

# **Review of VA Education Benefits**

Current As of 1-31-06



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

**Education Service**

**Washington, DC**

## *This Presentation Will Cover:*

- Who is eligible for VA Education and Montgomery GI Bill benefits?
- How do benefits work?
- What programs are offered?
- What happens when I'm called to duty?
- What information is on the GIBILL web site?



## VACO Education Service

**VACO EDU Service establishes policies and procedures for four Regional Processing Offices. Only the 4 RPOs process education claims. Each RPO has jurisdiction over separate states and territories.**



Atlanta



Buffalo

Muskogee

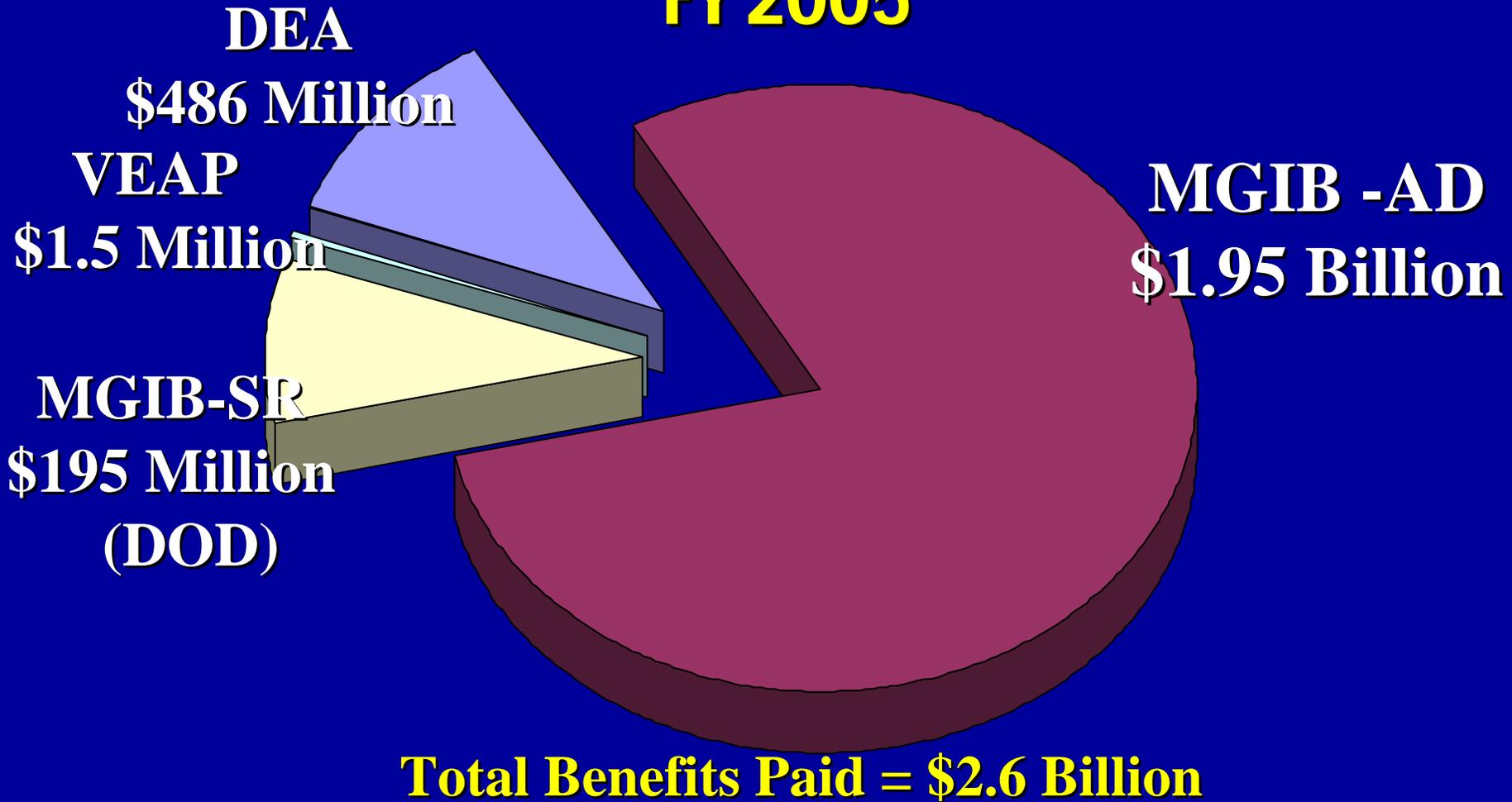


St. Louis





# Education Benefit Payments FY 2005



# *EDU Benefit Programs Administered by VA*

- Veterans Educational Assistance Program Chapter 32 (VEAP).
- Dependent's Educational Assistance Chapter 35 (DEA).
- MGIB Selected Reserve Chapter 1606.
- REAP DOD Chapter 1607.
- MGIB Active Duty Chapter 30.

# *Veteran's Education Assistance Program – Chapter 32*

- First entered active service between January 1, 1977, and June 30, 1985.
- Contributed funds to a VEAP account.
- Has funds remaining to use.
- Benefit amount depends on amount contributed.
- Discharge can be anything other than Dishonorable.

# *Dependent's Education Assistance Program – Chapter 35*

Spouse, widow or dependent children of a claimant who:

- Died from a service connected disability,
- Died while having a service connected disability evaluated as permanent in nature,
- Is rated as 100% permanently and totally service connected disabled, or
- Was held captive as a POW or was MIA for more than 90 days.

# *MGIB Selected Reserve - Chapter 1606*

- 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 or GED before applying for benefits.

# *Chapter 1607*

- For Guard/Reservists called to active duty under a Federal 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.

Category I

Category II

**MGIB Active Duty-  
Chapter 30**

Category III

Category IV

# Category I

## IA

- First entered active duty on or after July 1, 1985.
- Paid \$1200 to participate.
- Initial term of service was 2 years.
- Honorable discharge.
- High school diploma or GED prior to applying for benefits.

***(Some Guard/Reservists returning home from the Mid East may now qualify for this.)***

## IB



- First entered active duty on or after July 1, 1985.
- Paid \$1200 to participate.
- First term of service was 3 years or more.
- Honorable discharge.
- High school diploma or GED prior to applying for benefits.

## IC



- First entered active duty on or after July 1, 1985.
- Paid \$1200 to participate.
- Served 2 years active duty plus an additional 4 years in the Reserves.
- Honorable discharge.
- High school diploma or GED prior to applying for benefits.

# *Honorable Discharge Requirement*

**Claimants who do not receive an  
Honorable Discharge may still  
qualify for MGIB using any  
continuous Honorable period of  
service equal to the first obligated  
period of service.**

# *Additional \$600 MGIB Buy Up*

Claimants eligible for Chapter 30 Active Duty benefits under MGIB Category I are eligible to contribute an additional \$600 while on active duty. This will give the claimant as much as an additional \$150 per month for full time training.

# *Category 2 34/30 Conversions*

- First entered active service prior to January 1, 1977, or by delayed entry before January 2, 1978.
- Must have remaining entitlement to the Vietnam Era GI Bill as of December 31, 1989.
- Any time not in service between January 1, 1977, and July 1, 1985, must be deducted from the eligibility period.

- If the claimant left service, he/she must have returned between October 19, 1984, and June 30, 1985, and served through June 30, 1988, or
- If not on duty on October 19, 1984, returned at any point after that date and served 3 years after July 1, 1985, or two years plus four years in the Reserves.
- Honorable discharge.

# *Category 2 Recipients*

May receive additional benefit payments if they have dependents including:

- Spouse.
- Children under 18.
- Children between 18 and 23 and still in school.
- Dependent Parents.

# *Category 3*

## **3A Involuntary Separation**

- Entered active duty before September 30, 1990, or on or after November 30, 1993.
- Elected MGIB just before separation and paid \$1200 to participate.
- Separation was after February 2, 1992.

## 3B Voluntary Separation

- Discharge on or after January 23, 1992.
- Separation was voluntary.
- Elected and paid \$1200 for MGIB before separation.



# *Category 4 32/30 Conversions*

Predominately, those enrolled in the Chapter 32 VEAP program who chose to elect MGIB during one of two open window periods in 1996 and 2000.

4A and 4B paid \$1200 to elect MGIB.

4C paid \$2700 to elect MGIB.

## 4A

- On active duty on October 9, 1996.
- Enrolled in VEAP and had funds remaining.
- Elected during the 1996 open window period.
- Completed high school or GED.
- Honorable discharge if before October 9, 1997.

## 4B

- Full time National Guard under Title 32 between July 1, 1985 and November 29, 1989.
- Elected MGIB during the 1996 open window period.
- Meets all service requirements of Category 1A, 1B, or 1C.

## 4C

- Enrolled during the 2000 open window period.
- Participated in VEAP on or before October 9, 1996.
- Served continuously from October 9, 1996, to at least April 1, 2000.
- Completed high school, GED, or 12 hours of college credit.
- Honorable discharge.

# *Bars to MGIB Eligibility*

Not eligible if commissioned after 12/31/76 upon completing an ROTC scholarship or graduating from any service academy, unless...



## *Eligibility Is Retained If You:*

- Became eligible for MGIB before receiving commission,
- Received a commission after 9/30/96 and received less than \$3,400 during any one year of a ROTC program,
- Declined ROTC scholarship money the last term before graduation, or
- Were eligible for MGIB under Category 3 or 4.

# *What Is Entitlement?*

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

- Up to 36 months for MGIB.
- Up to 48 months for combined benefit types. (Example: If a claimant used 10 months under the old Vietnam Era GI Bill, she may now use an additional 36 months of MGIB chapter 30 benefits.)

# *Entitlement Charges*

Entitlement is charged one day for each day of full time training.

**For example: A claimant attending school ½ time for 60 days is charged 1 month of entitlement.**

Benefits such as flight training and OJT are charged one month of entitlement when the paid amount equals the claimant's full time benefit rate.

# *Early Release*

- Reduction in Force.
  - Disability.
  - Hardship.
  - Physical condition which interfered with duty.
  - Medical condition existing prior to service.
- Convenience of the Government.
    - Requires 20 months minimum service for 2 year enlistment and 30 months for a 3 year enlistment.

# *Delimiting Date*

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

- Ten years from the last release from Active Duty (90 days or more) for ch. 30.
- Fourteen years after eligibility begins, for ch. 1606 for claimants entering after Oct. 1992.

***Extensions are rare and dictated by law.***

- There is no delimiting date period for REAP participants provided they remain within their component. Once a member leaves his/her component, eligibility to REAP ends.

# *College Funds*

VA refers to these as “**kickers.**” There are kickers for chapters 30, 32, and 1606.

- Dollar amount established by DOD.
- Prorated for non completion of contract (chapter 30).
- Paid in addition to monthly benefits.
- Prorated monthly for less than full time training.

# *Benefits: In Service VS. After Service*

- Claimants may begin using MGIB-AD chapter 30 benefits after serving 2 years active duty.
- Active duty claimants are only reimbursed for tuition and fees up to the veteran's rate.
- Active duty claimants are not paid for breaks between terms, and may not receive college fund payments or \$600 MGIB buy up payments.

# *Active Duty: Paying Tuition and Fees*

## Example:

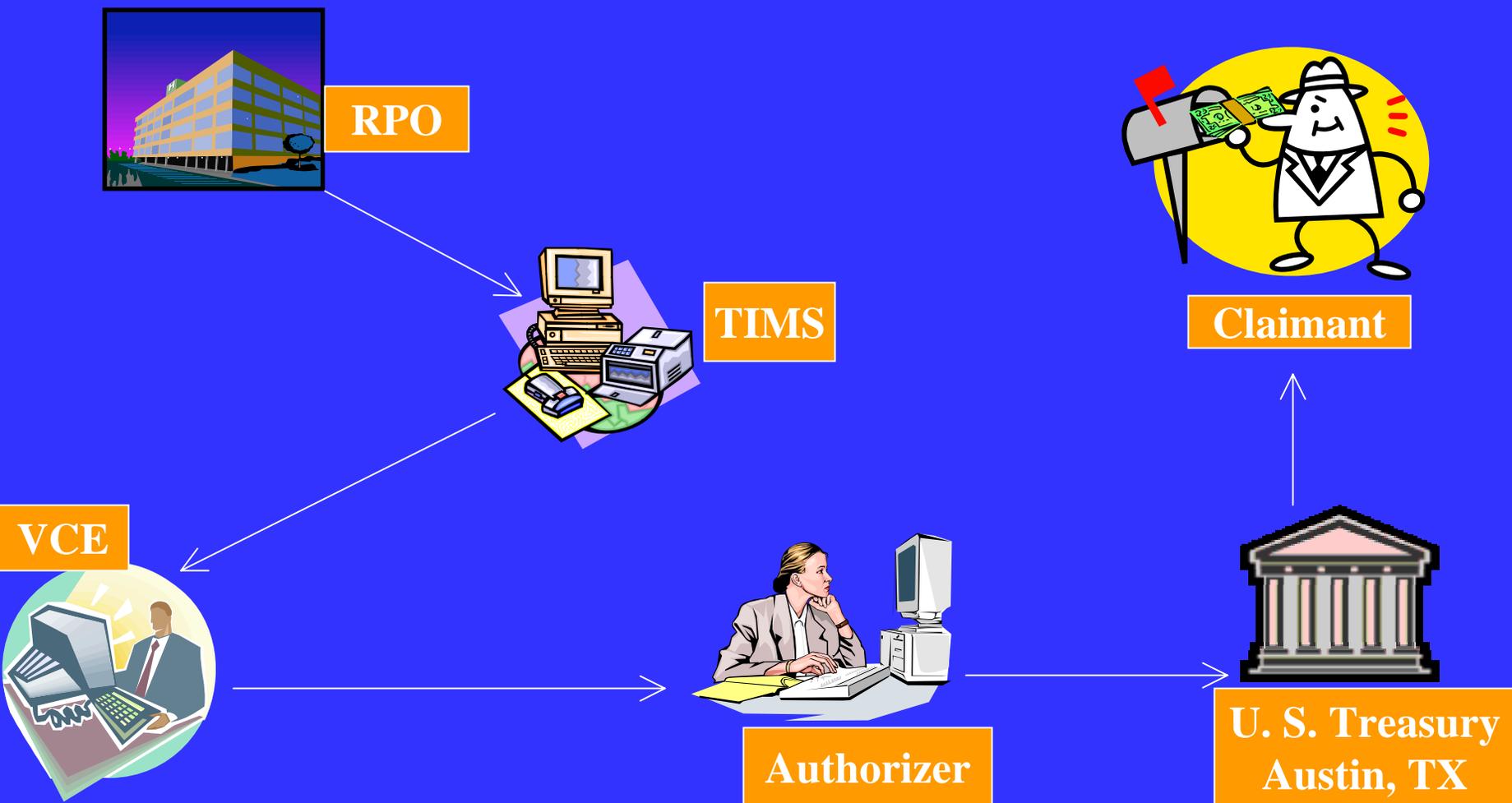
- \$1034 is the full time MGIB rate.
- Term is Jan. 6 to May 5, for FT (120 days).
- Tuition and Fees are \$1250.
- **Veteran** would receive \$1034/month; \$4170.48 for the term.
- **Active Duty claimant** gets \$312.50/month; \$1250 for the term.
- Entitlement used by both is 4 mos. and 1 day.

# *How To Apply For Benefits*

- Completed VA Form 22-1990.
  - Signed by ESO if on active duty.
  - 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..

# *Who Reports Enrollment?*

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

# *How Are Benefits Paid?*

- Benefits are paid monthly for the previous month.
- TATU, Accelerated Pay, and LAC are paid in a lump sum.
- Correspondence and flight are paid by lessons completed.

# *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 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.

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

After successful certification:

- 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.)

# *Monthly Rates*

Monthly rates usually increase each year.

Rates are found on:

- Claimant's EDU Award Letter.
- GIBILL website (the rates here don't include college fund kickers or the additional MGIB \$600 buy up program).

# Programs Paid By VA

College Degrees (all benefits):

Associates, Bachelors, Masters,  
Doctorate.



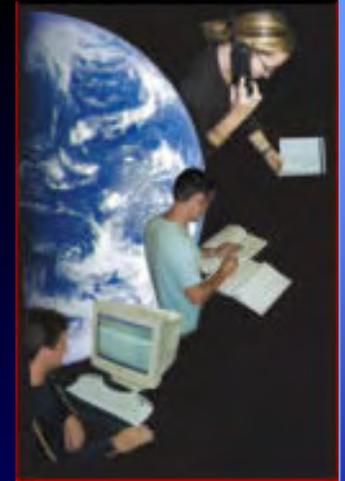
Vocational Programs (all benefits):

Certificates and Diplomas

Independent Study (all benefits):

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





Correspondence courses (all benefits except DEA children):

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



## Flight training (all benefits except DEA):

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.



## OJT/APP (all benefits):

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

Benefits are paid on a sliding scale of 85% for the first 6 months, 65% for the next six months, and 45 % for the remainder of the program.

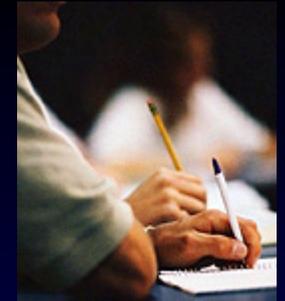
## Tuition Assistance Program

---

### GI Bill

## Tuition Assistance Top Up (MGIB-AD and MGIB-SR):

“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 (all benefits):

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.



## 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.



## Entrepreneurship Courses (All benefits except DEA):

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.

Reimbursement for National Admission Exams and National Exams for Credit (all benefits except for REAP and MGIB-SR):

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.

The logo for the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT), featuring the letters "LSAT" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letter "S" is partially overlaid by a yellow and orange graphic element.The logo for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), featuring the text "Graduate Record Examination (GRE)" in a bold, black, serif font. The word "Record" is flanked by two small black circles.The logo for the College Level Examination Program (CLEP), featuring the text "College Level Examination Program (CLEP)" in a bold, black, serif font. The word "Program" is flanked by two small black circles.

## Department of the Air Force Transfer of Entitlement Test Program (MGIB-AD only):

Allowed eligible participants to transfer up to 18 months of MGIB-AD entitlement to spouse or children.

*This program is available to all branches; however, it is not currently being used by any branch.*

## National Call to Service (MGIB-AD only):

Recruitment tool for all branches effective October 2003. Expires in 2007.

New recruit serves 15 months of active duty, 2 years in the Selected Reserves, then the remainder of an 8 year enlistment in Selected Reserved, IRR, AMERICORP, etc..

# *Call To Active Duty*

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



# *Sections Under Title 10 Eligible for ROE*

Chapter 1606: Any call up under Title 10 after August 1, 1990.

Chapters 1607, 30, 32, and 35: After September 11, 2001, Title 10 Sections 688, 12301(a), 12301(d), 12301(g), 12302, and 12304.

# *Chapter 35 Activation*

Chapter 35 DEA beneficiaries who are involuntarily activated under Title 32 Section 502 (f) are eligible to receive an extension to their delimiting date equal to time served plus 4 additional months.

# *Activation and MGIB Active Duty Benefits*

Guard/Reservists who were activated under **Federal Authority** and have served at least 24 months of continuous active duty, may qualify for MGIB chapter 30 active duty benefits.

The claimant should:

- Pay \$1200 to DOD/DHS.
- Complete DD Form 2366.
- Be encouraged to pay the \$600 buy up.

# *MGIB Website*

## *www.gibill.va.gov*

[Education Home Page](#)

[Ask a Question and Answers](#)

[Education Benefit Programs](#)

[WAVE](#)

[Payment Rates](#)

[Education Forms](#)

[Electronic Application Form](#)

[Education News](#)

[Foreign Training](#)

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

# *Montgomery GI Bill Web Site Search Tools*

## Ask a Question and Find Answers

- Available 24 hours / day.
- More secure than sending an e-mail.
- Log-on from anywhere.
- Receive a response / answer on an average of 3 – 4 business days.

# MGIBILL Website

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

Category: All Categories Search Text (optional): Search Search Tips

Search by: Phrases Sort by: Default Sort Powered by RightNow

102 Answers Found Page: 1 of 6 Go

Subject
1 Verify Enrollment
2 Can I contribute \$600 while on active duty and receive an increase in my MGIB-Ac
3 Months of Benefits Available
4 Scholarship or Grant
5 Check Amount - Low
6 How long does it take to get my check after I verify enrollment?
7 Reserve Unit called up, am I eligible for the Montgomery G.I. BILL - Active Duty
8 Can I receive benefits during the call-up period?
9 What if I am called up for less than 2 years under title 10.
10 Does the military collect \$1,200 from me if I am going to be eligible for MGIB-A

# *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.

**(716) -857-3196/3197** – from overseas.  
(International tolls will apply.)

# Questions?



03/21/2006