

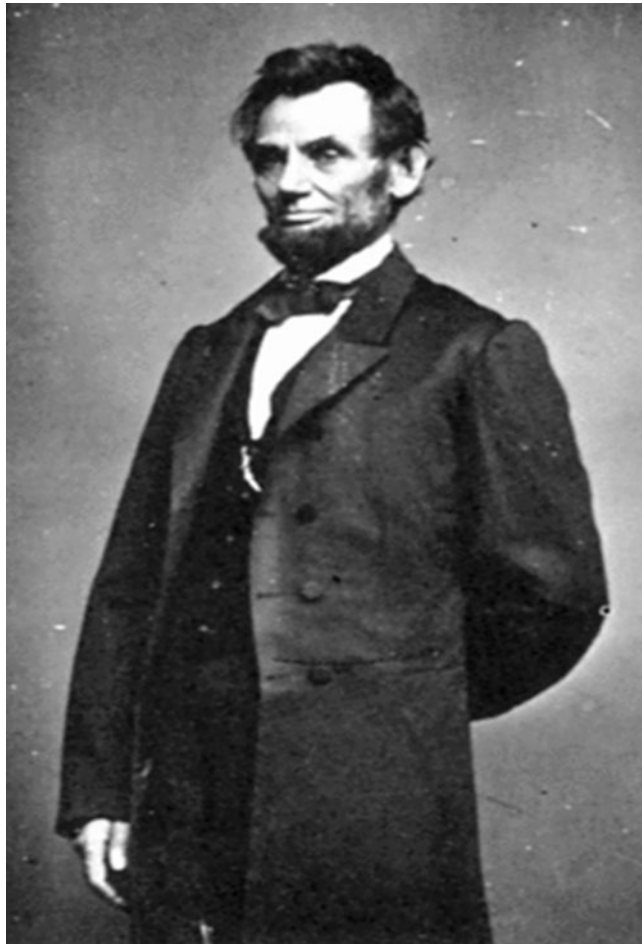
# Welcome to The Veterans Readiness and Employment (VR&E)“Chapter 31” Program Orientation



**Individualized Path to  
Employment**



# VR&E Program Orientation



“To fulfill President Lincoln’s promise to care for those who have served in our nation’s military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors.”

- President Abraham Lincoln



# VR&E Program Intent

Provide services to assist Servicemembers and Veterans (SM/V) with service-connected disabilities to succeed:

- In transition ... through services to support transition back to civilian life.
- At work ... through services resulting in suitable employment.
- On campus ... through services to provide support during education and training.
- At home ... and in their communities ... through services to maximize independence in daily living.



# Eligibility to Apply for VR&E 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 are eligible to apply for services.

## **Active Duty Servicemembers:**

- Expect to receive an honorable or other than dishonorable discharge.
- Obtain a VA memorandum rating of 20 percent or more.
- Enrolled in the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES).



# Entitlement to VR&E Benefits

- While eligible to apply, the SM/V must meet the criteria for entitlement (except as noted below).
- Servicemembers awaiting discharge due to a medical condition resulting from a serious injury or illness that occurred in the line of duty will be automatically entitled to VR&E benefits under the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2008.



# VR&E Process

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

- Application received
- SM/V's eligibility established
- Schedule SM/V for initial counseling appointment if eligible

- VRC determines if it is reasonably feasible to pursue a vocational goal
- Work with SM/V to identify track
- Establish vocational or independent living goal
- Define services needed to accomplish goal of the rehabilitation plan
- Develop an Individualized Written Rehabilitation Plan (IWRP) or Individualized Independent Living Plan (IILP)

- On-going case management (max of 18 months)
- Provide employment services
  - Job Seeking skills to include resume development and interviewing skills
  - Job placement assistance
  - VRC may refer SM/V to Department of Labor (DOL)

- VRC meets with SM/V
- Conduct VR&E orientation to include Five Tracks Video (Individualized Path to Employment)
- Conduct vocational evaluation to assess skills, abilities, and interests
- VRC determines employment handicap (VR&E entitlement criteria) and serious employment handicap

- Re-Employment
- Rapid Access To Employment
- Self Employment
- Employment Thru Long-Term Services
- Independent Living

- Maintained suitable employment, or
- Improved ability to live independently



# Re-Employment Track

Designed for individuals separating from active duty, National Guard, or Reserves to provide the services necessary for the individual to return to work in the job held prior to entering active duty.

## Services may include:

- Consultation with your employer
- Job accommodations and modifications
- Coordination with VHA for services
- Reemployment rights advice
- Case management



# Rapid Access to Employment Track

Designed for individuals expressing interest in seeking employment soon after separation and have the necessary skills to be competitive in the labor market in a suitable occupation.

## Services may include:

- Short-term training
- Subsistence allowance
- Individualized employment services
- Job readiness preparation
- Resume development
- Interviewing skills preparation
- Job search assistance
- Referral to Department of Labor (DOL) for employment search assistance
- Post-employment follow-up





# Employment Through Long-Term Services Track

Designed for individuals requiring specialized training and/or education to obtain suitable employment.

## Services may include:

- Apprenticeships
- Internships
- On-the-Job Training (OJT)
- Non-Paid Work Experience (NPWE)
- College, vocational, or technical training
- Purchase of required tuition/fees/books/supplies
- Subsistence allowance
- Personalized case management support
- Individualized employment services



# Self-Employment Track

Designed to provide services to SM/V who have the necessary job skills to start a business, have limited access to traditional employment or accommodating work environment due to limitations resulting from a disabling condition.

## Services may include:

- Referrals to resources and guidance to assist in development of a business plan
- Analysis of business concept
- Training in small business operations, marketing, and finances
- Guidance in obtaining adequate resources to implement the business plan



# Independent Living Track

Designed for SM/V who are unable to pursue a vocational goal or seek employment.

## Services may include:

- Acquiring assistive technology
- Independent living skills training
- Community-based support services
- Gaining increased access to the community
- Help in acquiring a volunteer position
- Home adaptations to improve independence in activities of daily living



# VR&E Benefits and GI Bill

- Is the VR&E program the same as the GI Bill?
  - No. The GI Bill is an education program.
    - The purpose of the VR&E program is to assist SM/Vs with service-connected disabilities to overcome their barriers to employment and become suitably employed.
    - Four of the five VR&E tracks of services are geared specifically toward employment.
    - The “E” in VR&E stands for the program’s mission to assist SM/Vs with obtaining and maintaining suitable Employment.



# VR&E Employment Focus

The VR&E program provides employment services in four of the five rehabilitation tracks.

Personalized employment services may include:

- Work-readiness preparation
- Resume development and job-seeking skills
- Interviewing skills preparation
- Employment resources development
- Job accommodations
- Job placement assistance
- Post-employment follow-up
- Career counseling and rehabilitation planning

## Special Employer Incentives (SEI)

- Training Costs
- VA-provided supplies
- Workplace accommodations
- Minimal paperwork to participate



# VR&E Employment Focus

## Other Employment Services may include:

- Referrals to other employment resources

### Department of Labor (DOL)

- Employment assistance
- Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program Specialist (DVOP)
- Local Veterans' Employment Representative (LVER)



# Chapter 18 and 35 Benefits

## How VR&E assists Eligible Dependents

### Chapter 18 Benefits

- VR&E provides services to eligible dependents born with spina bifida and other congenital disabilities.
- With the goal of suitable employment, VR&E provides training and other rehabilitative services.

### Chapter 35 Benefits

- Dependents' Educational Assistance
- Educational benefit provided to eligible dependents of Veterans who have either died, been involuntarily detained, or determined to have a permanent and total service-connected disability.



# Chapter 36 Services

## How VR&E assists SM/V, and eligible Dependents

Educational and Career/Vocational Counseling services is a great opportunity for SM/V to get personalized counseling and support to help guide their career paths, ensure most effective use of their VA benefits, and achieve their goals.

### Who May Apply

- Transitioning Servicemembers who are within six months of discharge from active duty and expect to receive a discharge that is other than dishonorable.
- Veterans within one year following discharge from active duty if they have received an honorable or other than dishonorable discharge.
- Any SM/V currently eligible for a VA education benefit.
- All current VA education beneficiaries.





# VetSuccess on Campus

## How VR&E assists student SM/V, and Dependents

VR&E has VetSuccess on Campus (VSOC) Counselors on a number college campuses across the nation. The VSOC Counselor provides a multitude of services to ease the transition to student/civilian life for the SM/V.

We provide seamless access to VA services to all student SM/V to include:

- Assistance with navigating the academic environment.
- Vocational testing and career and academic counseling.
- Referral services as needed.
- Support eligible participants with successful integration into college and university campuses to include adjustment counseling.
- Provide support to allow the SM/V successful completion of individualized educational goals.
- Improve their life circumstances to successfully live and thrive in the career field and community of their choice.



# Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES)

## How VR&E assists Servicemembers

- In 2012, VR&E began stationing VRCs on military installations to provide assessment, evaluation, and outreach services to transitioning wounded, ill, and injured SMs referred to the Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) phase or by participating in Education and Employment Initiative (E2I).
- SMs awaiting discharge due to a medical condition resulting from a serious injury or illness that occurred in the line of duty are automatically entitled to VR&E benefits. Basic eligibility and entitlement is based on documentation from military service rather than on the establishment of a VA disability or memorandum rating.



# Applying for Services

Veterans can apply by one of the following ways:

## On-line

- <https://www.va.gov/>
- Create an VA.gov account or login using an existing account

Mail or deliver application (VA form 28-1900) to the nearest local VA Regional Office

- 56 Regional Offices and one National Capital Regional Benefits Office (NCRBO) around the US



Thank you for participating  
in this briefing

