

navigable channel. Because these restrictions will be in effect for a limited period, they should not result in a significant disruption of maritime traffic.

Dated: March 6, 1998.

J.S. Carmichael,

*Captain, U.S. Coast Guard, Acting
Commander, Fifth Coast Guard District.*

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Coast Guard

33 CFR Part 117

[CGD 08-98-011]

Drawbridge Operating Regulation; Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, New Orleans, LA

AGENCY: Coast Guard, DOT.

ACTION: Notice of temporary deviation from regulations.

SUMMARY: The Commander, Eighth Coast Guard District has issued a temporary deviation from the regulation governing the operation of the L&N bascule drawbridge across the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, mile 2.9 at New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. This deviation allows the bridge to remain closed to navigation from 8 a.m. to noon; and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Wednesday April 1, 1998 and Thursday April 2, 1998. Presently, the draw is required to open on signal. This temporary deviation is issued to allow for the repairs to the handrails and sidewalk stringers damaged in a recent allision.

DATES: This deviation is effective from 8 a.m. on April 1, 1998 through 5 p.m. on April 2, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Frank, Bridge Administration Branch, Commander (ob), Eighth Coast Guard District, 501 Magazine Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70130-3396, telephone number 504-589-2965.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The L&N bascule drawbridge across the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal, mile 2.9, in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana, has a vertical clearance of one foot above high water in the closed-to-navigation position and unlimited clearance in the open-to-navigation position. Navigation on the waterway consists of tugs with small ships, tows, fishing vessels, sailing vessels, and other recreational craft. The Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans sent a letter to the Coast Guard

requesting a temporary deviation from the normal operation of the bridge in order to accommodate the maintenance work. The maintenance work involves removing, repairing, and replacing the handrails and stringers damaged in a recent allision. This work is essential for the continued safe operation of the draw span.

This deviation allows the draw of the L&N bascule bridge to remain in the closed-to-navigation position from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on April 1 and April 2. The bridge will open for the passage of vessels from noon to 1 p.m. on April 1 and April 2. The bridge will also open for the passage of vessels from 5 p.m. on April 1 until 8 a.m. on April 2. With the draw in the closed-to-navigation position, vessels requiring vertical clearances of greater than one foot above high water will be delayed a maximum of four hours.

This deviation will be effective from 8 a.m. April 1, 1998, through 5 p.m. April 2, 1998. Presently, the draw opens on signal at any time, as required by 33 CFR 117.5.

Dated: March 13, 1998.

T.W. Josiah,

*Rear Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard Commander,
Eighth Coast Guard District.*

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DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

38 CFR Part 21

RIN 2900-AI58

Veterans Education: Reduction in Required Reports

AGENCY: Department of Veterans Affairs.
ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This document amends the educational assistance and educational benefits regulations of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). It changes the nature of the information to be reported by veterans and servicemembers receiving educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty program and the number of reports required of educational institutions in which these veterans and servicemembers are enrolled. These changes will streamline the operation of this program, and reduce the information collection burden for this program, while maintaining the program's integrity.

DATES: Effective Date: April 23, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: William G. Susling, Jr., Education

Advisor, Education Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, 202-273-7187.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In a document published in the **Federal Register** on September 18, 1997 (62 FR 48969), VA proposed to amend the "All Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program (Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty)" regulations set forth at 38 CFR part 21, subpart K. We proposed to reduce the number of reports required of a veteran pursuing a program of education under the Montgomery GI Bill—Active Duty (MGIB), and also to reduce the number of reports that an educational institution has to make to VA if it has veterans enrolled under the MGIB. In summary, a veteran would no longer have to submit a monthly verification of pursuit of a program of education if he or she either received an advance payment covering that month or received a lump sum payment for that month. In addition, neither the veteran nor the educational institution would have to report to VA if the veteran is enrolled as a full-time student for a standard term, and either increases or decreases the number of credit hours being pursued without changing his or her full-time student status.

Interested persons were given 60 days to submit comments. No comments were received. Based on the rationale set forth in the proposed rule, we are adopting the provisions of the proposed rule as a final rule.

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995

Information collection and recordkeeping requirements associated with this final rule concerning requirements that in certain instances a veteran pursuing a program of education under the MGIB must verify pursuit monthly, in 38 CFR 21.7154 and 21.7156(a), have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. 3501-3520) and have been assigned OMB control number 2900-0465.

Furthermore, information collection and recordkeeping requirements associated with this final rule concerning requirements for reporting changes in enrollment, which require that in most instances both veterans and educational institutions must report to VA without delay interruptions, terminations, or changes in hours of credit or attendance, in 38 CFR 21.7156(b), have been approved by OMB under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act and have been assigned OMB control number 2900-0156.

OMB assigns control numbers to collections of information it approves. VA may not conduct or sponsor, and a