



VA Combined Rating

OCTOBER 2017

Have you ever wondered how the VA came up with the combined rating that it gave you? Have you ever noticed that $1 + 1$ does not equal 2 with the VA? One of the most common complaints we get from veterans is 'How in the world did the VA get the combined rating that they did with all the ratings I have?' When it comes to service connected compensation claims, the VA takes the view that it should not add whole numbers together to get your rating but, instead, the VA takes percentages of percentages. It is as if the VA says if you are 10% disabled then you are 90% healthy. Therefore, the next rating is not added but is used to take a percentage of the 'healthy' 90%. So for a veteran with two 10 ratings the first ten percent rating would be 10% of 100, which is 10%. The second ten percent rating would be 10% of the 90% (again the 'healthy' percent of the veteran), which is 9%. So the combined rating would be 19%. The percentages are all rounded up or down to the nearest ten percent. Here, the rating would be rounded to 20%. The combined rating system doesn't favor the veteran when he gets closer to 100%. It gets harder and harder to get that higher rating, especially once a veteran is over 50%. For instance, if a veteran has two ratings of 50% and two of 20% the combined rating is 80%. So even though $50+50+20+20$ equals 140 in real math; it is only 80 in VA math.

The difference that it leads to in compensation is huge. According to the VA compensation rating table, a veteran, with no dependents, rated at 80% would receive \$1,551.48 per month. A single veteran rated at 100%, on the other hand, would receive \$2,903.83 per month. However, a veteran can step up to 100% through total disability due to individual unemployability. In this situation, the veteran must show that he cannot work and that he meets a certain rating.

Need assistance? Your CVSO staff is here for you. If you have any questions on your VA disability percentage, would like to add other issues, ask for a higher rating, or wonder how to get rated under the IU, don't hesitate to contact us or simply stop by the office. We are located at 550 Quarry Road in San Carlos or call us at (650) 802-6598. If You Served, You Earned!

WHERE TO CONNECT WITH US:

Tuesdays, 8:30am to 3pm, VA Menlo Park Building #348

October 5th & 19th - San Bruno VA Clinic
8am-3:30pm

October 12th & 26th- 8:00am-3:30pm, VA Palo Alto Building #4, Room #B210

October 20th - 8am-3:30pm, Peninsula Vet Center
345 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call **1-800-273-8255 and Press 1**, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available. <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/>



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