Veterans Affairs

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The GI Bill

- Began after World War II
  - Historically, the first form of financial aid
- Extended for Korean Vets
- Reinstated during the Vietnam era
  - Vietnam era veterans
  - Retroactive to the end of the Korean War
- After Vietnam, changed to voluntary
- 1984: Montgomery GI Bill
- New in August 2009: Post 9/11 GI Bill
Programs (Chapters)

- Chapter 30 (Montgomery GI Bill)
  - Active duty for 2 years, must pay in $1,200
- Chapter 31 (Vocational Rehabilitation)
  - Service connected disability--at least 10%
- Chapter 33 (Post 9/11)
  - Went into effect on 8/1/09
- Chapter 34 (Vietnam era GI Bill, rollover)
- Chapter 35 (dependents)
  - Service connected death or total, permanent disability
- Chapter 1606 (reservists)
- Chapter 1607 (activated for 90 days after 9/11)
Common Provisions

- 36 months of full time benefits
  - Prorated for less than full time enrollment
  - If changing from one separate GI Bill to another, can receive 48 months of benefits
- Must be used within 10 years (15 years for Chapter 33)
  - May be extended for medical reasons
Common Provisions

- Monthly payments direct to veteran or dependent
- Must be enrolled in an approved program (State approving agency)
- Can only be paid for classes required for degree objective
  - Implies the need for an ed plan
  - Veterans must follow ed plan exactly
Common Provisions

- May have to pay money back for withdrawals
- Chapter 31 also provides funds to cover educational expenses
- Chapter 31 may be used after the 15-year limit has expired
Chapter 33—The New GI Bill

Eligibility

- On active duty since 9/11/01
- On active duty for 36 months to receive 100% benefits
  - Prorated if less than 36 months
  - Time in training doesn’t count
- Can switch Chapter 30 to 33, but not back
- Must enroll more than 50% of full time
  - At least 7 units
Chapter 33—The New GI Bill

- Tuition
  - Cost of tuition and fees up to the most expensive in-state, undergraduate, public institution
  - Report tuition and fees on certification forms
Chapter 33—The New GI Bill

- Monthly housing allowance
  - Comparable to E-5 with dependents housing allowance in same zip code as the school

Chapter 33—The New GI Bill

- **Books and supplies**
  - Up to $1,000 per year, based on 24 units
  - $1,000 ÷ 24 = $41.67 per unit
  - 15 units for fall = 15 x $41.67 = $625.05
  - 12 units for spring = $374.95
  - Nothing left for summer
Chapter 33—The New GI Bill

- Relocation
  - $500, one time if relocating from highly rural area
Institutional Eligibility

- Must be approved by the State Approving Agency (SAA)
- Degree granting or clock hour
- Submit 3 catalogs each year
- Each program the school offers must be approved
- CC transfer programs approved once, update when needed
Institutional Responsibilities

- Certify veteran’s enrollment
  - Number of units enrolled
  - Minus any non-required classes
  - Beginning and ending dates
  - Veteran’s degree objective
  - Tuition and fees
- Report changes to veteran’s enrollment
- Monitor satisfactory progress
  - May differ from that of the school
Financial Aid and Veterans

Five points of contact
Financial Aid and Veterans

Six points of contact:

- Dependency status
- Contribution from VA educational benefits
- Veteran’s noneducation income and benefits
- Income reduction
- Dependents of veterans
Dependency status (Question 49)

Select “Yes” if you are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee who is on active duty for other than state of training purposes.
Financial Aid and Veterans

Dependency status (Question 50)

- Veterans are those who have engaged in active duty (which includes basic training) in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard and were released under a condition other than “dishonorable.”

- Answer “Yes” if you are not a veteran now but will be one by June 30, 2011 (for 2010/11).
Dependency status (Question 50)

- Students who attended a U.S. military academy for at least one day and were released under conditions other than "dishonorable" count as veterans.

- Members of the National Guard or Reserves are only considered veterans if they were called up to active duty for other than state or training purposes.

--www.fafsa.ed.gov
Dependency status (Question 50)

- There is no minimum amount of time the student has to have served to be a veteran, but it does have to be active service.
- This is less stringent than the VA’s definition of veteran for receiving certain VA benefits.
- Students serving in ROTC or currently attending a U.S. military academy are not veterans for financial aid purposes.
Financial Aid and Veterans

- Contribution from VA Educational Benefits
  - Effective 2009/10, veterans contribution is eliminated from need
  - However, Cal Grant need must include the contribution from VA educational benefits for Fall 2010 only
    - Report adjustments using VB code
The 2010/11 FAFSA includes check boxes for:
- Combat pay or special combat pay
- Housing, food and other living allowances paid to members of the military, clergy and others
- Veterans noneducation benefits
Financial Aid and Veterans

Income reduction

Veterans who leave the military to attend school full time and live off their GI Bill may have their EFCs recalculated by professional judgment using projected year or projected school year income.
Financial Aid and Veterans

- Dependents of soldiers killed in Iraq of Afghanistan after 9/11/01
  - Zero EFC for Pell Grant purposes only
    - If Pell eligible, use zero EFC for all other aid
    - If not Pell eligible, use actual EFC for other aid
- 2009/10: Emails to colleges
- 2010/11: ISIR DoD match flag

http://ifap.ed.gov/eannouncements/110609DODMatch.html
Working with Veterans

VET NET Ally
VET NET Ally

- Similar to Safe Zone training
- Developed by Marshall Thomas
  - Associate Director, Learning Assistance Center
  - California State University Long Beach
  - mthomas@csulb.edu
- Doctoral dissertation
Definitions

- Veteran
  - Combat
  - Non-combat

- Service member
  - Active vs. reserve duty

- Department of Defense (DoD)

- OEF/OIF

- Dependent
Why I Joined

- Every year about 280,000 people join the military

<table>
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<th>Service</th>
<th>Active Duty</th>
<th>Reserves</th>
<th>National Guard</th>
<th>Total by Service</th>
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<tr>
<td>Army</td>
<td>67,200</td>
<td>36,000</td>
<td>66,000</td>
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<td>Air Force</td>
<td>28,800</td>
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<td>18,000</td>
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<td>Totals</td>
<td>148,800</td>
<td>57,600</td>
<td>73,200</td>
<td>279,600</td>
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Why I Joined

- There are many reasons why people join the military
- Most people join for a combination of reasons
  - Economic incentives - Career preparation
  - Adventure - Family tradition
  - Patriotism - Rite of passage
  - Change of environment
Military Culture - Terminology

- Bulkhead
- Porthole
- Deck
- Chow
- Mess hall
- Leave
- Cover
- Head/latrine
- Colors
Military Culture - Camaraderie
Military Culture

- Vocabulary/Language
- Hierarchical Society
  - Chain of command
- History
- Customs and courtesies
- Uniforms
- Immediate response to orders
- Physical fitness and ongoing training
Military Culture – Boot Camp

- Initial training required by all services
  - Physical
  - Mental
  - Emotional
- Tailored to the unique needs and characters of each service
- The “self” is replaced by the “team”
- In a society that has few rites of passage Boot Camp provides one
Military Culture – After Boot Camp

- Life after initial training differs greatly
  - By service
  - By occupational specialty
  - By geographic location
  - By whether or not one is in a combat zone
Military Culture – Duties

- Large bases are like cities
- Each service member performs a role in his/her city
- “Three hots and a cot”
- Pay twice a month
- Medical/dental benefits
- Weekends and holidays
- 30 days paid vacation
Military Culture – Duties

- Service members can be deployed
  - Anywhere
  - Anytime
- Physical fitness
- Continuous training
- Policing one another
- It is all about the team, the unit, the mission
- Leadership and educational opportunities
Saluting officers
Proper uniform
Inspections
Colors
Ceremonies
  - Promotion
  - Change of command
Observe the proper chain of command
Military Culture – Getting Out

- Becoming a civilian
  - Losing camaraderie
  - Getting a job
  - Getting dressed
  - Finding housing
  - Eating
  - Finding health care
Military Culture – Getting Out

- Being a veteran
  - Pride in service
  - Silence about service
  - A Band of Brothers
  - An acquired sense of superiority over those from other services
Military Culture – Getting Out

- Becoming a student
  - Choosing a major
  - Selecting classes
  - Studying
  - Questioning authority
  - Being a fellow student
Getting Out – Veterans Needs

- Camaraderie
- Respect
- Acceptance
- Minimize the bureaucracy
- Patience
- Accurate and timely information
Working with Veterans

TBI and PTSD
Working with Veterans

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) incidence
  - 30% Vietnam veterans
  - 10% Gulf War (Desert Storm)
  - 6-11% Afghanistan veterans
  - 12-20% Iraqi veterans
    - PTSD more acute for women veterans
Other issues

- Suicide rate—Highest in 30 years (U.S. Army)
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- 23% women veterans report sexual assault
- 55% women veterans report sexual harassment

Working with Veterans

- Iraq and Afghanistan veterans
  - Military recognizes PTSD exists
  - Has deployed mental health workers in theater of operations
  - Unlike Vietnam veterans, current society has been able to separate servicemen and women from the war
  - All volunteer military vs. the draft
  - Multiple deployments
Working with Veterans

- Iraq and Afghanistan veterans
  - Returning from an ambiguous military situation
    - No safe zones
    - Hard to determine who the enemy is
    - No resolution or victory in sight
  - Dehumanization/demonization of the enemy
  - May be angry and frustrated
  - More likely to be married, have a family than Vietnam vets
PTSD symptoms
- Re-experiencing the trauma
  - Re-occurring thoughts, dreams, nightmares, flashbacks
  - Anxiety or fear, feeling in danger again
- Anger or aggressive feelings
  - Feel the need to defend oneself
  - Difficulty controlling emotions
- Trouble concentrating, sleeping, thinking clearly
Working with Veterans

- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
  - 20% of all OEF/OIF combat injuries
  - Mild TBI (80%)
    - Recovery in a few days to a few months
    - No lasting symptoms
  - Severe
    - Partial recovery
    - Permanent disability

Source: Deployment Health Clinical Center (http://www pdhealth mil) December 5, 2008
Working with Veterans

- TBI symptoms
  - Light-headed or dizzy
  - Blurred vision, eyes tire easily
  - Headaches, ringing in the ears
  - Trouble with memory, attention
  - Impaired decision making
  - Difficulty inhibiting behavior
  - Slowed thinking, moving
  - Easily confused
Working with Veterans

- Always be willing to listen
  - Take time, be patient
  - There is great diversity in their experience
  - Don’t assume the worst
- Let them know that their service is appreciated
- Give them the respect they deserve
- Liaison with the nearest Vets Center, VA Medical Center, other veterans agencies
- Liaison with other offices on campus
- Get them the services they need
Working with Veterans

Long Beach City College Experiences
Who they are

- 508 students receiving the GI Bill Spring 2010
  - Montgomery (old) GI Bill (Ch 30)  82
  - Post 911 GI Bill (Ch 33)  306
  - Vocational Rehabilitation (Ch 31)  42
  - Dependents GI Bill (Ch 35)  56
  - Reservists (Ch 1606/1607)  22
LBCC Veterans

- Increase in GI Bill participation
  - Fall 2008  298
  - Spring 2009  346
  - Fall 2009  524
  - Spring 2010  588
  - Fall 2010  592
Degree objectives (Spring 2009)
- AA degree 25.4%
- AS degree 19.7%
- Certificate 2.7%
- Transfer 51.4%
- Unknown 0.8%

91 different majors reported
14 different transfer schools reported
Students by Branch of Service

- Marines: 35%
- Army: 31%
- Navy: 21%
- Air Force: 10%
- Coast Guard: 3%

CSULB data
Students by Branch of Service

Combat Tours

- Iraq: 48%
- Afghanistan: 21%
- None: 31%

CSULB data
Working with Veterans at LBCC

Veterans Affairs Office

- Mike MacCallum, Dean
- Franc Menjivar, FA Supervisor
- Danielle Panto, Certifying Official
- Jose Turner, Adjunct FA Counselor
- PataVang, MSW Intern (CSUDH)
- Terri Goldstein, GO Project (DSPS)
- Javier Villasenor, LBCC Counselor
Working with Veterans at LBCC

Core aim

- Communication with veterans
- Interrelationships with LBCC offices
- Work together with other organizations for the benefit of the veterans
- Veterans committee meets weekly
Working with Veterans at LBCC

- Low turnouts to events
  - Vets Club meetings
  - Veterans service fairs
  - End of the semester bowling
- Commitment to keep trying
Working with Veterans at LBCC

- Veterans Services Fair—March 2009
  - About 30 agencies (college and community)
  - Two other CCs and two CSUs
  - 10:00 to 2:00
  - Practice field at Veterans Stadium
  - Free BBQ lunch and jazz band
  - VA Health Bus
  - Guest speakers
  - About 30 veterans served
  - Emails and letters sent to all LBCC vets
  - Posters sent to all agencies
Working with Veterans at LBCC

- Veterans Appreciation Day—11/11/10
  - $500 grant from AmVets; $250 from ASB
  - BBQ in the center of campus
  - Campus radio station
    - Music and open mic
  - Display boards/honor boards
  - Some service agencies (minor theme)
  - Served 550 people
Working with Vets--Current Efforts

- Establish relationship with CSULB
  - Veterans Affairs--Pat O’Rourke
  - Troops to Engineers
- Mentoring program
  - Leaders Across Campus
- Liaison with other LBCC departments
  - Vet-friendly contacts
Working with Vets—Current Efforts

- Vets Club—Began Fall 2009
- End of the semester bowling and pizza party
- Network with other colleges
  - Hosted The Road Home May 2010
Working with Vets--Current Efforts

- Updated Veterans website
  - [http://va.lbcc.edu](http://va.lbcc.edu)
- LBCC Veterans Facebook
  - LbccVa
- Veterans challenge coin
  - 585 given out in Fall 2010
Working with Vets--Current Efforts

- VA Work Study students helping veterans
- Intake questionnaire
  - Help provide specific services to veterans
- Priority registration flyer
- Welcome letter from the president
- Flex Day presentation to faculty
- Priority registration for all veterans
- Weekly emails
Working with Vets—Future Projects

- Very concerned about veterans’ retention and success rates
  - Weekly orientations beginning Spring 2011
  - Contact veterans who drop out
- Veterans brochure or bookmark
  - Provided to other offices to guide veterans to the Veterans Affairs Office
Working with Vets—Future Projects

- Veterans Service Center and study area
  - Currently we have “the hooch”
- College orientation class for veterans
Working with Vets—Future Projects

- Servicemember’s Opportunity College
  - Accept CLEP credit
  - Grant credit for service schools using ACE recommendations
  - Become an SOC member

http://www.soc.aascu.org/
http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Military_Programs
Working with Vets—Future Projects

- Organize a Veterans Advisory Committee
  - Veterans service agencies
  - Cal State Long Beach
  - City of Long Beach
  - Villages of Cabrillo
  - VA Hospital
  - Vets Center
  - Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base

- There is great support for veterans, now is the time to act
Some Important Websites

- Veterans Administration
- Vets Centers
- Information about PTSD
  [http://www.ncptsd.va.gov/ncmain/index.jsp](http://www.ncptsd.va.gov/ncmain/index.jsp)
  [http://www.iraqwarveterans.org/ptsd.htm](http://www.iraqwarveterans.org/ptsd.htm)
- Information about TBI
  [http://www.pdhealth.mil](http://www.pdhealth.mil)
Some Important Websites

- **Troops to College (CCCCO)**

- **Troops to Teachers**
  - Federal
  - State
    http://www.caltroops.org/

- **For veterans**
  http://www.military.com
Contact Information

- Danielle: dpanto@lbcc.edu; 562-983-3932
- Franc: jmenjivar@lbcc.edu; 562-983-3956
- Mike: mmaccallum@lbcc.edu; 562-983-4683
Questions, Comments, Discussion