



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Veterans Benefits Administration**  
**Washington DC 20420**

Dear Servicemember:

I am pleased to take this opportunity to inform you about a new education benefit called the Post-9/11 GI Bill (also known as chapter 33 benefits). The Post-9/11 GI Bill is the most comprehensive education benefit package since the original GI Bill was signed into law in 1944. Individuals who are eligible for the new benefit may begin using the benefit August 1, 2009, for training that begins on or after that date. This letter provides a brief overview of the new benefit.

### **Basic Eligibility**

Servicemembers who served at least 90 days of qualifying active duty after September 10, 2001, are entitled to these new benefits. However, time spent on active duty in entry level and skill training may not count toward the service requirement.

### **Benefits**

Eligible servicemembers are entitled to a tuition benefit. The tuition benefit covers the cost of tuition and fees and will be issued directly to the school. The student will be responsible for any overpayment that results from a change in enrollment. If a servicemember receives military tuition assistance, the tuition benefit will pay the amount not covered by the military tuition assistance. Although the Post-9/11 GI Bill provides a housing allowance and books and supplies stipend, those benefits are not available while you are on active duty.

### **Transfer of Entitlement**

As a recruitment and retention incentive, the Department of Defense (DoD) may permit you to transfer benefits to your spouse or dependent children. The law provides that an individual must have served at least 6 years in the Armed Forces and agree to serve a minimum of 4 more years in order to be approved to transfer benefits. However, the law permits DoD to modify, by regulation, the number of additional years an individual must serve. DoD is currently developing their policies and regulations to implement the transferability program.

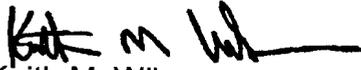
## **Applications**

We plan to begin accepting applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill on May 1, 2009. A revised application will be available on our website. Although we will begin accepting applications, benefits are not payable until August 1, 2009. We will update our website as new information becomes available.

## **Additional Information**

We hope that this information will assist you in planning for your future. For more information about the Post-9/11 GI Bill, please visit our website at [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov).

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith M. Wilson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Keith M. Wilson  
Director, VA Education Service