



Post 911 GI Bill Process

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I have heard a lot of information rolling around, so thought I would share my experience with acquiring the GI BILL Benefit and transferring it to my kids for use during college this fall.

Many prior and current active duty personnel qualify for POST 911 GI Bill benefits for themselves. HOWEVER, only active duty or retired on or after 1 AUG 2009, qualify for transferring benefits to dependents. There are 5 temporary exceptions for service members nearing or with retirement orders in hand.

Here are the general steps involved (I would use a CAC enabled computer for easy access):

1. See if you qualify for benefits. You have to complete a VA FORM 22-1990. You can do this on line at www.gibill.va.gov. About 6 weeks later, you will get a letter with a “certificate of eligibility” and how many months of benefits you qualify for; the maximum is 36 months (or 4 nine month academic years).
2. Apply to transfer the benefits to dependents on www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB. The website will indicate at the top of the page that you have “submitted” transfer request and you have to keep going back to this page for 3-4 weeks until the service specific officer (usually someone at Personnel at Headquarters) checks off your DEERS etc, and the “submitted” changes to “approved” status.
3. Then, go back to the VA site and submit the VA FORM 22-1990e on behalf of your dependents who may take advantage of the benefits. They have to sign the form, if you send in a hard copy, but it can also be done on line. This is the duplicative step, where the student has to “request” the

benefits after you have “requested to give” the benefits to the student.....

4. Supposedly, the VA Education Officer at your regional VA site will be able to “instantly” marry up the Transfer approval with the other documents and a mere 6 weeks later, issue a “certificate of eligibility” to your dependents.
5. Then, go to the VA Officer at the school where you plan on using the benefits (if you don’t know because your child is still too young, hold onto the paperwork at this stage) with a copy of the dependent’s Certificate of Eligibility and student completes an “Enrollment Information Form” and that gets sent in together to VA. Some of the benefits are paid directly to the school and some of the benefits are paid to the service member on behalf of the student.

There are special circumstances such as the “Yellow Ribbon” program, or situations where spouses get even more coverage than dependent children. In addition to the VA website, the http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/2009/0409_gibill/ site has a lot of links and more “layperson” instructions.

You can request that all 36 months be used on one dependent, or one month on all 36 dependents. Tom Philpott (the weekly writer of military updates) has had a few articles on the subject as well (see week of June 27, 2009).

I started this process in June 2009, and am currently at the place where we are awaiting the final “certificate of eligibility” for my son who will be a freshman at the University of Oregon (out of state tuition) this fall. You’ll hear a hoot if this all works!

Uniformed Services Educational Meetings at NCE

Sunday, October 18, 2009

9:30 – 10:15 AM

Section on Uniformed Services Selected Short Subject

Addressing the Mental Health Needs of your Patients

2-3:30 PM

Section on Uniformed Services Seminar

Grief and the Primary Care Pediatrician