

Honoring those who served U.S.

State Approving Agency for Veterans' Education & Training

# HARRY W. COLMERY VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2017 UPDATE

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

STATE APPROVING AGENCY FOR VETERANS'
EDUCATION AND TRAINING

May 7, 2019

FDVA Annual Training
Program and
County Veteran Service
Officer Association
Spring Conference

Safety Harbor Resort and Spa Safety Harbor, Florida

> Betsy Wickham Bureau Chief

### VA Education Benefits Forever GI Bill

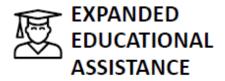
The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, Public Law 115-48 was signed into law on August 16, 2017 - also referred to as the

"Forever GI Bill" (FGIB)

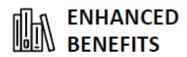


Harry W. Colmery served during WW I, became a Kansas attorney and is considered the principal architect of the GI Bill®

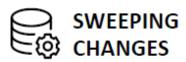
### **Colmery Act Overview**



- Signed August 16, 2017 the most comprehensive changes to GI Bill benefits since enactment of the Post 9/11 GI Bill.
- 13 provisions were effective upon enactment; 18 were effective by August 1, 2018; 3 provisions are effective by 2022.
- Implemented 25 out of 31 education related provisions



 The intent of the legislation is to enhance VA education benefits and allow Veterans and their beneficiaries to have costs covered for a variety of skill-building opportunities beyond a traditional college degree.



 The changes were sweeping and varied in timing of implementation and touched on almost every program component, including eligibility; types of qualifying educational opportunities and institutions; enrollment and transferring of the benefit; work study programs; and the business rules for calculating housing allowances.

Change to Veterans' Education Benefits	Section	Effective Date
Assistance for Students Affected by School Closures and Certain Program Disapprovals Students may be able to receive back entitlement if their school closed while attending; VA may pay up to 4 months of MHA to Ch33 beneficiaries following permanent school closure	109	August 16, 2017 November 16, 2017
Elimination of 15-Year Time Limit to Use the Post-9/11 GI Bill®  Ch 33 beneficiaries whose last discharge or release from active duty is on or after January 1, 2013; children of deceased servicemembers who became entitled after January 1, 2013 and all spouses using Fry Scholarship	112	August 16, 2017
Independent Study at Technical Schools and Non- Institutions of Higher Learning Beneficiaries, other than Ch 35s, may enroll in online classes at accredited vocational, career and technical schools that provide postsecondary level education	302	August 16, 2017

Change to Veterans' Education Benefits	Section	Effective Date
Priority Enrollment  VA to provide information to public – whether a school provides priority enrollment to veteran beneficiaries in courses earlier than other students-see GI Bill® website	303	August 16, 2017
REAP Eligibility Credited Toward Post-9/11 Gl Bill® Program Those with eligibility before November 25, 2015, and who lost it due to sunset of Ch 1607 may elect to have that service credited towards Post-9/11 benefit	106	August 16, 2017
National Guard & Reservists May Pause VA Voc Rehab While using Ch 31 benefits and called up for active duty, beneficiary may pause their eligibility of VA Voc Rehab	402	August 16, 2017
Licensing and Certification Charges Entitlement prorated based on amount of the fee charged	108	August 1, 2018
Changes to Survivors' & Dependents' Ed Assistance Decreases entitlement from 45 months to 36 months; Increases monthly payment for FT from \$1,041 to \$1,224	202 203	August 1, 2018 October 1, 2018

Change to Veterans' Education Benefits	Section	Effective Date
Informing Schools About Beneficiary Entitlement Information about amount of entitlement beneficiary has; beneficiary may elect to opt out of sharing this information	308	August 1, 2018
Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) During Active Duty (Reserve) Student beneficiary may receive a prorated MHA if discharged within the month school commences	113	August 1, 2018
Transfer of Benefit If designated person dies, veteran may designate a new beneficiary; if veteran dies, a TOE may designate new person	110	August 1, 2018
Purple Heart Recipients Entitled to Post-9/11 at 100% Level Honorably discharged and awarded Purple Heart on or after September 11, 2001	102	August 1, 2018
Yellow Ribbon Extension to Fry and Purple Heart Recipients	103	August 1, 2018
Reserve Component Benefits Count Toward Post-9/11 Guard and Reserve members serving under 10 U.S.C 12304a and 12304b	401	August 1, 2018

Change to Veterans' Education Benefits	Section	Effective Date
Reserve Duty Which Counts Toward Post-9/11 Eligibility Time that a Reservist is ordered to active duty to receive authorized medical care, to be medically evaluated for disability, or to complete a DoD health care study on or after September 11, 2001, counts as active duty for Post-9/11 benefits	101	August 1, 2018
Consolidation of Benefit Levels Eliminates the 40% Post-9/11 benefit level and expands the 60% benefit level	105	August 1, 2020
Yellow Ribbon Extension to Active Duty Servicemembers	104	August 1, 2022



Change to Veterans' Education Benefits	Section	<b>Effective Date</b>
Work Study Expansion Removes expiration date for qualifying work-study activities involving outreach for SAAs, providing hospital and domiciliary care and medical treatment to veterans in state homes and also with those related to administration of a national or state veteran's cemetery	201	August 16, 2017
Student beneficiary must be enrolled 3/4 time or FT		
Student may work up to 25 hours per week		
Student paid the greater of Federal or State minimum wage; Federal = \$7.25/hr; State of Fla = \$8.46/hr		
Wages are tax exempt		
The requesting Work Site submits an application and position description		
Student submits VA Form 22-8691		

### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS WORKSTUDY WORKSITE APPLICATION/POSITION DESCRIPTION

WORKSITE NAME:
WORKSITE ADDRESS:
CITY: ST: ZIP:
POINT OF CONTACT/SITE SUPERVISOR: SUPERVISOR EMAIL:
PHONE NUMBER: EXTENSION:
FAX NUMBER:
SECONDARY SITE SUPERVISOR:
TYPE OF FACILITY:
DOD FACILITY ☐; DOMICILIARY ☐; EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION ☐;
NATIONAL CEMETERY : STATE CEMETERY : VA REGIONAL OFFICE : VA MEDICAL CENTER : OTHER VA FACILITY : NON-VA FACILITY :
VA MEDICAL CENTER ☐; OTHER VA FACILITY ☐; NON-VA FACILITY ☐;
STATE APPROVING AGENCY ☐; VETSUCCESS CENTER ☐
IF YOU ARE AN EDUCATIONAL FACILITY, HOW MANY STUDENTS ARE IN
RECEIPT OF VA EDUCATION BENEFITS?
HOW MANY MAN HOURS ARE YOU REQUESTING PER ACADEMIC YEAR?
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
SIGNATURE DATE
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY / MUSKOGEE RPO

DATE RECEIVED

**VA Form 22-8691** 

APPLICATION	N FOR WOR	RK-STUDY	ALLOWANCE	•	
	- IDENTIFICA	TION INFORM	IATION		
1. NAME OF APPLICANT (First, Middle, Last)					
2. MAILING ADDRESS OF APPLICANT (Number, and street or ru P.O., State and 9 digit ZIP Code)	ral route, city or	entitlement co	BER (For chapter 35, clude the suffix indical ases, enter the file nur o you) URITY NUMBER (If no	nber of the per	son who transferred
		3D. SEX OF APP	LICANT		
BC. DATE OF BIRTH OF APPLICANT (Month, Day, Year)		MALE	FEMALE		
			ASE PROVIDE THE H		A CAN REACH YOU
4A. TELEPHONE NUMBER (Include Area Code)		DAYTIME		EVENING	
5. EDUCATION BENEFIT RECEIVING  CHAPTER 30 (Montgomery GI Bitl - Active Duty)  CHAPTER 31 (Vocational Rehabilitation)  CHAPTER 32 (Vaterans Educational Assistance Program)	CHAPTER 35		ntional Assistance) Bill - Selected Reserve	PRO enti	NNSFER OF ENTITLEMEI DGRAM (Parent or Spous tled to benefits)
PAF 6A, NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS OF SCHOOL	RT II - SCHOO		ION ACADEMIC OR TRAIN		
7. CURRENT ENROLLMENT INFORMATION A BEGINNING DATE (Month, Day, Year)  8. ENDING DATE (Month, Day, Year)	-	A. BEGINNING (Month, Day		B. ENDIN	
	III - WORK ST				
9. ADVANCE PAYMEN	NT? (See instructions f	or information on adv	mce payment on reverse	ınder "How Muc	h Can I Earn?")
YES NO					
10. HAVE YOU EVER PARTICIPATED IN PROGRAM BEFORE? (If "YES," please state.  YES NO	11. WORK SI facility wi have the si	TE PREFERENCE ( here you would pref ame name or perfor	Tell us the school, VA er to do VA related wo m the same services in	facility or other rk. Be specific different locat	r government as many facilities lons or cities.)
<ol> <li>WORK EXPERIENCE (Tell us about the jobs you had before, other than VA work-study jobs. Please be as specific as possib.</li> </ol>	13. SPECI				RE AVAILABLE TO WORK
other than VA work-shidy jobs. Please be as specific as possib If you have no work experience, place "NONE" in this space. needed, attach a separate sheet with your work-history)	Îf (X)	MONDAY	WHEN	AVAILABLE	(From & To)
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		TUESDAY			
		WEDNESDAY			
		THURSDAY			
14. OHALIEICATIONS (Toll us about any spacial availableations vo	u haya hasad ay ya	FRIDAY	k avnarianca Include	nni avnariance	in information
<ol> <li>QUALIFICATIONS (Tell us about any special qualifications yo technology. Also, tell us what kinds of jobs interest you. If ne</li> <li>SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT (Sign in ink)(Do no print)</li> </ol>	u nave odsed on you eded, attach a sepai	ate sheet with this i		DATE SIGNED	m injormation
PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION: VA will not disclose information col. Title 38 Code of Federal Regulations 1.576 for routine uses as identified in VA as published in the Federal Register at <a href="http://www.rms.oijt.va.gov/SO-veteran">http://www.rms.oijt.va.gov/SO-veteran is dentifying information to the veteran's school or training establish.</a>	lected by this informat VA's system of record	ion collection to any se is, 58 VA 21/22/28, Co	ource other than what has ompensation, Pension, Ed	been authorized lucation and Voca	by the Privacy Act of 1974 o tional Rehabilitation Record

### **Work-Study Contact Information**

### **Hours of Operation:**

8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. CST Monday through Friday, excluding federal holidays

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Email: workstudy.vbamus@va.gov (do not send emails directly to Work-Study personnel)

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

### Right Now Web (RNW)

https://gibill.custhelp.com/app/utils/loginform/redirect/ask

**Fax:** (918) 781-7868 or (918) 781-7785

(Please use faxing as a last resort)

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**Telephone Number:** (918) 781-7878

This number is for Work-Study Site Supervisors only. Please do not give this number to students.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

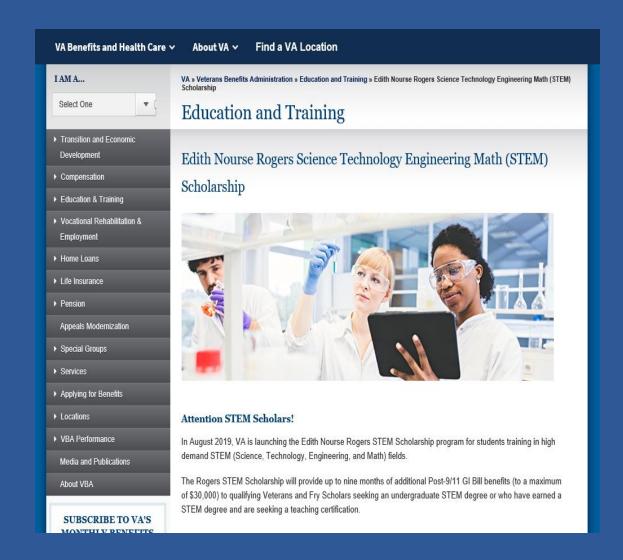
### Mailing address:

Work-Study Department Muskogee Regional Processing Office 125 South Main Muskogee, OK 74401

### \*\*\* IMPORTANT \*\*\*

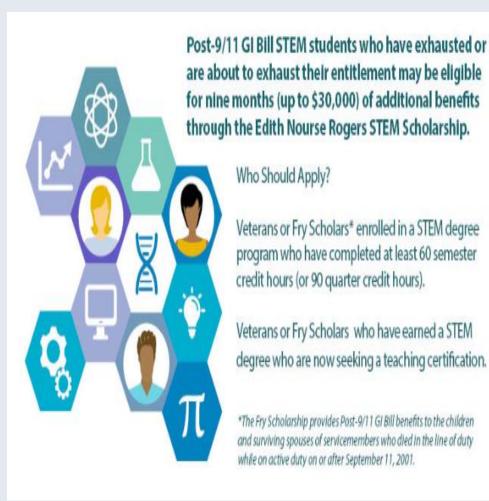
THE STUDENT CAN ONLY BEGIN WORKING AFTER THE VA HAS APPROVED THE CONTRACT AND NOTIFIED THE SITE SUPERVISOR.

HOURS WORKED PRIOR TO THE APPROVAL DATE CANNOT BE PAID.



### **Overview of Colmery Act Provisions**

Change to Veterans' Education Benefits	Section	Effective Date
Benefits for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Programs The Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship allows VA to provide additional Post-9/11 benefits to eligible individuals	111	August 1, 2019
Must be Post-9/11 STEM student who has exhausted or is about to exhaust entitlement (within 180 days)		
Priority will be given to individuals who are entitled to 100% Ch 33 level and to those requiring the most credit hours		
Veteran or Fry Scholar enrolled in a STEM degree program must have completed at least 60 semester credit hours (or 90 quarter credit hours) of bachelor's		
OR Veteran or Fry Scholar who has earned a STEM degree & who is now seeking a teaching certification		
May be eligible for up to 9 months of additional benefits, up to \$30,000. Commences August 1, 2019		



### What fields of study qualify for the Rogers STEM Scholarship?

Students must be enrolled in or have earned a degree in one of the following areas:

- · agriculture science or natural resources science program
- · biological or biomedical science
- · computer and information science and support services
- · engineering, engineering technologies, or an engineering-related field
- · health care or related program
- · mathematics or statistics
- medical residency
- physical science
- · science technologies or technicians



### Who is eligible for the Rogers STEM Scholarship?



- $\checkmark$  You are pursuing a degree in a STEM field
- √ You have completed at least 60 standard or 90 quarter credit hours toward your degree;
- ✓ You have or will soon (within 180 days of application) exhaust your entitlement for the Post-9/11 GI Bill program;
- Your post-secondary degree requires more than 128 semester (or 192 quarter) credit for completion in a standard, undergraduate college degree



- ✓ You have earned a post-secondary degree in a STEM
- √ You have been accepted or are enrolled in a teaching certification program;
- √ You have or will soon (within 180 days of application) exhaust your entitlement for the Post-9/11 GI Bill program

### More you should know

- Priority will be given to individuals who are entitled to 100% of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and to those who require
  the most credit hours.
- The Yellow Ribbon Program may not be used with this extension. Schools may apply Yellow Ribbon funding, but VA can't match it.
- · These additional benefits can't be transferred to dependents.
- · Fry Scholars are eligible to apply for the Rogers STEM Scholarship.

Edith Nourse Rogers STEM Scholarship: Helping Veterans Cross the Finish Line



Change to Veterans' Education Benefits	Section	Effective Date
VA to Develop Pilot Programs for Technology Courses Provided to eligible veterans who enroll in high technology education programs that VA determines provides training and skills sought by employers in a relevant field or industry	116	August 1, 2018
Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses (VET TEC) 5-Yr Pilot Program created by VA		
Only one day of GI Bill entitlement needed and program doesn't use benefits; all chapters except 31		
Training paid for by VA and a monthly housing allowance provided to students during training; if training in online only class, MHA is ½ of national avg		
VET TEC available at NCDs in 5 areas: Information Science, Computer Programming, Data Processing, Media Applications, and Computer Software		
Training providers make application to VA (not SAAs) and VA makes the approval determination		

### Overview of Colmery Act Provisions Public Law 115-48 VET TEC CONT

Change to Veterans' Education Benefits	Section	Effective Date
Payment to Training Provider: 25% of tuition and fees upon enrollment, 25% when student completes, remaining 50% when student secures meaningful employment in field of study		
Training Providers may not charge veterans for tuition and fees and refund the charge when VA pays		
Institutions of Higher Learning (degree granting) are not eligible for VET TEC approval. Only Noncollege Degree schools may apply		
A VET TEC Training Provider Application, a VET TEC Pilot Program Participation Agreement, 2017 & 2018 Financial Statements, VET TEC Training Provider Facility Programs Spreadsheet and a VET TEC Statement of Compliance with 85/15% Ratios and Spreadsheet are all mandatory submissions by prospective training provider		





Here's how it works:

### **VET TEC's 3-5-7 Formula for Success**

REASONS You Should Choose VETTEC – LEARN, TURN, and EARN!

Learn the high tech skills that top employers demand

Turn VETTEC's coding boot camps into an opportunity to gain 21st century skills

Earn a better living for yourself and your family



STEP ROADMAP to Securing Your Future

5 7
4 6
Hired
Complete
Apply

Apply

Follow VET TEC's 3-5-7 formula for success to learn new skills, switch careers or advance your career.

Change to Veterans' Education Benefits	Section	<b>Effective Date</b>
Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) Based on Campus Where Student Attends Most Classes The law requires that MHA under Post-9/11 benefits be calculated based on the zip code of the campus where the student physically attends the majority of classes, rather than the location of the school where the student is enrolled	107	August 1, 2018
GI Bill® Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) Adjusted to DoD Rate Those who first use the Post-9/11 GI Bill® on or after January 1, 2018, will receive a MHA based on the DoD's Basic Housing Allowance (BHA) for E-5 with Dependents, monthly housing rates. Those who began using benefits prior to January 1, 2018, will continue to receive the slightly higher MHA rate now provided by VA.	501	January 1, 2018



### Section 107: Updates to VA Systems

The systems being updated as a result of Section 107 will be:

- ✓ VA Online Certification Enrollment (VA-ONCE)
- ✓ Long Term Solution (LTS)
- ✓ Web Enabled Approval Management System (WEAMS)
- ✓ GI Bill Comparison Tool
  - Available Now

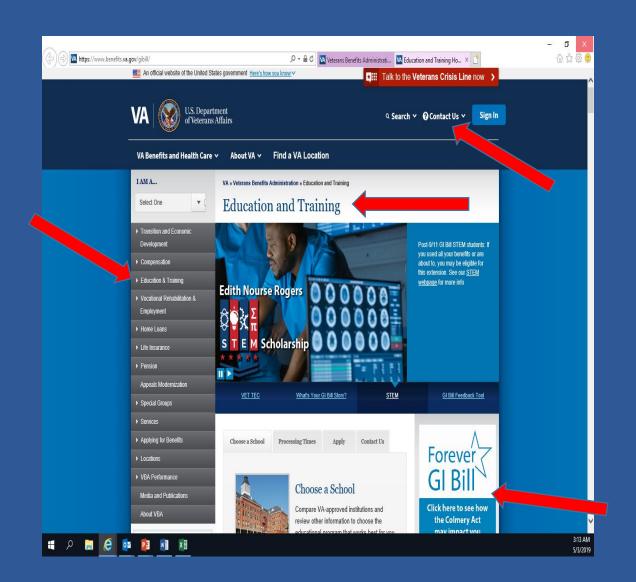


## Recent Timeline - Colmery Act Public Law 115-48

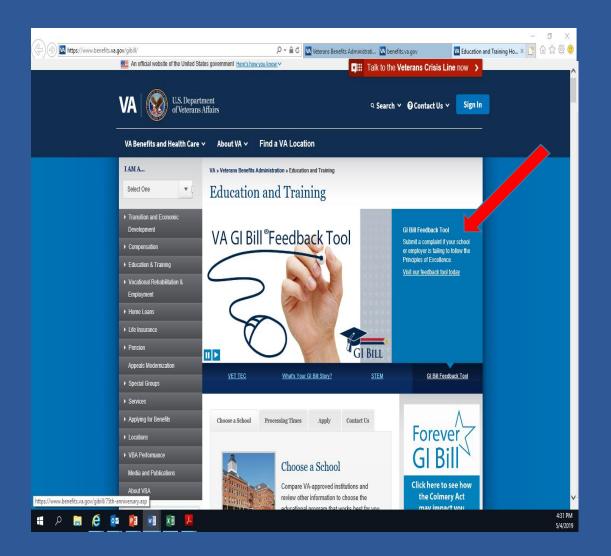
Date	Actions
1/1/18 to 11/9/18	Congressional hearings pertaining to VA's failure to implement Sections 107 and 501 due to IT issues. (VA had Booz Allen Hamilton as IT contractor)
11/9/18	Robert Worley, Executive Director of Education Service of the Veterans' Benefits Administration announces he will step down from his position, effective January 2019
11/28/18	VA Secretary, Robert Wilkie, announced implementation reset for Sections 107 and 501 Established a program integration office for business, technical and functional activities of the Colmery Act Independent technical evaluation identified and analyzed programmatic and technical gaps Established Governance Model and supporting processes and reporting structure
1/1/19	Charmain Bogue takes Robert Worley's place as Interim Executive Director of Education Service of the Veterans' Benefits Administration

# Recent Timeline - Colmery Act Public Law 115-48

Date	Actions
03/21/19	Accenture Federal Services, LLC brought on as systems integrator, coordinating planning, development and integrated testing of all systems associated with implementation
4/1/19	Conducted analysis of current state, established requirements. Started Agile sprints to begin to implement the fix within the system
12/1/19	Projected Go-Live Date for implementation of all Section 107 and 501 updates. Required adjustments will be retroactive to implementation dates; if underpaid, will result in additional payments to beneficiaries; if overpaid, no debt will be established. Ch 33 beneficiaries will be notified that their MHA rates, going forward, may change; School Certifying Officials will be amending certifications of enrollment to include zip codes for location of facilities where courses were physically taken
1/1/20	Education claims for Spring semester 2020 will be processed according to updated, mandated rates
Stay informed	www/benefits.va.gov/gibill - click on "For School Administrators" then "School training Resources, then "Education Benefit Presentations"



www.benefits.va.gov



### **Other Education Updates**

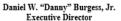
Change to Veterans' Education Benefits	Authority	Effective Date
SkillBridge is a DoD program which enables a servicemember, who receives permission, to work for a private organization, without pay, during last 6 months of enlistment	DoD Directive 1322.29	01/24/2014
Ch 31 veterans added to Ch 30 and Ch 33 veterans as covered individuals who are entitled to be charged no more for tuition and fees at a public institution than a student who is a resident of the state, if the veteran is living in the state in which the institution is located	115-251 Section 301 to Amend 38 USC 3679	03/01/2019
VA Vocational Rehabilitation (Ch 31) veteran commencing a rehabilitation program 12/16/2018, may only pursue courses if they are also approved by the SAA for Ch 30 or Ch 33 benefits	115-48 Section 402	12/16/2018
SIT-REP Act: Institutions may not impose any penalty (late fee, denial of access, etc.), or require a Ch 31, or 33 beneficiary to borrow funds due to a delay in a VA payment	HR4830 to Amend 38 USC 3679	05/21/2018

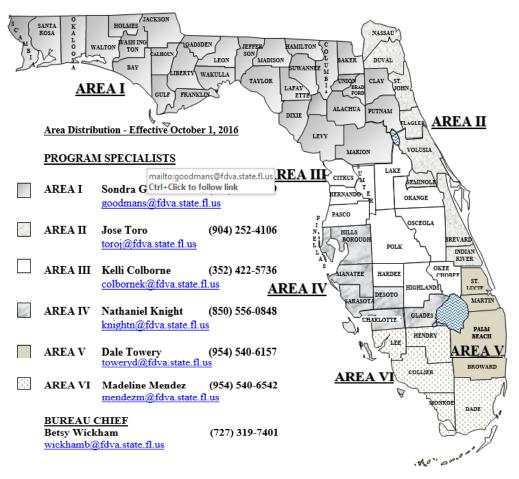
### State of Florida

### Department of Veterans' Affairs

Bureau of State Approving for Veterans' Education and Training 9500 Bay Pines Boulevard, Room 214

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Attorney General
Jimmy Patronis
Chief Financial Officer
Nikki Fried
Commissioner of Agriculture





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AREA III - Kelli Colborne colbornek@fdva.state.fl.us	(352) 422-5736
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Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs
State Approving Agency for Veterans' Education and Training

### **Mailing Address:**

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### Questions?