

Position: The Reserve Organization of America urges Congress to *count every day in uniform* towards Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility.

Background: Under current law, reserve component members can accrue “qualifying days” toward receiving Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits if they have served at least 90 cumulative or 30 continuous days on active duty and are discharged with a service-connected disability or awarded the Purple Heart after Sept. 10, 2001.

Reserve component members must “wear the uniform” and perform their duty responsibilities for a minimum of 39 days each fiscal year (24 inactive duty training days and 15 days of active duty in annual tour status).

Unfortunately, these duty days **do not** count towards Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility.

This puts members of the reserve components at a ***distinct disadvantage*** for receiving their service-earned GI Bill educational benefits. In many instances, for the same training day, it is possible for an active component member to receive Post-9/11 GI BILL credit whereas a reserve component member would not.

The increased reliance on reserve component capabilities has necessitated component interoperability. Unfortunately, the strides in achieving this have been far greater than the strides in equitably rewarding personnel for the effort and skillset required to achieve interoperability.

Component interoperability in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom

Sharing Burden and Risk in another Theater: An Operational Assessment of Reserve Component Forces in Afghanistan, a study conducted by the Institute for Defense Analyses, found no discernible difference in performance between components in OIF and OEF.

- Reserve component forces “were doing exactly what they were being tasked to do, without sizeable differences in performance from that of their AC counterparts.”
- Analyses of aggregated tactical level data depicted a “shared burden and shared risk between AC and RC forces in these two operational campaigns.”
- Leaders were “also pleased with RC contributions at the tactical level, with little or no difference from AC counterparts.”
- The study also stated reserve component forces should have “the same equipment and systems as their AC counterparts.”

To resolve this disparity, ROA urges Congress to allow Reserve and National Guard service members to accrue ***all paid points days*** toward receiving the Post-9/11 GI Bill, whereas “all paid points days” includes days for training, active military service, inactive training, and general duty.

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