

GSA governs security containers

Did you know that the U.S. General Services Administration, established in 1949, is the approving authority for security containers, vault doors, weapons containers, information processing system containers and locks?

In 1955, GSA approved the first security container for the protection of classified files. Since that time there have been about 18 manufacturers of GSA approved security containers, vault doors, weapons and IPS containers.

Unfortunately, there have also been just as many fraudulent manufacturers of containers with GSA labels attached to them. To maintain GSA approval, security containers must be inspect-

ed every five years and vault doors every two years. Preventive maintenance is a part of the inspection process. Containers and vault doors have sometimes been modified or damaged in a way that cannot be repaired to federal standards, which result in the GSA label being removed.

GSA certified safe and vault technicians can train unit personnel to perform preventive maintenance. However, security containers and vault doors must be repaired by GSA technicians and recertified by a GSA approved container and vault door inspector.

By now you may be wondering if your security container needs to be inspected or requires recertification



Did you know?

By Col. Paul Hossenlopp
Fort Sill Garrison commander

and if so, who to call and how much will that cost.

Let's start with the inspection. Containers or vault doors must be inspected for the following reasons if:

- They do not have an Optional Form 89 (maintenance record for security containers and vault doors) attached;

- The last inspection was more than five years ago on a container or more than two years ago on a vault door;

- The door or container was drilled and repaired by an unauthorized repairman; or

- The GSA label is missing.

Let's take a look at inspection cost.

The average cost for a container inspection is about \$200 per hour and takes one to two hours to complete. If parts and repair are required, the cost could easily exceed \$600 - \$800. Hence, security container

inspections could consume a large portion of an organization's budget.

The Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security security and intelligence division can eliminate inspection cost completely as long as parts and repairs aren't required by offering assistance from its GSA certified safe and vault technician and approved container and vault door inspector. Contact the division for information on available services and watch for training opportunities for information and physical security managers.

Please note that if an inspection identifies that parts and repairs are needed, the organization is responsible for contacting

an authorized repair company and paying the associated costs. Fortunately, most containers and vault doors only require an inspection by a GSA certified inspector which will authorize continued use for storing classified information, fire arms, ammunition and explosives.

For more information on this topic and to receive assistance with GSA containers and vaults, contact Ken Person, information security officer at kenneth.r.person.civ@mail.mil or call 442-1816.

By taking advantage of this free Team Sill asset, you'll be doing your part to help save Army dollars and properly protect classified information.

G.I. Bill changes to offer free books, supplies

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Active duty Soldiers and their spouses may soon get funding for books and supplies, part of the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill.

Beginning Oct. 1, active duty members and their spouses can receive up to \$1,000 for books and supplies, per academic year, as part of the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill. Active duty members were

not previously eligible for the books and supplies funding.

Additional benefits to service members and veterans include reimbursement of fees for exams used for admission to colleges. Such exams include the ACT, GMAT or SAT. Changes to the bill also mean reimbursement for more than one licensing or certification examination. Additionally, there are expanded benefits for non-college degree pro-

grams, on-the-job training, apprenticeship training, flight programs and correspondence training.

"These changes bring a lot more training options under this already robust program," said Keith Wilson, Veterans Affairs director of education services.

New enrollees in the program who are entitled to the housing allowance (active duty and their spouses are not) can receive that benefit while enrolled in certificate or other non-college degree programs or even long-distance learning.

Those enrolled in distance learning could receive up to 50 percent of the housing allowance provided to those who enrolled in on-campus education programs. The allowance for those in resident training is now prorated based on a student's course load. A student taking a course load that is about 80 percent of what a school deems "full time," would receive 80 percent of the allowance. The allowance for an in-resident student taking a full load is similar to what an E-5 with dependents gets.

Additional changes to benefits under the bill

include elimination of housing payments for even short gap periods between enrollments. In the past, during the less-than-one-month breaks between semesters, beneficiaries could continue to receive housing payments. But that is no longer the case, Wilson said.

While Wilson said VA is working to keep students informed of the changes, students will have to practice some "sound financial management" to make rent pay-

ments during the short non-enrollment periods between semesters. Wilson said under the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill, beneficiaries have never received housing allowance during the three-month summer break.

Wilson added that, when beneficiaries did receive housing payment between enrollments, they were actually burning up part of their benefits. The bill provides for 36 months of benefits. If a student was getting just housing benefits for the near-

ly one-month period between the fall and spring semesters, for instance, that would burn up a month of benefits.

The new change in law also affects payment eligibility, and now accounts for active duty service performed by National Guard members under Title 32.

A summary of recent changes to the bill are available online at http://gibill.va.gov/benefits/post_911_gibill/Post911_changes.html.

Fort flicks

Sheridan Theater

The theater is at 3260 Sheridan Road near the Impact Zone and Truman Education Center. Admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children younger than 11 and free for children younger than 6, except for movies rated G. A military ID is required for ticket purchases. Movies can change without notice. The 24-hour movie infoline is 353-5623 or visit www.shopmyexchange.com/ReelTimeTheatres/Movies-FtSill.htm.

Friday, Sept. 30, 7 p.m.

Final Destination 5 (R) 86 minutes. Starring Nicholas D'Agosto and Emma Bell. A group of co-workers on a corporate retreat escape the collapse of a suspension bridge because of a fellow worker's premonition of the disaster, and then are hunted by an invisible force that seems to be death itself, coming to collect its due.



Saturday, Oct. 1, 7 p.m.

Rise of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13), 88 min. Starring James Franco and Andy Serkis. An origin story set in present day San Francisco, where man's own experiments with genetic engineering lead to the development of intelligence in apes and the onset of a war for supremacy.

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