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## UNION COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

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### News Release

## Veterans Owed Stop-Loss Special Payments

**March 8, 2010, Monroe, NC** – Active, reserve and former service members who had their enlistment extended or retirement suspended due to Stop-Loss are eligible for Retroactive Stop-Loss Special Pay, if they served on active duty between Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 30, 2009.

The decision means up to 180,000 soldiers are eligible to receive payments of \$500 for each month they were retained on active duty beyond their original enlistment term.

Stop-Loss is a tool used by the military that allows the Department of Defense to retain critical service members needed in a time of war to meet the demands of the war. Since the terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, many soldiers have seen their service time extended a year or longer than originally planned.

Those eligible for the retroactive Stop-Loss special payments have from now until Oct. 21, 2010 to submit their applications to their respective services. Service members must provide documented proof they were Stop-Lossed with their claim. Family members of deceased service members should contact the appropriate military service for assistance in filing their claim.

Service members who were discharged or released from the Armed Forces under other than honorable conditions are not permitted to receive the Retroactive Stop-Loss Special Pay.

Through December 2009, only about 15,000 veterans and current members had applied for Stop-Loss payment. The average lump sum payment made to eligible Army veterans so far is \$4,500. That suggests an average Stop-Loss period of nine months, considerably longer than required by any other service.

To learn more, go to <http://myarmyonesource.com/News/2010/02/StopLossPay>. Contact and application information for each branch of service is located on this Web site. You may also call the Union County Veterans Service Office at 704-283-3711 or 3744 for more information.

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