



**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS
FOR VETERAN'S APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION AND/OR PENSION,
VA FORM 21-526, PARTS A,B,C, & D**

What's in these instructions?

Use these instructions to help you complete VA Form 21-526 Parts A, B, C, and D to apply for compensation and/or pension. The "General Instructions" consist of the following four sections:

Section 1: Preparing your application. This section gives you information you should consider before you file your claim. It tells you why you should use VA Form 21-526 and then helps you decide what you are applying for, which parts to use, and which items you will need to fill out.

Section 2: Completing your VA Form 21-526. This section helps you complete your VA Form 21-526. It has specific advice for difficult parts and tells you where to send your forms after you've filled them out.

Section 3: Finding answers to other questions. This section tells you more about other issues that you may have questions about.

Section 4: Explanation of the Privacy Act and Respondent Burden: This section tells you what the Privacy Act is and explains how VA uses the requested information. It also explains the respondent burden which is an estimate of how long it will take you to fill out this form.

- You can ask VA to help you fill out the form by calling or visiting a regional office. Someone in the regional office will help you complete the form. If you go to a regional office, you should have all the materials that are listed on page 3 under "Checklist: Things you will need to prepare for filling out your application." Before you call or go to the regional office, make sure you gather the necessary materials and complete as much of the form as you can.

How can I contact VA if I have questions?

If you have questions about this form, how to fill it out, or about benefits, you can contact VA in the following ways.

- **By mail:**
You can locate the address of the closest regional office in your telephone book blue pages under "**United States Government, Veterans**"
- **By telephone:**
Please call one of the following telephone numbers:
1-800-827-1000
1-800-829-4833 (Hearing Impaired TDD line)
- **By Internet:**
<http://www.vba.va.gov/benefits/address.htm>

Social Security Benefits

The Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability programs are the largest of several Federal programs that provide assistance to people with disabilities. While these two programs are different in many ways, both are administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) and only individuals who have a disability and meet medical criteria may qualify for benefits under either program.

How can I contact SSA if I have questions?

If you have a question, call the SSA toll-free phone number at 1-800-772-1213, Monday through Friday, from 7a.m. to 7p.m. If you have a touch-tone phone, recorded information and services are available 24 hours a day, including weekends and holidays. People who are deaf or hard of hearing may call the toll-free TTY number, 1-800-325-0778, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Monday through Friday. Please have your Social Security number handy when you call.

- **By Mail:**
You can locate the address of the closest SSA office in your telephone book blue pages under "**United States Government, Social Security Administration**"
- **By Internet:**
<http://www.ssa.gov/>

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Before you start . . .

Where can I get help filling out my application?

- You can contact a County or National Veterans' Service Organization to help you complete the form, or

SECTION 1: PREPARING YOUR APPLICATION

What do I use VA Form 21-526 for?

Use VA Form 21-526 to apply for compensation and/or pension benefits.

You should apply for compensation benefits if *any* of the following are true:

- You were injured while you were in the service.
- You were seriously ill while you were in the service, and you believe you have continuing problems.
- You developed a mental or physical condition that may be related to your military service.
- You are permanently and totally disabled and you believe it is because of your military service.

You should apply for pension benefits if *all* of the following are true:

- You are permanently and totally disabled (but not as a result of your military service).
- You served on active duty during a wartime period.
- Your income is limited.

VA Form 21-526 has four parts. Everyone has to fill out Part A of the form. You fill out some or all of the other parts depending on the benefits you are applying for. Once you have decided what you are applying for, find out which parts you need to use by reading through the check list below called "Which Parts of VA Form 21-526 Should You Use?"

What can I do to help get my application processed faster?

VA will make reasonable efforts to help you get this evidence. You can help us by telling us about all the evidence that supports your claim. Evidence is information that confirms that what you are telling us is correct. For instance, if you are claiming service connection for a certain disability, we will help you by requesting medical records from your doctor or from VA that show you have this disability. We will also help you by requesting records from other Federal or non-Federal agencies or companies. We will request your service medical records in claims for compensation.

CHECK LIST: WHICH PARTS OF VA FORM 21-526 SHOULD YOU USE?

Look at the table below to find out which parts of VA Form 21-526 you should use to apply for different benefits.

If you are applying for:	You must fill out:			
	VA Form 21-526, Part A: General Information	VA Form 21-526, Part B: Compensation	VA Form 21-526, Part C: Dependency	VA Form 21-526, Part D: Pension
Compensation only	✓	✓	✓	
Pension Only	✓		✓	✓
Compensation and Pension	✓	✓	✓	✓

CHECKLIST: THINGS YOU'LL NEED TO PREPARE FOR FILLING OUT YOUR APPLICATION

<i>When you fill out this VA Form. . .</i>	<i>You'll need this information ready to answer questions. . .</i>	<i>You should attach these pieces of information. . .</i>
21-526 Part A: General Information	<input type="checkbox"/> Active Duty Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● dates and places you entered and left duty ● mailing addresses of units you served in <input type="checkbox"/> Reserve Duty and National Guard Duty information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● dates and places you entered and left duty ● mailing addresses of units you served in <input type="checkbox"/> List of military benefits you receive and amounts	<input type="checkbox"/> An original or certified copy of DD214 or other separation papers for all periods of service
21-526 Part B: Compensation	<input type="checkbox"/> List of disabilities you are claiming, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● treatment dates in service ● name and address of the medical facilities where you have been treated after service <input type="checkbox"/> Information about any environmental exposures or events that caused the disabilities you are claiming, including dates they happened	<input type="checkbox"/> An original or copies of all service medical records you have <input type="checkbox"/> Medical records you have showing you currently have this disability <input type="checkbox"/> Medical records you have indicating that the disability was caused by or happened during your active service
21-526 Part C: Dependency	<input type="checkbox"/> Information about your current spouse, including his/her Social Security number (and VA file number if he/she is a veteran) <input type="checkbox"/> Information about you and your spouse's previous marriages including dates and places of those marriages and the dates and places those marriages ended <input type="checkbox"/> Information about the children who live with you, including their names, Social Security numbers, dates and places of birth <input type="checkbox"/> Information about children not living with you, including their names, dates and places of birth, Social Security numbers, and amounts that you contribute in child support for them	<input type="checkbox"/> Copies of your marriage certificate and all divorce decrees (May be required in some cases) <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the public birth records for each child you claim as a dependent (May be required in some cases) <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the court records for adoption for each adopted child
21-526 Part D: Pension Note: If you are a veteran who is age 65 or older you DO NOT have to submit medical evidence with your application.	<input type="checkbox"/> Information about your training and employment history for the past year, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● name and address of employers ● beginning and ending dates of employment <input type="checkbox"/> Information about your nursing home, if you live in one <input type="checkbox"/> Information about your net worth and your dependents' net worth <input type="checkbox"/> Information about your recurring income and your dependents' recurring income <input type="checkbox"/> Information about income you and your dependents expect to receive in the next 12 months	<input type="checkbox"/> Current medical evidence telling us about your disabilities <input type="checkbox"/> If you are in a nursing home, attach a statement signed by an official of the nursing home that includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the date you were admitted to a nursing home ● your level of care in the nursing home <input type="checkbox"/> Your nursing home payment status, which is Medicaid coverage or private pay

SECTION 2: COMPLETING YOUR APPLICATION

You will find instructions on each part of VA Form 21-526 to help you fill them out. However, there still might be some areas of the forms that are difficult. In this section, we've included the answers to some common problems that claimants have with the forms. They should help you fill out your forms more quickly and easily.

VA Form 21-526, Part A: General Information

Section III

What is the Gulf War registry? VA has a registry of veterans who served in the Gulf War theater of operations. The information in this registry will be shared only with the Department of Defense and others as permitted by law (such as the National Academy of Sciences). We will keep you informed of significant developments in research on health consequences found to be related to military service in the Gulf War. You may request a VA health examination that will include consultation and counseling covering the results of the examination. You should contact your nearest VA medical facility to request an examination.

Section VII

Should I waive military retired pay for VA compensation? If you currently receive military retired pay, you should be aware that we will reduce your retired pay by the amount of any compensation that you are awarded. However, this is to your advantage because VA compensation is **not taxable and most retired pay is taxable**. Based on your application, if you are awarded compensation, we will tell the Military Retired Pay Center to reduce your retired pay by the amount of compensation you have been awarded. If you do not want this to happen, you must sign **Item 21e** of VA Form 21-526, Part A to let us know.

VA Form 21-526 Part B: Compensation

Section I

What kind of disabilities should I list? When possible, try to list the actual disease and medical condition that a doctor has diagnosed. Be as specific as you can.

Do I have to include any records with this claim form?

If you have records that support your claim you should attach them to this claim form. If you know of other records that will support your claim, VA will help you by requesting them from the person, company, or agency that has them. On this form you must tell us the name and address of the person, company or agency that has these records, the approximate time frame covered

these records, and the condition for which you were treated in the case of medical records. If you received treatment from a military health care facility after your discharge from service, private physician, or any other health care provider, complete the attached VA Form 21-4142, Authorization and Consent to Release Information to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). We will use this form to request these records.

VA Form 21-526, Part C: Dependency

Section III

Who can I count as a dependent child? VA recognizes your biological children, adopted children, and stepchildren as dependents. But these children must be unmarried and:

- be under the age of 18, or
 - be at least 18 but under 23 and pursuing an approved course of education, or
 - have become permanently unable to support themselves before reaching the age of 18.
-

VA Form 21-526 Part D: Pension

Section IV

What do you mean by "net worth"? Your net worth is the market value of all the interest and rights you have in any kind of property. However net worth does not include your single family dwelling unit and a reasonable lot area. Net worth also does not include the personal things you use everyday like your vehicle, clothing, and furniture.

NOTE: If you are a veteran who is age 65 or older, you DO NOT have to submit medical evidence with your application.

What do I do when I have finished my application?

1. Make sure you sign and date VA Form 21-526, Part A. You must provide your signature in Section IX, Item 25 of this form. If you don't sign the form, VA will return it for you to sign, and it will take longer for us to process it.
2. Attach any materials that support and explain your claim. Be sure to look at the checklist on page 3 of these instructions to make sure that you have attached all important pieces of information to your application.

SECTION 2: COMPLETING YOUR APPLICATION (Continued)

3. You may complete the attached VA Form 21-4142, Authorization and Consent to Release Information to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), with your VA Form 21-526 if you want help getting additional records. By signing VA Form 21-4142, you authorize any doctors, hospitals, or caregivers that have treated you to release information about your treatment to VA. Be sure to sign and date the form. Make as many copies of VA Form 21-4142 as you need to give authorization to all the doctors, medical facilities, or caregivers that treated you. You do not need to complete this form for any treatment you received at a VA facility.

4. Make a photocopy of your application and everything that you submit to VA. By having copies, you will be prepared if VA has a question about your application.

Where do I send my application?

Mail the original application and your supporting materials to the closest VA office. You can find the address in your local telephone book or at the VBA internet web site:

<http://www.vba.va.gov/benefits/address.htm>

What if I need to change or add information to my application after I give it to VA?

If you find that you need to change or add information to your application, contact the VA office where you submitted your application immediately. In a letter, make sure you specify:

- your name,
- claim number if you know it (or Social Security number if you don't know the claim number), and
- the item number you want to change or add to.

TIPS FOR FILLING OUT YOUR VA FORM 21-526

ATTACHING FORMS AND OTHER INFORMATION:

Throughout this form, you will be asked to attach certain pieces of information to the form itself. For example, you are asked to attach a DD214 to your Form 21-526, Part A. The **DD214 needs to be an original or certified copy**, other documents do not. To get a certified copy, you can take your original to the courthouse and have it copied and signed by an official of the court. A VA employee can also "certify" a copy for you.

ANSWERING QUESTIONS COMPLETELY:

Remember that the more questions you answer, the faster your claim can be processed. Try to answer every question that applies to your situation and fill out as much of the form as you can. The list below answers some questions that you might be wondering about:

- *What if my answer to a question is "none" or "0"? Write that as your answer.*
- *What if I need to include an address that is not in the United States? Make sure that you include the name of the country in your answer.*
- *What if I need more space to answer a question? You can use Part A of the 21-526, page 5, Item 29 "Remarks" or attach a sheet of paper to your form. Write "Continuation of answers" at the top of the page, your name, and your VA claim number. If this is your first claim, you will not have a VA claim number, so write your Social Security number instead. For each question that you need more room, write "Continuation of Item" and the item number. For example, if you need more room to answer Item 16 on VA Form 21-526, part A, write "Continuation of Item 16, VA Form 21-526, Part A."*

KEEPING RECORDS: It is important that you keep a copy of all the forms you fill out and give to VA. This way you will have your own complete record to refer to.

SIGNING FORMS: Be sure to sign every form you fill out before you send it to us.

SECTION 3: FINDING ANSWERS TO OTHER QUESTIONS

What can you tell me about VA benefits and how VA decides what I will or will not receive?

VA pays veterans' disability compensation for disability(ies) that are a result of their military service. If VA determines that your disability(ies) are 30% or more disabling, VA can pay additional compensation for your spouse, children, and dependent parents. VA will pay a higher amount of compensation for a spouse when the spouse is a patient in a nursing home or is disabled and requires the regular aid and attendance of another person.

VA pays disability pension to veterans who:

- are permanently and totally disabled, but not as a result of military service or the veteran's own willful misconduct
- served during:
 - Mexican Border Period
 - World War I
 - World War II
 - Korean Conflict
 - Vietnam Era
 - Gulf War

VA pays disability pension based on the amount of income that the veteran and family received and the number of dependents in the family. This is based on law. VA must include as income all sources that federal law specifies. You can find out what the current income limitations and rates of benefits are by contacting your nearest VA office. See page 1, "How can I contact VA if I have a question?" for ways to contact us.

VA may pay a higher rate of disability pension to a veteran who is a patient in a nursing home, otherwise needs regular aid and attendance, or who is permanently confined to his or her home because of a disability.

I would like help in understanding the process of getting my benefits. What can I do?

You can ask someone to act as your representative. A representative can be:

- An accredited member of an accredited organization or other service organization that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs recognizes.

- An agent recognized by VA or a licensed lawyer. Agents and attorneys can charge you for services that you get from them only after the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) gives you their final decision about your application. That means you can use an attorney during any stage of your application for benefits. However, the agent or attorney cannot charge you for services unless you are trying to resolve a dispute with VA after BVA has made a decision about your claim.

If you want to use a representative to help you with your application, contact the closest VA office. Depending on the type of representative you want to designate, we will send you one of the following forms:

- VA Form 21-22, Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative
- VA Form 22A, Appointment of Individual as Claimant's Representative

What if I believe that VA has made an error in processing or deciding on my benefits?

You can ask for a personal hearing at any time during the processing of your claim. That means you can ask for the hearing while VA is processing your claim or after VA has made a decision. You should contact the nearest VA office and tell them that you want a personal hearing on your case. Someone in the local VA office will arrange a time and a place for your hearing. At this hearing, you can bring witnesses. VA will record whatever you and your witnesses say during the hearing and include it in the official record. VA will furnish the hearing room and officials, and prepare a transcript of the hearing. VA cannot pay your expenses or the expenses of anyone you want to bring with you to the hearing. After your claim has been decided you will have **one year** from the date of notice to appeal that decision.

SECTION 4: Explanation of the Privacy Act and Respondent Burden

PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION: No allowance of compensation or pension may be granted unless this form is completed fully as required by law (38 U.S.C. 5101). The responses you submit are considered confidential (38 U.S.C. 5701). VA may disclose the information that you provide, including Social Security numbers, outside VA if the disclosure is authorized under the Privacy Act, including the routine uses identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22 Compensation, Pension, Education, and Rehabilitation Records - VA. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine maximum benefits under the law. Information submitted is subject to verification through computer matching programs with other agencies. VA may make a "routine use" disclosure for: civil or criminal law enforcement, congressional communications, epidemiological or research studies, the collection of money owed to the United States, litigation in which the United States is a party or has an interest, the administration of VA programs and delivery of VA benefits, verification of identity and status, and personnel administration. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine maximum benefits under the law. Information that you furnish may be utilized in computer matching programs with other Federal or state agencies for the purpose of determining your eligibility to receive VA benefits, as well as to collect any amount owed to the United States by virtue of your participation in any benefit program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Income and employment information: The income and employment information furnished by you will be compared with information obtained by VA from the Secretary of Health and Human Services or the Secretary of the Treasury under clause (viii) of section 6103 (1)(7)(D) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Social Security information: You are required to provide the Social Security number(s), requested under 38 U.S.C. 5101(c)(1). VA may disclose Social Security numbers as authorized under the Privacy Act, and, specifically, may disclose them for the purposes stated above.

Respondent Burden: VA may not conduct or sponsor, and respondent is not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB Control Number. Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour and 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. If you have comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, call 1-800-827-1000 for mailing information on where to send your comments.

(DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE)

**VETERAN'S APPLICATION FOR COMPENSATION AND/OR PENSION,
 VA Form 21-526, Part A: General information**

Please read the attached "General Instructions" before you fill out this form.

SECTION I Tell us what you are applying for Check the box that says what you are applying for. Be sure to complete the other Parts you need.	1. What are you applying for? If you are unsure please refer to the "General Instructions" page 2 Section 1: Preparing your application Compensation ▶ Fill out Part A of VA Form 21-526 and Parts B and C Pension ▶ Fill out Part A of VA Form 21-526 and Parts C and D Compensation and Pension ▶ Fill out Part A of VA Form 21-526 and Parts B, C and D
	2a. Have you ever filed a claim with VA No (If "No," skip Item 2b and go to Item 3) (If "Yes," provide file number below) Yes _____ (Go to 2b)
	2b. I filed a claim for Compensation Pension Other _____

SECTION II Tell us about you We need information about you to process your claim faster. Give us your current mailing address in the space provided. If it will change within the next three months, give us that new address in block 29 "Remarks." Also in block 29, give us the date you think you will be at the new address. OWCP used to be called the U.S. Bureau of Employees Compensation	3. What is your name? _____ First Middle Last Suffix (If applicable)
	4. What is your Social Security number? _____
	5. What is your sex? Male Female
	6a. Did you serve under another name? Yes (If "Yes," go to Item 6b) No (If "No," go to Item 7)
	6b. Please list the other name(s) you served under _____ _____
	7. What is your address? _____ Street address, rural route, or P.O. Box Apt. number _____ City State ZIP Code Country
	8. What are your telephone numbers? Daytime () _____ Evening () _____
	9. What is your e-mail address? _____
	10. What is your date of birth? ____ / ____ / ____
	11. Where were you born? _____ City State Country
	12a. Are you receiving disability benefits from the Office of Workers' Compensation (OWCP)? Yes No (If "Yes," answer 12b and 12c also)
	12b. When was the claim filed? ____ / ____
	12c. What disability are you receiving benefits for? _____
	13a. What is the name of your nearest relative or other person we could contact if necessary? _____
	13b. What is his/her telephone number? Daytime () _____ Evening () _____
	13c. What is this person's address? _____
	13d. How is this person related to you? _____

SECTION VI Tell us about your travel status	20a. Were you injured while traveling to or from your military assignment? <small>(If "Yes," answer Items 20b thru 20e and Section I of Part B: Compensation)</small>	20b. When did your injury happen? / / mo day yr	20c. Where did your injury happen? <small>(City, State, Country)</small>	20d. Where were you treated? <small>(Provide name and address of Doctor's office, hospital, etc.)</small>	20e. What agency did you file an accident report with?
	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No				

SECTION VII Tell us about your military benefits <small>When you file this application, you are telling us that you want to get VA compensation instead of military retired pay. If you currently receive military retired pay, you should be aware that we will reduce your retired pay by the amount of any compensation that you are awarded. VA will notify the Military Retired Pay Center of all benefit changes.</small> You must sign 21e if you want to keep getting military retired pay instead of VA compensation. <small>Please see page 4 of the General Instructions for VA Form 21-526.</small> <small>If you have gotten both military retired pay and VA compensation, some of the amount you get may be recouped by VA, or in the case of VSI, by the Department of Defense</small>	21a. Are you receiving or will you receive retired or retainer pay that is based on your military service? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <small>(If "Yes," answer Items 21b thru 21f. If "No," skip to Item 22)</small>	21b. What branch of service is paying or will pay your retired or retainer pay?	21c. What is the monthly amount? \$ _____														
	21d. What is your retirement based on? <input type="checkbox"/> Length of service <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> TDRL (Temporary Disability Retired List)																
	21e. Sign here if you want to receive military retired pay <i>instead of</i> VA compensation _____																
21f. Have you received or will you receive any of the following military benefits? (Please check the appropriate boxes and tell us the amount)																	
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;"><i>Benefit</i></th> <th style="text-align: right;"><i>Amount</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Lump Sum Readjustment Pay</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Separation pay under 10 USC 1174</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(3) <input type="checkbox"/> Special Separation Benefit (SSB)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(4) <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Separation Incentive (VSI)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(5) <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Severance Pay (name of disability _____)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> <tr> <td>(6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (tell us the type of benefit _____)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ _____</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			<i>Benefit</i>	<i>Amount</i>	(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Lump Sum Readjustment Pay	\$ _____	(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Separation pay under 10 USC 1174	\$ _____	(3) <input type="checkbox"/> Special Separation Benefit (SSB)	\$ _____	(4) <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Separation Incentive (VSI)	\$ _____	(5) <input type="checkbox"/> Disability Severance Pay (name of disability _____)	\$ _____	(6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (tell us the type of benefit _____)	\$ _____	
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SECTION VIII Give us direct deposit information If benefits are awarded we will need more information in order to process any payments to you. Please read the paragraph starting with, " <i>All federal payments...</i> " and then either: 1. Attach a voided check, or 2. Answer questions 22-24 to the right.	All federal payments beginning January 2, 1999, must be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT) also called Direct Deposit. Please attach a voided personal check or deposit slip or provide the information requested below in Items 22, 23 and 24 to enroll in Direct Deposit. If you do not have a bank account we will give you a waiver from Direct Deposit, just check the box below in Item 22. The Treasury Department is working on making bank accounts available to you. Once these accounts are available, you will be able to decide whether you wish to sign-up for one of the accounts or continue to receive a paper check. You can also request a waiver if you have other circumstances that you feel would cause you a hardship to be enrolled in Direct Deposit. You can write to: Department of Veterans Affairs, 125 S. Main Street Suite B, Muskogee OK 74401-7004, and give us a brief description of why you do not wish to participate in Direct Deposit.
	22. Account number (Please check the appropriate box and provide that account number, if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Checking <input type="checkbox"/> I certify that I do not have an account with a financial institution or certified payment agent <input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account number _____
	23. Name of financial institution _____
	24. Routing or transit number _____

SECTION IX Give us your signature

1. Read the box that starts, "I certify and authorize the release of information:"
2. Sign the box that says, "Your signature."
3. If you sign with an "X," then you must have 2 people you know witness you as you sign. They must then sign the form and print their names and addresses also.

I certify and authorize the release of information:
 I certify that the statements in this document are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I authorize any person or entity, including but not limited to any organization, service provider, employer, or government agency, to give the Department of Veterans Affairs any information about me except protected health information, and I waive any privilege which makes the information confidential.

25. Your signature	26. Today's date <div style="text-align: center;"> / / mo day yr </div>
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27a. Signature of witness (If claimant signed above using an "X")	27b. Printed name and address of witness
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28c. Signature of witness (If claimant signed above using an "X")	28b. Printed name and address of witness
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SECTION X

Remarks— Use this space for any additional statements that you would like to make concerning your application for Compensation and/or Pension

IMPORTANT
 Penalty: The law provides severe penalties which include fine or imprisonment, or both, for the willful submission of any statement or evidence of a material fact, knowing it to be false, or for the fraudulent acceptance of any payment which you are not entitled to.

29. Remarks (If you need more space to answer a question or have a comment about a specific item number on this form, please identify your answer or statement by the part and item number). (See page 5 "Tips For Filling Out Your VA Form 21-526.")



VA Form 21-526, Part B: Compensation

Use this form to apply for compensation. Remember that you must also fill out a VA Form 21-526, Part A: General Information, for your application to be processed. Be sure to write your name and Social Security number in the space provided on page 2.

**SECTION I
Tell us
about
your
disability**

In the table below, tell us more about your disability or disabilities. Be sure to:

- List all disabilities you believe are related to military service.
- List all the treatments you received for your disabilities, including
 - treatments you received in a military facility before and after discharge.
 - treatments you received from civilian and VA sources before, during, and after your service.

1. What disability are you claiming?	2. When did your disability begin?	3b. When were you treated?		4a. What medical facility or doctor treated you?	4b. What is the address of that medical facility or doctor?
	/ / mo day yr	from / / / / mo day yr	to / / / / mo day yr		
	/ / mo day yr	from / / / / mo day yr	to / / / / mo day yr		
	/ / mo day yr	from / / / / mo day yr	to / / / / mo day yr		
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	/ / mo day yr	from / / / / mo day yr	to / / / / mo day yr		
	/ / mo day yr	from / / / / mo day yr	to / / / / mo day yr		
	/ / mo day yr	from / / / / mo day yr	to / / / / mo day yr		
	/ / mo day yr	from / / / / mo day yr	to / / / / mo day yr		

SECTION II

Tell us if any of the disabilities you listed on Page 1 were because of exposures

<p>5a. Were you exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(If "Yes," answer Items 5b and 5c also)</p>	<p>5b. What is your disability?</p>	<p>5c. In what country were you exposed?</p>
<p>6a. Were you exposed to asbestos?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(If "Yes," answer Item 6b and 6c also)</p>	<p>6b. What is your disability?</p> <hr/> <p>6c. When and how were you exposed?</p>	
<p>7a. Were you exposed to mustard gas?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(If "Yes," answer Item 7b and 7c also)</p>	<p>7b. What is your disability?</p> <hr/> <p>7c. When and how were you exposed?</p>	
<p>8a. Were you exposed to ionizing radiation?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(If "Yes," answer Items 8b, 8c, and 8d also)</p>	<p>8b. What is your disability?</p>	<p>8c. When was your last exposure?</p> <p>____/____/____</p> <p>mo day yr</p>
<p>8d. How were you exposed to radiation?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Atmospheric testing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Nagasaki/Hiroshima</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other, describe _____</p>		
<p>9a. Were you exposed to an environmental hazard in the Gulf War?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(If "Yes," answer Items 9b and 9c also)</p>	<p>9b. What is your disability?</p>	<p>9c. What was the hazard?</p>
<p>10a. Did you have a separation or retirement physical examination?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(If "Yes," answer Items 10b and 10c also)</p>	<p>10b. When was the exam?</p> <p>____/____/____</p> <p>mo day yr</p>	<p>10c. Where did the exam occur?</p>

SECTION III

Tell us how your disabilities listed on Page 1 are related to your military service

11. Explanation

Your Name

Your Social Security Number

SECTION II Tell us about any previous marriages

NOTE: You should provide copies of divorce decrees or death certificates

In the table below, tell us about:

- Your previous marriages, and
- Your spouse's previous marriages

Your previous marriages

13a. How many times have you been married before? _____

13b. When were you married?	13c. Where were you married? (city/state or country)	13d. Who were you married to? (first, middle initial, last)	13e. When did your marriage end?	13f. Why did your marriage end? (death, divorce)	13g. Where did your marriage end? (city/state or country)
____/____/____ mo day yr			____/____/____ mo day yr		
____/____/____ mo day yr			____/____/____ mo day yr		

Your spouse's previous marriages

14a. How many times has your current spouse been married before? _____

14b. When was your spouse married?	14c. Where was your spouse married? (city/state or country)	14d. Who was your spouse married to? (first, middle initial, last)	14e. When did your spouse's marriage end?	14f. Why did your spouse's marriage end? (death, divorce)	14g. Where did your spouse's marriage end? (city/state or country)
____/____/____ mo day yr			____/____/____ mo day yr		
____/____/____ mo day yr			____/____/____ mo day yr		

SECTION III Tell us about your other dependents

In this section we want to know whether your parents are financially dependent on you (Question 15) and more about your **dependent children**. VA may recognize a veteran's biological children, adopted children, and stepchildren as dependent. These children must be unmarried and:

- be under the age of 18, **or**
- be at least 18 but under 23 and pursuing an approved course of education, **or**
- have become permanently unable to support themselves before reaching the age of 18.

You should provide: a copy of the public record of birth for each child or a copy of the court record of adoption for each adopted child.

15. Are your parents financially dependent on you?
 Yes No (If "Yes," we will request additional information from you later.)

16. Do you have dependent children?
 Yes
 (If "No," Skip Items 17-21f.) Go to the bottom of page 3 and write your name and Social Security number.)
 No

17. How many dependent children do you have?

 Give us more information about these children in the tables on the next page (Items 18 through 21f).

SECTION III Tell us about your dependents (continued)

18a. What is the name of your unmarried child(ren)? (first, middle initial, last)	18b. Date and place of birth (city/state or country)	18c. Social Security Number	19a. Biological	19b. Adopted	19c. Stepchild	20a. 18-23 yrs. old and in school	20b. Seriously disabled before age 18	20c. Child previously married
	____/____/____ mo day yr Place:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	____/____/____ mo day yr Place:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	____/____/____ mo day yr Place:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	____/____/____ mo day yr Place:		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tell us about your dependents listed above who *don't* live with you

21a. Do all the children listed above live with you?

Yes (If "Yes," skip Items 21b thru 21f and write your name and Social Security number below.)

No (If "No," complete Item 21b and the table below (Items 21c -21f) and write your name and Social Security number below.)

21b. How many of the children do not live with you?

21c. What is the name of your child? (first, middle initial, last)	21d. What is your child's complete address?	21e. What is the name of the person your child lives with (If applicable)? (first, middle initial, last)	21f. How much do you contribute each month to the support of your child?
			\$.
			\$.
			\$.
			\$.

Your name	Your Social Security Number
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Department of Veterans Affairs

VA Form 21-526, Part D: Pension

Use this form to apply for pension. Remember that you must also fill out a VA Form 21-526, Part A: General Information, for your application to be processed. Be sure to write your name and Social Security number in the space provided on page 4.

SECTION I Tell us about your disability and background

Complete this section if you are claiming pension because of permanent and total disability not caused by your military service.

Attach current medical evidence showing that you are permanently and totally disabled.

Note: If you are a veteran who is age 65 or older or determined to be disabled by the Social Security Administration, you **DO NOT** have to submit medical evidence with your application.

1a. What disability(ies) prevent you from working?

1b. When did the disability(ies) begin?

____/____/____
mo day yr

2. Are you claiming a special monthly pension because you need the regular assistance of another person, are blind, nearly blind, or having severe visual problems, or are housebound?

Yes No

3a. Are you now, or have you recently been hospitalized or given outpatient or home-based care?

Yes No
(If "Yes," answer Items 3b and 3c also)

3b. Tell us the dates of the recent hospitalization or care

Began _____
mo day yr
Ended _____
mo day yr

3c. What is the name and complete mailing address of the facility or doctor?

4a. Are you now employed?

Yes No
(If "No," answer Item 4b also)

4b. When did you last work?

____/____/____
mo day yr

4c. Were you self-employed before becoming totally disabled?

Yes No
(If "Yes," answer Item 4d and 4e also)

4d. What kind of work did you do?

4e. Are you still self-employed?

Yes No
(If "Yes," answer Item 4f also)

4f. What kind of work do you do now?

4g. Have you claimed or are you receiving disability benefits from the Social Security Administration (SSA)?

Yes No

4h. Circle the highest year of education you completed:

Grade school
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
College
1 2 3 4 over 4

4i. List the other training or experience you have and any certificates that you hold.

SECTION II Tell us your work history

In the table below, tell us about all of your employment, including self-employment, for one year before you became disabled to the present.

5a. What was the name and address of your employer?	5b. What was your job title?	5c. When did your work begin?	5d. When did your work end?	5e. How many days were lost due to disability?	5f. What were your total annual earnings?												
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SECTION III Tell us if you are in a nursing home

In this section, tell us if you are in a nursing home. If you are in a nursing home, give us more information about the nursing home.

<p>To get your claim processed faster, provide a statement by an official of the nursing home that tells us that you are a patient in the nursing home because of a physical or mental disability and tells us the daily charge for your care.</p>	<p>6a. Are you now in a nursing home?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(If "yes," answer Item 6b also)</p>	<p>6b. What is the name and complete mailing address of the facility or doctor?</p>
	<p>6c. Does Medicaid cover all or part of your nursing home costs?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>(If "no," answer Item 6d also)</p>	<p>6d. Have you applied for Medicaid?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

SECTION IV Tell us the net worth of you and your dependents

In this section, we ask you to give us specific information about your net worth and the net worth of your dependents. You will need to enter this information in the tables on page 3.

You must include all assets in your net worth except those items you use everyday (See definition of net worth below.)
 You should subtract from the market value of your real estate any amounts that you owe on it (such as mortgages, liens, etc.)
 You can subtract mortgages on any property, and the value of the house or part of a building that you live in as your primary residence.
 You can report farms or buildings that you or a dependent own by reporting its value as "real property."

VA cannot pay you pension if your **net worth** is sizeable.

Definitions:
 Net worth is the market value of all interest and rights in any kind of property less any mortgages or other claims against the property. However, net worth does not include the house you live in or a reasonable area of land it sits on. Net worth also does not include the value of personal things you use everyday like your vehicle, clothing, and furniture.

Go to Page 3 and fill out the table.

SECTION IV
(Continued)

Tell us about your net worth and your dependents' net worth.

For items 7a-h: provide the amounts. If none, write "0" or "None"

Source	Veteran	Spouse	Child(ren)		
			I. Name: <small>(first, middle initial, last)</small>	II. Name: <small>(first, middle initial, last)</small>	III. Name: <small>(first, middle initial, last)</small>
7a. Cash, non-interest bearing bank accounts					
7b. Interest bearing bank accounts, certificates of deposit (CDs)					
7c. IRAs, Keogh Plans, etc.					
7d. Stocks and bonds					
7e. Mutual funds					
7f. Value of business assets					
7g. Real property (not your home)					
7h. All other property					

SECTION V
Tell us about the income you have received and you expect to receive

In this section, we ask you to give us specific information about the income you have received and the income you expect to receive from all sources. You will need to enter this information in the tables on Page 4. In these tables,

Report the total amounts before you take out deductions for taxes, insurance, etc. Do not report the same information in both tables.

If you expect to receive a payment, but you don't know how much it will be, write "Unknown" in the space.

If you do not receive any payments from one of the sources that we list, write "0" or "None" in the space.

If you are receiving monthly benefits, give us a copy of your most recent award letter. This will help us determine the amount of benefits you should be paid.

Payments from any source will be counted, unless the law says that they don't need to be counted. VA will determine any amount that does not count.

8. Will you receive any income from rental property or from operation of a business within 12 months of the day you sign this form?

Yes No

9. Will you receive any income from the operation of a farm within 12 months of the day you sign this form?

Yes No

10. Do you expect to receive money from a civilian agency, corporation, or individual, because of personal injury or death within 12 months of the day you sign this form?

Yes No

SECTION V (Continued) Monthly Income—Tell us the income you and your dependents receive every month.

For Items 11a-12f if none write "0" or "None"

Sources of recurring monthly income	Veteran	Spouse	Child(ren)		
			I. Name:	II. Name:	III. Name:
			(first, middle initial, last)	(first, middle initial, last)	(first, middle initial, last)
11a. Social Security					
11b. U.S. Civil Service					
11c. U.S. Railroad Retirement					
11d. Military Retired Pay					
11e. Black Lung Benefits					
11f. Supplemental Security (SSI)/Public Assistance					
11g. Other income received monthly (Please write in the source below:)					

Next 12 months —Tell us about other income for you and your dependents

Sources of income for the next 12 months	Veteran	Spouse	Child(ren)		
			I. Name:	II. Name:	III. Name:
			(first, middle initial, last)	(first, middle initial, last)	(first, middle initial, last)
12a. Gross wages and salary					
12b. Total interest and dividends					
12c. Worker's compensation for injury					
12d. Unemployment compensation					
12e. Other military benefit (Please write in the source below:)					
12f. Other one-time benefit (Please write in the source below:)					

SECTION VI

IMPORTANT—Items 13A through 13E should be completed only if you are applying for nonservice-connected pension.

Tell us any information concerning, Medical, Legal or Other Expenses— Family medical expenses actually paid by you may be deductible from your income. Show the amount of unreimbursed medical expenses you paid for yourself or relatives you are under an obligation to support. Also, show medical, legal or other expenses you paid because of a disability for which civilian disability benefits have been awarded. When determining your income, we may be able to deduct them from the disability benefits for the year in which the expenses are paid. **Do not** include any expenses for which you were reimbursed. Show the Medicare deduction in line 1. If more space is needed attach a separate sheet.

13A. AMOUNT PAID BY YOU	13B. DATE PAID	13C. PURPOSE <i>(Doctor's fees, hospital charges, Attorney fees, etc)</i>	13D. PAID TO <i>(Name of doctor, hospital, pharmacy, Attorney, etc.)</i>	13E. DISABILITY OR RELATIONSHIP OF PERSON FOR WHOM EXPENSES PAID

Your name	Your Social Security Number
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**AUTHORIZATION AND CONSENT TO RELEASE INFORMATION TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)**

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS FORM, CALL VA TOLL-FREE AT 1-800-827-1000
(TDD 1-800-829-4833 FOR HEARING IMPAIRED)

SECTION I—VETERAN/CLAIMANT IDENTIFICATION

1. LAST NAME - FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME OF VETERAN	2. VETERAN'S VA FILE NUMBER
3. CLAIMANT'S NAME <i>(If other than Veteran)</i> LAST NAME, FIRST, MIDDLE	4. VETERAN'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
5. RELATIONSHIP OF CLAIMANT TO VETERAN	6. CLAIMANT'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

SECTION II—SOURCE OF INFORMATION

7A. LIST THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE SOURCE SUCH AS A PHYSICIAN, HOSPITAL, ETC. (Include ZIP Codes, and also a telephone number, if available)	7B. DATE(S) OF TREATMENT, HOSPITALIZATIONS OFFICE VISITS, DISCHARGE FROM TREATMENT OR CARE, ETC. (Include month and year)	7C. CONDITION(S) (Illness, injury, etc.)

8. COMMENTS:

YOU MUST SIGN AND DATE THIS FORM AT THE BOTTOM OF PAGE 2 AND CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BLOCK IN ITEM 9C.

SECTION III —CONSENT TO RELEASE INFORMATION

READ BOTH PARAGRAPHS CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING. YOU MUST CHECK THE APPROPRIATE STATEMENT UNDERLINED IN PARENTHESES IN PARAGRAPH 9C.

9A. The information requested on this form is solicited under Title 38, U.S.C. The form authorizes release of information in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a, 38 U.S.C. 7332, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), implemented by 45 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 160 and 164. Your disclosure of the information requested on this form is voluntary. However, if the information including your Social Security Number (SSN) is not furnished completely or accurately, the health care provider to which this authorization is addressed may not be able to identify and locate your records, and provide a copy to VA. Further, VA uses your SSN to identify your claim file. Providing your SSN will help ensure that your records are properly associated with your claim file.

9B. I, the undersigned, hereby authorize the hospital, physician or other health care provider or health plan shown in Item 7A to release any information that may have been obtained in connection with physical, psychological or psychiatric examination or treatment, with the understanding that VA will use this information in determining my eligibility to veterans benefits I have claimed. I understand that the health care provider or health plan identified in Item 7A who is being asked to provide the Veterans Benefits Administration with records under this authorization may not require me to execute this authorization before it will, or will continue to, provide me with treatment, payment for health care, enrollment in a health plan, or eligibility for benefits provided by it. I understand that once my health care provider sends this information to VA under this authorization, the information will no longer be protected by the HIPAA Privacy Rule, but will be protected by the Federal Privacy Act, 5 USC 552a, and VA may disclose this information as authorized by law. I also understand that I may revoke this authorization, at anytime (except to the extent that the health care provider has already released information to VA under this authorization) by notifying the health care provider shown in Item 7A. Please contact the VA Regional Office handling your claim or the Board of Veterans' Appeals, if an appeal is pending, regarding such action. If I do not revoke this authorization, it will automatically end 180 days from the date you sign and date the form (Item 10C).

9C. I (AUTHORIZE) (DO NOT AUTHORIZE) the above source to release or disclose any information or records relating to the diagnosis, treatment or other therapy for the condition(s) of drug abuse, alcoholism, alcohol abuse, infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), sickle cell anemia or psychotherapy notes. IF MY CONSENT TO THIS INFORMATION IS LIMITED, THE LIMITATION IS WRITTEN HERE:

10A. SIGNATURE OF VETERAN/CLAIMANT

10B. RELATIONSHIP TO VETERAN/CLAIMANT *(If other than self, please provide full name, title, organization, city, State and ZIP Code. All court appointments must include docket number, county and State.)*

10C. DATE

10D. MAILING ADDRESS *(Number and Street or rural route, city, or P.O. State and ZIP Code)*

10E. TELEPHONE NUMBER *(Include Area Code)*

The signature and address of a person who either knows the person signing this form or is satisfied as to that person's identity is requested below. This is not required by VA but may be required by the source of the information.

11A. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS

11B. DATE

11C. MAILING ADDRESS OF WITNESS