

# The CRSC Quickstart Kit

Worksheets from *The CRSC Playbook* — eligibility self-check, evidence inventory, and the Soto retroactive estimator. Print this, or fill it on screen.

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## WORKSHEET 1

### Eligibility Self-Check — The Four Pillars

**Pillar 1 — Retired status.** Are you receiving, or eligible to receive, military retired pay? Includes 20-year/longevity retirement, Reserve/Guard "gray area" retirement at age 60, and Chapter 61 medical retirement (any length of service).  Yes  No

**Pillar 2 — Retirement documentation.** Do you have a DD-214 (or equivalent) clearly identifying your retirement type?  Yes  No *If no, request a corrected copy from your service records center before filing.*

**Pillar 3 — VA disability rating.** Do you have at least one final, awarded VA disability rating of 10% or higher?  Yes  No

Do you have the full VA rating decision narrative (not just the summary letter)?  Yes  No

**Pillar 4 — Combat-related determination.** Is at least one rated condition plausibly tied to any of these?

Armed conflict  Hazardous service (airborne, EOD, dive, aviation crew, special ops)  Training that simulated war (NTC, JRTC, MOUT, live-fire, force-on-force)  Instrumentality of war (military vehicle, aircraft, weapon, combat equipment, body armor/ruck)  A recognized exposure (Agent Orange, burn pits, PACT Act)

**Result:** All four pillars met = you are likely eligible. Any pillar failed = address it before filing. Many retirees miss Category 4 — instrumentality of war.

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## WORKSHEET 2

### Evidence Inventory Worksheet

Complete one row for each rated condition you plan to claim under CRSC. If you cannot fill the evidence column, the last column tells you what to source. **Category key:** 1 = Armed Conflict · 2 = Hazardous Service · 3 = Training Simulating War · 4 = Instrumentality of War · P = Presumptive.

Rated condition	Cat.	Qualifying event	Evidence I have	Evidence to source


*When every row is complete, you have a packet plan. Without it, you have a pile of paper.*

**WORKSHEET 3**

**Soto Retroactive Estimator**

A rough-cut estimate of additional retroactive CRSC you may be owed under *Soto v. United States* (2025). For a precise calculation use the calculator at [standfastvg.com/quickstart](https://standfastvg.com/quickstart), or engage Standfast for a free assessment.

**Inputs**

Effective date of your earliest combat-related VA rating:

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Date you first received CRSC payments (if previously approved):

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Number of months between the two dates above:

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Your current monthly CRSC payment: \$

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**Calculation**

Step 1. Current monthly CRSC x months not previously paid = Gross estimate: \$

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Step 2. Adjust downward 15–25% for lower historical ratings & COLA effects: \$

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Step 3. Subtract any retroactive amount you have already received: \$

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Estimated additional Soto retroactive: \$

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**Accuracy notes.** The earliest possible CRSC date is the latest of January 2008, your retirement, or the VA rating’s effective date. Under DoD guidance (Interim 20 Aug 2025 / Clarifying 30 Jan 2026), full retroactivity applies if you applied for CRSC before 20 Aug 2025 or had a VA claim pending that day; if you apply after that date with no pending VA claim, current guidance limits you to your application date — a limit now challenged in *Ploe v. United States*. New filers should file promptly and preserve their

rights in writing. This is a back-of-the-envelope estimate; your branch and DFAS calculate the actual amount. Estimates over \$30,000 should be coordinated with a CPA before the lump sum hits.

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