Veteran Services: Reaching Out and Acknowledging Those Who Dutifully Served Our Country

CACCRAO Regional Workshop
March 20, 2009

Dr. Henry B. Villareal
Mario Mihelcic
Jeremy Mileo
Kathleen Bennett, LCSW
Program Overview

I. Post-9/11 G Bill Benefits

II. CSM Veteran Services

III. VA Health Clinic of San Bruno
Post-9/11 GI Bill Program

- Post-9/11 GI Bill Program goes into effect on August 1, 2009

- Post 9-11 GI Bill benefits can be used only at associate degree or higher granting institutions.
Post-9/11 GI Bill Program

Who is Eligible?

- Persons on active duty on or after September 11, 2001 if:
  - Served for a period of at least 90 days.
  - Served at least 30 continuous days and then received a disability discharge.
# Post-9/11 GI Bill Program

## Total Eligibility based on Aggregate Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aggregate Service</th>
<th>% Payable Benefits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>36 months</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 continuous days-discharged with disability</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 months but less than 36 months</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 months but less than 30 months</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 months but less than 24 months</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 months but less than 12 months</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06 months but less than 12 months</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 days but less than 06 months</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Post-9/11 GI Bill Program

Maximum Benefits

- Grants up to 36 months of education aid, including tuition and other benefits.

- Individuals who received MGIB benefits can transfer to the new program but will be limited to the amount remaining on the Chapter 30 entitlement.
Post-9/11 GI Bill Program

Benefit Payments Include:

- Tuition and Fees
- Monthly Housing Allowance
- Stipend for Books and Supplies
Post-9/11 GI Bill Program

Fees Defined

- Any mandatory charges other than tuition that are universally applied by the institution to each and every student enrolled in an undergraduate program for that term.
Post-9/11 GI Bill Program

Monthly Housing Allowance

- Amount dependent by zip code of the institution where the student is enrolled.
- Prorated on the percentage of the maximum benefit payable.

Note:
Active duty personnel and anyone training at ½ time or less, and those pursuing exclusively distance learning are not eligible for the monthly housing allowance.
Post-9/11 GI Bill Program

Books and Supplies Stipend

- Up to $1,000 per year
  - Prorated based on percentage of maximum benefit payable
  - Paid proportionally for each quarter, semester or term attended.

Note:
- Active service duty members are not eligible.
Post-9/11 GI Bill Program

Transfer of Entitlement

- On or after August 1, 2009, benefits may be transferable to one or more dependents if s/he:
  - Has served at least six years in the Armed Forces, and
  - Agrees to served at least another four years in the Armed Forces
  - Spouses may use transferred benefits after six years of service; dependent children after ten years.
Post-9/11 GI Bill Program

Overpayment of Benefits

- VA will determine the amount of overpayment as follows:

- An individual who does not complete ALL courses in the certified period of enrollment, and who does not substantiate mitigating circumstances for not completing such enrollment, will be charged an overpayment equal to the amount of ALL educational assistance paid for that period of enrollment.
The veteran is responsible for any overpayment incurred as a result of not completing courses.

For veterans who do not complete a course, schools should follow their established student refund policy.

**Bottom Line:** Tuition and fee payments are paid to the school on behalf of the veteran, overpayments for tuition and fees will be charged to the veteran.
Post-9/11 GI Bill Program

Overpayment Continued

- If an overpayment is determined, VA will notify the veteran and the veteran will make repayment arrangements with the VA’s Debt Management Center (DMC) regardless of whether or not a refund was received from the school.

- Overpayment notifications will inform the veteran of the overpayment amount and whom to contact to establish a repayment schedule.

- Overpayments are collected by the VA DMC.
In most cases, overpayments will not be collected during the due process period, which is 30 days from the day of notification.

**Bottom Line:** Veterans with existing overpayments on their record may attend schools; however, their benefit payments (including tuition and fees) may be withheld until the overpayment is repaid.
Post 9/11 GI Bill

Review

- When does the Post 9/11 GI Bill go into effect?
- Minimum days of active duty to become eligible for benefits?
- Amount per year provided for books and supplies?
- Tuition and fees is paid to whom?
- Who is responsible for overpayment?
- When are benefits transferable to spouse? To dependent children?
Welcoming Message

College of San Mateo

Welcome home and thank you for your service! College of San Mateo staff are available to assist you with achieving your educational goals, securing your GI Bill benefits and providing you with referrals to organizations dedicated to assisting veterans. To reach a certifying official for veterans’ benefits please call (650) 574-6165. For more information about CSM veteran services, visit our website at http://collegeofsanmateo.edu/veterans/.
Cañada College

Welcome home and thank you for your service to our country! Cañada College's staff are available to assist you with achieving your educational goals, securing your GI Bill benefits and providing you with referrals to organizations dedicated to assisting veterans. We strive to be professional, responsive, respectful and friendly to our diverse college community. For more information about Cañada's veteran services, visit our website at www.canadacollege.edu and click on Student Services. To reach a certifying official for veterans' benefits please call (650) 306-3123.
CSM Services

- Streamlined the paperwork process
- Advocated for a veterans academic counselor
- Advocated for, implemented priority enrollment
- Created the Veterans Emergency Loan Program
- Network with other veterans services thru conferences (CSU E.B., SFSU, Sierra College, WAVES)
- Funded a “Welcome Home” scholarship
- Created a veterans email distribution list
- Established the Veterans Student Alliance (formerly Veterans Club)
CSM Services

- Created a new veterans website
- Connected veterans to other services (Peninsula Veterans Center, Financial Aid, American Legion Post 9/11)
- “Welcome Home” BBQ picnic
- Jackie Speier Post 9/11 GI Bill workshop for veterans
- Veterans educational workshops (academic, benefits, & health related issues)
- Live assistance through our veterans website

- Veterans graduation/transfer celebration
- Mentor program
Veterans Emergency Loan Program

- Identifying the need
- Thinking creatively
- Consulting campus resources
- Being attentive
- Informing and communicating
- Evaluating and adapting the program
- Success!
Raising funds

On-campus resources
- Associated Students
- President’s office
- Vice president’s office
- District grants

Off-campus resources
- Veterans organizations
- Personal connections
- Local businesses
- Government agencies
Future Initiatives

- Transitioning to the new GI Bill
- Addressing TBI/PTSD & anxiety-related issues
- Training faculty and staff about TBI/PTSD
- Strengthening community safety net services
November is Warrior Care month!
Resources ranging from programs to sources of information to ensure veterans receive their benefits.
http://www.warriorcare.mil

National Veterans Foundation
To serve the crisis management, information and referral needs of all U.S. Veterans and their families.
http://www.nvf.org/

For a multitude of career resources, news, and more try the following web site:
www.military.com

Department of Veterans Affairs - Education Benefits Information
www.gibill.va.gov

TurboTap
The official transition program website for Active Duty and Guard/Reserve personnel.
www.turbotap.org

VA Palo Alto Healthcare System
www.palo-alto.med.va.gov

For more info on your local Veterans Center
www.vetcenter.va.gov