

Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides the most comprehensive educational benefit package since the original bill, officially known as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, was signed into law. For a basic explanation of this benefit, please read the editorial at: <http://www.citamn.afrc.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123140278>. More detailed information on this program and the application process can be obtained from the Department of Veterans Affairs website: <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>. Moreover, the Department of Defense publishes articles, videos, and specific implementation guidance, including guidance on transferability of benefits at http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/2009/0409_gibill/.

The transfer of benefits option is a landmark benefit. Under the transferability provisions the servicemember's 36 months of benefits -- the equivalent of four nine-month academic years -- can be transferred to a spouse, one or more children or any combination provided the member has served at least 6 years in either the Regular Component or in the Selected Reserve and agrees to continue service for a specified amount of time (depending on when the individual will reach 20 good years of service).

DoD began accepting applications for transferability of benefits June 29. VA will begin paying benefits August 1, 2009. However, before applying to transfer benefits, an Airman should do four things to ensure a smooth and efficient application process:

- First, get counseling on GI Bill options. Unit Reservists should visit their Wing Education and Training Office; Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMAs) should contact ARPC DPSD 2 at 1-800-525-0102.
- Next, Airmen must have at least four years left of retainability before transferring benefits, unless retirement-eligible. Any Airmen needing additional retainability is encouraged to visit their servicing military personnel section for counseling on re-enlisting or extending their current enlistment before applying to transfer their benefits.
- Third, Airmen planning to transfer their benefits should verify family member information is accurate in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System. If family members are not in DEERS, the Airman will not be able to transfer benefits to them.
- Members should then apply for transferability via <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB/>.

The importance of this very generous benefit cannot be overemphasized. Please visit the above-listed websites, your Education and Training Office, or call ARPC to learn more and decide what is best for you.