

either paragraph (a)(2)(i) or (a)(2)(ii) of this AD.

(i) Replace all discrepant parts with new parts having the same part numbers and repeat the special detailed inspection using a borescope thereafter at intervals not to exceed 150 flight cycles.

(ii) Repair in accordance with a method approved by the Manager, Atlanta Aircraft Certification Office (ACO), FAA.

Note 2: For the purpose of this AD a special detailed inspection is defined as: "An intensive examination of a specific item(s), installation, or assembly to detect damage, failure, or irregularity. The examination is likely to make extensive use of specialized inspection techniques and or equipment. Intricate cleaning and substantial access or disassembly procedure may be required."

Reporting Requirements

(b) Within 10 days after accomplishing the actions required by paragraph (a) of this AD, submit a report of any findings of cracking to the Manager, FAA, Atlanta ACO, One Crown Center, 1895 Phoenix Boulevard, suite 450, Atlanta, Georgia, fax (770) 703-6097. Information collection requirements contained in this regulation have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*) and have been assigned OMB Control Number 2120-0056.

Alternative Methods of Compliance

(c) An alternative method of compliance or adjustment of the compliance time that provides an acceptable level of safety may be used if approved by the Manager, Atlanta ACO. Operators shall submit their requests through an appropriate FAA Principal Maintenance Inspector, who may add comments and then send it to the Manager, Atlanta ACO.

Note 3: Information concerning the existence of approved alternative methods of compliance with this AD, if any, may be obtained from the Atlanta ACO.

Special Flight Permits

(d) Special flight permits may be issued in accordance with §§ 21.197 and 21.199 of the Federal Aviation Regulations (14 CFR 21.197 and 21.199) to operate the airplane to a location where the requirements of this AD can be accomplished.

Effective Date

(e) This amendment becomes effective on July 25, 2000, to all persons except those persons to whom it was made immediately effective by emergency AD 2000-13-51, issued on July 3, 2000, which contained the requirements of this amendment.

Issued in Renton, Washington, on July 13, 2000.

Donald L. Riggin,

Acting Manager, Transport Airplane Directorate, Aircraft Certification Service.

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BILLING CODE 4910-13-U

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 21

RIN 2900-AJ89

Increase in Rates Payable Under the Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: By statute, the monthly rates of basic educational assistance payable to veterans under the Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty 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—Active Duty for fiscal year 2000 (October 1, 1999, through September 30, 2000) are changed to show a 1.6% increase in these rates.

DATES: *Effective Date:* This final rule is effective July 20, 2000.

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

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William G. Susling, Jr., Education Advisor, Education Service (225C), Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, (202) 273-7187.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Under the formula mandated by 38 U.S.C. 3015(g) for fiscal year 2000, the rates of basic educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty payable to students pursuing a program of education full time must be increased by 1.6%, which is the percentage by which the total of the monthly Consumer Price Index-W for July 1, 1998, through June 30, 1999, exceeds the total of the monthly Consumer Price Index-W for July 1, 1997, through June 30, 1998.

It should be noted that some veterans will receive an increase in monthly payments that will be less than 1.6%. The increase does not apply to additional amounts payable by the Secretary of Defense to individuals with skills or a specialty in which there is a critical shortage of personnel (so-called "kickers"). It does not apply to amounts payable for dependents. Veterans who previously had eligibility under the Vietnam Era GI Bill receive monthly payments that are in part based upon basic educational assistance and in part based upon the rates payable under the

Vietnam Era GI Bill. Only that portion attributable to basic educational assistance is increased by 1.6%.

38 U.S.C. 3015(a) and (b) require that the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) pay part-time students at appropriately reduced rates. Since the first student became eligible for assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty in 1985, VA has paid three-quarter-time students and one-half-time students at 75% and 50% of the full-time institutional rate, respectively. Students pursuing a program of education at less than one-half but more than one-quarter-time have had their payments limited to 50% or less of the full-time institutional rate. Similarly, students pursuing a program of education at one-quarter-time or less have had their payments limited to 25% or less of the full-time institutional rate. Changes are made consistent with the authority and formula described in this paragraph.

In addition, 38 U.S.C. 3032(c) requires that monthly rates payable to veterans in apprenticeship or other on-the-job training must be set at a given percentage of the full-time rate. Hence, there is a 1.6% raise for such training as well.

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 retroactively from October 1, 1999 in accordance with the applicable statutory provisions discussed above.

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 provisions of 5 U.S.C. 552 and 553.

Executive Order 12866

The Office of Management and Budget has reviewed this final rule under Executive Order 12866.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs hereby certifies 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 (in section 202) 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 Program Numbers

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number for the program affected by this final rule is 64.124.

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 13, 2000.

Togo D. West, Jr.,
Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

For the reasons set out in the preamble, 38 CFR part 21, subpart K, is amended as follows:

PART 21—VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION

Subpart K—All Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program (Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty)

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

Authority: 38 U.S.C. 501(a), chs. 30, 36, unless otherwise noted.

2. In § 21.7136, paragraphs (b), (c)(1), (c)(2), and (c)(3) are revised to read as follows:

§ 21.7136 Rates of payment of basic educational assistance.

* * * * *

(b) *Rates.* (1) Except as elsewhere provided in this section or in § 21.7139, the monthly rate of basic educational assistance payable for training that

occurs after September 30, 1999, and before October 1, 2000, to a veteran whose service is described in paragraph (a) of this section is the rate stated in the following table:

Training	Monthly rate
Full time	\$536.00
¾ time	402.00
½ time	268.00
Less than ½ but more than ¼	268.00
¼ time	134.00

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3015)

(2) If a veteran's service is described in paragraph (a) of this section, the monthly rate payable to the veteran for pursuit of apprenticeship or other on-job training that occurs after September 30, 1999, and before October 1, 2000, is the rate stated in the following table:

Training period	Monthly rate
First six months of pursuit of training	\$402.00
Second six months of pursuit of training	294.80
Remaining pursuit of training	187.50

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3015, 3032(c))

(3) If a veteran's service is described in paragraph (a) of this section, the monthly rate of basic educational assistance payable to the veteran for pursuit of a cooperative course is:

- (i) \$528.00 for training that occurs after September 30, 1998, and before October 1, 1999; and
- (ii) \$536.00 for training that occurs on or after September 30, 1999, and before October 1, 2000.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3015)

(c) * * *

(1) Except as elsewhere provided in this section or in § 21.7139, the monthly rate of basic educational assistance payable to a veteran for training that occurs after September 30, 1999, and before October 1, 2000, is the rate stated in the following table.

Training	Monthly rate
Full time	\$436.00
¾ time	327.00
½ time	216.00
Less than ½ but more than ¼ time	216.00
¼ time or less	108.00

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3015, 3032(c))

(2) The monthly rate of educational assistance payable to a veteran for pursuit of apprenticeship or other on-job training that occurs after September 30, 1999, and before October 1, 2000, is the rate stated in the following table:

Training period	Monthly rate
First six months of pursuit of training	\$327.00
Second six months of pursuit of training	239.80
Remaining pursuit of training	152.60

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3015, 3032(c))

(3) The monthly rate of basic educational assistance payable to a veteran for pursuit of a cooperative course is:

- (i) \$429.00 for training that occurs after September 30, 1998, and before October 1, 1999; and
- (ii) \$436.00 for training that occurs on or after October 1, 1999, and before October 1, 2000.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3015)

3. Section 21.7137 is amended by:

A. In paragraph (c)(2) introductory text, removing "1998, and before October 1, 1999" and adding, in its place, "1999, and before October 1, 2000".

B. In paragraph (c)(2)(i), removing "\$716.00" and adding, in its place, "\$724.00".

C. In paragraph (c)(2)(ii), removing "\$537.50" and adding, in its place, "\$543.50".

D. In paragraph (c)(2)(iii), removing "\$358.00" and adding, in its place, "\$362.00".

E. In paragraph (c)(2)(iv), removing "\$179.00" and adding, in its place, "\$181.00".

F. Revising paragraph (a) to read as follows:

§ 21.7137 Rates of payment of basic educational assistance for individuals with remaining entitlement under 38 U.S.C. ch. 34.

(a) *Minimum rates.* (1) Except as elsewhere provided in this section, the monthly rate of basic educational assistance for training that occurs after September 30, 1999, and before October 1, 2000, is the rate stated in the following table:

Training	Monthly rate			
	No dependents	One dependent	Two dependents	Additional for each additional dependent
Full time	\$724.00	\$760.00	\$791.00	16.00
¾ time	543.00	570.00	593.00	12.00
½ time	362.00	380.00	395.00	8.50
Less than ½ but more than ¼ time	362.00			
¼ time or less	181.00			

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3015(e), (f), and (g))

(2) For veterans pursuing apprenticeship or other on-job training, the monthly rate of basic educational assistance for training that occurs after September 30, 1999, and before October 1, 2000, is the rate stated in the following table:

Training	Monthly rate			
	No dependents	One dependent	Two dependents	Additional for each additional dependent
1st six months of pursuit of program	\$504.75	\$517.13	\$528.00	\$5.25
2nd six months of pursuit of program	351.18	360.53	368.23	3.85
3rd six months of pursuit of program	211.40	217.53	222.25	2.45
Remaining pursuit of program	199.50	205.28	210.53	2.45

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3015(e), (f), (g))

(3) The monthly rate payable to a veteran who is pursuing a cooperative course is the rate stated in the following table:

Training period	Monthly rate			
	No dependents	One dependent	Two dependents	Additional for each additional dependent
Oct. 1, 1998–Sept. 30, 1999	\$716.00	\$752.00	\$783.00	\$16.00
On or after Oct. 1, 1999, and before Oct. 1, 2000	724.00	760.00	791.00	16.00

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3015)

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

40 CFR Part 52

[DC 045-2020a; FRL-6838-5]

Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia; Approval of National Low Emission Vehicle Program

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Direct final rule.

SUMMARY: EPA is taking direct final action to approve a State Implementation Plan (SIP) revision submitted by the District of Columbia,

which formalizes the District's commitment to accept sales of motor vehicles that comply with the requirements of the National Low Emission Vehicle (National LEV) program.

The District of Columbia submitted its National LEV SIP revision to EPA on February 16, 2000. Through its adopted regulations submitted as part of its National LEV SIP revision, the District has agreed to the sale of National LEV compliant vehicles within its borders, in lieu of implementation of a California LEV program. Under the National LEV Program, auto manufacturers have agreed to sell cleaner vehicles meeting National LEV standards throughout the District and other participating states for the duration of the manufacturers' commitments to the National LEV Program. A SIP revision from each participating state is required as part of the agreement between the states and automobile manufacturers to ensure

continuation of the National LEV Program to supply clean cars throughout most of the country. The sale of vehicles complying with the National LEV program standards began with 1999 model year vehicles in Northeast states. The National LEV program will then be expanded to include states outside the Northeast beginning with 2001 model year vehicles.

DATES: This rule is effective on September 18, 2000 without further notice, unless EPA receives adverse comment by August 21, 2000. If we receive such comment, EPA will publish a timely withdrawal of the direct final rule in the **Federal Register** informing the public that this rule will not take effect.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be mailed to David L. Arnold, Chief, Ozone and Mobile Sources Branch, Mailcode 3AP21, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania