

Republika ng Pilipinas  
(Republic of the Philippines)  
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS  
(DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS)  
Manila

December 17, 1990

DECS ORDER  
No. 139, s. 1990

PHILIPPINE VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICE (PVAO) TO PAY THE TOTAL SCHOOL  
FEES INCURRED IN THE ENROLMENT OF ANY BENEFICIARY  
OF VETERANS' EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

To: Bureau Directors  
Regional Directors  
Schools Superintendents  
Presidents, State Colleges and Universities  
Heads of Private Schools, Colleges and Universities  
Vocational School Superintendents/Administrators

1. Section 3, Part A of Title II of Republic Act No. 6948, otherwise known as "An Act Standardizing and Upgrading the Benefits for Military Veterans and Their Dependents" is quoted below for the information and guidance of the field:

"Eligibility. - A veteran of the Philippine Army or of any recognized or deserving guerrilla organization who took active participation in the resistance movement and/or in the liberation drive against the enemy during World War II, or of the Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea, or of the Philippine Civic Action Group or Philippine Contingent in Vietnam, who has never heretofore enjoyed educational benefit under Philippine law nor under United States law, who desires to study; or one (1) child of a veteran in whose favor he renounces such right; or the surviving spouse or a child of a deceased veteran in whose favor the same is applied for by the surviving spouse, or legal guardian; shall, upon certification of the Administrator, be admitted to any school, college, university or institution authorized by the Government, with all school fees, including tuition, matriculation, athletic, library, laboratory, medical, military training, diploma and graduation fees, at the expense of the Government, subject to rules and conditions promulgated by the Administrator."

2. Part II, Educational Benefits of DND Order No. A-049 on the "Rules and Regulations to Implement RA No. 6948 ...." is inclosed for ready reference.

3. Please be guided accordingly.

(SGD.) ISIDRO D. CARINO  
Secretary

SECTION 14. Change of Grantee. - Waiver of a previously approved educational benefit shall, upon proper application therefor, be granted by the Administrator in any of the following cases:

- a. Where the same has not been used by the original grantee and is being waived in favor of one (1) child of the veteran; or
- b. Where the benefit has been partially used regardless of whether or not the previous grantee-user finished a course.

SECTION 15. Period of Entitlement to Educational Benefit. - The length of the period of entitlement to educational benefit, both for living and deceased veterans, shall be computed as follows, but in no case shall it be less than 24 months:

a. Veterans of World War II -

- (1) Philippine Army (living) - Twelve (12) months plus length of war-time service.
- (2) Philippine Army (deceased) - Twelve (12) months plus length of war-time service, from the date of enlistment or induction into the service, whichever is earlier, but not later than 3 December 1941, up to 23 October 1944 with respect to missing military personnel, and those on non-casualty status, who were processed after 2 December 1945, and have no record of discharge.
- (3) Recognized guerrilla whose name is carried in the revised reconstructed roster - Twelve (12) months plus length of war-time service, from the date of joining or induction into the service of the underground resistance movement, but not earlier than the date of recognition of his guerrilla unit, up to the date of discharge but not later than 2 December 1945.
- (4) Recognized guerrilla (deceased) - Twelve (12) months plus length of war-time service, from the date of joining or induction into the service of the underground resistance movement, but not earlier than the date of recognition of his guerrilla unit, up to date of death or date he was missing in action but not later than 2 December 1945.
- (5) Individually recognized guerrilla (living and deceased) - Twelve (12) months plus length of war-time service, from the date of joining or

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1. Section 3, Part A of Title II of Republic Act No. 6948, otherwise known as "An Act Standardizing and Upgrading the Benefits for Military Veterans and Their Dependents" is quoted below for the information and guidance of the field:

"Eligibility. - A veteran of the Philippine Army or of any recognized or deserving guerrilla organization who took active participation in the resistance movement and/or in the liberation drive against the enemy during World War II, or of the Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea, or of the Philippine Civic Action Group or Philippine Contingent in Vietnam, who has never heretofore enjoyed educational benefit under Philippine Law nor under United States law, who desires to study; or one (1) child of a veteran in whose favor he renounces such right; or the surviving spouse or a child of a deceased veteran in whose favor the same is applied for by the surviving spouse, or legal guardian; shall, upon certification of the Administrator, be admitted to any school, college, university or institution authorized by the Government, with all school fees, including tuition, matriculation, athletic, library, laboratory, medical, military training, diploma and graduation fees, at the expense of the Government, subject to rules and conditions promulgated by the Administrator."

2. Part II, Educational Benefits of DND Order No. A-049 on the "Rules and Regulations to Implement RA No. 6948 ...." is included for ready reference.

3. Please be guided accordingly.

(SGD.) ISIDRO D. CARINO  
Secretary

Incl.:

As stated

Allotment: 1-2-3-d--(M.O. 1-87)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
under the following subjects:

ENROLMENT  
FEES  
LEGISLATIONS  
RULES & REGULATIONS  
SCHOOLS  
STUDENTS  
TUITION FEES  
UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES

PART II

EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

SECTION 13. Eligibility. - The following persons who have never heretofore enjoyed educational benefit under Philippine law nor under United States law, who desire to study, shall, upon certification of the Administrator, be admitted to any school, college, university or institution authorized by the Government, with all school fees, including tuition, matriculation, athletic, library, laboratory, medical, military training, diploma and matriculation fees, at the expense of the Government, subject to the rules and conditions prescribed herein:

- a. Veterans of the Philippine Army or of any recognized or deserving guerrilla organization who took active participation in the resistance movement and/or in the liberation drive against the enemy during World War II from 8 December 1941 to 2 December 1945.
- b. Veterans of the Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea (PEFTOK) during the period from 15 September 1950 to 31 May 1955.
- c. Veterans of the Philippine Civic Action Group or Philippine Contingent in Vietnam (PHILCAG) during the period from 31 August 1964 to 20 December 1969.
- d. One (1) child of the veteran in whose favor he renounces his right; or
- e. The unmarried surviving spouse of the deceased veteran;
- f. One (1) child of the deceased veteran in whose favor such right is applied for by the surviving spouse or legal guardian of such child; or
- g. One (1) child among the children of the deceased veteran from two or more marriages legally contracted by him, to be chosen by the Administrator; or
- h. One (1) child of the deceased veteran, to be chosen by the Administrator if both the veteran and his wife are deceased.

SECTION 14. Change of Grantee. - Waiver of a previously approved educational benefit shall, upon proper application therefor, be granted by the Administrator in any of the following cases:

- a. Where the same has not been used by the original grantee and is being waived in favor of one (1) child of the veteran; or
- b. Where the benefit has been partially used regardless of whether or not the previous grantee-user finished a course.

SECTION 15. Period of Entitlement to Educational Benefit. - The length of the period of entitlement to educational benefit, both for living and deceased veterans, shall be computed as follows, but in no case shall it be less than 24 months:

a. Veterans of World War II -

- (1) Philippine Army (living) - Twelve (12) months plus length of war-time service.
- (2) Philippine Army (deceased) - Twelve (12) months plus length of war-time service, from the date of enlistment or induction into the service, whichever is earlier, but not later than 8 December 1941, up to 23 October 1944 with respect to missing military personnel, and those on non-casualty status, who were processed after 2 December 1945, and have no record of discharge.
- (3) Recognized guerrilla whose name is carried in the revised reconstructed roster - Twelve (12) months plus length of war-time service, from the date of joining or induction into the service of the underground resistance movement, but not earlier than the date of recognition of his guerrilla unit, up to the date of discharge but not later than 2 December 1945.
- (4) Recognized guerrilla (deceased) - Twelve (12) months plus length of war-time service, from the date of joining or induction into the service of the underground resistance movement, but not earlier than the date of recognition of his guerrilla unit, up to date of death or date he was missing in action but not later than 2 December 1945.
- (5) Individually recognized guerrilla (living and deceased) - Twelve (12) months plus length of war-time service, from the date of joining or

induction into the service of the underground resistance movement, but not earlier than the date of recognition of his guerrilla unit, or from the commencement of paid war-time service, up to date of discharge or death but not later than 2 December 1945.

(6) Recognized guerrilla who was duly paid but whose name was deleted or omitted from the revised reconstructed roster - Twelve (12) months plus length of war-time service, reckoned from the date of payment by the U.S. Army authorities up to the date of discharge, but not later than 2 December 1945.

(7) Member of the Military Police Command or Post Liberation Philippine Army or deserving guerrilla organization - Regardless of length of war-time service, the entitlement is 24 months.

b. Veterans of the Korean Campaign - Twelve (12) months plus length of overseas service with the Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea.

c. Veterans of the Vietnam Campaign - Twelve (12) months plus length of overseas service with the Philippine Civic Action Group or Philippine Contingent.

SECTION 16. Bases for Computation of Period of Entitlement of World War II Veterans. - Except as regards the members of the Military Police Command during the liberation period of World War II, post-liberation Philippine Army and deserving guerrilla veterans who are entitled to 24 months, the computation of the length of entitlement to educational benefits shall be based on the following documents:

a. Records from the OTAG, AFP (MSR, MPP, SPAV, Discharge Certificate, Special Orders, Retirement Orders);

b. Backpay Acknowledgment Certificate (RA 304 or RA 897);

c. Order of payment of backpay under the Veterans Claims Settlement Fund;

d. Records of the U.S. Department of the Army and/or certification of the military service from the U.S. Veterans Administration;

e. Decree of Final Distribution from the Judge Advocate General's Office (JAGO), AFP;

f. Prisoner of War records.

SECTION 17. Effectivity of Educational Benefit. - Any and all awards of educational benefit, whether for initial enjoyment by the veteran, or waiver by the veteran in favor of one (1) child, or waiver of the balance of the period of entitlement in favor of the veteran's child, or change of course, shall take effect at the beginning of the semester, trimester, quarter, or summer during which the educational benefit was approved, except in the following cases:

- a. Where the benefit will be used in the elementary school or high school, it shall take effect at the beginning of the school year during which it was approved;
- b. Where the grantee-user fails to enroll after the release of the award, he may avail himself of the same in any subsequent semester, trimester, quarter, summer or school year; or
- c. Where the grantee-user has been duly notified of the award but fails to comply with the requirements for the release thereof, the benefit shall take effect only in the semester, trimester, quarter, summer, or school year when the said award is released.

SECTION 18. Authorized Educational Institutions. - An authorized educational institution is any school, college, university, or institute recognized and/or permitted by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS). It does not include an institution operating either in Philippine territory or abroad by authority of the proper office or agency of a foreign government.

SECTION 19. Measure of School Year. - A school year is composed of two (2) semesters (five months each) and one (1) summer term (two months), or three (3) trimesters (four months each), or four (4) quarters (three months each).

SECTION 20. Course. - A course is understood to be a complete post-secondary, tertiary or higher level program of study authorized by the DECS. It does not refer to elementary or secondary level study programs.

SECTION 21. Manifestation of Course to be Pursued. - The manifestation of the specific course to be pursued by the grantee-user shall outright be indicated in the prescribed form or by his informing in writing the PVAO of the course, whether terminal vocational course, baccalaureate, masteral or doctoral, to be pursued during the enjoyment of the basic period of entitlement. If the course to be pursued requires a preparatory course as defined by the DECS, the grantee-user shall



manifest at the outset the course proper in accordance with the condition and requirement hereinabove mentioned, otherwise the preparatory course shall be considered as a separate or distinct course by itself.

SECTION 22. Change of Course. - Change of course, upon proper application thereafter, may be granted in the following cases:

- a. Where there is a remaining balance of the basic period of entitlement, whether or not the grantee-user finished a course under the award.
- b. Where the grantee-user has chosen the wrong course or has decided later to pursue another course for plausible reasons, such as scholastic standing, health, financial condition, location of employment, job opportunity, aptitude or mental capacity, or marriage, upon proper counseling by the Administrator or his designated staff. The change of course shall not be authorized during the enjoyment of the privilege of extension except in cases where at least 75% of the units earned in the previous course is credited to the new course which is neither longer nor more expensive.

SECTION 23. Course in Priesthood. - Educational benefit for the course leading to priesthood or ministry of the gospel in any religious sect or denomination may be allowed only to the extent of the secondary and liberal arts portion of said course. Provided, however, That the school is authorized and/or recognized by the DECS.

SECTION 24. Extension of Benefit. - Extension of educational benefit beyond the basic period of entitlement may be granted to a grantee-user to allow him to further pursue and/or finish the course, but the same shall take effect only in the semester or school year when the application is filed as hereunder prescribed:

- a. Automatic extension - if the balance of the basic period of entitlement is not sufficient to cover a summer, quarter, trimester, semester, review, or yearly school term, extension for such number of months as may be necessary to complete a summer, quarter, trimester, semester, review or yearly school term shall ipso facto be granted notwithstanding the scholastic grades of the grantee-user concerned and whether or not the previous grantee-user finished a course under the benefit.
- b. Extension of expired educational benefit - After utilizing the basic period of entitlement, a grantee-user may be entitled to the extension of

his educational benefit to allow him to finish his course, or to take one review course only, subject to the following requirements and conditions:

- (1) He has no failure or deficiency in any academic subject required in the curriculum during the enjoyment of the basic period of entitlement; that is, if the basic period covers five (5) semesters, he should present passing grades for all the subjects required during the said five (5) semesters. If a grantee-user fails in any academic subject while enjoying the extension, the benefits shall be suspended in the meantime as of the end of the semester under extension.
- (2) If the grantee-user has incomplete or conditioned grades only, further extension may be granted upon completion or removal thereof at his expense.
- (3) If the failure, conditioned or incomplete grade, or dropped subject, is not required for the course being pursued as certified by the school registrar, the grantee-user shall refund the payment made therefor by the PVAO before extension can be granted.
- (4) For reasons or causes beyond the grantee-user's control and deemed justified, further extension may be granted if within thirty constituting such causes or reasons, such as illness, transfer of military station or calamity that may affect his scholastic standing, he accordingly notified the PVAO and the registrar of the school.

c. Extension to a second course. - Extension may be granted to a grantee-user if 75% of the units earned in the first course are credited to the second course subject to the following conditions:

- (1) No course of study has been finished under the benefits.
- (2) The amount of school fees corresponding to the units not credited shall be refunded.
- (3) The grantee-user who has finished a Graduate Nurse Course is taking up the course for Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

d. Extension of benefits previously enjoyed by one or more grantees. - Extension may be granted to the second or subsequent grantee, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) The benefit has not been enjoyed by the previous grantee for an aggregate period of not more than 25% of the basic period of entitlement.
- (2) No course of study has been finished under the benefit.
- (3) In the case of a first grantee-user who died while enjoying the educational benefit, extension may be granted to the second grantee for a period not exceeding one (1) school year which may be granted within the last year of his course.
- (d) He has no failing grades during the enjoyment of the educational benefit; that is, the first grantee-user, if living, could have been entitled himself to the privilege of extension.

SECTION 25. Manner of Granting Extension. - The grant of extension shall be by semester, trimester, quarter, or summer term, as the case may be, except in the following cases:

- a. Where the course being pursued is Medicine or Medical Technology, the extension for clerkship or internship shall be for one (1) year or twelve (12) months.
- b. Where the benefit is to be used for the elementary or high school, extension shall be for ten (10) months.

SECTION 26. Enjoyment of Educational Benefit in the Elementary or High School. - Enjoyment of educational benefit in the elementary school and high school shall not be deducted from the basic period of entitlement, subject to the following conditions:

- a. If two or more grantees shall enjoy the benefit in the elementary and high school, one after the other, there will in no case be an overlapping of enrollment for the same grade or year.
- b. In the case of a waivee who shall pursue a course lower than the grade or year attained or finished by the veteran himself, whether in the elementary or high school, the enjoyment of the benefit by said waivee shall be deducted from the basic period of entitlement and that the privilege of extension shall be to the extent only of allowing the waivee to finish the elementary or high school course, as the case may be.

SECTION 27. Payment of School Fees. - The PVAO shall pay the total school fees incurred in the enrollment of any grantee-user based on the schedule of fees authorized by the DECS and appearing in the prospectus, catalogue, or brochure of the school concerned, including tuition, matriculation, registration, athletic, library, medical and dental, clinical, affiliation, military training, diploma and graduation fees: Provided, however, that the payment of school fees for a review course may be allowed for only one extension of the benefit; Provided, further, that the grantee-user is entitled to the corresponding graduation and diploma fees for every diploma earned during the enjoyment of the benefit.

SECTION 28. Refund of School Fees by the Student-ward for Dropped or Failed Subjects and Restoration of Period of Entitlement Used. - The grantee-user shall be required to refund the school fees paid by the PVAO in the following cases:

- a. Where the grantee-user has used the benefit for the first time and it is shown that he has chosen a wrong course and has dropped all his subjects as evidenced by his scholastic record, in which case, the period used shall be restored in favor of the student who may then be allowed to pursue a new course.
- b. Where the grantee-user, who is requesting for extension of the benefit, has dropped or withdrawn subjects, including other deficiencies such as incomplete, conditioned or failing grades, which subjects as certified by the school registrar or his authorized representative are no longer required for the course.

SECTION 29. Cases Where No Refund is Required. - No refund of the school fees shall be required of a grantee-user in the case where all subjects were dropped or withdrawn due to ill-health or calamity, or due to transfer of military station where the grantee-user is a member of the AFP, subject to the following conditions:

- a. The illness shall be supported by a medical certificate of the attending physician, or in case of calamity or transfer of military station by a certification or assignment orders issued by the authorities concerned, as the case may be.
- b. The necessary certification or order shall be submitted to the PVAO within thirty (30) days from the date of the dropping of the subjects, together with a certification by the registrar or his authorized representative regarding the reason or cause thereof.

- c. The corresponding months enjoyed for the particular school term shall be deducted from the basic entitlement.

For failure to comply with conditions (a) and (b) above for reasons or causes deemed beyond his control, the grantee-user may elect to refund to the PVAO the whole charges for the particular school term, in which case the period paid shall be restored.

SECTION 30. Non-Restoration of Periods Enjoyed. - Except as otherwise specifically provided in Sections 28 and 29 hereof, the restoration of the period of entitlement or any portion thereof shall not be granted notwithstanding any payment made by the grantee concerned of the fees due his school while the benefit is in effect. The PVAO shall pay all fees authorized by law and thereupon the grantee shall claim for the refund from his school of whatever he paid in advance.