



## NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

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ARNG-HRM-15-004

23 March 2015

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

SUBJECT: The Army National Guard (ARNG) Montgomery GI Bill - Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) Chapter 1606 Policy

1. References.

- a. Title 10, United States Code (USC) Chapter 1606, Section 16131-16137.
- b. Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 1322.17, Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR), 15 January 2015.
- c. Department of Defense (DoD) Instruction 1336.08, Military Human Resource Records Life Cycle Management, 13 November 2009.
- d. Army Regulation (AR) 135-7, Incentives Programs, 15 April 1996.
- e. Department of Defense (DoD) Memorandum 7730.54-M-V2, Reserve Components Common Personnel Data System (RCCPDS): Domain Values for Reserve Component (RC) Personnel Reports, 25 May 2011.
- f. Memorandum, Army National Guard (ARNG) Reserve GI Bill Program Policy, also known as Selected Reserve Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB-SR) dated 21 October 2005, hereby superseded.
- g. Memorandum, Army National Guard (ARNG) Montgomery GI Bill- Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) Chapter 1606 Program (NGB-ARM Policy Number 07-10) dated 15 August 2007, hereby superseded.

2. Applicability. This policy applies to individuals who are entering into, are currently serving, or have previously served in the ARNG.

3. Overview. The MGIB-SR program is an educational assistance entitlement provided for the RCs. This entitlement encourages the enlistment and retention of quality applicants and Service Members (SM) into the ARNG.

4. Summary of Changes. This policy updates the previous MGIB-SR Policy (NGB-ARM Policy Number 07-10) and incorporates changes directed per DoDI 1322.17, dated 15

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January 2015. A summary of those changes is listed below.

- a. Eliminates separate eligibility requirements for Soldiers entering under the Civilian Acquired Skills Program and combines eligibility criteria for Non-Prior Service (NPS) enlistees, Prior Service (PS) accessions, and Officers (paragraph 7).
- b. Removes the requirement to have a High School Diploma or equivalent prior to completion of IADT (paragraph 7).
- c. Updates the Eligibility Start Date calculation for Prior Service Soldiers to match all Soldier categories (paragraph 8).
- d. Revises MGIB-SR eligibility upon receipt of a Dedicated Guard (Title 10 USC Section 2107) ROTC scholarship (paragraph 3e of Enclosure 1).
- e. Extends the time limit for extensions (when required) to 12 months when a SM reaffiliates after an authorized break in service (paragraph 4 of Enclosure 1).
- f. Prohibits the use of Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) and the MGIB-SR for the same course per DoDI 1322.25 (paragraph 12b).
- g. Eliminates concurrent eligibility for MGIB-SR and Montgomery GI Bill - Active Duty (MGIB-AD) or Post-9/11 GI Bill (paragraph 13).

#### 5. Administration.

- a. General. This policy prescribes eligibility criteria, procedures, and standards for administering the MGIB-SR program. This policy is effective immediately, and remains in effect until rescinded or superseded.
- b. Management Controls. Commanders at all levels are responsible for establishing and maintaining internal controls, for identifying and addressing major performance challenges, and for identifying areas that are at the greatest risk for fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement. Management control provisions shall be in accordance with AR 11-2, Managers' Internal Control Program. Alteration to MGIB-SR eligibility documents will be treated as suspected fraud, reported to the ARNG program manager, and thoroughly investigated to determine appropriate legal disposition. Decisions will be reported to the ARNG Program Manager.
- c. Separation of Duties. Before MGIB-SR eligibility is approved, the State GI Bill Manager will process MGIB-SR eligibility recommendations using the Guard Incentive Management System (GIMS), and a member of the GI Bill Support Team will review the recommendation for accuracy and adherence to ARNG policy.

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d. System Access. State/Territory education staff must request systems access to the various databases required for the management of MGIB-SR. Information regarding the request for access to each database may be found in the GI Bill Manager's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). The SOP is available in the GIMS Information Center, or on Guard Knowledge Online (GKO) at:  
<https://gkoportal.ng.mil/arng/G1/D03/B01/S02/SitePages/Home.aspx>.

e. Eligibility Status Codes. For Eligibility Status Codes, Eligibility Status Effective Dates, and GIMS Automated Business Rules, see Enclosure 1.

6. Funding Authority. The authority to execute MGIB-SR education entitlement is subject to authorization in law, appropriation of funds, and applicable regulatory guidance.

7. Eligibility Criteria. A member of the Selected Reserve (SR) establishes eligibility for the MGIB-SR basic benefit when he or she:

a. Enlists, reenlists or extends an enlistment in the SR on or after 1 July 1985, for not less than a six-year, continuous service period or, in the case of an officer, signs a DA Form 5447-R agreeing to serve in the SR for 6 years, in addition to any other period of obligated service;

b. Completes the requirements for a secondary school diploma or an equivalency certificate; and,

c. Completes the initial active duty training (IADT) requirements of the ARNG. Enlisted personnel have a requirement to complete Basic Combat Training (BCT) and Advanced Individual Training (AIT) or equivalent. Officers who did not complete IADT prior to commissioning must complete Basic Officer Leaders Course (BOLC) Phase 2 and be Branch Qualified. The primary method to identify Army IADT completion is the course end date located in Army Training Requirements Reporting System (ATRRS). The DD Form 214 shall be used when ATRRS data is unavailable.

8. Eligibility Start Date. MGIB-SR eligibility is established one day after all the requirements in paragraph 7 have been met.

9. Period of Entitlement. The period of entitlement for MGIB-SR is based on the date basic entitlement was established, as follows:

a. 1 July 1985 to 30 September 1992. Eligibility expires upon completion of the 10-year period that began on the date the MGIB-SR basic entitlement was established; separation from the SR during that 10-year period; or violation of termination criteria outlined in paragraph 5 of Enclosure 1, whichever comes first;

b. 1 October 1992 to 29 June 2008. Eligibility expires upon completion of the 14-year

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period that began on the date the MGIB-SR basic entitlement was established; separation from the SR during that 14-year period; or violation of termination criteria outlined in paragraph 5 of Enclosure 1, whichever comes first; or

c. 30 June 2008 to present. Eligibility expires on the date the SM separates from the SR; or upon violation of termination criteria outlined in paragraph 5 of Enclosure 1, whichever comes first.

d. Exceptions. Soldiers who are discharged due to a disability will receive the period of entitlement outlined in paragraph 2c of Enclosure 1.

10. Recoupment/Overpayment. The Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) will recover any unauthorized MGIB-SR payments. A SM who receives MGIB-SR payments and loses his or her entitlement status due to unsatisfactory participation or non-completion of the six-year service obligation may be required to refund part of the education assistance received, plus accrued interest. A SM who receives MGIB-SR payments when he or she was ineligible for the MGIB-SR will be required to return the entire overpayment. DFAS will recoup payments in accordance with Title 10 USC Section 16135.

11. Additional Eligibility Criteria Determined by the DVA. The following eligibility criteria are managed by the DVA. No change in Eligibility Status Code (ESC) is required.

a. A SM who is ordered to active duty in accordance with Title 10 USC Sections 12301 (a), 12301(d), 12301(g), 12302, or 12304 with a date of MGIB-SR basic entitlement before 30 June 2008 will have the period of entitlement extended for the period of active duty, plus 4 months.

b. A SM who is deployed remains eligible to receive MGIB-SR payments.

c. A SM who was involuntarily separated between 1 October 1991 and 31 December 2001 will retain eligibility for the MGIB-SR for the remainder of their period of eligibility described in paragraph 9.

d. If a SM's current education term ends after they are discharged or separated, the DVA may continue to pay the SM through the end of that educational term, provided the SM is otherwise eligible.

12. Duplication of Educational Assistance.

a. A SM cannot receive a duplication of the MGIB-SR and any other federal source for education benefits at the same time, in whole or in part, in accordance with Title 38 USC Section 3681.

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- b. According to DODI 1322.17, the receipt of federal tuition assistance (FTA) in accordance with Title 10 USC Section 2007 and MGIB-SR does not constitute a duplication when a SM is enrolled half-time or greater. However, DoDI 1322.25, Voluntary Education Programs, has precedence over the use of FTA and currently does not authorize the payment of FTA and MGIB-SR or the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP, Title 10 USC Chapter 1607) for the same course.
- c. State-funded tuition programs are not a duplication of benefits and may be received concurrently with the MGIB-SR, unless prohibited by state specific guidelines.
- d. For SM who qualify for two or more GI Bill programs, the maximum allowable entitlement for DVA-administered educational benefits is 36 months from any one program, and a total of 48 months from all programs.

13. Periods of Service.

- a. A SM cannot use the same period of service to establish entitlement for MGIB-SR educational assistance and either the Chapter 30 MGIB-AD program or the Chapter 33 Post 9/11 GI Bill program. Separate periods of service may be used to satisfy the eligibility criteria for MGIB-SR and either MGIB-AD or the Post-9/11 GI Bill.
- b. If a deployment occurs during the initial MGIB-SR six-year contractual obligation, the SM may use the mobilized service to qualify for the MGIB-AD or the Post-9/11 GI Bill. If the SM chooses to use their mobilized service to qualify for one of these programs, they must extend their enlistment for the period of the mobilization or for the period required to complete the six-year contract, whichever is less, in order to remain eligible for the MGIB-SR.

14. Administrative Errors. MGIB-SR eligibility errors due to incorrect SIDPERS coding, inaccurate orders or missing documents in iPERMS or GIMS should be corrected at the state level by a MGIB-SR ESC recommendation submitted in GIMS per Enclosure 1.

15. Army Board of Corrections for Military Records (ABCMR). The ABCMR is the highest level of administrative review within the Department of the Army. Title 10 USC Section 1552 gives SM and Veterans the right to apply to the ABCMR to correct military records, which includes a correction or amendment of dates or terms of service in enlistment, accession, affiliation, reenlistment/extension, commission or appointment.

- a. The ABCMR requires that all administrative recourse or appeals be exhausted prior to submission of an ABCMR application.
- b. Public law requires that the request for correction of military records be submitted within three years after the error or injustice occurs, or within three years after discovering the error or injustice.

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16. Transfer of Benefits (TEB). A MGIB-SR TEB program is currently under review by Army and ARNG leadership and is not authorized at this time. If approved, information regarding the implementation of this program will be provided under separate cover. The earliest implementation date of the MGIB-SR TEB program will be two years after approval.

17. The point of contact is SFC Donald Sutton, GI Bill Program Manager, Education Services Branch, at DSN 327-3991, 703-607-3991, or [donald.e.sutton.mil@mail.mil](mailto:donald.e.sutton.mil@mail.mil).



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1 Encls

1. [Enclosure 1 - Eligibility Status Codes.pdf](#)

## ENCLOSURE 1

### ELIGIBILITY STATUS CODES (ESC)

Overview. The State GI Bill Manager identifies and recommends Eligibility Status Code (ESC) changes to a SM's MGIB-SR entitlement IAW this policy and the GI Bill Manager's SOP. The Eligibility Status Effective Date (ESED) is the date that each ESC takes effect.

1. Ineligible. The State GI Bill Manager must submit an MGIB-SR recommendation in GIMS to change the MGIB-SR status to an ineligible code ("A" code) for any of the following reasons:

a. AA – No Entitlement. SM has not executed a qualifying, six-year SELRES contract or service obligation with any RC on/after 1 July 1985. ESED = Date of entry into the ARNG.

b. AB – No Entitlement. SM executed a qualifying, six-year SELRES contract or service obligation with the ARNG on/after 1 July 1985, but has not completed IADT. ESED = Date SM signed the six-year contract.

c. AC – No Entitlement. SM executed a qualifying, six-year SELRES contract or service obligation with the ARNG on/after 1 July 1985, and completed IADT but has not completed the requirements of a secondary school diploma or equivalency certificate. ESED = Date SM signed the six-year contract.

d. AD – No Entitlement. SM erroneously reported as eligible with the ARNG. ESED = Date of entry into the ARNG.

2. Eligible. The State GI Bill Manager must submit an MGIB-SR recommendation in GIMS to change the MGIB-SR status to an eligible code ("B" code) for any of the following reasons:

a. BA – Eligible. SM is serving in an initial qualifying period of eligibility. ESED = One day following completion of all eligibility criteria. When a BA code is established, State GI Bill Managers will:

(1) Issue a DD Form 2384-1, Notice of Basic Eligibility (NOBE) within 30 days; and

(2) Place the NOBE on file in the SM's interactive Personnel Electronic Records Management System (iPERMS) as required in DoDI 1336.08.

b. BB – Eligibility Reinstated (after suspension). SM is serving in a second or subsequent qualifying period of eligibility. ESED = Date SM returns from period of authorized non-availability (Inactive National Guard (ING) or Individual Ready Reserve (IRR)).

c. BE – Eligibility Retained. SM separated from the SR because of a disability incurred on or after the date the SM established eligibility for the MGIB-SR and was not the result of willful misconduct. ESED = Date SM was medically discharged with state discharge orders. The SM will retain eligibility, provided the SM was otherwise eligible for MGIB-SR benefits on the date of separation, according to the following rules:

(1) For a SM who established eligibility prior to 30 June 2008, eligibility expires upon completion of the period of entitlement described in paragraph 9a or 9b of this policy.

(2) For a SM who established eligibility on or after 30 June 2008, eligibility expires upon completion of the 14-year period that began on the date of separation from the SR.

3. Suspension. The State GI Bill Manager must submit an MGIB-SR recommendation in GIMS to change the MGIB-SR status to a suspended code (“C” code) for any of the following reasons:

a. CB – Eligibility Suspended. SM transferred from the SELRES to the ING or IRR for reasons other than to fulfill a religious missionary obligation, for a maximum of 12 months. ESED = Date of transfer orders into ING or IRR.

b. CC – Eligibility Suspended. SM transferred from the SELRES to the ING or IRR to fulfill a religious missionary obligation, for a maximum of 36 months. ESED = Date of transfer orders into ING or IRR.

c. CD – Eligibility Suspended. SM awaiting final determination of unsatisfactory participation (absent from drills or Annual Training only). ESED = Date of ninth AWOL within most recent 12 month period.

d. CF – Eligibility Suspended. SM entered Active Guard Reserve (AGR) program. ESED = Date SM entered AGR program.

e. CG – Eligibility Suspended. SM is in receipt of a Dedicated Guard ROTC Scholarship (Title 10 USC Section 2107). ESED = Date SM signed a Dedicated Guard scholarship contract. MGIB-SR entitlement suspended under this rule will not be reinstated. Receipt of a Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) scholarship (Title 10 USC Section 2107a) has no impact on MGIB-SR entitlement.



4. Reinstatement from Suspension. When certain conditions are met, the State GI Bill Manager must submit an MGIB-SR recommendation in GIMS to change the following MGIB-SR ESC to the appropriate eligible code (“B” code):

a. CB. When the SM returns to the SR within 12 months from a first authorized break in service, the ESC changes to BB. ESED = Date SM returns from period of authorized non-availability (ING or IRR). If the break in service occurred during the MGIB-SR six-year contractual obligation, the Soldier must extend within one year of return for a period equal to or greater than the time not served in the SELRES in a drilling status during the contractual obligation, or MGIB-SR entitlement will be terminated per paragraph 5e of this enclosure.

b. CC. When the SM returns to the SR within 36 months from a first authorized break in service to complete a religious missionary obligation, the ESC changes to BB. ESED = Date SM returns from period of authorized non-availability (ING or IRR). If the break in service occurred during the MGIB-SR six-year contractual obligation, the Soldier must extend within one year of return for a period equal to or greater than the time not served in the SELRES in a drilling status during the contractual obligation, or MGIB-SR entitlement will be terminated per paragraph 5e of this enclosure.

c. CD. When the SM is determined to be a satisfactory participant through the appeal process or after a command decision, the ESC reverts to the code in effect prior to suspension (BA or BB). ESED = the ESED in effect prior to suspension. If the CD suspension occurred during the MGIB-SR six-year contractual obligation, no extension is required.

d. CF. When the SM returns to a drilling status from AGR, the ESC reverts to the ESC in effect prior to suspension (BA or BB). ESED = the ESED in effect prior to suspension. If the AGR duty occurred during the MGIB-SR six-year contractual obligation, the SM must extend within one year of return for a period equal to or greater than the time not served in the SELRES in a drilling status during the contractual obligation, or MGIB-SR entitlement will be terminated per paragraph 5e of this enclosure.

5. Termination. The State GI Bill Manager must submit a MGIB-SR recommendation in GIMS to change the MGIB-SR status to a termination code (“D” code) for any of the following reasons:

a. DA – Eligibility Terminated. SM has completed the six-year contractual service obligation, and is discharged (civilian break); or failed to reaffiliate from the ING or IRR to the SELRES within the required time limit (12/36 months). ESED = Date of discharge order or transfer to ING or IRR.

b. DB – Eligibility Terminated. After completion of the six-year contractual service obligation, SM has a second break in service for any reason. ESED = Date of discharge order of second break in service.

c. DC – Eligibility Terminated. SM is deceased. ESED = Date of death certificate.

d. DD – Eligibility Terminated. SM is determined to be an unsatisfactory participant. ESED = Date of ninth AWOL.

e. DE – Eligibility Terminated. SM has not completed the six-year contractual obligation and is discharged (civilian break) or failed to extend after returning to the SELRES per paragraph 4a, 4b or 4d of this enclosure. ESED = Date of discharge order or transfer to ING or IRR.

6. GIMS Automated Business Rules. Automated business rules evaluate criteria and update a SM's ESC and ESED if applicable. The GI Bill Manager must be familiar with GIMS automated management functions to minimize redundancy of work. The following transactions are automated:

a. For a NPS member, GIMS will assign a "BA" code when a SM meets all three eligibility criteria.

b. For all SM, GIMS will assign an "AC" code when a SM is coded in GIMS as not having a high school diploma or equivalent.

c. For all SM, GIMS will assign a "CB" code when a SM is discharged or transfers to the ING or IRR.

d. For all SM, GIMS will assign a "CF" code when a SM is assigned in an AGR duty status.