



THREAT: Eliminate DOD Tuition Assistance Program

SITUATION: Critics in Congress call the Department of Defense Tuition Assistance, or TA, program, “duplicative” to the G.I. Bill.

VFW POSITION:

- The military has acknowledged that higher education makes better soldiers, leaders and citizens. TA is as a valuable tool allowing active duty troops to receive higher education, which is now a professional development requirement for advancement to leadership ranks for both officer and enlisted personnel.
- TA allows for service members to develop professional skills they will ultimately apply while still serving in the military without unnecessarily tapping into their earned veterans’ benefits under the G.I. Bill.
- To keep schools honest, the VFW would encourage all of DOD to adopt the Army’s existing follow-up and auditing criteria to ensure beneficial outcomes for service members.
- The proposed \$4.9 billion in savings is a shell game that will only pass the costs of higher education onto the service member
- The proposal to cut TA would only create additional financial hardships for military families, as service members strive for responsible professional development.