The new vision for the VSO is to develop a partnership initiative with Student Affairs and Academic Affairs in the development of a one-stop-shop for veterans' services. This will bring a holistic approach to recruit, retain, and graduate student-veterans at the University of Houston.

VSO hopes to establish a Center of Excellence for Veteran Student Success program at UH in order to provide a single point of contact at the campus through its Veterans’ Services Office in a program entitled “Veterans Returning Academic Assistance Program” (V-RAAP).

**VSO 2011 - 2012 GOALS**

1. Deliver quality and informed services to the UH student-veteran population and their families.
2. Recruit, retain, and graduate student-veterans, spouses, and dependents.
3. Implement recruiting plan through the VSO Mobile Unit.
4. Develop mentor program that tracks student-veterans from admittance to graduation by assigning a peer counselor to twelve students to stay in touch with a program entitled “Veterans Power of Twelve.”
5. Implement veteran sensitivity workshops for UH staff and faculty.
6. Develop and implement VSO - UH fundraising strategy.

**NEWLY IMPLEMENTED PROGRAMS:**

The Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) combines study and work-related experience. SCEP participants pursue a degree or certificate curriculum in which the work experience relates to the student’s academic and career goals. This work experience must be carried out in accordance with a planned schedule. SCEP participants who successfully complete the program may be considered for conversion to regular (Career-Conditional; TERM; or if appropriate, Career) appointments in the Veterans Administration.

GI Jargon is a veteran peer-to-peer mentoring program in conjunction with U.S. Veterans Initiative.

The University of Houston Cullen College of Engineering established a program that helps address the unique higher education needs of veterans and active military. The Camo to Classroom to Career Program is designed not only to guide student-veterans through college life, but also support them in finding a job upon completion of their engineering degree. The program launched this fall in partnership with the university’s Veterans’ Services Office. It provides to students from all five branches of the military assistance in understanding the new Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits as well as career guidance.

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By Allen Grundy

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Don’t Forget! Recertify! Post - 9/11 GI Bill Transferability Mobile Unit Schedule

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Inside this issue:
Student-veterans, don’t forget to recertify in order to prevent a lapse in your educational benefits next semester.

1. Finalize your class schedule before submitting forms. Adjustments after submission delay disbursement of tuition, fees, and BAH.

2. Complete the Request for Enrollment and Advisor Verification forms for the spring semester. You may download them from the VSO website (www.uh.edu/veterans) or get the forms from our office.

3. Submit your paperwork to the veterans section of Registration and Academic Records after the bill for the spring semester appears on your PeopleSoft account. The certifying officials cannot process your claim before then!

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**Post-9/11 GI Bill Transferability**

Did you know that under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, also known as Chapter 33, eligible individuals are able to transfer their educational benefits to a spouse, children, or combination of spouse and child? Transfer amounts range from the entire 36 months of benefits to any portion of the unused balance. To be eligible, you must:

1. Have Chapter 33 eligibility.
2. Have at least 6 years of service on election date and agree to serve 4 additional years after election date, or have at least 10 years of service on date of election, not have permission to commit to 4 additional years, and agree to serve the maximum time allowed by policy or statute, or
3. Have or will have retirement eligibility from August 1, 2009 through August 1, 2013. Additional years of service may be required depending upon the exact retirement eligibility date.

Eligibility requirements for dependents include the following:

**A.** Must be eligible for benefits

**B.** Must be enrolled in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS)

A dependent child’s marriage or dependent spouse’s divorce does not automatically revoke eligibility for the transfer. The person making the transfer maintains the right to cancel or change the provisions of the transfer.

For more information, go to the following U.S. Department of Defense website: http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2009/0409_gibill/.
The VSO Mobile Unit is scheduled to make its Michael E. DeBakey Hospital runs on the second Wednesday of each month starting in February 2011. Pickup will be at the University Center for any student-veteran, spouse, or family member at 8:00 a.m. Return trips will be at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. on the same Wednesday. The schedule will soon appear at various UH campus locations and in the Daily Cougar for the spring semester. For more information, contact the Veterans' Services Office at (713) 743-5490 or 5493.
WHAT WE OFFER
OUR UH VETERANS

- Referrals for credit evaluation of military training
- Referrals for VA health benefits.
- Assistance with transition and adjustment to civilian life
- Unlimited, free access to computers, local telephone calls, and facsimile transmittals
- 200 photocopies or computer print-outs per month
- A quiet study room

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"Veterans Helping Veterans"

Editor: Sandra Glass

Graduating Veterans & Veterans’ Dependents

We’d like to help you celebrate this milestone in your life. If you’re graduating this semester, let us know so that we can recognize you in the next issue of The Reveille. In addition, do you have words of wisdom that you’d like to pass on to the student-veterans you leave behind? If so, let us know in 300 words or less. The following are a few examples for a topic:

- How UH Prepared Me for My New Job (or Career)
- What I Learned in the Military That Helped in College (or Civilian Life)
- The Importance of the UH Veterans’ Services Office While I Was a Student
- My College Experience As the Dependent of a Military Veteran

Keep in touch with the VSO after graduation. We want to know how you’re progressing with your career so that we can spotlight your successes and use them to encourage others. To be considered for inclusion in any issue, submit an article at least three weeks prior to the first day of the scheduled publication month. Read above for publication months. The article should be in MS Word format and sent to vets@mail.uh.edu, Subject: The Reveille.