

La Plata County Veterans Services
By: Richard S Schleeter

March 2015

The main objective of the Veterans Service Office is to provide prevention, protection, advocacy and support services to veterans and their families so they can maximize their quality of life, well-being and potential. The La Plata County Veterans Service Office (CVSO) provides information and assistance to veterans and their families. There is a wide range of benefits available for our nation's veterans. Every veteran is encouraged to contact the CVSO to find out more about their VA benefits. Your CVSO can assist you in any matter pertaining to the Department of Veterans Affairs. These services are free of charge. Please visit the La Plata County web site at <http://www.co.laplata.co.us/> for more information about what the La Plata County Veterans Service Office can do for you.

The La Plata County Veterans Service Office is co-located with the Durango VA Clinic at 1970 E. 3rd Avenue, Suite 102, Durango, CO. 81301. For clinic appointments, call 970-247-2214. The Veterans Service Office phone number is 970-759-0117. Office hours are 8am to 12pm and 1pm to 5 pm, Monday – Friday, except holidays, and appointments are encouraged. Call (970) 382-6150 to schedule an appointment with the Veterans Service Office.

VA Disability Compensation

The Veterans Administration provides disabled former servicemen and women with compensation programs designed to assist disabled veterans and their dependents. The disability compensation program provides financial assistance to veterans with service connected disabilities to compensate them for the loss of, or reduction in, earning power resulting from comparable injuries and diseases in civil life.

Disability compensation is a benefit paid to a veteran because of injuries or diseases that happened while on active duty, or existing conditions that were made worse by active military service. This is also known as a Service Connected Disability (SCD). You may be eligible for disability compensation if you have a service-related disability and you were discharged under other than dishonorable conditions. These benefits are tax-free.

The severity of each service-connected disability is rated by the Veterans Administration (VA), and these ratings can range from 0% to 100%. A veteran can be assigned a single disability or multiple disability ratings. The VA can pay you monthly compensation if you are at least 10% disabled as a result of your military service.

If a veteran is evaluated as having a SCD of 30% or more, the veteran is entitled to additional allowances for his or her dependents. In addition, in cases where a veteran has suffered certain severe disabilities (such as loss of or loss of use of extremities or organs), the veteran may be entitled to Special Monthly Compensation (SMC), which can provide compensation payments at a rate greater than the 100% rate.

La Plata County Veterans Services

By: Richard S Schleeter

Other SMC's available are Individual Employability for veterans rated between 70% and 90% who are unable to work due to their disabilities, and Aid and Attendance, which is a program for veterans in nursing facilities or permanently housebound who are helpless or blind, or so nearly helpless or blind as to require the aid and attendance of another person.

In today's tough financial times, who couldn't use a little more income? If you have not checked into VA Compensation Benefits you should schedule an appointment with your local county veterans service officer and ask what the VA can do for you! If you don't ask the question, the answer will always be no! so what are you waiting for?