- ***If your VA compensation is less than your retired pay,*** you will receive compensation payments. The military service department will pay you the difference between your compensation and your retired pay.
- ***If your VA compensation is greater than your retired pay,*** we will pay you compensation, and you will not receive retired pay.

For now, we must withhold part of your compensation until April 1, 2012. We must do this to prevent a double payment. By working together with the military service department, we will make sure you get your full combined payment.

Important Information: VA compensation isn't taxable. Please contact the Internal Revenue Service for tax information.

What We Decided

Please see the enclosures for more information regarding the evidence considered and the evaluation assigned.

We determined that the following conditions were related to your military service, so service connection has been granted:

Medical Description	Percent (%) Assigned	Effective Date
Depression	70%	Apr 2, 2012*
Erectile dysfunction	0%	Apr 2, 2012**

*The effective date of this grant is the date of receipt of claim. Although you are shown to have manifestations of the 100 percent evaluation, review of the evidence of record does not support this evaluation.

**The effective date of this grant is the date of receipt of claim.

[redacted]

An examination will be scheduled at a future date to evaluate the severity of your service connected depression.

Entitlement to special monthly compensation based on loss of use of a creative organ is granted from April 2, 2012. The effective date of this grant is the date of service connection for erectile dysfunction is granted.

We granted entitlement to the 100% rate effective May 26, 2011, because you are unable to work due to your service connected disabilities. Your VA examination shows that you are unemployable due to the combined effects of your service-connected allergic rhinitis, degenerative disease, cervical spine, with cervical spondylosis/neural foraminal narrowing, degenerative joint disease, lumbar osteophytes, with slight dextroscoliosis of the lumbar spine, radiculopahty of both right upper and right lower extremities, and left lower extremity on your ability to be gainfully employed. The effective date of this grant is the date you met the schedular requirement for this benefit.

Your overall or combined rating is 100%. We do not add the individual percentages of each condition to determine your combined rating. We use a combined rating table that considers the effect from the most serious to the least serious conditions.

We enclosed a VA Form 21-8764, "Disability Compensation Award Attachment-Important Information," which explains certain factors concerning your benefits.

Evidence We Need From You to Complete Your Claim For Dependents

Veterans who have service-related conditions with a combined evaluation of 30 percent or more may receive an additional allowance for their dependents; therefore, you may be eligible for additional benefits based on dependency. If you wish to submit a claim for dependents, please complete and return the attached VA Form 21-686c, *Declaration of Status of Dependents.* Please fill out every blank on the form.

When and Where to Send the Information or Evidence

Send the information or the evidence to the address at the top of this letter. Please put your full name and VA file number on the evidence.

[redacted]