

# Planning Ahead With the Survivor Benefit Plan



**Michael** is retiring after 30 years of service – and deciding whether he should enroll in the Survivor Benefit Plan.

## SBP Quick Facts

- SBP is an annuity program that pays a monthly benefit to eligible survivors.
  - This monthly benefit is based on a portion of retired pay the deceased military member or retiree would have been entitled to receive.
- Without SBP, retired pay ends when a retiree dies.
- SBP **beneficiaries** can be spouses, children or other insurable interests.
- Retirees pay premiums from gross retired pay for SBP coverage.

Michael plans to research how SBP may fit into his [estate planning](#).

He also plans to talk to **Sharon** – the surviving spouse of a fellow soldier. Since her husband died, Sharon has been receiving SBP payments. The security of inflation-protected income has helped her family significantly.

Sharon recommends three questions for Michael to consider:

1. Will SBP benefit his family?
2. How much SBP would his family need?
3. How much SBP can he afford?

Here's how Michael – and you! – can learn more:

- Visit [Military Compensation's Survivor Benefit Plan page](#).
- Watch this short series of [videos on the Survivor Benefit Plan](#).
- Talk to an SBP counselor at your nearest [installation](#).



As you reach new milestones and complete [service-required trainings](#), look to the Office of Financial Readiness [website](#) for more information and follow @DoDFINRED on:    

