

Reserve Educational Assistance Program Chapter 1607

What is REAP?

(REAP, Chapter 1607 of title 10, U.S. Code) is a new benefit providing educational assistance to members of the reserve components - Selected Reserve (Sel Res) and Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) - who are called or ordered to active service in response to a war or national emergency, as declared by the President or Congress. The "reserve components" consist of Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, and the Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Army IRR, Air Force IRR, Navy IRR and Marine Corps IRR. "Active Service" is service on active duty or full-time National Guard duty.

REAP was established as a part of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2005. It is a Department of Defense education benefit program designed to provide educational assistance to members of the Reserve components called or ordered to active duty in response to a war or national emergency (contingency operation) as declared by the President or Congress. This program makes certain reservists who were activated for at least 90 days after September 11, 2001 either eligible for education benefits or eligible for increased benefits.

Eligibility Criteria for Chapter 1607 Active Duty Montgomery GI Bill

Eligibility will be determined by the Department of Defense (DoD) or Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as appropriate. Generally, a member of a reserve component who serves on active duty on or after September 11, 2001 under title 10, U.S.C., for at least 90 consecutive days under a contingency operation is eligible for REAP. *Note: "Contingency operation" means the current Iraq or Afghanistan operations and may include other operations.*

National Guard members are eligible if their active service extends for 90 consecutive days or more and their service is:

- authorized under section 502(f), title 32, U.S.C.,
- authorized by the President or Secretary of Defense for a national emergency, and
- supported by federal funds.

\$600 Buy-up Program

Some reservists may contribute up to an additional \$600 to the GI Bill to receive increased monthly benefits. For an additional \$600 contribution, you may receive up to \$5400 in additional GI Bill benefits. You must be a member of a Ready Reserve component (Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve, or Inactive National Guard) to pay into the "buy-up" program. The additional contribution must be made while on active duty. For more information contact your personnel or payroll office. For pay rates click the following link.

http://www.gibill.va.gov/resources/benefits_resources/rates/CH1607/ch1607rates100111.htm
increased rates under the Buy Up program:

http://www.gibill.va.gov/resources/benefits_resources/rates/600_buyup.html

The number of months of entitlement under REAP is 36 months. A person could earn 36 months of entitlement after serving the minimum 90 days. The 48-month limitation when combining two or more education programs applies to REAP.

How long am I Eligible for REAP?

A member called or ordered to active service while serving in the Selected Reserve remains entitled to benefits under REAP only by continuing to serve in the Selected Reserve. A member called or ordered to active service from the IRR remains entitled to benefits under REAP by continuing to serve in the Ready Reserve (either SELRES or IRR)

Steps to Follow

- Apply for VA benefits on-line at www.gibill.va.gov or go to Rich Mountain Community College and fill out the VA Form 22-1990.
- Compare all benefit chapters to decide if chapter 1607 (REAP) is right for you. To do this, please follow the link below.
http://www.gibill.va.gov/resources/benefits_resources/benefit_comparison_tools.html
- Bring your DD214 and Letter of Eligibility to the Rich Mountain Community College Financial Aid / Veteran Affairs Officials.
- Register with RMCC as early as possible to ensure eligibility and timeliness of payments.
- Certify your enrollment every month!!** Call in and certify at 1-877 VA-ECERT (1-877-823-2378) or certify on-line at <https://www.gibill.va.gov/wave/index.do>
- Get to know the VA Certifying Officials for RMCC
- Visit The VA Academic Advisor often to ensure that you are staying on the correct degree plan.
- The educational assistance allowance payable under REAP is a percentage of the Montgomery GI BILL-Active Duty rate based on the number of continuous days served on active duty. Persons released before 90 days for a disability receive the 40% rate. The current full-time rate in the following table is the rate for full-time institutional training under REAP.
- Do not forget to get a copy of your military transcripts to submit to the college for possible college credit.
http://www.acenet.edu/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Military_Programs&CONTENTID=9175
- Important: If you Drop one or more classes you should notify the VA certifying official as soon as possible. If you do not it could cause an over payment that you as the student will be responsible for paying back!**
- If you drop one or more of your courses, you should always notify VA and RMCC's certifying officials as soon as possible. If you drop after the end of RMCC's drop period,

you'll need to let us know the reasons for the change. Unless you can show that the change was due to mitigating circumstances, we (the VA) must reduce or stop your benefits from the beginning date of the term. You may have to repay all benefits for the course or courses.

- **“Mitigating circumstances”** are unavoidable and unexpected events that directly interfere with your pursuit of a course and are beyond your control. If you can show mitigating circumstances, the VA can usually pay benefits up to the last date of your attendance. Examples of reasons VA may accept are extended illness and unscheduled changes in your employment. Examples of reasons VA may not accept are dropping a course to avoid a failing grade or dislike of the instructor. VA may ask you to furnish evidence to support your reasons for dropping one or more courses. If a serious illness or injury caused the drop, obtain a statement from your doctor. If a change in employment caused the drop, obtain a statement from your employer. The first time you drop up to six credit hours, VA may “excuse” the drop and pay benefits for the period you attended. You won't have to explain the reasons for dropping the course or courses. Remember, this only applies to the first drop.
- If you need further information on Chapter 1607 (REAP) Montgomery GI Bill please refer to this pamphlet
http://www.gibill.va.gov/documents/pamphlets/ch1607_pamphlet.pdf
- Please take advantage of the Veteran Resource Center located in the Student Center of RMCC.
- Interested in joining a school organization talk with Professor Larry Kropp about the Student Veterans of America organization on campus.

All information above obtained at www.gibill.va.gov . For a complete list of Chapter 1607 benefits and information please log on to the link above.

RMCC VA Official's Contact Info:

School Certifying Official (SCO) 479-394-7622 ext. 1420 or 1421
Academic Advisor (AA) 479-394-7622 ext. 1460