



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

October 2008



HAPPY ALL HALLOWS EVE!



What's Cooking
in this issue?

Rant from Da-Chief 2-3

Combat Related Special Compensation 4-5

Election Joke 6

The Marine Corpsman 7

Happy Birthday Navy 8

The Human Body 9

Italy 10-12

Bits & Pieces 13-14



Happy Samhain!

Rant from Da-Chief

by HMC Darrell Crone (Ret.)

This month for my Chief's Rant, I thought I would push some info on the CRDP program. 2 of my fellow Active Duty Chief's will be retiring here in the next few years, it is best that they understand this program as well as you too!

Concurrent Receipt (CRDP) Pay Computation

Your personal CRDP payment rate is determined by **your** current VA Disability Compensation waiver, minus the CRDP "Table Rate," then multiplied by the current CRDP "Phase Out" percentage. This makes it impossible to create a simple CRDP Payment Rate table that applies to everyone.

However the following four-step computation process can help you predict or verify your CRDP payment rate.

NOTE: The following is an example to help illustrate how the computation works. The VA compensation amounts do not necessarily reflect the current VA payment rates.

First Step - Determine your CRDP pay computation "table rate":

If rated unemployable	\$750.00
If rated at 100%	\$750.00
If rated at 90%	\$500.00
If rated at 80%	\$350.00
If rated at 70%	\$250.00
If rated at 60%	\$125.00
If rated at 50%	\$100.00

Example: To help illustrate the process, assume the following for an eligible single retiree with no children and a 90% VA Disability Rating:

Gross Retired Pay:	\$1,800.00
<u>VA Disability Compensation</u> Amount:	\$1,517.00
CRDP table rate (90% rating):	\$500.00

Second Step - Subtract the CRDP table rate from your current VA Disability Compensation amount (VA waiver).

Example:

VA waiver:	\$1,517.00
CRDP table rate (90% rating):	- \$500.00
Difference:	\$1,017.00

Third Step - Multiply the difference by the current restoration rate.

2008	69.76%
2009	84.88%
2010	93.95%
2011	98.18%
2012	99.64%
2013	99.96%
2014	100.00%

Example: We'll use the 2008 restoration rate of 69.76%

Difference: \$1,017.00
2008 Restoration rate: x 69.76%
Product: \$709.46

Fourth Step - Add the product to the table rate amount to find your CRDP amount.

Example:

Product: \$709.46
CRDP table rate (90% rating): + \$500.00
2008 CRDP amount: \$1209.46

These amounts will increase each year until January of 2014 when you will receive your full retired pay entitlement and your DVA disability compensation with no reduction. Unlike Retired Pay Cost-Of-Living Allowances (COLAs), CRDP increases will be effective on January 1st of each year, payable on the first business day of February. Additionally, since retired gross pay and DVA compensation (and, consequently, VA waiver) amounts increase each year with COLAs, you will not be able to accurately extrapolate CRDP amounts for future years.

Retirees who have a 100% DVA rating (Including those rated 100% Individual Unemployability (IU)) are entitled to an immediate 100% restoration. CRDP amounts will automatically increase or decrease based on the percentage of disability reported to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) by the DVA. Please note that your monthly CRDP amount cannot exceed the lesser of your monthly gross retired pay or VA waiver amount. If you are a disability retiree whose retired pay is calculated using a percentage of disability rather than your years of service, your CRDP cannot exceed the amount your gross retired pay would currently be had it been calculated at retirement using your years of service.

DARRELL CRONE

HMC(AW) USN (RET)

OWNER CORPSMAN.COM

[HTTP://WWW.CORPSMAN.COM](http://www.corpsman.com)

EMAIL: HMC.CRONE@CORPSMAN.COM

Combat Related Special Compensation

From Military.com

Thanks to Da-Chief for forwarding it to our attention.

Simply put Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) allows certain military retirees to receive both their military retirement pay and VA Disability Compensation. This means that qualified military retirees with 20 or more years of service that have a "combat related" VA-rated disability no longer have their military retirement pay reduced by the amount of their VA disability compensation.

The following is a summary of Combat-Related Special Compensation:

2008 Update: The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act, signed into law on January 29, 2008, includes changes to Chapter 61 retiree eligibility, a new component for (CRSC). This legislation expands eligibility to medical retirees with less than 20 years of service, effective January 1, 2008. Medically retired veterans must still provide documentation that shows a causal link between a current VA disability and a combat related event.

CRSC Eligibility

Combat Related Special Compensation eligibility includes disabilities incurred as a direct result of:

- Armed Conflict (gunshot wounds, purple heart, etc)
- Training that Simulates War (Exercises, field training, etc)
- Hazardous Duty (flight, diving, parachute duty)
- An Instrumentality of War (combat vehicles, weapons, agent orange, etc)

The following are the current CRSC eligibility requirements:

- Retirees must apply to their respective branch of service to be approved for CRSC.
- Retirees must be in receipt of VA compensation.
- Retirees must be in receipt of military retired pay.
- Retirees must have an approved combat-related VA disability rating of 10% or greater.
- Retirees from active-duty must have 20 years of active service.
- *Chapter 61 Medical Retirees with less than 20 years.
- Retired reservists must have 20 years of qualifying service (supported by documentation from the applicable branch of service such as a 20-year letter, retirement orders or a statement of service) in order to be eligible.

Please note that qualified reservists will not receive CRSC until they begin to receive retired pay at age 60.

***CRSC Updates:** The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) was signed into law on January 28, 2008. It expanded the eligibility of CRSC to include anyone receiving military retired pay. This includes: Medical Chapter 61, Temporary Early Retirement Act (TERA) and Temporary Disabled Retirement List (TDRL) retirees. These new eligible components for CRSC went into effect January 1, 2008. Medical and TERA retirees must still provide documentation that shows a causal link between a current VA disability and a combat related event.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 5

The Value of the CRSC Benefit:

DFAS pays CRSC based on the combined disability rating of combat-related disabilities as determined by your branch of service. Additionally, only combat-related disabilities for which you actually receive Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) compensation will be considered.

Use the following formula to obtain your combined VA rating of multiple combat-related disabilities:

(1) Subtract each disability percent from 100% to obtain the remaining efficiencies.

(2) Multiply the remaining efficiencies together.

(3) Subtract the result from 100%.

(4) Round to the nearest 10%, round up for 5% or above.

Example: Using three disabilities of 50%, 40% and 30% ...

(1) $[100 - 50 = 50\%] / [100 - 40 = 60\%] / [100 - 30 = 70\%]$

(2) $50\% \times 60\% \times 70\% = 21\%$

(3) $100\% - 21\% = 79\%$

(4) 79% rounds up to an 80% combined disability

The following table shows a sampling of how much extra you may get each month.

Combat related VA Disability Rating	Monthly CRSC
100%	\$2,527
90%	\$1,517
80%	\$1,349
70%	\$1,161
60%	\$921
50%	\$728
40%	\$512
30%	\$356
20%	\$230
10%	\$117

The CRSC Application Process:

To receive Combat Related Special Compensation you must submit your application ([DD form 2860](#)), through your parent military service branch. Each service branch has the authority to determine your eligibility.

For more information on how to apply contact your parent military service branch:

- **ARMY:**

Department of the Army
U.S. Army Physical Disability Agency
Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)
200 Stovall Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22332-0470
Toll-free: 1-866-281-3254
Hours: 8am - 8pm EST
E-mail your questions to:
CRSC.info@us.army.mil Or visit: <http://www.crsc.army.mil>

- **NAVY AND MARINE CORPS:**

Department of Navy Naval Council of Personnel Boards
Combat-Related Special Compensation Branch
720 Kennon Street S.E., Suite 309
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5023
Toll free 1-877-366-2772
Or visit the [Navy CRSC Review Board](#) website.

- **AIR FORCE:**

United States Air Force Personnel Center
Disability Division (CRSC)
550 C Street West, Suite 6
Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4708
(Toll Free 1-800-616-3775)
Fax: 1-210-565-1101
E-Mail: afpc.dppdc.afcrsc@randolph.af.mil Or visit the [Air Force CRSC](#) website

- **COAST GUARD:**

Commander (adm-1-CRSC)
U.S. Coast Guard
Personnel Command
4200 Wilson Blvd
Arlington, VA 22203

Here is a short joke dealing with elections:

Father/Daughter Talk:

A young woman was about to finish her first year of college. Like so many others her age, she considered herself to be a very liberal Democrat and was for the even distribution of all wealth. She felt deeply ashamed that her father was a rather staunch Republican, which she expressed openly and often.

One day she was challenging her father on his beliefs and his opposition to higher taxes on the rich. In the middle of her heartfelt diatribe based upon the lectures she had heard from her far left professors at school, he stopped her and asked her point blank, how she was doing in school.

She answered rather haughtily that she had a 4.0 GPA, and let him know that it was tough to maintain. That she had to study all the time, never had time to go out and party like other people she knew. She didn't even have time for a boyfriend and didn't really have many college friends because of spending all her time studying. That it was even harder since she was taking a very difficult curriculum.

Her father listened and then asked, "How is your friend Mary." She replied, "Mary is barely getting by," she continued, "all she has is barely a 2.0 GPA" adding, "and all she takes are easy classes and she never studies." But to explain further she continued emotionally, "But Mary is so very popular on campus, college for her is a blast, she goes to all the parties all the time and very often doesn't even show up for classes because she is too hung over."

Her father then asked his daughter, "Why don't you go to the Dean's office and ask him to deduct a 1.0 off your 4.0 GPA and give it to your friend who only has a 2.0." He continued, "That way you will both have a 3.0 GPA and certainly that would be a fair and equal distribution of GPA." The daughter, visibly shocked by the father's suggestion, angrily fired back, "That wouldn't be fair! I worked really hard for my grades, I did without and Mary has done little or nothing; she played while I worked real hard!"

The father slowly smiled and said..."Welcome to the Republican Party."

Thanks to Doc Higgins who so graciously shared this one with us :)



The Marine Corpsman

During my career of 20 years (1955-1975) I had the honor of knowing corpsmen as friends as well needing their services. A corpsman is a strange breed; he wears Navy insignia but always proclaims himself a Marine.

I remember many hikes with Hotel Company 3rd Bn. 6th Marines at Camp Lejeune N.C. We'd get a well needed break and flop where we stood. Marines carrying crew served weapons like mortars, 30 Cal air and water cooled machine guns with tripods would have rubbed areas that drew blood. We with only field transport packs and normal 782 gear had sore feet. While we rested, the corpsmen would walk the line, not taking their break, to ensure "His men" were OK.

In combat, as we got as low as we could we all too often heard "Corpsman up", off he'd go, usually exposing himself to enemy fire. How can you not respect and admire men, and now women like that?

Much is written about these men and women, I do not have the vocabulary to put it into writing what and how I feel. I can only say "Thanks Doc", you saved me.

Robert (Gunny) Hiles
USMC (Ret.)

<http://www.gunnerysergeant.net/>



Fellow Swabbies!

Corpsman.com Salutes and thanks all you "SAILORS" out there serving in the world's finest Navy!!

The United States Navy!!

233 years strong!!

Fricken OUTSANDING!!

Show your spirit today!! Please visit our front page of Corpsman.com, leave a Birthday message as a comment!!

UHH-RAH!!! Make sure you say "Happy Birthday" to a fellow brother or sister out there doing the do..

Below is the message from the FORCM for the Hospital Corps..
13 October, 2008 US NAVY BIRTHDAY, 233 years..



**"Special Edition From the Desk of the BUMED FORCE MASTER CHIEF"
and Director of the Hospital Corps
9 October 2008**

1. FORCM MARTINEZ' NAVY BIRTHDAY MESSAGE

On October 13, 2008, we will pause to celebrate the birth of our Navy. It has been 233 years since the Continental Congress first authorized the outfitting of armed vessels with orders to intercept British supply ships during America's Revolutionary War. From what started out as a modest Continental Navy, we have grown to become the most powerful seapower the world has ever known.

Today, as we enter our seventh year of defending freedom and liberty in the Global War on Terrorism, we find Sailors serving proudly not only at sea in the Persian Gulf, but also on the ground and in the air above Iraq, Afghanistan, the Horn of Africa and countless other places around the globe.

For over 200 years, Sailors have answered the call of our Nation without hesitation and as we remember those who went before us, we take time to honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we may experience the freedoms we enjoy today.

I am proud to be a Sailor and I am proud to be your Force Master Chief. Happy Birthday!

Sincerely,

L. A. MARTINEZ
Force Master Chief
Fleet Marine Force
United States Navy

The Human Body

The human body is a machine that is full of wonder. This collection of human body facts will leave you wondering why in the heck we were designed the way we were.

- Scientists say the higher your I.Q. The more you dream.
- The largest cell in the human body is the female egg and the smallest is the male sperm.
- You use 200 muscles to take one step.
- The average woman is 5 inches shorter than the average man.
- Your big toes have two bones each while the rest have three.
- A pair of human feet contain 250,000 sweat glands.
- A full bladder is roughly the size of a soft ball.
- The acid in your stomach is strong enough to dissolve razor blades.
- The human brain cell can hold 5 times as much information as the Encyclopedia Britannica.
- It takes food seven seconds to get from your mouth to your stomach.
- The average human dream lasts 2-3 seconds.
- Men without hair on their chests are more likely to get cirrhosis of the liver than men with hair.
- At the moment of conception, you spent about half an hour as a single cell.
- There is about one trillion bacteria on each of your feet.
- Your body gives off enough heat in 30 minutes to bring half a gallon of water to a boil.
- The enamel in your teeth is the hardest substance in your body.
- Your teeth start developing (in your gums) 6 months before you are born.
- When you are looking at someone you love, your pupils dilate, they do the same when you are looking at someone you hate..
- Blondes have more hair than dark-haired people.
- Your thumb is the same length of your nose.

At this very moment I know full well you are putting this last fact to the test...now remove your thumb from your nose and pass this on to people you think might be interested in comparing their thumbs to their noses as well.

From the Desk of Doc_Pardue

Italy

From Tamera Brown

There are 3 bases for the Navy in Italy; Support Activity Gaeta, Naples Naval Support Activity and the Naval Hospital Naples Italy. The Naples Naval Support Activity is actually 2 bases...one is the airport (they also sell the uniforms) and the other one has the main exchange/commissary and home gallery. The Naval Hospital Naples has a few schools for dependents (high school, elementary...) and they have a very large gym with pool right across from the hospital. This base has a TGIF restaurant as well. Support Activity Gaeta is actually a very small base. The exchange is about the size of a convenient store and has very limited uniform items. The weather in Italy is nice. Summers are between 80-90 and the winters are about 40-50. There is rarely ice or snow on the ground, only in the mountains.

Naples Naval Support Activity

The airport base has the barracks for the single Sailor's. This base has the American movie theater...they usually get the movies a few months after they have been released in the US. The Navy Lodge is also on this base. Not a very big base in comparison to bases in the US. The main base that has the exchange/commissary is about 10-15 minutes from the airport base. There is a Navy Federal C.U. at this base (next to exchange). Be very careful in this area. There are markets and deals for shopping, but always bring a buddy in this area and keep an eye on wallets/purses.

Naval Hospital Naples

The hospital base is a pretty decent size. If they have closed the clinic in Gaeta...all medical care will be received from this base. It is not a very large hospital but they are able to care for basics. This base has a TGIF if you feel the need to eat American. There is also a Navy Lodge on this base. There is housing on the base but it is family housing. This is also where you will scrap your car (more information below) when you leave if you need to.

Support Activity Gaeta

This is the smallest base of the three. It is only about 1 mile in length and has about 30 parking spots all together (15 of which are reserved for officers). The exchange/commissary is about the size of a convenient store. It has a total of 10 aisles (2 of which are alcohol). There is a small Navy Federal here as well. Parking for this base is at the bottom of the hill (the base is frequently referred to as "the hill"). There is a shuttle that runs all day from 6am-8pm between the parking lot and the hill. You can walk it if you are brave but the roads are narrow and there are a lot of blind turns. The town of Gaeta is small and beautiful. People are very friendly in this town, during the day it is okay to go to markets and the shops alone (use common sense). If you stay to the restaurants and bars near the pier they speak broken English.

Driving in Italy

Do not bring your own vehicle to this country...unless it is a POS. If you have no problems watching cars scratch your car or hit your car, then by all means bring your own car. It is much easier to buy a car there, with all the Sailor's coming and going you can get a car for a couple hundred to a couple thousand. It would be in your best interest to know how to drive a standard, if you need to rent a car it will be standard. Most cars that are sold there are standard as well. Keep in mind roads there are different than roads in America. The lanes are narrow and there are side roads with cars parked on both sides so if you have a big truck...you are not going to fit and will either have to find another route or hit all the cars...your choice. Be advised...you really do not want to get involved with the Police in Italy. That being said, the driving practices...I miss them. They have road signs just like in the US...however, they are only recommendations. :-D You will find that what normally has 2 lanes will turn into about 5 at a red light and then it is whoever comes out first gets the front of the line. If you are driving from Gaeta to Naples beware of a town...women and children will stand in the road and at stop lights they will climb on your car to wash your windows...and expect money in return, regardless if you said no. You will get cussed at by the children if you turn them down and sometimes you will get a child standing on your bumper driving through the town because they want money, be careful, lock doors and do not hand out money because they will only beg for more. On the Auto strata (highway) if you see someone behind you flashing their high beams MOVE OVER!!! It means they are going much faster than you and don't intend to slow down. It is controlled chaos. You will see a car on the side of the road reversing because they missed their exit...and they don't have overpasses like in the US...so you miss an exit...be careful you will get lost. The poliza (police) are funny. They will stand on the side of the road with what we call "lollipops" (sticks with a big red circle at the top). They do not have radar detectors so if they even think you are going to fast they will "lollipop" you. You better pull over. Italian police have no problems with opening fire because you did not obey them. Sometimes they pull people over to do a random inspection; making sure you have insurance and registration and a Italian Drivers license (you take the test when you get to Italy...they give you a study guide-pretty easy). If you get pulled over...do NOT speak Italian to them...even if you know it...just act like the "dumb American" and usually they let you go...you may get that guy that will start speaking perfect English. That brings me to parking tickets or tickets in general. Many people got tickets...lots of them. You actually do not have to pay them UNLESS you get one hand delivered to your residence. For example, you rent a car and park in an area you are not supposed to, you get a ticket on your car and since you rented a car that rental agency has your address...so you will get a ticket to your address. Your personal car however is not tied to an address...so there is no record of anything. Use this advice with caution. When we were there shipmates were known to have left with 10+ parking tickets. Others did pay their tickets. There are also shuttles and buses if you prefer not to drive. Shuttles for military only will drive once a week from Gaeta to Naples (usually Saturday and leaves at 5am). You can also catch a cab to the train and take the train for about \$5-10.

Things to do:

If you want to travel I highly recommend making use of the ITT facility. They organize week long trips and weekend/day trips. They organize trips to Rome, Florence, Venice, and Pompeii and even to other countries such as France, Germany, Spain and Sicily. Some of these places you can travel to by train; Rome, Florence, Pisa and Venice. I would recommend traveling by train to those places. It is cheap and quick. Be careful at train stations especially if you are there in the early morning or late at night. DO NOT FALL ASLEEP at a

Italy Continued

train station. It has been known for Sailor's to fall asleep and wake up with holes cut out of pants where their wallet used to be. When traveling use a buddy. ITT requires "x" amount of people to go on a trip. This will vary based on where they are going to. The prices are better than what you would find if you went out on your own with a friend.

Leaving:

At the Hospital base there is a "scrapping" area. If you total your car or are unable to sell your car before you leave you have to take the loss. This is basically the junk yard. Before you can check out you have to have your car out of your name. If you leave it parked somewhere, it is still registered in your name, the military will hunt you down and make sure you pay for impounding the car and storage fees...which do not have a limit. There is a fee to scrape your car, I do not remember the amount but it is less than what it would cost if you do not get rid of the car. So do yourself and another shipmate a favor and sell the car. If you take a loss on the price, take a loss. You may buy a car for 1500 and end up selling it for only 500 because that is all you can sell it for. But 500 is better than having to pay someone to get rid of it for you.

Italy is a great opportunity to travel and experience something new. They have great food and better coffee. Be aware of restaurants in Italy. If you get seafood, be prepared to have the WHOLE thing, eyes are still on shrimps and fish is served whole. Do not drink the tap water. When ordering food order bottled water...the waiter will ask if you want gas or no gas. They are not referring to needing Beano. Carbonated (gas) and non-carbonated (no gas). If you order a coke, you will get a liter...usually for two people you can order a bottle of water or a bottle of coke and split it. If you are not fluent in Italian do not worry. If you make an effort that you are trying to learn the language you will get more people speaking in English. If you are expecting them to speak your language you will not get any generosity or help. Be courteous to the locals. You are in their country representing America and the Navy, do not disrespect them. Many Italians respect Americans. The Sailor's and their families have spent a lot of time maintaining the respect and friendship.



Bits and Pieces

Looking for information not posted in the website forums? Recruiting question? Corps School question? Got a question for Da-Chief, 8404, Doc_D, PegasusHM, CrazyCajun or DeeDee?

Get your questions answered LIVE on Attack of The Chief weekly podcast.

Email your question to:
admin1@corpsman.com

Your question will be addressed as soon as possible.



Tuesday night chat.....
come socialize with other members in the e-club chat room 2100 - 2300 EST
Get to know your fellow members in a way only live chat can handle



TRICK OR TREAT!

Do you have any special thoughts, family traditions, or stories about Thanksgiving that you would like to share with the rest of Corpsman.com? Please email to editor@corpsman.com by 2400 on 17 November for inclusion in the November issue of Scuttlebutt

Adopt-A-Doc

Tis the season to start getting those holiday care packages on the way to our deployed service members

If you would like to adopt one or more of our deployed docs email deedee@corpsman.com and we will get you the address of a member who would like to get packages sent to them.

If you are deployed and would like to receive packages during your deployment please email deedee@corpsman.com with your name & rank, mailing address and expected return date. If you have any special requests please include them in your email.



Searching for.....

Are you looking for an old shipmate? That Airman that lived next to you in the barracks? That Marine who saved your butt after a night of drinking someplace you probably shouldn't have been? Email editor@corpsman.com We will put your announcement in the next issue of Scuttlebutt and see if one of our members can help you out.

VISIT US ON THE WEB: WWW.CORPSMAN.COM

Thank you to all the members who send in contributions for the newsletter each month - you are the reason there is a newsletter each month.
I just make it look good.

DeeDee - editor Scuttlebutt News

**Email your Thanksgiving thoughts/comments to editor@corpsman.com
by November 17 to be included in the November issue of Scuttlebutt**