

R 281534Z APR 09 ZUI ASN-A00118000017 ZYB
FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-12//
TO ALCOAST
BT
UNCLAS //N01500//
ALCOAST 250/09
COMDTNOTE 1500

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

A. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC 162125Z JAN 09. ALCOAST 044/09

B. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC 181351Z SEP 08. ALCOAST 447/08

C. Chapter 33 of Title 38, U.S. Code

1. This is the third ALCOAST providing an update to the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill which goes into effect on 1 August 2009. Members are encouraged to review references a and b for background information.
2. There have been numerous questions regarding the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill. It is important to note that this is a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) program, and the best source for current information is the VA website at <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.
3. Eligibility: the Post-9/11 GI Bill, authorized under reference c, is an automatic entitlement generally available to servicemembers with at least 90 days of active duty service following 11 September 2001. No action is required by members until they either 1) apply to receive benefits, 2) seek to transfer benefit eligibility to dependents, or 3) are currently eligible for another education benefit (MGIB, MGIB-SR, REAP) and who seek eligibility under the Post-9/11 GI Bill.
4. Application and/or conversion:
 - a. Starting 1 May 2009, the Department of Veterans Affairs will begin accepting applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill for members who apply to receive benefits. The application form will be available online. VA will process applications for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and you will receive a letter explaining VA's decision regarding your eligibility for the program. Payouts for the Post-9/11 GI Bill are not anticipated to be processed until 15 August 2009. This form is not designed to elect transfer of benefits. Transfer of benefits will be handled as generally outlined in paragraph 5.
 - B. Individuals eligible under another education benefit (MGIB, MGIB-SR, REAP), who seek eligibility under the Post-9/11 GI Bill are also directed to the application form on the VA website. The application form requires that individuals make an irrevocable election to convert from their existing program to the Post-9/11 GI Bill.
5. Transfer of benefits to dependents:
 - a. The VA is currently scheduled to begin accepting applications for transfer of benefits on or about 15 June 2009, via a web-based portal. Through the web-based portal, a transferability application is required to be approved by Coast Guard officials to ensure the servicemember has obligated any required additional service. With Coast Guard approval, the application will then be automatically forwarded to VA for review and completion. CG-122, PSC, and PPC are currently establishing an augmentation team to support this function to ensure all servicemembers seeking to transfer benefits are able to do so.
 - B. The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) has not yet released the final policy on transferability, specifically as it relates to required additional obligated service. There were several features and elements to this policy that, while delaying its release, are needed to address members who are retirement eligible between 2009 and 2012. We understand that many servicemembers are concerned with the implications this policy may have on career decisions and family education benefits. As soon as the transferability policy is published, we will ensure that all servicemembers are aware and that Coast Guard policy is promulgated expeditiously. We are actively coordinating with OSD and the DoD services to promulgate appropriate policy, and we envision parity in transferability policies across all services.
6. CAPT A. R. Gentilella, Acting Director of Personnel Management, sends.

7. Internet release authorized.

BT
NNNN