

Transcript

Using Your GI Bill Benefit

"It was about mid 2010 when I decided I was going to transition out of the military and pursue an education. Being a transitioning service member, you come back after years of service into a college environment. In all branches of the military, you're used to having a mission, you plan for it, you prepare for it, and then you execute.

So what I took college as, is that's my mission.

When I decided to transition out of the military and pursue an education, you know there's a couple of challenges a service member faces. Where am I going to go to school and how am I going to pay for it? How am I going to use the benefits that I earned and how am I going to transition successfully? I contacted the universities I was interested in, you know, reach out to their Veterans services offices and kind of found out how each handled the transition for service members. What sort of assistance each university provides in addition to those post-9/11 GI Bill benefits.

Your in-state tuition is paid for by the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as you receive a basic allowance for housing. You know, you do get a book stipend each semester to cover books for your classes, but the last few semesters of your education, book costs seem to go up.

Sure I have these great benefits associated, but there was still a need for me to plan ahead. There's still a need for me to have a job to secure, you know, pay for these unforeseen expenses that come up.

One thing I always like to emphasize is, as service members transition, we don't care about jobs, you know. I don't want a job. I want a career.

The post-9/11 GI Bill is an excellent resource that service members can utilize once they decide to transition out of the military. But just like any resource, it's only going to benefit you if you utilize it.

Apply ahead of time. Get accepted ahead of time. And then, transition out."