



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE  
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU  
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ARLINGTON, VA 22202-3231

29 SEP 2008

NGB-ARH

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADJUTANTS GENERAL OF ALL STATES, PUERTO RICO, GUAM, THE VIRGIN ISLANDS AND THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SUBJECT: Army National Guard "College First" Enlistment Option

1. Reference. FY07 ARNG Enlistment Criteria Memorandum (ECM) dated 1 Oct 06, Chapter 3, ARNG Enlistment Options/ Programs. Section X Army National Guard College First (NGCF) Enlistment Option.

2. The following new enlistment option guidance is effective 1 Oct 2008.

a. Purpose. The NGCF enlistment option provides Non Prior Service (NPS) applicants the opportunity to serve in the ARNG and complete up to two years of full-time schooling. Applicants that enlist under this option could be stabilized for up to 24 months upon completion of Initial Active Duty Training (IADT).

b. Enlistment Options. Enlist on a 6 X 2 enlistment contract and receive a two (2) year stabilization period.

c. Eligibility. To be eligible for the NGCF enlistment option, applicants must:

1) Be a NPS HSDG (or a graduating HSSR), HSSR, HSDG Equivalent and score a 50 or higher on the ASVAB (Cat I-III).

2) Complete IADT as a straight-ticket (split training option is not authorized for NGCF enlistments).

3) Be accepted at a college or university that is accredited by the U.S. Department of Education and remain a full-time student in good standing for the duration of his or her stabilization period. A letter from the college or university will need to be turned into the Readiness NCO stating the Soldier is enrolled as a full time resident student. A full time student is defined as taking twelve (12) or more credits per a semester. On-line college students are not eligible.

4) Meet all other applicable criteria as stated in the current ARNG ECM.

d. Officer Candidates.

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1) A primary goal of the college first program is to provide a pipeline of future commissioned officers. Officer candidates who become contracted, ROTC cadets (09R) or OCS candidates (09S) can continue their stabilization through the completion of their respective officer producing program. That stabilization is subject to the jurisdiction of the ROTC or OCS proponent.

2) High school seniors who enter the college first program are strongly encouraged to attend their MS 101 and MS 102 ROTC classes during their first two college semesters. High school students entering the college first program should be encouraged to attend a college or university that has an ROTC program.

e. Remarks. The following statements must be entered in the DD Form 1966 series under the remarks section:

1) "I am required to remain in good standing with my ARNG unit and my academic institution as a full-time student or my stabilization status will be repealed and funds are susceptible to recoupment. I must enroll in college within 90 days of completion of IADT. I must be attending classes in the first available subsequent academic semester and this period can not exceed 150 calendar days."

2) "I understand that I may volunteer for deployment, and my volunteering will waive my stabilization period. While I am deployed, my performance in the NGCF program will not be put on hold for the duration of the deployment. The stabilization period exempts Soldiers from current mobilization authority (OIF/OEF) but does not exempt Soldiers from a new, full federal mobilization under Presidential or Secretary of Defense authority, or State mobilizations under gubernatorial authority."

f. Stabilization.

1) High School Graduate or Equivalent – The stabilization period will begin on the day the Soldier graduates AIT or 270 days after their enlistment date, whichever comes first.

2) High School Seniors, Currently in High School (HSSR) – The stabilization period will begin on the day the Soldier graduates AIT or 270 days after their high school graduation, whichever comes first.

3) If a Soldier volunteers to deploy they will waive their NGCF stabilization period.

4) Due to the stabilization element of the NGCF program, each State may elect to offer or not offer this option to eligible applicants. States may increase the stabilization period but they may not reduce it.

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5) If an NGCF applicant elects to go into the ING, the applicant will be removed from the NGCF program.

g. Incentives. NGCF applicants are eligible for ARNG incentives provided they meet the criteria outlined in the current ARNG Selected Reserve Incentive Program (SRIP) guidance issued by NGB-EDU.

f. Tracking.

1) Tracking applicants who enlist under this option will be done in REQUEST by MEPS Guidance counselors. To accomplish this, MEPS GC's will select the code "TH" (College First ARNG duty) in the recruiting program drop down box in the review update applicant, information qualification screen record. If additional assistance is needed, MEPS GC's should call the NGB ROC for guidance.

2) States are responsible for tracking the stabilization period of NGCF enlistments and ensuring they meet the criteria to remain in a non-deployable status. States will maintain a roster of all NGCF Soldiers within their State to ensure that the Soldiers are not included on the mobilization lists during their non-deployable status.

3) Soldiers must furnish 2 copies of their transcript at the end of each semester to their Readiness NCO for accountability. One copy will be kept for the Readiness NCO and the other copy will be sent to the Company Commander. Failure to furnish a transcript at the end of each semester/quarter may be terms of termination of the NGCF option. If the Soldier does not turn in a transcript, the Readiness NCO will have the Soldier's non-deployable status removed.

3. Point of contacts:

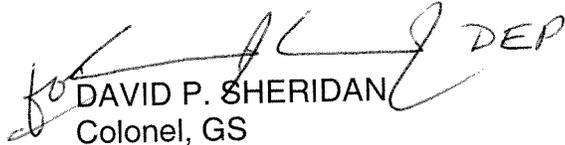
a. Enlisted Policy, MSG Donald Kiefer at 703-607-3401 or email: donald.kiefer@ngb.army.mil.

b. Recruiting and Retention, SGT Melissa Zadakis at 703-607-4060 or email: melissa.zadakis@us.army.mil.

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c. Incentive Policy, MSG Mitchell Flemming at 703-607-7230 or email:  
mitchell.flemming@ng.army.mil.

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