

# **Review of VA Education Benefits For Guard and Reservists**

**Current as of March 28, 2007**



**U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs**

**Education Service**

**Washington, DC**

## *This Presentation Will Cover:*

- What VA education benefits are available to Guard and Reserve members?
- How do benefits work?
- What programs are offered?
- What happens if I'm called to duty?
- What information is on the GIBILL web site?

# *EDU Benefit Programs Administered by VA*

- Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP).
- Dependent's Educational Assistance (DEA).
- MGIB Selected Reserve.
- Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP).
- MGIB Active Duty.

# *Guard and Reserve Benefits*

- MGIB-SR
- MGIB-AD (*In rare instances*)
- REAP

DoD/DHS determines eligibility for MGIB-SR and REAP.

VA determines eligibility for MGIB-AD.

# *MGIB Selected Reserve*

- First entered Guard/Reserves after June 30, 1985.
- Remain in an active drilling status with a Unit.
- Must have a minimum 6 year obligation.  
(Must continue drilling to use benefits.)
- Completed IADT.
- Have a high school diploma, GED, or equivalent before applying for benefits.

# *MGIB-Active Duty Benefits*

Guard/Reservists who were activated under **Federal Authority** and served 24 continuous months may qualify for MGIB active duty benefits.

Guard and Reservists who are in AGR or TAR status may also qualify for MGIB active duty benefits after serving 24 continuous months.

# *MGIB-AD Eligibility Criteria*

- Member first entered service after June 30, 1985.
- Served a minimum of 24 continuous months on active duty with no breaks (doesn't include AD for training).
- Received an Honorable Discharge for the active duty period.

- Have a high school diploma, GED, or equivalent prior to applying for benefits.
- Must have not declined participation in the MGIB-AD program.



# How to Elect MGIB-AD

- Claimants who are eligible for and wish to elect the higher paying MGIB Active Duty benefit program should:
  - Pay \$1200 to DoD/DHS through DFAS.
  - Complete DD Form 2366.
  - Be encouraged to also pay \$600 for the MGIB Buy Up Program.\*
- \*Law requires that the election and payment of the \$600 MGIB Buy Up Program must be done before the member is released from active duty.*

# *REAP*

- For Reservists called to active duty by federal authority under a contingency operation, and who served 90 continuous days or more after 9/11/01.
- Pays a portion of the MGIB Active Duty rate depending on activation period.
- Members must remain in their component to use benefits.

# *What Is Entitlement?*

Entitlement is the amount of monthly full time benefits a claimant will receive.

- Up to 36 months for MGIB and REAP.
- Up to 48 months for combined benefit types. (Example: If a claimant used 10 months under MGIB-SR, she may now use an additional 36 months of REAP benefits.)

# *Delimiting Date*

The amount of time a claimant has to use his/her EDU benefits.

- Fourteen years after eligibility begins, for MGIB-SR program. If you leave for any reason (other than disability), you must return or affiliate with another unit within 1 year to retain eligibility to benefits.
- There is no delimiting date for REAP provided the member remains in his/her component.

- Ten years from your discharge date for members eligible for the MGIB-AD benefit. If the member is activated later for a period of 90 days or more, the 10 year date starts over with the new discharge date.

# Delimiting Date Extensions

For MGIB-SR benefit recipients, the delimiting date may be extended by time served on active duty in a contingency operation plus four months.

Extensions may be granted for multiple activation periods.

An extension can be granted even if the service member leaves the Reserves during the original eligibility period.

# *College Funds*

VA refers to these as “**kickers.**”

- Dollar amount established by DoD.
- Paid in addition to monthly benefits.
- Prorated monthly for less than full time training.
- Kickers are \$350, \$200, and \$100.
- Members eligible for a MGIB-SR kicker will receive that kicker when using REAP or MGIB-AD benefits.

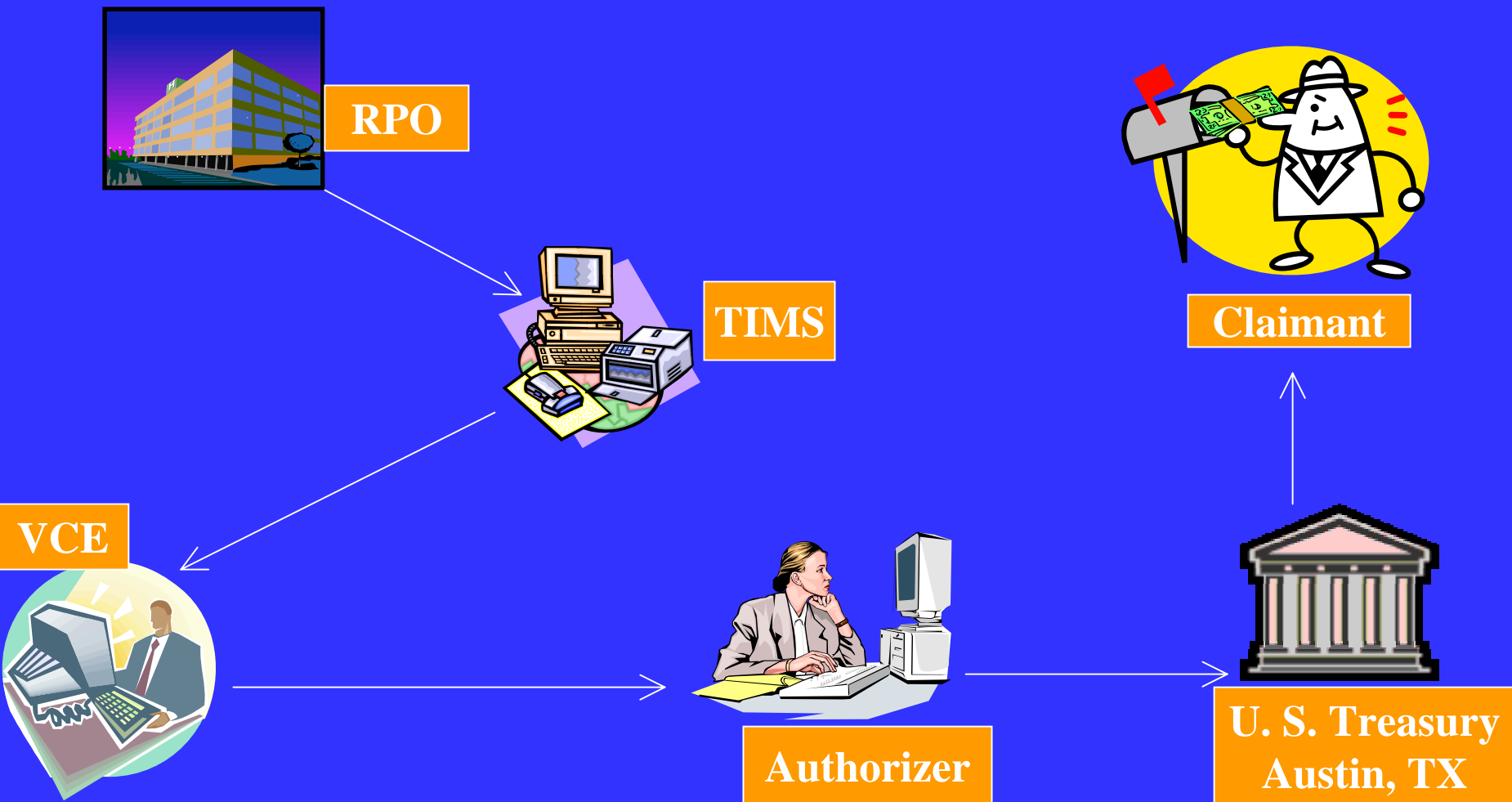
# *How To Apply For Benefits*

- Completed VA Form 22-1990.
  - Send your signature if you're using the VONAPP online application.
- Include direct deposit information.
- Attach copies of DD Form 214/215, NOBE( for 1606), Call Up Orders, etc..
- Copies of College Fund Contracts.



Application

# What Happens When a Claimant Applies?



# *How Long Does Processing Take?*

Processing times depend on a number of variables such as the time of year, the current workload pending at the RPO, the amount of development needed on the claim, etc..

See the GIBILL website for a link to each RPO's individual website where average processing times will be posted.

# *Who Reports Enrollment?*

- A schools' VA certifying official for college, vocational, flight and correspondence training.
- Claimant for TA top up requests.
- Employer for OJT/APP.

# *Monthly Payments*

Monthly payments are:

- Based on a 30 day calendar month.
- Prorated for partial months.
- Prorated for less than full time training.
- Include college funds or kickers.
- Always paid in arrears.

# *Monthly Certification*

- MGIB-SR and MGIB-AD claimants certifying enrollment may do so at the end of a month by:
- **W**eb **A**utomated **V**erification of **E**nrollment on the GIBILL web site.
- **I**nteractive **V**oice **R**esponse at 1-877-823-2378.

# *REAP Payments*

REAP payments will be automatically sent at the beginning of each month.

At this time, no monthly certification is required for REAP benefit payments.

# *Active Duty and Benefits*

- Active duty status doesn't affect MGIB-SR rates.
- REAP and MGIB-AD claimants will only be reimbursed for tuition and fees while on active duty.
- Claimants on active duty do not receive payment for school breaks, and may not receive kicker or college fund payments.

# *Active Duty: Paying Tuition and Fees*

Example:

- \$413.60 is the full time REAP 40% rate.
- Term is Jan. 6 to May 5, for FT (120 days).
- Tuition and Fees are \$1250.
- **Non Active Duty persons** would receive \$413.60/month; \$1640.63 for the term.
- **Active Duty claimant** gets \$312.50/month; \$1250 for the term.
- Entitlement used by both is 4 mos. and 1 day.



# *How Long Does It Take To Get My Payment?*

After successful certification or payment processing:

- Claimants with domestic direct deposit should receive payment within 3-5 days.
- Claimants receiving mailed checks from the Treasury Department in Austin, TX, should receive a check within 10-14 days. (International delivery time will vary.)

# *Programs Paid By VA*

## College Degrees

Associates, Bachelors, Masters,  
Doctorate.

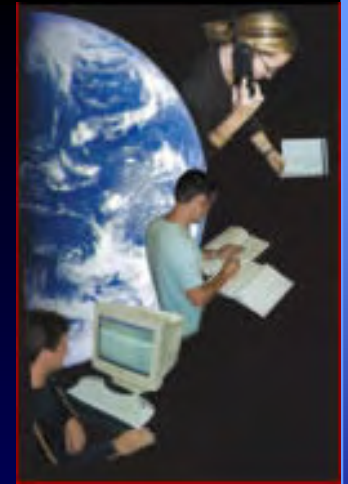
## Vocational Programs

Certificates and Diplomas

## Independent Study

Generally the same as the above. Also  
knows as Distance Learning.





## Correspondence Courses

Leading to a degree and taken online or by mail. Benefits are paid after lessons are completed at 55% of the cost.

# *Correspondence and REAP*

<b>Correspondence Training</b>	
40% level	22% of the approved cost of course
60% level	33% of the approved cost of course
80% level	44% of the approved cost of course



## Flight Training

Courses such as commercial pilot license, helicopter flight training, etc.. Requires a private pilot's license and medical certification. Reimbursement of up to 60% of the cost as reported by the school and approved by SAA.

# *Flight Training and REAP*

Flight Training	
40% level	24% of the approved cost of course
60% level	36% of the approved cost of course
80% level	48% of the approved cost of course



## OJT/APP

Training leading toward employment in a given job such as prison guard, firefighter, etc..

Benefits are paid on a sliding scale of 75% for the first 6 months, 55% for the next six months, and 35 % for the remainder of the program.

# OJT/APP and REAP\*

Apprenticeship and On-Job Training			
Training Period	Service of 90 days but less than one year	Service of 1 year +	Service of 2 years +
First six months of training	\$351.56	\$527.34	\$703.12
Second six months of training	\$268.84	\$403.26	\$537.68
Remaining pursuit of training	\$186.12	\$279.18	\$372.24

\* Fiscal year 2006



## Tuition Assistance Program

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### GI Bill

## Tuition Assistance Top Up

“Top up” of portion of school cost that DoD TA doesn’t cover. VA pays top up of any course paid by DoD.

## Licensing and Certification

Reimbursement of the cost of tests leading to licensing and certification requirements such as a real estate license, etc.. Pays up to \$2000 per exam, pass or fail.

## Entrepreneurship Courses

Non-degree non-credit entrepreneurship courses offered by the Small Business Development Center or the National Veterans Business Development Corporation. To assist the veteran in starting or enhancing a small business.

# *For MGIB-AD Participants ONLY*

## **Accelerated Pay (MGIB-AD only):**

For high tech courses leading to a job in a high tech industry as defined by the National Science Foundation, such as Bio Med Tech, Engineering, Military Tech, etc..

Cost of the course must exceed 200% of the MGIB benefits otherwise payable. VA will reimburse 60% of the cost.

Reimbursement for National Admission Exams and National Exams for Credit (Not available for MGIB-SR or REAP):

Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), Law School Admissions Test (LSAT), Graduate Record Exam (GRE), Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT).

College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and Advanced Placement (AP) exams.

# *Call To Active Duty*

- Interaction with Certifying Officials.
- RESTORATION OF ENTITLEMENT.
- Extensions to Delimiting Date.
- Suspension of debt collection.



# www.gibill.va.gov



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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

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Related Links



## WELCOME TO THE GI BILL WEBSITE

### Important Information

We have redesigned the GI Bill website to make it easier to use. You may find some links relocated. The WAVE link has been located under "Information for Benefit Recipients" and there is new education benefits information available in Spanish that can be accessed by clicking on the link at the bottom of this page.

### Hot Topic - New education benefit for Activated Reservists

There is a new education benefit available to certain reservists who were activated for at least 90 days after September 11, 2001. We call this benefit the "Reserve Educational Assistance Program" (REAP) or Chapter 1607.

General information on REAP is available in the "Questions & Answers", and [GI Bill Information](#) section of this web site.

03/29/2007

# *MGIB Website*

GI Bill Information

How to Apply for  
Benefits

Payment Rates

Education Forms

Certify Your Attendance  
(WAVE)

Operation Enduring  
Freedom & Operation  
Iraqi Freedom Vets

Transition Assistance  
Information

Going to a Foreign  
School

Education Advisory  
Committees

- Search tools.
- Links to all 4 RPOs.
- Contact information.
- Current Pay Rates.
- Online Forms.
- Certify online.
- Overview of EDU programs.

03/29/2007



# Montgomery GI Bill Web Site

## Search Tools


### Ask a Question and Find Answers


Questions &  
Answers


- Available 24 hours / day.
- More secure than sending an e-mail.
- Log-on from anywhere.
- Receive a response / answer on an average of 5 business days.

# MGIBILL Website

**Answers**   **Ask a Question**   **My Questions and Answers**   **Login**   **Help**

**Category**     **Search Text (optional)**  [Search Tips](#)  

**Search by**    **Sort by**    

**150 Answers Found**   **Page:**  **of 8**      

	<b>Subject</b>	
1	Verify Enrollment	
2	How do I choose between REAP and MGIB-SR	
3	Are VA Education Benefits Taxable?	
4	How do I apply for Chapter 1607?	
5	How do I apply for benefits?	
6	Can I be eligible for two or more education benefits?	
7	<a href="#">What if I am beyond my original 10-year period of eligibility when called up?</a>	
8	Does the military collect \$1,200 from me if I am going to be eligible for MGIB?	
9	What if I am called up and have to drop out without receiving credit?	
10	Can I use the same period to establish eligibility under two programs?	
11	What is the effect of call-up on my period of eligibility for MGIB-SR?	
12	Effects of call-up if I am within my original 10-year period of eligibility.	
13	Can I receive MGIB benefits during the call-up period?	
14	What if I am called up for two years or more under title 10?	

03/29/2007

# *For More Information:*

<http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

**1-888-GIBILL1 (442-4551)** – to speak with  
a Education Case Manager.

**1-800-827-1000** – Other benefits.

# Questions?



03/29/2007