

**Fact Sheet**  
**Department of Defense Instruction 1341.13, “Post-9/11 GI Bill” Change**

The Department of Defense issued a change to Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 1341.13, “Post-9/11 GI Bill,” updating policy on the transfer of Post-9/11 GI Bill educational benefits (TEB) by service members to eligible family members. **Effective one year from the date of this change, eligibility to transfer** Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits will be limited to service members with at least six years, but not more than 16 years, of total creditable service. There is no change to current provisions requiring service member to having at least six years of service to apply to transfer benefits, and making a four-year commitment in the Armed Forces.

**The following changes go into effect immediately:**

- Requires the military departments, the Department of Homeland Security with regard to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) to provide their guidance implementing transferability, as well as their written force training and education plans, no later than 60 days after publication of the revised DoD Instruction.
- Service members must be eligible to be retained for four years from the date of their election to transfer benefits, **and not be precluded from serving for four more years prior to approval of their election** by either standard policy (Department or Uniformed Service) or statute. If there are reasons that preclude a service member from committing to four years of service, that service member cannot sign up to transfer their benefits. Reasons could include a mandatory retirement date, high-year tenure, retention control point, and those who are not medically qualified.
- Service members separated under “force shaping” authorities and policies prior to completing their required four years of service resulting from the transfer of education benefits retain their eligibility to transfer benefits. Effective immediately, the scope of “force shaping” was expanded to expressly include officers involuntarily separated as a result of being twice passed over for promotion, and enlisted personnel who were involuntarily separated as a result of failure to meet minimum retention standards, or because of a change in these policies.
- Deletes the ten years of service exception. Previously, service members with ten years of service could transfer the benefit without serving the four years, if they were prevented by policy or statute from doing so. Now such members must be eligible to serve an additional four years when they elect to transfer educational benefits.

**The change provides clarity on department policy for service members who are on limited duty or involved in a Medical Evaluation Board, Physical Evaluation Board, or Disability Evaluation System process.**

**The following changes are effective one year from the date of this change:**

- Requires service members **who have not applied** for TEB, who are on limited duty or involved in a Medical Evaluation Board, Physical Evaluation Board, or Disability Evaluation System process to wait until the process is complete before applying for transferability.
- Requires service members **who applied** for TEB, but were denied due to insufficient retainability as a result of being on limited duty or involved in a Medical Evaluation Board, Physical Evaluation Board, or Disability Evaluation System process to request transferability again once they are fit for duty and commit to an additional 4 year service obligation.
- Members subsequently found fit for duty, but only after having accrued more than 16 years of total creditable service, will be allowed to apply to TEB again, provided the member applies to TEB within 90 days of being informed of the fit for duty determination.
- Service members who have not applied, and who are subsequently found unfit for duty (with a medical separation/retirement order) - but otherwise eligible to request to transfer their benefit, (have six years), may not be approved for transferability with no additional service obligation.

The changes are intended to more closely align the transferability benefit with its purpose as a recruiting and retention incentive, and also to underscore to the department that while the Post-9/11 GI Bill is a transition/adjustment benefit offered as a reward to service members during a time of conflict, transferability of the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit to dependents was enacted to serve as a recruiting and retention incentive.