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CPT BRIAN ZDUNOWSKI

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www.twitter.com/MDNG_Educationwww.educationarmory.com

MARYLAND NATIONAL GUARD EDUCATION SERVICES OFFICE



WHAT'S UP!!!

Follow significant changes to the Post-9/11 GI Bill on my Twitter Page:

www.twitter.com/MDNG_Education

Join me on Facebook to ask questions and share thoughts and experiences. Facebook: [MD Army National Guard Education Services](#).

POC is CPT BRIAN ZDUNOWSKI

MD STATE EDUCATION SERVICES OFFICER

As of 01AUG09 the VA has approved and sent out over 200,000 certificates of eligibility for service members (all branches) and their spouses and dependents. As of 23SEP09 the VA has paid over 61,000 Post-9/11 GI Bill claims totaling over \$50 Million to schools and veterans, their spouses and dependents.

Currently the VA is overwhelmed and certificates of eligibility and payments are slow and, in some cases, being calculated incorrectly. Service Members, spouses and dependents need to educate themselves to make sure that all payments (tuition, fees, Basic Housing Allowances (BHA) and the book stipend) are correct.



Transfer of Post-9/11 GI Bill:

To transfer the Post-9/11 GI Bill to a spouse the Service Member must have: >6 yrs service, 90 or > days title-10 service since 9/11 and not be flagged for any reason. Enlisted Service members need to have 4 years remaining on their contract to transfer the benefit to a spouse and 10 years of service and 4 years remaining on their contract to transfer the benefit to dependents. Officers do not have the time in service requirement as their MRD satisfies the requirement of membership.

Service Members, spouses and dependents need to educate themselves on this bill and how it applies at the institution they are attending. Visit: www.gibill.va.gov to learn about the bill, specific requirements and application process.

To transfer to spouse or dependent:

1. Go to: <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/TEB> and log on with CAC or DFAS PIN.
2. Go to: <https://minuteman.army.mil/benefits> to download your Statement of Understanding and upload it back to the site.

Communication

In an effort to communicate more quickly with Soldiers, Airmen, your spouses and your dependents I have created two means of communication:

1. Twitter: www.twitter.com/MDNG_Education.

This site is intended to give short updates and links to important changes and issues related to GI Bill

issues. Once you are a member you can contact me directly via mobile phone 24/7.

2. Facebook: [MD Army National Guard Education Service](#). You need an account and I will need to approve your friendship with the page. I have been doing Q&A and posting changes and updates as well as other services.

To date I only have 7 followers on Twitter and 39 on Facebook. Currently there are over 2000 Soldiers and Airmen that qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill and I receive on average 50 phone calls and e-mails a day related to this bill.



\$3000.00 Checks for Unpaid Post-9/11 GI Bill Claims

Starting on 02OCT09 the Baltimore VA will begin issuing \$3000.00 checks to veterans for unpaid GI Bill benefits. Bring your ID, Bill and Schedule and a copy of your Certificate of Eligibility if you have one. This information is less than a week old and the Baltimore VA is not certain how this will work exactly. The VA has published that it will send VA representative to the larger universities with paper checks shortly after 02OCT09. Follow me on Twitter for all updates.

TESTING INFORMATION

Upcoming testing dates are:

Fifth Reg. Armory

08 and 15OCT09, 12 and 19NOV09

AFCT

0730

AFAST

1300

-POC is CPT Zdunowski at

brian.zdunowski@us.army.mil or

(410)576-6025

Please make sure you prepared for the AFCT or AFAST prior to taking the exam. Visit

www.educationarmory.com for more information.

SELF DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Army e-Learning Program –

<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portals/index.jsp>

Army Correspondence Course Program -

<http://www.atsc.army.mil/accp/aipdnew.asp>

Army Medical Research Institute of Chemical Defense

<https://ccc.apgea.army.mil/default.htm>

Army Reserve Virtual University

<https://portal1.dcmsnet.org/dcmsvc/default.asp>

Combat Readiness University –

<https://crc.learn.army.mil/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>

DANTES Distance Learning –

http://www.dantes.doded.mil/Dantes_web/DANTESHOME.asp

EDUCATION/SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITES:

MDARNG Education Website –

www.educationarmory.com

Virtual Armory –

www.virtualarmory.com

Department of Veterans Affairs Website –

www.gibill.va.gov

Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan Scholarship Program

http://www.mhec.state.md.us/financialAid/ProgramDescriptions/prog_vaic.asp

National Guard Association of MD –

<http://www.ngam.net>

Scholarships for Military Children –

<http://www.militaryscholar.org/>

National Military Family Association –

<http://www.nmfa.org/site/PageServer>

Military Spouse Career Advancement Accounts –

<https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa>

Heroes at Home Scholarship -

<http://www.royalneighbors.org/Community/RoyalNeighborsFoundation/HeroesatHomeScholarships.aspx>

Thanks USA –

<http://www.thanksusa.org/main/index.html>

Heratio Alger Association –

<http://www.horatioalger.org/>

Fisher House –

<http://www.fisherhouse.org/>

Homefront America –

<http://www.homefrontamerica.org/>

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