

Project
Veteran Transition To Civilian Life
September 11th, 2020

Table of Contents

Title Page	Page 1
Table of Contents	Page 2
Introduction	Page 3
I - Congress and Veteran Reintegration	
II - The Role of the Department of Veteran Affairs	Page 4
References	Page 6

Veteran Transition To Civilian Life

What the Congress and the Department of Veteran Affairs do for Veteran Reintegration?

Introduction

In today's complex society, the so-called changes can be challenging and disruptive for many people. Moreover, the prospect of veteran integration and the transition to civilian life can be a complex task for many patriots in the United States. After all, these former servicemen are often facing the task of going through multiple barriers and transitions simultaneously. Yet, the reality is that the reintegration process is not simple for many and it requires time and certain actions for the veterans to settle into a new routine.

Therefore, in this article, we will analyze the prospect of veteran transition and what actions are taken by the Veteran Affairs and the U.S House of Representatives as part of the reintegration process.

I - Congress and Veteran Reintegration

The U.S House of Representatives has been an institution that historically supported veterans.

On that note, it is important to emphasize that it was the U.S Congress that established the core of benefits concept for veterans as we now know it after World War I. However, it is imperative to analyze their impact through the more recent actions that were taken in the past decade.

Congress passed the Veterans Opportunity to Work (VOW) to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. This represented a major coup at the time as it made significant improvements of TAP's employment benefits for veterans. For instance, the certain employments benefits that were optional, the Hire Heroes Act made them mandatory for servicemen before leaving the U.S Military. In other words, this change helped veterans to better align their skills and to use them on the labour

market.

Another significant action in the House of Representatives was the adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding in 2016. This was a significant step since it reshaped the Transition Assistance Program. Therefore, the TAP program was enhanced with significant transition benefits including counselling about available services, expanded information, and increased support for transitioning veterans. Ultimately, this legislative of Congress led to increased support even for family members of veterans.

Combined with that, US Congress passed an update of G.I. Bill in 2017. This was a significant breakthrough from the lawmakers in Washington as it removed the previous requirement that he benefits expired after fifteen years. Therefore, veterans are now able to utilize their education benefits without any time restrictions. Furthermore, the changes of the G.I Bill provided more funding for veterans studying subjects are designated as part of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

The third notable step was the “National Defense Authorization Act”, which provided more options for veterans that struggle to transition from military to civilian life.

II - The Role of the Department of Veteran Affairs

The transition from military to civilian life often brings about a significant change in the individual’s identity. Challenges such as finding a stable job is a common obstacle for the veteran reintegration process. According to a research survey from 2015, 40% of veterans found that their employment transition is a very complex task. That is where the VA’s comes into the frame as this federal organization primary function is to support veterans in their time after service by providing benefits and support.

For instance, the VA is providing a broad spectrum of services for veterans such as a pension,

Running Head: Veteran Transition To Civilian Life

education, career transition support, disability compensation, home loans, life insurance, vocational, rehabilitation, survivors' benefits, health care, and many others. Moreover, these advantages are part of the Transition Assistance Program and it is the one that historically helped many veterans to reintegrate in society.

All in all, the prospect of veteran reintegration and transition to civilian life can be challenging for many former servicemen. And while Congress and the Department of Veteran Affairs offer significant support, the reality is that more needs to be done.

That is why our focus should be on conducting further research about how to improve the transitioning process for these heroes. And those findings can be the future guidelines that will help the government to improve the support for veterans in today's complex society.

References

Romano, Jo. "US Department of Veteran Affairs." *Office of Research & Development*, 2020, www.research.va.gov/.

Fas.org. 2020. [online] Available at: <<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R45583.pdf>> [Accessed 24 August 2020].

The White House. Presidential Executive Order on Supporting Our Veterans During Their Transition from Uniformed Service to Civilian Life (Executive Order 13822). 2018. Retrieved from <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-executive-order-supportingveterans-transition-uniformed-service-civilian-life/>.

Griffin K, Gilbert C. Easing the transition from combat to classroom: Preserving America's investment in higher education for military veterans through institutional assessment.

Washington, DC: Center for American Progress. 2012.

United States Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration. Discovery phase: SME and customer findings and insights report. In *Education and Career Counseling* Chapter 36. 2019.

VA Office of Transition and Economic Development. VA Transition Assistance Program (TAP). 2019;101.

Lawrence, P. Testimony before the Committee on Veterans' Affairs. U.S. Senate, 115th Congress. 2018.

