

Instructions For Filing A Claim

VA Compensation – Initial Claim

- 1. VA Form 21-4142 (Authorization to Release Medical Docs) (see #7 below) One release for each place of treatment.**
- 2. VA Form 21-4138 (Statement in Support of Claim)**
- 3. VA Form 21-526 (Veterans Application for Comp and/or Pension)**
- 4. Certified Discharge Documents (DD214, NGB 22, Battleship Discharge)**
- 5. Medical Documents – that show diagnosis and treatment**
 - a) civilian medical documents**
 - b) VA medical documents**
 - c) Service medical treatment records**
- 6. Any other evidence in support of claim**
 - a) That shows condition(s) was service related**
 - 1. Morning reports**
 - 2. Unit rosters**
 - 3. Unit history**
 - 4. Awards- CAB, CIB, Purple Heart, Medals of Valor (citation narratives)**
 - 5. Personnel File- 2A, 2-1, etc.**
 - b) must prove the veterans whereabouts and work conditions – “boots on the ground”**
 - c) Photos – of veteran that are pertinent, photos of equipment, photos on site of incident, photos of location (i.e, in Vietnam)**
 - d) Cruise Books**
- 7. Statements from comrades, spouse, children, to support the claim. VA doctors and other qualified personnel letters in support of veteran. (1st person accounts)**

10. **Marriage License**
11. **Divorce Decrees**
12. **Birth Certificate – if any minor children**
11. **VA Form 21-0781 (PTSD Incident Report)**

Websites

SearchMil.com – for military documents related to the veteran or unit.

Military.com – unit pages for history, reunions, rosters, buddies

Veterans Pension – Initial Claim

1. **VA Form 21-4138 (Statement in Support of Claim)**
2. **VA Form 21-526 (Application for Comp/Pension)**
3. **VA Form 21-4142 (Authorization to Release Medical Documents)**
4. **VA Form 21-8416 (Medical Expense Report)**
5. **Proof of all Sources of Income- SS Award Letter, Pensions, Dividends, Interest Payments, Wages, Assets)**
6. **Certified Discharge Documents (DD214)**
7. **Marriage License**
8. **Death Certificate**
9. **VDVA 10 (if applying for HB or A&A)**
10. **Birth Certificates (if minor children)**

Widow's Pension (Death Pension)

1. **VA Form 21-4138 (Statement in Support of Claim)**
2. **VA Form 21-534 (Application for Pension, DIC, Accrued Benefits)**
3. **VA Form 21-8416 (Medical Expenses Report)**

4. **VA Form 21-4142(Authorization to Release Medical Documents)**

- 5. VDVA 10 (if applying for HB or A&A)**
- 6. Veteran's Discharge**
- 7. Marriage License**
- 8. Death Certificate**
- 9. Proof of all Sources of Income (**
- 10. Birth Certificates (if minor children)**

Compensation Increase

- 1. VA Form 21-4138, stating the condition and how it has gotten worse**
- 2. VA Form 21-4142, Release of Medical Records**
- 3. Medical Documents (if on hand)**
- 4. VA Award Letter from previous rating (if Available)**
- 5. DD214 (not necessary)**