

Clarification on the Concurrent Receipt of Federal Tuition Assistance and the Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve Education Benefits

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PERSONNEL AND READINESS



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OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS, EDUCATION SERVICES

SUBJECT: Clarification on the Concurrent Receipt of Federal Tuition Assistance and the
Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve Education Benefits

References: (a) Title 10, United States Code - Armed Forces
(b) Department of Defense Instruction 1322.25, Voluntary Education Programs,
March 15, 2011, Incorporating Change 4, Effective April 2, 2020
(c) Department of Defense Instruction 1322.17, Montgomery GI Bill-Selected
Reserve (MGIB-SR), January 15, 2015

Qualified Selected Reserve Service members may concurrently receive both MGIB-SR under section 16131 of Title 10, U.S. Code and Federal Tuition Assistance (TA) educational benefits under section 2007 of such title, when enrolled in a half-time or greater program of education.

Enclosure 3, paragraph 1.k, of reference (b) establishes policy that TA payments will not be authorized for any course for which a Service member receives GI Bill benefits that constitute a duplication of benefits paid. Enclosure 3, paragraph 3b, of reference (c) describes the circumstance under which payment of both TA and MGIB-SR will constitute a prohibited duplication of benefits. Paragraph 3b should be construed to establish that providing both TA under section 2007 and MGIB-SR education benefits under section 16131 constitutes duplication of education benefits prohibited by policy *only* when a Service member is enrolled less than half-time in a qualifying program of education.

Consequently, all qualified Selected Reserve Service members are authorized concurrent TA and MGIB-SR benefits when enrolled in a half-time or greater program of education.

The point of contact for TA guidance is Mr. Frederick Engle the Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Education and Training at frederick.c.enge.civ@mail.mil or (703) 693-3478. The point of contact for MGIB-SR benefit guidance is Mr. Leonard Litton the Principal Director for Military Personnel Policy at (703) 697-8244 or leonard.g.litton.civ@mail.mil.

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Thomas A. Constable
Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense
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Lernes J. Hebert
Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary
of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs



Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR)

- References: Department of Defense Instruction 1322.17, Montgomery GI Bill-Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR), January 15, 2015.
- Qualified Selected Reserve Service members may concurrently receive both MGIB-SR under section 16131 of Title 10, U.S.C. Code and TA educational benefits under section 2007 of such title, **when enrolled in a half-time or greater program of education.**
- Providing both TA under section 2007 and MGIB-SR education benefits under section 16131 constitutes duplication of education benefits prohibited by policy **only** when a Service member is enrolled less than half-time in a qualifying program of education.
- Consequently, all qualified Selected Reserve Service members are authorized concurrent TA and MGIB-SR benefits when enrolled in a half-time or greater program of education.