

# **VA Disability Compensation VS. Drill Pay**



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## Can I Receive Both VA Disability Compensation and Drill Pay?

**Answer:** Unfortunately, you must choose between receiving VA Disability Compensation and Drill Pay. You must choose the benefit you prefer and waive the other. However, you only waive your VA Disability Compensation for the number of days you will be receiving Drill Pay. The typical number of days per year individuals receive Drill Pay is 63 days. Thus, you will only have to waive your VA Disability Compensation for 63 days per year.

## How Do I apply for Drill Pay and Waive My VA Disability Compensation?

**Answer:** Once you have decided to choose Drill Pay, you will complete the **VA Form 21-8951: Notice of Waiver of VA Compensation to Receive Military pay**. Here at the Office of Veterans' Services, a VA representative would be more than happy to help you submit this form and answer all your questions.

## What Happens After You Waive Your VA Disability Compensation Pay?

**Answer:** The government will simply withhold future payments, so if you have 63 days of military pay and elect to waive your VA compensation, then you would have roughly the next two months of disability payments withheld. You can run the numbers to determine exactly how much will be withheld. Remember, each day counts as 1/30th of a month's rate, so if your VA disability compensation were \$300 a month, each day of VA disability compensation is worth \$10. If you have 63 days of military pay and waive your VA compensation, you would have \$630 withheld, \$300 in each of the first two months, then \$30 from the next month. After that, your full compensation payments would resume.

## How Do I Choose Between Drill Pay or Continuing My VA Disability Compensation?

**Answer:** In most cases, Veterans choose to waive their VA Disability Compensation due to the fact Drill Pay produces a greater number of income. While Drill Pay produces a greater income, it is important to understand every case is different; the best method to decide if this decision fits your need is to divide your monthly rate to a daily rate and compare both your VA Disability Compensation and Drill Pay in a daily rate. Below is an example of a scenario of Drill Pay having a greater outcome than VA Disability Compensation.

### **Example:**

**Drill Pay:** The monthly rate of pay in 2017 for an E4 with six years is \$2,535.60. This breaks down to a daily rate of \$84.52 which means he will receive \$338.08 for a weekend drill (which pays four days of basic pay).

**VA Disability Compensation:** The monthly rate of disability pay for a married member at the 80% disability rate is \$1,686.13. The daily rate for this rate of VA compensation is \$56.20.

**Therefore, Drill Pay pays \$28.32 more a day than VA Disability Compensation for this individual. Thus, this individual should choose Drill Pay over continuing his or her VA Disability Compensation for 63 days.**

**Work Cited:** The info came from the first 3 sources; the last one is where the examples came from.

<https://militarybenefits.info/drill-pay/>

[https://www.benefits.va.gov/warms/docs/admin21/m21\\_1/mr/part3/subptv/ch04/m21-1mr iii\\_v\\_4\\_secc.doc](https://www.benefits.va.gov/warms/docs/admin21/m21_1/mr/part3/subptv/ch04/m21-1mr iii_v_4_secc.doc)

<https://themilitarywallet.com/waive-va-compensation-to-receive-military-pay/>

<http://rcretirement.com/2017/07/07/should-i-take-drill-pay-or-va-compensation/> (Note: the examples were from this source)