

Approved: May 14, 2003.

Anthony J. Principi,
Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Approved: June 5, 2003.

Kenneth T. Venuto,
Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard, Assistant
Commandant for Human Resources.

Approved: August 4, 2003.

Charles S. Abell,
Principal Deputy Under Secretary (Personnel
and Readiness), Department of Defense.

■ For reasons set out in the preamble, 38 CFR part 21 (subpart L) is amended as set forth below.

PART 21—VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION

Subpart L—Educational Assistance for Members of the Selected Reserve

■ 1. The authority citation for part 21, subpart L, continues to read as follows:

Authority: 10 U.S.C. ch. 1606; 38 U.S.C. 501(a), 512, ch. 36, unless otherwise noted.

■ 2. Section 21.7540 is amended by:

■ a. Revising paragraph (b)(3)(iii).

■ b. Redesignating paragraphs (b)(3)(iv), (b)(3)(v), (b)(3)(vi), and (b)(3)(vii) as paragraphs (b)(3)(v), (b)(3)(vi), (b)(3)(vii), and (b)(3)(viii), respectively.

■ c. Adding a new paragraph (b)(3)(iv).

■ d. Revising the authority citation at the end of paragraph (b)(3).

The revisions and addition read as follows:

§ 21.7540 Eligibility for educational assistance.

* * * * *

(b) * * *

(3) * * *

(iii) An accredited independent study course leading to a standard college degree. (See § 21.7622(f) concerning enrollment in a nonaccredited independent study course after October 28, 1992);

(iv) An accredited independent study course leading to a certificate that reflects educational attainment from an institution of higher learning. This provision applies to enrollment in an independent study course that begins on or after December 27, 2001. (See § 21.7622(f) concerning enrollment in a nonaccredited independent study course after October 28, 1992);

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(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16131, 16132, 16136; sec. 705(a)(1), Pub. L. 98–525, 98 Stat. 2565, 2567; 38 U.S.C. 3680A)

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■ 3. Section 21.7550 is amended by:

■ a. Revising paragraph (a)(3) and the authority citation at the end of the paragraph.

■ b. In paragraph (d)(1), removing “September 30, 1999,” and adding, in its place, “December 31, 2001,”.

The revision reads as follows:

§ 21.7550 Ending dates of eligibility.

(a) * * *

(3) If the reservist serves on active duty pursuant to an order to active duty issued under sections 12301(a),(d),(g), 12302, or 12304 of title 10, U.S. Code, the period of this active duty plus 4 months shall not be considered in determining the time limit on eligibility found in paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section.

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16133)

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■ 4. Section 21.7576 is amended by revising paragraph (e)(1)(i) and the authority citation at the end of paragraph (e) to read as follows:

§ 21.7576 Entitlement charges.

* * * * *

(e) * * *

(1) * * *

(i) While not serving on active duty, had to discontinue pursuit of a course or courses as a result of being ordered to serve on active duty under sections 12301(a),(d),(g), 12302, or 12304 of title 10, U.S. Code; and

* * * * *

(Authority: 10 U.S.C. 16131(c)(3))

■ 5. Section 21.7620 is amended by revising paragraph (c)(2) to read as follows:

§ 21.7620 Courses included in programs of education.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

(2) Only a reservist who meets the requirements of § 21.7540(b)(1) may be paid educational assistance for an enrollment in an independent study course or unit subject without a simultaneous enrollment in a course or unit subject offered by resident training. The independent study course or unit subject must be accredited and lead to a standard college degree. Beginning with enrollments on or after December 27, 2001, a reservist may receive educational assistance for an independent study course that leads to a certificate. The certificate must reflect educational attainment and must be offered by an institution of higher learning.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3680A(a)(4))

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POSTAL SERVICE

39 CFR Part 111

Revised Format for Pressure-Sensitive Presort Destination Package Labels

AGENCY: Postal Service.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This final rule sets forth the *Domestic Mail Manual* (DMM) standards adopted by the Postal Service to implement the use of redesigned pressure-sensitive package labels. The redesigned labels—similar to the current labels that mailers affix to the top mailpiece in packages of mailpieces (bundles of individual mailpieces secured together) instead of using optional endorsement lines (OELs)—will continue to indicate the presort level of all the pieces banded into individual presort destination packages.

The redesigned pressure-sensitive package labels will support the deployment of a new system, designated as the Automated Package Processing System (APPS), that will extend the benefits of automated handling to the processing of small, lightweight parcels and flat-size pieces such as magazines and catalogs prepared in packages (several mailpieces presorted and secured together into a single unit).

Mailers may begin affixing the new labels starting on October 16, 2003. Mailers using the current nonbarcoded pressure-sensitive labels may continue using those labels until April 1, 2004.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This final rule takes effect on October 30, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Neil Berger at (703) 292–3645, Mailing Standards, U.S. Postal Service; or Jamie Gallagher at (202) 268–4031, P&DC Operations, U.S. Postal Service.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On August 18, 2003, the Postal Service published a proposed rule in the *Federal Register* (68 FR 49396–49406) that contained minor changes to mailing standards in the *Domestic Mail Manual* (DMM) to implement the use of reformatted pressure-sensitive presort destination package labels. In that proposed rule, the Postal Service also requested comments from the public and the mailing industry. No comments were received on the proposed rule.

As explained in the proposed rule, the new barcoded pressure-sensitive package labels would be one method to support the use of the APPS, which the Postal Service plans to deploy beginning in 2004 in major processing and distribution centers to improve operational efficiency and increase workhour productivity.