



Choose VA

**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration**

**Houston Regional Office
General Benefits Briefing**

6900 Almeda Road
Houston, Texas 77030



Choose VA

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Presenter

Jennifer Romary

Military Sexual Trauma Outreach Coordinator

Indigent Veteran and Unclaimed Remains Coordinator

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA)

Houston Regional Office

Public Contact Team



Choose **VA**

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Introduction to Department of Veterans Affairs

VETERANS BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION (VBA)

- All non-medical VA benefits: Compensation, Pension, Education, Home Loan Guaranty, Veteran Readiness and Employment, Life Insurance

VETERANS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (VHA)

- All VA health care services
- Administered by VA Medical Centers, Ambulatory Care & Community Based Outpatient Clinics

NATIONAL CEMETERY ADMINISTRATION (NCA)

- National Cemeteries
- Support to State Veteran Cemeteries
- Headstones & Markers
- Presidential Memorial Certificates

Veterans Health Administration (VHA) Application

Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center (VAMC)

2002 Holcombe Blvd.
Houston, Texas 77030
(713) 791-1414

Outpatient Clinics under Houston/DeBakey VAMC: Texas City, Galveston, Lake Jackson, Richmond, Sugar Land, Beaumont, Conroe, Humble, Katy, and Tomball

- How to apply: www.va.gov/health-care/how-to-apply/
- Complete **VA Form 10-10EZ: Geographical Means test** and Service for 24 continuous months, or the full period for which you were called to active duty, after September 7, 1980
 - Submit to: Health Eligibility Center
2957 Clairmont Rd., Suite 200
Atlanta, GA 30329 or
Fax to (713) 794-1645
- Call toll-free hotline at [\(877\) 222-8387](tel:8772228387), Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. ET to get help with your application.



Choose **VA**

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Benefits Administration

Benefits and Services:

- Service-Connected Compensation
- Non-Service-Connected Pension
- Veteran Readiness and Employment
- Home Loan Guaranty
- Education
- Life Insurance
- Survivor Benefits
- Decision Review (Appeal)



Houston Regional Office

The **Houston Regional Office** delivers Federal non-medical benefits to nearly **900,000 Veterans and their families** living in **90 Southern Counties in Texas.**

- **Outbased Field Offices**

San Antonio Field Office

VA Northwest Clinic
9939 State Hwy 151, 3rd Floor
San Antonio, TX 78521
Phone: 210-396-9694

Corpus Christi Field Office

4646 Corona St. 150
Corpus Christi, TX 78411

McAllen Field Office

109 E. Toronto Ave. Suite 400
McAllen, TX 78503

Waco Regional Office (Northern Counties in Texas)

701 Clay Ave.
Waco, TX 76799



Choose **VA**

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Service-Connected Compensation

Compensation is paid for a disability resulting from a disease or injury incurred in or aggravated while on active service. The disability does not have to be combat, or wartime related.

Examples:

- Torn knee ligament
- Hearing Loss
- Back Condition
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (including the result of personal or sexual trauma)
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Skin condition (psoriasis, eczema, scars)



Service-Connected Compensation

Types of Claims for Service Connection:

- DIRECT
- AGGRAVATION
- SECONDARY
- INCREASE
- PRESUMPTIVE (ex: Agent Orange Exposure/Camp Lejeune Contaminated Water/Gulf War Hazards/Toxic Exposures)
- Title 38 U.S.C. 1151

The PACT Act and your VA benefits

- The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act is perhaps the largest health care and benefit expansion in VA history.
 - The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.
- The PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions that VA assumes (or “presumes”) are caused by exposure to these substances. This law helps VA provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors with the care and benefits they’ve earned and deserve.



PACT Act and how it affects VA benefits and care?

- Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras
- Adds 20+ presumptive condition categories for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic exposures
- Adds more presumptive-exposure locations for Agent Orange and radiation
- Requires VA to provide a toxic exposure screening to every Veteran enrolled in VA health care (this is completed at the VA Hospitals and Clinics)
- Helps VA improve research, staff education, and treatment related to toxic exposures



What does it mean to have a presumptive condition for toxic exposure?

- To get a VA disability rating, a disability must be connected to military service. For many health conditions, evidence is necessary that shows military service caused the condition.
- But for some conditions, VA automatically assumes (or “presumes”) that military service caused the condition. VA calls these “presumptive conditions.”
- VA considers a condition presumptive when it's established by law or regulation.
 - If a Veteran has a presumptive condition, the Veteran does not need to prove that military service caused the condition. The Veteran only needs to meet the service requirements for the presumption (served in that location and during the set time period).



Service-Connected Compensation

VA Compensation

- There must be a link between a current disability and the event, injury, or disease in military service.
- If a Veterans has any of the following relevant items, the Veteran should submit them with their claim on VA Form 21-526EZ, Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits
 - Discharge or separation papers (the **DD-214** or equivalent)
 - Service treatment records and supporting statements
 - Private medical provider records and hospital reports

DD-214 – Certificate of Release or Discharge

CAUTION: NOT TO BE USED FOR CONTINUED SERVICE. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT RECORD. ANY ALTERATIONS IN SHADDED AREAS REQUIRE EXPLANATION.

CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY

This Report Contains Information Subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, See Appendix

1. NAME (Last, First, Middle)		2. DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT AND BRANCH		3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	
4a. GRADE, RATE OR RANK	4b. PAY GRADE	5. DATE OF BIRTH (YYYYMMDD)	6. RESERVE OBLIGATION TERMINATION DATE (YYYYMMDD)		
7a. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE DUTY		7b. HOME OF RECORD AT TIME OF ENTRY (City and state or complete foreign address)			
8a. LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND MAJOR COMMAND			8b. STATION WHERE SEPARATED		
9. COMMAND TO WHICH TRANSFERRED			10. SOGI COVERAGE AMOUNT \$		
11. PRIMARY SPECIALTY (List number, title and years and months in specialty. List additional specialty numbers and dates starting periods of one or more years.)		12. RECORD OF SERVICE			
A		12a. DATE ENTERED ACTIVE SERVICE			
		12b. SEPARATION DATE THIS PERIOD			
		12c. NEXT ACTIVE SERVICE THIS PERIOD			
		12d. TOTAL REGULAR ACTIVE SERVICE			
		12e. TOTAL RESERVE ACTIVE SERVICE			
13. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED (List per year)		14. MILITARY EDUCATION (List course title, number of classes, and hours and year completed)			
15a. COMMISSIONED THROUGH SERVICE ACADEMY		15b. COMMISSIONED THROUGH ROTC SCHOLARSHIP (List unit, date, 1970)		15c. BACHELOR'S DEGREE COURSE REPRESENTED (List title, date, year of completion)	
16. AFT'S PULCI/PL/LEAVE PAID		17. MEMBER HAS PROVIDED COMPLETE DENTAL SERVICES AND TREATMENT WITHIN 90 DAYS PRIOR TO SEPARATION		18. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 4	
19. REMARKS					
<p>The information contained herein is subject to computer matching within the Department of Defense or with any other affected Federal or non-Federal agency for verification purposes and to determine eligibility for additional benefits under the provisions of 38 USC 5601 and 5602.</p> <p>19a. MAILING ADDRESS AT TIME OF SEPARATION (Include ZIP Code)</p> <p>19b. NEAREST RELATIVE (Name and address - include ZIP Code)</p>					
20. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 4 BE SENT TO (Specify address)		21. OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS		22. YES NO	
23. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 3 BE SENT TO THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (See instruction 20c)		24. OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO SIGN (Type name and grade)		25. DATE (YYYYMMDD)	
26. SPECIAL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Use only by authorized agencies only)					
27. TYPE OF SEPARATION		28. CHARACTER OF SERVICE (Check as appropriate)			
29. SEPARATION AUTHORITY		30. SEPARATION CODE		31. REENTRY CODE	
32. NARRATIVE REASON FOR SEPARATION					
33. DATES OF TIME COST DURING THIS PERIOD (YYYYMMDD)				34. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 4 (Initial)	

DD FORM 214, AUG 2009 PREVIOUS EDITION IS OBSOLETE. MEMBER - 4



Choose VA

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Service-Connected Compensation

Three items to help make a compensation claim a success:

- AN EVENT WHICH HAPPENED IN SERVICE
- CURRENT DIAGNOSIS
- A NEXUS/LINK OF MEDICAL EVIDENCE



Service-Connected Compensation

MEDICAL EVIDENCE:

The VA requires medical evidence which positively links the current diagnosis to the in-service event, injury, or disease. This is the nexus between the two.

- Nexus may be established by evidence of a chronic condition and/or continuous symptoms.
- Nexus may be also established by a medical opinion. A doctor must state in writing based on their examination that it is probable that the current diagnosis is related to the injury sustained in-service.

Service-Connected Compensation

Rating Process

- Disabilities are rated from 0% to 100%
 - Individual rating percentage is a combined overall rating
- Compensation is tax free
 - Compensation paid for disability rating from 10% to 100%
 - Additional allowance for dependents with 30% or higher rating
 - The Department of Treasury requires new federal beneficiaries receive their recurring/monthly benefits electronically
- Health Care 0%-100% service-connected Veterans
 - Treatment and prescriptions for service-connected disabilities



Service-Connected Compensation

DEPENDENTS

- Additional allowances for disability ratings of 30% or higher for eligible Dependents
- Spouses, Dependent Children: **Under the age of 18; 18-23 enrolled in school, Helpless Child; may be Biological, Adopted or Step-Children** or Dependent Parents

Complete *VA Form 21-686c, Application Request to Add and/or Remove Dependents* and submit to VA

Complete *VA Form 21P-509, Statement of Dependency of Parents* and submit to VA



Compensation/Ancillary Benefits

- VA health care for all rated service-connected conditions, 0%-100%
- Veteran Readiness & Employment services [VA Form 28-1900](#), Application for Veteran Readiness and Employment for Claimants with Service-Connected Disabilities
- \$10,000 life insurance ([S-DVI](#))
- Federal employment preference
- VA loan funding fee waived
- Possible State and local benefits for Veterans

Compensation/Ancillary Benefits

- Annual clothing allowance
 - [VA Form 10-8678](#), Application for Annual Clothing Allowance
- Specially adapted homes grant
 - [VA Form 26-4555](#), Application in Acquiring Specially Adapted Housing or Special Home Adaptation Grant
- Automobile grant and adaptive equipment
 - [VA Form 21-4502](#), Application for Automobile or Other Conveyance and Adaptive Equipment (UNDER 38 U.S.C. 3901-3904)
 - [VA Form 10-1394](#), Application for Adaptive Equipment—Motor Vehicle
- Military commissary & exchange privileges

Administrative Review (Appeal)

- On August 23, 2017, the *Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017* was signed into law. This law took effect February 19, 2019.
- The law creates a new decision review process, which features three lanes ([VA Form 20-0998](#)):
 - **Higher-Level Review** – An entirely new review of the claim by an experienced adjudicator ([VA Form 20-0996](#))
 - **Supplemental Claim** – An opportunity to submit additional evidence ([VA Form 20-0995](#))
 - **Appeal** – Review by the Board of Veterans' Appeals ([VA Form 10182](#))



How to Contact Us

Benefit related inquiries - National Contact Center 1-800-827-1000

Ask a question online: www.ask.va.gov

Schedule an Appointment online: <https://va.my.site.com/VAVERA/s/>

Veterans Affairs Online: www.va.gov

[Smart Phone - VA APP](#)



Compensation Application and Evidence Submission (Texas):

Department of Veterans Affairs
Evidence Intake Center
P.O. Box 4444
Janesville, WI 53547-4444
Fax: 1-844-531-7818



Choose VA

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Connecting With Us

LIVE ASSISTANCE
General information, directory assistance and technical support for VA.gov

VA HEALTH CARE
Eligibility, enrollment, locations and COVID-19

COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE
MISSION Act eligibility, copayments

NATIONAL CEMETERIES
Burial benefits, interment scheduling and headstone/Veteran marker

VETERANS CRISIS LINE
Immediate connection to caring, qualified responders

DEBT MANAGEMENT
Debt details, payment options and debtor rights

FACILITY LOCATOR
Locations of medical centers, benefits offices or cemeteries

BENEFITS ASSISTANCE
Information about a variety of VA benefits

HOMELESS VETERANS LINE
Information and support for homeless and at-risk callers

COVID-19 INFORMATION
Frequently asked questions and live assistance for COVID-related questions

The number to call when you don't know who to call.

You only need to remember **one number** for information on **VA care, benefits, and services** or to speak to a **live agent** for assistance!



Choose **VA**

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Houston Regional Office

The Houston Veterans Affairs Regional Office Public Contact

In Person or Telephone Interview Appointment Line:

Schedule an Appointment online: <https://va.my.site.com/VAVERA/s/>

8:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m.



Questions



Choose **VA**

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Benefits Administration
Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E)

Darwin E. Dawson, MS
Employment Coordinator
Houston Regional Office

What is the Chapter 31, VR&E Program?

VR&E's primary function is to help Veterans who have service-connected disabilities become suitably employed, maintain employment, or achieve independence in daily living.



Choose **VA**

FOR VA INTERNAL USE ONLY

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

How Do Veterans Receive Services?

- Entitlement is not automatic
- If eligible, Veterans must participate in an evaluation with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
- A Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor must make entitlement decision



VR&E Eligibility Criteria

Active Duty Servicemembers:

- Expect to receive an honorable discharge
- Obtain a VA memorandum rating of 20 percent or more
- Obtain a Proposed Disability Evaluation System (DES) rating
- Servicemembers awaiting discharge due to a medical condition resulting from a serious injury or illness that occurred in the line of duty may be automatically entitled to VR&E benefits under the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2008.
- Apply for Veteran Readiness and Employment benefits

Veterans:

- Honorable or Other than Dishonorable Discharge
- A VA service-connected disability rating of 10 percent or more; or memorandum rating of 20 percent
- Apply for Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) benefits



Choose **VA**

FOR VA INTERNAL USE ONLY

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

VR&E Basic Benefit Information

May be utilized within 12 years from the date of initial VA disability rating notification.

The 12-year period begins on the latter of these dates:

- Date of separation from active military duty, or
- Date when the Veteran was first notified of a service-connected disability rating



Choose **VA**

FOR VA INTERNAL USE ONLY

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Who Is Entitled to Receive VR&E Services?

- Veterans who have:
 - * *A 10% Service Connected Disability Rating or Higher*
 - * *Within Their 12 yr Eligibility Period*
 - * *Been Discharged From Military Service With Other Than Dishonorable*
- A Service Member or Veteran Must Have An Employment Handicap

Vocational impairment. The individual has a vocational impairment; that is an impairment of the ability to prepare for, obtain, or keep employment in an occupation consistent with his or her abilities, aptitudes, and interests.

Contribution of the service-connected disability(ies) to the individual's overall vocational impairment
- Armed Forces Service Member Who Has A 20% or Higher Memorandum Rating



Comprehensive Evaluation

- Orientation
 - Social History
 - Medical
 - VA Disability Rating
 - Employment History
 - Transferable Skills
 - Educational Background
 - Assessing Interest, Aptitude & Ability
-
- If Found Entitled, The Veteran and The Counselor Will Work Together To Develop A Rehabilitation Plan
- (A rehabilitation plan is a written detailed outline of services provided under the Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Program)*



Choose **VA**

FOR VA INTERNAL USE ONLY

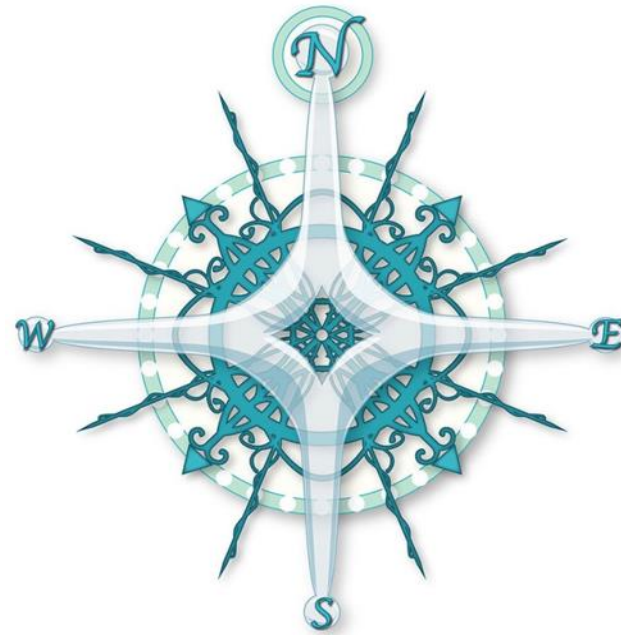
VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

5 Tracks to Employment

- Re-employment
- Rapid Access to Employment
- Employment through Long-Term Services
- Independent Living Services
- Self-Employment



Re-Employment

- Veterans Who Want To Return To A Former/Previous Civilian Employer
- Features Of This Track:
 - * Job Accommodation
 - * Job Modification
 - * Case Management
 - * Re-employment Rights Advice
 - * Work Adjustment Services
 - * Consultation With Employer



Rapid Access to Employment

- Veterans Who Are Job Ready / Ready For Employment Now
- Veterans Who Already Have The Skills To Be Competitive In The Job Market In An Appropriate Occupation
- Features Of This Track:
 - * Job Readiness Preparation
 - * Resume Development
 - * Job Search Assistance
 - * Development Of Employment Resources
 - * Job Accommodations
 - * Post Employment Follow-Up



Employment Through Long Term Services

- Veterans Who *Need* Specialized Training and/or Education To Obtain and Maintain Suitable Employment
- Key Features Of This Track:
 - OJT (On The Job Training)*
 - NPWE (Non Paid Work Experience)*
 - Apprenticeships*
 - Internships*
 - Job Shadowing*
 - Higher Education*



Independent Living

- Veterans Who May Not Be Able To Work Right Now or Need Rehabilitation Services To Live More Independently
- Veterans Who Are Severely Disabled Where They Cannot Work
- Features Of This Track:
 - * Assistive Technology
 - * Special Adaptive Housing
 - * Referral To Veteran Centers
 - * Independent Living Skills Training
 - * Connection To Community-Based Support Services



Self-Employment

- Veterans Who Have Limited Access To Traditional Employment
 - * Needs More Accommodations Within The Work Environment
 - * Needs Flexible Work Schedules
- Features Of This Track
 - * Analysis Of The Viability Of A Business Concept
 - * Referral To SBA (Small Business Association)
 - * Business Plan Development, Marketing & Financial Assistance, Business Operation Training
 - * Guidance On Obtaining Adequate Resources To Implement Plan



VR&E Employment Partners

Other Employment Services may include:

- Referrals to other employment resources:
 - Department of Labor (DOL) National Veterans Employment Services
 - Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP)
 - Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER)

State local agency:

- Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)
- Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)



Services Available For Participants

- Comprehensive Evaluation
- Medical Referrals
 - * Dental
 - * Optical
- Subsistence Allowance
- Tuition, Books, Fees
- Tutoring
- Tools, Supplies, Equipment
- Case Management
- Special Hiring Authority
- Guidance & Counseling
- Other Services Necessary To Achieve Rehabilitation



Office Locations

Several VR&E Locations

- Houston VA Regional Office – Main Campus
(Bill Processing Center)
 - San Antonio, TX – Out-based Office
 - McAllen, TX – Satellite Office
 - Corpus Christi, TX – Satellite Office
-
- Waco VA Regional Office – Sister VR&E Office



Choose **VA**

FOR VA INTERNAL USE ONLY

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

How to Apply for VR&E Services

Complete an application

- VA Form 28-1900, *Disabled Veterans Application for Vocational Rehabilitation*
- **On-line <https://www.va.gov/>**
- Find your local VR&E office by calling Veterans Benefits Administration Toll Free Number: 1-800-827-1000



Choose **VA**

FOR VA INTERNAL USE ONLY

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Questions?

Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E)

Darwin E. Dawson, MS

Houston Regional Employment Coordinator

darwin.e.dawson@va.gov

713-383-1958



Choose **VA**

FOR VA INTERNAL USE ONLY

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

VA Education and Resources

November 2023



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

VA Education Benefit Chapters

- CH30 – Montgomery GI Bill / Active Duty (MGIB / AD)
- CH1606 – Montgomery GI Bill / Select Reserve (MGIB / SR)
- CH33 – Post 9/11 GI Bill
- CH35 - Survivor and Dependent Educational Assistance (“DEA”)
- Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (“FRY”)
- Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses – VET TEC
- CH36 – Personalized Career Planning & Guidance (“PCPG”)

CH30 Montgomery GI Bill / Active Duty

- Service member could choose to pay \$1200 (\$100/month for 12 months) to DoD to “opt in” to program, and must have Honorable service/discharge
- Up to 36 months of education benefits for qualifying programs/facilities
- Pays a monthly stipend to the Veteran
- Veteran is responsible for paying tuition/fees to school
- Typically has 10-year delimiting (expiration) date from most recent separation date
- Pay rate will depend upon type of training, length of service, and if DoD included any “kickers” (extra money) in MGIB fund, either through contractual bonuses or if Veteran opted “Buy Up” for higher pay rate

CH1606 Montgomery GI Bill / Select Reserve

- After 6/30/1985, must have signed six-year obligation to serve in Select Reserve
- Completed Initial Active Duty Training (IADT)
- Completed high school diploma or GED prior to completing IADT
- Currently in good standing in a drilling Select Reserve Unit

- Up to 36 months of education benefits
- Pays a monthly stipend to drilling reservist
- Reservist is responsible for paying tuition/fees to school

- Typically ends when Reservist leaves Select Reserves
- Pay rate will depend upon type of training, and if DoD included any “kickers” (extra money) in MGIB/SR fund through contractual bonuses

CH33 Post 9/11 GI Bill

- Must have at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after 9/10/2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days
- Honorable service/discharge
- Up to 36 months of benefits
- Benefit level determined by length of Active Duty service (50%-100%)
- Expires 15 years after most recent qualifying period of Active Duty (if RAD prior to 1/1/2013); no expiration date if RAD on or after 1/1/2013
- VA pays tuition/fees at applicable benefit level directly to school on student's behalf
- Pays book allowance to student at applicable level (\$1000/max per year)
- Pays the E-5 with dependents MHA (BAH) rate for ZIP code where student attends majority of classes, at corresponding rate of pursuit (** if attending online only, pays ½ U.S. national average rate for E-5 with dependents)

CH33 Post 9/11 GI Bill (continued)

- Active Duty: Pays all applicable public, in-state tuition and fees (Private and foreign schools cap at **\$27,120.05** per year). Pays book allowance at applicable rate. Cannot pay MHA to service members (SM) still on active duty, nor to *wives* while SM on active duty. However, can pay MHA to dependent *children* of active duty SM.
- Veterans: Pays all applicable public, in-state tuition and fees (Private and foreign schools cap at **\$27,120.05** per year). Pays book allowance at applicable rate. Pays MHA at applicable rate (must be attending ***greater than half time*** to qualify for corresponding MHA rate). If $<$ or $= \frac{1}{2}$ time, will still pay applicable tuition/fees and book allowance, but no MHA paid.
- Yellow Ribbon: Schools whose tuition/fees exceed VA's maximum payable amount may enter into agreement to offset some or all of the cost difference for qualifying students (with CH33 awarded at 100% benefit level).

CH33 Post 9/11 GI Bill - Transferability

- Allows Service Members to potentially transfer unused education benefits to immediate family members who are listed in DEERS
- Service member must meet specific service requirements, as well as additional service obligations. (**DoD retention program**)
- Service member must apply to DoD for approval of transfer. DoD has sole authority to approve or deny request.
- If DoD approves transfer, SM must transfer benefit to qualifying dependents **prior to separation from active duty (AD)**.
- Dependent receiving transferred benefits **must apply for the benefit** to obtain his/her own Certificate of Eligibility (COE) confirming they have been adjudicated by VA to receive the benefit.
- Benefit allocation can be rearranged while SM is on active duty and/or after separation from AD. However, transfer to new dependent cannot be initiated once SM has separated from active duty (i.e. new baby born after SM separates from active duty, because baby was not in DEERS prior to separation).
- Benefits used counts against **SM/Veteran's** lifetime benefit total (not dependent's)

CH35 Survivor & Dependent Educational Assistance (DEA)

- Education benefit for eligible spouses and children of certain Veterans (Veterans who died or are permanently and totally disabled as a result of service-connected disability, or MIA/POW)
- Up to 36 months of benefit (45 months for those whose first use of the benefit was prior to 08/01/2018)
- Eligibility timeframe will depend upon whether dependent is spouse or child, and when the qualified dependent became eligible for the benefit. (This will be addressed when dependent applies and receives Certificate of Eligibility for the benefit.)
- Pays eligible dependent a monthly stipend, based upon rate of pursuit and type of training
- Eligible dependent is responsible for paying tuition/fees to school
- Benefits used counts against dependent's lifetime benefit total (not Veteran's)

Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship

- Post 9/11 GI Bill Education benefits for children and surviving spouses of SM who died in the line of duty while on active duty after 9/10/2001
- Up to 36 months of benefits at the 100% level
- Full tuition/fees, paid directly to the school for all public schools at the in-state rate (tuition/fee cap applies at private or foreign schools)
- Monthly housing allowance (E-5 with dependents rate for ZIP code where majority of courses are attended)
- Book allowance (\$1000/year maximum)
- Delimiting date information is available on GI Bill website

VET TEC (Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses)

- High Demand Training Areas - Computer software, Computer programming, Data processing, Information science, Media applications
- Pays tuition/fees for training at VA-approved VET TEC training providers, and monthly housing allowance to qualified students
- You may be eligible for VET TEC if you meet all of these requirements (**all of these must be true**):
- You aren't on active duty or are within 180 days of separating from active duty, **and**
- You qualify for VA education assistance under the GI Bill, **and**
- You have at least one day of unexpired GI Bill entitlement, **and**
- You're accepted into a program by a VA-approved training provider
- **Note:** Your VET TEC training won't count against your GI Bill entitlement, and you need only one day of unexpired GI Bill benefits to participate.

CH36 Personalized Career Planning & Guidance (PCPG)

- Eligibility: Transitioning SM within 6 months prior to discharge from AD, Veterans within one year after discharge from AD, any SM or Veteran eligible for VA education benefit, Veterans with compensable service-connected disability ratings, and eligible dependents in receipt of transferred CH33 benefits
- Services include:
 - Career choice assistance: helps participants understand best career options based upon interests and skills
 - Benefits coaching: guidance on VA benefits and resources to achieve education and career goals
 - Personalized support: academic or adjustment counseling and support to remove any barriers to success

“Stacking” Benefits

- If a Veteran or qualifying dependent is eligible for Hazlewood, VA Education benefits may be “stacked” in some cases to help address tuition/fees via Hazlewood.
- May “stack” Hazlewood with CH30, CH1606, CH33 (if less than 100% benefit level, and/or if exhausting benefit) and/or CH35
- Must verify that student (Veteran or dependent) does not have a VA benefit that is covering 100% of tuition/fees for the same term for which Hazlewood is being requested
- Additional information about Hazlewood is available through Texas Veterans Commission and school’s Veterans Services Offices

Application for Benefits

- VA Education Benefits (CH30, CH33, CH1606, CH35):

<https://www.va.gov/>

- Personalized Career Planning & Guidance (CH36):

<https://www.va.gov/>

- Transfer Request for CH33:

<https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>

- Hazlewood:

<https://www.tvc.texas.gov/education/hazlewood-act/>

On-Campus Resources

- Veteran Certification Office (name will vary by campus)
- Tutoring / Supplemental Instruction
- Student Disability Services (name will vary by campus)
- Financial Aid
- Student Veteran Association
- Instructor Office Hours

Community Resources

- United Way (Nationwide directory of community resources)
- Texas Veteran Commission (or other state Veterans services)
- Veteran Service Organizations
- Café College (San Antonio)
- Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic at Endeavors (San Antonio)
- TRIO (through U.S. Department of Education)
 - Eight programs targeted to serve and assist low-income individuals, first-generation college students, and individuals with disabilities to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to postbaccalaureate programs.
 - Includes Veterans Upward Bound program

VA Resources

- 800-827-1000 (main number)
- www.va.gov (main VA website)
- VA Education: <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/> or 888-GI-Bill-1
- www.ask.va.gov
- VA VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC)
 - VA Counselors throughout the U.S. can assist with identifying VA, campus and community resources

Questions?



Thank you!