



## ENLISTED ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES

1 Massachusetts Avenue N.W., Suite 880 | Washington D.C., 20001 | 800-234-EANG (3264) | Fax 703-519-3849  
www.eangus.org | www.eangusconference.org | eangus@eangus.org

### ***National Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity***

**The Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS), on behalf of nearly 440,000 Guardsmen across the 50 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia, urges Congress to enact a bill to create G.I. Bill parity for the National Guard and Reservist.**

During the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress, Rep. Mike Levin (CA) introduced H.R. 1836 - Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2021. The bill worked to expand eligibility for the Post 9/11 GI Bill educational assistance by specifically expanding the types of military duty that is eligible to be counted for use of the benefit. While the bill did pass in the House, a similar bill in the Senate, S 2644 (Sen Moran, KS) never received a vote. Likewise, these efforts have not yet made it into a final NDAA.

H.R. 1836 enabled all days in service, including weekend drills, annual training, and specific state active duties such as 502(f), to count toward the Post- 9/11 GI Bill eligibility.

The need for parity has been emphasized through the unprecedented use of the National Guard and Reserve Component. Post 9/11, the National Guard has been activated in some active status more than 12 million times, not including domestic missions to provide pandemic relief, combat wildfires, secure the U.S.-Mexico border, and protect the U.S. Capitol after January 6th protests. Many missions utilizing the National Guard are ongoing, with no clear end in sight.

Unlike our Active Component peers, a day in the National Guard or Reserve does not always equal one day of service: regular weekend training days and annual training do not count toward benefits. As wars wind down, federal deployments abroad have decreased, making it much more difficult for Reserve Component Servicemembers to earn federal benefits, such as the GI Bill, despite frequent rotations for missions at home and regularly scheduled training.

It is crucial to ensure that Servicemembers have the same benefit under Post 9/11 GI Bill as their active-duty counterparts. We are optimistic the House and Senate can come to a bipartisan agreement on these two pieces of legislation and provide what will be the most impactful change to the post 9-11 GI Bill, specifically for the Reserve Component, since the inception of the program.

For more information on this or any other issues concerning the National Guard, contact EANGUS at [eangus@eangus.org](mailto:eangus@eangus.org).