



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
VA Regional Office
345 Perry Hill Road
Montgomery, AL 36109**

12/26/2018

Mr. Joshua L. Yates

7 Clayton St
Apt 2K
Montgomery, AL 36104

In Reply Refer to:

RO [322]/28

Last 4 digits: 8162 /
00

Dear Mr. Yates:

We have received your application for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) benefits. We have scheduled an appointment for you to meet with a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor (VRC). During this meeting, we will gather information to determine if you qualify for these benefits. This letter tells you the following:

- What you need to do
- What you should do to prepare for the meeting
- What will happen during this meeting
- What other criteria you might need to meet
- What you will need if you previously participated in VR&E
- Who will pay for your travel expenses
- What to do if you have questions or concerns

What do you need to do?

You need to report on time for the meeting. We have scheduled your meeting for the following date, time, and place:

Date: 01/22/2019
Time: 8:00 AM
Place: VA Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment
345 Perry Hill Road
Montgomery, AL 36109
Counselor: Janelle P. Babers

Please bring a photo ID with you to get through security.

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What should you do to prepare for the meeting?

You should plan for the meeting to last two hours or more. Complete vocational testing at <https://vetsuccess.careerscope.net/montgomery> prior to your scheduled appointment. Select [Click Here to Enter Assessment Portal](#). Select New Evaluatees Register Here. Create a User ID and Password consisting of letters and numbers only. Select **Montgomery VRE** as the Specialist. There is no need to print any information from the assessment. I will access it during our meeting and we will discuss in greater detail at that time.

Please do not bring your unaccompanied, minor children with you.

You need to bring the following items with you to the meeting:

- A completed *Rehabilitation Needs Inventory* (VA Form 28-1902w), which we have enclosed with this letter (This form is also available online at <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/> and can be filled out electronically, printed, and brought to the meeting or emailed to your assigned Counselor.)
- Training records to include military training, college or university transcripts, vocational training records and resume(s)
- Job certifications or licenses, such as an apprentice or journeyman rating card
- Recent medical records that VA may not have with list of medications
- Complete disability rating
- DD214

Even if you don't qualify for vocational rehabilitation, you will still receive career and educational counseling at no expense to you. This counseling is a considerable benefit even by itself.

What will happen during the meeting?

At the meeting, we will discuss:

- Your work history, job interests, past training and education
- Your disabilities and how they affect your everyday life
- Any other questions you may want answered
- Whether you are entitled to vocational rehabilitation benefits
- Next Steps – If you are entitled, we will begin your vocational planning immediately. If you are not entitled, we will refer you to other agencies for assistance.

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What other criteria might you need to meet to qualify for VR&E?

If your combined service-connected disability rating awarded by VA is 10 percent, or it has been more than 12 years since you received your initial rating from VA, we must be able to determine the following:

- You have serious difficulties obtaining or maintaining employment that matches your talents, skills, and interests
- Your service-connected disability condition(s) is/are a substantial part of the reason you have difficulties obtaining and maintaining employment

What if you previously received VR&E services?

To reenter the VR&E program, you must meet the basic eligibility and entitlement criteria, and a VRC must determine that you need additional vocational rehabilitation services. To reenter after you have been rehabilitated, we must determine that one of the following conditions is met:

- Your service-connected disability has worsened to the point that you can no longer perform the duties of the occupation for which you were found rehabilitated; or
- The occupation for which you were found rehabilitated is no longer suitable due to your specific level of functioning; or
- If you received a plan of Independent Living services (IL), either your conditions have worsened and you need additional services, or your conditions have improved and you now need assistance to pursue employment; or
- If your prior case was considered rehabilitated while you pursued additional training, and you wish to receive assistance finding a job, VR&E may be able to assist you with this.

You should bring any evidence you have to show why you need further vocational rehabilitation services. For example, you might bring medical information, a doctor's statement, or a recent notice of an increase in your VA disability rating.

Who will pay for your travel expenses?

We will pay the cost of your travel under the following general guidelines:

Public transportation costs, or if public transportation is not available, the current mileage rate for the total mileage (round trip) plus cost of parking, ferry fares, and bridge, road and tunnel tolls (with receipts). Requests for reimbursement of travel expenses must be received within 30 days after completion of travel.

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What if you have questions or concerns?

If you have any questions about this letter or need additional verification of VA benefits, please contact your counselor at 334-213-3535, or Janelle.Babers@va.gov. If you use the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the federal number is 711. Send electronic inquiries to <https://iris.va.gov/>.

Sincerely,

Janelle P. Babers
Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

Enclosure: VA Form 28-1902w

How can eBenefits assist you?

eBenefits is a web portal that provides resources and self-service capabilities to Veterans, Servicemembers, and their families to research, access and manage their VA and military benefits and personal information. It is a joint effort between VA and the Department of Defense. eBenefits uses secure credentials to allow access to personal information and gives users the ability to perform numerous self-service functions. The eBenefits portal also provides access to the Veterans Employment Center, a one-stop career website for Veterans, transitioning Servicemembers and GI Bill beneficiaries, as well as military spouses and dependents. You will also find a list of links to other sites that provide information about military and Veteran benefits. It is an essential way for Veterans, Servicemembers, and their families to receive access to services. To access eBenefits, go to www.ebenefits.va.gov.



VA
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION & EMPLOYMENT
345 Perry Hill Road
Montgomery, AL 36109

Prior to your initial appointment:

The following website link will take you to CareerScope – a career exploration tool

This will allow you to be proactive in your career planning and it is necessary for us to use to better determine appropriate career goals with your disabilities taken into consideration.

Below is the link to self-administer the CareerScope. Please print and bring those results with you to your appointment.

<https://vetsuccess.careerscope.net/montgomery>

- Click here to enter assessment portal
- New evaluatees register here

If you do not have a home computer to complete this testing you may utilize a computer at your local library, Dept of Labor Career Resource Centers, or any other facility offering free computer access.

This assessment will take approximately one hour. You should have a couple of pencils and scratch paper. No calculators are to be used since this could alter the results.

You will need to select a specialist when you log in. The name of the specialist is Montgomery VRE

Thank you,

VA Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment Counselors

VOCATIONAL CONSIDERATION CHECKLIST

Client Name _____ Person Completing form _____

Date _____

If the disability causes difficulty in any area listed below, please mark with a √.

If the disability causes significant difficulty in any area, please mark with a √√.

Physical Demands

Standing	Walking	Sitting
Carrying	Lifting	Pushing
Stooping	Crouching	Crawling
Kneeling	Handling	Reading
Fingering	Feeling	Pulling
Climbing	Balancing	Talking
Hearing	Smell/Taste	

Limited to sedentary, light, medium, heavy, or very heavy work (circle one).

Seeing (depth perception, accommodation, color vision, field, and near/far acuity)

Explain _____

Controls: right hand/arm

Controls: right foot/leg

Controls: left hand/arm

Controls: left foot/leg

Reduced physical stamina (explain: _____)

Environmental Conditions

Inside, outside, or both	Extremes of cold plus temperature changes
Extremes of heat plus temperature changes	Wet and/or humid conditions
Hazards	Proximity of moving mechanical parts
Eye, hand, foot coordination	Atmospheric conditions
Noise	Working with explosives
Vibrations	Exposure to radiation
Working in high exposures places	Fumes, odors, toxic conditions, dust,
Exposure to toxic/caustic chemicals	and poor ventilation
Exposure to electrical shock	

Cognitive

Problems with attention, concentration, memory	Problems with basic academics
Difficulties handling money	Inability to say what is meant
Reduced frustration tolerance	Difficulty understanding others
Slowed thought process	Trouble following directions
Reduced inability to reason clearly and solve problems	Reduced ability to manage time
Confabulation	Poor "executive function"
Lack of initiative	Distractibility
Poor insight into problems	Difficulties beginning or
Preservation	following through on tasks
Reduced intelligence	Reduced ability to be educated/ trained.

PERSONAL ASSESSMENT

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. I am currently receiving treatment for my service-connected disability. | Yes | No |
| 2. I have received treatment for emotional problems. | Yes | No |
| 3. My family was a stable influence on me during my growing up years. | Yes | No |
| 4. I have enough money to pay my bills. | Yes | No |
| 5. My current living situation is quite suitable. | Yes | No |
| 6. I have reliable transportation to get around. | Yes | No |
| 7. I have a valid driver's license. | Yes | No |
| 8. I have difficulty holding onto jobs since my discharge from service. | Yes | No |
| 9. Drugs or alcohol have caused a problem for me in my life. | Yes | No |
| 10. My disability limits me from getting or holding a job. | Yes | No |
| 11. I am bothered with problems of nervousness or depression. | Yes | No |
| 12. My childhood was a happy time for me. | Yes | No |
| 13. Drugs or alcohol are affecting my life now. | Yes | No |
| 14. I liked what I did in the military. | Yes | No |
| 15. I like the work I am doing now. | Yes | No |
| 16. My job skills are in high demand. | Yes | No |
| 17. I have been arrested in the past. | Yes | No |
| 18. I can count on my family and/or friends for emotional support. | Yes | No |
| 19. I have had problems with reading or writing.. | Yes | No |
| 20. Medical issues effect my decisions. | Yes | No |
| 21. My medical condition is getting worse. | Yes | No |
| 22. I live alone. | Yes | No |
| 23. My emotions seem to be out of control | Yes | No |
| 24. I feel a part of the community I live in. | Yes | No |
| 25. I wanted to get out of the military | Yes | No |
| 26. My life has meaning. | Yes | No |
| 27. My values are a source of comfort and support | Yes | No |
| 28. My social life is satisfactory. | Yes | No |
| 29. I am happy with most of my career choices. | Yes | No |
| 30. I was born in and/or raised in Alabama. | Yes | No |
| 31. I feel like my finances are totally out of control. | Yes | No |

Please tell us about any issues or concerns you would like to discuss with the counselor:
