

# **Todd Grant's Issues with Transfer of Education Benefits**

## **Background:**

Lieutenant Colonel Todd D Grant retired from the Air Force after having proudly served this country for 23 years. He had used the Montgomery GI Bill to gain his Bachelors of Science in 1993. Upon graduation, Lt Col Grant was recruited by the Air Force and reactivated duty as an Air Force Officer in 1997.

Over the next twenty years, he had more than seven deployments, flying over 500 combat hours in both Afghanistan and Iraq in the B1. During his service, Lt Col Grant was told he had accrued full Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, and that these benefits would be transferred to his children in exchange for another four-year active duty commitment to the Air Force in 2011. When he made the application to make the transfer, there was no mention of any conflict with the Montgomery GI Bill, and the transfer was approved.

## **Key Issues:**

- The Department of Defense misinformed Lt Col Grant of the extent of his Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility.
- Lt Col Grant chose to remain in the armed services in order to accrue full Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, and to qualify for the transfer of these benefits for his children.
- The Department of Defense approved the transfer of 36 months of Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits upon Lt Col Grant's retirement.
- The policy of the Department of Veterans Affairs allows a maximum of 48 months of education benefits, directly contradicting what DoD is actively telling soldiers.
- Because of DoD's promise, which he trusted, Lt Col Grant had not planned an educational IRA, because full Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits would have made them unnecessary. Now, he must pull from his savings in order to cover the costs of his family's education, devastating his family's finances.

## **Conclusion:**

The Department of Defense is not accurately tracking the eligibility of benefits for soldiers, actively misleading Servicemembers. Without remedying DoD's understanding of VA policy, this misleading information will lead many more soldiers to believe they have additional benefits, and these soldiers will plan for their families' postsecondary education with these additional benefits in mind.

And just like Lt Col Grant, once these soldiers' families enroll in higher education, they will find that VA will not cover the cost, forcing these soldiers to pay out-of-pocket, drastically devastating the financial situations of these military families.