

Montgomery GI Bill–Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) (Chapter 1606)

This is guidance only – contact Dept of Veterans Affairs for official policy

MGIB-SR Chapter 1606 Overview

MGIB-SR is a Reserve Component Program for enlisted and officers serving in the Selected Reserve (SELRES) only. There is **no cost** to the reservist for this program, however, requirements must be met to establish and maintain eligibility. Benefits may only be used while in a SELRES status and meeting good participation standards. Benefits are suspended or terminated upon separation from the SELRES, (ie transfer to IRR, discharge, or accepting an EAD contract) or lack of satisfactory SELRES participation. This program offers 36 months of benefits.

Reservists, who are eligible for two or more education programs, may only use a maximum of 48 months of total combined benefits.

MGIB-SR Chapter 1606 Eligibility

In order to be initially eligible, you must:

- 1) Incur a six year Selected Reserve Obligation
- 2) Complete IADT (Initial Active Duty for Training) – this includes “A” school
- 3) Have a high school diploma/GED before applying for benefits

Establishing Eligibility

**Prior Service who previously established MGIB-SR and had over one year break in service had their benefits terminated permanently. For more information, contact reserveVAeducation@uscg.mil

Enlisted:

- 1) Sign an initial enlistment contract, reenlistment contract or extension obligating 6 years in SELRES and complete a Statement of Understanding CG-5482. (New accessions – non-prior service – this agreement should be part of your contract as ANNEX U)
- 2) Complete all required training as per your contract/agreement. Eligibility to receive benefits begins on the completion date of the following:
 - New reservist/no prior MGIB-SR eligibility: “A” school graduation.
 - Direct Petty Officer with “A” school requirement: “A” school graduation.
 - Direct Petty Officer without “A” school requirement: DEPOT graduation.
 - AD RELAD to SELRES: Date of 6 year SELRES contract, or date of “A” school graduation if required (whichever is latest).
 - Prior Reserve Service: Depends on prior MGIB-SR eligibility - Email the Program Manager at reserveVAeducation@uscg.mil

Officer:

- 1) Sign a CG-5482 Statement of Understanding (SOU) obligating 6 years in SELRES beyond any other officer obligation.
- 2) Complete ROCI if required. Eligibility to receive benefits begins on the following dates:
 - New Reserve officer/no prior service: ROCI graduation.
 - New Reserve officer/prior service: contact reserveVAeducation@uscg.mil
 - Academy Grad: Date of completing CG-5482 for 6 yrs SELRES as a drilling reservist, as long as commissioning obligation is completed.
 - OCS grads: Date of completing CG-5482 for 6 yrs SELRES as a drilling reservist, as long as commissioning obligation is completed. Initial 3 years on active duty does not count towards the 6 years even though you have a reserve commission.

Establishing Eligibility

If you have met all the requirements and would like to establish eligibility, contact the CG Reserve Education Office at reserveVAeducation@uscg.mil for further assistance. Please put MGIB-SR and your name in the Subject line. Be sure to give include your EMPLID (no SSN, please) with your request or question. Someone will assist you in getting your eligibility started and preparing your Notice of Basic Eligibility (NOBE). This form lets your school know that you have gained eligibility for MGIB-SR.

In addition to sending an eligibility code to VA, the NOBE will be sent to your CG email address. You will need to sign it upon receipt and then you may take it to your school when ready to use it. You receive this form only once – keep it safe.

Maintaining Eligibility

You must maintain good standing in the SELRES in accordance with the Reserve Policy Manual (RPM) **COMDTINST M1001.28.A.Ch.4.A.1** http://www.uscg.mil/directives/cim/1000-1999/CIM_1001_28A.pdf which includes but is not limited to: completing 90% of scheduled drills, 2 weeks Annual Training, ASQ, medical, dental and weight standards.

Suspension/Termination of Benefits

If you **fail to fulfill** your six year Service agreement, or **do not meet** the good standing SELRES requirements, or **incur nine unexcused absences** within a 12 month period, your benefits will be suspended and may be terminated.

If your unit authorizes you to go into the **IRR**, your benefits will be suspended on the date of transfer. If you fail to return to SELRES status within one year of transfer to the IRR, your benefits will terminate permanently. If you transfer to IRR to perform a religious missionary obligation, your benefits will be suspended and you must return to SELRES status within three years.

If you enter on **EAD**, your eligibility is suspended. You have one year after RELAD to return to SELRES and resume your benefits. Time on EAD does not count towards your six years SELRES but may make you eligible for MGIB-AD (Ch-30) if contract is for at least two years.

If you are **discharged**, your benefits terminate. You have one year to return to SELRES or National Guard - if your break is over one year, you will not be able to regain eligibility for MGIB-SR.

If you go into **Retired** status, your benefits terminate.

If you **integrate** into the Active Component, your eligibility will terminate. (But then you may have the option to gain MGIB-AD)

Recoupment of Benefits

Any reservist who loses their MGIB-SR benefits due to failure to complete the required six years, or maintain SELRES in good standing will be subject to recoupment of monies received. Any member who accepts VA monies when not eligible will also be subject to recoupment.

Benefit Limitations

Many changes and updates have been made since the program inception especially the delimited (end) date.

If you became eligible before 1 Oct 1992, benefits expired after 10 years.

If you became eligible after 1 OCT 1992, benefits expired after 14 years.

In 2008, Public Law 110-252 authorized the elimination of the delimited date. You now retain benefits as long as you remain in SELRES in good standing.

MGIB-SR offers 36 months of benefits. If you qualify for another VA educational assistance program such as REAP (Chapter 1607) or MGIB-AD (Chapter 30), the maximum aggregate period under two or more programs is 48 months. In those cases, service personnel may exhaust their benefits under one program, and then continue receiving educational assistance under the second program until the 48 months of entitlement has been used. It's the member's responsibility to choose which program they want to use. They cannot be used together.

Applying to VA for Benefits

1. Complete VA-22-1990 either electronically through VONAPP at <http://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp> or with a paper application.
2. Take your NOBE to your school's VA Certifying Official who will complete VA-22-1999 (only available to school officials)
3. While receiving benefits, verify enrollment at the end of each month of school via VA's Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) at <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do> or phone 877 VA-ECERT 877-823-2378)

If you forget to verify, you may miss a payment.

Rates and Types of Training

Types of Training: http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/search_programs.htm

Current Rates: http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/rates.htm

Additional Information

http://www.gibill.va.gov/pamphlets/CH1606/CH1606_Pamphlet_General.htm

** This is only guidance – please check the Department of Veterans Affairs Website at <http://www.gibill.va.gov>

** If you have questions concerning establishing eligibility, email reserveVAeducation@uscg.mil – please put MGIB-SR and your name in the subject line.