

Department of Veterans Affairs



**Annual Report on Post-9/11
Educational Assistance Program and
Survivors' and Dependents'
Educational Assistance Program
(Public Law 112-154, Section 402)**

February 2014

Introduction

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education programs provide Veterans, Servicemembers, Reservists, and certain dependents of Veterans with financial assistance for training. These programs help the Armed Forces recruit and retain members, assist members of the Armed Forces readjust to civilian life, and enhance the Nation's competitiveness through the development of a more highly educated and more productive workforce.

Reporting Requirements

Section 402 of Public Law (P.L.) 112-154, "Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012," requires the Secretary to report annually to Congress, the number of credit hours, certificates, degrees, or other qualifications completed under the Post-9/11 GI Bill program and the Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA) program. The Secretary shall include in each report the following:

- Information concerning the level of utilization of educational assistance and of expenditures under chapters 33 and 35;
- Appropriate student outcome measures, such as the number of credit hours, certificates, degrees, and other qualifications earned by beneficiaries under chapters 33 and 35 during the academic year covered by the report; and
- Recommendations for administrative and legislative changes regarding the provision of educational assistance to members of the Armed Forces, Veterans, and their dependents.

VA report data covers degree and certificate programs, on-the-job training, apprenticeship programs, flight training, correspondence programs, and licensing and certification programs.

Education Programs

Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill is the most comprehensive education benefit package since the original GI Bill was signed into law in 1944. This education benefit became effective on August 1, 2009. The Post-9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education and housing to eligible individuals with qualifying service after September 10, 2001. The transferability option under the Post-9/11 GI Bill allows Servicemembers to transfer their benefits to their spouses or dependent children. This benefit provides up to 36 months of education benefits and is generally payable for 15 years beginning the day after release from active duty.

Basic eligibility requirements of the Post-9/11 GI Bill are:

- A minimum of 90 days of active duty service after September 10, 2001, or a service-connected discharge after 30 days of service.
- Honorable discharge from Armed Forces or continuation of active duty.

Basic benefits include:

- Tuition and fees;
- Monthly housing allowance; and
- Books and supplies stipend.

The tuition and fees are paid directly to the school on behalf of the student. Students attending public schools receive assistance based on the net charges for in-state tuition and fees. Students attending private schools receive the assistance based on the net charges for tuition and fees up to an annual maximum rate.

Non-resident students charged out-of-state tuition and fees at public schools, and students at private schools with charges that exceed the annual maximum rate can have those costs covered by the Yellow Ribbon Program. This program is a provision of the Post-9/11 GI Bill that allows institutions of higher learning to voluntarily agree to contribute funding towards a student's outstanding tuition and fee charges. VA will match that amount of funding provided by the institution and issue payment directly to the institution on the student's behalf.

Approved training under the Post-9/11 GI Bill includes graduate and undergraduate degrees, vocational/technical training, on-the-job training, vocational flight training, correspondence training, licensing and certification exams, and national testing programs.

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program

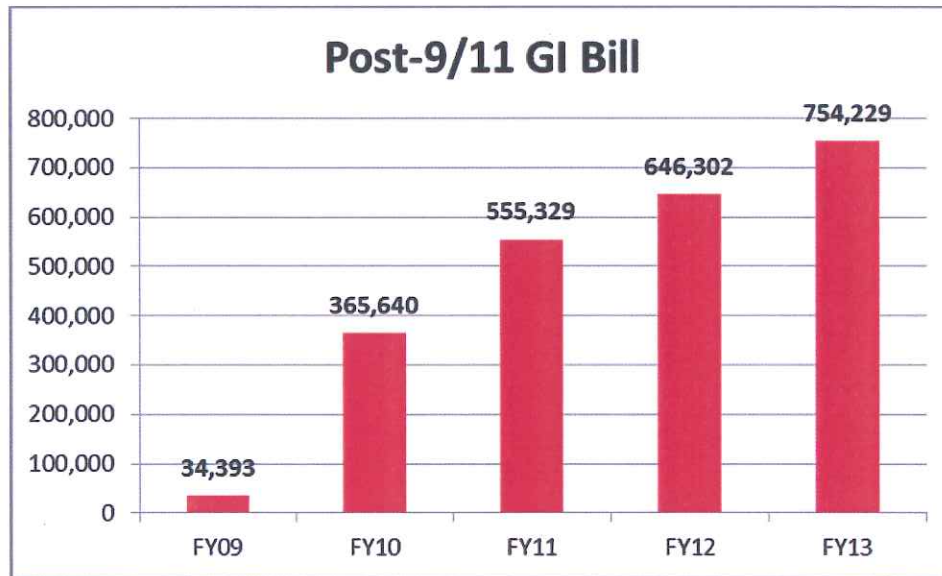
The DEA program provides education and training opportunities to eligible dependents and Survivors of certain disabled or deceased Veterans or Servicemembers. Eligibility is based on the Veteran's service-connected death, total service-connected disability, Missing In Action/Prisoner of War hostage status, or the Servicemember's death on active duty. The maximum entitlement is 45 months of benefits. Children generally have 8 years to use benefits. Spouses generally have 10 years to use benefits and 20 years if the Servicemember dies on active duty or if the Veteran receives a permanent and total rating within 3 years of release from active duty.

Approved training under DEA includes degree and certificate programs, apprenticeship, and on-the-job training.

Level of Utilization by Fiscal Year

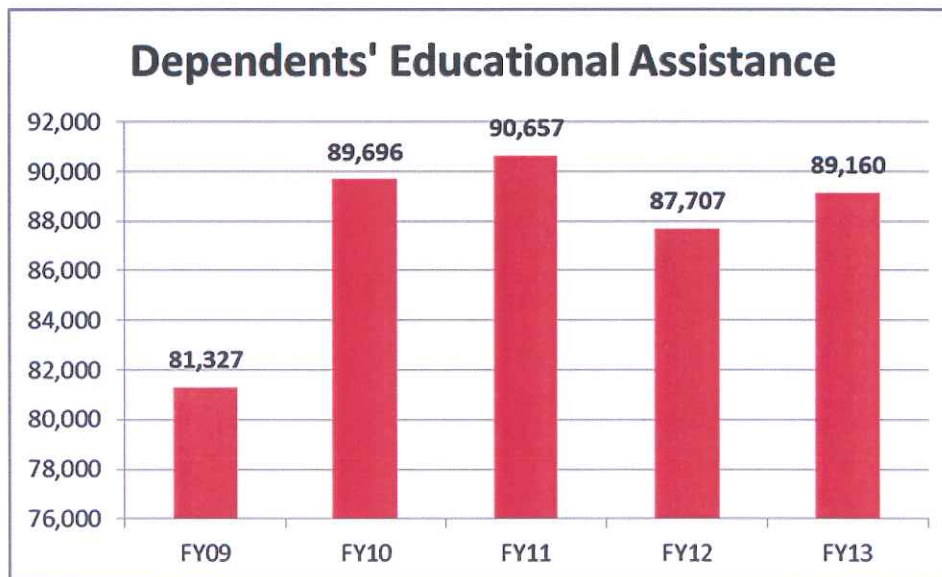
Post-9/11 GI Bill

The Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefit became effective on August 1, 2009. During fiscal year 2009, the first 2 months of implementation, there were 34,393 beneficiaries. The chart below shows the number of beneficiaries by fiscal year. The number of beneficiaries continues to grow each fiscal year.



Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program

In the last 5 fiscal years, the DEA program has averaged approximately 88,000 beneficiaries. The chart below shows the number of DEA beneficiaries by fiscal year.



Level of Utilization During Academic Year 2012-2013

Post-9/11 GI Bill

During the academic year from August 1, 2012, through July 31, 2013, 651,759 beneficiaries were enrolled in training under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. Those beneficiaries completed 6,212,999 hours of training. During the same academic year, 34,206 beneficiaries were reported to have completed a degree or certificate program while receiving Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

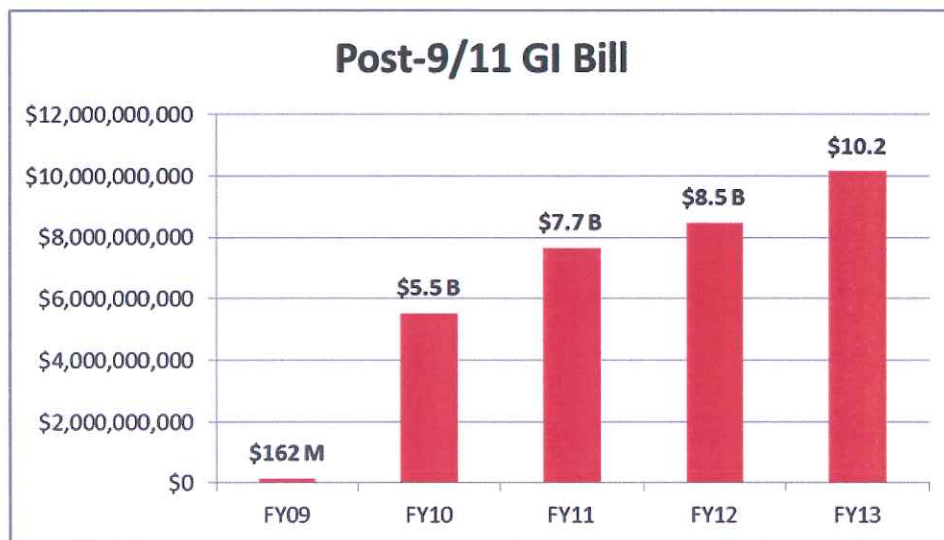
Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program

During the academic year from August 1, 2012, through July 31, 2013, 84,175 beneficiaries were enrolled in training under the DEA program. Those beneficiaries completed 1,514,466 hours of training. During the same academic year, 3,701 beneficiaries were reported to have completed either a degree program or certificate program. Of those, 2,985 (80.4 percent) were children of Veterans and 716 (19.6 percent) were spouses of Veterans.

Expenditures by Fiscal Year

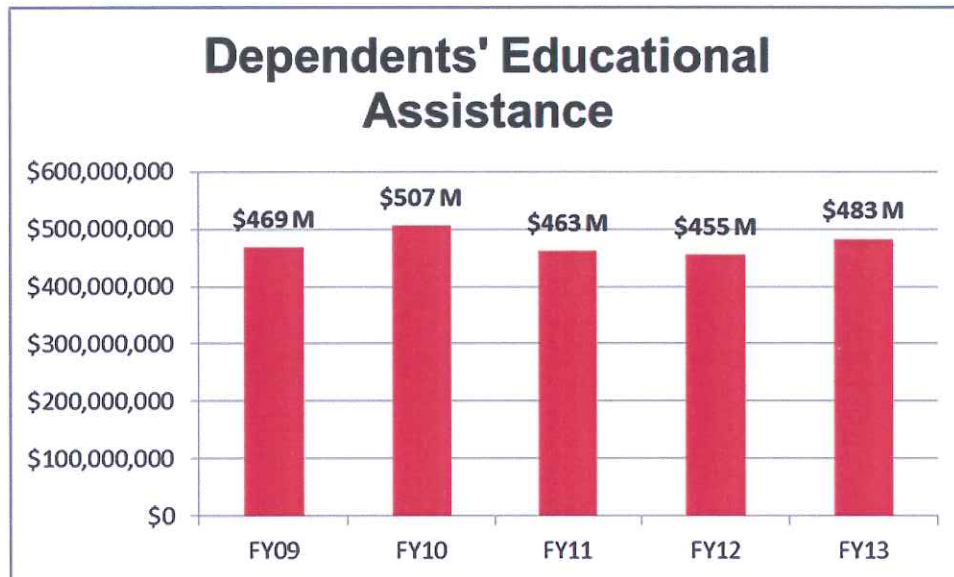
Post-9/11 GI Bill

The amount paid under the Post-9/11 GI Bill program continues to grow each fiscal year. In fiscal year 2013, VA paid approximately \$10.2 billion on behalf of 754,229 beneficiaries who trained under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. The chart below shows the amount paid by fiscal year for all Post-9/11 GI Bill payment types, such as tuition and fees, housing allowance, book and supplies, and Yellow Ribbon program payments.



Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program

During fiscal year 2013, VA paid approximately \$483 million to 89,160 beneficiaries who received DEA benefits. The chart below shows the amount paid to DEA beneficiaries by fiscal year.



Expenditures During Academic Year 2012-2013

Post-9/11 GI Bill

During the academic year from August 1, 2012, through July 31, 2013, VA paid approximately \$4.2 billion in tuition and fees on behalf of Post-9/11 GI Bill beneficiaries. Of the \$4.2 billion paid, VA paid approximately \$245 million in tuition and fees on behalf of beneficiaries who completed a degree program and \$5.8 million on behalf of beneficiaries who completed a certificate program.

Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program

During the academic year from August 1, 2012, through July 31, 2013, VA paid approximately \$482 million to beneficiaries who were enrolled in training under the DEA program.

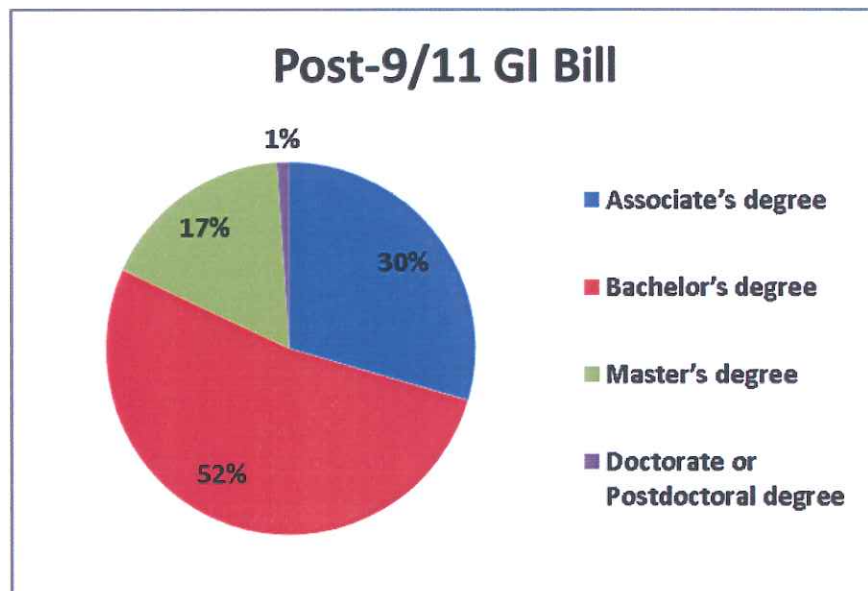
Student Outcomes for Academic Year 2012-2013

Schools are requested to submit reports notifying VA when a beneficiary graduates or completes a program of education. The information provided in this section is based solely on the information voluntarily reported by schools.

Post-9/11 GI Bill

During the academic year from August 1, 2012, through July 31, 2013, schools reported that 33,548 beneficiaries completed a degree program and 658 beneficiaries completed a certificate program while receiving Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

Of the 33,548 degrees completed, 9,900 beneficiaries completed an Associate's degree, 17,588 beneficiaries completed a Bachelor's degree, 5,706 beneficiaries completed a Master's degree, and 354 beneficiaries completed a Doctorate or Postdoctoral degree. The chart below shows that Bachelor's degrees accounted for 52 percent of the degrees completed during the 2012-2013 academic year.



The following table shows the number of degrees completed by name and degree type for the 2012-2013 academic year. The Bachelor of Science degree was the top degree program completed, while the Doctorate or Postdoctoral degree was the least completed degree.

Degree Name	Number of Degree Programs Completed
Bachelor of Science (4 or more years)	11,429
Associate in Science (Less than 4 years)	5,045
Bachelor of Arts (4 or more years)	4,919
Associate's Degree, N.E.C. ¹ (Less than 4 years)	2,565
Master's Degree, N.E.C.	2,512
Associate in Arts (Less than 4 years)	2,290
Master of Sciences	1,643
Master of Arts	1,551
Bachelor's Degree, N.E.C. (4 or more years)	1,240
Doctor's Degree, N.E.C. (Not M.D.)	284
Doctor of Philosophy	51
Postdoctoral, N.E.C. (Not M.D.)	19
Total Degree Programs	33,548

¹N.E.C. = Not Elsewhere Classified

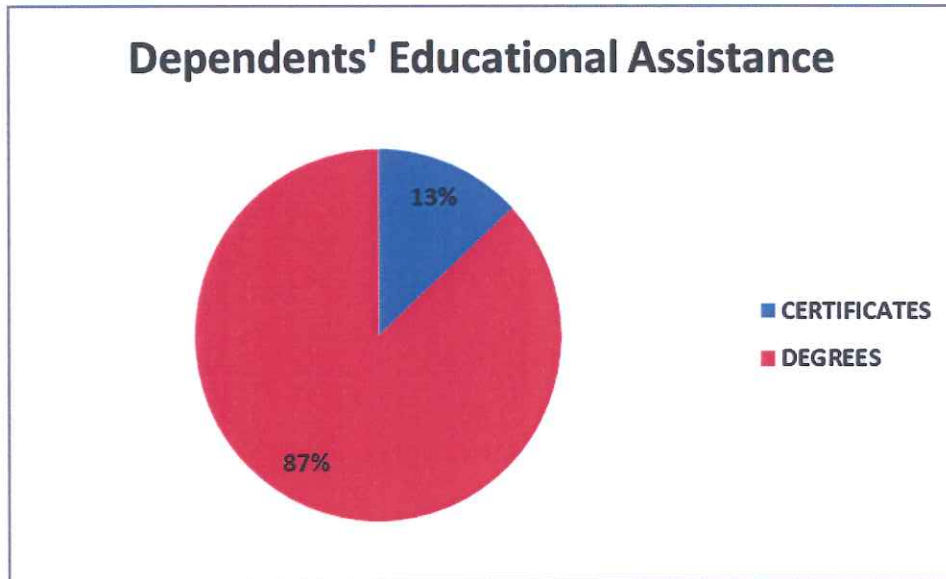
During the academic year from August 1, 2012, through July 31, 2013, the diesel with light duty program topped the list of certificates completed. The following table shows the top 10 certificate programs completed during the 2012-2013 academic year.

Certificate Name	Number of Certificate Programs Completed
Diesel with Light Duty	20
Criminal Justice	17
Medical Assistant	16
Auto with High Performance Power	15
Chassis Fabrication and H.P.E. w/Diesel	13
Business Office Administration	9
One Year Photography	9
Pharmacy Technician	9
One Year Acting for Film	9
Auto Technology with Trim and Upholstery	8

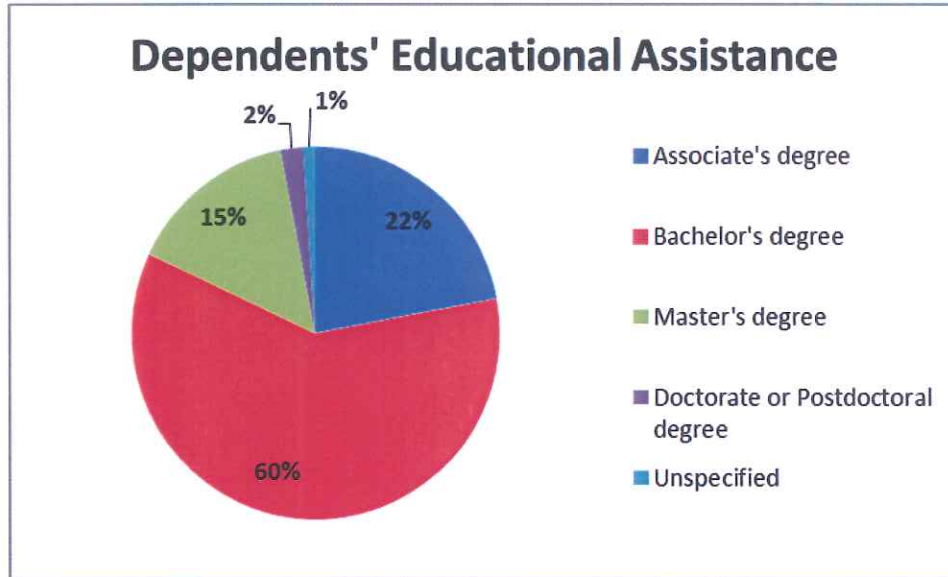
Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program

During the academic year from August 1, 2012, through July 31, 2013, schools reported 3,701 beneficiaries completed a degree or certificate program while receiving DEA benefits. Of those beneficiaries, 2,985 were children and 716 were spouses.

There were 3,218 beneficiaries who completed a degree program, while 483 beneficiaries completed a certificate program. The chart below shows the percentage of degree programs and certificate programs completed during the 2012-2013 academic year.



Of the 3,218 degrees completed, 722 beneficiaries completed an Associate's degree; 1,915 beneficiaries completed a Bachelor's degree; 486 beneficiaries completed a Master's degree; 53 beneficiaries completed a Doctorate or Postdoctoral degree; and the academic degree of 42 beneficiaries was unspecified. The following chart shows that Bachelor's degrees accounted for 60 percent of the degrees completed during the 2012-2013 academic year.



The following table shows the number of degrees completed by name and degree type during the 2012-2013 academic year. A Bachelor of Science degree was the top degree program completed.

Degree Name	Number of Degree Programs Completed
Bachelor of Science	1,069
Bachelor of Arts	656
Associate of Science	321
Associate's Degree, Unspecified	237
Master of Science	200
Bachelor's Degree, Unspecified	190
Master's Degree, Unspecified	166
Associate of Arts	164
Master of Arts	120
Doctor's Degree, Unspecified	42
Unspecified Degree	42
Doctor of Philosophy	11
Total Degree Programs Completed	3,218

During the academic year from August 1, 2012, through July 31, 2013, Barbering topped the list of certificates completed. The following table shows the top 10 certificate programs completed during the 2012-2013 academic year.

Certificate Name	Number of Certificate Programs Completed
Barbering (Beauty Culture)	111
Medical Tech (Dental, Lab Asst.)	92
Medical Tech	55
Other Technologies	30
Automobile Vehicle Mechanic	28
Hospital or Medical Services	23
Automotive Technology	16
Computer Technology	11
Mechanical Courses (Incl. farm equipment repair)	7
Graphics Arts Technology	7

Administrative and Legislative Recommendations, as shown in VA's FY 2014 Budget Submission

Increase in Reporting Requirements from Education Institutions:

Amend chapter 36 of title 38, United States Code (U.S.C.), to require educational institutions that furnish education or training to report information regarding a student's progress and other information to show compliance with Executive Order 13607. There would be no benefit costs or savings associated with this proposal.

Refunds to Individuals Who Participated in the Buy-Up Program:

Amend section 5003 of P.L. 110-252 to allow individuals who qualify for the reimbursement of their \$1,200 pay reduction to also receive a refund of their additional contributions under the Buy-Up provisions of the Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty and Reserve Educational Assistance Program education benefits. Benefit costs are expected to be \$13,000 in 2014, \$63,000 over 5 years, and \$126,000 over 10 years.

Allow VA to send Post-9/11 GI Bill tuition-and-fee payments to students rather than schools:

Amend 38 U.S.C. § 3313(g) to allow VA to pay students directly for tuition and fees under the Post-9/11 GI Bill, rather than making such payments directly to the educational institutions concerned. There would be no additional benefit costs for this proposal since the amounts paid by VA would be unchanged.

Apply the 48-month rule to individuals who are eligible under the same benefit from two or more sources:

Amend 38 U.S.C. § 3695 to limit the period for which an individual may receive assistance under two or more VA-administered educational assistance programs by changing two or more programs to one or more programs. Any cost savings associated with this proposal would be insignificant.

Bar Post-9/11 GI Bill recipients from receiving benefits from two sources (self and transfer of entitlement) simultaneously:

Amend 38 U.S.C. § 3322 by adding a subsection to bar concurrent receipt of transferred education benefits and Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits earned by the individual. This would bar individuals from utilizing benefits earned under §§ 3311 and 3319 of title 38 simultaneously. Any cost savings associated with this proposal would be insignificant.

Extend Delimiting Dates for Spouses who are Caretakers of Seriously Injured Veterans:

Amend title 38 U.S.C. § 3512 to permit the extension of delimiting dates for eligible spouses who could not pursue, or had to interrupt, a program of education while acting

as the primary caretaker for a Veteran or Servicemember seriously injured while on active duty in a contingency operation after September 10, 2001. Any cost savings associated with this proposal would be insignificant.