

** V*A FACTS **

Q -- How do I go about getting the \$150 annual clothing allowance certain disabled veterans receive from the VA?

A -- If you wear a prosthetic or orthopedic device for a service-connected disability which tends to wear out or tear your clothing, all you need do is apply to the nearest VA office.

Q -- I bought my first home with a GI loan, and am now considering purchase of a new house. Should I obtain a release from the Veterans Administration before negotiating for my new home?

A -- Veterans are cautioned to obtain a "release from liability" from VA if the purchase of a house bought with a GI loan assumes the loan. Otherwise, the seller (veteran) could be held financially liable should the purchaser default on mortgage payments.

Q -- Am I eligible for GI Bill benefits from the VA for service in the Army from 1951 to 1954?

A -- Sorry, no. GI Bill eligibility for veterans discharged before February 1, 1955, has expired.

The Veterans Administration advises veterans headed for the first time this summer or fall for the classrooms under the GI Bill to act promptly if they want advance payment of educational checks.

Officials noted a record 2.4 million veterans and military personnel trained in fiscal year 1974, and the agency made 563,250 advance payments totaling \$211.3 million. So far this year, 659,300 payments in the amount of \$243.6 million have been made.

Advance payments were initiated in August, 1973, to assist veterans who, after starting to school, find themselves in financial difficulty while awaiting their first VA checks.

VA officials said a veteran who plans to enter school should first make certain he has a certificate of eligibility. If he hasn't, one should be obtained from the nearest VA office.

The certificate must be presented to the school of the veteran's

choice. The school, if it accepts the veteran, will forward it to the enrollment certification (on the reverse side) to VA.

Officials explained that if the agency receives this information at least 30 days before registration, veterans who train half time or more may pick up their first check when they register. The first check will cover training first two months, or one month and a portion of a month, depending upon the registration date.

Under current rates, a single veteran in school full time receives \$270 monthly. Veterans with one dependent draw \$321 monthly, with two dependents \$366, and those with three or more dependents receive an additional \$22 monthly for each dependent over two.

Half time rates are \$135 monthly for a single veteran, \$160 monthly for a veteran with one dependent and \$182 monthly for those with two dependents. Veterans with three or more dependents receive an additional \$11 monthly for each dependent over two.

80 students at minority engineering program

Some 80 minority students who have completed their junior year in high school will be spending two weeks this summer at the Rochester Institute of Technology and Purdue University to learn about careers in engineering. Approximately 40 students will attend each university through a program funded by Eastman Kodak under the auspices of the Engineer's Council for Professional Development.

Called Minority Introduction to Engineering (MITE), the program is designed to acquaint minority students with the various fields of engineering, the demands faced by practicing engineers and the types of effort required for college study. Also examined

are the broad areas where engineering skills are utilized.

The 1975 MITE program will be conducted June 22-July 3 at Purdue University and July 14-July 25 at RIT. Students will live on campus and expenses such as room and board, transportation, instructional supplies and tuition are provided at no cost to the students.

The two week program at each school includes exposure to electrical, industrial, mechanical, chemical and civil engineering; hands-on laboratory ex-

perience; computers; mathematics; chemistry and physics in engineering; technical writing; field trips; exposure to industrial representatives; tours; and a presentation on planning for college.

Similar programs will be conducted on approximately eighteen other college and university campuses across the country as part of a major national effort by the ECPD to interest and educate a significant number of minority members in engineering.

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