



**Department of Health and Human Services
Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service
Office of Commissioned Corps Operations
1101 Wootton Parkway, Plaza Level, Suite 100
Rockville, MD 20852**

WARNING: READ THIS BEFORE COMPLETING FORM PHS-6273, "MONTGOMERY GI BILL ELECTION AND STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING"

1. Participation in the Montgomery GI Bill program provides a maximum educational benefit of **\$1,075** per month (rate effective as of October 1, 2006), for full-time student status, for a maximum of 36 months.
2. ***Please read the covering instructions closely and consider your decision carefully.*** Your election is **irreversible** and you will not be able to disenroll or elect to participate at a later date.

NOTE: A number of physicians, dentists, nurses, etc., coming on active duty think they have had 'enough school' and decline participation. Many decide later that they would like to pursue an additional degree, e.g., Master of Public Health degree, and regret that they did not elect a program that costs \$1,200 and has benefits worth \$30,000.

3. Participation in the Montgomery GI Bill is not mandatory, but you must make an election now.
4. Cost of participation in the Montgomery GI Bill is \$1,200. If you elect to participate, your base pay will be reduced by \$100 per month for 12 months and this money is non-taxable. These contributions are **non-refundable**.
5. Any prior election that you made to participate or not to participate in the Montgomery GI Bill is still binding.
6. A decision not to participate will not affect your entitlement to any other Department of Veteran Affairs sponsored benefits, i.e., the VA Home Loan Guaranty Program.
7. Participants in the Montgomery GI Bill can purchase additional benefits and increase the maximum monthly benefit by up to \$150. However, it should be noted that education benefits received while on active duty **cannot exceed the cost of tuition and fees**.

NOTICE

Education Benefits for New Officers

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) now offers two separate programs of education benefits: the Montgomery GI Bill (also referred to as Chapter 30) and the new Post 9-11 GI Bill (also referred to as Chapter 33). Enrollment in the Montgomery GI Bill is done through your service at a cost of \$1,200 and enrollment in the Post 9-11 GI Bill is done directly through the VA and has no cost. There are several other differences between the two programs and for the best understanding of the differences you should go to the VA website at www.va.gov and follow the links to education benefits.

Attached is a brief comparison of some of the differences in the benefits under the two programs. If after reviewing the comparison and/or going to the VA website you wish to enroll in the Montgomery GI Bill you should complete the attached "Montgomery GI Bill Election and Statement of Understanding" indicating that you wish to enroll and make a check beside the 24-month or 36-month obligation as appropriate. The completed form should be sent to this office at the following address:

Division of Commissioned Corps Assignments, OCCO
1101 Wootton Parkway, PL Rm. 100
Rockville, MD 20852

If you wish to enroll in the Post 9-11 GI Bill, you should check NO in part B. on the Montgomery GI Bill election form and **write in the space above it "Will enroll in the Post 9-11 GI Bill."**

To enroll in the Post 9-11 GI Bill you have to go to the VA website shown above and follow the links to education benefits and to the online application "VONAPP."

If you have questions after reviewing the recommended information you should email Norman Chichester at norman.chichester@hhs.gov or call (240) 453-6034.

Following is a thumbnail comparison of the differences in benefits between active members (AD) and veterans (VET) in the Montgomery GI Bill (Chapter 30) and the Post 9-11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) based on four months of school at the full-time student rate at a Public University. The VA administers the benefits for both programs as they apply to active duty members and veterans.

Note: MGIB benefits for members on active duty are capped at the cost of tuition and fees.

Post 9-11 benefits for members on active duty do not include the housing or books and supplies allowances.

Program	Post 9-11 (AD)	MGIB (AD)	Post 9-11 (VET)	MGIB (VET)
Cost Of Enrollment In The Program	N/A	\$1,200	N/A	\$1,200
Highest In State Tuition As Determined By The VA	\$5,800	N/A	\$5,800	N/A
Tuition & Fees Charged By The University	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
VA Pays On Member/Veteran's behalf	\$4,000	N/A	\$4,000	N/A
Post 9-11 Housing Allowance (Only given to veterans)	N/A	N/A	\$4,000	N/A
MGIB Monthly Rate (\$1,321 a month for 4 months)	N/A	\$4,000	N/A	\$5,284
Post 9-11 Books and Supplies (Only given to veterans)	N/A	N/A	\$500	N/A
MGIB \$600 Buy-Up (\$150 a month for 4 months)	N/A	Capped *	N/A	\$600
Benefit Paid Directly To Member/Veteran	N/A	\$4,000	\$4,500	\$5,884
Tuition And Fees Paid By Member/Veteran	\$0	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000
Net To Veteran	\$0	\$0	\$4,500	\$1,884

*Even though members can increase their monthly MGIB benefit through the Buy-Up, the benefits that they can receive while on

active duty are capped at the cost of tuition and fees which in this case is less than the basic entitlement. The cap is for total benefits. Veterans are not subject to this limitation.