

HQ AFROTC FORCE MANAGEMENT BRANCH

GI Bill Eligibility for the Air Force ROTC Cadet

1. It is important not to confuse the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) with the Post 9/11 GI Bill (Post 9/11). The two programs are different in many ways. An Air Force ROTC Cadet's eligibility for the MGIB is determined by the Source of Commissioning (SOC) Code reflected on their reserve commissioning orders. Post 9/11 eligibility is based on the service member fulfilling their initial service commitment.
2. Under Chapter 30, MGIB, Active Duty members enroll and pay \$100 per month for 12 months; and are then entitled to receive a monthly education benefit, for up to 36 months, once they have completed a minimum service obligation of 24 months. The member has up to 10 years after leaving active duty to use their MGIB. When used, the MGIB pays entitlements directly to the individual. MGIB can only be used by the service member – it **is not** transferable. Air Force ROTC detachments are required to determine the SOC code for MGIB eligibility only; and to ensure the proper code is reflected on the commissioning reserve orders. Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) then updates the Military Personnel Data System (MILPDS) to reflect eligibility based on the code assigned by the detachment.
3. Currently, under Title 38, *United States Code*, Section 3011(c)(3)(B), Air Force ROTC cadets who commission and enter active duty after 1 Oct 96 **are eligible** to participate in the MGIB if they received \$3,400 or less in tuition, fees, and books during *any year* of eligibility. The eligibility window for the MGIB starts the day the cadet contracts and ends upon commissioning. It is imperative that scholarship cadets are properly advised of their option to forgo tuition in order to be eligible for the MGIB if they so choose. Also, it is crucial for the detachment to accurately determine the cadet's eligibility for MGIB and assign the correct SOC code since this determination directly impacts possible authorized entitlements. Please refer to AFROTCI36-2011, Chapter 12, *Commissioning*, Figure 12.13 *Source of Commissioning Codes* for the exact corresponding code.

Here are a few scenarios:

- A. Cadet never received ROTC scholarship - Cadet **is eligible** for the MGIB.
 - B. Cadet activated an ROTC scholarship and received more than \$3,400 every year while on scholarship - Cadet **is not eligible**.
 - C. Cadet is on scholarship and had it suspended for 1 semester keeping them below the \$3,400 cap - Cadet **is eligible**.
 - D. Cadet was on a scholarship which was terminated, however, each scholarship year they received more than \$3,400 - Cadet **is not eligible**.
 - E. An AS400 cadet voluntarily elects to forgo their scholarship the last semester and did not receive more than \$3,400 the semester prior - Cadet **is eligible**.
4. The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after September 11, 2001, or individuals discharged with a service-connected disability after 30 days. ROTC scholarship recipients are eligible for the Post 9/11 after completing four (4) years of military service. The member must have received an honorable discharge to be eligible for the Post 9/11.

5. Post 9/11 is awarded to the member based on their military service. It pays entitlements directly to the school instead of the individual. A monthly housing allowance (based on E-5 BAH) and an annual stipend for books are added benefits of the Post 9/11. Post 9/11 is transferable to specific family members as long as certain requirements are met. This benefit provides up to 36 months of education entitlements. Benefits are payable for 15 years following release from active duty. Service members previously enrolled in the MGIB may convert to the Post 9/11.
6. Air Force ROTC **does not** determine Post 9/11 eligibility. AFPC determines eligibility based on military time served when a member applies for the GI Bill.
7. Please visit the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Website at www.gibill.va.gov for additional/specific information on the MGIB and Post 9/11 GI Bill.

References:

AFROTCI36-2011, Chapter 12, Fig 12.13

US Department of Veterans Affairs, The GI Bill Website: www.gibill.va.gov