

## **Special Survivor Indemnity Allowance (SSIA)**

A provision of the National Defense Authorization Act Fiscal Year 2008, Public Law 110-181, established the SSIA for surviving spouses who are the beneficiary of the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuity, and their SBP annuity is partially or fully offset by their Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC), paid by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The provision that established SSIA also applies to the surviving spouses of members who died on active duty whose SBP annuity is partially or fully offset by their DIC. The SSIA starts at \$50 per month for fiscal year 2009 and then increases each fiscal year by \$10 until the SSIA is \$100 for fiscal years following 2013. SSIA will not be paid for months prior to October 2008 and will terminate February 2016.

Surviving spouses whose SBP annuity is suspended due to remarriage prior to age 55 are not eligible for SSIA for the period their SBP annuity is suspended. If the marriage ends and the surviving spouse regains eligibility for SBP and DIC, they will also regain eligibility for SSIA. The SBP annuity for children is not offset by DIC. Therefore, child SBP beneficiaries are not authorized SSIA. Letters will be sent to all surviving spouses who qualify to receive this benefit. Surviving spouses not in receipt of this letter who believe they are entitled and have never applied for the SBP annuity benefit, should contact DFAS at 1-800-321-1080.

There are many state and federal benefits and programs available to veterans and their dependents. To find out if you are eligible for any of these benefits, visit or call our office. We can and will assist you in completing all required application forms. You can also get information on the web from the Kings County Veterans Service Office website at [www.countyofkings.com](http://www.countyofkings.com).

Joe Wright, retired Navy Master Chief Petty Officer, is the Veterans Service Officer for Kings County. Send your questions to the Veterans Service Office, 1400 West Lacey Blvd, Hanford, CA 93230, the phone number is 582-3211 ex. 2662 or email [joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us](mailto:joe.wright@co.kings.ca.us).