EXPANDED BENEFITS FOR RESERVISTS

New education benefit for Activated Reservists – H.R 4200 authorizing the creation of a new education benefit was signed into law on October 28, 2004. The new benefit, Chapter 1607, makes certain individuals who were activated after September 11, 2001, either eligible for education benefits or eligible for increased benefits.

The Department of Defense (DOD), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and VA are working on an implementation plan for this new benefit. For additional information, go to: http://www.gibill.va.gov

Source: https://www.gibill2.va.gov/vba

GI BILL PAYMENT RATES INCREASE

As of October 1, 2004, full-time students with GI Bill benefits can get over $1000 per month to cover the cost of their education. This increase could mean you have as much as $36,000 to pay for your education. GI Bill payments may be used for College, Business, Technical or Vocational Courses, Flight Training and more.

(Source: www.military.com 28 September 2004)

VPC GRADUATE SUCCESS STORY – STEVEN M. BOUVIA

Mr. Steven M. Bouvia, a retired Army Master Sergeant and recent graduate of The University of Tennessee’s Veterans’ Pre-College (VPC) Program, has successfully transitioned from military life and is currently pursuing his academic dream of becoming a Radiologic Technologist through Roane State Community College.

In addition to a grueling schedule as a radiology intern, performing clinical training at Parkwest Hospital, and being a full-time student, Steven also works part-time as a Knox County School Division Security Officer. He can often be found covering special events at area schools including freshman orientation here at The University of Tennessee.

Asked about how the VPC program helped him prepare for his current academic program, Steven remarked; “The free assistance and tutoring offered in key topic areas, especially English, were a tremendous help. The extended hours and veteran-dedicated computer learning center allowed me nearly unlimited access to numerous CD-ROM training programs and the highly motivated staff was fantastic in terms of meeting my academic needs while helping link me with the various veteran and community service agencies available in the local area.”

Asked what advice he would give to a veteran considering returning to school or “on the fence” regarding going on to college, Steven replied; “If you don’t take advantage of this free program, the awesome facilities and the highly-trained cadre of tutors and assistants working with the Veterans’ Pre-College Program, you are wasting an invaluable resource. The unofficial motto of the staff is that we paid for our slot in this program by serving our Nation and they take great pride and pleasure in serving us…if you are a veteran out there reading this, don’t let this valuable and FREE opportunity pass you by!”

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR VPC SERVICES?

The quickest and best way to confirm your eligibility for Veterans’ Upward Bound services through the Veterans’ Pre-College Program at The University of Tennessee is by using our telephone eligibility pre-screening interview. It only takes approximately five minutes of your time and extremely lenient income eligibility limits can help you qualify for over $2000.00 in academic assistance and career awareness programs. Internet users can complete the VPC Online Eligibility Profile, accessible “24/7” on the VPC website “Front Page” at: http://web.utk.edu/~utkvub/veterans.html

You are eligible if you served a minimum 180 days on active duty in any branch of the U.S. Armed Services, meet income eligibility requirements (e.g., if you have a family of three—you, a spouse, and one child; your taxable income for 2004 could not have exceed $42,153.00), and/or you are a first-generation prospective college student (meaning neither of your parents or legal guardian(s) completed a 4-year degree). We can also help you obtain your GED if needed and link you with a vast array of veteran, community, and employment assistance organizations.

Most importantly to many, ALL OF OUR SERVICES ARE FREE thanks to a grant from the Department of Education. You earned your spot in this program by serving our Nation and now it is our pleasure to serve you! Call us at (865) 974-2133 to discuss your future today; or, call toll free at (877) 656-8387 (VETS).
MANAGING YOUR TIME

Do you know where your time goes? Why do some people seem able to accomplish so much? They usually follow a system of time management.

In order to manage time, you need to know what you usually do. One way to accomplish this is to keep a time log. Briefly jotting down what you are doing every 15 - 30 minutes for a week will give you important information. Once you have this, ask yourself:

- Did I get everything done?
- Was I rushed for time?
- Did I meet deadlines?
- What habits interfered with reaching my goals?
- Did I accomplish more at a certain time of day?
- At what times of the day did I accomplish the least?

Now, make a list of the activities you have to do. Mark those that are scheduled at definite times and those that can be arranged according to your own time. Then, prioritize the list:

I. the most crucial activities
II. activities that can wait until after those in group I
III. the least crucial activities

Then, prepare a schedule using the prioritized list. Use your list and schedule daily. Remember to plan for your peak times and your low-energy times.

Effective time management frees you to do your best and to succeed. But the schedule isn’t your master. You control it.

- Dr. Ernest W. Brewer, Professor and P/IS/ID/ER

You Can Prepare for Any Type of Postsecondary Institution

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>UTK Veterans' Upward Bound Program</td>
<td>58.2%</td>
<td>30.5%</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
<td>0.2%</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran PSI Enrollments</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
VPC GRADUATE SUCCESS STORY
MARK KLINKENBERG

"TRiO Programs" are educational opportunity and access projects funded by the U.S. Department of Education. At the COE annual conference each year, a select group of TRiO project alumni who have distinguished themselves in their chosen fields are honored with presentation of the coveted TRiO Achievers National Award. Mr. Mark Klinkenberg, a UTK-VPC alumnus, received the TRiO Achievers National Award at the annual conference of the Council for Opportunity in Education in Washington, DC.

Mark Klinkenberg entered the Veterans’ Pre-College Program—the Veterans Upward Bound project at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville—during the 1991-92 program year. Although Mark had served in the U.S. Navy as a fast-attack submarine nuclear reactor operator for six years, he came to the VPC project as an under-employed, first-generation potential college graduate. He received writing skills training and mathematics services from the VPC project, as well as the College Life Adjustment and Study Skills Workshop series and other routine services including career advising, financial aid advising and computer literacy lab experience.

In the Spring of 1992, Mark Klinkenberg achieved his longtime dream of enrolling in a baccalaureate program, which he did at The University of Tennessee-Knoxville College of Business Administration. There he majored in accounting, graduating in 1996 with a B.S. summa cum laude. Mark went on to even higher education at the University of Missouri’s Kansas City School of Law, where he earned a law degree with honors. He then began a distinguished private practice.

Mark Klinkenberg’s current service is to clients such as the Kansas City Economic Development Committee. This work has placed him in an influential position in the ongoing Kansas City downtown redevelop-ment effort, where his unique talents in the finance and tax elements of urban development have come to the fore.

Klinkenberg was one of only six recipients across the entire U.S. selected for the annual National TRiO Achievers Award. He is the first Veterans Upward Bound alumnus ever to win this award and is in fact the first U.S. military veteran ever to win the award, according to COE representatives.

VPC GRADUATE SUCCESS STORY
GREG SPECK

There’s certainly nothing extremely unusual about a veteran receiving services from a Veterans’ Pre-College project and then going on to a college or university and graduating. But in the case of U.S. Army vet Greg Speck, you might consider “unusual” the appropriate word.

Greg first came to The University of Tennessee’s Veterans’ Pre-College Program over 15 years ago in October 1993. Every one of the 43 current U.S. Department of Education-funded VPC projects is commissioned to do affirmative outreach to female, minority, and handicapped or disabled veterans. Greg put the UTK-VPC project to its most severe test ever at the time.

The late Ms. Susie Crenshaw, a VPC education specialist at the time, immediately set about assuring appropriate services for the multi-handicapped Greg Speck. This involved not only Ms. Crenshaw’s finger spelling skills, but also an array of aids such as Braille computer key covers and eventually a loaner speak-to-the-computer unit for the UT-bound veteran. Working in cooperation with the East Tennessee Technology Access Center [now located in north Knoxville’s Fountain City neighborhood] the Veterans Pre-College project kept its pledge to provide eligible veterans with VPC services, no matter what. The rest, as they say, is history!

Susie Crenshaw got help with helping Greg from the wife of a fellow ’93-94 VPC participant, Jim Bush. Judy Bush became Greg’s volunteer eyes and ears as he tackled the UT academic curriculum after his period of preparatory services in the VPC project. Only later did Judy become his mother-in-law.

The VPC project congratulates and thanks Greg, who graduated from U.T. Knoxville with a B.A. degree in psychology and a 3.44 grade point average. Word has it that Greg now plans to head toward graduate studies in either environmental science or environmental law.

VPC PROGRAMS HELP OPEN CIVILIAN CAREER DOORS!
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

Accurate labor market information is a vital component of career decision-making. Without it, wise decisions are impossible. The labor market is changing more rapidly than ever. The following projections cover 2002-2012.

- Employment growth will be concentrated in the service-providing sector of the economy. All ten of the fastest-growing industries are in this sector.

- Construction is the only goods-producing sector in which employment is projected to grow.

- Professional occupations and service occupations—two groups at opposite ends of educational and earnings ranges—are projected to increase the fastest and to add the most jobs, accounting for more than half of total job growth over the next decade.

- Office and administrative support occupations, production occupations, and farming, fishing, and forestry occupations are expected to grow much more slowly than average.

- Nine of the ten fastest growing occupations are health or computer occupations.

- An associate or bachelor’s degree is the most significant source of postsecondary education or training for six of the ten fastest growing occupations.

- The United States work force will become even more diverse by 2012.

- About one out of every four new jobs created in the U.S. economy will be either in health care and social assistance or private educational services sector.

- Employment in utilities is projected to decrease by 5.7 percent through 2012. Despite increased output, employment in electric power generation, transmission, and distribution and natural gas distribution is expected to decline through 2012 due to improved technology that increases worker productivity.

TOP 10 JOB PROSPECTS THROUGH 2012!
The United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), recently announced projections for the fastest growing careers through 2012. The specific careers and projected percentage of increase are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OCCUPATION</th>
<th>PERCENT INCREASE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Assistants</td>
<td>+59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Network Systems/Data Communications Analysts</td>
<td>+57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physician Assistants</td>
<td>+49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and Human Service Assistants</td>
<td>+49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Home Health Aides</td>
<td>+48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Records &amp; Health Information Technicians</td>
<td>+47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Therapist Aides</td>
<td>+46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Software Engineers (Applications)</td>
<td>+46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Software Engineers (Systems Software)</td>
<td>+45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Therapist Assistants</td>
<td>+45%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Tennessee Career Information Delivery System (TCIDS), August 2004; Vol. 3, Issue 1

TRAIN TO GAIN

New data tells an old story—education pays. The more you learn, the more you earn and the less likely you are to be unemployed, according to the following data:

Impact of Education on Employment and Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unemployment rate in 2003 (Percent)</th>
<th>Education attained</th>
<th>Median weekly earnings in 2003 (Dollars)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>Doctoral degree</td>
<td>$1,349</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>Professional degree</td>
<td>1,307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>Master’s degree</td>
<td>1,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Associate degree</td>
<td>672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2</td>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>High-school graduate</td>
<td>554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>Some high-school, no diploma</td>
<td>396</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STATE'S JOB FORECAST BRIGHT FOR 2005

Tennessee’s jobless recovery will draw its final breath this year, setting the stage for job growth in all sectors of the state economy in 2005, University of Tennessee economist Matt Murray said.

“What we expect is that job growth will start to happen in the third and fourth quarter this year with an acceleration in the pace of job creation through 2005,” said Murray, associate director of UT’s Center for Business and Economic Research.

The number of nonagricultural jobs in the state is expected to grow by 1.2% this year and increase by 2% in 2005, according to the center’s quarterly economic forecast released last week. Strong growth in the service-producing sectors will drive job creation for the next several years, Murray said.

Professional and business service jobs are projected to increase by 3.5% in 2004 and a robust 4.7% next year, according to the UT report.

“Every broad sector is forecast to enjoy some form of job growth in the next couple of years. That being said, there are still some winners and losers,” Murray said.

The manufacturing sector, for instance, has both. Overall, the manufacturing sector, which has lost thousands of jobs over the past decade, should rebound with modest .5% job growth in 2005, said Murray, who directed the Tennessee Business and Economic Outlook report.

Job growth in durable goods manufacturing will offset continued losses in nondurable goods manufacturing, Murray said.

Durable goods include transportation equipment, machinery and other products with life expectancy of more than three years. Nondurable goods include apparel, textiles and other products with a life expectancy of less than three years.

More than 48,000 jobs have been lost in the apparel sector since 1991, the report notes. Although it appears the jobless recovery will end in the coming months, Murray sounded a note of caution saying, “This is not the first time that I, or other forecasters, have said that in the last two or three years, but I do think the fundamentals are there to support (job growth).”

In concert with a strengthening job market, UT forecasters expect the state’s unemployment rate to fall. Unemployment will average 5.2% this year and drop to 4.7% in 2005, the report says.

Also, Tennessee workers are expected to make more money as the state economy improves this year and next. Total personal income will rise 5% in 2004 and 5.6% in 2005, the report says.

With more money in their pockets, workers will spend more, generating an increase in tax revenue for state and local governments. The report says taxable sales will rise 4% this year and 4.8% in the year 2005.

Looking long-term, UT forecasters expect the state economy to stay on a positive path for several years. Job growth is expected to total 2.1% between 2004 and 2013, while personal income will rise at a rate of 6.1% through 2013, the report says.

Source: Knoxville News Sentinel
September 28, 2004

EDUCATION IS KEY

In the midst of upheaval in the work world and international marketplaces, there is one constant: Education is the most critical element of success.

Governments, schools, and businesses plead with young people to stay in school and with adults to make learning part of their life. The nation depends on it.

The undeniable fact is, however, that the country can only provide the tools for learning. The decision to stay in school, to learn, and to change with the times is up to you.
To qualify for enrollment in the VUB program, a veteran’s academic need for the program must be assessed and demonstrated. The staff must document both academic need and veteran academic progress throughout the period of enrollment.

These requirements are relatively easy to meet through the use of the UTK-VUB Adult Basic Skills curriculum. A chief advantage of the material is its structured cycle of instruction—needs diagnosis and assessment; thoughtful initial academic placement in the ABS program; individualized instructional planning; progressive levels of instruction in Reading/Language Adult Basic Skills (LABS program) and Math and Algebra Skills (MABS). Each includes instructional booklets, review cards, mastery tests and computer-assisted progress tracking and documentation.

Beginning students take Placement Tests for each academic component. Placement test results confirm the student’s appropriate starting level. Diagnostic Tests for the starting level then confirm competencies already mastered; this makes possible a customized “academic prescription,” which charts the veteran’s course of study by emphasizing true need, with no time wasted on review of things already mastered.

The veteran’s Basic Skills Academic Prescription becomes part of his/her overall Individual Education Plan (IEP) in the Veterans’ Pre-College Program. The total IEP includes goals for academic refresher and skills development, and goals related to career advising, target school selection, computer literacy, study skills workshops, financial aid advising, admissions and application assistance, and cultural enrichment activities.

As the veterans master each level of instruction, they progress to the next level until they have completed the full “criterion referenced” series of self-paced lessons. Computer-assisted tracking of veteran progress through the instructional cycle allows for virtually “automatic” documentation of academic progress, as required by the Federal guidelines. Individual Placement Profiles and Individual Achievement Reports allow VUB Education Specialists, tutors and managers to observe and follow each veteran’s progress and to offer assistance and encouragement when needed. To the veteran student, the reports offer clear, no-nonsense feedback on “where I am” at any moment in the academic refresher training program.
“TROOPS TO TEACHERS” PROGRAM ALSO OPEN TO VETERANS!

Troops to Teachers (TTT) was established in 1994 as a Department of Defense program. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 transferred the responsibility for program oversight and funding to the U.S. Department of Education but continued operation by the Department of Defense. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 provided for the continuation of TTT through FY 2006. TTT is managed by the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES), Pensacola, Florida.

Reflecting the focus of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, the primary objective of TTT is to help recruit quality teachers for schools that serve low-income families throughout America. TTT helps relieve teacher shortages, especially in math, science, special education and other high-needs subject areas, and assists military personnel in making successful transitions to second careers in teaching.

Funding has been appropriated for FY 2005 to provide financial assistance to eligible participants, provide placement assistance, referral services, and maintain a network of state offices. Military personnel interested in a second career in public education may submit a registration form to the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES).

The purpose of TTT is to assist eligible military personnel to transition to a new career as public school teachers in “high-need” schools. A network of State TTT Offices has been established to provide participants with counseling and assistance regarding certification requirements, routes to state certification, and employment leads. The TTT homepage provides information and resource links, including a job referral system to allow participants to search for job vacancies as well as links to state Departments of Education, state certification offices, model resumes, and other job listing sites in public education.

Pending availability of funds, financial assistance may be provided to eligible individuals as stipends up to $5K to help pay for teacher certification costs or as bonuses of $10K to teach in schools serving a high percentage of students from low-income families. Participants who accept the Stipend or Bonus must agree to teach for three years in schools that serve students from low-income families in accordance with the authorizing legislation.

Source: http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/troopstoteachers Jan 05

ABOUT HELMETS TO HARDHATS

Helmets to Hardhats eases the difficult passage into civilian life for military families, providing the best career opportunities, pay, and benefits to those who have earned the nation’s support through their years of service and sacrifice.

The program collects information about the best career opportunities in building and construction trades and works to provide former military personnel with that information. Candidates can access information about careers and apprenticeships via the Internet from anywhere in the world. To apply for work or membership, each candidate must complete a comprehensive profile that helps Helmets to Hardhats refer candidates in the right direction. The program then connects the candidate with the right opportunity in the right location, serving as an advocate wherever necessary.

Helmets to Hardhats is co-sponsored by all fifteen Building and Construction Trades organizations, as well as their employer associations, which together represent about 82,000 contractors. Labor leaders have embraced the program, eager to help U.S. soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen transfer their experience and can-do attitudes into secure jobs within the construction industry.

The program is a building trades initiative administered by the Center for Military Recruitment, Assessment, and Employment. The U.S. Army administers the funding, which was made available in January 2003 to get the program off the ground.

The Center is a not-for-profit trust directed by a joint labor-management construction industry committee. The co-chairs are BTCD President, Edward C. Sullivan, and Kenneth E. Hedman, Chairman of the North American Contractors Association.

Source: http://www.helmets2hardhats.com Jan 05

CUTTING EDGE JOB SKILLS

Vocational/Technical Schools provide you with specific job skills and job training that is on the cutting edge of technology. These schools allow you to jump right into the specific career field of your choice, giving you control over what you learn and when you learn it.

The attractive features of vocational and technical schools are:

- Learning is hands on. You immediately use what you learn.
- Get training and enter into the workforce...FAST!
- Instructors have personal experience in the subjects they teach.

Items to watch out for when choosing a vocational/technical school:

- Is the school accredited? ACCST or the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology is recognized as the leader in accrediting these schools. Be sure to visit their site at http://www.acccst.org and confirm the credentials of any school you are considering.
- Is the school approved to accept veterans benefits? Hot technology courses such as MCSE Certification, A+ Certification may not be eligible to accept veterans benefits. Please inquire with the school you want to attend.

And, take a look at this guide for an analysis of nationally recognized trade schools:

http://www.military.com/Education/Content/0,13302,trade_school,00.html

Each school is accredited by the relevant governing body and is approved to accept VETERANS BENEFITS. Also included are hot technology course sequences such as MCSE Certification, Novell Networking, A+ Certification, and more.

When contacting a school, be sure to get information on their placement rate. Also, ask if there are any graduates of the school living in your area.

Source: http://www.military.com/Education/Content/0,13302,trade_school,00.html
NATIONAL HIRE VETS FIRST CAMPAIGN

The President's National Hire Veterans Committee and the Department of Labor (DOL) has launched a national media campaign, entitled “Hire Vets First” targeting employers in late September and running through November 11, 2004. The intent of this campaign is to improve employment, training, and placement services furnished to Veterans IAW Public Law 107-288, Jobs for Veterans Act.


The One-Stop Career Centers are the center of the campaign as the location where businesses can go to receive assistance in recruiting and connecting to veterans. However, the Family Support Centers, the Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP), and the local Veterans Service Organizations (VSO), are also major networking organizations helping veteran job seekers to connect with employers.

HOME DEPOT WANTS TO HIRE VETS

The Home Depot has unveiled a new program to hire U.S. military retirees, veterans and military spouses. The home improvement retailing giant has 1,800 stores, including 1,586 in the United States.

The Home Depot hired nearly 10,000 veterans in 2003 and expected to surpass that number by a wide margin in 2004. The Home Depot pledged to work with its military associates to provide transfers in the cases of reassignment of duty stations, retirement or separation, depending on store and job availability.

The Home Depot launched its first national hiring partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor in June of 2002. In February, the Home Depot also announced a hiring partnership with the AARP.

Source: www.careers.homedepot.com
September 28, 2004
(Source: www.military.com)

THE VETERANS' PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAMS
16-COUNTY SERVICE AREA

Celebrating our 15th Consecutive Year!

The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/VADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services. Inquiries concerning Title IX, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 should be directed to Office of Diversity Resources and Educational Services (DRESO)
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
1814 Lake Avenue • Knoxville, TN 37996-3650
Telephone: 865-974-2408
Requests for accommodation of disability should also be directed to DRESO.

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