



PERSONNEL AND  
READINESS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
4000 DEFENSE PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-4000

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS

SUBJECT: Clarification Regarding 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.Engle.civ@mail.mil](mailto:frederick.c.Engle.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](mailto:leonard.g.litton.civ@mail.mil).

Thomas A. Constable  
Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense  
for Readiness

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