



DoD INSTRUCTION 1341.13

POST-9/11 GI BILL

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| Reissues and Cancels: | DoD Instruction 1341.13, "Post-9/11 GI Bill," May 31, 2013, as amended |
| Incorporates and Cancels: | See Paragraph 1.3. |
| Approved by: | Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr., Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness |
| Change 1 Approved by: | Ashish S. Vazirani, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness |

Purpose: In accordance with the authority in DoD Directive 5124.02, this issuance:

- Establishes policy, assigns responsibilities, and prescribes procedures for implementing DoD authorities and responsibilities for Chapter 33 of Title 38, United States Code (U.S.C.), also known and referred to in this issuance as the "Post-9/11 GI Bill."
- Establishes policy for the use of supplemental educational assistance (referred to in this issuance as "kickers") for Service members with critical skills or specialties, or for members serving additional service pursuant to Section 3316 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill.
- Establishes policy for authorizing the transferability of educational benefits (TEB) in accordance with Section 3319 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

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SECTION 1: GENERAL ISSUANCE INFORMATION

1.1. APPLICABILITY.

a. This issuance applies to OSD, the Military Departments (including the Coast Guard at all times, including when it is a Service in the Department of Homeland Security by agreement with that Department), the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Joint Staff, the Combatant Commands, the Office of Inspector General of the Department of Defense, the Defense Agencies, the DoD Field Activities, and all other organizational entities within the DoD.

b. Provisions in this issuance concerning the transferability of unused education benefits to family members also applies to the Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS Corps), by agreement with the Surgeon General, and to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps), by agreement with the Secretary of Commerce.

1.2. POLICY.

a. Kickers will be authorized to assist in the recruitment, reserve affiliation, and retention of individuals into skills or specialties in which there are critical shortages or, for which it is difficult to recruit or, in the case of critical units, to retain personnel.

b. TEB is used to promote recruitment and retention.

c. Eligible recipients of the Purple Heart may transfer unused Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits to one or more eligible family members, in accordance with Section 3319(b)(2) of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, regardless of whether the Service member concerned has already served 6 years of service in the Military Services and entered into an agreement to serve at least 4 more years as a uniformed services member, as specified in Section 3319(b)(1) of the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

d. Recipients of the Purple Heart who were in the Military Services (active duty or Selected Reserve) on or after August 31, 2018, will retain existing transfer of educational benefits regardless of whether the transfer occurred before or after August 31, 2018, or whether the service obligation was completed. The policy is limited to Purple Heart recipients who were in the uniformed services on or after the effective date of August 31, 2018, with no retroactive provision.

e. Eligible family members may use the transferred educational benefit when the Service member making the transfer is participating in the Career Intermission Program (CIP) in accordance with DoD Instruction (DoDI) 1327.07. Time while the Service member is participating in the CIP does not count toward the 4-year additional obligation for transfer of educational benefits to family members.

(1) Each Service member participating in CIP must serve in the Individual Ready Reserve during the period of inactivation from active duty. Time spent in the Individual Ready

Reserve is not credited towards eligibility to transfer benefits in accordance with Section 3319 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill and this issuance.

(2) A Service member has not “failed to complete” their service due to participation in the CIP. Time before and after the CIP period will count toward the service obligation, as long as the time served is in the Military Services.

(3) CIP participants must return to active duty to fulfill their additional obligated service incurred under the CIP. Accordingly, participation in CIP is not, in and of itself, a basis to stop benefits or seek overpayment from a Service member regarding educational benefits transferred to an eligible family member.

1.3. INCORPORATION AND CANCELLATION.

This issuance incorporates and cancels:

a. Directive-Type Memorandum 18-006, “Transferability of Unused Post-9/11 GI Bill Educational Benefits by Recipients of the Purple Heart,” August 31, 2018.

b. Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, “Exception to Policy – Continued Moratorium on Implementation of Limitations on Eligibility to Transfer Post-9/11 GI Bill Education Benefits,” January 10, 2020.

c. Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, “Update on the Definition of Eligible Dependents for the Transfer of Post-9/11 Educational Benefits to Foster Children and Legal Wards,” April 9, 2021.

d. Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Memorandum, “Exception to Policy – Release of Service Members From Military Service Obligation After Use of Transferred Post-9/11 Bill Educational Benefits,” May 12, 2021.

1.4. SUMMARY OF CHANGE 1.

The changes to this issuance:

a. Implement Section 3 of Public Law 117-297, also known and referred to as “the Veterans Eligible to Transfer School (VETS) Credit Act of 2022,” which eliminates the requirement for a Service member to specify the effective period for the transfer of Post-9/11 GI Bill educational benefits.

b. Implement Section 214 of Division U of Public Law 117-328, also known and referred to as “the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023,” which requires the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to evenly distribute all remaining Post-9/11 GI Bill entitlements to the designated dependents that were not allocated before a Service member’s death.

SECTION 2: RESPONSIBILITIES

2.1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR MANPOWER AND RESERVE AFFAIRS.

Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs develops and oversees implementation of policy for the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

2.2. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL POLICY (DASD(MPP)).

Under the authority, direction, and control of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, the DASD(MPP):

- a. Develops guidance and procedures for the implementation and oversight of the Post-9/11 GI Bill.
- b. Coordinates administrative procedures of the Post-9/11 GI Bill with the VA and other appropriate DoD and intergovernmental agencies, as applicable.
- c. Reviews and approves each Military Department plan to use kickers in accordance with the provisions of Section 3316 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill.
- d. Establishes the standard data elements needed to administer the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

2.3. DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HUMAN RESOURCES ACTIVITY.

Under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, the Director, Department of Defense Human Resources Activity ensures the:

- a. Director, Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC):
 - (1) Replicates Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility data using the Veterans Affairs and DoD Identity Repository with the VA as needed and specified in agreements between DMDC and the VA by:
 - (a) Maintaining personnel information the VA needs to determine benefit entitlement.
 - (b) Maintaining VA payment and usage data for the Post-9/11 GI Bill program.
 - (2) Replicates Post-9/11 GI Bill usage data electronically with Department of Labor (DOL) as specified in agreements between the DMDC and the DOL.
 - (3) Maintains personnel information the DOL needs to determine benefit entitlement.

(4) Maintains VA payment and usage data for the Post-9/11 GI Bill program to support the DOL's administration of unemployment compensation for ex-Service members, the Coast Guard, and NOAA Corps.

b. The Defense Personnel Analytics Center performs determinations of cost requirements in support of DoD funding responsibilities for the Post-9/11 GI Bill in accordance with Sections 183 and 2006 of Title 10, U.S.C.

2.4. UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (COMPTROLLER)/CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (USD(C)/CFO).

The USD(C)/CFO:

a. Provides guidance on budgeting, accounting, and funding for the educational benefits program in support of plans established in this issuance, and for investing the available DoD Education Benefits Fund balance.

b. Coordinates with the DASD(MPP) to review and approve the Military Department budget estimates for the supplemental payments in accordance with the provisions of Section 3316 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

2.5. SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS, AND THE COMMANDANT, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD (USCG).

The Secretaries of the Military Departments, and the Commandant, USCG, in implementing the Post-9/11 GI Bill:

a. Provide implementing guidance within their respective components for the administration of the Post-9/11 GI Bill consistent with this issuance and other guidance issued by the DASD(MPP) and the USD(C)/CFO consistent with the needs of the Military Services concerned. This guidance must include implementation of kickers and the transfer of unused educational benefits in accordance with Sections 3316 and 3319 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill and this issuance.

b. Direct that all eligible Service members in the Active and Reserve Components are made aware that they are automatically eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill educational assistance upon serving the required active duty time, in accordance with Sections 3301 and 3311 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

c. Direct that all officers without earlier established eligibility, following commissioning through the Military Service Academies (with the exception of the Coast Guard Academy for individuals who entered into an agreement to service before January 4, 2011) or Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship Programs in accordance with Section 2107 of Title 10, U.S.C., understand that their eligible period of active duty for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits does not begin until they have completed their statutory obligated active duty service. Ensure that such officers are aware that any active duty service after that obligated period of service may qualify as active duty service for Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility.

d. Direct that all Service members participating in the student loan repayment program in accordance with Chapter 109 of Title 10, U.S.C., are aware and understand that:

(1) Their service in accordance with Chapter 109 of Title 10, U.S.C., does not count as a qualifying active duty service for Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility.

(2) Any service after that obligated period of service may qualify as active duty service for Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility.

e. Authorize kickers for recruitment and retention of individuals with critical skills or in programs that are hard to recruit or retain pursuant to Section 3316 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill and in accordance with plans approved by the DASD(MPP) pursuant to Paragraph 2.2.c. of this issuance. Inform the DASD(MPP) of such authorization.

f. Budget for and transfer funds to support the kickers, in accordance with this issuance and guidance issued by the USD(C)/CFO.

g. Direct pre-separation counseling on Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to active duty members and members of the Reserve Components with qualifying active duty service. Document this counseling accordingly.

h. Develop and distribute education and training materials to administer the transferability of unused education entitlements to family members to support recruiting and retention in accordance with this issuance.

i. Manage the maintenance of records for individuals who receive kickers pursuant to Section 3316 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Provide those records to the DMDC and the VA.

j. Report all qualifying active duty service time in accordance with the procedures in Section 8 of Volume 1 of DoD Manual 7730.69.

k. Direct use of DoD standard data elements and codes established by Volume 1 of DoD Manual 7730.69 when specified for kickers in accordance with this issuance.

l. May issue guidance regarding waiver of the military service obligation if the individual revokes all transfers, regardless of whether benefits have been used. Ensure such guidance includes notification to Service members requesting release from a military service obligation that any use of transferred benefits will be treated as an overpayment, subject to debt collection by the VA.

2.6. THE SURGEON GENERAL (USPHS CORPS) AND THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE (NOAA CORPS).

The Surgeon General, USPHS Corps, and the Secretary of Commerce, NOAA Corps, in implementing the Post-9/11 GI Bill:

- a. Provide implementing guidance within their respective components for the administration of the Post-9/11 GI Bill consistent with this issuance and other guidance issued by the DASD(MPP) consistent with the needs of the uniformed service concerned. This guidance must include the transfer of unused educational benefits in accordance with Section 3319 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill and this issuance.
- b. Direct that all eligible members are made aware that they are automatically eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill educational assistance upon serving the required active duty time, in accordance with Sections 3301 and 3311 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill.
- c. Direct pre-separation counseling on Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to active duty members and members of the Reserve Components with qualifying active duty service. Document this counseling accordingly.
- d. Develop and distribute education and training materials within their respective components to administer the transferability of unused education entitlements to family members to support recruiting and retention in accordance with this issuance.
- e. Report all qualifying active duty service time in accordance with the procedures in Section 8 of Volume 1 of DoD Manual 7730.69.
- f. May issue guidance regarding waiver of the service obligation if the individual revokes all transfers, regardless of whether benefits have been used. Ensure such guidance includes notification to members requesting release from a service obligation that any use of transferred benefits will be treated as an overpayment, subject to debt collection by the VA.

SECTION 3: PROCEDURES

3.1. GENERAL ELIGIBILITY.

The VA is responsible for determining the eligibility for, and administration of, the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Policies and procedures for usage of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits are available from the VA. Those policies and procedures are codified in Part 21 of Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, and presented and updated at <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill/>.

3.2. KICKERS.

a. Enlistment Kickers.

The use of enlistment kickers will be based on the criticality of the skill or the length of enlistment commitment and may be offered in amounts from \$150 to \$950 per month in increments of \$100. Reporting codes for enlistment kickers are listed in Volume 1 of DoD-Manual 7730.69.

b. Affiliation Kickers.

The use of affiliation kickers must be based on the criticality of the skill and/or unit and the length of Selected Reserve commitment, and may be offered in amounts from \$150 to \$950 per month in increments of \$100. If an individual is already eligible for an enlistment kicker, the amount of the affiliation kicker is limited to the amount that would take the total to \$950. For individuals who are offered an affiliation kicker on top of an enlistment kicker, the increases above the enlistment kicker will be in \$100 increments, not to exceed \$950 in total. Reporting codes for affiliation kickers are the same as the codes for enlistment kickers listed in Volume 1 of DoD Manual 7730.69.

c. Reenlistment Kickers.

The use of reenlistment kickers should be based on the criticality of the skill and may be offered in amounts from \$100 to \$300 per month in increments of \$100, based on length of additional service. Reporting codes for reenlistment kickers are listed in Volume 1 of DoD Manual 7730.69.

d. Payment of Kickers.

The VA pays kickers in conjunction with the monthly stipend paid pursuant to Section 3313(c) of the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

3.3. TRANSFERABILITY OF UNUSED EDUCATION BENEFITS TO FAMILY MEMBERS.

TEB is available to all members of the uniformed services. Any references specifically to “Service members” in this paragraph apply only to individuals in the Military Services; while “member(s)” include those serving in the uniformed services as defined in the Glossary.

a. Overview.

(1) Subject to the provisions of Paragraph 3.3. of this issuance, the Secretary concerned, to promote recruitment and retention in the uniformed services, may permit an individual eligible for Post-9/11 GI Bill educational assistance to elect to transfer to one or more of their eligible family members all or a portion of their entitlement to such assistance. Transferability is neither an entitlement nor a transition or readjustment benefit. The DoD will continue to track recruit quality and retention metrics carefully to adjust policy and force management tools to support any major shifts in retention trends.

(2) The Military Departments will not automatically approve a Service member’s request to elect to transfer benefits. Before approving an individual’s request to elect to transfer benefits, the Secretary of the Military Department concerned must determine whether the Service member is eligible for retention under the Military Department or Service retention policies (e.g., high-year tenure) and is not precluded by either DoD, Military Department, Service policy, or statute from being retained for 4 additional years from the date of election.

(3) Recipients of the Purple Heart are eligible to transfer unused Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits to one or more eligible family members, regardless of whether the Service member concerned has already served 6 years of service in the Military Services and entered into an agreement to serve a minimum of 4 additional years as a uniformed services member. All other requirements concerning the transferability of unused Post-9/11 GI Bill educational benefits in law and this policy apply, including the requirement that eligibility is limited to Service members serving on active duty or in the Selected Reserve on the date of election.

(4) Members may submit requests to transfer education benefits only through the DMDC milConnect Web application at <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect>. The date of this action is considered to be the date of member’s TEB election.

b. General Eligibility.

(1) Any member on or after August 1, 2009, who is entitled to the Post-9/11 GI Bill at the time of the approval of their request to transfer that entitlement under this section, may request to transfer that entitlement provided they have at least 6 years of total creditable service in the Military Services (active duty or Selected Reserve) on the date of election.

(2) Only members with at least 6 years of total creditable service in the Military Services (active duty service and/or Selected Reserve) will be eligible to transfer education benefits to eligible family members.

(3) The determination of members' total years of creditable service will be based on the date of the member's TEB application, not the date the request is approved by the respective Military Department, NOAA Corps, or USPHS Corps. Service performed in the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences will not be included in the calculations for 6 years of eligibility, pursuant to Section 2126 of Title 10, U.S.C.

(4) The member transferring educational benefits must agree to serve 4 additional years in the Military Services, NOAA Corps, or USPHS Corps from the date of election, with no break in active or Selected Reserve service for greater than 24 hours, other than to participate in CIP. This includes the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve Corps of the USPHS Corps. Eligibility does not guarantee approval. Members must be eligible to be retained for 4 years from the date of election and not be precluded, before approval, by either standard Service or DoD policy or statute. Members who have qualified for retirement and who wish to transfer benefits will incur a 4-year additional service obligation.

(a) Service members who have not applied for TEB, and who are either on limited duty, or processing through the Disability Evaluation System (DES) in accordance with DoDI 1332.18, or both, must wait until the process is complete before applying for TEB. If found fit and returned to duty, through the DES, the Service member will comply with the standard TEB application procedure.

(b) Service members who previously applied to TEB, but were denied due to insufficient retainability as a result of being on either limited duty, or processing through the DES, or both, and are later cleared to re-enlist, must submit a new application to TEB once they are found fit and returned to duty, and commit to a 4-year service obligation from the date of the new application.

(c) Service members who have been approved to TEB and have been subsequently found fit for duty and returned to duty may keep their TEB and fulfill their currently approved TEB obligation date.

(d) Service members participating in a CIP are not eligible to transfer educational benefits while in that status.

(e) Some Purple Heart recipients will fit the criteria in Paragraph 3.3.b.(4), but it is not applicable to them. Purple Heart recipients are eligible to TEB provided they are still serving on active duty or in the Selected Reserve, regardless of whether they are on limited duty or processing through the DES.

c. Eligible Family Members.

(1) An individual approved to transfer an entitlement of educational assistance in accordance with Paragraph 3.3. of this issuance may transfer that entitlement to their spouse, to one or more of their children, to one or more foster children or legal wards that have been living with the Service member pursuant to a court order for at least 12 consecutive months, or to a combination of their spouse and one or more other eligible family members. Confirmation of family members will be made using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. Eligible family members are identified as such in the DMDC milConnect TEB Web application.

(2) Once an individual has designated a child as a transferee, a child's subsequent marriage will not affect their eligibility to receive the educational benefit. However, the individual retains the right to revoke or modify the transfer at any time. Pursuant to Section 3319 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, transferred entitlement may not be treated as marital property, or the asset of a marital estate, subject to division in a divorce or other civil proceeding.

(3) Once an individual has designated a spouse as a transferee, a subsequent divorce will not affect the transferee's eligibility to receive educational benefits. However, the individual retains the right to revoke or modify the transfer at any time. Pursuant to Section 3319 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, transferred entitlement may not be treated as marital property, or the asset of a marital estate, subject to division in a divorce or other civil proceeding.

d. Months of Transfer.

Months transferred must be whole months greater than 0. The number of months of benefits transferred by an individual in accordance with this issuance must not exceed the lesser of:

- (1) The months of Post-9/11 GI Bill unused benefits available.
- (2) 36 months.

e. Transferee Usage.

(1) Policies and procedures for a family member to use the Post-9/11 GI Bill transferred educational benefits are the responsibility of the VA. These policies and procedures are codified in Part 21 of Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations, and presented and updated at <https://benefits.va.gov/gibill>.

(2) After approval of the TEB request, commencement of use by a family member is subject to these conditions:

(a) A spouse may start to use the benefit only after the individual making the transfer has completed at least 6 years of service in the uniformed services.

(b) A child who has either completed the requirements of a secondary school diploma (or equivalency certificate), or reached the age of 18, may start to use the benefit after the individual making the transfer:

1. Has completed at least 10 years of service in the Military Services, NOAA Corps, or USPHS Corps; or

2. Is separated for one of the reasons referred to in Paragraph 3.3.h. of this issuance.

(c) A spouse or child of a Service member who has committed to 4 years of additional service and has transferred the benefit may continue to receive the benefit while the Service member is participating in a CIP.

(3) The service requirements under Paragraph 3.3.e. are not applicable to transferees designated as Purple Heart recipients.

f. Designation of Transferee.

(1) An individual transferring an entitlement to educational assistance under Paragraph 3.3. of this issuance will, through notification to the Secretary concerned:

(a) Designate the family member or members to whom such entitlement is being transferred.

(b) Designate the number of months of such entitlement to be transferred to each family member. Members are strongly encouraged to:

1. Designate at least 1 month of such entitlement to each eligible family member before separation or retirement.

2. Allocate all their unused months of education benefits to their dependents.

(2) Service members must revisit the DMDC milConnect TEB Web application at <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect>, to check the status of their submission and the TEB service obligation end date. Service members that do not have a DMDC approval letter posted at this site have not received approval to transfer their education benefits.

g. Time for Transfer, Revocation, and Modification.

(1) Time for Transfer.

(a) An individual approved to transfer entitlement to educational assistance under Paragraph 3.3. of this issuance may transfer such entitlement to the individual's family member only while serving in the Military Services (active duty or Selected Reserve), NOAA Corps, or USPHS. An individual may not normally add family members after retirement or separation from the uniformed services; a limited exception is provided for in Section 3319(k) of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, upon the death of the originally designated family member.

(b) Members are strongly advised to allocate all of their unused months of education benefits to their dependents before retirement or separation from the uniformed services.

(c) If an individual approved to transfer entitlement dies with remaining untransferred entitlements after designating a transferee or transferees but before transferring all of such entitlements, the VA will transfer the remaining untransferred entitlement of the individual by evenly distributing the amount of all remaining untransferred entitlement between the designated transferees. This applies to an eligible individual who dies on or after November 1, 2018.

(2) Addition, Modification, or Revocation.

(a) An individual transferring entitlement in accordance with this section may modify or revoke the transfer at any time for any unused portion of the entitlement transferred.

1. An individual may add new family members, modify the number of months of the transferred entitlement for existing family members, or revoke transfer of entitlement while serving in the uniformed services.

2. An individual may not normally add family members after retirement or separation from the Military Services, NOAA Corps, or USPHS Corps. However, after retirement or separation, an individual may modify the number of months of the transferred entitlement (i.e., previously approved allocation of unused benefits); distribute unallocated and unused months of benefits (i.e., months the individual has not transferred or used); or revoke transfer of entitlement for those family members who have received transferred benefits before separation or retirement.

(b) The modification or revocation of the transfer of entitlement will be made by submitting notice of the action to both the Secretary concerned and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Additions, modifications, or revocations made, both while in the Military Services, NOAA Corps, or USPHS Corps, and after separation or retirement, will be made through the DMDC milConnect Web application at <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect>.

h. Failure to Complete Service Agreement.

(1) If an individual transferring entitlement fails to complete the service agreed to consistent with the terms of the agreement, including any Service member requesting release from a military service obligation, the amount of any transferred entitlement that is used as of the date of such failure, or release, will be treated as an overpayment of educational assistance and will be subject to collection by the VA.

(2) The Service member will be considered to have completed their previously approved TEB-related service agreement upon:

(a) Their death.

(b) Discharge or release from active duty or the Selected Reserve, with an honorable discharge, for a medical condition that pre-existed their service and was not service-connected.

(c) Discharge or release from active duty or the Selected Reserve for hardship with an honorable discharge, as determined by the Secretary concerned.

(d) Discharge or release from active duty or the Selected Reserve, with an honorable discharge, for a physical or mental condition, not a disability that did not result from their willful misconduct, but did interfere with the performance of duty.

(e) Discharge or release from active duty or the Selected Reserve, with an honorable discharge, for an unfitting medical condition(s) incurred or aggravated in the line of duty as determined in accordance with DoDI 1332.18 (with a medical separation or retirement order).

(f) Discharge or release from active duty or the Selected Reserve, with an honorable discharge, due to reduction in force or other force shaping initiative resulting from a decision by the Secretary concerned.

(g) Discharge or release from active duty or the Selected Reserve, with an honorable discharge due to twice failing to be selected for promotion as a commissioned officer on active duty or Selected Reserve.

1. Officers not offered selective continuation will have the TEB obligation end date adjusted to their separation or retirement date (if an officer has not already fulfilled their TEB obligation end date of 4 years).

2. Officers offered selective continuation who accept selective continuation will have the TEB obligation end date adjusted to their new selective continuation separation or retirement date (if an officer has not already fulfilled their TEB obligation end date of 4 years).

3. Officers offered selective continuation but who reject selective continuation will have the TEB rejected (if officer has not already fulfilled the TEB obligation of 4 years) or does not affiliate directly into the Selected Reserve to complete the TEB obligation, with no break in service between active duty and Selected Reserve. The amount of any transferred entitlement that is used as of the date of such failure must be treated as an overpayment of educational assistance and will be subject to collection by the VA.

(h) Failure to be selected for promotion as an enlisted Service member and being separated under Service high-year tenure or retention control point policies (or a change in these policies) unless separated at high-year tenure or retention control point subsequent to reduction in grade through non-judicial punishment, administrative demotion, or a court-martial.

1. A Service member with a high-year tenure or a retention control point mandatory separation/retirement date adjustment, due to Service-mandated change (not due to fault of Service member), will have the TEB obligation end date adjusted to the new retention control point or high-year tenure mandatory separation/retirement date.

2. A Service member with a high-year tenure or a retention control mandatory separation/retirement date adjustment due to fault of the Service member (e.g., non-judicial punishment, administrative demotion, or court-martial) will not have the TEB obligation end date adjusted to the new high-year tenure or retention control point mandatory separation/retirement date.

(i) For Selected Reserve officers required by Service policy to participate in a selection board to maintain a paid billet:

1. Failure to be selected (determined by the Secretary concerned to not be due to the fault of Service member) will have the TEB obligation end date adjusted to the date the Service member is transferred to non-pay status.

2. Selected Reserve officers (determined by the Secretary concerned) who have not fully participated in the selection board process, or who do not make a good faith effort to maintain a paid billet, will not have the TEB obligation end date adjusted to the date the Service member is transferred to a non-pay status.

(j) A Service member who has transferred Post-9/11 GI Bill educational benefits to an eligible family member pursuant to Section 3319 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and has not yet completed their 4-year service obligation, who enters into a CIP, will have their obligation tolled until the Service member has returned to active service in accordance with the CIP. The TEB obligation end date will be adjusted to the remaining service obligation owed under the TEB obligation, due to the tolled period from the Service member's participation in CIP. Participation in a CIP will not be considered a failure to complete the service obligation resulting in the loss of transferability.

(3) All requests and transactions for individuals who remain in the uniformed services will be completed through the DMDC milConnect Web application <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect>. The TEB Beneficiary Guide maintained on that site will provide instruction for enrollment, verification, additions, changes, and revocations. Modifications or revocations after separation from the uniformed services will be accomplished through the DMDC milConnect Web application at <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect>.

(4) The Secretary concerned will issue guidance to administer the transferability of unused education entitlements to family members in accordance with this issuance. Such guidance will specify:

(a) The documentation and verification of the additional service commitment authorizing the transferability of education benefits pursuant to Section 3319 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

(b) The manner of determining eligibility to authorize the transfer of education benefits in accordance with this issuance.

GLOSSARY

G.1. ACRONYMS.

| ACRONYM | MEANING |
|-------------|---|
| CIP | Career Intermission Program |
| DASD(MPP) | Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy |
| DES | Disability Evaluation System |
| DMDC | Defense Manpower Data Center |
| DoDI | DoD instruction |
| DOL | Department of Labor |
| NOAA Corps | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Officer Corps |
| TEB | transferability of educational benefits |
| U.S.C. | United States Code |
| USCG | United States Coast Guard |
| USD(C)/CFO | Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer, Department of Defense |
| USPHS Corps | Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service |
| VA | Department of Veterans Affairs |

G.2. DEFINITIONS.

Unless otherwise noted, these terms and their definitions are for the purpose of this issuance.

| TERM | DEFINITION |
|---------------------------|--|
| active duty | Defined in Section 3301 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill. |
| affiliation kicker | Described in 3316 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, supplemental educational assistance the Secretary of a Military Department may offer to the monthly amount of educational assistance otherwise payable to an individual pursuant to Section 3313 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, to a Service member who is separating honorably from a regular component and who agrees to serve in the Selected Reserve in a skill, specialty, or unit in which there is a critical shortage of personnel or for which it is difficult to recruit and/or retain. |

| TERM | DEFINITION |
|---------------------------------|--|
| creditable service | Active Federal service or qualifying years computed pursuant to Section 12732 of Title 10, U.S.C. (50 points or more of service for a full Reserve Component year). |
| enlistment kicker | Described in 3316 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, supplemental educational assistance the Secretary of a Military Department may offer to the monthly amount of educational assistance otherwise payable to an individual pursuant Section 3313 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, who initially enlists in a regular component in a skill or specialty in which there is a critical shortage of personnel or for which it is difficult to recruit. |
| family member | A spouse or child as defined and described in Section 1072 of Title 10, U.S.C., and Section 3319(c) of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, who is enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. |
| force shaping initiative | An action taken to implement a decision made by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned to restructure a Military Service. |
| Individual Ready Reserve | Defined in Section 10144 of Title 10, U.S.C. |
| kickers | As described in Section 3316 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, supplemental educational assistance that may be offered by a Secretary concerned to the monthly amount of educational assistance otherwise payable to an individual pursuant to Section 3313 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill. |
| Military Services | The United States Army, the United States Navy, the United States Air Force, the United States Marine Corps, the United States Space Force, and the United States Coast Guard. |
| Purple Heart recipient | A Service member who was awarded the Purple Heart award in accordance with Volume 3 of DoD Manual 1348.33. |
| reenlistment kicker | Described in Section 3316 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, supplemental educational assistance a Secretary concerned may offer to the monthly amount of educational assistance otherwise payable to an individual pursuant to Section 3313 of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, to a member who, after completing 5 or more years of continuous service, signs an agreement to remain on active duty for a period of at least 2 years. |

| TERM | DEFINITION |
|----------------------------|---|
| Secretary concerned | For a member of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Space Force, the Marine Corps, or the USCG when it is operating as a Service of the Department of the Navy, the term means the Secretary of the Military Department with jurisdiction over that Service member. For a member of the USCG when the USCG is operating as a Service of the Department of Homeland Security, the term means the Secretary of Homeland Security. For a member of the USPHS Corps, the term means the Surgeon General. For a member of the NOAA Corps, the term means the Secretary of Commerce. |
| Selected Reserve | Those units and individuals within the Ready Reserve designated by their respective Services and approved by the Joint Chiefs of Staff as so essential to initial wartime missions that they have priority over all other reserves. Includes the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve Corps of the USPHS Commissioned Corp. |
| Service member | An individual serving on active duty or in the Selected Reserve. Does not include other members of the Ready Reserve (such as the Individual Ready Reserve, participants in the CIP, standby Reserve, or retired Service members, unless they are serving on active duty). |
| tolled | To delay, suspend, or hold off the effect of a service obligation resulting from the transfer of education benefits due to participation in the CIP. |
| uniformed services | As defined at Section 101(a)(5) of Title 10, U.S.C., this includes the Military Services, the NOAA Corps, and the USPHS Corps. |

REFERENCES

- Code of Federal Regulations, Title 38, Part 21
- DoD Directive 5124.02, “Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)),” June 23, 2008
- DoD Instruction 1327.07, “Career Intermision Program for Service Members,” October 18, 2018, as amended
- DoD Instruction 1332.18, “Disability Evaluation System,” November 10, 2022
- DoD Manual 1348.33, Volume 3, “Manual of Military Decorations and Awards: DoD-Wide Personal Performance and Valor Decorations,” December 21, 2016, as amended
- DoD Manual 7730.69, Volume 1, “Uniformed Services Human Resources Information System: Main Reporting Requirements,” September 1, 2023
- Public Law 117-297, “Veterans Eligible to Transfer School (VETS) Credit Act,” December 27, 2022
- Public Law 117-328, “Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023,” December 29, 2022
- The Transferability of Educational Benefits Beneficiary Guide¹
- United States Code, Title 10
- United States Code, Title 38, Chapter 33 (also known and referred to in this issuance as the “Post-9/11 GI Bill”)

¹ May be accessed through the milConnect Online Help System at <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>.