

EDUCATION NEWSLETTER



Guard Support Center (GSC) QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR EDUCATION BENEFITS?

Contact the Guard Support Center to speak with an Education Counselor today!

Education Counselors are available to assist you M-F, 0700-1700 CST Toll-Free: 1-866-628-5999 Email: arng.gsc@mail.mil

The Guard Support Center is available as a resource to help you with questions you may have in regards to your education benefits. We are here to help you understand your education benefits and the best way to maximize their usage to help you reach your educational goals.

We are also supporting the State Education Offices in resolving incomplete Federal Tuition Assistance Contracts issued prior to GoArmyEd. If you used Federal Tuition Assistance prior to October 2011, we recommend you contact your State Education Office to ensure they have all of your transcripts/grades up to date.

Simultaneous Use of Federal Tuition Assistance and MGIB (CHs 1606/1607)

Due to a recent ruling by DoD, ARNG Soldiers are no longer allowed to use Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) and Montgomery GI Bill benefits, Chapter 1606 – MGIB-Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) and Chapter 1607—Reserve Education Assistance Program (REAP) for the SAME Course.

This change is the result of Department of Defense Instruction 1322.25, Voluntary Education Programs, Change 3, dated 7 July 2014.

Below are some key points to consider as a result of this ruling:

-Per Department of Veterans Administration Advisory, this ruling is NOT retroactive and only applies to course start dates on/after 26 Nov 2014.

-This ruling does NOT affect the simultaneous use of State Tuition Assistance (TA) and MGIB (Chs 1606/1607). Refer to your State ESO regarding specific State TA guidelines.

-This ruling does NOT affect the simultaneous use of FTA and the MGIB-Active Duty (MGIB-AD, Ch 30) for part-time/m-day ARNG Soldiers. AGR Soldiers remain subject to the "Top-Up" provision when combining FTA and MGIB-AD benefits.

Since you now must CHOOSE which benefit to use, we HIGHLY ENCOURAGE you to contact your VA School Certifying Official (SCO) as well as your State Education Office to discuss your options and determine your best course of action (COA). To help in your decision, we have provided a few COAs based on taking 4, three credit hour courses and the semester lasts 4 months.

COA 1: "Federal Tuition Assistance": Your SCHOOL will receive \$3,000 (12SH X \$250)

- May only be used for tuition, NOT for fees, books, etc
- Limited to 16 semester hours per fiscal year and \$250 cap per semester hour
- Paid to the school, NOT to the Soldier -Subject to availability of funds

COA 2: "MGIB-SR, CH 1606": YOU will receive \$1,468 (\$367 X 4)

- May be used for ANY expenses
- Currently pays \$367/Month up to 36 months for FT enrollment (typically 12 SHs or more)
- Payment is based on your enrollment status as determined by the School VA Rep (i.e. full time, 3/4 time, 1/2 time, etc)
- Paid to the Soldier, NOT to the school

COA 3: "REAP, CH 1607": YOU will receive \$4,121 (\$1,030 X 4)

- May be used for ANY expenses
- Currently pays \$1,030/Month up to 36 months for full time enrollment based on 60% tier (Served at least 12 consecutive months but less than 24 months on active duty)
- Payment is based on your enrollment status as determined by the School VA Rep (i.e. full time, 3/4 time, 1/2 time, etc)
- Paid to the Soldier, NOT to the school

As an additional option, you may be able to use your FTA and MGIB benefits (Chs 1606/1607) during the same semester as long as you apply FTA and MGIB to SEPARATE courses. This option may affect your MGIB enrollment status and must be approved by your VA SCO.

Contact your VA SCO or State ESO before making your decision!

NATIONAL GUARD

Registered Apprenticeship: A Clear Pathway to Success

Mr. Troy Gipps, Coordinator, ARNG Apprenticeship Initiative

Overview

Charting a successful career path in a tough economy can be a challenging task. Fortunately, there is a way to learn a highly skilled occupation, collect your GI Bill benefits, and earn a full-time paycheck. Registered Apprenticeship (RA), a time-honored tradition of transferring skills from one generation to the next, provides a clear pathway to success at nearly 16,000 employment locations nationwide.

What Is RA?

RA is a combination of on-the-job training and related classroom instruction provided under the supervision of a journey-level craft person or trade professional in which workers learn the practical and theoretical aspects of a highly skilled occupation. Upon completion of RA training programs, which generally last from two to five years, apprentices receive an industry issued, nationally recognized credential that certifies occupational proficiency. In 2013, over 52,000 apprentices graduated from an RA training program.

What Do I Get?

Payment rates for RA programs vary depending upon benefit eligibility and location. Soldiers eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill receive payments based upon the monthly housing allowance (MHA) for an E-5 with dependents where the employer is located. Payment rates for all other GI Bill benefit programs are based on a percentage of the full-time institutional rate for the applicable benefit, regardless of employment location.

For example, a Soldier employed full-time in a RA training program with an employer located in Boston, Massachusetts would earn the following benefits over a five year period in addition to regular wages:

- Post-9/11 GI Bill, Ch 33; Over \$67,000 (100 percent entitlement rate)
- MGIB-Selected Reserve, Ch 1606; Over \$9,000

How Do I Apply?

Finding RA training programs is easier than you might think. The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship (<http://www.doleta.gov/OA/occupations.cfm>) publishes a list of over 1,100 officially recognized apprenticeable occupations. Employers who sponsor the training programs can be found on two primary websites:

1. <http://www.mynextmove.org/vets/find/apprenticeship>
A list of career with registered apprenticeships
2. <http://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchInstitutionCriteria.do>.
To identify RA training programs approved for GI Bill use

Apprenticeship is found in a variety of employment sectors, but significant industries include construction, energy, health care, information and communications technology, manufacturing, and transportation and logistics.

Learn a highly skilled occupation, collect your GI Bill benefits, and earn a full-time paycheck. Registered Apprenticeship: a clear pathway to success.

"Without education you are not going anywhere in this world."

—Malcolm X