

**REPORT OF THE
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION ON**

**A Study of the Educational
and Training Needs of
Viet Nam Era Veterans**

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



Senate Document No. 26

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
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Information supplied by the Veterans Administration indicates that 225,300 Viet Nam era veterans resided in Virginia as of March 31, 1987, and that 135,000 received some training under the G. I. Bill. The remaining 90,300 could be considered as a possible number of potential candidates for further education or training.

As an approach to determining the educational and training needs of Viet Nam era veterans, the present study sought to determine these needs among members of groups of veterans who are currently seeking assistance, the rationale being that members of these groups would likely be more receptive to offers of assistance in obtaining education or training than would veterans who are not seeking assistance.

The veterans chosen were those who sought assistance from the Virginia Employment Commission or the Division of War Veterans Claims. A total of 1,194 veterans were interviewed, 867 at 33 offices of the Virginia Employment Commission, and 327 at 20 offices of the Division of War Veterans Claims. Tabulations of the results are shown in the appendix.

Of the veterans interviewed, 1,029 (86.2%) indicated that they would be interested in receiving education or training if assistance were provided. Of these, 469 (45.6%) also named one or two schools that they had in mind. If this combination of responses --- "Yes, I am interested," and "Yes, I have a school in mind" --- is taken as an indication that some Viet Nam era veterans would take advantage of an offer of assistance, then a need for such assistance is established.

It is not possible to know in advance how many Viet Nam era veterans would actually enroll in educational and training programs if tuition and fees were free. Many factors would influence this number: changing economic conditions, a changing job market, how well the assistance program was publicized, eligibility criteria, etc. But a rough estimate of a minimum number can be derived if certain assumptions are made.

Assumption 1

The sample of 1,194 veterans interviewed is representative of the estimated 64,000 Viet Nam era veterans being served by the Virginia Employment Commission (22,000) and/or the Division of War Veterans Claims (42,000).

Assumption 2

The number of veterans who would actually enroll in a program if tuition and fees were free would be smaller than the number of those who express an interest and have a school in mind.

Assumption 3

Some Viet Nam era veterans not being served by the Virginia Employment Commission or the Division of War Veterans Claims would enroll in educational and training programs if tuition and fees were free.

The 469 veterans interviewed who expressed an interest and had a school in mind represent 39 percent of the total number interviewed (1,194). Applying this percentage to the estimated 64,000 Viet Nam era veterans being served by the Virginia Employment Commission and/or the Division of War Veterans Claims yields 24,960. Under Assumption 2, a smaller number would actually enroll in a program. For example, if only 10 percent of those who would be interested in such a program of assistance and would have a school in mind would actually enroll in a program, the number would be 2,496. Twenty percent would yield 4,992.

Under Assumption 3, additional veterans would be expected to enroll, but in a much smaller proportion.

RECOMMENDATION

That such funds that may be appropriated by the General Assembly for the education and training of Vietnam Era veterans be provided as a supplement to existing assistance programs, but not to exceed the full cost of tuition and fees at a public educational institution.

APPENDIX

Location _____

Date _____

Viet Nam Veterans Education and Training Needs

Information Form

September - October 1987

To the Virginia Employment Commission Interviewer:

Please complete this form according to the veteran's responses to your oral questions. **Do not ask the veteran to complete this form.**

Please feel free to change the wording of the questions better to fit the educational and intellectual level of the veteran you are interviewing.

To the veteran:

1. Would you be interested in receiving education or training at a college, community college, or vocational/technical school if tuition and fees were free?

Yes $\frac{1,029}{86.2\%}$ No _____

(If the answer is "No," skip to Question 8. If the answer is "Yes," proceed to Question 2.)

2. What kind of education or training would you like to have?

(Write a summary of the response in two or three sentences.)

See Attachment A

3. Do you have a particular school in mind?

Blank 4 Yes $\frac{478}{47\%}$ No $\frac{547}{53\%}$ If "Yes," name of school See Attachment B.

4. Are you now employed?

Yes $\frac{403}{39\%}$ No $\frac{613}{60\%}$ Blank 13

(If the answer is "No," skip to Question 6. If the answer is "Yes," proceed to Question 5.)

(OVER)

5. Would your employer let you take time off during the work day to go to school or college?

Yes $\frac{154}{36\%}$ No $\frac{127}{30\%}$ I don't know $\frac{144}{34\%}$ Blank 604

If "Yes," would you lose pay for the time you were off?

Yes 114 No 87 Blank 828

6. If the school that you would attend is within commuting distance, would you need additional financial assistance beyond free tuition and fees?

Yes $\frac{475}{46\%}$ No $\frac{538}{52\%}$ Blank 16

7. If the school that you would attend would require you to move to another place, would you need additional financial assistance beyond free tuition and fees?

Yes $\frac{833}{81\%}$ No $\frac{150}{15\%}$ Blank 46

8. Do you have any remaining benefits under the G.I. Bill?

Yes $\frac{320}{31\%}$ No $\frac{689}{67\%}$ Blank 20

9. Did you serve in Viet Nam?

Yes $\frac{591}{57\%}$ No $\frac{433}{42\%}$ Blank 5

Attachment A

Kinds of Education and Training Named By
Viet Nam Era Veterans

N = 1029

<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Education or Training Category</u>
218	21	Business Administration, Management, Accounting, Marketing, Advertising
186	18	Computer Science, Computer Programming, Computer Operation
100	10	General or Indeterminate
91	9	Electronics
58	6	General Vocational
45	4	Air Conditioning/Refrigeration
44	4	Auto Mechanics
43	4	Electrician
41	4	Welding
37	4	Bachelor's Degree
25	2	Carpentry, Wordworking
25	2	Machinist
23	2	Criminology, Law Enforcement
23	2	Plumbing/Heating
20	2	Master's Degree
19	2	Engineering, general
17	2	Counseling, Church Work
17	2	Para Medical/Medical Technology
14	1	Social Work/Human Services
14	1	Tractor-Trailor Driving
13	1	Communications
13	1	Heavy Equipment Operation/Repair
13	1	Teaching
12	1	Electrical/Electronic Engineering
11	1	Drafting
11	1	Food Service
10	1	Building Trades
10	1	Brick Mason
10	1	GED Diploma

Attachment B

Educational Institutions Named by
Viet Nam Era Veterans

Number of Veterans Naming One or Two Institutions = 469

Number	Percent	
73	16	Miscellaneous and Unknown
43	9	Tidewater Community College
35	7	Danville Community College
32	7	Old Dominion University
25	5	Northern Virginia Community College
23	5	Southside Virginia Community College
23	5	George Mason University
21	4	Thomas Nelson Community College
16	3	Patrick Henry Community College
13	3	Virginia Highlands Community College
12	3	Piedmont Community College
11	2	Norfolk State University
11	2	University of Virginia
10	2	Virginia Western Community College
10	2	Blue Ridge Community College
10	2	College of William and Mary
10	2	James Madison University
8	2	New River Community College
8	2	Paul D. Camp Community College
8	2	Virginia Commonwealth University
8	2	Christopher Newport College
7	1.5	John Tyler Community College
7	1.5	Southwest Virginia Community College
7	1.5	Mary Washington College
6	1	J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
6	1	Lord Fairfax Community College
5	1	Germanna Community College
5	1	Mountain Empire Community College
5	1	Virginia Polytechnic Institute
4	1	Averett College
4	1	Longwood College

Location _____

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Please complete this form according to the veteran's responses to your oral questions. **Do not ask the veteran to complete this form.**

Please feel free to change the wording of the questions better to fit the educational and intellectual level of the veteran you are interviewing.

To the veteran:

1. Would you be interested in receiving education or training at a college, community college, or vocational/technical school if tuition and fees were free?

Yes _____ No $\frac{165}{13.8\%}$

(If the answer is "No," skip to Question 8. If the answer is "Yes," proceed to Question 2.)

2. What kind of education or training would you like to have?

(Write a summary of the response in two or three sentences.)

3. Do you have a particular school in mind?

Yes _____ No _____ If "Yes," name of school _____.

4. Are you now employed?

Yes _____ No _____

(If the answer is "No," skip to Question 6. If the answer is "Yes," proceed to Question 5.)

(OVER)

5. Would your employer let you take time off during the work day to go to school or college?

Yes _____ No _____ I don't know _____

If "Yes," would you lose pay for the time you were off?

Yes _____ No _____

6. If the school that you would attend is within commuting distance, would you need additional financial assistance beyond free tuition and fees?

Yes _____ No _____

7. If the school that you would attend would require you to move to another place, would you need additional financial assistance beyond free tuition and fees?

Yes _____ No _____

8. Do you have any remaining benefits under the G.I. Bill?

Yes $\frac{51}{31\%}$ No $\frac{108}{66\%}$ Blank $\frac{6}{}$

9. Did you serve in Viet Nam?

Yes $\frac{94}{57\%}$ No $\frac{54}{33\%}$ Blank $\frac{17}{10\%}$

