



NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

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NGB-EDU-10-004

22 December 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR the ARNG Education and Incentives Personnel of all States, Puerto Rico, The Virgin Islands, Guam and the District of Columbia.

SUBJECT: Army National Guard (ARNG) Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) - (Chapter 1607 of Title 10 United States Code) Guidance

1. References:

- a. Title 10, United States Code (USC), Chapter 1607, Section 16161-16166, Educational Assistance Program.
- b. Title 10, United States Code (USC), Chapter 103, Section 2107, Financial Assistance Program for Specially Selected Members.
- c. Title 10, United States Code (USC), Chapter 103, Section 2107a, Financial Assistance Program for Specially Selected Members: Army Reserve and Army National Guard.
- d. Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization for Fiscal Year 2005 (NDAA 05), Title V, Section 527 of Subtitle C-Reserve Component Personnel Matters. (codified as title 10 USC Chapter 1607).
- e. National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (NDAA 08), Title V, Section 528 and Section 530, of Subtitle C-Reserve Component Personnel Matters. (codified as Title 10 USC Chapter 1607).
- f. Army Regulation (AR) 600-8-104, Military Personnel Information Management/Records, 22 June 2004.
- g. Memorandum, DAPE-MPA-CB, 23 February 2007, subject: Interim Procedures for Implementing the Program of Educational Assistance Authorized Under the Provisions of Chapter 1607, Title 10, and United States Code.
- h. Memorandum, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense – Reserve Affairs, 17 March 2009, Subject: Directive-Type Memorandum (DTM) 08-040 – Revised Program of Educational Assistance Authorized by Chapter 1607 of Title 10, United States Code.

2. Purpose. This memorandum prescribes the policy and procedures to administer the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP).

3. Implementation. This policy is effective immediately and remains in effect until rescinded or superseded.

4. Overview. REAP is an educational assistance program established by the NDAA FY05 on 28 October 2004 in recognition of Reserve Component (RC) Soldiers' sacrifices in answering the call to duty. Soldiers that served in support of a contingency operation on or after 11 September 2001 for 90 consecutive days or more may be eligible to receive the REAP benefit. The military services determine initial eligibility, notify the Soldier, and fund the program while the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) administers payments to the Soldier. A Soldier's previous use of other GI Bill programs may affect eligibility and the amount of total benefits available.

5. Eligibility.

a. An ARNG Soldier must meet the criteria listed below in order to become eligible for the benefit:

(1) Served on Active Duty for 90 consecutive days or more in support of a contingency operation since 11 September 2001 ("Contingency operations" as defined in Title 10 USC means "military operations that are designated by the Secretary of Defense as an operation in which members of the armed forces may become involved in military actions, operations, or hostilities against an enemy of the United States or against opposing military forces; or results in the call or order to, or retention on active duty of members of the uniformed services"), or

(2) Performed Full-time National Guard duty under Title 32, section 502f for 90 consecutive days or more when authorized by the President or Secretary of Defense for the purpose of responding to a national emergency declared by the President and supported by federal funds. Currently the only Title 32, section 502f period of duty that has been authorized for REAP eligibility is 11 September 2001 – 31 May 2002. The orders must state duty was in "Support of Noble Eagle".

b. Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) Soldiers may qualify for REAP if they possess orders which clearly indicate that they were mobilized

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or deployed with a unit activated to support a contingency operation for at least 90 days or were responding with their unit to a national emergency declared by the President. AGR personnel cannot establish eligibility solely because their unit was "alerted" for mobilization or by providing support to a mobilized unit.

6. Payment Rates.

a. Full Payment Rates. The educational assistance allowance payable under REAP is a percentage of the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (MGIB-AD) Chapter 30 three-year rate based on the number of continuous days served on a REAP-qualifying mobilization or cumulative mobilizations that total 3 years or more.

Length of Mobilization	Percentage of the MGIB-AD 3-year Rate
90 days but less than one year	40%
One year but less than two years	60%
Two continuous years or more	80%
Cumulative mobilizations of 3 or more years	80%

(1) The FY08 monthly MGIB-AD Chapter 30 three-year rate is \$1,101. Payment rates described above are a percentage of this amount. Future rate increases can be found at the DVA GI Bill website at www.gibill.va.gov.

(2) Soldiers separated during a mobilization with less than 90 days of mobilized service because of an injury, illness or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, which was not the result of the Soldier's own willful misconduct, will receive the 40% payment rate. Soldiers separated during a mobilization after 90 days or more because of an injury, illness or disease receive the applicable rate for the time served.

(3) Soldiers who received MGIB-SR Chapter 1606 payments after 11 September 2001 who are found to have been eligible for REAP for that time period, may apply to DVA and receive REAP benefits retroactively equal to the difference between the MGIB-SR rate and the REAP rate for each month of qualifying education or training. Soldiers must notify DVA in writing to request these adjusted payments.

(4) Soldiers can combine all qualifying post-September 11, 2001 mobilization periods in order to reach the 80% REAP payment rate for cumulative mobilizations of three or more years; however, the effective date for the payment of benefits at this rate is 28 January 2008, which is the date the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2008 was signed into law.

b. Reduced Payment Rates.

(1) Reduced rates apply for Apprenticeship/On-the-Job Training, correspondence, and flight training. Go to www.gibill.va.gov for current rates and additional information.

(2) ARNG Soldiers on active duty may receive lower monthly REAP payments if the tuition and fee cost of their course or program is less than the applicable full-time monthly REAP payment rate.

c. Months of Entitlement. Soldiers may receive a maximum of 36 months of full-time benefits under any one DVA educational assistance program. Soldiers eligible for two or more DVA educational assistance programs are eligible for a maximum of 48 months of benefits. DVA educational assistance programs include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) (Chapter 1607)
- (2) Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) (Chapter 1606)
- (3) Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty (MGIB-AD) (Chapter 30)
- (4) Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) (Chapter 32)

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(5) Vietnam Era GI Bill (Chapter 34)

(6) Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program (Chapter 35)

NOTE # 1: A complete list of DVA educational assistance programs can be found at www.gibill.va.gov.

NOTE # 2: A Soldier uses one month of entitlement each time he or she collects a monetary amount equivalent of their applicable full-time monthly REAP rate.

8. REAP Buy-Up Program:

a. Any Soldier in the Ready Reserve, which includes the Selected Reserve (SELRES), Inactive National Guard (ING), and Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), who is eligible for REAP may at any time contribute up to \$600 for the purpose of receiving an increased monthly payment rate.

b. ARNG Soldiers separating from the SELRES to serve the remainder of their Military Service Obligation (MSO) in the IRR are strongly encouraged to make their Buy-Up contribution **before** transferring to the IRR. Once an ARNG Soldier has transferred to the IRR, the Soldier must contact the U.S. Army Reserve to make their REAP Buy-Up contribution.

c. ARNG Soldiers that separated from the SELRES between 28 January 2008 and one year from the effective date of this policy and returned to a civilian status may contribute to the REAP Buy-Up Program by following the procedures described below in paragraph 8f.

d. At this time, the Reserve Component pay system does NOT allow Soldiers to make this contribution in the form of monthly allotments from military pay. Therefore, contributions must be made by Certified Check or Money Order (no personal checks will be accepted). The law allows contributions to be made in increments of \$20; however, interested Soldiers are **strongly encouraged** to make a single lump sum payment of \$600 in order to maximize benefit payments.

e. For every \$20 contributed the DVA will increase the Soldier's monthly REAP payment by \$5. A full \$600 contribution will increase a Soldier's monthly payment rate by \$150. Soldiers utilizing the full 36 months of REAP entitlement will receive a total of \$5,400 in Buy-Up payment increases for their \$600 contribution. Rate increases are based on full-time attendance. Payments for less than full-time attendance are pro-rated.

f. Contributions for the REAP Buy-Up Program will be collected by the ARNG GI Bill Support Team. Interested ARNG Soldiers must follow this procedure:

(1) Complete and sign the REAP Buy-Up enrollment form. This form must be completed each time a contribution is made (**Appendix A**).

(2) Mail the completed REAP Buy-Up enrollment form, a copy of the DD Form 214 from the most recent REAP qualifying mobilization, and a Certified Check or Money Order for not less than \$20 and not more than \$600 made payable to the "U.S. Department of Treasury" to the following address:

ARNG Education Support Center
Attn: REAP Buy-Up Program
Box 46
Camp Robinson
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72199

NOTE: If multiple payments are made, the DD Form 214 should only be included with the first payment.

(3) Upon receipt of the enrollment form and payment(s) the ARNG GI Bill Support Team will process the enrollment using an internal tracking database until a more permanent data solution is available. The Team will also input detailed notes concerning enrollment into the Remarks section of the Soldier's iMARC record.

(4) A DD Form 2366-1 will be generated by the ARNG GI Bill Support Team and will be clearly marked to reflect enrollment in the REAP Buy-Up program.

NOTE # 1: States are NOT authorized to create or issue DD Form 2366-1s for the REAP Buy-Up Program.

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NOTE # 2: The DD Form 2366-1 is designed for the Montgomery GI Bill-Active Duty, Chapter 30 Plus-Up program; however, it will be used for the REAP Buy-Up program until a new form is created for this purpose. The form will be clearly marked to indicate the contribution was paid into the REAP Buy-Up program.

(5) A DD Form 1131 Cash Collection Voucher will be generated to reflect the collection of a Soldier's monetary contribution into the REAP Buy-Up program. A copy of the DD Form 1131 will be sent to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) via certified U.S. mail along with the Soldier's payment.

(6) The ARNG GI Bill Support Team will send an electronic copy of the DD Form 2366-1 and DD Form 1131, as well as a photocopy of the Certified Check or Money Order, to the Soldier's AKO email account upon completion of the Buy-Up enrollment process. The Team will also upload these documents into the Soldier's Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) in iPERMS.

(7) It is the Soldier's responsibility to provide the DVA with a copy of the DD Form 2366-1(s), DD Form 1131(s), and a copy of their DD Form 214(s) for ALL REAP qualifying mobilization periods in order to request monthly REAP benefits as outlined in paragraph 16.

(8) Soldiers are eligible to receive their additional Buy-Up payments beginning the first enrollment period after the contribution was made.

9. Additional Benefits. The ARNG GI Bill Kicker is not an entitlement but an additional benefit to MGIB-SR, MGIB-AD, and REAP benefit programs. Applicants/Soldiers must apply and qualify for this additional benefit. The Kicker will be paid proportionate to the training time if the Soldier is enrolled in less than full-time status. Kickers are payable at the Service department's discretion. See current ARNG Kicker policy for complete program details.

10. Time Limitation/Portability.

a. Time Limitation. REAP-eligible Soldiers that have NOT completed a service contract must remain in an active drilling status in the Selected Reserve (SELRES) in order to retain eligibility for REAP.

(1) Soldiers that gained REAP eligibility and then separated from the ARNG because of a disability, which was not the result of their own willful misconduct, will maintain eligibility for REAP for 10 years from their date of initial eligibility.

(2) Soldiers separated from mobilization duty before completing 90 consecutive days because of an injury, illness, or disease incurred or aggravated in the line of duty will maintain eligibility for REAP for 10 years from the date of separation from the qualifying mobilization period.

b. Portability. REAP-eligible Soldiers that have completed a service contract under other than dishonorable conditions retain eligibility during the 10-year period beginning on the date they separate from the SELRES or until all months of benefit entitlement have been used, whichever comes first. The retention of benefit eligibility after separation from the SELRES is commonly referred to as "portability."

EXAMPLE: A Soldier signs a 6x2 enlistment contract and completes 6 years in the SELRES with a general discharge under honorable conditions. The Soldier is transferred to the IRR for the remaining 2 years of his/her service contract. The Soldier continues to be eligible for REAP for 10 years from the date of separation from SELRES.

(1) In order to establish the 10-year post-service eligibility period, Soldiers must to send a copy of their service contract (DD Form 4 or DA Form 4138) along with their NGB Form 22 showing their character of separation from the SELRES to the DVA Regional Processing Office that serves their area.

(2) The REAP 10-year portability provision contained in the NDAA of 2008 is retroactive to September 11, 2001, beginning from the date of separation from the Selected Reserve forward 10 years.

EXAMPLE: A REAP-eligible Soldier separates from the Selected Reserve on 31 December 2006 after completing a service contract under other than dishonorable conditions. The Soldier's 10-years of REAP portability begins on 31 December 2006 and ends on 30 December 2016.

11. Suspension of REAP Benefits. REAP benefits will be suspended for any REAP-eligible ARNG Soldier who incurs a break in service from the SELRES before completing a service contract as long as the Soldier remains in the Ready Reserve (IRR or ING) during the break in service.

12. Restoring REAP Benefits. ARNG Soldiers who gained eligibility for REAP and incurred a break in service from the SELRES and

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remained in the Ready Reserve (IRR or ING) during the break in service may regain REAP eligibility upon returning to SELRES status as long as the Soldier extends for the time spent in the IRR or ING.

13. Termination of REAP entitlements. Soldiers will have their REAP eligibility terminated if they:

- a. Fail to complete a contractual service obligation and are discharged from the Ready Reserve into a civilian status.
- b. Receive a dishonorable discharge from the Selected Reserve.
- c. Receive a Senior ROTC scholarship under Section 2107 of Title 10, U.S. Code (Dedicated Army National Guard Scholarship or Regular Army ROTC Scholarship) after becoming eligible for REAP benefits. Soldiers do not lose eligibility if they receive financial assistance under Section 2107a of Title 10, U.S. Code (Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Scholarship).
- d. Use 36 months of entitlement under REAP or 48 months of entitlement under any combination of DVA education programs.
- e. Reach the delimiting date of 10 years from the date of separation from the SELRES.

NOTE: REAP-eligible ARNG Soldiers are only eligible for the 10-year post-service eligibility period if they have completed a service contract under other than dishonorable conditions.

14. Bar from Dual Eligibility. Soldiers who qualify for REAP benefits may not receive credit for MGIB-AD for the same period. Soldiers who are mobilized for 24 consecutive months for a contingency operation and serve a minimum of 20 months and are released from active duty due to the "convenience of government" must make an irrevocable election to apply their mobilization period to either REAP or MGIB-AD. See current ARNG MGIB-AD policy for complete details.

15. Duplication of Benefits. State ARNG Education and Incentive staff members are responsible to ensure applicants are not receiving duplicate federal funds in contradiction of USC and NGB guidance.

- a. Soldiers cannot use REAP and other DVA educational assistance programs (as listed in paragraph 6c (1) – (6) above) for the same period.
- b. State funded programs can be used simultaneously with REAP unless prohibited by state law.
- c. The Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) is an education incentive and may be used simultaneously with REAP.
- d. Soldiers eligible for both REAP and the ARNG GI Bill Kicker incentive may receive both regardless of whether Kicker eligibility was established before or after establishing REAP eligibility. However, Soldiers can only contract for a Kicker if they are eligible for the MGIB-SR or MGIB-AD basic benefit. ARNG Kicker eligibility is suspended for AGR Soldiers.
- e. Soldiers in an Inactive Duty Training (IDT) status are eligible for REAP and ARNG Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) for the same course.
- f. AGR/Mobilized Soldiers are not eligible to receive payments for REAP and ARNG FTA for the same course.

16. Enrollment.

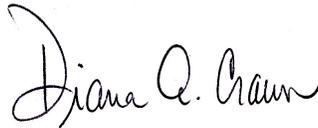
- a. ARNG Soldiers eligible for REAP must go to <https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil/benefits/> and print a copy of their Eligibility for Mobilized Soldier (EMS) notification letter. Soldiers are to file and maintain their EMS in their personal records.
- b. EMS notification letters will be maintained in the Soldier's Official Military Personnel File (OMPF). The State Education Services Officer or designee will retrieve the EMS from iMARC and forward it to the appropriate State Military Directorate to ensure the documents are entered into iPERMS. These documents will be added as unnumbered documents IAW procedures contained within AR 600-8-104, Tables 2-1 and 6-5 respectively.
- c. Soldiers will check with their State GI Bill Manager, their Veterans Certifying Official (VACO), or online at www.gibill.va.gov to ensure the education program in which they intend to enroll is approved by DVA. If Soldiers had not previously used a GI Bill program, they will complete a VA Form 22-1990 (Application for Benefits) and present it to the program's VACO or mail it directly to the DVA Regional Processing Office (RPO) that serves their area. RPO mailing addresses can be found on VA Form 22-1990. Soldiers already receiving VA education benefits under another program must submit a VA Form 22-1995 (Request for Change of Program or Place of Training) and request to use the REAP benefit. Soldiers must also provide a copy of their mobilization DD Form 214(s).

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17. Verification of Enrollment. Soldiers must verify their enrollment in the school or program with DVA at the end of each month they are enrolled. The enrollment can be verified starting on the last calendar day of the month by using the DVA's Web Automated Verification of Enrollment (WAVE) system at <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave> or by calling toll free on the DVA's Interactive Voice Response (IVR) telephone line at 1-877-823-2378. WAVE and IVR systems do not update account information instantly. It could take 2 to 3 days for an account to be updated.

18. The point of contact for this policy is CPT Jeremy M Serafin, GI Bill Programs Manager at COMM: (703)601-7907, DSN: 329-7907 or jeremy.serafin@us.army.mil



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1 Encls

1. [EIOM 10-004 \(IN\)](#)
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