



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
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NGB-ARM-EI

15 August 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Army National Guard (ARNG) Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) Chapter 1606 Program (NGB-ARM Policy Number 07-10)

1. References.

- a. Title 10, United States Code (USC), Chapter 1606, Section 16131 - 16137.
- b. Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 1322.17, Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR), 29 November 1999.
- c. Army Regulation (AR) 135-7, Incentives Programs, 15 April 1996.
- d. Memorandum, NGB-ARM, 10 August 2007, subject: Army National Guard (ARNG) Selected Reserve Incentive Program (SRIP) Guidance for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007, 10 August 2007 – 31 March 2008 (Policy Number 07-06).
- e. Memorandum, NGB –ARM-EI, 15 May 2007, subject: Army National Guard (ARNG) Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) (NGB-ARM Policy #07-15).

2. Purpose. This memorandum prescribes the policy and procedures to administer the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) program.

3. Implementation. This policy supersedes NGB-ARM policy, Army National Guard (ARNG) Reserve GI Bill Policy, also known as Selected Reserve Montgomery G.I. Bill (MGIB-SR) dated 21 October 2005, is effective immediately, and remains in effect until rescinded or superseded.

4. Overview. MGIB-SR program is an educational assistance entitlement provided for the Reserve Components (RC). This entitlement encourages the enlistment and retention of quality applicants/Soldiers into the ARNG. Applicants/Soldiers must meet the basic eligibility criteria to receive this entitlement. Establishment of MGIB-SR eligibility can only be granted by the RC once in each Soldier's military career. If the Soldier's entitlement period expires or another RC terminates entitlement, the ARNG will not issue a subsequent notification of basic eligibility (NOBE) document re-establishing eligibility for benefits.

5. Eligibility Criteria.

- a. Soldier who enlisted, reenlisted or extended an enlistment on or after 1 July 1985 for a period not less than 6 years or is appointed, or currently serving, as a reserve officer or warrant

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officer and agrees to serve in the Selected Reserve (SR) for a period not less than 6 years besides any period of obligated service in the SR to which the officer may be subject.

b. Soldier must have a high school diploma or an equivalency certificate.

c. Soldier must complete the IADT period required by their military component. Enlisted personnel have a requirement to complete Basic Training (BT) and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) or equivalent. Officers that have not completed IADT must complete Officer Basic Course (OBC).

6. Period of Eligibility.

a. Soldiers who's Eligibility Start Date is after 30 September 1992 retains eligibility for MGIB-SR benefits for 14 years or as long as the Soldier remains in an active participating status in the SR (i.e. ARNG, USAR, ANG, USMCR, etc.), whichever is shorter. For eligibility beginning on 1 July 1985 to 30 September 1992, the period of eligibility is 10 years or as long as the Soldier remains in an active participating status in the SR whichever is shorter.

b. Soldiers mobilized on Federal active duty orders will have their eligibility extended for the period of the mobilization plus four months as long as they have remaining entitlement, have not reached their benefit eligibility delimiting date and remain a satisfactory participant in the ARNG. Soldiers must notify the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) -Regional Processing Office (RPO) to have their eligibility period extended by sending a copy of their DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) for the mobilization period.

c. Exceptions.

(1) A Soldier separated because of a disability that was not the result of the Soldier's willful misconduct and was incurred on or after the date the Soldier became entitled to the MGIB-SR, will retain entitlement through his or her original eligibility period.

(2) A Soldier that is involuntarily separated between 1 Oct 1991 and 31 Dec 2001 will retain eligibility for the MGIB-SR for the remainder of their original eligibility period.

(3) In cases where the Soldier's current semester ends after their Expiration Term of Service (ETS), the Soldier may retain eligibility for the MGIB-SR until the end of that semester. The DVA will make that determination.

(4) Soldiers that were mobilized, completed their 6-year obligation, remain eligible for MGIB-SR benefits, and separate with "Honorable" service will have their MGIB-SR benefits extended beyond their separation date for the length of time they were mobilized plus 4 months for each mobilization period.

7. Eligibility Start Date.

a. Non-Prior Service (NPS) and Glossary Non-Prior Service (GNPS) Soldiers are eligible the day after Initial Active Duty for Training (IADT) completion. This date is the course completion

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date verified with Army Training Requirements Reporting System (ATRRS) data and not necessarily the date shown on the DD Form 214.

b. NPS and GNPS Soldiers that enlist in Civilian Acquired Skills Program (CASP) Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) must complete BT. They are eligible for the MGIB-SR on the effective date of being awarded to CASP MOS.

c. Prior Service (PS) Soldiers without MGIB-SR eligibility that meet the IADT and High School equivalency criteria are eligible the day they sign their initial 6-year contract with the ARNG.

d. Officer Candidate School (OCS) enlistment option applicants with a 6-year contract are eligible the day after they complete OBC. Once commissioned, applicants must sign an Officer Service Agreement (OSA) DA Form 5447-R for the remainder of their enlistment contract.

e. Officers without established eligibility for MGIB-SR prior to commissioning are eligible the day they complete the OSA for a 6-year obligation, and IADT or OBC.

f. Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC)/Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) applicants are eligible as follows:

(1) NPS Soldiers with a 6-year contract who meet the high school or equivalent education requirement, establish eligibility on the day after IADT or OBC completion.

(2) PS Soldiers who have completed IADT and high school or the equivalent education requirement as an enlisted Soldier and who have not previously established MGIB-SR eligibility, become eligible on the date of their 6-year extension.

(3) Once commissioned, ROTC/SMP applicants must sign an OSA for the remainder of their initial 6-year obligation. Soldiers that have completed the initial 6-year obligation are not required to sign an OSA.

8. Status change. It is the responsibility of the State GI Bill Manager to manage status changes and to enter prompt and accurate status change codes into Information, Management, & Reporting Center (iMARC) in order to meet statutory requirements.

a. Ineligibility Codes.

(1) AA – Soldier does not meet the 6-year obligation criteria.

(2) AB – Soldier does not meet the IADT criteria.

(3) AC – Soldier does not meet the education criteria. iMARC will automatically award an “AC” code for Soldiers coded in SIDPERS and iMARC as not having a high school or equivalent education.

(4) AD – Soldier erroneously reported as eligible.

b. Eligibility Codes.

(1) BA – Soldier meets all eligibility criteria and is serving initial eligibility period. iMARC will automatically award a “BA” code when ATRRS downloads the Soldier’s IADT date in iMARC.

(2) BB – Soldier is serving a subsequent eligibility period (Soldier reinstated after being suspended).

(3) BE – Soldier retains eligibility after separation for medical reasons – not willful misconduct.

c. Suspension Codes. Soldiers are authorized a one-time break in service during their military career. Suspensions authorized are as follows:

(1) CB - Soldier authorized non-availability period, not missionary (12 month limit).

(2) CC - Soldier authorized non-availability period, missionary (36 month limit).

(3) CD – Soldier awaits determination of unsatisfactory participation status.

(4) CF – Soldier enters the Active Guard and Reserve (AGR) program. “CF” suspensions do not count for the one time suspension rule.

(5) CG – Soldier receives a ROTC Scholarship under Section 2107 of 10 USC (not suspended if receiving Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) scholarship). “CG” suspensions do not count for the one time suspension rule.

d. Reinstatement. State GI Bill Managers are responsible for ensuring the suspended Soldier is coded properly in iMARC once the Soldier re-affiliates within the authorized non-availability period (36 months for missionary and 12 months for non-missionary). Reinstatements authorized are as follows:

(1) Soldiers that have not completed their original 6-year obligation, due to entering Inactive National Guard (ING) status that return to active participant status must extend for the period they were in ING status to equal their 6-year obligation if they wish to regain MGIB-SR eligibility. Benefits are suspended during the duration of ING status.

(2) Soldiers that have not completed their original 6-year obligation, due to entering AGR status must extend for the period they were AGR to equal their 6-year obligation if they wish to regain MGIB-SR eligibility.

(3) Potential unsatisfactory participants may regain MGIB-SR eligibility if and when they are determined a satisfactory participant through the appeal process or command decision.

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(4) Suspended Soldiers that re-affiliate within the authorized period and have completed their 6-year contractual obligation are not required to extend their current enlistment to regain benefits.

e. Termination. Terminated Soldiers are no longer eligible to receive benefits and cannot be reinstated by any component. Termination codes:

(1) DA – Soldier failed to re-affiliate within the required time after suspension of the authorized non-availability period (36 months for missionary and 12 months for non-missionary). If Soldiers have completed their 6-year contract no recoupment action is necessary. However, if Soldiers did not execute full 6-year contract, there will be pro-rated recoupment upon termination.

(2) DB – Soldier discharged without authorized period of non-availability. Code used for Soldiers that have a status change after delimiting date or are about to be suspended for a second time. Recoupment may be authorized. The delimiting date is the end of a 10 or 14 year eligibility period.

(3) DC – Soldier is deceased. Terminate deceased Soldiers without recoupment.

(4) DD – Soldier determined to be an unsatisfactory participant after the appeal process. If Soldiers have completed their 6-year contract no recoupment action is necessary. However, if Soldiers did not execute full 6-year contract, there will be pro-rated recoupment upon termination.

(5) DE – Soldier failed to complete 6-year obligation. Terminate suspended Soldiers that re-affiliate but have not completed their 6-year obligation and “fail to reenlist or extend” for a period equal to or greater than the period of absence. Soldiers will be terminated with pro-rated recoupment.

9. Recoupment/Overpayment.

a. Recoupment. Soldiers who receive MGIB-SR payments and lose entitlement status due to unsatisfactory participation or non-completion of 6-year military service obligation may be required to refund part of the education assistance received plus accrued interest. The recoupment will be in accordance with the formula prescribed in instructions published by the DoD and DVA.

b. Overpayment. A Soldier received MGIB-SR payments when the Soldier was not authorized to receive MGIB-SR benefits. For example, a Soldier received MGIB-SR benefits from another RC, left that RC and joined ARNG without re-affiliating within the required period of time and continued to receive payments. DVA is the agency responsible for collecting overpayments from the Soldier.

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10. Duplication of Federal benefits: State GI Bill Managers are responsible to ensure applicants are not receiving duplication of federal funds. The following are examples of different benefits that can be used simultaneously:

a. State-funded programs have no relevance on GI Bill Programs and should not be a factor in determining federal funding, pending any State laws or directives. Soldiers may simultaneously use State-funded programs and federal benefits, unless respective State law directs otherwise.

b. Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) is an education incentive, which has no relevance on receiving funds from the ARNG GI Bill Kicker or other GI Bill Programs. Soldiers are eligible to receive this incentive, providing they meet the criteria in the current fiscal year as per 1d above.

c. Traditional ARNG Soldiers (non-AGR) may combine programs if they qualify. Below are some examples:

(1) GRFD ROTC Scholarship and ARNG GI Bill Kicker and the MGIB-SR; or

(2) ARNG FTA and ARNG GI Bill Kicker and MGIB-SR, providing the Soldier is attending school half-time or more; or

(3) MGIB-SR and ARNG GI Bill Kicker.

d. Mobilized ARNG Soldiers may combine programs above if and when applicable.

11. Benefit overview.

a. Soldiers have up to 36 months of full-time benefits in a full-time student status (72 months if attending half-time, etc.) in any one DVA Educational Assistance Program. Soldiers can combine programs such as MGIB-SR, REAP, MGIB-AD, etc., up to a total of 48-months of full-time benefits.

b. DVA Education Website at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>.

c. DVA Education Hotline at 1-888-GI BILL-1 (888-442-4551).

d. Defense Manpower Data Center. (DMDC) Education Benefits website for MGIB Online is <https://dmdc.osd.mil/>. To gain access, State GI Bill Managers send an email with a completed Systems Authorization Access Request, DD Form 2875, located in the Forms Section of iMARC's information center, Mr. Johnnie King, johnnie.king@us.army.mil.

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12. Point of contact for this policy is MAJ Troy M. Gipps, ARNG GI Bill Programs Manager at (501) 212-4962 or troy.gipps@us.army.mil. Point of contact for in-processing and facilitating eligibility/status changes is the respective State GI Bill Manager; contact information can be found at www.virtualarmory.com, click on education then ARNG Points of Contacts.



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