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FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-12//
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ALCOAST 044/09
COMDINST M1000

Subj: Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008

A. Title 38, United States Code

B. Personnel Manual, COMDINST M1000.6 (series), chapter 13.A.

1. This is the second ALCOAST providing an update to the Post-9/11 Veterans Education Assistance Act of 2008, commonly called the Post-9/11 GI Bill, signed into law in June 2008, as per ref a. the bill goes into effect on 1 August 2009. It is important to reiterate that CG members should not make substantive changes to their current GI Bill entitlements (MGIB, VEAP, etc.) or personal financial decisions prior to detailed guidance promulgation, and the establishment of a method of counseling about this entitlement.
2. The Post-9/11 GI Bill is different from other educational benefits because it is based on time in service and no election is necessary (i.e. mbrs do not have to sign up) as long as service requirements are met. These requirements will be fully detailed in policy currently being drafted in concert with DoD and will be reflected in ref b.
3. Implementation: The Post-9/11 GI Bill goes into effect on 1 August 2009. Currently Department of Defense and Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) are working on a web application for determining which educational benefit a member or veteran is electing to use. The system is currently under development and should be operational by July 2009. Members will initiate the eligibility determination process via the web application and then the applications will be verified by the CG. The Coast Guard Personnel Command and the Office of Military Personnel are analyzing the resource requirements to efficiently handle the increased workload. The application will be completed electronically and will be linked with DMDC. The data in DMDC that is compiled from other data sources such as direct access and deers/rapids will be used to determine eligibility. Members who use the Post-9/11 GI Bill while on active duty are not entitled to the housing stipend (equivalent to basic allowance for housing for an E-5 with dependents at the Zip code of the school).
4. Transferability: The basic requirements to be eligible to transfer this entitlement to a dependent (spouse or child) are that a member must be on active duty on 1 August 2009; must have a minimum of six years active service since 11 September 2001 and must agree to serve an additional four years of active service effective on the date they elect to transfer. If a member desires to transfer the entitlement to a spouse, the election can be made when the member has six years of service. The spouse can start using the entitlement immediately as long as the member agrees in writing to serve an additional four years of service. If a member desires to transfer the entitlement to a dependent child, the member must complete at least 10 years of service (i.e. six years plus four after electing transferability) prior to the child using the benefit. Failure to complete the agreed upon service for transferability will terminate the entitlement and start recoupment action from the dependent to whom the entitlement was transferred by the VA. Benefits can be transferred to more than one dependent as long as the total benefits do not exceed 36 months. The eligible dependent or dependents will receive the same amounts of tuition as if the member was using the benefit, as well as the housing stipend and the \$1000 a year for books and supplies. Example: if a member elects to transfer entitlement to two dependents (18 months each), each eligible dependent will get the housing stipend and the books and supplies entitlement as long as the total entitlement does not exceed 36 months. As with the current educational programs, if a member is separated for adverse reasons then the member's separation program designator (SPD) code will be used by the VA to determine eligibility. Currently, all the SPD codes that prevent a member from being eligible for educational benefits will also terminate a members eligibility to Post-9/11 GI Bill.
5. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):
 - a. Question: I paid 1200 dollars toward the Montgomery GI Bill. Can I get that money back?
 - B. Answer: Under certain circumstances, the answer is yes. Please check the comprehensive FAQ portion of the VA web site for specific circumstances; link to VA: <http://www.gbill.va.gov/>
 - c. Question: I have questions about the 600 dollar buy-up under the MGIB. Where do I find information?

- D. Answer: up-to-date information may be found in the FAQs on the VA website.
- E. Question: I want to transfer my benefits and am willing to serve four additional years, but what if I'm not allowed to serve at least four more years? Are there any exceptions?
- F. Answer: There are exceptions to this rule, such as death of a member, disability separations, or if the separation is due to policy or law. An example of this would be a member who cannot obligate four years of service due to mandatory retirement.
6. I want to emphasize, the most important take away message is to not make significant, unalterable career choices or changes to college savings plans for dependents based solely on the new Post-9/11 GI Bill until detailed guidance can be formulated and promulgated. It is highly recommended that new entrants and those eligible for the Montgomery GI Bill continue to enroll. As additional information becomes available it will be passed via ALCOAST. You may also keep up to date on the latest developments by visiting the VA web site at <http://www.va.gov>.
7. My POC for questions concerning this benefit is YNCM Richard Sharp who can be reached at richard.m.sharp@uscg.mil or 202-475-5373.
8. RDML Daniel A. Neptun, Director of Personnel Management, sends.
9. Internet release authorized.

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