

Expansion of GI Benefits for the Guard and Reserve

Fiscal Year 2024 Fact Sheet



NGAUS



The Issue

Since 9/11, the National Guard has transitioned from a strategic reserve to an operational reserve. Reserve and Active-duty service members train and deploy in unison for wildfires, hurricanes, overseas operations, and more. National Guard deployments have increased exponentially, from 818,496 days in 2006 to 9.5 million days in 2021. To be eligible for post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, Guardsmen serving under Title 32 must be responding to a national emergency declared by the President of the United States. As such, Guard members are serving alongside Active-duty and do not receive the same benefits.

Guardsmen attend a training course during Cybershield 2023, Camp Joseph T. Robinson, AR.

Background

The GI Bill is the most significant piece of federal legislation ever produced, providing educational opportunities to the greatest generation and vaulting America to unprecedented economic growth. President H.W. Bush exalted its impact, saying, "The GI bill changed the lives of millions by replacing old roadblocks with the path of opportunity." Seventy-nine years later, Guardsmen are still running into roadblocks while in uniform as they do not accrue the same GI Bill benefits as the Active Component, even when they take on the same job with the same risks. We believe a day in uniform is a day in service to our country, regardless of status.

In 2020, the National Guard was deployed more often and for longer periods than at any time since World War II. Educational opportunity and achievement fuel economic growth and help our nation compete. To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the GI Bill, we support the passage of the Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act. It is time to finally provide the right-sized education benefits for the operational National Guard.

Recommendation

- Reintroduce S.2644 and H.R. 1836 — the Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act — to expand post-9/11 GI Bill education assistance.



Learn more at
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