



News for U.S. Military Widows in Korea

1. SBP Going Up for Age 62 and Older

Widows who are age 62 or older and who receive the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity can expect to see an increase of about 15% over what they receive now. They will see the increase in the next pay they receive at the end of October.

This is the first step in eliminating the Social Security offset to SBP. The offset reduces SBP from 55% of retired pay to 35% when the widow reaches age 62. Restoring full SBP is being done in 5% increments. The next increment will occur in April 2006, then in October 2006 and October 2007. At that time, they will be receiving their full SBP entitlement, the same as those who are under age 62.

2. Permanent ID Card at Age 75

Up to now, all dependents and widows must renew their ID card every four years. That has now changed for some people. When a dependent or widow reaches age 75, they can now receive a permanent ID card. If you are 75 or older, you can get the permanent ID card when it's time to renew. But you can only renew your ID card when it's within 90 days of the expiration date.

3. COLA Increase

Each year, the government includes a cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) for pay, benefits and annuities. This year you will see an increase of 4.1% to the money you receive.

4. Other Changes

Other changes to benefits and annuities depend on Congress. Congress has been slow to make decision on these changes. So you will have to wait for the next newsletter to learn if any changes affect your benefits.

Thank you.

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