U.S.C. 1311(a) through (d) | Monthly rate |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| 38 U.S.C. 1311(a)(1) | \$993 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1311(a)(2) | 213 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1311(b) | 247 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1311(c) | 247 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1311(d) | 118 |

DIC TO CHILDREN (38 U.S.C. 1313)

| 38 U.S.C. 1313 | Monthly rate |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| 38 U.S.C. 1313(a)(1) | \$421 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1313(a)(2) | 605 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1313(a)(3) | 87 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1313(a)(4) | 787; \$151 |

SUPPLEMENTAL DIC TO CHILDREN (38 U.S.C. 1314)

| 38 U.S.C. 1314 | Monthly rate |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| 38 U.S.C. 1314(a) | \$247 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1314(b) | 421 |
| 38 U.S.C. 1314(c) | 210 |

Dated: February 15, 2005.

Gordon H. Mansfield,

Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Pub. L. 92-463 (Federal Advisory Committee Act) that the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Education will meet on Thursday, March 3, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Friday, March 4, 2005, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. The meeting will be held