

ATTACHMENT TO TESTIMONY OF BENJAMIN L. KRAUSE, JD

STATEMENTS FROM FACEBOOK GROUP
DISABLED VETERANS – CHAPTER 31 VOC REHAB
JUNE 16-26, 2015

The following are 83 comments from disabled veterans generally covering their specific experience trying to use Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment. These are included as an attachment for any Committee Member to consider and for Committee staffers to use while creating questions for Director Jack Kammerer. These comments are unedited so as to retain the emphasis as typed by the veteran.

- Ramona Alys is our primary group administrator who assists daily on our page.
- Comments from Dominic Davila toward the end of the list are shocking. His VRC has a caseload of 230 veterans.
- Marinas MamaTamara said a delay in her stipend due to her VRC being overloaded resulted in her not affording daycare for her child.
- Matthew Brown has a sad story about TBI and trying to gain access to the Self-employment track.
- BeBe Niña and William Swanson discuss experiences where VRCs do not know VRE regulations.

* * * *

Ben Krause

June 16 at 12:54pm

The House Committee on Veterans Affairs asked me to submit written testimony for hearing they are conducting on VR&E dated July 8. They want a breakdown of issues veterans are facing... not full narrative stories, but salient and briefly described specific issues. Does anyone want me to bring anything up, specifically?

42 Likes 83 Comments

Like Comment Share

Rick Weidman and 41 others like this.

* * * *

Ramona Alys General VA, or aimed more at VR&E? Or both? We have missed you, Ben Krause!

June 16 at 12:56pm · Like · 1

Stephanie Oliver Yes Mr. Ben Krause please bring up housing and VASH. Currently, the VA is doing a great thing by providing Section 8 Housing Vouchers to Homeless Veterans but..... Vets are finding it hard to find a place. Most landlords discriminate against section 8 holders. I've known of people who's time end up expiring and they never find a place and lose their vouchers, while others succumb to whatever they can find which often leads into undesirable areas. And one of them, is a friend of mine and within months of moving in, she was rape. I think giving out

the vouchers is great but we need more help in actually securing safe and desirable housing once those vouchers are in hands.

June 16 at 1:01pm · Like · 6

Matthew Brown Self employment track is next to impossible and the people making the decision are not qualified to make that decision

June 16 at 1:04pm · Like · 4

Christopher Clark Missing records. Sucks when you are stuck in a claim process because you have no medical records for the 6 years you were in. My dd214 even says discharged on temporary records.

June 16 at 1:12pm · Like · 2

Matthew Brown Really VR&E is a joke I tried to use it and then denied me and the guy in the office who made the decision was the not even close to qualified . I have two TBI s and issues dealing with people cause of frustration and memory issues and I found the perfect self employment oportunity for my self and the moment I mentioned the self employment track he just said no way and refused to talk to me about it . So it's really not even a option it's some thing they say they offer but no one can use it so it's a false hope option

June 16 at 1:13pm · Like · 2

Steven Spalding I was going to law school when my seizures started. I missed finals due to concussion and getting seizures under control. They closed my case and said they couldn't help me in anyway. Plus said I was never approved to go to law school and they don't know how it happened. Sad state of affairs.

June 16 at 1:23pm · Like

Vivian Grant Please bring up the fact that case workers need to work on clients on an individual basis. Just because a Vet looks healthy does not mean that he or she is healthy, there are many times more going on in the Vet's head than it is in his or her body and they are not ready to admit it. Also the caseworkers can be more patient and if the Vet puts his spouse on the phone to ask questions or to listen then that help must be needed so respect that fact.

June 16 at 1:25pm · Like · 7

Ramona Alys Ergonomic/prosthetic items for veterans in all tracks (those that can't be provided by other programs). Per the M28R, being in non-ILP tracks doesn't preclude being provided with items such as ergonomic desks and chairs, and so on.

June 16 at 1:26pm · Like · 4

Ramona Alys Items for veterans in ILP with invisible disabilities such as PTSD or TBI.

June 16 at 1:27pm · Like · 7

Ramona Alys No problem.

June 16 at 1:28pm · Like

Steven Spalding You can include any/all information I post

June 16 at 1:28pm · Like · 1

Marshall Ireland No so much for me that often but know it's an issue for a lot for vets here. Communication with their Voc rehab counselors. Seems like quite a few vets try and try to communicate with their counselors with no response. I had that issue in the beginning but with the help of my vet coordinator on campus we nipped that in the butt really fast.

June 16 at 1:32pm · Like · 6

Matthew Brown I have both PTSD and TBI my wife does many things for me on a daily basis . I feel the VR&E counselor looked at me being athletic looking and denied based on that . Just because I look like I am healthy does not mean I am . healthy . I have night mares daily and have migraines all the time and get lost diving in the area I live in and I lose my car in parking lots every where I go . You can use my info and my name .

June 16 at 1:33pm · Like · 9

Matthew Brown The counselor that interview me told me once I had been denied I could not try to use VR&E again and the way he explained it made it seem like he was being condescending and was like you should have picked a different track other then self employment cause u just wasted your benefits . It was very discouraging for some one with my issues

June 16 at 1:36pm · Like · 4

D.j. Trinity may i share this statement in my forum ben?

June 16 at 1:46pm · Like

D.j. Trinity wonderful. thank you..

June 16 at 1:47pm · Like

Daniel Gordon It's been 2 years since I started my ILP paper work. I still can't get my counselor or his boss to make a decision. I called his boss and she ignores my phone calls. Just ridiculous how they treat me.

June 16 at 1:55pm · Like · 4

Jason Goodreau May seem like long narrative, but tried to only state relevant facts. Serious mismanagement of student records. 2008 (Minot, ND) - Forced to begin as Social Work major; requested Psychology, but denied. 2010 (moved to WV) - Approved for minor in Criminal Justice while majoring in Social Work. 2011 - VRC approved Criminal Justice as a major. 2013 - Halfway to CJ degree completion, forced to change major because VRC "lost" proof of approval for CJ. VRC refused approval for regents of Bachelors, stating it was not good enough for employers. 2013 - New VRC denied regents, approved switch to Psychology. Only 5 courses left to graduate in Psychology. 183 credit hours, no degree! Huntington, WV regional office. Feel free to use my name. \$25K in student loans, most accumulated in previous majors. Their mismanagement resulted in delay of graduation and employment, thus financial hardship.

June 16 at 2:07pm · Like

Kevin Murszewski Before one is placed into a program that helps them get ready to work one must be successfully transitioned from military to civilian lifestyle and culture. This is what

seemingly is taken for granted by many. Everyone believes that your out processing should have done that successfully but for many that just isn't the case. You cant expect to throw a bunch of resources at someone and because they have them at their fingertips they would be expected to use them when the time is right. This simply compounds the stress one feels on top of finding a place to live, going to college, accessing the VA, looking for a job, building relationships, networking, etc. VR&E is the 3rd or 4th rung on the ladder, one doesn't simply take the leap of faith to get there and hope for the best.

June 16 at 2:09pm · Like · 4

Cheeno Weeno Getting an appointment!

June 16 at 2:47pm · Like

Philip Strachan VRC's should be trained to open up to veterans about types of equipment they are entitled to and any expenses they are entitled to be compensated for. In my experience and from what I read here it seems as though some VRC's seem to hold information close to the vest unless they are asked. For instance should'nt it be common practice to give every vet beginning school a computer? BTW congradulations on the wedding!

June 16 at 3:08pm · Like · 4

Cher Kolb-Wheeler YES, I will message you

June 16 at 3:12pm · Like

Darian Johnson Regarding VRC's: What seems to be wide-spread and consistent failure to communicate with, and respond to veterans in the program. Weeks should not pass, nor issues elevated, before communications are acknowledged.

June 16 at 3:37pm · Like · 3

Lee Johnson what about the fact they set on case that have been ready to be put befor the board for months an months . they called me three weeks ago telling me that they are waiting on the companys that I work for to respond back to them so i called the companys up an they were fax into them the next day so i got a hold of them an the man that i talk to told yes they got them but its there job to make sure that I get denid .that has been a month now

June 16 at 3:39pm · Like

Mike Wakefield Yes, VR needs to set guidelines on the Employment through long term service track. For instance, I got my BS through Voc Rehab in a field that I don't have any experience, when I completed that degree portion I was thrown out to the wolves to compete in the competitive job market with no experience under my belt. Now, the VRC are the employees of VR....they know what services are provided under the "Employment through long term services" track, one of the services included is a "None paid work experience" component, therefore if the veteran was approved for the "Employment through long term services" track, he/she should remain in the track until all features of that track has been exhausted or he/she becomes gainfully employed. That's my current situation....I've given my VRC 6 months of job logs, in the section of the job logs that says "Status" the response is "lack of experience," so my VRC has six months of job logs that highlights my job barrier and have not made an effort to enroll me in the "None Paid Work Experienc" component of the "Employment through long term services" track. That's

inefficient use of Federal resources and should be evaluated and corrected so the VRC don't have any choice but go through the most logical path....From School/Degree to Work Experience then to the Work Force, is the logical path. So some guidelines should be set on that. PLEASE Ben Krause by all means, I give you PERMISSION to use MY COMMENTS AND MY NAME, IN THIS POST AS WELL AS ALL OTHER COMMENTS I POST IN THIS FORUM! I stand by what I say, It is how the Military groomed me!

June 16 at 7:47pm · Edited · Like · 2

Sarah Jodoin Wishon Farming your land, ILP for vets with PTSD, agoraphobia, fibromyalgia, and the likes. ILP counselor told me anything I could use for a hobby to improve quality of life. But very limited to what I could do. Vets need a broader spectrum. Thank you.

June 16 at 4:02pm · Like · 3

Joel Figueroa Ben Krause, I would like to address the Employment Specialist's Job....I think they should be able to place Veterans in Civil Service Jobs such as with the VA Administration...The Employment Specialist at the El Paso TX. Voc Rehab didn't do anything for me and I didn't even get an Exit Counseling after Graduation...please dont use my name

June 16 at 4:18pm · Like

Jessica Wallace Bledsoe I think schools with more than 5 Veteran/Voc Rehab students, have someone in financial aid specifically handling their files/cases-someone able to certify them to the VA before school starts especially if they have pre-registered....and there should also be Veteran counselors on campus or at least Voc rehab counselors who respond to you... I almost quit school completely a few weeks ago because you cant get anyone in person to talk with, or ask a question.btw I will continue on in the fall...but I had such an unbelievable time with my school, because I wanted to attend summer school.....even after I told them for the millionth time its VA voc rehab.....an they still say I owe the money.....oops, sorryI lost it...still frustrated.....I asked to drop summer school classes and they withdrew me.....

June 16 at 4:32pm · Like

Roger Brian Ferrera Voc-Rehab-Need more counselors. Access, or finding your counselor (my former counselor) was a nightmare. I've missed semesters, and had promises broken due to manning, and not sure how much competence comes in to play.

June 16 at 4:41pm · Like · 1

Joel Figueroa Mr. Ben Krause,

Cont. Further more the Employment Specialist should be an Employment Placement i.e., finding jobs for Graduated Veterans and placing them in those jobs, based on their Disabilities...Not just what I got, i.e., help with my resume! I can write my own resume

June 16 at 4:43pm · Like

Curtis Wollam There seems to be a problem with some counselors approving veterans for education programs, then taking them away because the counselors are not reading the regs. IMO, if it's approved, shame on the counselor. Yes, it happened to me, but, it's happened to others as well.

June 16 at 5:03pm · Like · 1

Ronald Nesler The Indy VARO has done everything possible to make VOC Rehab inaccessible to my A/O Spina Bifida Program daughter. First they said she was not entitled to it at all as a VA Spina Bifida Program Child, then when I over came that by digging out the truth, they have simply made everything as INCONVENIENT for her as possible. I suspect that VA is LYING to my family on my daughter's voc rehab. Mike Stephens is the Director there, and his reputation supports that suspicion.

June 16 at 5:09pm · Edited · Like · 1

Christopher Baker I think there is a lack of Veteran Judgess. People are waiting years after the VA exercises gross negligence in handling claims for them to be resolved through appellate processes. They made a determination on me not having a SEH, without even consulting a doctor (although I do have evidence saying it would be a "significant barrier to employment" and was also turned down from a position because of it. Just because someone has a job, and a degree, doesn't mean they can still work in that field.

June 16 at 5:28pm · Edited · Like · 4

Todd Millsap Flight training at Part 61 Flight Schools and/or on a vocational level without a four year degree for those who have at the minimum a private pilot certificate and a current second class medical . Why can't I and other pilots like me , Veterans/ Pilot...See More

June 17 at 12:06pm · Edited · Like · 1

Christopher Baker I'd also echo more support for the self-employment program. When I told them I wanted to do gunsmithing, firearms, training and run shop - you would have thought that I dropped a bomb in the middle of a city.

June 16 at 5:31pm · Like · 3

Nonny Regina Dear VR&E, don't trick 100%ers with promises you can't keep. Nine years ago, I went through the entire process in expectation of receiving a hospital bed, but at the very end, was told, nope, no can do, here's a karaoke machine. Not making this up! Six months later I endured a painful recovery from cancer, full hysterectomy, sleeping in a recliner, and I stopped singing. My ankles are even weaker and I'm sleeping on the couch, since it's safer getting in and out of.

June 16 at 5:41pm · Like · 3

Johnny George Ben, Excuse me for being blunt, but "self-employment hoops" suggests that VRE actually addresses self-employment. In my experience, I concur with Matthew Brown, on this issue. I was not even allowed to bring it up and when I did I received no reply or answers. It was as if, I had never even brought it up. You can use my name and comments.

June 17 at 8:30am · Edited · Like · 1

Ramona Alys OOH! How about several VR&E Ombudsmen?

June 16 at 6:57pm · Like · 1

Steven Roberts It takes months to get to see a counselor, the ones in Broward county FL have every other Monday off. I also have to drive through three counties when I need to meet at the

counselor's office (approx 90 miles.) Delays in the subsistence allowance and they specifically tell you not to rely on that pay, defeating its purpose. Plus delay in school materials, I'm thankful they do provide them but it doesn't help if the class is nearly over when they are received. I submitted my syllabus for ENC 1101 a week before class of this 2015 summer semester (6 week course) requesting a computer, just over 4 weeks into the course I received the laptop, and 5 weeks in (today) FedEx tried to finally deliver the Microsoft office software they ordered at the same time. Very bad delay for a six week semester. Last, they are expecting large delays for the fall semester for allowance pay due to have to enroll us into the new payment system. Feel free to include my info or contact me if there are any questions. Thank you!

June 16 at 7:16pm · Like · 1

Jason Goodreau Failure of VRC to provide member a tutor. I requested a tutor two semesters in a row (Statistics) and my VRC could not find one in my area. In her defense, I live in rural WV. Closest possibility was over an hour drive.

June 16 at 7:26pm · Like · 2

Mike Jones Hey Ben Krause mines is really simple I have 100% PTSD and I had in house treatment at montrose in NYC, and out patient in philly for 3 yrs ,6 doctors have said I have it why do they keep giving my C & P's

It's like they don't wanna make me total n permanent because of my age n I'm 36, question them about that and if u need my real name let me know cuz mike is a alias

June 16 at 7:27pm · Like

Leon Beard Claims issues, Voc Rehab and Appointments. Please

Nothing has change

June 16 at 7:29pm · Like · 2

Matthew Brown During my VR&E interview they told me that now that I was denied I could never apply again . Is this true or is there a way I can apply again ?

June 16 at 7:38pm · Like

Shay Gambit Ronald Nesler, you could add me back into VA is LYING. Kicked me because of a post about my VRC offering me a possible job opportunity. Yes I volunteer and do veteran work study at the VA. I don't understand how that can be wrong. The page offered me an excellent source of information and now i can no longer visit. Accused me of trolling and not being a veteran when all i did was look for honest feedback from my peers. I know this isn't the place for this post but it's rather important to me.

June 16 at 7:55pm · Like · 1

Bryant Johnson Getting good employment.

June 16 at 8:07pm · Like

Marcus Robinson VR&E counselors being biased towards Dell & HP.. not everyone loves Windows based computers, not everyone loves Apple, but at least give us the option to use the benefit earned to use something we're actually comfortable with.

June 16 at 9:04pm · Like · 1

Jose Flores Proud to serve, 2 Enduring Freedom & 2 Iraky Freedom that's without counting support in Katrina and several hurricanes here in Puerto Rico ARNG, 29.3 years of service 51 years old and in my last mission 08-2009/08-2010 I came with a few health conditions, today I have to drive 30 minutes to my Job under controlled medication and with pain, when I get off work I drive back home which I live alone and drink more pills for pain, panic attacks & anxiety, can you explain why I have to go through all that when I worked all my life and said present since 9/11, I love my country and wish I could do more but my health gets worse and VA ups the medication, it's like being dead but alive, how can you help me.

June 16 at 9:12pm · Like · 1

Ted Skovranek II first congratulations, now for what you are here for. How many veterans could get better, but choose not to because if they do, they lose their benefits? Doesn't social security have a path that allows someone to go to school, and keep their disability while in school, then have a grace period after school to transition? If this is really a "vocational rehabilitation" program something like that should be in place, maybe even as an incentive to get people to not become dependents of VA disability.

June 17 at 1:55am · Like · 1

Jerome Kelly Williams I think the VRE trainers need proper training. There are too many differing opinions among counselors on how the law is interpreted and applied. I have been fighting for almost 5 years now and my case still has not made it to the BVA. I did not even get an SOC until Nov 2014.

June 17 at 8:07am · Like · 2

Joel Figueroa Mr. Ben Krause,

I would say a Transition period that Voc Rehab would cover the Vets Living Expenses along with their medical coverage for themselves & and their Family until they are able to obtain a different degree i.e., Bachelors, Masters, PhD...t...See More

June 17 at 9:17am · Like · 1

Cody Scholberg I think the VA should pay for computer programming bootcamps, which are much more effective than university at getting people jobs. Flatiron School in New York City is the only one sponsored by a State Department of Labor in any kind of program (check out Workforce One Flatiron for more information). But there are many other coding schools out there that have even better results, and some are at higher levels for higher levels of experience. Currently, computer science degrees are the only option, but those are far more expensive, take much longer, and are much less effective at getting veterans employment.

June 17 at 11:00am · Like · 1

Cody Scholberg I have a lot more information if you need cscholberg@gmail.com

June 17 at 11:04am · Like

Kevin Franzen Took over a year for me to get to see a VRC. Also there needs to be a better break down of benefits as there is lots of confusion when Vets are eligible for ch31 and post 911 Gi Bill.

June 17 at 11:57am · Like

Kevin Franzen I also agree that programs like mentioned by others here need to be considered as options. Example Cornell University offers certificates online that are not going to be approved but there traditional school would be. So the VA needs to be more adaptable to changes in allowing Vets to get more skills to add to their ability to get better work with disability that's not always a degree.

June 17 at 12:00pm · Like · 2

Kevin Murszewski There is a way in which the VA can help veterans get recognized and that is by utilizing MOOC's or a combination thereof and putting together a curriculum using existing ones from Ivy League schools and granting certs to vets upon completion of an authorized structured format.

June 17 at 12:06pm · Like · 1

George Walsh if you are currently self employed, but the physical demand is becoming too great to continue to grow or compete or simply getting older makes it too difficult with your service connected disabilities, they disqualify you... simply put you in an endless loop of "self employed is not employed, but is not unemployed... Then told that they will not approve anything to aid/advance self employment....

This is the game I've played twice (a few years apart) with the VA VocRehab...

June 17 at 11:48pm · Edited · Like · 1

John Reay Not following their own regulations for foreign case management. Specifically ALL aspects of Chris 31 delivery is the same overseas as in the US with exception of payment processing. This was not followed in my case and I am denied using a reference that does not pertain to my training request. Thanks

June 18 at 4:00am · Like

Caroline Mauro Sorry this is late...your post just came up. At my initial VRE appt, was told getting a PhD (in line w former employment) was out...how about an associates degree program instead? (I have 2 bachelor's & 2 master's degrees, so why...?) Case closed. Later was approved for ILP (not a vocational program, per se) and have been refused everything recommended by the contractor who came to my house (well, I did get a swiffer & med holder) because I was told that VRE doesn't provide avocational items or ANYTHING that can be provided by the hospital. There's more to it, but I'll spare you; however, I'm not the only one having these issues (in the PNW)...

June 20 at 8:45am · Like · 2

Nancy Bryant I've been waiting since the end of March for a home evaluation for ILP... Still no call to schedule it, but my counselor does say she has my back... I'm a TBI, PTSD and a Veteran

with several physical ailments like fibromyalgia, chronic pain. How long is this supposed to take? Maybe address the timeliness of ILP decisions/help.

June 20 at 9:21am · Like · 2

Wesley William Charles Hart JOB PLACEMENT!

June 20 at 9:41am · Like

Michael Stinfer Break Pay is putting a significant burden on single parents.

June 20 at 10:28am · Like · 1

Michael Stinfer The Program would be more successful if they hired more qualified VREs. (Possibly Vets who have been successful in the program?) They all have way too many cases that get managed.

June 20 at 10:33am · Like · 1

Ramona Alys Having VR&E create some basic info 'pages' (maybe just 5-6 double-sided pages in a file to download) that list programs and contact info regarding VHA, VBA and ancillary benefits that can help the vets out while in Chapter 31. That could include lists ...See More

June 20 at 1:40pm · Edited · Like · 2

William C Whitehead Nothing set up to report bad employees. Like ticket numbers for reporting hang-ups or rude behavior or giving you the loop or wrong info. I WOULD LOVE to see something like that set up. It would make for much kinder conversations if people knew we could report them and get them a smack on the hand. Like I.C.E reports. Also not being able to be turned away. I went 16 days without epilepsy medicine and broke down and had to call the crisis line and almost 911 to get help with my medication. Proof doesn't mean squat if the doctor turns you away. Also a system or something for caregiver status. They told me I need combat injuries to get my wife a caregiver class and get her a stipend as I need her daily. If I need a caregiver how my injuries occurred does not and should not dictate that I need a caregiver. My situation should. Also a better system to keep up with compensation trials. More in depth like how M.E.B does it would be amazing. That's about it. Hope I didn't talk too much and hope our voices are heard.

June 20 at 1:12pm · Like · 2

Pierre Jackson My problem like other Vets is that they don't look at your records they denied you at first then tell you to send evidence in to them. When the evidence is in your Medical Records. Why do we have to do there jobs for them.

June 20 at 5:15pm · Like · 1

Dominic Davila I've been blown up lost a limb and the VA refuses to believe I have a TBI from it because I wasn't unconscious, so I have a 0 rating for that. I also was lowered from 50% PTSD rating to 30% after them reevaluating me for maybe 30 min. Which has dropped \$1000 from my monthly checks. My calls to anyone in the VA system go unanswered pretty much daily. They give me appointments for dates that I can't make and when I miss or try and reschedule I get talked down too. My last voc rehab rep was so terrible that every time I registered for class early they payments would never get to the school on time and I would get dropped from my classes

and have to re register and my schedule would be all over the place. It took 2 years and 5 times of submitting the SAME paperwork to get my refund for the car and clothing allowances they give every year. I have had mental health appointments canceled on me without any warning and found out when I showed up for the appointments. When I go to check in for appointments the receptionist is usually on a personal call and has me wait while they talk about who knows what, then have an attitude with me! To get prosthetics it is usually a month or so wait just to get an appointment that I don't get to schedule the date and then it's another 3-5 months from there to get a prosthetic. I have plenty more issues with the VA I can share but I don't have all day
June 21 at 8:53am · Like

Jean Telfort VR&E counselors do not know how to communicate with Veterans (despite the fact that many claim to have been service members themselves). I had a terrible experience with Christopher Holder that was witnessed by the gentleman in charge there in NYC during which Mr. Holder yelled and swore at me "...I don't give a fuck about what you think..." which prompted a reassignment. Being stripped of my dignity is not something I subscribed to so I REFUSE to interact with anyone there anymore.
June 21 at 6:42pm · Like · 1

Marinas MamaTamara Case loads in our area are ridiculous. I have a great counselor, but he is insanely overloaded and I'm sure any delays in contact with me are a direct result of this. Our entire region is like this.
June 22 at 12:05am · Like

Marinas MamaTamara Losing stipend pay for the breaks between quarters means I can't afford child care...which would be fine, but if I pull out my kid, her spot gets taken by another one. This is a real hardship for me in trying to complete my program because child care is an outrageous expense to have to fund with no income (I'm in school full time).
June 22 at 12:19am · Like · 1

Joel Figueroa Paulin Davis, those calling constitute everyone that can read this for useful info on losing stipend between breaks?
June 22 at 6:44am · Like · 1

Michael Stinfor This is post about Vocational Rehabilitation.
June 22 at 7:45am · Like · 1

Dominic Davila So now I'm having more issues with voc rehab. I am trying to get into a service dog trainer school so that I can train dogs for vets. I called my rep over 2 months ago to find out information about this school and it took several weeks to get ahold of her. When I finally did she had no idea how to go about setting it all up for me. Then asked me if they even took voc rehab. Clearly I wasn't going to just contact her about some random school without knowing if they'd pay. So now that I have gotten ahold of her and thought she was going to take care of everything I get an email from the school saying they haven't even heard from her! Classes begin July 6th!!! If I'm not able to do this class the next one I could get into is in jan! Insane how screwed up these people are. She told me she has over 230 cases to handle!
June 22 at 10:04am · Like · 1

Dominic Davila Thought this post was asking about specific problems we are having with VR&E program? If I'm mistaken then please inform me but my issues that I have posted are with the chapter 31 program

June 22 at 1:10pm · Like · 1

BeBe Niña Ben Krause At Michael E Debakey VAMC in Houston, the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors seem quick to turn Veterans away. They are also notorious for not returning phone calls or answering emails. But my biggest issue is that most of the counselor's don't know or understand the VRE regulations. I was able to use Vocational Rehabilitation twice. I had to show and explain the regulations to both of my Vocational Rehabilitation counselors.

June 22 at 3:14pm · Like · 1

Steven Spalding I just spoke with Voc rehab and they told me I could reapply since I have been stable for 6 months

June 22 at 4:25pm · Like

Aaron Parmeter Voc Rehab BAH stipend is not nearly enough. Needs to be at least based on full month instead of prorated. Needs to be 2.5% above highest city COLA for all people. I have a family of 4 and I am the sole bread winner due to wife being more ill than myself.

June 22 at 4:54pm · Like · 1

Ramona Alys Nonny Regina, you could have received a standard hospital bed through your PCP. It would be a twin, but so is your recliner. Just a thought. I have never heard anyone from VR&E say that they could get me a bed in the ILP program. There are vets out there who state that they received one, but that almost never happens (especially since the rules changed), and when it does it usually takes a few years to receive it. Just a thought.

June 26 at 5:57pm · Like

William Swanson Please bring up the issue of counselors being untrained and not understanding their own chap31 rules.

June 26 at 6:10pm · Like · 4