

# Intro to TATU (Tuition Assistance Top Up)



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

**Education Service**

**Washington, DC**

# Objective

This presentation will familiarize you with the provisions of the Tuition Assistance Top Up program for MGIB Chapter 30 participants.

# Who's eligible?

Chapter 30 active duty claimants:

- Eligible to receive MGIB benefits.
- Being paid tuition assistance by DOD.
- For courses beginning after 10-30-00.

***(There is no top up provision for Chapter 1606 Guard/Reserve or Chapter 32 VEAP participants.)***

# How To Apply For TATU

You must first apply for MGIB benefits with VA Form 1990 and establish eligibility.

TATU benefits will only be paid to eligible Chapter 30 individuals.

You should submit a copy of the DOD TA form directly to VA.

# What's needed on the TATU form?

- Claimant's name.
- Names and codes of courses.
- Total cost of courses.
- Government's cost.
- Student's cost.
- ESO signature.
- DOD control number.

# Cost of Courses

- Unfortunately, the Navy, USMC, and Coast Guard don't provide the total cost. Manual calculation is required.
- If DOD pays 100% TA for the course, VA will not pay benefits for the course. Likewise, if DOD pays 0%, VA will not pay benefits for the course.

# TATU Tips

- TATU is paid by the VA RPO having jurisdiction over the school.
- VA award letters will show what's been paid.
- Programs don't have to be approved for VA benefits. If DOD pays for the course, VA can pay the Top Up benefit.

# TATU Tips

- One month of MGIB entitlement will be deducted when the TATU amount paid equals the claimant's Chapter 30 monthly rate.
- The one year retro rule can be extended to pay from the beginning of a term if needed.



# TATU Tips

- Legislation provides for individuals to use TATU benefits for a total of 36 months. The TATU entitlement is reduced by 1 month for every month of TATU training, regardless of training time.

*(Example: A student training for 3 months at ½ time will be charged 3 months of TATU entitlement.)*

# TATU Tips

- Air Force Spousal TA isn't a government program and doesn't qualify for TATU.
- If a student withdraws, Top Up benefits must be repaid if DOD determines TA must be repaid.
- TATU is only paid for University, College or Votech schools and programs.