

ARNG Education News

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A Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Communiqué

Fall 2003

news from
**NATIONAL
GUARD
BUREAU**



National Guard Bureau Assigns Education Services Officer

MAJ Ronald Schwickerath (Schwick) has been named as the Education Services Officer at National Guard Bureau, replacing CPT Elizabeth Kirby, who has been reassigned. MAJ Schwick comes to us from the Arizona ARNG, where his most recent assignment was Provost Marshal at Camp Navajo Military Installation. He received a Masters in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University and holds a BS in History with a teacher certification from Iowa State University. He brings a strong education background to NGB. While in Arizona he taught Math and Geography at a public secondary school, chairing the Math Department as well as the Teacher Advisory Council. In addition he coached soccer, football, basketball and track & field teams.

MAJ Schwick enlisted in the Guard as an Infantryman in 1986 and was commissioned as an ROTC Distinguished Graduate in May, 1990. Since that time he has served in a variety of capacities including Military Intelligence, Logistics, and Transportation. He commanded the 2220th Transportation Company (medium) from 1998 to 2000. From February to September of 2002 he served as Executive Officer/Chief of Staff at FORSCOM for Task Force Border Support/Force Protection Mission, Operation Noble Eagle.

Welcome, MAJ Schwick!

Personnel Programs Division Moves to Readiness Center

National Guard Bureau has reorganized the Personnel Programs, Manpower, & Resources Division (formerly NGB-ARH, now NGB-ARM) and moved their offices to the ARNG Readiness Center. The Education and Incentives Section falls under MAJ Timothy Clays, Programs and Resources Branch Chief. Deputy Division Chief is LTC David Sheridan, and the Division Chief is COL Rory T. Froehlich. The ARNG G-1 is COL Ross DeBlois. The Readiness Center is located at 111 S. George Mason Drive, Arlington, VA 22204.

Current vacancies are E-7/E-8 AGR, GS-12, and GS-13.

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EDUCATION

HEROES Bill Signed Into Law

President Bush signed into law last week the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students Act (HEROES) which provides student-loan relief to U.S. troops on active duty. The new measure excuses military personnel from their student loan obligations while on active duty. In addition, it will require colleges and universities to refund tuition and fees paid for courses not completed due to military call-ups, and will make it easier for students returning from military service to re-enroll for classes. For more information visit:

http://www.military.com/NewsContent?file=dod_082003.

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State Budgets and Tuition Increases for SY 03-04

Many states are experiencing severe budget shortfalls throughout the country. This is having a major impact on the state colleges and universities who rely heavily on state funding for operating revenue. The overall result is that many state colleges and universities are passing this cost on to the student in the way of increased tuition and institutional fees. Further information can be found on the AASCU website at:

http://www.aascu.org/state_budget_weekly/default.htm

The point of contact at SOCGuard is Max Padilla at 1-800-368-5622 or padillam@aascu.org.



Southern Arkansas University Signs Tuition Agreement with Arkansas National Guard

Southern Arkansas University and the Arkansas National Guard recently entered into a new partnership to allow qualified Arkansas National Guard soldiers to attend SAU at no charge. CPT Joel Garrison, Education Services Officer for the ARARNG, spearheaded this effort, which included presentations to the state legislature and higher education commission, a college workshop, follow up letters and email, and meetings with university administrators. The partnership represents a good match for the National Guard because of its ability to attract more Guard members to SAU. Such a large group of students also increases the possibility of building an ROTC program on SAU's campus.

Scholarship money provided by the Arkansas National Guard and Southern Arkansas University, a four year public institution, will now be available to cover all tuition costs for qualified members of the Arkansas National Guard. A portion of the funds are part of a Department of Defense program that provides 75 percent tuition assistance to eligible Arkansas National Guard personnel. Southern Arkansas University will cover the remaining 25 percent of the tuition costs for members of the Arkansas National Guard attending SAU. The funds can be used for both graduate and undergraduate courses offered by the university.

"It is a pleasure for SAU to enter into this cooperative agreement with the Arkansas National Guard, said SAU Presi-

dent David Rankin. "We are very appreciative of the dedicated and courageous service of members of the National Guard. It was a pleasure for me to travel with General Morrow and the Arkansas delegation to visit members of the Guard serving in Bosnia two years ago. The trip reinforced in my own mind the great contribution the National Guard makes to our state, nation and the world."

The Arkansas General Assembly recently passed ACT 1045, which permissively agreed to allow state-supported colleges and universities to provide this program to members of the Arkansas National Guard. Southern Arkansas University is the first Arkansas institution of higher education to agree to assist with the total tuition assistance partnership.

"This is an opportunity I'm sure many of our people will appreciate. I'm grateful for SAU's support of the Arkansas National Guard. This brings us in line with the way other states are supporting their Guard members," said Maj. Gen. Don C. Morrow, Adjutant General of Arkansas.

Four out of the six states that surround Arkansas have 100 percent tuition assistance programs supported completely with state money for their National Guard members allowing them to attend any state-supported school. These states include Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, and Louisiana.

The new partnership with Southern Arkansas University will now give Arkansas National Guard members the opportunity to take advantage of a similar opportunity. Currently, qualified members of the Arkansas National Guard attending other institutions of higher education qualify to receive federal tuition assistance through the Department of Defense program, which is limited to paying 75 percent of tuition, up to a maximum of \$200 per credit hour and up to \$4,000 a year. The program will also pay for a maximum of \$500 a year toward fees as long as the cost of tuition and fees do not exceed \$4,000 a year.

Minnesota Deploys Members of the 34th Infantry Division

In its largest deployment since World War II, about 1,100 members of the 34th Infantry Division left Minnesota for a six-month peacekeeping mission in Bosnia. The soldiers will be stationed at the headquarters in Tuzla and three forward bases. To allow soldiers to pursue education while deployed, each base is equipped with an education center, computer labs, classrooms and guidance counselors.

While in Bosnia, soldiers are confined to bases and the six-month deployment interrupts the traditional fall and spring semesters. As a result, many soldiers expressed concern that they would have to put their education on hold in order to serve. However, the MNARNG has presented the deployment as a great opportunity to begin or continue educational goals. While they are on active duty, eligible soldiers receive 100% tuition for courses they take in country. The delivery methods vary, depending on the course, location, and the student's preference. Some students pre-arranged with their individual institutions to continue their studies while they are deployed either online or via correspondence. Others will take classroom or online instruction in Bosnia, while still others will take CLEP, DSST or ECE examinations in general education subjects.

MG Larry Shellito, Commander, 34th Infantry Division, along with CPT Barbara O'Reilly, MNARNG ESO and WO1 Tina Kojetin, Education Counselor, engineered a project with the Minnesota State College and University system (MNSCU) to assist the soldiers in their pursuit of a college education. About 40 lower division courses in the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum, offered by nine institutions in the MNSCU system, are timed to begin after the soldiers arrive in Bosnia, and end prior to their departure for the US.



Support to States for Activated/Mobilized Guard Students

Prior to the events of September 11, 2001, SOCGuard became involved in supporting our Guard soldiers who were activated or mobilized. According to Pentagon sources, lengthy activations and mobilizations may be here for the foreseeable future. With this in mind, Education Services Officers should know that SOCGuard stands ready to assist you with the education aspect of this mission and is a **free** resource for you and your soldiers. Some states have taken advantage of this service to assist the ESO in outreach to colleges and the soldiers to minimize the disruption to the activated or mobilized student.

How SOCGuard can assist:

1. **Higher Education Advice.** SOCGuard is your higher education advisor and will assist or advise you in any way with problems experienced with the higher education community. SOC has links into 15 major higher education associations and if we are unable to answer your question we will attempt to use this contact to support your soldiers.
2. **Helpline.** This is a toll free number to assist any servicemember who may be experiencing problems with colleges or universities. Since 9/11 SOC has responded to over 230 requests for assistance from Guard and reservists to settle misunderstandings with colleges and universities regarding an activation or mobilization. SOC has resolved the majority of these requests in favor of the RC servicemember. The Office of the Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs identified SOC as the reference for activated servicemembers who are college students and need assistance dealing with their college or university.
3. **SOCGuard Website.** This is a must resource for all Guard students who are activated or mobilized. Included on this site are checklists; sample letters to send to colleges or lenders; reference information such as state laws and state governing policies for activated or mobilized students; Department of Education guidance and other applicable references. Additionally, they will find links to many related sites for information such as Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) and free legal advice. ESOs will find information that can be used at deployment briefings and counseling sessions with soldiers. Visit the SOC website at:

www.soc.aascu.org/socguard
4. **College Outreach.** You can help to minimize problems with colleges related to activations/mobilizations and deployments. SOCGuard is available to assist in discussing these and other issues, with institutions in your state through college workshops and campus visits. SOCGuard has brought college administrators and education services personnel together to reach mutually agreeable solutions to problems experienced by Guard students. We will go with you to visit colleges that may experience a loss of Full Time Equivalency (often a source a funding for the school) or revenue from the withdrawal of activated students. Working closely with college administrators will strengthen your relationship with them and provide them the guidance they need to best support your soldier/students, and at the same time mini-

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mize any problems related to their deployment.

5. **Deployment Support.** We have delivered a number of presentations during deployment briefings and provided counseling assistance to soldiers. Recently, SOCGuard assisted the Minnesota state education office by counseling soldiers and identifying educational opportunities in Bosnia and Europe for the 34th Infantry Division.

States needing assistance with activated or mobilized students or deployments can call the SOCGuard staff at 1-800-368-5622 or email padillam@aascu.org (Max Padilla) or shapiro@aascu.org (Marcy Shapiro).



ARNG Offers Guidance Counseling to Help You Earn a College Degree

The Army National Guard Education Support Center (ARNG ESC) has been open for ten months. By now, we should be able to stop saying, "formerly the Army National Guard Institute"; but, for those who aren't familiar with our new organization, that's who we used to be. We now have a new contract, a new staff, and a new philosophy.

The ARNG ESC is an education counseling service for Army National Guard members, their spouses, and federal civilian employees of the Army National Guard. There are a variety of ways to access the services of the ARNG ESC and find out more about the organization. The best way is to log on to www.VirtualArmory.com and read all about us. Go to the Education section and view the list of colleges we partner with and other valuable information concerning the services we offer.

You can also stop in and see us if you are in the North Little Rock, Arkansas, area. We are located in Lexington Hall, National Guard Professional Education Center, Camp Joseph T. Robinson. Many National Guard members are taking advantage of our services while here at PEC attending classes. Come by, fill out an application, and talk to one of our experienced counselors. We can help you maximize college credit for your military training and experience, combine those hours with any college hours or examination

scores you have accumulated, and help you determine how best to apply those college hours toward a degree.

If you need a degree as quickly as possible, we can tell you which colleges will award the most credit for your military training and experience. Perhaps you have a specific academic goal in mind. We have over 500 degree plans in our automated system and the number is growing daily. Experienced counselors at the ESC can help you find the program that meets your objective.

The ESC staff works closely with Army National Guard State Education Offices. Reports are sent to each state Education Services Officer, outlining the applicants from that state. Working together, the ESC and the State ESO can provide the best possible education counseling to the Army National Guard community.

What do you need to do next?

Complete an application. You can do this on-line through the Virtual Armory, or by calling the ESC (toll-free) at 1-866-628-5999 and requesting one be faxed or mailed to you.

Return the application with transcripts of any earned credit from an accredited institution. We can pull your AARTS transcript, but if you have prior service or any training not reflected on your AARTS, we will need documentation in order to include it on your evaluation.

What will you receive from us?

A comprehensive evaluation of your credits and three recommended degree plans. Plus, you will have access to your counselor, Monday through Friday, 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. Central Standard Time. Your counselor can answer your questions and offer advice to help you to make the right choice.

Our philosophy is based on quality. We pride ourselves in producing a quality product and providing quality service. Get started today! You may be surprised at how close you

To learn more about ARNG education
go to:

<http://www.virtualarmy.com/>
and follow the "Education" link.

are to completing a degree. Many of our customers have been and, thanks to the ESC, are already graduating.

ESC partners as of 12 August 2003 include:

Auburn University
Central Texas College
Charter Oak State College
Coastline Community College
Columbia College
Excelsior College
Florida Troops-to-Teachers
Florida Community College at Jacksonville
Fort Hays State University
Liberty University
North Central University
Old Dominion University
Penn State University
Regent University
Rio Salado College
Saint Leo University
Southern Christian University
Thomas Edison State University
Troy State University
University of Alaska Fairbanks
University of Alaska Southeast
University of Maryland University College
University of Oklahoma
University of Phoenix
Upper Iowa University
Vincennes University
Webster University

Degree programs offered by ESC partner institutions include:

Architecture And Design

AVIATION

Air Traffic Control
Aviation Maintenance Technology
Pilots: Aeronautical Science

Business Administration

BUSINESS

Accounting
Administrative Office Management
Banking
E-Commerce / E-Business
Entrepreneurial Business
Finance
Hotel, Motel, Restaurant Management
Human Resource Management
Insurance

International Business
Management
Management Of Technology
Marketing
Organizational Mgt & Leadership
Procurement/Purchasing
Production/Operations
Management
Retailing Management
Sales/ Customer Service
Secretarial Skills/Office Assistance
Transportation/Distribution
Management
Computer Science
Computer Science:
Business Applications & Systems
CIS / Management
Information Systems
Computer Technology & Hardware
Database Administration
Information Networking &
Telecom
Software Engineering/Programming

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Corrections
Law Enforcement, Police Operations

Dental Assisting

EDUCATION

Education Administration
Instructional Delivery / Vocational Education
Teaching Specific Subjects
Energy Resources Management

ENGINEERING

Aeronautical Engineering
Agricultural Engineering
Chemical Engineering
Civil Engineering
Electrical Engineering
Environmental Engineering
Industrial Engineering
Manufacturing Engineering
Marine Engineering
Materials Engineering
Mechanical Engineering
Structural Engineering
Textile Engineering
Transportation Engineering

Environmental Science and
Environmental Management

Fire Science

Food Service - Culinary Arts

HEALTH CARE

Applied Health Sciences
Biomedical Technology / Biotechnology
Clinical Laboratory
Dental Care
Health Information Systems
Health Services Administration
Nursing
Paramedical Science
Pharmacy Technology
Pre-Med
Respiratory Care
X-Ray Technology

Homeland Security: Hazardous Materials,
Emergency Services,
Distribution Management

Interdisciplinary Studies (General Studies)

LEGAL STUDIES

Paralegal/Law
Pre-Law

LIBERAL ARTS

Anthropology
Art
Biology
Chemistry
Communications/Speech
Dramatic And Performing Arts
Economics
English
Foreign Languages
Geography
Geology
Government And Political Science
History
Humanities / Fine Arts
Journalism
Liberal Arts Interdisciplinary
Literature
Mathematics
Music
Natural Sciences
Philosophy
Physics
Psychology
Religion
Social Sciences
Social Work / Human Services
Sociology

Library Science

Military Occupation Compatible Degrees

Military Science

Physical Fitness/Recreation

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Public Administration

Public Affairs/Public Relations

Real Estate

Research

Technical Studies/Technical Management

TECHNICAL STUDIES

Air Conditioning/Refrigeration

Automotive Technology

Communication Electronics/Satellite Systems

Construction

Electricity/Electronics

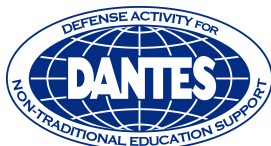
Mechanical/Electromechanical Technology

Nuclear Technology

Optical Technologies

Welding

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Record Attendance at DoD Worldwide Conference

Is a Hit with Educators, the Military Services

DoD's Worldwide Education Symposium, held at the Marriott World Center Resort in Orlando, Florida, offered an opportunity to share ideas and information with members of the voluntary education community. Over 1,600 civilians, educators and members of the military services attended the triennial conference. Sixty-six concurrent sessions, seven workshops and thirteen round table discussions covered such varied topics as distance learning, accreditation, marketing voluntary education programs, planning for retirement and web based tools. Approximately 144 exhibitors displayed their unique products, programs and services for three days in the Marriott's expansive exhibit hall. Senior officers and senior enlisted personnel representing each branch of the armed services delivered presentations at the opening sessions, while Dr. Constantine Curris, President of AASCU, provided the keynote presentation to close the conference. Visit the Worldwide website at:

<http://www.wv-003.com/>

to download presentations and view photos of the conference.

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ACES



ACES Supports American Education Week

During the week of 16-22 Nov 2003, the Army Continuing Education System (ACES) will observe American Education Week. This is ACES 19th year of support for this event, emphasizing its commitment to the Army's adult learners. This is a great opportunity for all installations to promote the importance of lifelong learning for their military personnel. Visit the National Education Association (NEA) website at <http://www.nea.org> for ideas on how to market AEW on your installation and within your community.

Calendar

Upcoming Events

September 8-9	Apprenticeship Conference St. Louis, MO
October 14-18	NAVPA Conference Seattle, WA
November 10-21	ARNG Education Services Course Little Rock, AR

For the latest legislation governing
activation and mobilization for students
visit the SOCGuard Web site at:

<http://www.soc.aascu.org/socguard/>