



## Sailors' Online Records Key for Post-9/11 GI Bill Transfer

With the gate opening Aug. 1 for eligible Sailors to transfer their GI Bill benefits to spouses or children, the Navy has processed about 7,500 applications with priority given to family members attending college this fall.

Transferability requires an additional service obligation unless the Sailor is leaving due to a normal retirement or high year tenure limits, Wardlaw said, citing NAVADMIN 203/09.

Otherwise, Sailors generally must have served at least six years in the Armed Forces and agree to an additional four years. See the NAVADMIN for exceptions. Those who retired on or before Aug. 1 of this year are not eligible for the transfer benefit.

Before submitting their transferability requests, their obligation requirement must reflect in their electronic service record (ESR), or the request will be rejected until corrected. Sailors can review their ESR at <https://nsips.nmci.navy.mil/>.

Qualified active and Reserve Sailors may elect to transfer benefits to a spouse or children, with some or all benefits allocated to those named. In addition to the ESR, the Defense Eligibility Enrollment System (DEERS) is used to validate a Sailor's eligibility to transfer.

Family members must be in DEERS and eligible for benefits in DEERS before a Sailor can request transferability. This means those dual-military members whose children are reflecting under only one sponsor's record, must reflect under both sponsors. For example, to establish a child as a family member under both military parents, the children be enrolled in DEERS under one parent for benefits and under the other parent as a child drawing benefits from another military sponsor.

The months transferred to each person or the dates of use can be changed later. More importantly, a Sailor cannot add a new dependent after separation or retirement from the Service. Distributing the benefit among the children enables the Sailor to move the months of entitlement between children after separation.

The percentage of benefit is based on time on active duty after September 10, 2001. Sailors are advised to pay close attention to the program rules and instructions as they fill out the online forms. Sailors can request eligibility determinations for the Post 9/11 GI Bill at the Department of Veterans Affairs Web site, <https://vabenefits.vba.va.gov/vonapp/main.asp> and sign up for transferability of benefits at [www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB/](http://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB/). Visit the NPC Web site for all rules.

