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MNARNG

EDUCATION SERVICES OFFICE

WHAT'S UP!!!

Please read and give this information to all soldiers on State Active Duty for Flood Fight 2009

MN STATE EDUCATION SERVICES OFFICER'S

Attached is information from MNSCU on the laws associated with State Active Duty. There is no time requirement for soldiers to be on SAD for a certain amount of time. Please contact me if there are any questions or issues.

- The student may be given a full refund of tuition. Students receiving financial aid who choose this option should be made aware that they may be liable for any required refunds of state or federal financial aid funds.
- The student may be given a grade of incomplete in a course and complete it upon release from active duty. Course completion may be accomplished by independent study or by retaking course without payment of tuition. Under federal financial aid policies a course that is retaken this way may not be counted toward a student's enrollment load.
- If in the instructor's judgment the student has completed sufficient course

work to earn a grade of C or better, the student may be given credit for completion of a course.

2LT Kim Lester

Kimberly.lester1@us.army.mil

The MNARNG Education Office has partnered with the MN Dept of Veteran's Affairs Higher Education Veterans Programs (HEVP) to provide Education Benefits briefings to MNARNG units. Units should request education benefits briefings through this office. Send your education briefing request to MSG Jody Courts at: jody.courts@us.army.mil

From The Education Section Chief :

STATUS OF FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE FUNDS THROUGH END OF FY 09

Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) is federally funded through the National Guard Bureau (NGB). The Minnesota Army National Guard (MNARNG) has received \$2.93 million in FTA funding for fiscal year (FY) 2009.

The MNARNG Education Branch has received FTA applications for 93% of the available FTA funding to date. Based on historical usage rates, FTA funding will be exhausted by 1 May 2009.

Federal Tuition Assistance is not a guaranteed benefit; it is dependent on

the funding provided by the Federal Government. The MNARNG is working with NGB to secure additional funding for FY09, but additional funding is not guaranteed for the remainder of this fiscal year.

All Soldiers are advised to continue to submit FTA applications through the online application process. Funding is provided on a "first come, first served" basis. When all FTA funds are exhausted, Soldiers will receive an update on the status of their application thru their AKO email.

The MNARNG is providing this information so that Soldiers can begin securing other sources of funding to pay for college tuition costs for courses that are to begin between 01 May and 30 September 2009. The following programs should be considered when planning for educational expenses:

-Montgomery GI Bill benefits.

-Minnesota State Tuition Reimbursement (STR) Program.

-Minnesota GI Bill benefit.

-Federal and State Grants and Loans.

-Scholarships.

New FTA funding will become available on 1 October 2009 (FY 2010) for courses starting after 1 October 2009.

-MSG Jody Courts
Education Section Chief

Incentives Manager:

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED SRIP UPDATES:

**SUBJECT: SRIP POLICY 07-06
DATED 10 AUG 07, WITH UPDATES
DATED 17 FEB 09, EFFECTIVE 01
MAR – 30 SEP 09**

1. Purpose. The purpose is to provide implementing guidance to the current SRIP Policy 07-06, effective 1 March 2009. The purpose of the ARNG Incentive Program is to assist ARNG leadership and personnel managers in meeting the readiness requirements for the ARNG.

2. References. Army National Guard (ARNG) Selected Reserve Incentive Program (SRIP) Guidance for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007, 2008, and 2009, 10 August 2007 – 30 September 2009 (Policy Number 07-06) **with Updates.**

3. Applicability. This Policy (07-06 with updates) supersedes all previous SRIP guidance for FY 2007, 2008, or 2009. The updated policy establishes policy to administer ARNG incentives effective 01 March 2009. The policy guidance applies to ARNG Soldiers in M-Day status only.

4. Critical Policy Updates.

- Applicants must score a 50 or higher on the ASVAB to qualify for any NPS/SLRP incentives.
- Soldiers who fail to ship on original ship date (unless sooner) lose 50% of their bonus. If the Soldier fails to ship within 1 year of enlistment, the bonus will be terminated.
- MNARNG Units are authorized to bonus up to 105% of the unit's wartime strength for skill level 10/20/30 positions.
- MNARNG Units identified on the Critical UIC listing (see [updated Critical UIC List](#)) are authorized to bonus up to 110% for skill level 10/20/30 positions.

- Percentage of fill is determined by MOS by skill level at the Company, Battery, or Troop level.
- Enlistment into MOS immaterial positions (00F) are not authorized incentives (except RTI).
- RTI and Medical TDAs are the only TDA Units that are considered MTOE for this policy.
- Applicants choosing to enlist into a non-critical skill or UIC will still be eligible for the Quick Ship and/or the Off Peak Bonus.
- Soldiers who are currently serving on orders in Iraq, Afghanistan, or Kuwait, are eligible to reenlist for the Critical UIC reenlistment bonus even though their UIC is no longer on the Critical UIC List.
- The Enlisted Affiliation Bonus is no longer authorized.

**-SFC Dan Griffin,
Federal Incentives Manager**

GI Bill Manager:

As we approach 1 Aug 2009 and the roll-out of the Post 9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) many questions are being asked about the new benefits.

Currently policy makers at the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans affairs are working hard to prepare for the transition.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has recently updated its website with additional Frequently Asked Questions about the Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits. Visit www.gibill.va.gov for more information.

1/34th BCT Soldiers who deployed to IRAQ in Support of OIF and are still having difficulties obtaining Chapter 30 benefits - contact Mr. Kevin Ferriby, State GI Bill Manager at (651) 282-4590.

TESTING INFORMATION

Upcoming testing dates are:

April 1st, 2009-5th Floor Veterans Service Office
April 15th, 2009-5th Floor Veterans Service Office

Please make sure you are prepared for the AFCT or AFAST prior to taking the exam. Visit www.educationarmory.com for more information. To request testing services contact your unit Full Time staff.

SELF DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

Army e-Learning Program –
<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal/ind ex.jsp>

Army Correspondence Course Program –
<http://www.atsc.army.mil/accp/aipdnew.asp>

Army Reserve Virtual University –
<https://port1.dcmsnet.org/dcmsvc/default.asp>

Combat Readiness University –
<https://crc.learn.army.mil/webapps/port al/frameset.jsp>

DANTES Distance Learning –
http://www.dantes.doded.mil/Dantes_w eb/DANTESHOME.asp

EDUCATION RELATED WEBSITES:

MNARNG Education Website –
www.minnesotanationalguard.org

Department of Veterans Affairs Website –
www.gibill.va.gov

Federal Tuition Assistance –
<https://minuteman.ngb.army.mil/benefits>

Minnesota State Colleges and Universities-Veteran Information-

<http://www.mnscu.edu/students/veterans/index.html>

Scholarships for Military Children –
<http://www.militaryscholar.org/>

National Military Family Association
<http://www.nmfa.org/site/PageServer>

Thanks USA –
<http://www.thanksusa.org/main/index.html>

Fisher House –
<http://www.fisherhouse.org/>

Homefront America –
<http://www.homefrontamerica.org/>

EDUCATION SERVICES **STAFF REPRESENTATIVES:**

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~GI Bill: Mr. Kevin Ferriby

*~Federal Tuition Assistance:
SFC Koa Herr & SGT Bobbie Braun*

*~State Tuition Assistance:
Ms. Laurie Nagle*

*~State Enlistment Bonus:
Ms. Phyllis Lindstrand*

*~Student Loan Repayment Program:
Mr. Robert Harmon & SPC Josh Vang*

Tips for Success

Look for Employer Reimbursement Programs and Special Discounts

If you are employed while you are in college, you may want to find out if your employer offers some form of student reimbursement program. The way this typically works is that the student pays for their tuition upfront and then their employer pays them back at the end of the semester granted that they satisfactorily complete their courses. Employers generally offer this form of program when the degree that the student is seeking is a degree that would enable them to advance within the company. Furthermore, many colleges will offer discounts to certain persons, such as military veterans or Peace Corps volunteers. Students may want to consider these options when choosing an online school.

Play It Safe when Scheduling Classes

The fastest way to waste your money in college is to drop classes in the middle of the semester. Colleges typically offer a short grace period in which students can drop classes without penalty; however, after this grace period, the student will be charged tuition for all or part of the course fees. For example, if a student drops a class two weeks in, they may only be entitled to 75% of their tuition returned. After three weeks, they may only get 50% back. After four, they may only get 25% back.

And, after five, they may not receive any refund on the cost of the course. The solution to this is simple – don't over schedule yourself in a way that may later force you to drop courses. If you know that you're capable of devoting enough time to take two courses a semester, then don't try to take four in order to finish faster. You'll end up having to drop classes, and this will cost you more money for your degree in the long run.

Additionally, if you withdraw from any FTA funded course(s), you will be required to repay the FTA funding of that course(s).

What is Distance Learning?

Distance learning is a type of educational institution in which students do not have to be present in

a classroom in order to take and pass postsecondary courses. The main distinguishing characteristic of distance learning is that the interaction between the students and instructor occurs by means other than face-to-face contact, though the communication does not necessarily have to take place over the Internet. However, the most common form of distance learning occurs online through means of bulletin boards, chat rooms, streaming video, and video conferencing.



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Training Value:

- ❖ Promotion Points for enlisted (1 for every 5 hours)
- ❖ Continuous Learning points for DA Civilians
- ❖ Retirement points for Reservist (1 for every 3 hours)
- ❖ College credit (ACE) – 28 course modules

- ❖ Reduces cost for the Soldier
- ❖ Increases readiness
- ❖ Flexibility to take anywhere, anytime at no charge to the individual or unit