

An Introduction to the National Call to Service Provisions of PL 107-314

March 22, 2005





Objective

This presentation will provide a basic introduction to the National Call to Service Provisions contained in Section 501 of PL 107-314, effective October 1, 2003 through December 31, 2007.

For more detailed information on this provision, see RPO Letter 22-05-11.



Do not attempt to process National Call to Service claims at this time. VACO will release more guidance on data processing and payment in a Circular at a later date.



National Call to Service (NCS) Is:

- ◆ A new short-term enlistment incentive program.
- ◆ Designed to assist the Secretary of Defense in recruiting new members, particularly those who may not otherwise join due to lengthy enlistment terms.
- ◆ A component of the National Defense Authorization Act of FY 2003.
- ◆ Scheduled to end on December 31, 2007.



How Does It Work?

- ◆ Only individuals with no prior military service are eligible for NCS.
- ◆ Eligible individuals may select one of four incentive options.
- ◆ Participants must complete a total service commitment of 8 years, which could be divided into several periods of service with different organizations.



Fulfilling the Service Commitment

- ◆ Participants must attend both basic training and occupational training.
- ◆ After training, participants must serve 15 months on active duty.
- ◆ After active duty, the service member must extend, reenlist on active duty or serve at least 24 months in the Selected Reserve in active reserve status.
- ◆ The remaining service requirement may be filled in the Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve, or a national service organizations (i.e. AmeriCorps).



An NCS Participant:

- ◆ Must be a high school graduate.
- ◆ Must be in the top mental category of I-III A, as determined by the ASVAB test.
- ◆ May receive his/her selected recruitment incentive after completing the required 15 months of active duty and training.
- ◆ May train for occupational specialties deemed appropriate by his/her service branch.
- ◆ Is considered worldwide deployable.



Recruiting Incentives Available:

- ◆ A \$5,000 cash (taxable) bonus paid after the initial active service of 15 months and training is complete.
- ◆ Up to an \$18,000 (taxable) student loan repayment program that covers the loan and interest.
- ◆ An education allowance of up to 12 months of the basic chapter 30 (3 yr) rate.
- ◆ An education allowance of up to 36 months of one-half of the basic chapter 30 (2 year) rate.



How Incentives Are Administered:

- ◆ The two cash incentives (loan repayment and bonus) are taxable and are administered by the Department of Defense. They are paid after the initial active service and training are completed.
- ◆ VA will administer the two EDU programs. These are considered non taxable income.



VA Education Incentives

- ◆ The education incentives are administered by VA. The NCS program service does not count toward any other education program administered by VA.
- ◆ DoD estimates that approximately 200 people out of 2000 have selected the VA EDU benefit incentive.



Education Benefit Incentives

- ◆ Benefits may be paid as **12 months** of the basic Ch. 30 (3 yr. Rate) or **36 months** of one half of the basic Ch. 30 (2 yr. Rate).
- ◆ The service members' incentive selection will be documented by the service branch on DD Form 2863 (National Call to Service Election Options).



What Programs Can VA Pay Under NCS?

- ◆ Any program of approved for payment under Chapter 1606 benefits is payable under the NCS program.



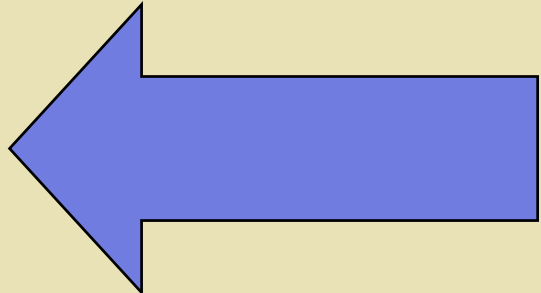
Proof of Participation

- ◆ The DD Form 2863 provided to the service member should be considered evidence of participation in the NCS program.
- ◆ *The member will not complete the standard DD Form 2366 normally used for the MGIB program.*



NATIONAL CALL TO SERVICE (NCS) ELECTION OF OPTIONS	
PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT	
AUTHORITY: Section 510, Title 10, U.S. Code	
PRINCIPAL PURPOSE(S): To document the understanding of members about their enlistment under the National Call to Service program and document a member's incentive election under this program.	
ROUTINE USE(S): This form becomes a part of the Service's Enlisted Master File and Field Personnel File. All uses of the form are internal to the relevant Service.	
DISCLOSURE: Voluntary; however, failure to furnish personal identification information may negate the enlistment application.	
1. ENLISTEE IDENTIFICATION DATA	
a. NAME (Last, First, Middle)	b. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
c. DATE OF ENLISTMENT (YYYYMMDD)	d. SERVICE
2. SERVICE COMMITMENT	
I am enlisting in the United States _____ (list branch of service) this date under the provisions of the National Call to Service program.	
I understand that with this enlistment, I incur a total eight-year military service obligation (MSO). This MSO will normally consist of three phases:	
(1) Fifteen (15) months of active duty following completion of initial entry training (to include skill training); followed by	
(2) Reenlistment/extension on active duty of at least 24 months, or two (2) years of service in the Selected Reserve; followed by	
(3) Remainder of MSO in either:	
- Active Duty,	
- Selected Reserve,	
- Individual Ready Reserve,	
- Other National Service program - AmeriCorps (Subtitle C), AmeriCorps *VISTA and AmeriCorps *NCCC, Peace Corps.	
- Any combination of the above.	
I understand that I may reenlist/extend (if otherwise eligible) while serving in the active duty phase of the program. An active duty reenlistment/extension of two (2) years or more will fulfill the Selected Reserve phase of the MSO.	
3. INCENTIVE ELECTION	
I understand that as a participant in the National Call to Service program, I am entitled to receive an incentive to be awarded as described below. Entitlement to the incentive is contingent on completion of the active duty phase of the service commitment. I further understand that this selection of incentive is irrevocable.	
I select the following incentive (initial one of the following):	
_____ a. A bonus in the amount of \$5,000 to be paid at the completion of active duty or reenlistment/extension on active duty.	
_____ b. Repayment of my eligible student loans up to a maximum of \$ _____ at the completion of active duty or reenlistment/extension on active duty.	
_____ c. Educational allowance for twelve (12) months at the rate applicable to participants in the Montgomery GI Bill under Section 3015(a)(1), 38 USC. May start to use this benefit at any time after completion of active duty or reenlistment/extension on active duty.	
_____ d. Educational allowance for thirty-six (36) months at 50% of the rate applicable to participants in the Montgomery GI Bill under Section 3015(b)(1), 38 USC. May start to use this benefit at any time after completion of active duty or reenlistment/extension on active duty.	
4. CERTIFICATION AND ACCEPTANCE	
I certify that I have carefully read this document and understand the provisions of the National Call to Service program. I have selected my enlistment incentive. I understand that the selection of enlistment incentive is irrevocable. I further understand that acceptance of this enlistment incentive requires me to complete the entire 8-year MSO as outlined in section 2 above. Except as specifically provided for in implementing regulations, failure to complete the MSO will result in discontinuation of any unpaid incentive and/or recoupment of a previously paid incentive.	
a. SIGNATURE OF ENLISTEE	b. DATE SIGNED (YYYYMMDD)
DD FORM 2863 (V2), OCT 2003	
Reset	

This is what the NCS election form looks like.






Reenlistment or Extension on Active Duty

- ◆ Service members may reenlist or extend in this program. The member could then qualify for other educational programs, such as MGIB Ch. 30 or 1606.
- ◆ If the service member becomes eligible for other MGIB programs, any portion of the NCS educational benefit that was used will be deducted from the MGIB entitlement.
- ◆ DOD will provide any extension or reenlistment information to VA.



Failure to Complete Service Obligation

- ◆ If a service member fails to complete the initial active duty obligation, he/she is generally **NOT** entitled to any DoD incentive, and the bonus and loan repayment benefits are subject to recoupment.

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- ◆ If a member chooses one of the VA EDU benefits and fails to complete the initial duty obligation due to:
 - Disability
 - Preexisting medical condition
 - Hardship
 - Physical or mental condition not due to willful misconduct

He/she will receive a portion of the EDU incentive, based on the number of months served out of the total 8-year period.



Failure to Complete the Reserve Obligation

- ◆ Members who fail to complete the Reserve portion of the 8-year period must repay a portion of their benefits to the service department.
- ◆ Recoupment will be in proportion to the amount of total service completed.
- ◆ VA will not be involved in recoupment of benefits. DoD will handle this.



Entitlement Charges

- ◆ Entitlement will be charged as it is with Chapter 30 benefits.
- ◆ Should a NCS member reenlist on active duty or sign a 6-year contract for the Reserves, he/she will not receive more than 36 months of benefits. There is no 48 month provision for NCS.



Delimiting Date

- ◆ Members may begin using benefits after completion of the active duty service portion.
- ◆ NCS members have 14 years after completion of active duty to use benefits.
- ◆ Benefits cannot be extended to the end of the term or any other period.



Death of the NCS Participant

- ◆ There will be no benefit or payment made due to the death of the participant.



Summary

- ◆ NCS short-term enlistment incentives are available beginning Oct. 1, 2003.
- ◆ High school grads participating in the program may elect to receive cash bonuses from DoD or VA education benefits.
- ◆ Participants must complete a total service commitment of 8 years, broken down into several periods of service with different organizations.
- ◆ Reenlistment or extension of service may create MGIB eligibility for NCS participants.