Post 9/11 Transfer of Entitlement Steps

The Department of Defense (DoD) offers members of the Armed Forces the opportunity to transfer Chapter 33 benefits to their spouse or dependent children. If a member of the Armed Forces (active duty or Selected Reserve) serves six years and reenlists for 4 more years or has at least 10 years of service, then transfer of entitlement (ToE) is possible.

While in the Armed Forces, members use the ToE website to designate, modify, and revoke a ToE request. After leaving the Armed Forces, members can provide a future effective date for use of ToE, modify the number of months transferred, or revoke entitlement transferred by submitting a written request to VA.

NOTE: After separating from the Armed Forces individuals cannot designate new dependents to receive transferred entitlement or amend the effective date of the initial transfer of entitlement to an earlier date. Refer students to the Transfer of Entitlement page on the GI Bill website. The link explains what the member must do, what the child or spouse must do, and gives all the needed links.

There are two basic steps:

**Step 1**: The service member (transferor) must transfer the entitlement. If approved, transfer data is put into a secure online database DoD shares with VA. That database, in addition to providing VA qualifying periods of Chapter 33 service, also provides ToE data.

**Step 2**: The spouse or child (transferee) must apply. The application VA Form 22-1990e; Application for Family Member to Use Transferred Benefits can be completed online. Information and requirements about transferability can be found on DoD’s website at: http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2009/0409_gibill/

Effective October 1, 2011. Individuals eligible for ToE from multiple transferors may not receive benefits from multiple sources concurrently. Members of the Public Health Service (PHS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) can be eligible to transfer unused ch33 entitlement. The rules for basic eligibility for Transfer of Entitlement (ToE) remain unchanged.