

**U.S.-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION**

**Notice of Open Public Hearing**

**AGENCY:** U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of open public hearing.

**SUMMARY:** Notice is hereby given of the following hearing of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.

The Commission is mandated by Congress to investigate, assess, and report to Congress annually on “the national security implications of the economic relationship between the United States and the People’s Republic of China.” Pursuant to this mandate, the Commission will hold a public hearing in Washington, DC on April 13, 2017 on “China’s Hotspots along China’s Maritime Periphery”.

**DATES:** The hearing is scheduled for Thursday, April 13, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:50 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 419, Washington, DC. A detailed agenda for the hearing will be posted on the Commission’s Web site at [www.uscc.gov](http://www.uscc.gov). Also, please check the Commission’s Web site for possible changes to the hearing schedule. *Reservations are not required to attend the hearing.*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Any member of the public seeking further information concerning the hearing should contact Leslie Tisdale, 444 North Capitol Street NW., Suite 602, Washington DC 20001; telephone: 202–624–1496, or via email at [ltisdale@uscc.gov](mailto:ltisdale@uscc.gov). *Reservations are not required to attend the hearing.*

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

*Background:* Taiwan remains the primary focus of the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) modernization while China has simultaneously increased its preparations for other crisis areas, including conflicts in the East and South China seas. Beijing’s security concerns along China’s maritime periphery constitute “regional hotspots” for which the PLA is preparing contingency plans that could result in armed conflicts between China and U.S. allies, friends, and partners in the Asia Pacific region. This hearing will explore threats Beijing perceives to Chinese sovereignty in the East and South China seas, how the PLA plans to respond to challenges, as well as implications for the United States and U.S. allies, partners, and friends should China initiate a conflict in the Asia Pacific region. The hearing will be co-chaired

by Vice Chairman Dennis C. Shea and Senator Carte P. Goodwin. Any interested party may file a written statement by April 13, 2017, by mailing to the contact information above. A portion of each panel will include a question and answer period between the Commissioners and the witnesses.

**Authority:** Congress created the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission in 2000 in the National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 106–398), as amended by Division P of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (Public Law 108–7), as amended by Public Law 109–108 (November 22, 2005), as amended by Public Law 113–291 (December 19, 2014).

Date: March 23, 2017.

**Michael Danis,**

*Executive Director, U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission.*

[FR Doc. 2017–06105 Filed 3–27–17; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 1137–00–P**

**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

**Cost of Living Adjustments for Service-Connected Benefits**

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** As required by the Veterans’ Compensation COLA Act of 2016, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is hereby giving notice of adjustments in certain benefit rates. These adjustments affect the compensation program.

**DATES:** These adjustments became effective on December 1, 2016, the date provided by the Act.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Jonathan Hughes, Chief, Policy Staff (211B), Compensation Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, (202) 461–9700. (This is not a toll-free telephone number.)

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Section 2 of the Veterans’ Compensation COLA Act of 2016, Public Law 114–197, provides for an increase in each of the rates in sections 1114, 1115(1), and 1162 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. The increased rates are required to be published in the **Federal Register**.

The Social Security Administration has announced that there will be a 0.3 percent cost-of-living increase in Social Security benefits for 2017. Therefore, applying the same percentage, the following rates for VA’s compensation

program became effective on December 1, 2016:

**DISABILITY COMPENSATION**

[38 U.S.C. 1114]

Disability evaluation percent	Monthly rate
10 .....	\$133.57
20 .....	264.02
30 .....	408.97
40 .....	589.12
50 .....	838.64
60 .....	1,062.27
70 .....	1,338.71
80 .....	1,556.13
90 .....	1,748.71
100 .....	2,915.55
(38 U.S.C. 1114(k) through (t)):	
38 U.S.C. 1114(k) .....	\$103.54
38 U.S.C. 1114(l) .....	3,627.87
38 U.S.C. 1114(m) .....	4,003.72
38 U.S.C. 1114(n) .....	4,554.51
38 U.S.C. 1114(o) .....	5,090.83
38 U.S.C. 1114(p) .....	5,090.83
38 U.S.C. 1114(r) .....	2,183.56;
	3,253.08
38 U.S.C. 1114(s) .....	3,263.43
38 U.S.C. 1114(t) .....	3,253.08

**ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR DEPENDENTS**

[38 U.S.C. 1115(1)]

38 U.S.C. 1115(1):	
38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(A) .....	\$162.56
38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(B) .....	281.61; 80.76
38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(C) .....	108.72; 80.76
38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(D) .....	130.45
38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(E) .....	311.64
38 U.S.C. 1115(1)(F) .....	260.91

**CLOTHING ALLOWANCE**

[38 U.S.C. 1162]

\$779.62 per year

**Signing Authority**

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee, approved this document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Gina S. Farrisee, Deputy Chief of Staff, Department of Veterans Affairs, approved this document on March 16, 2017, for publication.

Dated: March 17, 2017.

**Jeffrey Martin,**

*Office Program Manager, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs.*

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