

# Education

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# 2023 Statewide Symposium in Support of Service Members, Veterans & Their Families

APRIL 19-20, 2023 | PHOENIX, ARIZONA

 arizona coalition  
for military families



# Educational Supports for Success

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Session 3

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# Supporting Education Needs for Military Members, Veterans, Spouses, and Family Members in Transition

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# Welcome!

# Agenda

**1** Introduction & Welcome

**2** Veteran Readiness and Employment

**3** School Liaison Program: Supporting Families During Transition

**4** Work / College / Life Balance: working while going to college and how to better balance your life

**5** Wrapping up with Andrea

# Veteran Readiness & Employment



## **Troy Rundle, MA, CRC**

VetSuccess On Campus Counselor  
Voc Rehab Counselor  
Veterans Benefits Administration

**Veteran Readiness & Employment/Chapter 31 or VR&E**

**Pat Tillman Veterans Center**

[ptvc@asu.edu](mailto:ptvc@asu.edu)

<https://veterans.asu.edu/>

<https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/>



# Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E)



VR&E Program helps service members and Veterans with service-connected disabilities and an employment handicap prepare for, find, and keep suitable jobs through counseling and case management

- Interest and aptitude testing, and career counseling
- Job training, job-seeking skills, resume development, and work-readiness assistance
- Special employer incentives, on-the-job-training, and non-paid work experiences
- Post-secondary training at a college, vocational, technical or business school
- Independent living services for individuals who are not currently able to work because of the effects of service-connected disabilities and require intensive and frequent rehabilitation support to become more independent in their homes and communities

VR&E is an Employment Program – end goal is finding employment

For more information on VA Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E), visit <https://www.va.gov/careers-employment/vocational-rehabilitation/>.



# CH 31 VR&E Program Changes

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Increased use of tele-counseling

Employees using electronic Virtual Assistant (e-VA) to communicate with Veterans

Veterans given opportunity to opt-in or opt-out of e-VA

# CH 31 VR&E Eligibility

Service Members: Must have a Memorandum Rating of 20% or higher. Or rating determination through the IDES program.

Veterans: Must have a Service-connected disability rating of 10% or higher, and any discharge other than Dishonorable Discharge

If released from Active Duty prior to Jan 1st, 2013, 12yr eligibility period based on the later of two dates:

- Date of separation from active duty or
- 
- Date of initial VA disability rating of 10% or higher

Eligibility termination date removed if most recent date of discharge from active duty is on or after Jan 1st, 2013

48 months of entitlement if eligible

Apply using VA form 1900: online (va.gov) or paper form

# Entitlement to Services

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Veteran must have impairments that limit his/her ability to obtain or maintain employment.

SCD must contribute in an identifiable, measurable way to the employment barriers

VR&E Services are required to overcome the Employment Handicap.

Veteran has not overcome limitations to employment through prior training or suitable employment.

**20% SCD Rating or higher; must have an Employment Handicap.**

**10% SCD Rating or outside 12yr ETD, must have a Serious Employment Handicap.**

# CH 31 VR&E - 5 Program Tracks

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- 1) Reemployment is targeted for individuals separating from active duty, National Guard, or Reserves with a desire to return to their previous employer.
- 2) Rapid Access to Employment is targeted for individuals seeking employment soon after separation or who already have the required skills to be competitive in the civilian job market.
- 3) Employment Through Long Term Services is targeted for individuals needing specialized training and/or education to obtain and maintain suitable employment.

# CH 31 VR&E - 5 Program Tracks cont.

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4) Self-Employment is targeted at individuals with limited access to traditional employment; who need flexible work schedules, or a more accommodating work environment due to their disabilities and life circumstances.

5) Independent Living is targeted for individuals that are not able to work right now; and need rehabilitation services to live more independently.

# What to expect after applying

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Notification to attend a scheduled appointment for Orientation; which includes an individual meeting with a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC) to determine entitlement.

Participation in a vocational assessment related to interests, aptitude, abilities; and career exploration assignments to assist in determining a suitable vocational goal.

# If Veteran is Found Entitled to CH31 VR&E

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Complete Vocational Exploration

Development of a Rehabilitation Plan based on one of the 5 tracks available through the program

Case management and support will be provided by a VRC throughout a plan of service

Employment Services provided by an Employment Coordinator near the end of a plan of service.

# 48 Month Rule:

## Interaction of VA Education Benefits and CH 31 VR&E entitlement

Veteran can access a total of 48 months of entitlement through any combination of education and CH 31 benefits

Entitlement used under an education benefit (CH 30, 1606/1607, 33) will subtract available entitlement for CH 31 (24 months used under CH 33 leaves 24 months of CH 31 entitlement)

Entitlement used under an Education benefit can be “Recouped” by CH 31 or

Retroactive Induction can be authorized under CH 31 to restore CH 33 entitlement

Entitlement usage under CH 31 no longer subtracts from available entitlement under an education benefit

Example: Veteran first uses 36months under CH 31. If eligible for an education benefit all 36months (or remaining time if used previously) will still be available under the education benefit



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## If School is part of the Individualized Written Rehab Plan (IWRP)

# Ch 31 VR&E Benefits/Services

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Payments made directly to school

All tuition and fees associated with in state costs

All required books are paid for

Small allowance per term for supplies

Monthly subsistence paid directly to Veteran

Initial rate for “single” Veteran but increases based on number of dependents or

Alternative rate equal to CH 33 BAH if eligible for both programs

Voc Rehab Counselor will determine additional benefits available

Authorization/Purchase Order submitted to school/training facility indicates that the Veteran is approved to use CH 31 benefits

# Rate of Pursuit and Subsistence Payment



Payments made for 100% (fulltime), 75% ( $\frac{3}{4}$  time), and 50% ( $\frac{1}{2}$  time)

No payments for less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  time

Reduced Work Tolerance: If allowed by VR Counselor/Case Manager, veteran can be paid at 100% even if taking less than fulltime credits

If using Alternative CH 33 Rate:

- CH 33 On-campus vs Fully online rules apply
- All other payment rules follow CH 31 VRE rules

# School Liaison Program (SLP)

## Supporting Families During Transition

### **Candice Brown, M.Ed.**

MCAS Yuma School Liaison Officer  
Marine Corps Community Services Yuma

### **Marine Corps Community Services Yuma**

(928) 269-5373

yumaschoolliaison@usmc-mccs.org

<https://www.dodea.edu/partnership/schoolliaisonofficers.cfm>

<https://yuma.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/child-and-youth/school-liaison-program-k-12>





## USMC School Liaison Program Mission

The School Liaison Program (SLP) mission is to promote awareness of the unique educational needs of military connected children and facilitate successful school transitions.

The SLP is Department of Defense (DoD) wide and available to families on every major military installation in the US and overseas.

# Family Transitions

- PCS – **P**ermanent **C**hange of **S**tation (relocation)
- School transitions (ES>HS>Post Secondary)
- Deployment and reintegration
- Extended time apart
- Military to civilian life



# Common K-12 Education Issues

- Inconsistencies from state-to-state
- Non-DoD School Program Challenges
- Graduation requirements
- Credit transfers
- Special Education challenges
- Extracurricular eligibility
- School calendars/schedules
- Scholarship availability
- Course content sequencing
- Transfer of records
- School quality
- Senior moves



# Impacts to K-12 Education

- Poor or unsuccessful schooling transitions
- Additional sources of stress
- Difficulty adapting to new schools and environments
- Decline in academic achievement
- Reduced access to sports/extracurriculars
- Special needs unsupported
- Lack of continuity—children attend 6 to 9 different schools





# Impacts to Family Readiness

- Family readiness directly impacts the service member's ability to do their job and do it well
- K-12 education and other family concerns can strongly influence military member career decisions
- Geographic bachelorhood
- Forgoing spousal employment
- Time apart; delayed/advanced dependent travel





## What School Liaisons Do



Transition Support



Deployment Support



Post Secondary Preparation



School Options / Requirements



Special Education Navigation



Partnerships in Education



Command, Installation, School,  
Community Communications &  
Partnerships

# Work / College / Life Balance

Working while going to college, and how to better balance your life

## **Col. Wanda Wright**

U.S. Air Force Retired, Veteran Volunteer  
Arizona Coalition for Military Families



# Life Balance is Important

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- It can be difficult to configure exactly how to be successful as student veterans while navigating existing and new responsibilities
  - Family
  - Work
  - School
- If not prepared balancing these responsibilities can create stress, health and family issues

# Student Veteran Data

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- 699,922 Veterans used VA education and vocational rehabilitation benefits to further their education
- 47% have children
- 47.3% have spouses
- 75% are attending school full-time
- 60 % are working while going to school

SVA Report 2019

# Tips for Healthy Balance

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- Time Management
- Communication
- Support Systems
- Self Care

# You can achieve balance

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- Learn to say “No”
- Keep distraction to a minimum
- Use the tips to organize your time

# Question & Answer





# Session Evaluation

We want to hear from you!

