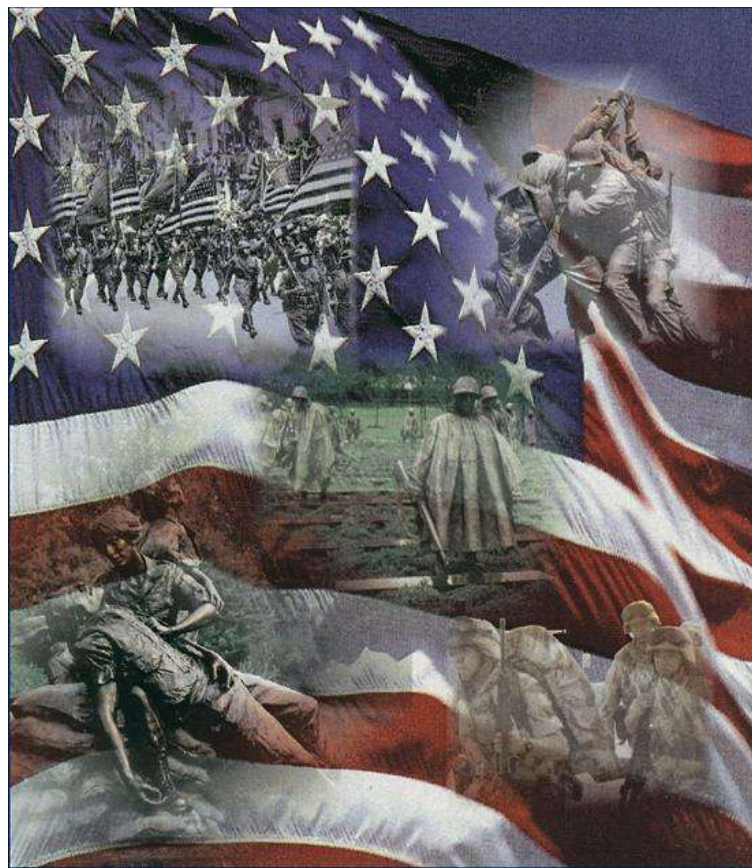




VETSUCCESS.GOV



VetSuccess
2012 RPO Conference

Agenda



- VR&E Overview
- Coming Home to Work
- VetSuccess on Campus
- PL 111-377
- VOW
- VetSuccess.gov
- Employment Outcomes – FY2011
- VA-ONCE

VR&E Program Purpose



- ❑ To provide services and assistance to Servicemembers and Veterans with service-connected disabilities
 - Assist Veterans in obtaining and maintaining suitable employment
 - Help Veterans achieve independence in daily living

VetSuccess Eligibility and Entitlement



□ Active Duty Servicemembers:

- Expect to receive a honorable discharge upon separation from active duty
- Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment services
- Obtain a memorandum rating of 20% or more from VA
- Entitlement based on establishment of employment handicap resulting from SCD
- Sec. 1631(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act (PL 110-181) established VR&E eligibility for severely injured active duty individuals before a VA rating is issued. Sec. 231 of PL 112-56 extends the sunset date of NDAA to Dec. 31, 2014.

VetSuccess Eligibility and Entitlement (continued)



□ Veterans:

- Honorable or other than dishonorable discharge
- VA service-connected disability rating or memo rating of 10% or more
- Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment services
- Entitlement based on establishment of employment handicap resulting from SCD
- Serious employment handicap establishes entitlement for veterans rated 10%

Basic Benefit Information



- ❑ 48 months of entitlement
 - May be utilized within 12 years from the date of initial VA disability rating notification
 - Exception for those with a Serious Employment Handicap

VetSuccess Process



■ Application
 ■ Entitlement Decision
 ■ Evaluation and Planning
 ■ Tracks
 ■ Employment Services
 ■ Rehabilitated

- Application received (VONAP or 28-1900)
- Veteran's eligibility established (GED processing used to establish pending 719)
- Schedule veteran for initial counseling appointment if eligible

- Work with veteran to identify track
- Establish vocational or independent living goal
- Define services needed
- Develop written plan of services

- On-going case management (max of 18 months)
- Provide employment services
 - Vetsuccess.gov
 - Interview skills
 - Job placement assistance
 - Referral to DOL

- VRC meets with veteran
- Conduct VR&E orientation to include Five Tracks Video
- Conduct vocational evaluation to assess skills, abilities & interests
- Determine employment handicap (VR&E entitlement criteria) and serious EH
- Determine feasibility for employment

- Re-Employment
- Rapid Access To Employment
- Self Employment (monitor 1 yr min)
- Employment Thru Long-Term Services
- Indep. Living (24 mo. max with 6 mo. Ext by VR&EO)

- Held suitable employment or improved ability to live independently

Programs of Services



Chapter 31

- Services to obtain and maintain suitable employment and/or to achieve maximum level of independence in daily living

Chapter 35

- Educational counseling for children and widows/spouses of veterans who have a permanent and total service connected disability

Chapter 36

- Educational/vocational counseling

Chapter 18

- Vocational training and rehabilitation benefits for children born with Spina Bifida of certain veterans who served in Vietnam or Korea

Coming Home to Work



Medical Hold

OEF/OIF Coordinator Outreach

- Coming Home to Work Program
- Memorandum Rating
- Chapter 36 Educational and Vocational Counseling

Prior to Separation
from
Active Duty

- Disabled Transition Assistance Program (DTAP)
- Memorandum Rating
- Chapter 36 Educational and Vocational Counseling
- Guard/Reserves: Post Deployment Health Reassessment Briefings and DoD Yellow Ribbon Program
- VAAP

Initial Comp
Rating

- OEF/OIF Coordinator Outreach
- VR&E Benefit Information and Application for Benefits mailed with notification of compensation rating
- VR&E motivational outreach

Subsequent
Rating or
Increase

- VR&E Benefit Information and Application for Benefits mailed with notification of compensation rating
- VR&E Motivational Outreach

On-going Outreach

- Integrating outreach and early intervention throughout Program
- Work closely with AW2 command and WTU command
- VetSuccess on Campus Program

VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC)



“Success Beyond Service”

The VetSuccess on Campus program is a collaborative effort between the Host University and the VA to provide on campus support for student Veterans.

VetSuccess on Campus



- ❑ To ease the transition of Servicemembers to Veteran-student status by providing coordinated delivery of benefits and services
 - Maximize retention and graduation rates for Post 9/11 GI Bill participants
 - Pilot began in June 2009 at University of South Florida
 - Initiative expanded to 7 additional sites:
 - Cleveland State University
 - Rhode Island College
 - Community College Rhode Island
 - Texas A&M Central Texas
 - Arizona State University
 - Salt Lake Community College
 - San Diego State University

VetSuccess on Campus



- ❑ In FY2012, VSOC will be expanded to at least 20 additional sites
- ❑ Increasing the footprint of VSOC is expected to increase the number of Veteran-students successfully graduating from college and entering viable careers
- ❑ Five new MOUs have recently been signed to launch the VSOC program at the following sites within the next 30 – 45 days:
 - Tennessee State University
 - University of Utah
 - University of Alaska
 - Middle Tennessee State University
 - Central New Mexico Community College

VSOC Services Provided



- Assistance in applying for VA Benefits
- Adjustment and career counseling services specific to VA benefits
- Referrals for medical and mental health services
- Transition support services
- On-campus outreach to Veterans
- Referrals for on-campus academic and career counseling services
- Job placement assistance and coordination with the local DVOP

VSOC Staffing



- ❑ Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (assigned by the nearest Regional Office)
 - Provides adjustment counseling, vocational assessment and counseling, comprehensive benefits assistance, and referral services.
- ❑ Veterans Health Administration provides either:
 - VetSuccess Outreach Coordinator, or
 - Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership (VITAL) Counselor
 - Provides peer-to-peer counseling and referral services, including mental health treatment through VHA Medical Centers, Community Based Outpatient Clinics, & Vet Centers
- ❑ VetSuccess VA Work-study Veteran
 - Performs administrative tasks and assists the VetSuccess Counselor in office management activities

VSOC Selection Criteria



- Focus on colleges or universities with a Veteran-student enrollment between 800-1200
- School is located within 25 miles of a VA Regional Office, out-based office, and/or VA Medical Center
- Willingness and ability to provide space and furniture to accommodate a full-time VRC and Vet Center Outreach Coordinator
- Veteran interest and other Veteran support services on campus
- Collaboration with VHA's Vet Centers and Veterans Integration to Academic Leadership (VITAL) program is also a factor in determining expansion locations.

Public Law 111-377



Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Improvement Act of 2010

PL 111-377



- ❑ VA amended or clarified regulations to implement provisions of the law effective 8/1/2011, including:
 - Discontinuance of interval pay
 - Election of alternate payment in lieu of regular Chapter 31 subsistence allowance
 - Rates of payment for
 - Foreign training
 - On-line training
 - NPWE, OJT, and Apprenticeship training
 - Employment Adjustment Allowance
 - Revolving Fund Loans

PL 111-377



An alternate payment named the “Post-9/11 subsistence allowance”

- May be elected if Veteran is eligible for both Chapter 31 and Chapter 33 benefits* (CFR 21.264)
- Is based on the basic allowance for housing (BAH) for an E-5 with dependents
- Uses the BAH for the zip code of the training facility
- Uses current Chapter 31 rules for calculating training time

This alternate payment is not calculated in the same way as the Chapter 33 monthly housing allowance.

*** Veterans must apply for Chapter 33 benefits to obtain a certificate of eligibility that specifies the number of months of entitlement and delimiting date under Chapter 33**

PL 111-377



Post-9/11 subsistence allowance rates

- BAH amount may be calculated at DoD website:
 - <https://www.defensetravel.dod.mil/site/bahCalc.cfm>
 - Enter year, facility zip code and E-5
 - Click “calculate”
 - Use rate for E-5 with dependents
- Will not be further adjusted for dependents
- May only be paid while the Veteran is eligible for both Chapter 31 and Chapter 33 benefits
- Veteran may retain 2011 rate if 2012 rate is less and the Veteran maintained continuous enrollment, without breaks

PL 111-377



Post-9/11 subsistence allowance for training that is solely on-line or in-home

- For full-time training, it is 50% of the BAH national average for an E-5 with dependents
- Uses current Ch 31 rules for calculating training time
 - Full time = 50% of BAH national average
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ time = 37.5% of BAH national average
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ time = 25% of BAH national average
- BAH national average for 2012 is \$1368.00 (found on VA Post 9/11 GI Bill website – updated annually)
- If even one credit of a term is taken at a physical facility, payment for that term is based on BAH of that physical facility's zip code

PL 111-377



Post-9/11 subsistence allowance for training at a foreign institution

- Is based on the BAH national average for an E-5 with dependents
- Uses current Ch 31 rules for calculating training time
 - Full time = BAH national average
 - $\frac{3}{4}$ time = 75% BAH national average
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ time = 50% BAH national average
- BAH national average for 2012 is \$1368.00 (found on VA Post 9/11 GI Bill website – updated annually)

PL 111-377



Revolving Fund Loans

- Will be paid at the regular Chapter 31 rate
- Maximum available is the amount needed or two times the full-time rate for a single person (\$1,132), whichever is less

VOW to Hire Heroes



❑ VOW to Hire Heroes

- Public Law 112-56, the Vow to Hire Heroes Act, was enacted November 21, 2011

❑ Section 222

- *Individual assessment on equivalence between military occupational specialty skills and qualifications for private sector employment*
 - DoD will conduct transferrable skills study
 - Given to all TAP participants
 - Use Results to provide Individual Assessments to Servicemembers
 - DoD will share results with VA & DOL
 - VR&E will apply results to Voc Exploration and Rehabilitation Services
 - Available to VR&E / DOL from DoD on or before 11/20/2012

VOW to Hire Heroes



□ Section 231

- *Two year extension of VA authority under PL 110-181 to provide vocational rehabilitation programs to members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses*
 - Sec. 1631(b) of the National Defense Authorization Act (PL 110-181) established VR&E eligibility for severely injured active duty individuals before a VA rating is issued.
 - Sec. 231 of PL 112-56 extends the sunset date of NDAA to Dec. 31, 2014

VOW to Hire Heroes



□ Section 233

- Training and rehabilitation for Veterans with service-connected disabilities who have exhausted state unemployment benefits
- Veterans qualify for an additional 12 months of VR&E benefits if they have:
 - Exhausted all rights to regular unemployment compensation (UC) under the State law or under Federal law
 - No rights to regular UC, even if receiving extended or emergency UC
 - Applied for additional rehabilitation program within six months of exhaustion of UC benefits

VOW to Hire Heroes



□ Section 232

- Expands eligibility for the Special Employer Program to Veterans who:
 - Complete training then enter Employment Services
 - Directly enter Employment Services, or
 - Are unable to complete their training programs then pursue employment

Employment



□ VetSuccess.gov

- Expanded benefits information and resources
- Job search/resume development functions
- Job board of over 8 million job listings incorporated
- Linked with Job Central, DOL, OPM, Monster, Google, and other organizations/companies
- Automatic registration with VetSuccess.gov through E-benefits integration
- VetSuccess.gov will seamlessly integrate all of the tools and information Veterans and Employers will need to find each other

Employment



- ❑ Private sector, government, and non-profit employer partnerships
- ❑ Incentives – WOTC, Internships, OJT/Apprenticeships, Special Employer Incentive program
- ❑ Early intervention – Focus on careers
- ❑ Mentoring focus – American Corporate Partners

Employment Outcomes



VR&E Employment Outcomes FY 2011			
Fiscal Year 2011 Career Categories of Rehabilitated Veterans*	Number of Veterans	Avg. Annual Wages Prior to VR&E Program Entrance	Avg. Annual Wages at Rehabilitation
National Average	7420**	\$7,498.92	\$35,718.84
Professional, Technical, and Managerial	5,603	\$9,834.84	\$39,638.52
Service	419	\$6,457.00	\$28,149.74
Clerical	418	\$6,357.24	\$30,069.07
Miscellaneous	313	\$5,981.60	\$32,226.21
Machine Trades	295	\$6,256.52	\$31,768.64
Structural (Building Trades)	180	\$6,832.00	\$34,686.60
Sales	86	\$5,361.35	\$27,701.72
Benchwork	52	\$8,059.62	\$29,622.69
Agricultural, Fishery and Forestry	33	\$4,712.73	\$19,661.09
Processing (Butcher, Meat Processor, etc.)	21	\$6,331.43	\$29,019.43

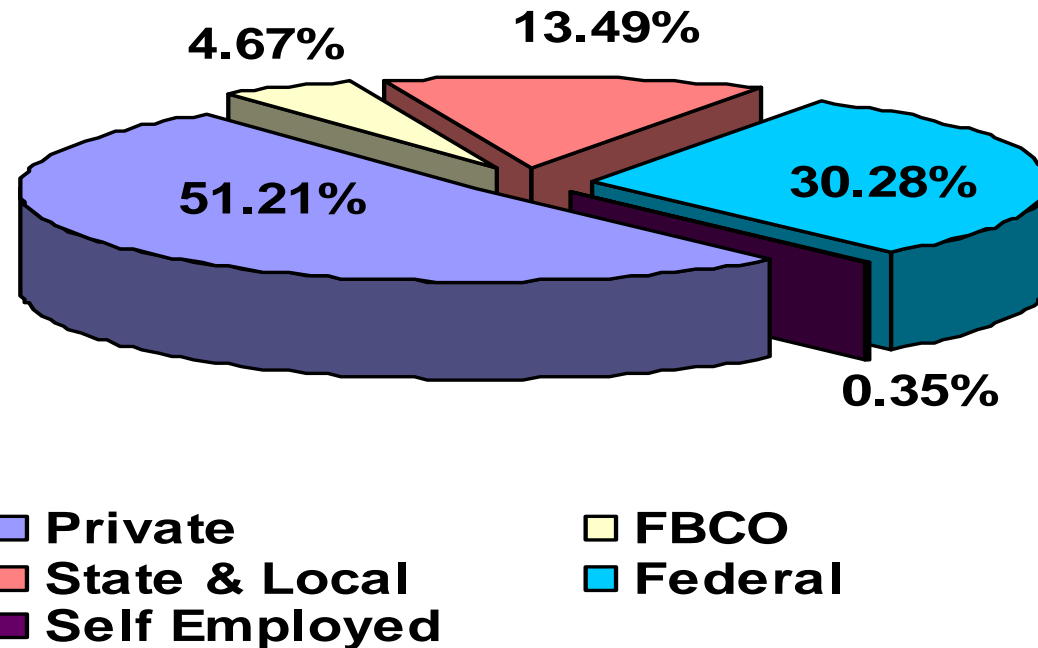
*Source: VR&E Program Management Reports – VR&E Rehabilitated Participants during Fiscal Year 2011.

**Excludes 2,442 Veterans Rehabilitated in an Independent Living program

Career Placements



**December 2011 Career Placements
By Employer Type**



VA-ONCE



- ❑ VR&E's computer system now interfaces with the Education application, VA Online Certification of Enrollment (VA-ONCE)
- ❑ This change allows training facilities to electronically certify attendance and changes in enrollment
- ❑ Authorizations to school facilities will continue to be provided via mailed or faxed VA Form 28-1905
- ❑ Electronic VA Form 22-1999 or VA Form 22-1999b is accepted in lieu of VA Form 28-1905 for certification of enrollment

VA-ONCE



❑ Gaining Access to VA-Once

- Requires an MOU between the facility and VA
- A unique login ID and password will be given to each user at the facility

❑ VA Once User's Guide and Training Resources

- Available on the Internet:

www.gibill.va.gov/School_Info/once/index.htm

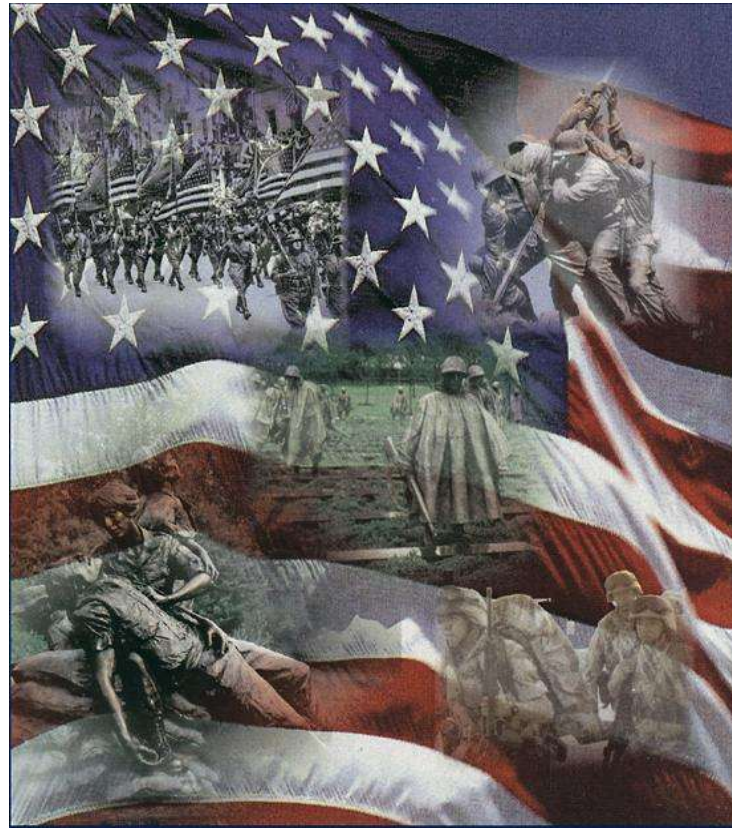
- Includes instructions for gaining access
- MOU template required for access approval
- Training resources for use of VA Once

Our Partnership



- ❑ Your role is vital to VR&E's VetSuccess program ... and ***Veterans' Success***
 - Space for Veteran counseling
 - Use of VA Once
 - Communication about problems
 - Hire Veterans and promote Veteran hiring
 - Link VetSuccess.gov on your websites

Questions?



Thanks for all you do to serve Veterans!