

## **GI Bill Chapter 1606 and 1607 NOT allowed with Federal Tuition Assistance:**

The VA has posted an Advisory on 26 NOV 2014 to certifying school officials that they based on the new DoDi 1322.25 change #3. The VA Advisory is an interpretation of the DoDi that DOES NOT allow GI Bill Chapter 1606 and 1607 to be received for the same education course(s) while receiving federal Tuition Assistance (TA).

According to the VA Advisory, Soldier students who are authorized TA (as managed by GoArmyEd) will not be certified for Chapter 1606 and 1607. Soldiers who use Chapter 30 or Chapter 33 also known as the Post 9/11 GI Bill are authorized to use both at this time.

In the past Soldiers could use both TA and GI Bill 1606 or 1607 simultaneously. This ruling is being enforced by the Department of Veterans Administration as of 26 Nov 2014, however, no action will be taken on current or past classes. The DoDi does not apply to Soldiers in other states in regards to their receiving State Tuition Assistance. It is the Soldiers' responsibility to make sure they do not receive both benefits for classes begun after 26 NOV 2014 to avoid possible recoupment.

According to the NGB Education Chief, VA will not establish or collect any debts for the amounts paid under 1606 or 1607 due to concurrent receipt with TA. However, Soldiers must be aware of these changes and make informed decisions regarding which education benefits to use IOT avoid potential debt collection for the amount of TA paid.

Because of the limitations of receiving 16 Semester Hours (SH) per Fiscal Year of TA, students should look at which benefit gets them the most money up front. GI Bill chapter 1606 or 1607 can be used for any classes or courses that do not have Federal TA applied to them.

GI Bill chapter 1606 is currently \$367.00 a month for full time students while TA is up to \$250.00 a SH or credit (NOTE: distance learning is not considered full time).

GI Bill is paid out in monthly installments to the Soldier, TA is paid in full at the first invoicing directly to the school.

NGB has said they are currently working to gain an official legal opinion from the Army Office of General Counsel. (HRM) We do not have an ETA of any changes. Our state leadership is actively investigating possible courses of action to resolve this situation. NGB has promised to keep looking into this, but at this time we have little choice but to abide by the recent interpretation of the DoDi. For more assistance contact our education office.