**Post 9/11 GI Bill IHLs with Contracted Flight Programs**

The Veteran’s Administration issued a Policy Advisory on September 1, 2015 stating that all institutions of higher learning (IHL) with private pilot flight training courses provided under contract through a non-IHL flight training provider cannot be approved for GI Bill benefits. Each IHL with an affected program will be required to amend the program’s curriculum in order to come into full compliance with GI Bill approval requirements before the start of the Academic Year beginning on August 1, 2016.

As many member institutions of the University Aviation Association (UAA) provide flight training through a contract flight training provider, this policy will greatly impact these institutions. According to the VA, our member institutions with contract flight training have several options:

1. Bring private pilot instruction “in house” (i.e. the instruction is provided directly by the IHL).
2. Contracting with an IHL that has its own approved “in house” program to provide such training.
3. Remove private pilot courses from the program curriculum and, instead, make the possession of a private pilot’s license a requirement for admission into the program.

Although the UAA understands the impetus for this new policy, we stand united with our members in developing the next generation of pilots to meet industry shortages. We encourage member institutions to consider how best to meet this new VA policy to allow for GI benefits to pay for flight training costs.

According to Dr. Daniel Prather, President Elect of the UAA, “Flight training is integral to the future of our global economy. While we are concerned about this new VA position, we stand united with our member institutions in making flight training available to the broadest group possible. The UAA encourages all collegiate aviation programs with contract flight training to reach out to fellow UAA member institutions to consider unique ways in which to continue allowing this nation’s veterans to access flight training at our respective institutions.”

A webinar presentation on these new requirements may be located at:

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/docs/presentations/Flight_Webinar_12-14-2015.pdf>

--

The University Aviation Association (UAA) is the voice of collegiate aviation to its members, the industry, government and the general public. Through the collective expertise of its members, this nonprofit organization plays a pivotal role in the advancement of degree-granting aviation programs that represent all segments of aviation. Today, UAA has more than 525 members, including 105 accredited colleges and universities. The organization and its members are poised to meet the ever-changing needs of the aviation industry and address the challenges of the 21st century.