

Colleagues and Fellow Veterans,

Several weeks ago, I joined our partners from DoD and Labor to update Congress on the status of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) – the program that provides training, information, and services to help Servicemembers and their families achieve their post-military goals. We have come a long way since the inception of the new/revised TAP so I thought now is a good time to send out an update – from the VA perspective.

As of March 31, 2014, VA achieved worldwide full operating capability for its portion of TAP. VA has deployed over 300 contract Benefits Advisors to provide full-time transition support to 107 military installations, and itinerant support to another 189 installations worldwide.

VA Benefits Advisors deliver:

- **VA Benefits I and II briefings** that provide Servicemembers with information on education, employment, health care, life insurance, home loans, VA disability compensation, vocational rehabilitation, burial and survivor benefits, and establishing a profile on the [Veterans Employment Center](#).
- The **Career Technical Training Track**, a workshop that helps transitioning Servicemembers and their spouses identify civilian occupations, establish career goals, and begin applications for credentials and vocational training.
- **Individual assistance** to transitioning Servicemembers, Veterans, and their families at any point to answer their questions regarding the VA benefits they've earned.

VA has also fully integrated the Military Life Cycle model which incorporates transition planning and preparation to meet Career Readiness Standards (CRS) throughout a Servicemember's military career. In addition to providing briefings to transitioning Servicemembers, VA Benefits Advisors offer MLC briefings to Active-Duty and Reserve Component members at the request of units to ensure these men and women have the resources to plan for their eventual retirements.

VA has provided TAP services to an impressive number of participants. From October 1, 2014 through March 21, 2015:

- 92,164 people attended 3,450 VA Benefits I briefings.
- 91,247 people attended 3,476 VA Benefits II briefings.
- 3,688 people attended 416 CTTT briefings.
- 46,820 Servicemembers have participated in 15,930 Military Life Cycle events.

We are excited to see participation continue to grow for VA TAP, but we need your help to spread the word about this beneficial program. If you know transitioning Servicemembers, Veterans, or military spouses, make sure they know VA Benefits Advisors are available to help them plan for the future and access the benefits they have earned. For a listing of benefits advisors by location, please visit: [http://www.benefits.va.gov/VOW/docs/Benefits Advisor POCs by Location\\_March 2015.pdf](http://www.benefits.va.gov/VOW/docs/Benefits_Advisor_POCs_by_Location_March_2015.pdf). To learn more about TAP, visit <http://www.benefits.va.gov/tap/>.

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**VA Core Values: Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, Excellence (“I CARE”)**

**Please Remember:**

- If you would like to review prior messages sent through this listserv, click [http://benefits.va.gov/vow/economic\\_opportunity.htm](http://benefits.va.gov/vow/economic_opportunity.htm).
- If you would like to research, find, access, and, in time, manage your VA benefits and personal information please visit and/or register at <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal>.
- If you looking for a job or an employer committed to hiring Veterans, please register on the Veterans Employment Center (VEC) at: <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/jobs>
- If you are seeking employment in the federal government, particularly the VA, our VA for Vets high-tech tools and resources can help. Visit online at <http://vaforvets.va.gov/> or call 1-855-824-8387.

If you would like to contact us about your VA education benefits:

You can send us a secure email that will usually be answered within 48 hours. You can also search for answers to frequently asked questions and register to be notified of any updates to the information. This contact method is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can also be utilized worldwide. Click here to enter the "Ask A Question" site or here to review our frequently asked questions.

You can call 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-442-4551). This line only accepts calls from 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM central time Monday – Friday.