

# AGENDA

- INTRODUCTION
- OVERVIEW
  - Community College
  - Military Service Affiliated
- VETERANS PROGRAM
- MILITARY SERVICE PROGRAM
- The GI BILL
- HOW TO IMPROVE YOUR PROGRAM
  - Student Services Guidance
  - Military Club
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- POPULATION VS SUPPORT
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- HOW WE CAN HELP
- Q & A

# INTRODUCTION

- I am 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Renard O'von Thomas, United States Army, California National Guard. I currently serve as the Movement Officer in the 746 CSSB. I have 16 years of combined military service to include Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard service. I have been the VA Certifying Official at College of the Canyons for 8 years. I have also been a college student for the last 14 years in some shape or form. I am currently working towards my BS (bachelors in science) degree in Technical Management, special focus Security Management at Devry University. I have used a lot of different resources to fund my education and I hope that by sharing my experience it will assist you in developing your own programs.

# OVERVIEW

- Our nation is at war! Some of us know this a lot better than others.
- Many Americans have chosen to serve our country in one of the 5 branches of service.
- Others contribute by supporting the men and women that go or have gone forward to fight on our behalves.
- This commitment has created a unique need in our communities as these soldiers perform their duties and return from service.
- After a military obligation soldiers and their families attempt to transition from a military lifestyle to a civilian lifestyle.
- The skill set that they developed while in service is not always applicable outside the military.
- Soldiers and family members alike will generally seek to develop or up-date job skills.
- Community College is the perfect place to get started because of the diverse programs offered, support services and cost.

# COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- Community College is a logical place for military service affiliated students to pursue both their vocational and academic goals.
- Community College offers a wide array of services including college degrees, skills assessment, counseling and testing services, certificate job training and job skills development programs, and apprenticeship programs through credit and non-credit courses.

# MILITARY SERVICE AFFILIATED

- MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS
  - ACTIVE DUTY
  - RESERVE / NATIONAL GUARD
- VETERANS
  - IRAQI WAR VETERAN
  - NON IRAQI WAR VETERAN
  - DISABLED VETERAN
- DEPENDENTS
- NEW RECRUITS

# VETERANS PROGRAM

- Veterans Education Benefits Advisement
- Quality Benefits Certification
- Compliance with the Department of Veterans Affairs
- Compliance with the State Approving Agencies

# MILITARY SERVICE PROGRAM

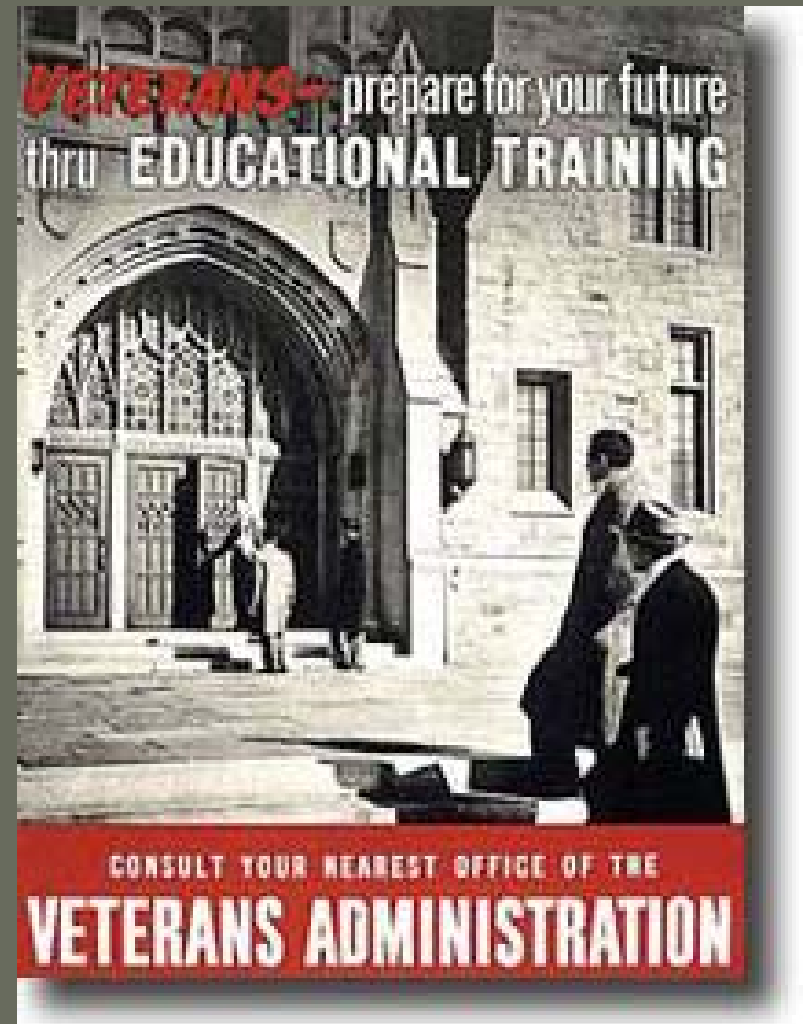
- Community College System Orientation
  - Campus Tour
  - Counseling 150
- Student Services Navigation
  - Which services apply to me?
- Military Club
  - Peer Support
  - College advisors
- Out Reach
- Veterans Services Advisement

# OBJECTIVE

- To assist veterans, military service personnel and their dependents access VA Education Benefits and other on campus resources.
- To provide direction and guidance that leads to academic success.
- To facilitate and support Military Service oriented peer support groups.

# THE GI BILL

- On June 22, 1944 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed into law one of the most significant pieces of legislation ever produced by the United States government: The Service members' Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the GI Bill of Rights.



# VA EDUCATION BENEFITS PROGRAMS

- Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty
  - (MGIB-AD / CH 30)
  - \$600.00 Buy-up Program
- Montgomery GI Bill – Selected Reserve
  - (MGIB-SR / CH 1606)
- Reserve Educational Assistance Program
  - (REAP / CH 1607)
- Veterans Educational Assistance Program
  - (VEAP / CH 32)
- Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program
  - (DEA / CH 35)

# MONTGOMERY GI BILL - ACTIVE DUTY (MGIB-AD/CH 30)

- The MGIB program provides up to 36 months of education benefits. This benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training and correspondence courses. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances. Generally, benefits are payable for 10 years following your release from active duty. This program is also commonly known as Chapter 30.

MONTGOMERY GI BILL (CHAPTER 30)  
INCREASED EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE  
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2006

## Institutional Training

Training Time	Monthly rate
Full time	\$1,101.00
3/4 time	\$825.75
1/2 time	\$550.50

Less than 1/2-time: Reimburse tuition and fees, not to exceed 1/2-time rate with no dependents.

Quarter-time or less: Reimburse tuition and fees, not to exceed 1/4 full-time rate with no dependents

# \$600 Buy-up Program

- Some service members may contribute up to an additional \$600 to the GI Bill to receive increased monthly benefits. For an additional \$600 contribution, you may receive up to \$5400 in additional GI Bill benefits. The increased benefit is only payable after leaving active duty, and the additional contribution must be made while on active duty.

# MONTGOMERY GI BILL SELECTED RESERVE (MGIB-SR CHAPTER 1606)

- The MGIB-SR may be available to you if you are a member of the Selected reserve. The Selected Reserve includes the Army Reserve, Navy Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard. This benefit may be used for degree and certificate programs, flight training, apprenticeship/on-the-job training and correspondence courses. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances.

MONTGOMERY GI BILL CHAPTER 1606  
INCREASED EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE  
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2006

## Institutional Training

Training Time	Monthly rate
Full time	\$317.00
3/4 time	\$237.00
1/2 time	\$157.00
Less than 1/2 time	\$79.25

# RESERVE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (REAP CHAPTER 1607)

- REAP was established as a part of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005. It is a new Department of Defense education benefit program designed to provide educational assistance to members of the Reserve components called or ordered to active duty in response to a war or nation emergency (contingency operation) as declared by the President or Congress. This new program makes certain reservists who were activated for at least 90 days after September 11, 2001 either eligible for education benefits or eligible for increased benefits.

RESERVE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM (REAP CHAPTER 1607)  
INCREASED EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE  
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2006

**Institutional Training**

Training Time	Consecutive service of 90 days but less than one year	Consecutive service of 1 year +	Consecutive service of 2 years +
Full time	\$440.40	\$660.60	\$880.80
3/4 time	\$330.30	\$495.45	\$660.60
1/2 time	\$220.20	\$330.30	\$440.40

Less than 1/2-time: Reimburse tuition and fees, not to exceed 1/2-time rate with no dependents.

Quarter-time or less: Reimburse tuition and fees, not to exceed 1/4 full-time rate with no dependents

# SURVIVORS' AND DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (DEA CHAPTER 35)

- DEA provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents of veterans who are permanently and totally disabled due to a service-related condition, or who died while on active duty or as a result of a service related condition. The program offers up to 45 months of education benefits. These benefits may be used for degree and certificate programs, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training. If you are a spouse, you may take a correspondence course. Remedial, deficiency, and refresher courses may be approved under certain circumstances.

SURVIVORS' & DEPENDENTS' – (DEA / CHAPTER 35)  
INCREASED EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE  
EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 1, 2006

## Institutional Training

Training Time	Monthly rate
Full time	\$881.00
3/4 time	\$661.00
1/2 time	\$439.00
1/4 time	\$220.25**

Less than 1/2-time: Reimburse tuition and fees, not to exceed 1/2-time rate with no dependents.

Quarter-time or less: Reimburse tuition and fees, not to exceed 1/4 full-time rate with no dependents

# How to improve your program!!!

- Training
  - Conferences WAVES
  - GI Bill web site
- VA Education Program Updates
  - List serve
  - GI Bill Web Site
- VA Education Benefits Advisement
  - Individual
  - Group Briefings
- Efficient Processing
  - Document Review
  - Electronic Certification
- Student Folders
  - Conversation Log
- Compliance Standards
  - Everyday
  - Periodic Review

# STUDENT SERVICES

- ADMISSIONS & RECORDS
  - Registration
  - Adding / Dropping
- STUDENT BUSINESS OFFICE
  - Payment Plans
- ACADEMIC COUNSELING
  - SEP (Student Education Plan)
- FINANCIAL AID
  - FASFA
  - BOG
  - Scholarships
- EOPS (Extended Opportunity Programs and Service)
  - Financial Resources
  - Academic Counseling

# STUDENT SERVICES

- **DSPS (Disabled Students Programs and Services)**
  - Accommodations
  - Academic Counseling
- **TLC (Tutoring, Learning and computer lab)**
  - Free
  - Get help! (It is ok)
- **CAREER SERVICES**
  - Job Services
  - Resume
  - Interview Training
- **TRANSFER CENTER**
  - Transfer Counseling
  - HITE

# MILITARY CLUB

- Peer Support Group
- Student Services Awareness
- VA Benefits Awareness
- Social Activities
- Inspirational Speakers
- Career Briefings
- Scholarships
- Community Volunteers

# OUTREACH PROGRAM

- An outreach program can draw 30-50 students to your institution per year.
- There is no community program that guides or support this population to academic programs.
- Recruiters
  - Partner to assist new recruits start college
  - Delayed entry program
- Reserve & National Guard Elements
  - Education while serving

# POPULATION VS SUPPORT

- California is home to more than 2.2 million veterans – the greatest number of veterans in the nation (according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics). Each year, 12,000 members of the military enter the civilian workforce in California.
- Recently returning veterans between the ages of 18 and 24 have an unemployment rate as high as 10%.

# POPULATION VS SUPPORT

- The military service population is expected to continue to grow as more service members return from deployments and active duty service.
- The population should drive the support for the program.
- There are several ways that the program can be structured to best serve the school and most importantly the military community.

# STAFFING RECOMENDATIONS

- Part-time
  - 25-50 students
- Full-time (multiple duties)
  - 50-75 students
- Full-time (multiple duties) work-study
  - 75-125 students
- Full-time
  - 125-150 students
- Full-time (work-study)
  - 150-200 students
- Full-time (work-studies) part-time assistant
  - 200-300 students
- Per every 50 students add a work-study student

# HOW WE CAN HELP

- **RECOGNIZE THE NEED**
  - In your community
  - On your campus
- **BE PATIENT AND SUPPORTIVE**
  - Service members and their families will manage service obligations, deployments and transitions differently. Many things might change for this population especially during a transition from the military back to a civilian lifestyle.
- **BE AWARE OF VETERAN SPECIFIC ISSUES**
  - PTSD
  - TBI
  - DEPRESSION
- **SEEK KNOWLEDGE OF POLICIES PERTAINING TO SERVICE MEMBERS**
  - Training for new and existing benefits programs for service members or dependents
- **DEVELOP PROGRESSIVE PROGRAMS TO ACCOMODATE MILITARY STUDENT POPULATION**
  - We can anticipate that more students will use the community college system to gain practical skills and education

# RESOURCES

- WAVES (Western Association of Veterans Education Specialist)
  - <http://www.uswaves.org/>
- Montgomery GI Bill
  - <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>
- College Fee Waiver (Veteran Dependents)
  - <http://www.cacvso.org/>
- Military Scholarships
  - <http://www.military.com/>