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college credit for this training and experience.

SELRES or Selected Reserve. Those units and individuals within the Ready Reserve designated by their respective Service as essential to wartime missions and must therefore maintain a higher priority over all other Reserves. The SELRES includes Reserve unit members (including members in the training pipeline and drilling Reservists in units), Individual Mobilization Augmentees, and Active Guard/Reserve members.

Semester-hour TA Cap. The maximum dollar amount authorized for TA per semester-hour credit. A Service shall pay no more than the established DoD cap.

SOC or Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges. A consortium of over 1,800 colleges and universities, created in 1972 that seeks to enhance the educational opportunities to Service members who may have difficulty in completing college programs due to frequent military moves.

TA or tuition assistance. Funds provided by the Military Services or U.S. Coast Guard to pay a percentage of the charges of an educational institution for the tuition of an active duty, Reserve or National Guard member of the Military Services, or Coast Guard member, enrolled in approved courses of study during off-duty time.

Top-Up. An option, under chapter 30 of the Montgomery G.I. Bill and Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, that enables active duty Service members to receive from the Department of Veterans Affairs those tuition and fee costs that exceed the amount of TA provided to the Service member by his or her Service.

Troops-to-Teachers program (TTT). A Department of Education program administered by the DoD to help recruit quality teachers for schools that serve low-income families throughout America. TTT helps relieve teacher shortages, especially in math, science, special education, and other high-needs subject areas, and assists military personnel in making successful transitions to second careers in teaching.

Voluntary education programs. Continuing, adult, or postsecondary education programs of study that Service members elect to participate in during their off-duty time, and that are available to other members of the military community.

§ 68.4 Policy.

It is DoD policy, consistent with DoD Directive 1322.08E, that:

(a) Members of the Military Services serving on active duty or members of the Selected Reserve (SELRES) shall be afforded the opportunity to complete their high school education through a state-funded or Service component sponsored program, earn an equivalency diploma, improve their academic skills or level of literacy, enroll in career and technical education schools, receive college credit for military training and experience in accordance with the American Council on Education’s “Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services” (available at http://www.militaryguides.acenet.edu/), take tests to earn college credit, and enroll in postsecondary education programs that lead to industry-recognized credentials, and undergraduate and graduate degrees.

(b) Subject to the availability of funds, Service members’ costs to participate in the DoD Voluntary Education Program as authorized by Section 2007 of title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.), shall be reduced through financial support, including tuition assistance that is administered uniformly across the Military Services.

(c) Information and counseling about voluntary education programs shall be readily available and easy to access so that Service members are encouraged to make maximum use of the educational opportunities available.

(d) Institutions accredited by a national or regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education shall be encouraged to provide degree programs on military installations and the Military Services shall facilitate their operations on the installations.

(e) To the extent that space is otherwise available, eligible adult family members of Service members, DoD civilian employees and their eligible adult family members, and military retirees may enroll in postsecondary education programs offered on a military
installation at no cost to the individual Service TA programs.

§ 68.5 Responsibilities.

(a) Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)). The USD(P&R) shall:
   (2) Establish rates of tuition assistance (TA) to ensure uniformity across the Military Services as required by DoD Directive 1322.08E, DoD Instruction (DoDI) 1322.25 (see http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/132225p.pdf), and this part.
   (3) Establish, under the provisions of DoDI 5105.18, the Interservice Voluntary Education Board, which will be composed of full-time or permanent part-time federal employees.
   (4) Maintain a program to assess the effectiveness of the voluntary education programs.
   (5) Issue written guidance annually for the funding and operation of the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES).

(b) Assistant Secretary of Defense for Readiness and Force Management (ASD(R&FM)). The ASD(R&FM), under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(P&R) shall:
   (1) Provide administrative assistance to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy (DASD(MCFP)), in support of the voluntary education programs.
   (2) Respond to matters that are referred to by the DASD(MCFP).

(c) Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy (DASD(MCFP)). The DASD(MCFP), under the authority, direction, and control of the ASD(R&FM) shall:
   (1) Monitor compliance with this part and DoD Directive 1322.08E and related issuances by personnel under his or her authority, direction, and control.
   (2) Oversee the DoD Voluntary Education Program.
   (3) Provide ongoing and routine clarifying guidance for the DoD Voluntary Education Program.
   (4) Provide representatives to professional education and cross-agency panels addressing issues impacting the DoD Voluntary Education Program, its regulatory scope, clientele, and partners.
   (5) Designate the Voluntary Education Chief within the Office of the DASD(MCFP) as the Chair of the Interservice Voluntary Education Board and oversee implementation of Board and DANTES procedures as detailed in §68.6 of this part.

(d) Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs (ASD(RA)). The ASD(RA), under the authority, direction, and control of the USD(P&R), shall:
   (1) Monitor compliance with this part and DoD Directive 1322.08E and related issuances by personnel under his or her authority, direction, and control.
   (2) Appoint a representative to serve on the Interservice Voluntary Education Board.
   (3) Arrange the assignment of, on a rotating basis, a field grade officer, to serve as the Reserve Component Advisor to the Voluntary Education Chief within the Office of DASD(MCFP).

(e) Secretaries of the Military Departments. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall:
   (1) Monitor compliance with this part and DoD Directive 1322.08E and related issuances.
   (2) Establish, maintain, coordinate, and operate voluntary education programs that encompass a broad range of educational experiences including, but not limited to, academic skills development, high school completion programs, career and technical education programs, and programs leading to the award of industry-recognized credentials, and undergraduate and graduate degrees.
   (3) Require that sufficient funding is available to provide Service members with TA support consistent with the requirements in section 68.6 and appendices A, B, C, D, and E to this part.
   (4) Require that educational counseling is available to Service members so they will have sufficient information and guidance to plan an appropriate program of study.
   (5) Require that voluntary education programs participate in the established...