

Veterans Benefits Administration

John Quichocho

Military Service Coordinators &
Minority Veterans Program Coordinators

San Diego VA Regional Office



San Diego Regional Office

- Serves all Veterans in San Diego, Imperial, Riverside and Orange Counties
- Located in San Diego
 - 8810 Rio San Diego Drive
- Five out-based locations
 - Camp Pendleton
 - Marine Corp Recruit Depot
 - Naval Base San Diego
 - Navy Regional Medical Center, San Diego
 - Laguna Hills Community Based Outpatient Clinic





Accessing VA

www.va.gov



<http://www.facebook.com/VeteransBenefits>



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Or call us

1-800-827-1000

8:00 a.m. EST to 9:00 p.m. EST



VBA Program Overview

- EBenefits
- DBQ
- Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment
- Compensation
- Pension
- Education



Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

Rose Idano, MS, CRC

Veteran Rehabilitation Counselor

San Diego VA Regional Office



Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment

- Purpose
 - To help Veterans with service-connected disabilities become suitably employed, maintain employment and achieve independence in daily living.
- To qualify
 - Service members identified with a service connected disability.
 - Veteran: Service-connected disability of at least 10%, or a 20%



Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment

- Basic eligibility period of 12 years that begin:
 - Date the Veteran was first notified of a service-connected disability rating from VA.
- Service Delivery Options
 - Reemployment
 - Self-Employment
 - Employment Through Long-Term Services and
 - Independent Living



Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment

- Program involves
 - Comprehensive evaluations of interest, aptitudes, and abilities
 - Development of a Rehabilitation Plan
- Out Based VOC REHAB Staff
 - Camp Pendleton (3)
 - Naval Base San Diego (1)
 - Riverside County Veteran Office (1)
 - Naval Hospital San Diego (5)
 - San Diego State (1)



Point of Contact

- San Diego Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Office
 - Linda Raffignone (619)400-5381



Veterans Benefits Administration

Kadell Felton

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VA Pension

Eligibility requirements:

- At least 90 days of active military service (generally, 24 months for enlistments after September 7, 1980)
- At least one day of wartime service (combat service not required)
- Totally and permanently disabled or attained age 65, Social Security disability, or nursing home status
- Disability need not be related to service
- Within income limits and net worth to qualify for this benefit



Service-Connected Compensation

- Compensation is paid for a disability resulting from disease or injury incurred 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 (including the result of sexual trauma)
 - Traumatic brain injury
 - Skin condition (psoriasis, eczema, scars)



Rating Process

- VA life cycle of a claim
- Disabilities are rated from 0% to 100%
 - 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



Related Benefits

- Free VA health care for all rated service-connected conditions
- Vocational rehabilitation & employment services may be available if a Servicemember is 20% with memorandum rating or proposed IDES rating OR Veteran with a VA disability rating of at least 10%
- VA life insurance - \$10,000
- Veteran's preference in Federal hiring
- VA home loan guaranty funding fee waived
- Possible state and local benefits



Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty (MGIB—AD)

- Eligibility: Honorable discharge, a high school diploma or general educational development (GED), and served active duty after June 30, 1985. Plus, \$1,200 military pay reduction
- Benefit:
 - Up to 36 months of benefits
 - Monetary benefit ranging from \$391 - \$1,564 per month, based on training time, paid to Veteran
 - Expires 10 years after release from active duty
 - Includes apprenticeship, on-the-job training, vocational training, and flight training



Post-9/11 GI Bill

- Eligibility: At least 90 days of aggregate service after September 10, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. An Honorable discharge is required to be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Benefit:

- Up to 36 months of benefits; payable for approved training on or after August 1, 2009.
- Determined by the length of active duty service (40% up to 100% per length of active duty service).
- Expires 15 years after last period of active duty service of at least 90 days.
- Usable for any program at an institution of higher learning (IHL) approved for MGIB-AD.
- Effective October 1, 2011, usable for NCD, OJT, flight programs, and correspondence training.



Other Benefit Programs

- **Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve – Chapter 1606**
 - Reserve components decide who is eligible, paid monthly to student
 - Generally, the benefit ends day of separation
- **Reserve Educational Assistance Program – Chapter 1607**
 - For members of the Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve called or ordered to active service after September 10, 2001 in response to a war or national emergency, as declared by the President or Congress
- **Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance – Chapter 35**
 - Eligible dependents of Veterans permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition, who died while on active duty or as a result of a service related condition, are hospitalized or receiving outpatient treatment for a service connected permanent and total disability and likely to be discharged for that disability. Are forcibly detained or interned in line of duty by a foreign government or power or are MIA
 - The program offers up to 45 months of education benefits
- **Post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance Program – Chapter 32**
 - Active duty entry after December 31, 1976, and before July 1, 1985
 - Contributed money on active duty, original contributions made before April 1, 1987
- **National Call to Service**
 - Active duty for 15 months and additional 24 months in the Reserve (without break in service)
 - Eligible incentives: Cash bonus of \$5,000, repayment of student loan up to \$18K, 12 months of full benefits

