

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

This Glossary is for general reference in the use of this manual as it relates to Military Retired Pay System.

## A

**Active Duty:**

Full-time duty in the active service of a uniformed service, including full-time training duty, annual training duty, and attendance while in the active service at a school designated as a service school by law or by the Secretary concerned.

**Active Duty List:**

A single list for the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps which contains the names of all officers of that armed force, other than officers described in 10 U.S.C. 641, who are serving on active duty.

**Active Saved Pay:**

Special pay provisions that allow members under certain circumstances, to retain entitlement to pay authorized under prior laws or for a lower grade from which promoted.

**Amendatory Birth Certificate:**

A birth certificate that has been corrected, changed, or revised.

**Annuitant:**

A person receiving an annuity.

**Annuity:**

A monthly payment made to a person as a result of a specific survivorship plan.

**Armed Forces of the United States:**

Includes the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard, and all components thereof.

## B

**Basic Pay:**

The active duty pay rates prescribed for an officer or enlisted member according to pay grade and years of service.

**Beneficiary:**

The recipient of certain benefits due as a result of relationship to or designation by a member.

**Benefits:**

Compensation or pension. (Department of Veterans Affairs definition only)

## C

**Common Law Marriage:**

A marriage not solemnized by religious or civil ceremony as defined in pertinent state law.

**Compensation:**

A monthly payment made by the Department of Veterans Affairs to a veteran because of service-connected disability or to a surviving spouse, child, or parent of a veteran because of the service-connected death of the veteran occurring before 1 Jan 1957. (Department of Veterans Affairs definition only)

**Cost of Living Adjustment (COLADJ):**

Percentage change applied to retired pay and SBP annuities based on laws using the Consumer Price Index (CPI), as published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, to determine the amount of income.

**Currency Blocked Country:**

A country specified by the Treasury Department to which dollar instruments may not be transmittal.

## D

**Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC):**

Compensation paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs to the widow or widower of a member who dies after 31 Dec 1956 from a service-connected or compensable disability.

## E

**Entitlement:**

The legal right to receive items of retired pay or annuities.

## F

**Fiduciary:**

A person, legally designated, who holds something in trust for another.

**Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Corps Reserve:**

A component of the regular service to which members may be transferred and released from active duty after obtaining 20 or more years of active federal service.

**Foreign Address:**

An address outside of United States, its possessions and territories.

**I****Inactive Duty Training:**

1. Duty prescribed for members of a Reserve component by the Secretary concerned.

2. Special Additional duties authorized for members of a Reserve component by an authority designated by the Secretary concerned and performed by them on a voluntary basis in connection with prescribed training or maintenance activities of the units to which they are assigned.

**M****Missing Status:**

Includes missing, missing-in-action, interned in a foreign country, captured, beleaguered, besieged by a hostile force, or detained in a foreign country against a member's will.

**N****Non-Service-Connected:**

With respect to disability or death, such disability was not incurred or aggravated, or the death did not result from a disability incurred or aggravated, in line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service. (Department of Veterans Affairs definition only)

**O****Overpayment:**

An amount paid to a retiree, annuitant, or legal fiduciary which is more than that to which entitlement exists.

**P****Parent:**

A father, mother, father through adoption, mother through adoption; or an individual who for not less than 1 year stood in the relationship of a parent of a veteran at any time before the veteran's entry into active military, naval, or air service for 1 year or more; or the person who last stood in the relationship of father or mother before the veteran's last entry into active military, naval, or air

service. (Department of Veteran's Affairs definition only)

**Pay Grade:**

The step or degree in a graduated scale to which members of the uniformed services are assigned or distributed for military pay and allowances purposes, See appendix 9, Comparable Grades.

**Pension:**

A monthly payment made by the Department of Veterans Affairs to a veteran because of service, age, or non-service-connected disability, or to a surviving spouse, or child of a veteran because of the non-service-connected death of the veteran. (Department of Veterans Affairs definition only)

**R****Renounced Pay:**

Retired pay which a member has voluntarily waived the receipt of, but to which a member may not waive the entitlement.

**Reserve Component:**

With respect to the Armed Forces, the Army Reserve, the Naval Reserve, the Marine Corps Reserve, the Air Force Reserve, the Coast Guard Reserve, the National Guard of the United States, and the Air National Guard of the United States. (Department of Veterans Affairs definition only)

**Retainer Pay:**

Pay received by a member of the Fleet Reserve/Fleet Marine Corps Reserve.

**Retired List:**

Any one of several lists of military members retired from the regular or Reserve components of the Armed Forces.

**Retired Pay (Includes Fleet Reserve and FMCR Retainer Pay):**

The gross entitlement for a member based on conditions of the retirement law, pay grade, years of service for basic pay, years of service for percentage multiplier, percentage of disability, if applicable, and date of retirement (transfer).

**Retired Saved Pay:**

Special pay provisions that allow retired members, under certain conditions, to retain entitlement to pay under prior laws when beneficial to the member.

**Retirement Date:**

The first day of entitlement to retired pay, not a day of active duty.

**S**

**Service-Connected:**

With respect to disability or death, such disability was incurred or aggravated or the death resulted from a disability incurred or aggravated in line of duty in the active military, naval, or air service. (Department of Veterans Affairs definition only)

**Surviving Spouse:**

A person of the opposite sex who was the spouse of a veteran at the time of the veteran's death, who lived with the veteran continuously from the date of marriage to the date of the veteran's death (except when there was a separation due to the misconduct of, or procured by, the veteran without the fault of the spouse) and who was not remarried or has not lived with another person and held himself or herself out openly to the public to be the spouse of such other person since the death of the veteran, and after 19 Sep 1962. (Department of Veterans Affairs definition only)

**T**

**Tower Amendment:**

The law provided that a member retiring after 1 Jan 1971 may not receive less retired pay than the monthly retired or retainer pay to which he or she would be entitled if the member had become entitled to retired or retainer pay at an earlier date.

**Transfer Date: (Fleet Reservists, Fleet Marine Reservists)**

Date of release from active duty, a day of entitlement to active duty pay and allowances.

**U**

**Uniformed Services:**

The Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Semite.

**United States:**

The 50 states and the District of Columbia.

**V**

**VA:**

Department of Veterans Affairs.

**Veteran:**

A person who served in the active military naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released under honorable conditions. (Department of Veterans Affairs definition only)

**W**

**Widow:**

The surviving wife of the deceased member.

**Widower:**

The surviving husband of the deceased member.

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