INFORMATION PAPER

AHRC-PDP-E
October 2021

SUBJECT: Post 9/11 GI Bill Education Benefits-Service Member Use

1. Purpose: To provide information to Soldiers interested in enrollment in Post 9/11 GI Bill.

2. Facts.

   a. The National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-252) amended Title 38, US Code to include Post 9/11 GI Bill, also known as Chapter 33. The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education, housing and books to individuals who were awarded the Purple Heart during an honorable period of service or with at least 90 days of aggregate qualifying service after September 10, 2001.

   b. Soldiers must be cautious and thoroughly understand their current benefits (i.e., Montgomery GI Bill, Reserve Education Assistance Program or Veterans Education Assistance Program) and compare with benefits under the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

   c. Basic Eligibility.
      (1) Individuals with qualifying active duty service after 10 Sep 2001 who:
      a) Have been awarded the Purple Heart during an honorable period of service, or
      b) Serve an aggregate period of 90 days to 36 months, and
      c) 90th day of service after completion of Basic Combat Training (BCT), and Advanced Individual Training (AIT). If BCT and AIT completed prior to 11 Sep 2001, eligible 90 days after 10 Sep 2001. If aggregate Active Duty service is less than 24 months, BCT/AIT does not count as qualifying active duty, or
      d) Served at least 30 continuous days and discharged from Active Duty due to a service-connected disability
      (2) Benefits authorized up to 15 years from last date of release from Active Duty for individuals released from Active Duty before 1 January 2013. Individuals discharged or released from Active Duty on or after 1 January 2013, benefits authorized with no delimiting date (per Colmery Act, Sec 112).

   d. Active Duty Exclusions (see DCS G-1 Post 9/11 GI Bill Policy Memorandum dated 10 July 2009, paragraph 6 for all reasons). Some reasons are listed below:
      (1) Service Academy: 5 years of non-qualifying service (after commission)
      (2) ROTC scholarship (10 USC, 2107(b)): 4 years of non-qualifying service (after commission)
      (3) Loan Repayment Program: 3 years of non-qualifying service (after BASD)
      (4) Service terminated due to an erroneous or defective enlistment
      (5) Annual training conducted under authority of 10 USC 10147 or 12301(b)
      (6) IRR in a non-active duty status

      NOTE: Purple Heart recipients are exempt from the above exclusions.

   e. In service use. Post 9/11 GI Bill may be used for a VA approved program of education. Some of the key benefits are:
      (1) For public institutions, tuition and fees limited to the highest in-state

undergraduate and graduate (effective 1 August 2011) tuition for the state enrolled. For private institutions please see current rate on VA's website (https://benefits.va.gobv/gibill/)
(2) Up to $1,000 per school year to pay for books and supplies
(3) Up to $1,200 of tutorial assistance
(4) Up to $2,000 for reimbursement of licensing or certification tests
a) (Pro-rated based on length of qualifying active duty service)

f. Active Duty Benefits.
(1) Tuition and fees paid directly to school, not the Soldier
(2) Books/supplies stipend paid directly to the Soldier effective 1 Oct 2011
(3) AD Soldiers do not receive housing stipend thru GI Bill (already receive housing entitlement (BAH).
(4) As of 1 August 2011, will pay in-state graduate rate for grad school

g. Non-Active Duty Benefit. Maximum payment for Veterans may not exceed maximum amount charged in-state tuition and fees at a public school. As of 1 August 2011, will pay in-state graduate rate for grad school:
(1) Monthly housing stipend @ E-5 w/dependent BAH rate
a) On-campus Courses: based on school's zip code
b) Distance Learning: based on ½ BAH national average eff 1 Oct 2011
c) NOT received for attendance of half time or less
d) Prorated for more than half-time to full-time
(2) Annual $1000 books/supplies stipend, prorated by percentage of benefit and course load
(3) Tuition and fees paid directly to school

h. Conversion to Post 9/11 GI Bill (CH33). Individuals converting to the Post 9/11 GI Bill (CH33) from the Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty (MGIB) (CH30) will be limited to their remaining CH30 entitlement up to 36 months. Individuals with qualifying Post 9/11 service who have exhausted 36 months of CH30 entitlements prior to converting to Post 9/11 may be eligible for up to 12 months of CH33 for a total of 48 education months (two fully honorable periods of service are required; break in service is not required). Once converted to CH33, the decision is irrevocable. Individuals converting to the Post 9/11 GI Bill (CH33) from the Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve (CH1606) or REAP (CH1607) will be limited to their remaining CH1606 or CH1607 entitlement and CH33 not to exceed a total of 48 months

i. Election to Use Post 9/11 GI Bill (CH33). Soldiers who feel they meet the basic eligibility criteria for Post 9/11 should apply on the VA website at https://www.va.gov/education/. Complete VA Form 22-1990. Print a copy for your records. Submit the document electronically. If eligible, DVA will issue a Certificate of Eligibility for benefits.

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