

INFORMATION PAPER

AHRC-PDE-I
15 May 2015

SUBJECT: Post 9/11 GI Bill Transfer of Benefits (TEB) When Undergoing Medical Separation

1. References:

- a. Title 38, United States Code (USC) § 3319 – Authority to transfer unused education benefits to family members.
- b. Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 1341.13 – Post 9/11 GI Bill, dated 31 May 13.
- c. Army Post 9/11 GI Bill Policy Memorandum, dated 10 July 2009

Part I – General

2. Public Law 110-252 (Title 38, U.S.C. § 3319) established the ability for Service Members to transfer their Post 9/11 GI Bill educational benefits to eligible dependents. According to the law, the purpose of this authority is “to promote recruitment and retention in the uniformed services.” To transfer education benefits, a Service Member must be on active duty or a member of the Selected Reserves in order to transfer benefits, have completed at least six years of qualifying service with at least 90 days of a qualifying period of service, have no negative action flag, and agree to serve at least four more years as a member of the Armed Forces, or the years of service as determined by the Secretary.

3. The law does not allow for an exception to the requirement that the Service Member must have completed six years of qualifying service at the time of their request. Service Members with less than six years of service cannot transfer benefits, even if they are medically separated.

4. All Service Members requesting transfer of Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits must make the request through the TEB website, accessible through <http://milconnect.dmdc.mil>. Requests must be made while the Service Member is still on active duty or a member of the Selected Reserves. Service Members who have already retired or separated are ineligible to transfer benefits.

5. Army Career Counselors and/or Physical Evaluation Board Liaison Officers (PEBLO) should notify Soldiers undergoing a Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) or the Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) and in the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) that Soldiers must meet all eligibility requirements to transfer the Post 9/11 GI Bill and must request via the TEB website.

Part II – Soldier with six but less than ten years of service going through MEB/PEB:

6. DODI 1341.13 requires that Service Members with at least six years, but less than 10 years of service, agree to an additional four year service obligation from the TEB request date. However, Soldiers in this timeframe while in the IDES process are not permitted by the U.S. Army Retention policy to extend or reenlist for the additional four year service obligation. So, an Exception to Policy (ETP) to extend or reenlist must be approved.

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7. A Soldier in the rank of E-4 with at least six but less than ten years of service cannot receive an ETP because the Soldier is ineligible to extend or reenlist for the four year TEB service obligation due to Retention Control Point (RCP) of a maximum of eight years of service.

8. A Soldier in the rank of E-5 and above with six to less than 10 years of service can initiate an ETP. To initiate an ETP request, a Soldier must contact their servicing Career Counselor to request the initiation of an ETP request to extend or reenlist in order to meet the additional service obligation. The ETP request must be approved and the Soldier must extend or reenlist for the additional four year service obligation prior to the PEB finding the Soldier is physically unfit on DA Form 199, block 9. The Career Counselor must process the ETP request to the Enlisted Professional Development Branch (policy proponent for Retention and the Post 9/11 GI Bill) of the Army G-1, Director of Military Personnel Management, Enlisted Career Systems Division. Upon ETP approval, the Career Counselor will assist the Soldier in extending or reenlisting, and submitting the TEB request. Again, all of this must be done prior to the PEB finding the Soldier is physically unfit on DA Form 199, block 9.

Part III – Soldier with ten or more years of service going through MEB/PEB:

9. Soldiers, regardless of rank, with ten or more years of qualifying service will NOT require an ETP, but must submit a request for transfer of benefits after the medical separation order has been provided to the Soldier and before the effective date on the medical separation order. The Soldier may request transfer of benefits through the TEB website and should email a copy of their medical separation order to usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-post911qibill@mail.mil, the group email box for the U.S. Army GI Bill Team at the U.S. Army Human Resources Command, Fort Knox, Kentucky. The Soldier should state “medical separation” in the subject line of the email. The Soldier’s TEB service obligation will be adjusted to meet the Soldier’s date of medical separation.

Part IV – Points of Contact

10. For Regular Army and U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers, contact your Career Counselor for processing instructions. You may also reach out to the U.S. Army GI Bill Team at Fort Knox, Kentucky at: 1-800-872-8272 or usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-post911qibill@mail.mil.

11. For ARNG Soldiers, please contact the ARNG GI Bill Support Team at 1-866-628-5999 or ng.robinson.ngb-arng-pec.mbx.arng-hrm-o-gi-bill@mail.mil for processing instructions.