

The Coast Guard certifies under 5 U.S.C. 605(b) that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities. The impacts on small entities are expected to be minimal.

Assistance for Small Entities

Under section 213(a) of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-121), we offer to assist small entities in understanding the rule so that they could better evaluate its effects on them and participate in the rulemaking process. Small businesses may send comments on the actions of Federal employees who enforce, or otherwise determine compliance with, Federal regulations to the Small Business and Agriculture Regulatory Enforcement Ombudsman and the Regional Small Business Regulatory Fairness Boards. The Ombudsman evaluates these actions annually and rates each agency's responsiveness to small business. If you wish to comment on actions by employees of the Coast Guard, call 1-888-REG-FAIR (1-888-734-3247).

Collection of Information

This rule calls for no new collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520).

Federalism

We have analyzed this rule under Executive Order 13132 and have determined that this rule does not have implications for federalism under that Order.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1531-1538) governs the issuance of Federal regulations that require unfunded mandates. An unfunded mandate is a regulation that requires a State, local, or tribal government or the private sector to incur direct costs without the Federal Government's having first provided the funds to pay those unfunded mandate costs. This rule will not impose an unfunded mandate.

Taking of Private Property

This rule will not effect a taking of private property or otherwise have taking implications under E.O. 12630, Governmental Actions and Interference with Constitutionally Protected Property Rights.

Civil Justice Reform

This rule meets applicable standards in sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform, to

minimize litigation, eliminate ambiguity, and reduce burden.

Protection of Children

We have analyzed this rule under Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks. This rule is not an economically significant rule and does not concern an environmental risk to health or risk to safety that may disproportionately affect children.

Environment

The Coast Guard considered the environmental impact of this rule and concluded that under figure 2-1, paragraph (34) g, of Commandant Instruction M16475.IC, this rule is categorically excluded from further environmental documentation.

Indian Tribal Governments

This rule does not have tribal implications under Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, because it does not have a substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes.

Energy Effects

We have analyzed this proposed rule under Executive Order 13211, Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use. We have determined that it is not a "significant energy action" under that order because it is not a "significant regulatory action" under Executive Order 12866 and is not likely to have a significant adverse effect on the supply, distribution, or use of energy. It has not been designated by the Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs as a significant energy action. Therefore, it does not require a Statement of Energy Effects under Executive Order 13211.

List of Subjects

Harbors, Marine safety, Navigation (water), Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Security measures, Waterways.

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Coast Guard amends 33 CFR part 165 as follows:

PART 165—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 165 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 33 U.S.C. 1231; 50 U.S.C. 191, 33 CFR 1.05-1(g), 6.04-1, 6.04-6, 160.5; 49 CFR 1.46.

2. A new § 165.T08-038 is added to read as follows:

§ 165.T08-038 Safety Zone; Lower Mississippi River, LMR mile 531.3 to 537, Vaucluse Trenchfill.

(a) *Location.* The following area is a safety zone: the waters of the Mississippi River from mile LMR mile 531.3 to 537.0.

(b) *Effective date.* This section is effective daily from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. (CDT) from June 11, 2001, through September 2, 2001.

(c) *Regulations.*

(1) In accordance with the general regulations in § 165.23 of this part, entry into this zone is prohibited unless authorized by the Captain of the Port Memphis.

(2) No vessels may enter or remain within this safety zone unless specifically authorized by the Captain of the Port Memphis. Vessels shall contact the M/V PATRICK on channel 13 or 16 for closure information and passing instructions. The Captain of the Port will notify the public of changes in the status of this zone by Marine Radio Safety Broadcast on VHF Marine Band Radio, Channel 22 (157.1 MHz).

Dated: June 8, 2001.

R.R. O'Brien, Jr.,

Commander, U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port.

[FR Doc. 01-18677 Filed 7-25-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-15-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 21

RIN 2900-AK40

Increase in Rates Payable Under the Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve

AGENCIES: Department of Defense, Department of Transportation (Coast Guard), and Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: By statute, the monthly rates of basic educational assistance payable to reservists under the Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve must be adjusted each fiscal year. In accordance with the statutory formula, the regulations governing rates of basic educational assistance payable under the Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve

for fiscal year 2001 (October 1, 2000, through September 30, 2001) are changed to show a 3.0% increase in these rates.

DATES: *Effective Date:* This final rule is effective July 26, 2001.

Applicability Date: The changes in rates are applied retroactively to conform to statutory requirements. For more information concerning the dates of application, see the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William G. Susling, Jr., Assistant Director for Policy and Program Development, Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration (202) 273-7187.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the formula mandated by 10 U.S.C. 16131(b) for fiscal year 2001, the rates of basic educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve payable to students pursuing a program of education full time, three-quarter time, and half time must be increased by 3.0%, which is the percentage by which the total of the monthly Consumer Price Index-W for July 1, 1999, through June 30, 2000, exceeds the total of the monthly Consumer Price Index-W for July 1, 1998, through June 30, 1999.

10 U.S.C. 16131(b) requires that full-time, three-quarter time, and half-time rates be increased as noted above. In addition, 10 U.S.C. 16131(d) requires that monthly rates payable to reservists in apprenticeship or other on-the-job training must be set at a given percentage of the full-time rate. Hence, there is a 3.0% raise for such training as well.

10 U.S.C. 16131(b) also requires that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pay reservists training less than half time at an appropriately reduced rate. Since payment for less than half-time training became available under the Montgomery GI Bill—Selected Reserve in fiscal year 1990, VA has paid less than half-time students at 25% of the full-time rate. Changes are made consistent with the authority and formula described in this paragraph.

Nonsubstantive changes also are made for the purpose of clarity.

The changes set forth in this final rule are effective from the date of publication, but the changes in rates are applied from October 1, 2000, in accordance with the applicable statutory provisions discussed above.

Administrative Procedure Act

Substantive changes made by this final rule merely reflect statutory requirements and adjustments made based on previously established

formulas. Accordingly, there is a basis for dispensing with prior notice and comment and delayed effective date under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552 and 553.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Secretary of Defense, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs hereby certify that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as they are defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601–612. This final rule directly affects only individuals and does not directly affect small entities. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), this final rule, therefore, is exempt from the initial and final regulatory flexibility analyses requirements of sections 603 and 604.

Unfunded Mandates

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act requires, at 2 U.S.C. 1532, that agencies prepare an assessment of anticipated costs and benefits before developing any rule that may result in an expenditure by State, local, or tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of \$100 million or more in any given year. This rule would have no consequential effect on State, local, or tribal governments.

There is no Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for the program affected by this final rule.

List of Subjects in 38 CFR Part 21

Administrative practice and procedure, Armed forces, Civil rights, Claims, Colleges and universities, Conflict of interests, Defense Department, Education, Employment, Grant programs-education, Grant programs-veterans, Health programs, Loan programs-education, Loan programs-veterans, Manpower training programs, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Schools, Travel and transportation expenses, Veterans, Vocational education, Vocational rehabilitation.

Approved: March 27, 2001.

Anthony J. Principi,
Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Approved: April 17, 2001.

Charles L. Cragin,
Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs.

Approved: July 10, 2001.

F.L. Ames,
*Rear Admiral, United States Coast Guard
Assistant Commandant for Human Resources.*

For the reasons set out above, 38 CFR part 21 (subpart L) is amended as set forth below.

PART 21—VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION

Subpart L—Educational Assistance for Members of the Selected Reserve

1. The authority citation for part 21, subpart L continues to read as follows:

Authority: 10 U.S.C. ch. 1606; 38 U.S.C. 501(a), ch. 36, unless otherwise noted.

2. Section 21.7636 is amended by revising paragraphs (a)(1), (a)(2) introductory text, (a)(2)(i), and (a)(3) to read as follows:

§ 21.7636 Rates of payment.

(a) * * *

(1) Except as otherwise provided in this section or in § 21.7639, the monthly rate of basic educational assistance payable for training that occurs after September 30, 2000, and before October 1, 2001, to a reservist pursuing a program of education is the rate stated in this table:

Training	Monthly rate
Full time	\$263.00
¾ time	197.00
½ time	131.00
¼ time	65.75

(2) The monthly rate of basic educational assistance payable to a reservist for apprenticeship or other on-the-job training full time that occurs after September 30, 2000, and before October 1, 2001, is the rate stated in this table:

(i)

Training period	Monthly rate
First six months of pursuit of training	\$197.25
Second six months of pursuit of training	144.65
Remaining pursuit of training	92.05

* * * * *

(3) The monthly rate of basic educational assistance payable to a

reservist for pursuit of a cooperative course that occurs after September 30, 2000, and before October 1, 2001, is the rate stated in paragraph (a)(1) of this section for full-time training during that period of time.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16131(b), (c); sec. 8203(b), Pub. L. 105-178, 112 Stat. 493-494)

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[FR Doc. 01-18608 Filed 7-25-01; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 8320-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 21

RIN 2900-AK45

End of the Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Program

AGENCIES: Department of Defense, Department of Transportation (Coast Guard), and Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document amends the educational assistance and educational benefit regulations of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The amendments consist of removal of regulations that are no longer needed to administer the Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Program. Veterans are no longer training under that program.

DATES: *Effective date:* July 26, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

William G. Susling, Jr., Assistant Director for Policy and Program Development, Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, 202-273-7187.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Act (SMOCTA) (Subtitle G, Pub. L. 102-484) established a job-training program for some veterans. The program helped these veterans enter the civilian workforce through training in a stable and permanent position that involved significant training. VA made monthly payments to employers who employed and trained eligible veterans in these jobs, and made a final lump sum payment when the trainee had completed the training program and

been employed for four months. The payments aided employers in defraying the necessary costs of training.

Based on statutory authority and regulations, employers may no longer apply for the monthly payments and may no longer apply for the lump sum payment. No one is training under SMOCTA, and VA is making no payments under that Act. The statutory date for beginning training has passed, and the last year in which funds were appropriated for this program was Fiscal Year 1995. There is no need for regulations to implement SMOCTA, nor is there any need for other regulations that refer to SMOCTA.

Administrative Procedure Act

The changes made by this final rule are nonsubstantive changes. This final rule merely removes unnecessary provisions that relate only to a training and payment program for which there no longer is statutory authority for training or payment. Accordingly, there is a basis for dispensing with prior notice and comment and a delayed effective date under the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552 and 553.

Paperwork Reduction Act

This document contains no provisions constituting a collection of information under the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520).

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Secretary of Defense, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs hereby certify that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities as they are defined in the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601-612. This final rule will not cause employers to make changes in their activities because no one is training under SMOCTA. Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 605(b), this final rule, therefore, is exempt from the initial and final regulatory flexibility analyses requirements of §§ 603 and 604.

Unfunded Mandates

The Unfunded Mandates Reform Act requires, at 2 U.S.C. 1532, that agencies prepare an assessment of anticipated costs and benefits before developing any rule that may result in an expenditure by State, local, or tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of \$100 million or more in any given year. This rule would have no consequential effect on State, local, or tribal governments.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance

There is no Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for the program that this final rule affects.

List of Subjects in 38 CFR Part 21

Administrative practice and procedure, Armed forces, Civil rights, Claims, Colleges and universities, Conflict of interests, Defense Department, Education, Employment, Grant programs-education, Grant programs-veterans, Loan programs-education, Loan programs-veterans, Manpower training programs, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Schools, Travel and transportation expenses, Veterans, Vocational education, Vocational rehabilitation.

Approved: April 9, 2001.

Anthony J. Principi,

Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Approved: July 6, 2001.

P.A. Tracey,

Vice Admiral, USN, Deputy Assistant Secretary (Military Personnel Policy), Department of Defense.

Approved: July 12, 2001.

F.L. Ames,

Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Assistant Commandant for Human Resources.

For the reasons set forth above, 38 CFR part 21 is amended as set forth below.

PART 21—VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION

Subpart D—Administration of Educational Assistance Programs

1. The authority citation for part 21, subpart D continues to read as follows:

Authority: 10 U.S.C. 2141 note, ch. 1606; 38 U.S.C. 501(a), chs. 30, 32, 34, 35, 36, unless otherwise noted.

§ 21.4131 [Amended]

2. In § 21.4131, paragraph (i) is removed and reserved.

§ 21.4135 [Amended]

3. In § 21.4135, paragraph (aa) is removed and reserved.

Subpart F-3 [Removed and Reserved]

Subpart F-3—Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Program

4. Part 21, subpart F-3 is removed and reserved.