

# 2007 School Certifying Officials Conference

Chapter 31-Vocational Rehabilitation  
and Employment

# What is Chapter 31-Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment

- Chapter 31 is a program designed to assist veterans with service-connected disabilities obtain and maintain gainful employment that is consistent with their interests, aptitudes, abilities and can be supported through the current labor market

# Who is eligible for Chapter 31 services?

- Veteran who has received or will receive a discharge under other than dishonorable conditions
- Incurred or aggravated a service-connected disability on or after September 16, 1940, which entitles him or her to VA disability compensation; and
- Is in need of vocational rehabilitation because his or her disability creates an employment handicap

# Facts about Chapter 31

- Entitlement to services is determined on an individual basis following an evaluation of the veteran's unique interests, aptitudes, education, work experience, and vocational abilities
- Vocational Rehabilitation may be provided for up to 48 months

- An eligible veteran generally has 12 years from the date he or she is notified of entitlement to VA compensation in which to use these benefits.
- VA may approve an extension of time and/or length of training in certain cases
- Entitlement to Chapter 31 does not guarantee approval for training or any desired training program
- Chapter 31 does not have to approve Chapter 30 approved training facilities

- If a veteran is interested in Chapter 31-Vocational Rehabilitation, he or she should contact Chapter 31 directly at (727)319-7900 or toll-free at 1-800-827-1000 ext. 7900

# Certifying the Veteran's Enrollment

- Entrance into rehabilitation is authorized with VA Form 28-1905
- 28-1905 is valid for the period designated by the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
- The Certifying Official should complete Section C of the 28-1905 to only certify the dates of enrollment within the authorized dates that are outlined on the 28-1905

- The certified 28-1905 should be mailed to the address on Item 10 of the form and this must be received in the VA Regional Office no later than 15 days after the beginning of the term
- A copy of the certified 28-1905 should be kept for school records



# Reporting Changes in Enrollment for Chapter 31 Veterans

- Certifying Official should use VA Form 22-1999b, Notice of Change in Student Status with the annotation, “Chapter 31 Trainee” added in the top pf the margin of the form
- 22-1999b must be received in the VA Regional Office within 30 days of the date the change took effect
- 22-1999b should reflect the actual last date of attendance for each course that the veteran withdrew from in addition to the date on which the veteran officially withdrew from the courses

# Do's and Don'ts for Certifying Officials

## Do's

- Assist with making space available for the Chapter 31 counselors to meet on campus with veterans
- Remember that Chapter 31 veterans are disabled and may need assistance to obtain accommodations, i.e., your school's Office of Students with Disabilities

## Don'ts

- Verify classes are required for the veteran's curriculum, do not certify non-required classes
- 28-1905 are only valid through approved VA personnel signature. Do not generate 28-1905's outside of the approved enrollment period

ANY QUESTIONS YOU  
HAVE REGARDING  
CHAPTER 31 THAT YOU  
CANNOT ANSWER, REFER  
THE VETERAN TO  
DIRECTLY CONTACT THEIR  
VA VOCATIONAL  
REHABILITATION  
COUNSELOR

**We Are Dealing With  
Veterans, Not Procedures;  
With Their Problems, Not  
Ours**

**Omar M. Bradley, Administrator of Veterans  
Affairs, 1945-1947**