



National Military and Veterans Alliance

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STATEMENT OF
THE NATIONAL MILITARY and VETERANS ALLIANCE (NMVA)
before the
HOUSE ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

DECEMBER 9TH, 2015

Presented by

Captain Ted S. Painter, US Army (Retired)

Co-Director

Chairman Heck, Ranking Member Davis and distinguished members of the Subcommittee: On behalf of the National Military and Veterans Alliance, a non-partisan policy and advocacy organization composed of military and veteran service organizations, I am grateful to the Committee for this opportunity to express the views of our collective membership regarding the Survivor Benefit Plan and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation offset and the Concurrent Receipt offset.

Reform the Survivor Benefit Plan and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation Offset

The National Military and Veterans Alliance strongly supports action that would end the dollar-for-dollar offset that is applied to the military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) due to receipt of veterans Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC).

As members of the Subcommittee know, SBP and DIC payments are paid for different reasons. SBP is provided through the Department of Defense to active-duty and retirement-eligible individuals with a spouse or children. In the case of a retiree, it is coverage elected and purchased by the retiree to provide a portion of retired pay to the survivor. DIC payments are provided through the Department of Veterans Affairs as a special compensation to a survivor when the service member's death comes as a result of or due to injuries received during military service.

Under current law, there is a dollar-for-dollar reduction in the payment of the SBP annuity for each dollar of DIC compensation. Survivors, upon eligibility for DIC, lose a majority -- or all too often -- the entire amount of their monthly SBP annuity.

The National Military and Veterans Alliance urges the members of the Subcommittee to pursue a repeal of the current SBP-DIC offset and provide surviving spouses of our military service men and women with the benefits that they, in good faith, earned and sacrificed for.

Concurrent Receipt of Military Retired Pay and Veterans Disability Compensation

A grateful nation must keep faith with its military retirees. If a retiree has the misfortune of becoming disabled as a result of service, VA disability compensation is available. To receive this compensation, however, the disabled retiree must waive, dollar-for-dollar, an equal amount of retired pay. No other federal employee is treated similarly, only the military.

Progress has been made in overturning the bar on disabled military retirees from collecting their full retirement for serving a minimum of 20 years in the service. Since the 2003 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) authorized a special compensation for certain military retirees injured in combat, Congress has advanced concurrent receipt to include benefits to most military retirees with combat related disabilities and to personnel with service-connected VA disability ratings of 50 percent or higher.

The National Military and Veterans Alliance asks the members of the Subcommittee to pursue a total repeal of the current law in order to allow ALL disabled military retirees to receive the financial compensation for their service that they have earned.

**The National Military and Veterans Alliance Appreciates the Opportunity to Submit Testimony to
the Military Personnel Subcommittee**

The NMVA appreciates the attention that the Subcommittee is giving to these two very important survivor and retiree issues. We thank you for holding this hearing and for considering our testimony. The Subcommittee's leadership and interest in these issues have allowed for changes that have, in part, eased the burdens for those affected by both of the offsets discussed above. While these changes are valuable steps in the right direction, there is still much more that can be done. We sincerely appreciate your continued concern and attention regarding both SBP-DIC and Concurrent Receipt and we remain hopeful that your continued leadership will put an end to both of these offsets in the very near future.

Member Organizations, National Military and Veterans Alliance (NMVA)

American Logistics Association	Military Order Purple Heart
Armed Forces Marketing Council	National Association for Uniformed Services
American Military Retirees Association	National Defense Committee
American Military Society	Society of Military Widows
American Retirees Association	Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors
Army Navy Union	The Flag and General Officers' Network
Gold Star Wives	The Retired Enlisted Association
Japanese American Veterans Association	Uniformed Services Disabled Retirees
Korean War Veterans Foundation Military	Vietnam Veterans of America
Order of Foreign Wars	