



DA Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Briefing

Retirement Services Office
14 November 2019

UNCLASSIFIED



Our Goal



CHANGE.... MISINFORMATION
you may have heard about
SBP from UNINFORMED
People

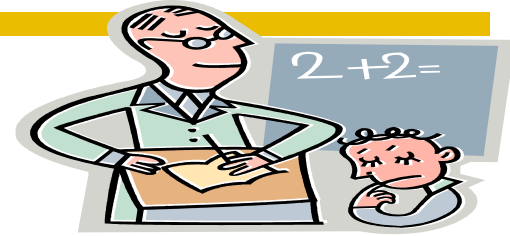


INTO..... INFORMATION
From INFORMED Experts





Purpose



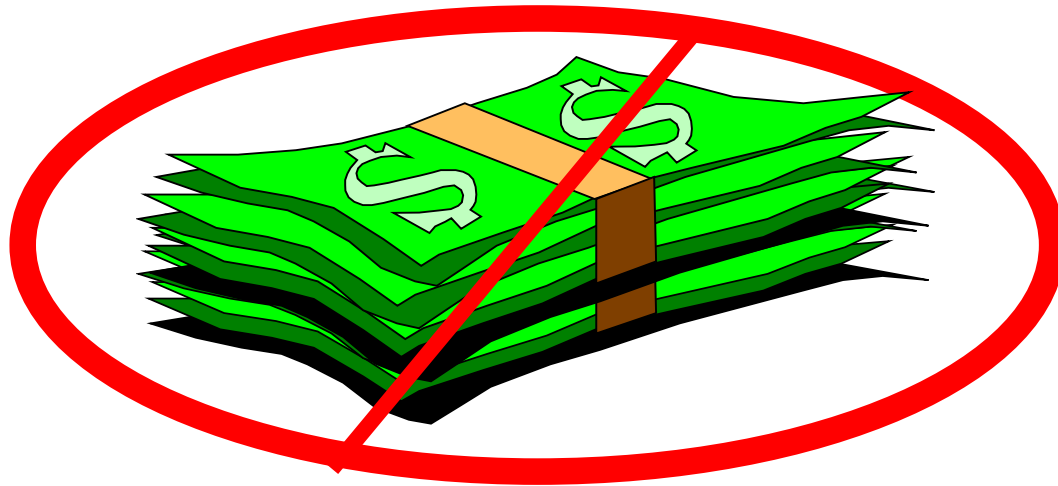
This briefing will break SBP down into manageable understandable blocks, to help you to make an informed decision on your individual SBP election.

Remember your current SBP decision Impacts your Family's future financial wellbeing.





BOTTOM LINE **RETIRED PAY STOPS**



**WITH THE DEATH
OF THE RETIRED SOLDIER!**

**SBP ALLOWS YOU TO PROVIDE A PORTION OF YOUR
RETIRED PAY TO YOUR ELIGIBLE SURVIVORS**

Are You Risk Averse?

Weigh:

Higher risk of leaving your loved ones with insufficient income



Against:

Smaller risk that your survivor may not get back every cent paid in premiums



What is the risk of your spouse outliving you?



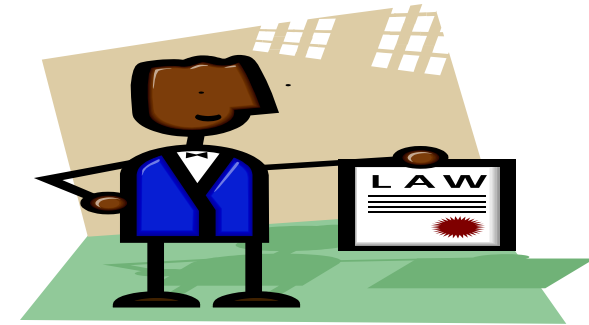
- Life Expectancy (Note 1)
 - Male **75.1** years
 - Female **80.2** years
- SBP Annuitants Who Exceed Life Expectancy: **45% or 117,755** (Note 2)

Note 1: US Census Bureau , The 2010 Statistical Abstract

Note 2: Source: DOD Actuary Statistical Report on Military Retirement System



WHAT IS SBP?



- Enacted by Congress in 1972
- Sole means for a Retired Soldier to continue a portion of retired pay to survivors
- Coverage is free while on active duty
- Decision at retirement -- begin to share cost from date of retirement
- Over eight out of ten retiring Soldiers elect SBP to protect their family's financial future

The Annuity

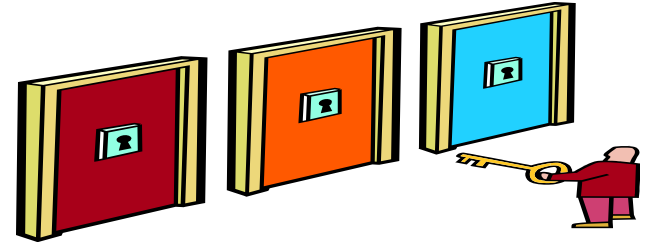


Amount:

- **Annuity of 55% of selected base amount regardless of the annuitants age**



ABOUT ELECTIONS



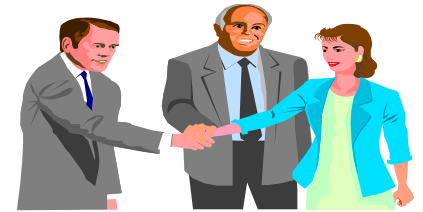
- SBP Election must be made prior to retirement
 - If election not made prior to retirement, by law, automatic full coverage for spouse and or children at retirement
- All Soldiers retiring based on an active duty law and Reservists who elected RCSBP Option A must complete the SBP section of the DD form 2656, even if they have no eligible beneficiaries
- Married Soldiers electing anything less than the maximum spouse SBP coverage allowable under the law require spouse's concurrence
- Generally irrevocable but may be cancelled, with spouse concurrence, between the 25-36 month following retirement
- Paid-up SBP coverage is paid-up after making 360 payments and reaching at least age 70
- If SBP beneficiaries change (birth, death, divorce, Marriage) between election and date of retirement, a new DD Form 2656 with SBP election required



Spouse Concurrence

SBP is a “JOINT” decision for married Soldiers who...

- Decline coverage
- Cover less than full retired pay for spouse
- Elect “child only”
- Are under REDUX retirement plan and do not elect full base amount based on High-3 retired pay they would have received
- Elect Lump Sum under BRS and do not elect spouse coverage based on retired pay they would have received without Lump Sum



Remember it is the Soldier's election

- The spouse can only concur or non-concur with the Soldier's election
- Spouse refusal to sign the DD Form 2656 constitutes spouse non-concurrence
- Spouse concurrence is in the law to protect the spouse.





Termination Feature



- Termination during one-time, one-year window between 25th and 36th mo. after start of pay
- Spouse concurrence required
- Barred from future enrollment
- No refund of past premiums
- The law acknowledges need for flexibility
- To terminate you must complete a DD Form 2656-2, obtain your spouse or former spouse concurrence
- Must submit to DFAS during the period between your 25th and 36th month following retirement
- DD Form 2656-2 cannot be signed prior to start of 25th month following retirement



Six Election Categories

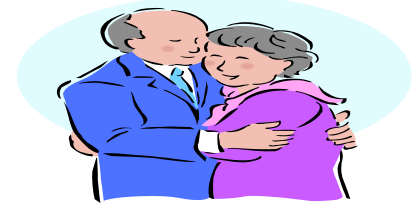
1. Spouse Only
2. Spouse & Child
3. Child Only
4. Former Spouse Only
5. Former Spouse & Child
6. Insurable Interest



Note: Not electing SBP for a spouse and or eligible children at retirement will result in closing those SBP categories forever



Spouse Election



- Provides annuity of 55% of amount of retired pay covered (base amount) regardless of the surviving spouse's age
- Spouse cannot outlive the SBP annuity
 - Paid forever (unless remarriage occurs pre-55)
 - If remarriage pre-55 ends, annuity reinstated
- Increased by COLA increases, normally each year
- Taxable as an annuity (SBP premiums paid pre-tax)
- Cost stops when no spouse beneficiary
- Election by category not by name
- A spouse can only receive one Spouse SBP annuity
 - If authorized more than one spouse SBP annuity they must select one to receive



Spouse & Child Election



- Spouse is the primary beneficiary
- Children are secondary beneficiary and receive the annuity *only if* spouse loses SBP eligibility (pre-55 remarriage or death) *and* children are still eligible
- Child cost is based on ages of member, spouse & youngest child
- Cost of child coverage as secondary beneficiary - very low
- Child cost is added to the spouse SBP cost
- If divorced or spouse dies and there are eligible children, the SBP cost is recalculated as Child Only



Child Only Coverage



- **Cost based on ages of member & youngest child**
- **Cost stops when no eligible children remain**
- **Cheaper than “spouse” due to finite benefit**
- **Because the child is the primary SBP beneficiary, election is more costly than the spouse and child election where the child is the secondary beneficiary**
- **If married and new spouse is added to SBP coverage, the election becomes Spouse and Child**
 - **Child cost is recalculated as an add on cost to spouse cost**
 - **The rules for Spouse and Child coverage apply**



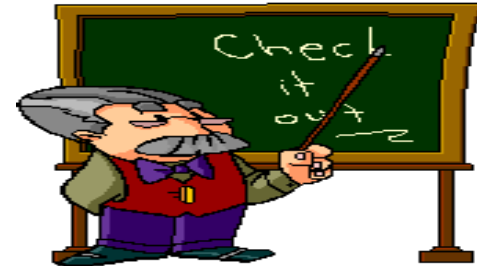
Child Coverage



- Rules that apply to Spouse and Child and Child Only SBP elections.
 - Eligible until 18, or 22 if full-time, unmarried student
 - Unmarried incapacitated child - eligible forever (if condition was incurred pre-18 or 22)
 - It is recommended that you research the impact SBP for a fully disabled child may have on other benefits the child has or will receive.
 - Election to pay annuity to a special needs trust for an SBP eligible unmarried incapacitated child allowed. (Contact RSO for details.)
 - All eligible children covered at one cost
 - Cost stops when no eligible children remain
 - Annuity divided equally among all eligible children
 - **A child can receive more than one child SBP annuity.**



Advice--Seriously Consider Child Coverage!



- **Q: Why bother to cover my 21-year old son who graduates from college soon?**
- **A: Because....**
 - incapacitation may occur while still eligible
 - “closing” the child category when there are eligible children closes it forever
 - family complete? perhaps a step-, grand-, foster- or natural child is in your future
- **Cost stops when no eligible children remain**
- **Spouse and Child or Child Only SBP is inexpensive**



“Insurable Interest” Election



- **Who Can Elect:** unmarried Soldiers with no or one dependent child
- **Eligible Beneficiaries:** relative more closely related than cousin; or business associate w/financial interest in Soldier (proof needed)
- **Base Amount:** Must be full retired pay
- **Cost:** 10% + 5% for each full 5 year younger beneficiary is than Soldier (maximum 40%)
- **Benefit:** 55% of retired pay *less* SBP cost
- **Loss of Beneficiary:** May elect new beneficiary within 180 days of current beneficiary's death.
- In order for an Insurable Interest election for a medically retired Soldier to be valid, they must live one year from retirement or if they die within one year, death must not be attributable to a medical condition for which they were medically retired
- Insurable interest SBP elections can be cancelled at any time
- If married or you have a child after retirement, you have one year to cancel insurable interest SBP and elect spouse and or child SBP or you close those beneficiary SBP categories
- Insurable interest cannot be elected after retirement



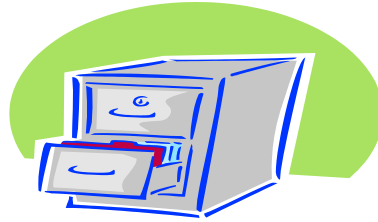
Former Spouse (FS) “Particulars”



- **Former spouse SBP coverage can be: purely voluntary; incorporated into a written agreement; or court-ordered**
- **Divorce prior to retirement:**
 - **If court ordered, Soldier should elect former spouse at retirement or could be held in contempt of court**
 - **Former spouse can ensure former spouse SBP is established by provide DFAS-CL the divorce decree with subsequent court orders plus a DD Form 2656-10 (Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP)/Reserve Component (RC) SBP Request for Deemed Election) within one year of the court order first awarding former spouse SBP**
- **Former spouse coverage can be changed if court order is amended or vacated by former spouse's death**
- **If former spouse is voluntary, can cancel FS SBP and elect for new spouse within one year of marriage**
- **Former spouse and children only covers children of the marriage to the former spouse**
- **When a former spouse SBP beneficiary dies, the Retired Soldier can designate a current spouse (contact RSO for details/timeframe)**



No Beneficiary at Retirement?



- Keep SBP literature
- Keep “Echoes” -- RSOs’ phone numbers listed
- Contact nearest RSO for a new briefing as soon as eligible beneficiary is gained
- Decision whether or not to enroll new family members **MUST** be made within one year of gaining them or you will close that SBP category
- New spouse becomes eligible at 1-year anniversary or birth of a child of that marriage.
(SBP costs do not begin until then)

Base Amount



- amount of retired pay (in dollars) participation is based on
- minimum, by law = \$300
- maximum, by law = full retired pay
- may choose any \$\$ amount between
- Soldiers retiring under CSB/REDUX may choose full base amount based on retired pay they would have received under High-3.
- Soldiers retiring under the Blended Retirement System (BRS) who elect a lump sum at retirement may choose full base amount based on retired pay they would have received without the lump sum election



SBP Cost Formula (*Spouse Only*)

Formula:

- 6.5% of base amount selected
- cost lowered in Mar '90



Examples:

Base Amount:	\$2000	\$3000	\$4000
Cost (6.5%)	\$ 130	\$ 195	\$ 260
Annuity provided:	\$1100	\$1650	\$2200



Sample SBP Costs



(Ages: Member=44; Spouse=41; Youngest Child=12)

Monthly Cost

Base Amount	Spouse Only	Spouse & Child	Child Only	Annuity Amount

\$4000	\$260	\$260.04	\$ 6.00	\$2200
\$3000	\$195	\$195.03	\$ 4.50	\$1650
\$2000	\$130	\$130.02	\$ 3.00	\$1100

This chart shows the relationship of the costs for Spouse, Spouse and Child, and Child Only SBP. For Child Only the child is the primary beneficiary and the cost is significantly higher than the child cost for Spouse and Child where the child is a secondary beneficiary and the spouse is the primary beneficiary.



SBP's *Real* Cost



	<u>NO SBP*</u>	<u>SBP</u>
Retired Pay	\$2,000	\$2,000
SBP Cost	\$ 0	\$ 130
Taxable Pay	\$2,000	\$1,870
Tax Paid (24%)	\$ 480	\$ 449
Tax Savings	\$ 0	\$ 31
Actual SBP Cost \$	0	\$ 99

* The SBP participant receives a \$31/month tax savings – and a future survivor benefit of \$1,100. Tax rates will vary base on each individual's financial situation.



“Threshold” Spouse Premium Calculation



- Threshold is portion of base amount which costs 2.5%
- Only applies to Soldiers whose Date Initially Entered Military Service (DIEMS) date was prior to 1 Mar 90, medical retirements, or reserve non-regular age 60 retirement.
- Indexed annually to AD pay raise(s)
- Instead of a \$300 base, cover threshold amount at 2.5%
- The threshold spouse premium calculation is more beneficial in cost for a base amount less than \$1,863
- Threshold spouse premium calculation 2.5% for threshold plus 10% for base amount that exceeds threshold
- New spouse SBP premium calculation is 6.5% of the base amount
- DFAS will apply the calculation with the least cost
- The chart on the next page shows spouse SBP cost examples comparing the threshold calculation and the new 6.5% calculation with the point, \$1,862, where all base amounts exceeding that amount cost less with the 6.5% calculation



Threshold Spouse SBP Calculation

2020 SBP Cost Examples Based on 3.1% Active Duty Pay Raise Effective 1 Jan 20

Base Amount	Annuity	Premium	Premium
Monthly Amount of Retired Pay Covered	Monthly Annuity Either Method	Old Method Threshold Monthly Cost (Note 1)	6.5% of Base Amount Monthly Cost (Note 2)
\$300	\$165	\$7.50	\$19.50
\$869 (Note 3)	\$478	\$21.73	\$56.49
\$900	\$495	\$24.83	\$58.50
\$1,000	\$550	\$34.83	\$65.00
\$1,200	\$660	\$54.83	\$78.00
\$1,300	\$715	\$64.83	\$84.50
\$1,400	\$770	\$74.83	\$91.00
\$1,500	\$825	\$84.83	\$97.50
\$1,600	\$880	\$94.83	\$104.00
\$1,862.15 (Note 4)	\$1,024	\$121.05	\$121.04
\$2,000	\$1,100	\$134.83	\$130.00
\$2,200	\$1,210	\$154.83	\$143.00
\$2,400	\$1,320	\$174.83	\$156.00
\$2,600	\$1,430	\$194.83	\$169.00
\$2,800	\$1,540	\$214.83	\$182.00
\$3,000	\$1,650	\$234.83	\$195.00
\$3,500	\$1,925	\$284.83	\$227.50
\$4,000	\$2,200	\$334.83	\$260.00
\$4,500	\$2,475	\$384.83	\$292.50
\$5,000	\$2,750	\$434.83	\$325.00
\$5,500	\$3,025	\$484.83	\$357.50
\$6,000	\$3,300	\$534.83	\$390.00
\$7,000	\$3,850	\$634.83	\$455.00

Notes: The SBP threshold method applies to a Soldier who meets one of the following criteria: entered service prior to 1 Mar 90 if retiring for active duty length of service, medically retiring, or retiring from the Reserves with a non-regular retirement. For these Soldiers, two SBP spouse cost methods are available. The most advantageous one is used by DFAS.

2. SBP Cost Threshold Method: 2.5% of threshold amount + 10% of the remainder of base amount.

3. SBP Cost 6.5% Base Amount Method: 6.5% of the base amount.

4. Threshold Amount (that which costs 2.5%) is \$869; cost is \$21.73.

5. Base amounts on or above \$1,862.15 receive best treatment under SBP cost 6.5% method cited above (.065 times base amount).



Can I Tailor SBP To Meet My Needs? Yes....Think “Base Amount”



Challenge: What base amount should I cover to meet our needs?

Solution: Divide the goal amount by 55%

Examples:

\$2000 annuity -- choose \$3636 as base

\$1000 annuity -- choose \$1818 as base



“30-Year Paid-Up Provision”

Since 1 Oct 2008 no further cost (but annuity payable)

AFTER...

30 years of paying SBP Premiums (360 payments)...

AND

reaching age 70





Replacement Value of Annuity

Ret Pay: \$5000

Member's Age: 42

Spouse's Age: 40



<u>Spouse's Age At Soldier's Death</u>	<u>Annual After-Tax SBP Annuity</u>	<u>Replacement Value of SBP*</u>
42	\$29,700	\$830,444
53	\$38,752	\$944,099
63	\$52,079	\$998,434
73	\$69,990	\$939,095
83	\$94,061	\$738,339

- This slide shows that it takes a surprising amount of lot of life insurance to replace SBP even as the spouse beneficiary ages.**

*Face value of insurance needed to equal SBP benefit.

Assumes an inflation amount of 2.75% and return on invested insurance of 5.75%.

Based on DOD Actuary SBP Program, Spouse will live to live to 86.



Replacement Value of Annuity

Ret. Pay: \$3000

Member's Age: 42

Spouse's Age: 41



Spouse's Age at Death	Annual After-Tax SBP Benefit	Replacement Value of SBP*
43	\$17,820	\$433,516
51	\$23,949	\$598,904
61	\$32,185	\$635,844
71	\$43,254	\$614,876
81	\$58,130	\$513,003

This slide shows that it takes a surprising amount of lot of life insurance to replace SBP even as the spouse beneficiary ages due to SBP COLA increases due to inflation.

*Face value of insurance needed to equal SBP benefit.

Note: Assumes return on invested insurance of 5.75%, spouse lives to 84, and insurance replaces SBP.

This program can be accessed on the DOD Actuary homepage, www.dod.mil/actuary/.



Replacing SBP with Life Insurance Proceeds--How Long Do They Last?

Retired 2018 and died in 2019

Ret Pay = \$2,695; Life Insurance = \$400K), SBP =\$1,482



3% Average Inflation

<i>Death Year</i>	<i>Spouse Age</i>	<i>Insurance Proceeds</i>	<i>After-Tax SBP</i>
2033	60	\$400,000	\$28,772
2043	70	\$239,475	\$38,668
2049	76	\$ 3,802	\$46,171

6% COLA Average

<i>Death Year</i>	<i>Spouse Age</i>	<i>Insurance Proceeds</i>	<i>After-Tax SBP</i>
2033	60	\$400,000	\$53,278
2038	65	\$174,943	\$71,298
2040	67	\$ 6,226	\$80,111

This slide shows the amount of insurance needed over time increases due to inflation.

- In this example, member replaces SBP with insurance and dies when spouse is age 60.
- With inflation, SBP increases with COLA while insurance remains constant
- Assumes return on invested insurance of 5.75%, spouse lives to 84, and insurance replaces SBP
- With 3% inflation average, spouse's insurance proceeds run out at age 76
- With 6% inflation average, spouse's insurance proceeds run out at age 67

Note: Program available at www.dod.mil/actuary/, click on "SBP Programs."



Five Main Points When Comparing SBP to Life Insurance

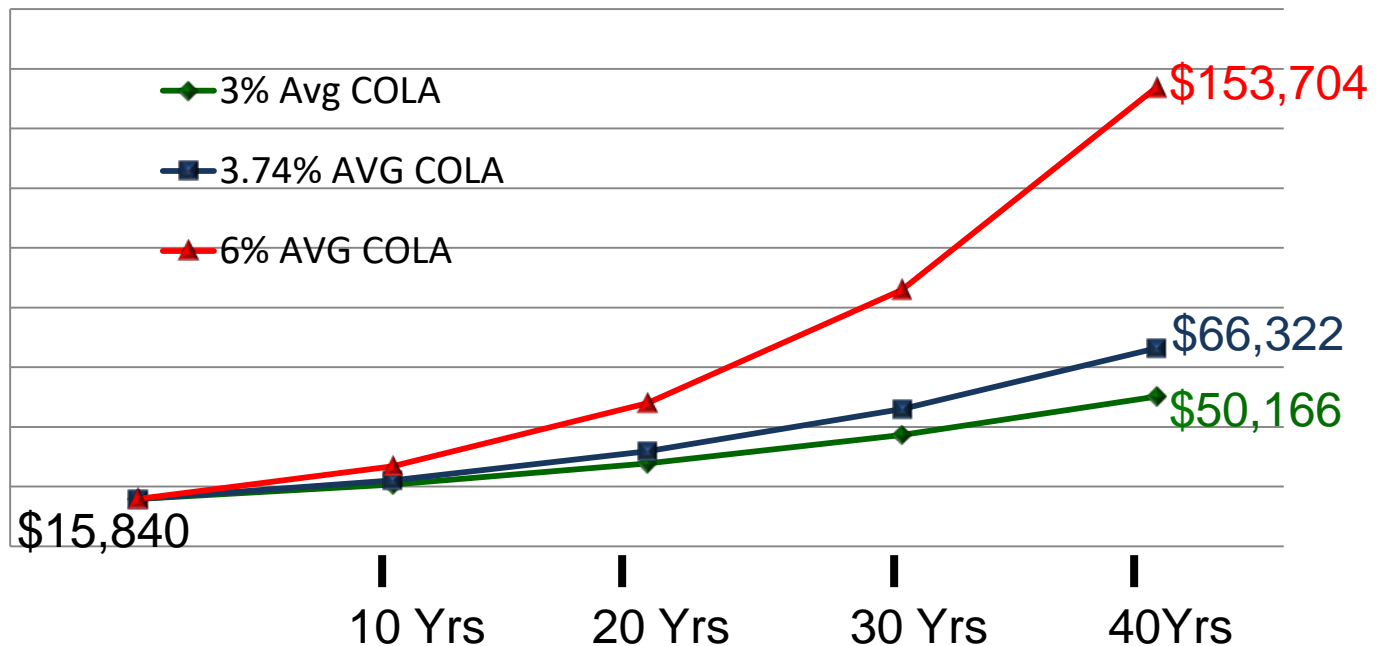
- The previous slides show it takes a surprising amount of insurance to replace SBP for a surviving spouse
- It will take a lot more insurance if the spouse outlives the Retired Soldier by the longest period of time
 - Remember 45 percent of SBP annuitants outlive average life expectancy
- The previous slide shows the amount of insurance needed over time is dependent on future inflation and increase with inflation
- To increase insurance with inflation or need is harder to obtain and increasingly expensive as you age
- If retired for **disability**, insurance may be very expensive or even impossible to obtain due to existing medical conditions
- SBP provides protection against inflation eroding future buying power by proving COLA raises that insurance provides only by buying more insurance



SBP Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA)

Yearly SBP
Annuity

The effects of COLA on SBP over 40 years for a SFC with a \$2,400 SBP base amount, yearly annuity is \$15,840 in 2019.



You pay in today's dollars for an SBP annuity paid in future dollars*

- **3% COLA** represents current average inflation
- **3.74% COLA** represents inflation average over previous 40 years
- **6% COLA** represents moderate inflation

All calculations made using DOD Office of the Actuary tables
** SOURCE: US Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics



Years Required for Annuity to Exceed Premiums Paid for Spouse SBP



Length of time Premiums Paid

5 Years
10 Years
15 Years
20 Years
25 Years
*30 Years

Years for Annuity to Exceed Premiums Paid

8 Months
1 Year, 1 Months
1 Year, 6 Months
1 Year, 10 Months
2 Years, 2 Months
2 Years, 5 Months

*No further cost after 360 (30 years) premium payments and age 70)
(Based on data provided by the DOD Actuary Office)



Medical Retirement SBP Considerations



- Soldiers being retired with a service connected VA disability need to consider the following in their SBP decision
 - SBP and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
 - Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA)
 - SBP coverage for survivors, if VA determines death is not service connected and DIC is not payable
 - Withdrawal from SBP based on a VA Total Disability Rating
 - SBP premiums start from effective date of the retirement, even if retroactive retirement date
 - What happens to family if SBP is not elected and the VA does not consider the death to be service connected



SBP and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)



- SBP and DIC
 - DIC is a tax free annuity payable to survivors only if Retired Soldier's death is determined by the VA to be service connected
 - SBP provides annuity if death is not determined to be service connected
 - Spouse SBP is offset dollar for dollar by DIC currently
 - SBP premiums are refunded to the spouse for any portion of SBP that is offset by DIC
 - Surviving spouse receives any portion of SBP that exceeds DIC
 - Based on a court case, a surviving spouse authorized both SBP and DIC will receive both if remarried after age 57



Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA)

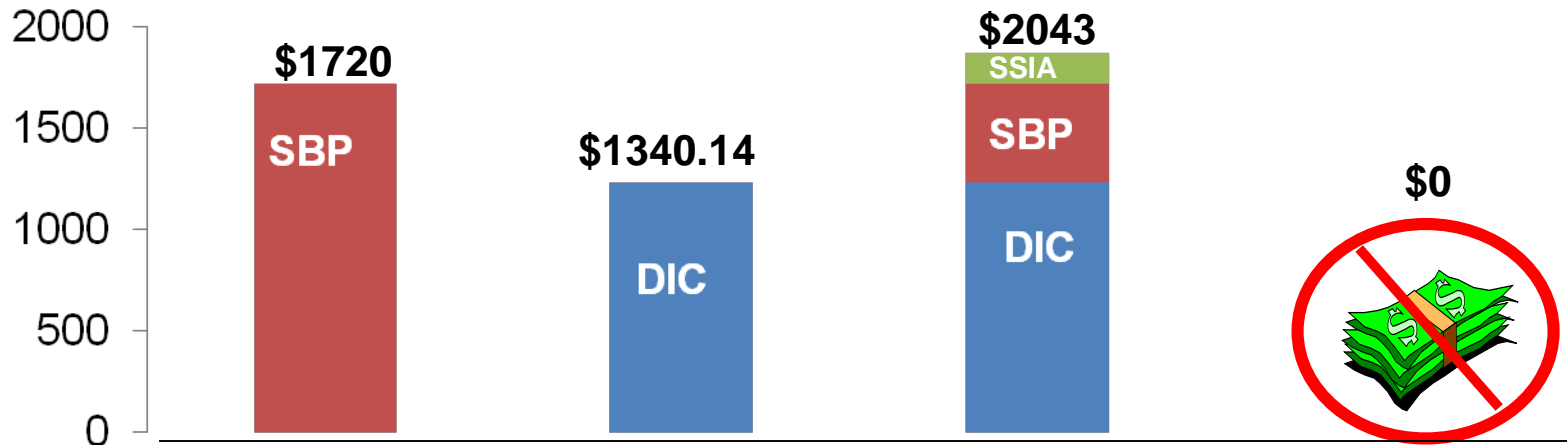
- SSIA is a permanent benefit **only** paid to surviving spouses whose SBP annuity is fully or partially offset by DIC.
- SSIA will be paid to surviving spouses who meet the following:
 - Receiving DIC
 - Receiving an SBP annuity either partially or completely offset by DIC
 - SBP offset by DIC is at least equal to the SSIA
- Payments will increase with COLA
 - Will increase with COLA
- SSIA is taxable





SBP/DIC Survivor Scenarios

Situation: Deceased retired SFC, 80% VA disability employable
Monthly VA/DOD Surviving Spouse Compensation



	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4
SBP Elected?	Yes	No	Yes	No
Death Service Connected?	No	Yes	Yes	No
SBP/DIC Offset	No	No	Yes	No
SBP Annuity	\$1720	No	\$379.86	No
DIC Annuity	No	\$1340.14	\$1340.14	No
SSIA	No	No	\$323.00	No
SBP Premium Refund?	No	No	Yes for portion offset by DIC	No



Withdrawal from SBP Based on VA Total Disability Rating



- You may withdraw from SBP, if you have a service-connected disability that has been rated by the VA as totally disabling for not less than **five continuous years** from the date of retirement --or-- if awarded after retirement for **ten or more continuous years**.
- Withdrawal is allowed because surviving spouse will qualify for DIC benefits because VA will presume death is service-connected
- **SBP provides coverage for survivors when death not service connected**
- When a Retired Soldier who withdrew for total disability dies, when VA verifies DIC will be paid, the surviving spouse receives a full refund of all SBP costs paid for portion of SBP offset by DIC

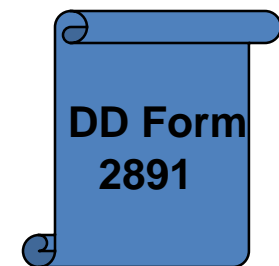
Note: If not rated by VA as totally disabled for the above timeframes, there is no guarantee VA will determine death is service connected and your survivors will receive DIC.



Payment of SBP Cost when Retired Pay is Completely Offset by VA Disability Pay

- If your VA disability compensation completely offsets your retired pay and you do not receive Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC), there is no automatic deduction of monthly SBP premiums available
 - Unpaid SBP premiums carried over into a new billing month will accrue a six (6) percent interest fee
- By submitting a DD Form 2891 (Authorization For RSFPP and or SBP Costs Deductions) to your servicing VA office, you can authorize VA to deduct your SBP premiums from your VA disability compensation and pay directly to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service or you can also pay SBP premiums by direct payment to the following address:

Defense Finance and Accounting Service
DFAS-CL, SBP and RSFPP Remittance
P.O. Box 979013
St. Louis, MO 63197-9013
- Do not submit an SBP premium direct payment or by submitting a DD Form 2891 to VA until DFAS provides a Retired Account Statement (RAS) informing you that your retired pay is offset by VA disability and you are unable to pay your SBP premiums

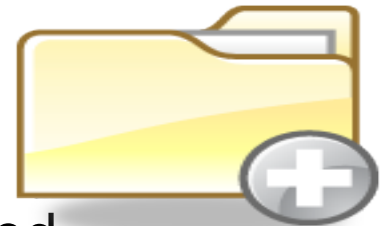




SBP POSITIVES

The previous slides discussed and showed examples of the following positive aspects of SBP. You need to take these into account when you make your SBP decision.

- Tax-free premiums
- Inflation-adjusted annuity
- Level-term plan annuity of 55 percent
- Age, **health**, smoking, sex, lifestyle -- not considered
- Flexible: can terminate between 25th and 36th month following retirement
- “Paid-up” after 360 premium payments and at least age 70
- Survivors cannot outlive annuity
- Cost in today’s dollars; benefit in tomorrow’s dollars
- Can only be changed by Congress
- Income safety net; peace of mind
- Every active duty Soldier enrolled at no cost from Day One
- Subsidized by the government

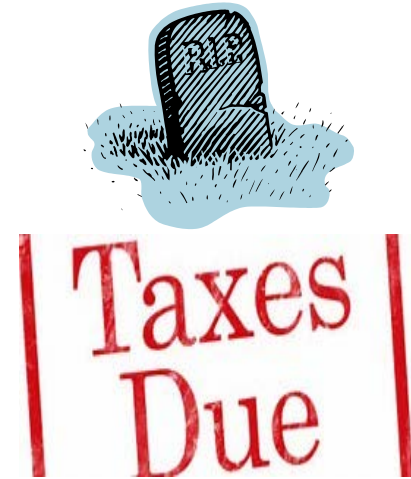




Life's Certainties?

Civilians:

- 1--death
- 2--taxes



Retired Soldiers:

- 3--Can't outlive retired pay

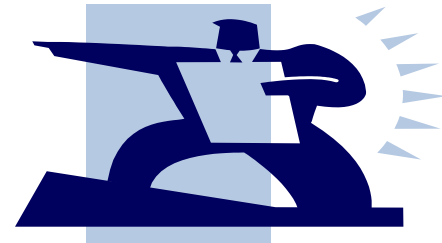
Annuitants:

- 4--Can't outlive SBP annuity





You Be the Judge Who Was Responsible?



“I think I should be able to receive my husband’s Army pension to assist me in my everyday living expenses. He served this country for 20 years...in the Korean War & WWII. He was the recipient of the Purple Heart.If he were alive today he would still be receiving his pension....”



Actual Widows' Views on SBP



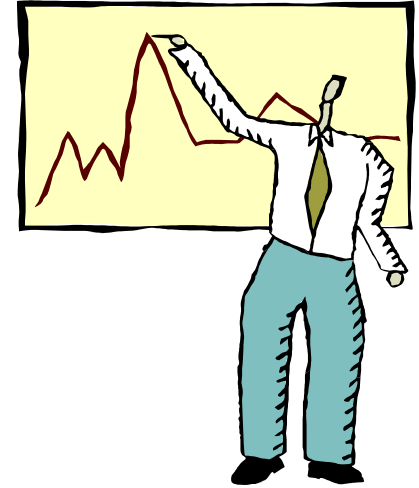
“....each day I thank my late husband for his taking SBP....it allows me to live with decency and independent of others....”

“....I want to thank the Army for sending me an annuity to live on. From the bottom of my heart I am so thankful. With no life insurance on my late husband, without the annuity, I could not live in the wonderful retirement community....”



HQDA's Advice To All Retiring Soldiers

“Do not forfeit SBP without having full knowledge of what you are giving up.”



(Director, Army Retirement Services Office)



For More SBP Information....



Log on to:

<http://soldierforlife.army.mil/retirement/>

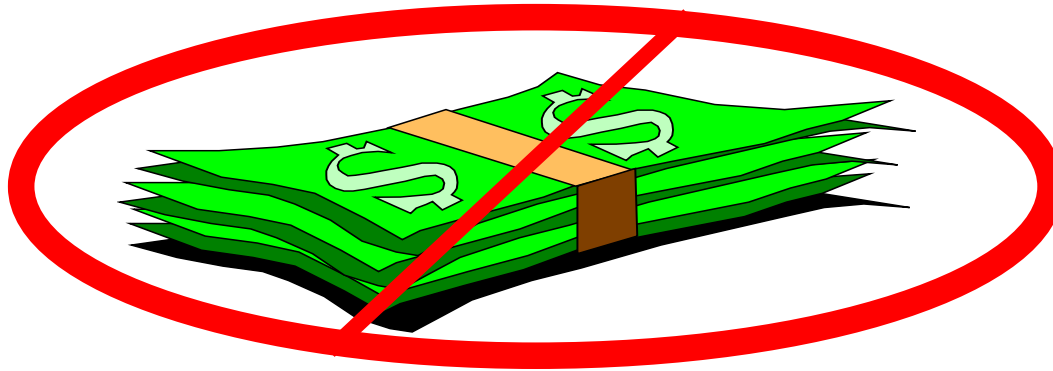
<http://myarmybenefits.us.army.mil/>

Contact: **your nearest Retirement Services Officer (RSO)**





REMEMBER RETIRED PAY STOPS



WITH THE DEATH
OF THE RETIRED SOLDIER

**SBP ALLOWS YOU TO PROVIDE A PORTION OF YOUR
RETIRED PAY TO YOUR ELIGIBLE SURVIVORS**