

**Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Process:** Ensuring the next of kin (NOK) is aware of and, if eligible, receives DEA benefit

## **Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Process: Ensuring the next of kin (NOK) is aware of and, if eligible, receives DEA benefit**

### **Description**

DEA provides education benefits for up to 45 months to eligible survivors (son, daughter, or spouse) of Veterans and Soldiers. Eligibility is determined by criteria in Chapter 35 of Title 38 U.S. Code. These benefits include degree and certification programs, apprenticeships, and on-the-job-training.

### **Regulations and Supporting Resources**

[A Survivor's Guide to Benefits – Taking Care of Our Families](#)

[AR 600-8-1, Army Casualty Program](#)

[Army Casualty Notification and Assistance Guide](#)

Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Operations Center (CMAOC) – Casualty Assistance Officer (CAO) Training Guide

[Military Benefits Website – Survivors and Dependents Educational Assistance \(DEA\)](#)

[U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs \(VA\) Website – Survivor and Dependents Assistance \(DEA\)](#)

[VA PAM 22-73-3, Dependents' Educational Assistance Program \(DEA\)](#)

### **Documents and Forms**

[VA Form 22-1990, Application for VA Education Benefits](#)

[VA Form 22-5490, Dependents' Application for VA Education Benefits](#)

**Related Processes**

[Casualty Assistance Process](#)

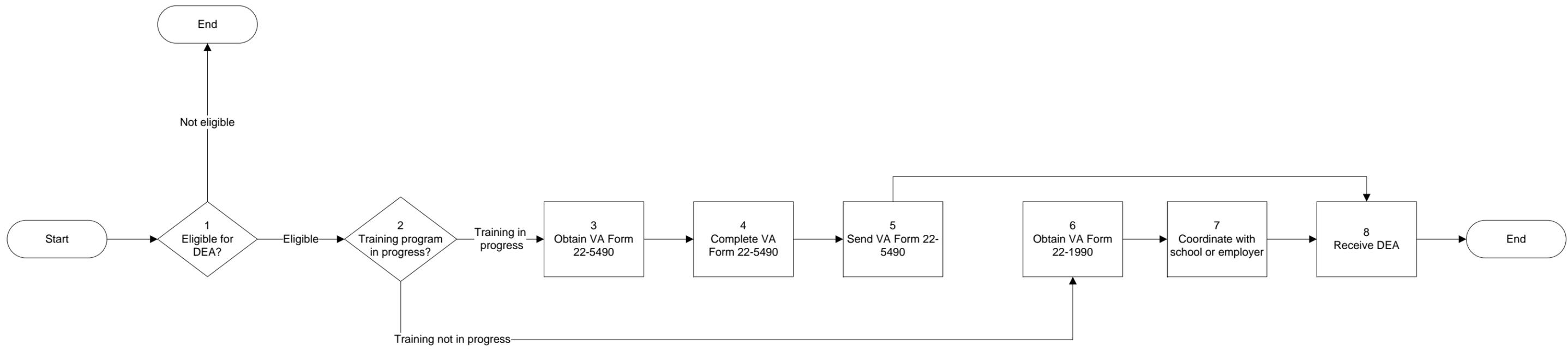
**Points of Contact**

**Division:** Soldier Family Support and Services Division (ARNG-HRF)

13 JUL 11

Note: The numbers on this process map are for reference purposes only and do not denote the sequence of the process

NOK



**Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) Process: Ensuring the next of kin (NOK) is aware of and, if eligible, receives DEA benefit**

No.	Activity/Decision Point Name	Description	Regulations and Supporting Resources	Documents and Forms	Systems	Notes
1	Eligible for DEA?	<p>NOK is eligible to receive DEA if they are a spouse, child, stepchild or adopted child of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A veteran who died or is permanently and totally disabled as the result of a service-connected disability</li> <li>- A veteran who died from any cause while such service-connected disability was in existence</li> <li>- A Soldier missing in action or captured in the line of duty</li> <li>- A Soldier forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power</li> </ul> <p>To receive this benefits, the son or daughter must be between the ages of 18-26, however, in some instance it is possible to start before the age of 18 and to continue after the age of 26.</p>	<p>Military Benefits - DEA Website</p> <p>U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - DEA Website</p>			
2	Training program in progress?	<p>If the NOK has already started a training program, they need to complete a different form.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - DEA Website</p>			
3	Obtain VA Form 22-5490	<p>NOK obtains VA Form 22-5490 (Application for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance) from Veteran Affairs (VA) website or Casualty Assistance Officer (CAO), if applicable.</p>	<p>U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - DEA Website</p>	<p>VA Form 22-5490</p>		

No.	Activity/Decision Point Name	Description	Regulations and Supporting Resources	Documents and Forms	Systems	Notes
4	Complete VA Form 22-5490	NOK completes VA Form 22-5490 (Application for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance) with assistance from CAO, if applicable.	U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - DEA Website	VA Form 22-5490		
5	Send VA Form 22-5490	NOK sends VA Form 22-5490 (Application for Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance) to local VA office via mail.	U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - DEA Website	VA Form 22-5490		
6	Obtain VA Form 22-1990	If the NOK has already started a training program, they obtain VA Form 22-1990 (Application for VA Education Benefits) from VA website.	U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - DEA Website	VA Form 22-1990		
7	Coordinate with school or employer	NOK coordinates with school or employer to complete VA Form 22-1990 (Application for VA Education Benefits) and Enrollment Certification. When complete, NOK asks the school or employer to send documentation to local VA office.	U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - DEA Website	VA Form 22-1990		
8	Receive DEA	If approved, NOK receives DEA benefit. DEA provides education benefits for up to 45 months. These benefits include degree and certificate programs, apprenticeships, and on-the-job-training.	U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs - DEA Website			