

US Special Operations Command



Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

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The overall classification of this briefing is:
UNCLASSIFIED



Social Security Disability Overview

- **Social Security pays disability benefits through two programs: 1) the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) program, which pays benefits to you and certain members of your family if you are "insured," meaning that you worked long enough and paid Social Security taxes; and 2) the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program, which pays benefits based on financial need.**
 - **By law, Social Security has a very strict definition. To be found disabled:**
 - 1) **You must be unable to do substantial work because of your medical condition(s); and**
 - 2) **Your medical condition(s) must have lasted, or be expected to last, at least one year or be expected to result in death.**
- Note: While some programs give money to people with partial disability or short-term disability, Social Security does not.**



SSDI

■ Wounded Warriors:

- Expedited Claims – post 9/11/2001
- Social Security website: www.ssa.gov/woundedwarriors/
- How to Apply – Online, at Military Treatment Facility or local Social Security Office
- Publications Online:
 - 1) Wounded Warriors: Receiving Disability Benefits and Returning to Work,
 - 2) Disability Benefits For Wounded Warriors,
 - 3) Disability Benefits: Supplemental Security Income (SSI)



SSDI

■ When To Apply: (Recommendations Only)

- Wait until decision is made to either stay on Active Duty or transition out of the military
- Once met the 5 month waiting period, apply if SM knows they will leave active duty
- If SM applies and is approved for SSDI while still on active duty, documentation is the key to retaining their benefits.
 - 1) Work Activity – Function Reports
 - 2) If SM does COAD/COAR, PCS's, MMRB, etc.
 - 3) Communication & Documentation with SSA are key!



SSDI

■ Discontinue/Terminate Benefit

- Provide notification to SSA **IN WRITING** when you are fully RTD and/or your duty status changes to new position (i.e. COAD/COAR, PCS, MMRB, etc.)
- It is SM's responsibility to stop benefits as appropriate.
- If SM is audited and receives a possible collection/debt notice, contact SSA immediately and provide documentation of disability.
- Once SM notifies SSA, will be placed on Continuing Disability Review (CDR)/Trial Work Period (TWP):
 - 1) Once SM reaches 9 months of substantial work activity w/in a 60 month window, the SSDI benefit stops.
 - 2) Work Activity – Function Reports
 - 3) Will continue to receive full SSDI benefit regardless of income AS LONG AS you report your work activity and continue to have disabling impairment.



SSDI

■ Tricare/Medicare Wraparound Coverage

- Once SM has received SSDI for 24 months, become Medicare eligible.
- Tricare requires SM be enrolled in Medicare Part B to keep Tricare coverage (contact local SSA office to determine if the Part B premium can be waived while on active duty).
- If SM has retroactive SSDI claim and becomes Medicare eligible, Tricare may require claims be resubmitted to Medicare (not always, but may happen).
- The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 provides a 12 month Medicare Part B special enrollment period for Tricare beneficiaries who missed initial enrollment.
- For more info on TRICARE/Medicare laws and regulations: www.socialsecurity.gov/legislation/tricareinfo.html.



Care Coalition POC's

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