

Veterans Corner
By: Robert G. Mitchell
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Department of Defense to Compensate “stop Loss” Servicemembers

The Department of Defense announced that they will be implementing a new program to compensate service members affected by the “stop loss” Authority. This new initiative pertains to current and former service members who involuntarily served from September 11, 2001 to September 30, 2009. Service Members will receive \$500 for each month that they serve past the end of their contract. This new program came about as a result of an appropriation bill that was approved by Congress, granting the department \$534 million to recompense affected service members for their time.

Service members seeking to take advantage of this program have until October 20, 2010 to apply. In order to qualify, the service members must have been honorably discharged and has the appropriate document to prove eligibility. For additional information, service members of each branch should follow these links:

Army: <http://www.stoplosspay.army.mil> or e-mail Retrostoplosspay@conus.army.mil

Navy: e-mail NXAG_N132C@navy.mil

Air Force: <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/stoploss>

Marine Corps: <https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/stoploss> or e-mail to stoploss@usmc.mil

Correction to the Expansion of Enrollment in the VA Health Care System

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) published a correcting amendment in the Federal Register on September 21, 2009, clarifying the effective date of the easing of restrictions in the enrollment of priority category 8 veterans as published in a final rule on May 15, 2009. The final regulation neglected to highlight the actual effective date which is June 15, 2009. For more detailed information regarding the expansion of priority category 8 enrollments, refer to VA&R Bulletin 01-09. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Joe Wilson, Deputy Director for Health Care, VA&R at jwilson@legion.org or (202) 263-2998.

NYS Parks Access Pass

A disabled War time veteran with a VA service connected disability of 40% or more are eligible for a FREE NYS Park Pass. For and application write to ACCESS PASS – State Parks Albany, NY 12238

VA Warns Veterans of Telephone Prescription Scam

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is warning Veterans not to give credit card numbers over the phone to callers claiming to update VA prescription information.

“America’s Veterans have become targets in an inexcusable scam that dishonors their service and misrepresents the Department built for them,” said Dr. Gerald Cross, VA’s Under Secretary for Health. “VA simply does not call Veterans and ask them to disclose personal financial information over the phone.”

Veterans Service Organizations have brought to VA’s attention that callers are misrepresenting the VA to gain personal information over the phone. They say VA recently changed procedures for dispensing prescriptions and ask for the Veterans credit card number.

“VA has not changed its processes for dispensing prescription medicines,” Cross said. “Nor has VA changed its long-standing commitment to protect the personal information of this nation’s veterans.”

Veterans with questions about VA services should contact the nearest VA Medical Center or call toll free 1-877-222-8387.