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TO ALCOAST
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ALCOAST 258/09
COMDTNOTE 1560

Subj: Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)

A. National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) FY 2008

B. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC 081349Z MAY 08/ALCOAST 227/08

1. This ALCOAST provides clarification and guidance for administering the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) Title 10 United States Code (U.S.C.) chapter 1607.
2. REAP was established by the Ronald Reagan NDAA of 2005. This benefit is for Reservists who were activated for at least 90 days in support of a contingency operation on or after 11 SEP 2001. Eligible contingency operations are Operation Noble Eagle (ONE), Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).
3. The educational assistance allowance is a percentage of the MGIB-AD (chapter 30) three year rate based on the number of days served on active duty.
 - A. The time served and percentages of MGIB-AD are as follows:
 - (1) 40 percent at least 90 continuous days but LESs than 1 continuous year.
 - (2) 60 percent – 1 continuous year but LESs than 2 continuous years.
 - (3) 80 percent – 2 or more continuous years or 3 cumulative years.
 - B. A Selected Reserve (SELRES) member who was ordered to active duty for a contingency but was released from duty before completing 90 consecutive days due to injury, illness, or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, and not of their own willful misconduct, shall be entitled to education assistance at the 40 percent rate.
4. Maintaining eligibility of REAP:
 - a. A Reservist retains eligibility to REAP while in the ready Reserve if:
 - (1) member is called up from SELRES and returns to SELRES when demob occurs, or
 - (2) member is called up from IRR and returns to the SELRES or IRR when demob occurs.
 - B. A SELRES member who is entitled to REAP and is separated from the SELRES remains eligible for REAP for 10 years if the member meets both of the following requirements:
 - (1) successfully completed a service contract (enlistment, reenlistment)
 - (2) separated between 28OCT04 and 27JAN08 under a minimum of other than dishonorable or was separated on or after 28JAN08 under honorable conditions.
 - C. When a SELRES member who is eligible for REAP transfers to the IRR, but has not completed their service contract, payments will be suspended until the member reaffiliates with the SELRES.
5. Buy-up program: NDAA 2008 established a buy-up program enabling a Reservist to contribute up to 600 dollars which would increase the appropriate monthly benefit 5 dollars for every 20 dollars contributed. The minimum contribution is 20 dollars and the maximum is 600 dollars. Contributions may not be made more frequently than monthly and must be in multiples of 20 dollars.
 - A. The following procedures are implemented for eligible buy-up participants regardless of payment method: members electing to participate must complete a MGIB increased benefit contribution program form DD-2366-1

with "REAP buy-up" clearly marked on the top of the form. This is an active duty form. You do not have to be on active duty but must be in the ready Reserve. The member shall complete blocks 1 and 2 using emplid. Do not use a social security number. Member will scan and email signed form to reservevaeducation@uscg.mil. Members qualifying time will be validated and their certified MGIB increased benefit contribution program form DD-2366-1 emailed back to them with a copy to PPC. Once approval is received, member may send payment.

B. Buy-up payment:

- (1) send check or money order payable to "U.S. Coast Guard" with "REAP Buy-up" and emplid clearly marked in the check memo block, to PPC (dc) at the following address:

Commanding Officer (dc)
USCG Pay and Personnel Center (PPC)
444 SE Quincy St.
Topeka, KS 66683-3591
Attn: Collection Clerk

- (2) for credit card payment: call PPC at 785-339-3610. Please ensure the clerk knows the member is making payment for the REAP buy-up program.

C. Monthly contributions will post on the members LES. If payment is received after the 15th of the month, it may not post to the LES until the following month. When applying for REAP benefits, the VA may request copies of the completed MGIB increased benefit contribution program form DD-2366-1 and final LES showing contribution. Member should maintain a copy of the MGIB increased benefit contribution program form DD-2236-1 along with payment records.

D. Contributions are non-refundable. There is no provision in the law to allow the transfer of the REAP buy-up contribution to the Post 9/11 GI Bill should the member choose to convert to the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

6. A SELRES member who served at least two continuous years on active duty may also qualify for MGIB-AD (ch-30). Qualified members would make a one-time contribution of 1200 dollars and make an irrevocable election to have their time counted for ch 30 in lieu of ch 1607. By doing so, their ch-30 qualifying time would not count for MGIB-SR (ch-1606). Members would receive the MGIB-AD two or three year rate according to the length of their continuous active duty service. Members should review the costs and benefit amounts on the VA web site at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/> to determine the best path to take.
7. Members can email Reservevaeducation@uscg.mil for further information and assistance.
8. CAPT Andrea L. Contratto, Acting Director of Reserve and Training, sends.
9. Internet release authorized.

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