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**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS**

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-04271

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COUNSEL: NONE`

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT’S REQUEST

He be allowed to transfer his Post-9/11 GI Bill Education Benefits (TEB) to his eligible dependents.

APPLICANT’S CONTENTIONS

His TEB was previously approved in 2017. He had no reason to believe he was missing a step in the process until he found out seven years later that his application had been rejected. This benefit was the sole reason that he chose to reenlist in 2017 and ultimately the deciding factor which would continue his career to retirement. The fact that this can happen to someone is ethically reprehensible. This error was in no part due to him misunderstanding or making a mistake in the process. He has met all eligibility requirements and now due to an error his children are denied this benefit. Due to life circumstances, he cannot continue to serve beyond 20 years; so, acquiring another four years of retainability is not an option.

The applicant’s complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a currently serving Air Force master sergeant (E-7).

On 1 February 2006, according to DD Form 4, *Enlistment/Reenlistment Document – Armed Forces of the United States*, the applicant enlisted in the Air Force for a period of four years.

On 9 May 2016, according to the Benefits for Education Administrative Services Tool (BEAST) print-out, provided by AFPC/DPPSA, the applicant applied for TEB. On 9 June 2016, his request was rejected because he did not secure retainability within the application period.

According to AF Form 901, *Reenlistment Eligibility Annex to DD Form 4*, signed on 6 February 2017, shows the applicant checked yes in “Block D” which states “The reason for this reenlistment is to qualify for transferability of the Post 9/11 GI Bill.”

On 17 February 2017, according to DD Form 4, the applicant reenlisted for a period of four years and 18 months in the Air Force beginning in the pay grade E-6. Previous military service upon reenlistment reflects total active military service 11 years and 16 days.

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Limited Dissemination Control: N/A
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According to the Retrieval Applications Web (RAW), the applicant's current Date of Enlistment (DOE) reflects 15 July 2022 with a Term of Enlistment (TOE) of nine years and a projected retirement date of 1 January 2026.

For more information, see the excerpt of the applicant's record at Exhibit B and the advisory at Exhibit C.

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

Service members enrolled in the Post-9/11 GI Bill Program are able to transfer unused educational benefits to their dependent spouses or children. Any member of the Armed Forces, active duty or Selected Reserve, officer or enlisted, on or after 1 August 2009, who is eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, has at least six years of service in the Armed Force on the date of election, and agrees to serve 4 additional years in the Armed Forces from the date of election; or has at least 10 years of service on the date of election, is precluded by either standard policy (Service or DoD) or statute from committing to 4 additional years, and agrees to serve for the maximum amount of time allowed by such policy or statute, can transfer their unused Post-9/11 GI Bill educational benefits to their dependents (Title 38 USC, Chapter 33, § 3319(b)(1)). Title 38 USC, Chapter 33, § 3319(f)(1) adds that the transfer of such entitlement can only be done while serving as a member of the armed forces when the transfer is executed.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DPPSA recommends denying the application. The Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) records show the applicant applied for TEB on 9 May 2016. The application was rejected on 9 June 2016 because the applicant did not secure the required retainability. He required retainability to 8 May 2020 for TEB approval. The date of separation on the date of application rejection was 29 August 2018. In accordance with (IAW) DoDI 1341.13, Post-9/11 GI Bill, Enclosure 3 [3.a.(1)] and AFI 36-2649_AFGM2015-01, Air Force Voluntary Education Program (A13.18.1.1.1. and A13.20.1.), members must secure and agree to serve four additional years from the date of election. The applicant reenlisted on 17 February 2017, eight months after the 30-day application window closed.

Based on the documentation provided by the applicant and analysis of the facts, there is no evidence of an error or injustice on the part of the Air Force. The applicant's application was rejected because he did not secure the required retainability within the 30-day application window.

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION

The Board sent a copy of the advisory opinion to the applicant on 14 March 2025 for comment (Exhibit D), but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was timely filed.
2. The applicant exhausted all other available administrative remedies before applying to the Board.

3. After reviewing all Exhibits, the Board concludes the applicant is the victim of an error or injustice. While the Board notes the recommendation of AFPC/DPPSA against correcting the record, the Board finds a preponderance of the evidence substantiates the applicant's contentions. The Board notes on 9 May 2016, the applicant applied for TEB and on 9 June 2016, his request was rejected because he did not secure retainability within the application period. The applicant has continued to serve and has a projected retirement date of 1 January 2026. Given the applicant has fulfilled the four-year service commitment from the date he originally applied for TEB, he met the intent of the program and to deny would be a detriment to the applicant. Therefore, the Board recommends correcting the applicant's records as indicated below.

RECOMMENDATION

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected to show on 17 February 2017, he elected to transfer his Post 9/11 GI Bill Education Benefits to his dependents with a service obligation end date to 16 February 2021.

CERTIFICATION

The following quorum of the Board, as defined in Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2024-04271 in Executive Session on 15 August 2025:

- Work-Product, Panel Member
- Work-Product, Panel Chair
- Work-Product, Panel Member

All members voted to correct the record. The panel considered the following:

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 20 December 2024.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DPPSA, w/atchs, dated 7 March 2025.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 14 March 2025.

Taken together with all Exhibits, this document constitutes the true and complete Record of Proceedings, as required by DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 4.12.9.

11/7/2025

X

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Associate Director, AFBCMR

Signed by: USAF

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