Education Benefits and Services

Bryan Watters
ND DVA VSO Supervisor
GI Bill

- Chapter 1606 Montgomery GI Selected Reserve
- Chapter 1607 Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP)
- Chapter 30 Montgomery GI Bill
- Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill
  - SGT Fry Scholarship
- Chapter 31 Vocational Rehabilitation
- Chapter 35 Dependent Education GI Bill
- State Benefits
- National Guard/Reserve State Benefits
Chapter 1606 GI Bill

• Reserve component GI Bill-Must have a 6 year contract to be eligible
• 36 months of eligibility
• Not based on Active Duty service time
• Must be utilized while in the service
• Pays $368 per month
• Kicker Contract-Enlistment incentive in addition to GI Bill
Chapter 1607 GI Bill

• Sun-setted Fall 2015
• For Reserve Component Service Members
• Based on Active Service Time
• Kicker Contract eligible
• Pays an additional 12 months of benefits, up to 36 months total under this benefit
Chapter 30 GI Bill

- The original “Active Duty” GI Bill
- Service members had to pay $1200 into their college fund
- $600 Buy-up Program-offers a “Kicker” benefit
- Must be used within 10 years from last separation date.
- 36 months of benefits
- Only pays a stipend-$1,789
- Non-transferable to a dependent
- Can be used as “Top Up” for Federal Tuition Assistance
- Reserve members on Active Duty were eligible to pay into this GI Bill
Post 9/11 GI Bill

• The “New” GI Bill
• Took effect in 2008, based of Active Service time since 9/11/2001, of at least 90 days.
• Both Title 10 and Title 32, non-hospitalization time counts as Active Duty.
• Must make a irrevocable decision to ‘waive’ an additional GI Bill benefit.
• Pays a Basic Housing Allowance (BAH), Book Stipend, and Tuition based on eligibility percentage
  – BAH Rate is based off of E-5 with Dependents and zip code of the school.
  – Online schools, students get half of the national average ($945).
Post 9/11 Cont...

- Basic Training and MOS school do not count as Active Duty (for Reserve Component) until 24 months of additional Active Duty.
- MOB stations, terminal leave, etc. count as Active Duty.
- 36 months under Post 9/11 GI Bill and can be combined with other benefits to hit the 48 month max cap.
- Active Duty does not have to be continuous.
- BAH is not available to students attending at a less than half time status.
- Can be used for OJT, certification tests, tutoring assistance, and licensing exams.
- Must be used within 15 years of final separation.
New GI Bill Application

- 21-1990-initial application for GI Bill benefits has transferred to the vets.gov website.
- Has a Request COE feature.
- The VONAPP will not let veterans/service members apply for GI Bill benefits.
- VONAPP still used for dependent applications, transfer of schools, and new enrollments. (21-1995, 21-5495, 21-1990, etc.)
- Vets.gov website is becoming a new, friendly version of eBenefits.
- [https://www.vets.gov/education/apply/](https://www.vets.gov/education/apply/)
Transferring the Post 9/11

- Post 9/11 is transferable to a dependent.
- Veteran must transfer while they are still in the service.
- Transfer of Entitlement (TOE) is a retention tool; veteran must have at least 6 years in the military and commit to serving an additional 4 years.
- Based off of veteran’s eligibility and can increase.
- Spouses follow same 15 year delaminating date as veteran, children must use by age 26.
- Spouse cannot be awarded BAH if the veteran is serving on Active Duty, the child can.
- Transfer completed through MilConnect
Fry Scholarship (Chpt 33)

- For dependents of Veterans who passed away while on Active Duty.
- Pays at the 100% level, for 36 months.
- Children have until they are 33 to use the benefit.
- Spouse, 15 years from time of veteran’s death.
- Must choose between Ch 35 and Ch 33.
Chapter 31 Voc Rehab

- Education Benefits for Veterans with a Service Connected disability at 20% or more, to help the veteran become employable within the limitations of their disability.
- Must want to be employed, and be a good candidate for employment.
- Possible eligibility for a wide variety of educational programs, such as 2 year degree, 4 year degree, Masters, and professional programs.
- Program is managed by VA Vocational Rehabilitation and co-managed through educational program.
- Advised to meet with counselor before filling out application.
- 12 year limit from separation or from Service Connection.
Chapter 31 cont..

• Post 9/11 Veterans are eligible for the Chapter 33 payment rate, based on GI Bill eligibility.
• Pays 100% of tuition, books, a living stipend, and for tools necessary for the program of study such as a computer, welding equipment, safety equipment, printer, calculator, etc.
• Referrals available for tutoring, counseling, educational assistance, and other services necessary for veteran success.
Chapter 35 Dependents Educational Assistance

- For dependents of a veteran who is P/T disabled due to their military service, died as a result of their SC disability, or died on Active Duty.
- Both spouse and children qualify for 45 months of benefits, each.
- Spouse has 20 years to use the benefit from time of death or SC.
- Children must use the benefit before the age of 26, and no longer has the marriage bar. Can be extended in some cases.
- Cannot be used on Active Duty, but can be used by a service member.
- Child cannot receive Chapter 35 and DIC payments at the same time, spouse can.
- Can use CHAMP VA health care benefits.
Applications

• Do not file mail-in applications-takes about 90 days longer to process.
• Ebenefits VONAPP Portal or VETS.gov speeds up processing of applications-Which takes roughly 60-90 to process.
• 1607, 1607, 30, 33-All use VA Form 22-1990 for application-select desired GI Bill program-now on VETS.gov.
  • For Post 9/11, another GI Bill must be waived on application.
• Chapter 33 Transfer of Entitlement (TOE) and Fry Scholarship-use VA Form 22-1990e.
• Chapter 35-use VA form 22-5490.
• All benefits must have supporting information attached to application or mailed in.
• Certificate of Eligibility will be produced-must be turned into school
ND Dependent Tuition Waiver

• For dependents of ND veterans who are 100% service connected, are paid at the 100% rate due to IU, who died as a result of their service connected disabilities, died while on Active Duty, POW/MIA.

• Veteran must have been born/lived in ND at time of entrance into the US Military, or lived in ND at least 6 months prior to enlistment, or been a resident of ND 10 years prior to the use of the waiver.
ND Dept Waiver cont...

- Waives Tuition and Fees at any ND state educational institution for a certificate, associates, or bachelors degree.
- Max of 45 months/10 semesters.
- Most also qualify for Chapter 35 as well.
National Guard Benefits

- **Federal Tuition Assistance**: provides $4000 per FY for school attendance. No out of state school clause.
- **State Tuition Reimbursement**: Waives 25% of tuition at any qualifying state school, and reimburses the student the rest of the tuition and fees up to the NDSU base tuition/fees rate. Only in state schools eligible.
- **Adjusted compensation**: “Thank you for playing bonus” a small bonus the state provides all ND veterans who service on Active Duty. Managed by the Guard.
Questions?

Feel free to contact me with any questions!

Bryan Watters
701-294-4694
bwatters@nd.gov