



**DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-RANDOLPH, TEXAS**

Post-9/11 GI Bill Frequently Asked Questions

Question 1: What does the Post-9/11 GI Bill provide?

Answer: Post-9/11 GI Bill offers increased education benefits to veterans who served on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Benefits are based on aggregate, honorable service and include college tuition, a monthly housing stipend and an annual books/supplies stipend. Active duty and distance learning students may receive a pro-rated benefit. Eligible active-duty service members and Selected Reserve may choose to transfer benefits to DEERS-registered dependents, but stipulations apply and require eligibility determination by Service component.

Question 2: Who is eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill?

Answer: Everyone with at least 90 aggregate, active duty days of honorable service on or after Sept. 11, 2001, is eligible for benefits under the new GI Bill. For full benefits, a member must have served at least an aggregate of 36 months' active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Reserve and National Guard members with three years of aggregate, active-duty service on or after Sept. 11, 2001, can also qualify for full GI Bill benefits. Eligibility stipulations and benefit details are available at [http:// www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov).

Question 3: When and how can service members and veterans apply for the Post-9/11 GI Bill?

Answer: The Department of Veterans Affairs began accepting applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill on May 1, 2009, on the [DVA Web site](#) or by mail. You should check the GI Bill website regularly to get the most up-to-date information about the program. You can sign up to receive an email alert by following the instructions at [http:// www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov). NOTE: Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits are only payable for training pursued on or after Aug. 1, 2009; no payments can be made under this program for training pursued before that date.

Question 4: Who is eligible for the transfer-to-dependent option?

Answer: The Post-9/11 GI Bill's transfer-to-dependent option is designed to help improve military recruiting and retention and is only available to eligible active duty and Selected Reservists serving on or after Aug. 1, 2009. Eligibility requirements include service members who meet all Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility requirements, have completed six years of service, commit to serving an additional four years and have registered their dependents in DEERS. Selected Reservists must meet the same requirement as regular AF members, but should contact their Service component for exact eligibility requirements.

Question 5: What is the definition of Selected Reserve?

Answer: The Selected Reserve consist of units and individuals within the Ready Reserve designated by their respective Services and approved by the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff as so essential to initial wartime missions that they have priority over all other Reserves. The Selected Reserve consists of additional sub-subcategories:

- **Drilling Reservists in Units** - trained unit members who participate in unit training activities on a part-time basis
- **Training Pipeline Personnel** - enlisted members of the Selected Reserve who have not yet completed initial active duty for training and officers who are in training for professional categories or in undergraduate flying training
- **Individual Mobilization Augmentees** - trained individuals assigned to an active component, Selective Service System, or Federal Emergency Management Agency organization's billet which must be filled on or shortly after mobilization. IMAs participate in training activities on a part-time basis with an active component unit in preparation for recall in amobilization

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- **Active Guard/Reserve** - National Guard or Reserve members of the Selected Reserve who are ordered to active duty or full-time National Guard duty for the purpose of organizing, administering, recruiting, instructing or training the reserve component units
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Question 6: How and when do I apply for the transfer option?

Answer: To transfer Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to dependents, eligible active duty and Selected Reserve service members can apply beginning Aug. 1, 2009, through the **Transfer Education Benefits (TEB) website**. The transfer-to-dependents option is designed to improve military recruiting efforts and retention rates with current Regular AF and Selected Reserve members. You should check the DVA website regularly to get the most up-to-date information about the program at <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.

Question 7: If I am approved for the transferability option of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, who can I transfer my benefits to?

Answer: If your branch of service approves you for the transferability option, you can transfer your Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to your spouse and/or one or more of your unmarried children who are under the age of 23. After the entitlement has been transferred to the spouse or child meeting the above requirements, a later divorce from the spouse or marriage of the child should not affect the spouse's or child's eligibility; however, the transferor retains the right to revoke or modify the transfer at any time. Children may use transferred benefits up until the age of 26.

Question 8: How long can I use the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits transferred to me?

Answer: If you are a spouse, you can begin using the transferred benefits after the transferor completes six years of service. If you are a child and you are at least 18 years of age (or you have completed your secondary school requirements), you can begin using the transferred benefits after the transferor completes 10 years of service. You remain eligible to use the transferred entitlement until the earliest of the following dates:

For a spouse:

The transferor's ending date of eligibility (15 years from the transferor's last discharge from service); or

The ending date specified by the transferor (if one was specified); or

The effective date the transferor revokes the transferred entitlement; or

If the transferor dies while on active duty, 15 years after the transferor's date of death

For a child:

Your 26th birthday; or

The ending date specified by the transferor (if one was specified); or

The effective date the transferor revokes the transferred entitlement

NOTE: The transferor retains the right to revoke or modify the transfer at any time

Question 9: How will AFPC determine eligibility and whom do I call with questions about AFPC's decision?

Answer: AFPC will receive a notice through the TEB website, and will begin processing eligibility verification as soon as received using MILPDS, DEERS, ARMS and VA info - to include confirmation of time in service, retainability, dependents in DEERS and processing the Active Duty Service Commitment. The decision will be transmitted back through the TEB website for the member to see. For questions, Regular AF members can call the Total Force Service Center at 1-800- 525-0102. Reserve and Guard members should contact their Service component.

Question 10: Once I apply for the transfer, when will I know if I have been approved? How long will this take?

Answer: Members will receive notification of approval/disapproval through myPers (my account). The process begins as soon as AFPC receives a notice of application through the milconnect website. AFPC staff members verify eligibility requirements using MILPDS, DEERS, ARMS and VA info - to include confirmation of time in service, retainability, and dependent information and processing ADSC. Eligibility confirmation will be transmitted back through the milconnect website and members will receive notification via myPers. The application process takes 30 days.

Question 11: Can my benefits be divided and transferred to more than one of my family members?

Answer: Yes. The sponsor who applies for the transfer-to-dependent option chooses what family members to transfer benefits to, and what percentage of those benefits go to each family member. Sponsor should assign at least one month to each eligible dependent prior to separation/retirement from service. Dependents with no months allocated prior to separation/retirement from service become **permanently** ineligible for the transferred benefit.

Question 12: What about service members who are now deceased--are their dependents eligible for the transfer option? How do they apply?

Answer: The Post-9/11 GI Bill's transfer-to-dependent option is designed to help improve military recruiting efforts and retention rates and is only available to eligible active duty and Selected Reservists serving beginning Aug. 1, 2009. For service members who pass away after Aug. 1, 2009, previously applied and were approved to transfer benefits to their dependents, the family members will receive those benefits. However, if a service member did not initiate a transfer of benefits prior to their death, dependents are ineligible.

Question 13: What about Airmen who have UIFs, non-retainability or cannot re-enlist? Can they apply for the transfer option?

Answer: Eligibility requirements include, but are not limited to: service members who meet all Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility requirements including honorable service/discharge, have completed six years of service, are willing to serve an additional four years and have registered their dependents in DEERS. Members with a UIF can apply; however, individuals who are unable to meet four years of retainability are ineligible to transfer benefits to their dependents. Individuals receiving a less than honorable discharge, even if previously eligible/approved for the transfer- to-dependent option, will lose the transferred benefit and become ineligible for future use of the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Question 14: What about Guard and Reserves? Are they eligible for the transfer option?

Answer: Yes, Selected Reservists who meet eligibility requirements are eligible to transfer benefits to their dependents. For specific eligibility requirements, please contact your Service component.

Question 15: Are Wounded Warriors eligible for the transfer-to-dependent option?

Answer: Yes, Wounded Warriors are eligible to transfer benefits to dependents as long as they meet the eligibility requirements for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, served at least six years' active duty as of Aug. 1, 2009, and can commit to serving an additional four years. If Wounded Warriors are unable to complete the additional four years due to a medical condition, the DVA may still allow/honor the transferred benefit if the member had an approved application prior to medical separation/ retirement. Airmen who were eligible and initiated a transfer of GI Bill benefits to dependents who are subsequently involuntarily separated for a reason out of their control (i.e. medical issues/death, disability, RIF, Force Shaping, or hardship) prior to completing the service commitment, will have the service commitment considered complete and the DVA will honor the transfer (members must have corresponding separation code on their DD Form 214).

Question 16: I separated two years ago from active duty, but served more than six years since 9/11 and have stayed in the Reserves, working on and off again on active duty orders. Am I eligible for the transfer option?

Answer: Requirements for GI Bill eligibility and the transfer-to-dependent option should be for Selected Reservists as it is for Regular AF members. Service members in the Guard or Reserves must contact their Service component for information on eligibility requirements.

Question 17: How does the Post-9/11 GI Bill differ from the Montgomery GI Bill?

Answer: For many eligible participants, the Post-9/11 GI Bill is a better alternative than other education benefit programs, such as the Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty, Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve and the Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP). However, deciding which GI Bill to use depends on several factors, including the type of education or training you plan to take and the amount of benefits received under each program. Factors to consider when choosing between the two GI Bills include:

- In some locations the costs of college and housing (which you would receive payment for under the Post-9/11 GI Bill) are less than the payment you would receive under the Montgomery GI Bill

- In some states, veterans do not have to pay tuition at selected state colleges. The Post-9/11 GI Bill may then pay only the housing benefit and the book stipend. (Since you have no tuition costs, the Post-9/11 GI Bill will not pay the college any tuition.) Your payments under other GI Bill programs such as the Active Duty GI Bill may be higher in these cases
- If you participated in the \$600 buy-up under the Montgomery GI Bill or REAP you will not receive that additional benefit under the Post-9/11 GI Bill

For detailed information on program comparisons, or to see case studies showing the difference between the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the Montgomery GI Bill (Active Duty and Reserves) or REAP, visit the DVA's [GI Bill Comparison site](#).

Question 18: What if I am currently getting the Montgomery GI Bill? Can I convert to the Post-9/11 GI Bill?

Answer: An individual who has met the requirements for establishing eligibility under the Post-9/11 GI Bill as of Aug. 1, 2009, may make an irrevocable election to convert from the MGIB to the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Individuals converting to the Post-9/11 GI Bill are limited to the amount of remaining months of their MGIB entitlement unless they have a separate period of Title 10 Federal activation under the Guard/Reserves that would qualify them for additional benefits. If all MGIB benefits have been used (36 months), eligible members can still transfer to the Post-9/11 GI Bill and receive an additional 12 months of benefits (48 months total combined between two GI Bills allowed under law). Please contact the DVA for additional information.

Question 19: Can I use the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits while on active duty?

Answer: Yes, but active-duty members should explore tuition assistance options first, as the GI Bill benefit is reduced when used in conjunction with TA (Top Up). The benefit is greatest when used as a veteran.

Question 20: I want to transfer my GI Bill benefits to my dependents. What do I do first?

Answer: Visit the milconnect website via vMPF and submit your application to transfer benefits. Applying to transfer benefits also initiates the election to convert to the Post-9/11 GI Bill (the member does not need to initiate two separate actions). Applying to transfer benefits can only be made while an individual is serving on active duty or in the Selected Reserves. Members must not continue to use MGIB benefits once a transfer is successfully executed.

Question 21: How many months of benefits can one sponsor transfer?

Answer: Individuals may transfer any unused benefits, but no more than 36 months.

Question 22: My spouse and I are dual-military and only have one dependent. Can we both transfer our benefits to the same dependent?

Answer: Yes, but each sponsor may only transfer any unused benefits (up to 36 months each).

Question 23: What happens if a sponsor fails to complete the four-year commitment?

Answer: Generally, the benefit is lost. There are some circumstances, i.e. RIF, Force Shaping, disability and/or medical separations, under which the service commitment will be considered complete.

Question 24: Are there any situations where the veteran, spouse or child (ren) are liable to repay money to the DVA?

Answer: Yes. The student and sponsor are jointly liable to repay all or a portion of benefits provided by the DVA if the sponsor fails to complete the four-year commitment (exceptions exist in the event of death, separation for disability, hardship or medical condition); if a course load changes (i.e. full time to part time); if the student drops out of school; or in other situations where money is received and the individual is not attending school.

Question 25: Will there be more guidance for the new GI Bill? What other sources are available on Post-9/11 GI Bill information?

Answer: Updated guidance is released as it becomes available. Official guidance on the GI Bill program can be found on the DVA website (www.gibill.va.gov). For official guidance on the transfer-to-dependent option for Regular AF members, please contact the Total Force Service Center at 1-800-525-0102. Source for Selected Reserves is the respective Service component (AF Reserve Command or the National Guard Bureau).