GAVCO School Conference March 2013

VETERANS
BENEFITS
ADMINISTRATION

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Linda McAllister, Chief, Education Liaison Officer
Regional Processing Office Update

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Performance and Workload

Inventory (Fiscal Year to Date)

	Incoming Work
FY 2011 (October 1, 2010 – Feb 28, 2011)	310,192
FY 2012 (October 1, 2011 – Feb 28, 2012)	358,186
FY 2013 (October 1, 2012 – Feb 28, 2013)	426,271

-Incoming work in FY 2013 is up 37.4% compared to FY 2011
-Incoming work in FY 2013 is up 19.0% compared to FY 2012

Performance and Workload

Original Claims Timeliness Comparison (in days)

- Original Claims Completed Fiscal Year to Date

Original FYTD (February 28, 2013)	FY 2013 Target	FY 2012	FYTD 2013
Atlanta	28.0	34.6	41.6

- Original Claims Completed in Current Month

Original Current Month (February 28, 2013)	FY 2013 Target	FY 2012	FY 2013
Atlanta	28.0	32.3	30.6

Performance and Workload

Supplemental Claims Timeliness Comparison (in days)

- Supplemental Claims Completed Fiscal Year to Date

Original FYTD (February 28, 2013)	FY 2013 Target	FY 2012	FY 2013
Atlanta	14.0	14.9	17.9

- Supplemental Claims Completed in Current Month

Original Current Month (February 28, 2013)	FY 2013 Target	FY 2012	FY 2013
Atlanta	14.0	18.5	14.1

GEORGIA EDUCATION SERVICES STAFF

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Approval Process

- Deemed-Approved
  - Post 9/11 GI Bill Improvement Act
  - Standard Degree Programs offered at Accredited Public & Private Non-Profit Schools
  - Changes to standard degree programs no longer reported by Deemed-Approved facilities to VA
  - Changes to certificate and diploma programs are still reported
  - VA ONCE must be updated for all program changes

Periodic Updates

- Deemed-Approved
  - ELR is now approval authority
  - Catalogs, class schedules, calendars, program changes (other than standard degree programs), etc., that were previously sent to SAA are now sent to ELR
  - Include Notification Form for Modifications to Programs and Certification Form with Documents
  - ELR reviews/approves changes and notifies school of changes
  - Forwards copy of approved catalog to SAA

Periodic Updates

- Deemed-Approved
  - New/Removed/Modifications to standard degree programs do not have to be reported to VA
  - Changes to certificate or diploma programs must be reported to the ELR
  - Changes to policies must be reported
  - Changes to accreditation status must be reported

Periodic Updates

- Non Deemed-Approved Facilities
  - No change from the existing process
    - Requests for approvals or changes must be submitted to SAA for approval
    - SAA approves programs—notifies school and ELR of approval
    - ELR then accepts approvals for VA
    - ELR notifies school of acceptance
  - SAA also approves all new facilities, including new Public and Private Non-Profit

LTS AUTOMATION

- LTS is processing approximately 42% of all supplemental claims

- LTS interfaces with other systems to schedule payments, generate letters and create over-payments

    - VAONCE – populates enrollment information *(enrollments/adjustments/amendments can be submitted on the same day)*

    - WEAMS – verifies approval information – school zip code

    - VADIR - Compares DOD data, including TOE and kicker information

Recent LTS features

❑ Scheduled Payments

   Effective 8/1/2012 – school payments scheduled to release 14 days prior to start of term

❑ Awards cannot be processed more than 6 months in advance

❑ Automated Processing enabled for VAONCE users

   Any remark other than "VBA standard remarks" in VAONCE will stop automated processing

❑ VAONCe populates certification data in LTS even for claims that are not automated

BARRIERS TO AUTOMATION
(Claims routed to a VCE)

- New School

- Changes between credit hour/clock hours

- **School submits non-standard remark or "Other"**

- Begin date more than 1 year in past

- IHL enrollment > 365 days

- Change of Address reported

- Entitlement Exhausted

Additional Reporting

Probation reports – Report to VA through the <u>Ask a Question (RNW)</u> link on the GI Bill Website

<u>Academic Suspensions</u> – Report to VA through <u>VA ONCE.</u>

<u>Graduation</u> – Report to VA through VAONCE

Yellow Ribbon

- Pays for some/all Post 9/11 students' unmet T&F charges
- **Open Season for Yellow Ribbon agreements**
  - **March 15, 2013 – May 15, 2013**
  - Not necessary to reapply – only modifications, withdrawals , or initial participation
- VA matches school's contributions—up to half of the unmet charges
- Student must be eligible at the 100% level, not on active duty or TOE spouse of active duty, and not a Fry Scholarship student

Identify the student as "YR" on the BIO page of VAONCE

Yellow Ribbon Uses

- Out-of-state charges at public schools
  - Certify the in-state charges, the additional out-of-state charges, and the school's contribution towards YR (up to half of the unmet charges)

- Charges above the annual cap at private schools
  - $18,077.50 in 2012
  - YR can only be used once the reportable charges exceed the annual cap
  - YR students can be certified with $0 YR until they exceed the annual cap
  - Certify the entire reportable T&F amount and the school's YR contribution (up to half of the unmet charges for that term)

Yellow Ribbon-Public Schools

Edit Enrollment | **Save** | **Cancel**

Facility: 11999999 | Trng Type: NCD | Prgrm: AAS COS | Prior Credit: | **2**

Term Name	Begin Date*	End Date*	Res	Dist*	R/D	Clock	T & F*
	▶ 08/15/2011	12/15/2011	12	0			1000.00

☐ Advance Pay   ☐ Accelerated Pay (high-tech courses only)

LDA/EFF Date	LD Accrued	Yellow Rbn*	Out St Chg
		500.00	1000.00

Remarks | **Modify Remarks List** |

- Total Reportable T&F = $2000
- In-State Charges = $1000
- Out-of-State Charges =$1000
- Maximum YR Contribution by School = $500

Yellow Ribbon-Private Schools

Edit Enrollment   Save   Cancel

Facility: 11999999   Trng Type: NCD   Prgrm: AAS COS   Prior Credit: 2

Term Name	Begin Date*	End Date*	Res	Dist*	R/D	Clock	T & F*
	01/15/2012	05/15/2012	12	0			9000.00

☐ Advance Pay   ☐ Accelerated Pay (high-tech courses only)

LDA/EFF Date	LD Accrued	Yellow Rbn*	Out St Chg
		250.00	

Remarks   Modify Remarks List

- Reportable T&F this Term= $9000
- Total Reportable T&F this Year= $18000 ($9000 already paid by VA)
- Unmet Charges this Academic Year = $500
- Maximum School YR Contribution this Term = $250

Veterans Retraining Assistance Program

- A part of the VOW to Hire Heroes Act of 2011:
  - Provides seamless transition for the Servicemembers, expands education and training opportunities for Veterans, and provides tax credits for employers who hire Veterans with service-connected disabilities
- Purpose of Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP):
  - Offers 12 months of training assistance to unemployed Veterans
  - When Veterans complete the program, Department of Labor will offer employment assistance

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

U.S. Department of Labor

Veterans Retraining Assistance Program

Timeline

November 11, 2011: VOW signed into law by President Obama	May 15, 2012: VA begins to accept applications (Form 22-R1990)	May 21, 2012: VA starts processing Certificate of Eligibility letters	July 1, 2012: Veterans may start pursuing an approved program of training for payment	January 31, 2014: All certifications must be submitted to the VA processing (or not payable)	April 1, 2014: The discontinuance of VRAP

Please Remember:
All certifications **MUST** be submitted to VA electronically no later than **January 31, 2014** to ensure all payments are issued before April 1, 2014
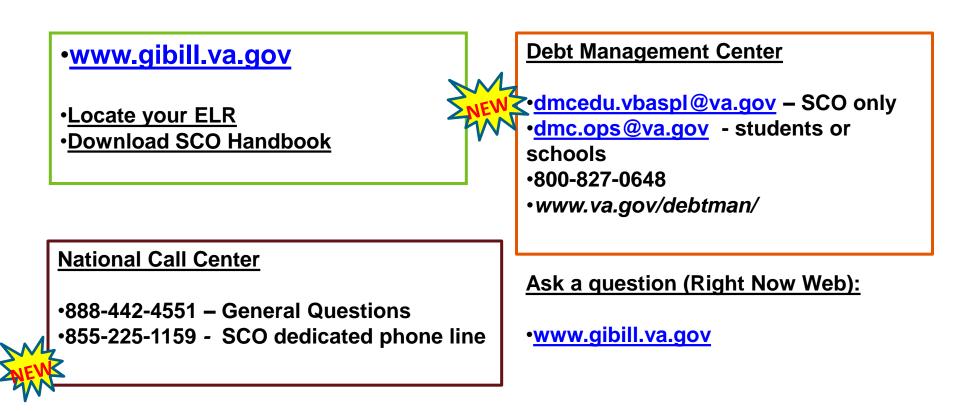
eBenefits
My Gateway to Benefit Information

- **What is eBenefits?**
  - A portal for veterans, service members, and their families to research, find, access, and manage their benefits and personal information
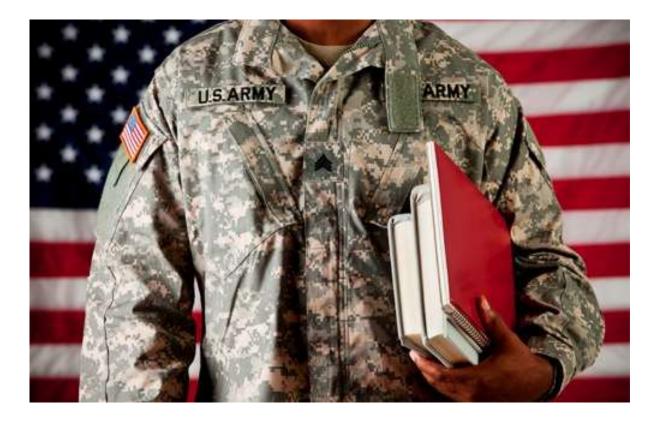
- **What does it offer the students?**
  - My Dashboard: a personalized workspace that provides quick access to eBenefits tools
  - Can apply for benefits
  - Download DD 214s
  - View your benefit status
  - - Check Post-9/11 GI Bill entitlement
  - - Check enrollment status

- **How do students enroll?**
  - https://www.ebenefits.va.gov

Resources

- **www.gibill.va.gov**

- **Locate your ELR**
- **Download SCO Handbook**

National Call Center

- **888-442-4551 – General Questions**
- **855-225-1159 - SCO dedicated phone line**

NEW

Debt Management Center

- **dmcedu.vbaspl@va.gov** – SCO only
- **dmc.ops@va.gov** - students or schools
- **800-827-0648**
- *www.va.gov/debtman/*

NEW

Ask a question (Right Now Web):

- **www.gibill.va.gov**

Questions?