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Post-9/11 GI Bill Update

"The original GI Bill paved the way to a better life for millions of veterans and their families. Today, the Post-9/11 GI Bill is affording a new generation of heroes a 21st-century version of that same opportunity."

– President Barack Obama

The Post-9/11 GI Bill offers Sailors and their families an additional option to pay for higher education. [The Post-9/11 GI Bill](#) is the most comprehensive education benefit package to date, offering payment of tuition, book costs, university fees and a monetary stipend for up to 36 months. Nearly 170,000 Sailors, active and reserve, may be eligible to transfer Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to family members.

Transfer of Post-9/11 GI Bill Benefits

As an additional benefit for continued service, the Post-9/11 GI Bill allows certain service members to transfer education benefits to dependents.

- To [transfer benefits](#), a Sailor must have enrolled their spouse and children in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System ([DEERS](#)), have served in the armed forces for six years, and be on active duty or Selected Reserve at the time of the application.
- In general, Sailors must commit to serve an additional four years in order to transfer Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to their spouse, their children or both.
- To utilize benefits, the spouse or child must complete the electronic or print version of VA form 22-1990e, which is available on the Department of Veterans Affairs website, and provide a copy of the approved transferability request (Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB) screen shot) to the academic institution's VA Certifying Official for enrollment certification. The form, instructions and [additional information](#) are located at the [VA website](#).

Temporary Exceptions Expire Dec. 31

Certain exceptions to the Post-9/11 GI Bill Transfer requirements were granted through [NAVADMIN 203/09](#), allowing short-term extensions or out-of-cycle re-enlistments, for members who required them, to become eligible for GI Bill transferability.

- Sailors who required short-term extensions or out-of-cycle reenlistments to establish eligibility to transfer benefits must take advantage of the opportunity no later than Dec. 31 to maximize use of the benefit. Not applying by the deadline may delay the opportunity for family members to take advantage of the program.
- Additional information is available at the [Navy Personnel Command website](#) or by phone. Active duty and Full-Time Support (FTS) Sailors may call (703) 614-9629 or 866-827-5672 and Reservists may call 800-621-8853.

Keys for Success

- Ensure additional service obligations (including page 13 for officers) are reflected in the Electronic Service Record before applying for transfer benefits.
- Utilize Command Career Counselors during the application process to avoid delays or rejections.
- Transfer benefits before retiring or separating from the service. New designations cannot be made and benefits cannot be transferred after leaving the service. However, certain changes between designated family members can be made, such as changing the months of benefits.

Key Messages

- Exceptions allowing short-term extensions and out-of-cycle re-enlistments to satisfy service obligations expire Dec. 31, 2009.
- Speaking with command career counselors before applying to transfer benefits may avoid application delays or rejections.

Facts & Figures

- More than 17,000 Sailors have applied to transfer Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.
- To transfer benefits to family members, applicants must have served six years in the armed forces and in most cases must commit to an additional four years of service.