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NEW RESERVE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for FY05 established a new Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) under Chapter 1607 of Title 10 U.S. Code. REAP provides educational assistance benefits to members of the Reserve component who are called or ordered to active duty in response to a war or national emergency declared by the President or the Congress, in recognition of the sacrifices that those members make in answering the call to duty.

Reservists who serve on active duty for 90 or more consecutive days in support of military contingency operations, on or after September 11, 2001 are eligible to receive up to 36 months of benefits (or the part-time equivalent) under this program.

The maximum monthly benefit is a percentage of the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB-AD) three-year rate based on the length of qualifying active service. To summarize, Reservists mobilized:

- For 90 or more consecutive days but for less than one continuous year receive 40% of the MGIB-AD three-year rate (\$413.60/month for full time study in FY06).
- For one or more continuous year but less than two continuous years receive 60% of the MGIB-AD three-year rate (\$620.40/month for full time study in FY06).
- For two or more continuous years receive 80% of the MGIB-AD three-year rate (\$827.20/month for full time study in FY06).

To remain eligible for educational assistance under this program, Reservists must return to the component of the Ready Reserve from which they were mobilized. Specifically, if a Reservist was mobilized from the Selected Reserve (SELRES) they must return to the SELRES, if they were mobilized from the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), they must return to either SELRES or IRR. Eligible Reservists who leave the Ready Reserve for any reason, including Extended Active Duty (EAD), long-term Active Duty for Special Work (ADSW) (over 179 days) not in support of contingency operations, will lose their eligibility.

Service used to establish eligibility under this program may not be used to establish eligibility for either the MGIB-AD or MGIB-SR programs. Reservists must make an irrevocable election as to which program their service shall be credited prior to receiving benefits.

Additional policy guidance is provided in ALCOAST 045/06 and will be incorporated in an upcoming revision to the Personnel Manual. The CGPC-rpm point of contact for eligibility issues/questions is Mr. Curtis Jones at 1-800-842-8740, extension 3-1770.

Regards,

RADM Kenneth J. Venuto
Ken Venuto

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