

# ARNG Education News

Excellence Through Education

A Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Communiqué

June 2007

## Mississippi State University to Host VA Conference

Mississippi State University (MSU) is planning a VA Administrator Conference October 23-25, 2007 in Starkville, MS at the university's recently opened G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery Center for America's Veterans. The center was established by President Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong (Gen AF Ret) to provide higher education opportunities to veterans through programs and services unavailable from other institutions. The center's goal is to recruit veterans and to provide them with counseling and guidance, academic advice, and mentorship, among many other benefits. One of their first major projects is a veterans administrator workshop, which will bring all of Mississippi's VA representatives together to share their successes and conduct training for new VA representatives. If you would like to attend, please contact CPT Paul Lyon, ESO in Mississippi, 601-313-6300. For information on the G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery Center visit <http://www.veterans.msstate.edu/>.

## ARNG Teams with Institutions on Distance Learning Projects

Higher education offers exceptional benefits and programs for ARNG students

The Army National Guard is developing relationships with institutions in the states to provide an array of distance learning opportunities for its Soldiers. These partnerships include reduced tuition costs, proficiency examinations, video instruction, and other creative efforts to give ARNG students an education.

In Mississippi, the Guard has teamed with Mississippi State University for a Masters in Business Administration. This course will be taught by video conference (VTC) by a professor located in Starkville, MS. Soldiers will be attending classes nights and weekends as scheduled by the instructor. Information on the program is at [www.ngms.state.ms.us/edu](http://www.ngms.state.ms.us/edu). The University of Southern Mississippi, in cooperation with the Guard, is developing a WWII Battlefield Studies Program that will include a 10 day trip to the Battlefields of France. A recently launched partnership with Belhaven University provides a 20% discount on tuition cost for Soldiers.

The PAARNG has developed a Partnership with Duquesne University to provide both classroom and online programs to members of the military for \$250 per credit hour (no fees) for Undergraduate courses, and \$250 per credit hour (\$126 dollars per class in fees) for Graduate courses. For information visit [www.leadership.duq.edu](http://www.leadership.duq.edu).

## GI Bill Support Team Participates in Demobilization

Members of the GI Bill Support Team from the Education Support Center, along with the MNARNG, and the WIARNG, are participating in a redeployment exercise at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Following a six-month extension of their one-year deployment, 4,600 Soldiers of the 1/34<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team (BCT) returning from Iraq and will be demobilized over a six-week period. Over 2,700 Soldiers are from MN; the rest come from 41 other states. Upon their return, some will be ready to begin, resume, or complete their education. The teams' goal is to ensure that these Soldiers receive information on their eligibility for GI Bill programs, based on their length of deployment, and other education counseling. The GI Bill Team will take the lead, with support from the MNARNG and the WIARNG. The teams supporting the exercise will be at the demobilization site on a rotating basis for approximately six weeks.

## St. Joseph's College of New York Reduces Tuition for Guard and Reserves

St. Joseph's College is now offering the reduced tuition rate of \$250.00 per credit hour for Reserves and National Guard for its BS in Organizational Management online degree. This special rate also applies to dependents of Active Duty servicemembers. The college offers credit for your military training and experience, credit for CLEP, DANTES, College Board Advanced Placements Exams, Guide to Educational Credit by Exam, and ACE National Guide to Educational Credit for Training Programs (CREDIT). Additional credit may be earned through the College's Prior Experiential Learning Assessment Program. St. Joseph's College offers supportive and knowledgeable military friendly academic advisors who stand ready to guide you through your college career. For further information contact Camille Karlson, Director, Organizational Management Online Program (OMOP), Assistant Dean School of Professional and Graduate Studies, Long Island Campus, 631.447.3254, 631.447.1734 (fax), or email [omop@sjcny.edu](mailto:omop@sjcny.edu). Visit their web site at <http://www.sjcny.edu/military> for more information.

To learn more about ARNG education  
go to:

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

### **Schools to Offer Scholarships for Soldiers**

*By Leo Shane III*

*Reprinted from Stars and Stripes Mideast Edition*

Lincoln Education Services will offer more than \$500,000 in scholarships to servicemembers, veterans and their spouses, as part of the Armed Forces Support Foundation's Hire a Hero program. That includes eight scholarships for overseas military to take online courses in the company's criminal justice or allied health degree programs, according to Lincoln officials.

Officials with both groups said the goal is to help troops and their families succeed after their military careers have ended. "We want to provide our American heroes with a network of supporters who will help them find quality jobs and training opportunities," Dan Caulfield, Hire a Hero executive director, said in a statement.

The eight overseas scholarships will cover all tuition costs for the online program. In addition, the group will award 54 partial scholarships, some up to \$10,000, to Guard and Reserve troops or their spouses for degree programs in automotive technology, health sciences, skilled trades, business, information technology or hospitality at local Lincoln campuses. Another 60 scholarships of \$2,000 each will be given to active-duty troops, veterans, or the spouses of either for study in those same academic fields.

To apply, eligible students must file an online essay or video explaining what serving the country means to them, and what they hope to accomplish with the scholarship. Recipients also will be required to pass a qualification entrance exam before beginning any degree program.

Lincoln Educational Services currently operates 37 campuses in 17 states under five brands: Lincoln College of Technology, Lincoln Technical Institute, Nashville Auto-Diesel College, Southwestern College and Euphoria.

For more information, or to apply for a scholarship, visit [www.hireahero.com](http://www.hireahero.com). Applications are due by Aug. 17.

### **Duquesne University Offering New Program for NCO Instructors and Bachelor's Concentrations**

Duquesne University's School of Leadership and Professional Advancement has developed a new program for Army NCO instructors. The program allows NCOES certified instructors advanced standing toward a bachelor's degree. According to Mary Jane Snyder, director of military education, "we recognize the academic rigor of the NCOES certification and have worked to incorporate it into upper-level courses within our bachelor's degree. The response from the instructors has been very positive."

Duquesne University will also offer three additional concentrations within their accelerated online bachelor's degree program beginning this fall. Security administration, training and development, and public and media relations are now available. Students choose two concentrations to comprise their major. Other concentrations include computer technology, criminal justice and forensic science and organizational leadership.

Duquesne, founded in 1878 and regionally accredited, is a member of SOC and offers special military tuition rates. For details on all undergraduate and graduate programs within Duquesne's military education program, please visit [www.leadership.duq.edu/mil](http://www.leadership.duq.edu/mil) or contact Mary Jane Snyder, at 412-352-2354.

### **NGB Welcomes New Team Members**

MSG Mark Cusmano began his career in 1978 in light infantry assignments both in the Regular Army and Army National Guard. In 1992 he was hired into the AGR program in Pennsylvania as an R&R NCO and spent the next six years recruiting for the PAARNG. In 1998 he transferred to the T10 program and has served in various 79T fields including the RCCC program as a counselor at Ft. Riley and Ft. Drum. He has worked at the Strength Maintenance Training Center, Professional Education Center and served as a Team Chief in the Basic Recruiting and Retention NCO Course, and as the 79T ANCOB Branch Chief. Following his deployment to Kuwait in 2004, MSG Cusmano transferred to the Washington, D.C. area and served as the Senior Operations NCO for the RCCC program at the Army Human Resource Command. He recently arrived to ARM from ASM, Accessions Branch.

SFC Eric A. Bell assumes the position of incentives NCO, working with 1LT Shannon Cummings and MSG Cusmano. SFC Bell was previously Title 32 in the state of Maryland and comes to NGB with over seven years of recruiting experience and over 18 years of military service.

We welcome both of you and look forward to working with you!

### **1LT Cummings to Take AIT Command at Fort Jackson, SC**

After serving almost two years in both the Education and Incentive arenas at National Guard Bureau (NGB) in Arlington VA, 1LT Shannon Cummings is leaving NGB as the Incentive Program Manager. For her next career assignment, LT Cummings has been selected to serve as an Active Duty Company Commander for Echo Co 369<sup>th</sup> AG BN and will relocate to Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Please join COL Porter and the NGB-EI staff as we wish 1LT Cummings well in her new endeavor. Please feel free to email 1LT Cummings at [shannon.lcummings@us.army.mil](mailto:shannon.lcummings@us.army.mil).