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ALCOAST 045/06  
COMDTNOTE 1500

SUBJ: Reserve Educational Assistance Program for Mobilized Reservists

- A. The Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2005
- B. 10 USC 101(A)(13)
- C. 38 USC 3015
- D. COMDTINST 1500.24, Coast Guard Tuition Assistance (TA) Program
- E. COMDTINST 1760.9A, Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty (MGIB-AD) Education Assistance Program.
- F. COMDTINST 1001.30E, Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) Educational Assistance Program.
- G. COMDTINST 1080.10F, Military Personnel Data Records (PDR) System

1. This ALCOAST announces policy implementing the new Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) established in ref (a) under chapter 1607 of Title 10 US Code. REAP provides educational assistance benefits to members of the reserve component who are ordered to active duty in response to a war or national emergency declared by the president or the congress, in recognition of sacrifices that members make in answering the call to duty.

2. Eligibility: a member of the reserve component is entitled to educational assistance under this chapter if the member:

A. served on active duty for 90 or more consecutive days, on or after 11 September 2001, and meets the contingency operations definition as described in ref (b).

B. is ordered to active duty in support of contingency operations, on or after 11 September 2001, and released from duty before completing 90 consecutive days due to injury, illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

3. Benefits.

A. the amount of benefit is based on a percentage of the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB-AD) rate provided under ref (c) for members with an obligated period of active duty of three years.

- (1) Reservists mobilized for 90 or more consecutive days but for less than one continuous year are eligible to receive 40 percent of the rate described in paragraph 3.a (413.60 dollars per month for full time study in FY 2006).
- (2) Reservists mobilized for more than one continuous year but less than two continuous years are eligible to receive 60 percent of the rate described in paragraph 3.a (620.40 dollars per month for full time study in FY 2006).
- (3) Reservists mobilized for two or more continuous years are eligible to receive 80 percent of the rate described in paragraph 3.a (827.20 dollars per month for full time study in FY 2006).

B. Reservists who elect benefits at a lower rate and then become eligible for a higher rate shall not be retroactively paid a higher rate for benefits already received. For example, if a reservist is mobilized for 90 consecutive days and elects to receive benefits at the 40 percent rate, then has their mobilization extended to 366 consecutive days, they cannot be retroactively paid the difference between the 40 and 60 percent rate for prior benefits received.

4. Duration of entitlement.

A. A member remains entitled to educational assistance under this program while serving:

- (1) in the selected reserve (SELRES) of the ready reserve, in the case of a member called or ordered to active service while serving in the SELRES, or
- (2) in the ready reserve (either SELRES or individual ready reserve (IRR)), in the case of a member ordered to active duty while serving in the IRR.

B. Members separated from the ready reserve because of a disability which was not the result of the members own willful misconduct incurred on or after the date they became eligible shall retain entitlement to educational assistance under this program for a period of 10 years beginning on the date on which they became a period of 10 years beginning on the date on which they became entitled to assistance.

5. Reservists in a drilling status who are eligible to receive REAP benefits, may also use benefits received under the Tuition Assistance (TA) program outlined in ref (d) to cover the cost of one or more courses. Total benefits may not exceed the full cost of the course(s). Reservists serving on active duty may use either TA or REAP (if eligible) but, cannot combine the two benefits, regardless of the cost of a course.

6. Active duty service utilized to establish eligibility under this program may not be used to establish eligibility for educational assistance programs established under either MGIB-AD or MGIB-SR. Reservists shall make an irrevocable election as to which program their service shall be credited. To assist members in making this decision, MGIB-AD and SR programs are outlined in ref (e) and ref (f). A side by side comparison of the available benefits can be found at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/training/learning/>, under the educational assistance link.

7. The maximum number of months of educational assistance a member may receive under this program is 36 (or part-time equivalent). The maximum number of months of educational assistance a member may receive under two or more programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) is 48 (or part-time equivalent) in accordance with section 3695 of title 38 US Code.

8. Servicing Personnel Offices (SPOs) and CGPC-RPM (for eligible IRR members) are responsible for:

A. notifying all reservists who currently meet the eligibility criteria of paragraph 2, ensuring that the member acknowledges their eligibility by signing the Statement of Entitlement to Educational Assistance Benefits located at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/training/learning/> under the educational assistance link. In order to facilitate a timely response, ensure members are notified of their benefit eligibility, within 6 months of the DTG of this ALCOAST. To assist SPOs and CGPC-RPM with the notification process, a regularly updated historical mobilization roster is posted on CG-CENTRAL: locate reserve operations within the Command Community tab. Locate the readiness-mobilization days and trend charts report within the tools box open the monthly MOB-HQ Excel file and open the mob per month detail tab. Additionally, servicing ISC(PF)s are available to provide technical support to facilitate the notification effort.

B. ensuring all newly eligible members (effective from the DTG of this ALCOAST) when mobilized, are notified of their eligibility, and prior to demobilization, ensure the member signs the statement of entitlement located at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/training/learning/> under the educational assistance link.

C. ensuring all members who are also able to establish eligibility for MGIB-AD and MGIB-SR, per para 6 above, indicate in writing, using the Statement of Election of Educational Assistance Benefits located at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/training/learning/>, under the educational assistance link, the program of assistance to credit their active service. Additionally, if the member elects chapter 1607, the MGIB Basic Enrollment form (DD form 2366), located at <http://www.uscg.mil/ccs/cit/cim/forms/formmgmt.htm>, must be completed, per ref (e), to annotate the decision to elect or not elect MGIB benefits.

D. distributing the statement of entitlement and statement of election as indicated on the forms. Ensure DD-2366 is completed in triplicate and member signs all three copies as originals. Distribute DD-2366 to CGPC-ADM-3, SPO PDR (part 2), and PSC.

E. filing the original copy of the statement of entitlement and statement of election (if required) in part 2 of the SPO PDR. Ref (g) will be updated to incorporate this requirement.

9. Claims for educational assistance must be filed directly with DVA.

10. This policy will be incorporated in an upcoming change to the Personnel Manual, COMDTINST M1000.6A.

11. Members requiring assistance in validating their eligibility for REAP benefits with DVA should contact CGPC-RPM at 800-842-8740 extension 3-1770.

12. POC: Reserve Educational Assistance Program policy LTJG Tom Grose at 202-267-0629 or [tgrose@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:tgrose@comdt.uscg.mil).

13. Internet release authorized.

14. RADM Sally Brice-Ohara, Director of Reserve and Training, sends.

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