



POST-9/11 VETERANS EDUCATION ASSISTANCE  
IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2010



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# Objectives

- Understand the Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33) benefit
- Discuss PSD's roll in Ch33 and how this impacts you
  - Transfer of Education Benefit Processing
  - Recent changes to Post-9/11 GI Bill
  - Draft Regulations
  - Congressional Inquires
  - Department of VA websites
    - <http://www.va.gov/>
    - <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov>
- Identify areas that cause concern, need to be addressed, or need clarity



# Overview of Post-9/11 GI Bill

## Eligibility

30 Jun 08, Title 38, US Code was amended by adding Chpt 33, Post-9/11 Educational Assistance

Benefits available to veterans and members of the Armed Forces (active duty or Selected Reserves) for education pursued on or after 1 Aug 09

90 aggregate days or more active duty, beginning on or after 11 Sept 01

Full benefits available after 36 months of qualifying service

- Pro-rated benefits for veteran's and SELRES based upon qualified time in service

Active duty eligible 90 days after completion of entry level and/or skill training

SELRES qualifying time includes: both voluntary and non-voluntary periods of mobilization, ADSW, ADOS and ADT. It does not include AT

Exceptions to qualifying service

- Academy / NROTC graduate qualifying start date follows completion of commissioning source statutory service obligation (AC, RC & Veterans)
- College Loan Repayment Program qualifying start date follows completion of service obligation (AC, RC and Veterans)
- Boot Camp and "A" school training are excluded for service less than 24 months (Veterans and RC with fewer than 36 months on active duty)



# Overview of Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits

Tuition and fees paid to institution not to exceed cost of highest priced public undergraduate in-state tuition in the state individual has chosen to study

– “Yellow Ribbon” program could be used to offset costs

Monthly stipend paid to the individual based on BAH for E5 w/dependents if; more than half-time, in a classroom setting, and hybrid program starting August 2011

Up to \$1,000 annually for books and supplies

May be reimbursed for one licensing or certification test not to exceed \$2,000

Up to 36 months of benefits, payable up to 15 years from last release date of 90 or more days with Honorable Discharge

ELRES benefits for qualified Service members includes both the monthly and book stipend

Tuition and fees are the actual education institution established charges or amount not covered by military tuition assistance for active duty

Benefits may be used for an approved program offered by an Institute of Higher Learning (IHL) (graduate, undergraduate and some Vo-tech training)



## Transferability Service Obligation

Transferability is a retention tool, not a benefit and is based on time in the Armed Forces, NOT active duty time

**Current Law Requires...**

The election to transfer benefits to family members must be entered into while the member is in the Armed Forces

Member must first be eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill

Member to have served at least 6 years in the Armed Forces

Member to agree to serve at least another 4 years Active or Reserve



## Transferability Service Obligation

Member who has served at least 10 years and either standard policy (Service or DoD) or statute preclude them from committing to four additional years, may still transfer benefits but must commit for the maximum amount of time allowed by such policy or statute

Interim provisions for retirement eligible Service members

- Eligible for retirement (20 years or more) on or before August 1, 2009, no additional service required
- Approved retirement dates on or before July 1, 2010, no additional service required
- Eligible for retirement on or after August 1, 2009, and before 1 August 2010, one year service required
- Eligible for retirement on or after August 1, 2010, and before 1 August 2011, two years service required
- Eligible for retirement on or after August 1, 2011, and before 1 August 2012, three years service required

Service obligation begins when member elects transferability



## Criteria For Transferability to Family Members

To be eligible, family member must be enrolled in DEERS at the time of transfer but does not have to be in DEERS when used

May transfer all or a portion of the benefits to spouse, one or more dependent children or a combination up to 36 months of unused benefits

Spouse of Active Duty Member

- May use once the sponsor has achieved 6 years of service and agrees to 4 additional years
- Is not authorized the monthly or books/supplies stipends as long as sponsor is on active duty
- Has a 15-year limitation on benefit use from sponsor's last Honorable Discharge

Spouse of Selected Reserve or Veteran is eligible for all benefits

Dependent child, regardless of sponsor status (AC, RC, Veteran)

- May use after sponsor has completed 10 years of service
- Is authorized both the monthly and books/supplies stipends
- Must meet the requirements of secondary school diploma or 18 years of age
- Is not subject to the time limitation but may not use after reaching the age of 26



# Other Transferability Criteria

## Modification or revocation

- May add, modify or revoke entitlement while serving in the Armed Forces
- May modify or revoke entitlement after separating from the Armed Forces

Funds received are not taxable income

is not considered in any property settlement

Death of sponsor does not affect the transferred entitlement

Failure to complete Service agreement

- Subject to collection of used benefits by VA

- Exceptions

- Discharge for a non service connected medical condition
- Discharge for hardship
- Discharge for physical or mental condition (not a disability) that interferes with performance of duty
- Honorably discharged for convenience of government, i.e. CRSP



# Changes to The Post-9/11 GI-Bill

## **Effective March 5, 2011**

Limits active duty members to the net cost for tuition and fees prorated based on the eligibility tiers (40%-100%) previously established for Veterans.

- Same limitations apply to transferee spouses of active duty servicemembers

## **Effective August 1, 2009, but not payable until October 1, 2011**

Expands the Post-9/11 GI Bill to include Active Service performed by National Guard members under title 32 U.S.C. for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing, or training the National Guard; or under section 502(f) for the purpose of responding to a national emergency.

## **Effective August 1, 2011**

For Veterans and their transferees - simplifies the tuition and fee rates for those attending a public school and creates a national maximum for those enrolled in a private or foreign school

Pays all public school in-state tuition and fees;

Private and foreign school costs are capped at \$17,500 annually;

The Yellow Ribbon Program still exists for out-of-state fees and costs above the



### **Effective August 1, 2011**

for Active Duty Members and their transferees - creates a national rate for those active duty members enrolled in a private or foreign school pursuing a degree  
pays all public school in-state tuition and fees;  
private and foreign school costs are capped at \$17,500 per academic year (an academic year begins August 1)  
allows VA to pay MGIB (chapter 30) and MGIB-SR (chapter 1606) 'kickers', or college fund payments, on a monthly basis instead of a lump sum at the beginning of the term  
pro-rates housing allowance by the student's rate of pursuit (rounded to the nearest tenth)  
student training at a rate of pursuit of 75% would receive 80% of the BAH rate



## Effective August 1, 2011

Break or interval pay is no longer payable under **any** VA education benefit programs under an Executive Order of the President or due to an emergency, such as a natural disaster or strike.

This means that when your semester ends (e.g. December 15th), your housing allowance is paid for the first 15 days of December only and begins again when the next semester begins (e.g. January 10th) and is paid for the remaining days of the year.

Students using other VA education programs are included in this change. Monthly benefits will be pro-rated in the same manner.

Entitlement that previously would have been used for break pay will be available for use during a future enrollment.

Students now receive reimbursement for more than one "license or certification" test (previously only one test was allowed). However, entitlement is now charged



**Effective August 1, 2011**

allows reimbursement of fees paid to take national exams used for admission to a postsecondary institution of higher learning (e.g., SAT, ACT, GMAT, LSAT)

allows those who are eligible for both Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Chapter 31) benefits and Post-9/11 GI Bill (chapter 33) benefits to choose the Post-9/11 GI Bill's monthly housing allowance instead of the chapter 31 maintenance allowance.

VA and PHS personnel are now eligible to transfer their entitlement to eligible dependents



## Effective October 1, 2011

allows students to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill for -

- Non-college degree (NCD) programs: Non-college degree (NCD) programs offered at non-degree granting schools: Pays the actual net costs for in-state tuition and fees or \$17,500, whichever is less. Also pays up to \$83 per month for books and supplies.
- On-the-job and apprenticeship training: Pays a monthly benefit amount prorated based on time in program and up to \$83 per month for books and supplies.
- Flight programs: Per academic year, pays the actual net costs for in-state tuition and fees assessed by the school or \$10,000, whichever is less.
- Correspondence training: Per academic year, pays the actual net costs for in-state tuition and fees assessed by the school or \$8,500, whichever is less.



## **Effective October 1, 2011**

Housing allowance is now payable to students (other than those on active duty) enrolled solely in distance learning. The housing allowance payable is equal to ½ national average BAH for an E-5 with dependents.

The full-time rate for an individual eligible at the 100% eligibility tier would be \$3,500 for 2011.

It also allows students on active duty to receive a books and supplies stipend.



## Changes of particular interest to School Certifying Officials

Reporting fees paid to schools increases from \$7 to \$12 and \$11 to \$15 per student per year

Requires that reporting fees only be used for the purpose of certification

Standard college degree programs offered at accredited public and private-not-profit schools are deemed already approved for VA Education Benefits

Non-college degree programs, on-the-job training, and flight training programs are now covered (effective October 1, 2011)

Allows the VA to use SAAs for compliance and oversight duties

Allows VA to disapprove courses



## Transfer Data Since 01 August 2009

Approved 6884 Transfer of Benefits since 01 August 2009 – resulting in approximately \$361,410,000.00 in available tuition and expenses for Coast Guard Members and their dependents. (Average \$52,500 per approved CG member GI Bill transfer)

Approved 236 Transfer of Benefits since 01 August 2009 – resulting in approximately \$12,390,000.00 savings in unauthorized tuition and expenses.

Received daily requests from Department of Veteran Affairs for character of Service/Discharge information on prior Coast Guard members.



# Draft Regulations

US Coast Guard Personnel Service Center Instruction 1800.1

- Provides a management and responsibility guideline for the G.I. Bill program, provided by Personnel Service Center-Personnel Service division-Field Support



# Congressional Inquires

Answer Congressional Inquires for Active and Prior USCG Service Members



# Department of VA websites

<http://www.va.gov/>

[https://www.ebene  
fits.va.gov](https://www.ebenefits.va.gov)



**Questions?**