

# ARNG Education News

Excellence Through Education

A Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Communiqué

September 2006

## NGB Welcomes New Team Members

Please welcome CPT Annabelle Andrade to NGB-ARM as the Education Services Officer. Effective 5 September CPT Andrade will be overseeing the Education and Incentives Branch. She comes to NGB from California where she was the ESO for three years, with an eighteen-month break deployment in Kuwait. Glad to have you with us, CPT Andrade!

Also joining the NGB family are Ms. Beverly Harris, Education Services Specialist, who will oversee programs in the Education Branch; Ms. Stephanie Bengar, a Contracting Specialist whose responsibilities include managing contracts and statements of work, and acting as liaison with NGB support agencies; and Mr. Larry Palmer, who is a Program Analyst responsible for policy and customer/automation services in the Incentives Branch. Welcome to all!

## SOCGuard Welcomes New Team Member

Effective 2 October 2006, Dan Riggle assumes the position of SOCGuard Program Manager, working with Mack Brooks and Marcy Shapiro. Dan comes to SOCGuard as an internal SOC staff member, with 14 years of combined employment in SOC and its parent organization, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, and service in the Army Reserves. Welcome, Dan!

## Ferris State University Offers Military Veteran Scholarship Program

Ferris State University in Michigan is offering an annual scholarship of \$1000, renewable for three additional years as long as the veteran continues to meet all eligibility criteria. All qualifying veterans entering as a freshman or transfer student will be eligible for the in-state tuition rate.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Must have served on an active duty status in U.S. Armed Forces (includes Reserve or National Guard) for a minimum of six continuous months (180 days).
- Member must receive a separation from active duty under "honorable" or "uncharacterized" conditions. Period of qualifying service will be verified via an original copy, or certified copy of DD214 (member 4).
- Must be enrolled in an undergraduate/professional graduate program of study within four years from separation of qualifying military service.
- Must maintain full-time academic enrollment status.
- Sustain satisfactory academic progress per federal fi-

nancial aid regulations, per Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid's policy.

Visit <http://www.ferris.edu/admissions/financialaid/millschol.cfm> to apply online. Applicants must complete and submit the FAFSA for the academic year of application and renewal years. Demonstrated financial need is NOT required for eligibility.

In addition, Ferris State offers six kinds of transfer scholarships to students who meet the established eligibility criteria. Only one transfer scholarship will be awarded per student. Visit the web site at <http://www.ferris.edu/admissions/financialaid/TranSchol.htm> for information on each of these scholarships.

If you have any questions, please contact Terri Bloomquist, veteran certification coordinator, in the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid. Email at [bloomqut@ferris.edu](mailto:bloomqut@ferris.edu) or call (231) 591-2112.

## New Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT 5) To Be Released in October 2006

*Assesses reading and listening skills in foreign languages*

A new language test scheduled to become available October 2006 is the fifth generation of the Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT 5), a battery of tests used to assess native English speakers' reading and listening skills in a wide range of foreign languages. The "DLPT 5" test will be computer-based for security, efficient to administer and more challenging than previous language tests. Test scores will play an integral part in determining language proficiency pay for Soldiers in the ARNG with specific language skills. Because the test will mimic actual sources such as newspapers, magazines articles and radio broadcasts, soldiers are encouraged to use these kinds of references as their study resources.

Congress recently authorized an increase in the cap on language proficiency pay from \$300 to \$1,000 (not all language professionals will receive the full amount). Ultimately, the DLPT-5 could cover as many as 31 languages. Languages currently available for testing are Albanian, Arabic-Iraqi (listening only), Chinese-Mandarin, Greek, Hindi, Korean, Norwegian, Pashto, Persian-Afghan (Dari), Russian, Spanish, and Urdu.

ARNG state Test Control Officers (TCO) are required to certify as a DLPT5 TCO. Access to the DLPT5 TCO test is through DMDC using your CAC. Christian Brock at 703-325-1936 will register all TCOs to take the DLP test.

The ARNG intends for most of the language testing to

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occur at the Distributive Training Technology Project classrooms located at many armories throughout all 54 States and territories. There will be DLPT 5 testing at some ARNG state Education Services Offices.

Your ARNG POC is Laura Greenfield, 703-607-9757, [laura.greenfield@ngb.army.mil](mailto:laura.greenfield@ngb.army.mil).

### **National Military Family Association Advocates for Family Members**

*Organization supports quality of life issues for servicemembers and their families*

Did you know that there is an organization whose sole focus is the uniformed services family? The National Military Family Association, organized in 1969, is dedicated to serving the families and survivors of the seven uniformed services through education, information, and advocacy.

Active duty, reserve component, and retirees from all ranks of the seven uniformed services (Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Public Health Service, and the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration), their families, and survivors, worldwide are all members of NMFA. The Association's Affiliate program is open to any group or organization wishing to support its work for military family issues. These may include family service centers, humanitarian support groups on or near installations, schools and school districts with large military student populations, reserve component units, and businesses in areas servicing military installations.

For military spouses, there is the Military Spouse Resource Guide. This publication is a one-stop guide that offers a wealth of information on starting a college education, available scholarships and grants, and the many opportunities that are accessible to military spouses. The guide identifies education opportunities available to spouses of members of the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and the Commissioned Corps of the Public Health Service and National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration. The cost is \$3.95.

This is an excellent organization with insight into the needs of the military family. Visit their web site at [www.nmfa.org/](http://www.nmfa.org/) for details on award and family programs; links to additional education resources, including scholar-

ship programs; employment opportunities; family related issues such as relocation, adoption, and health care.

### **New GI Bill Rates Posted**

GI Bill rates effective 1 October 2006 are posted on the GI Bill web site at <http://www.gibill.va.gov>. On the "Education Benefits" tab click on "Payment Rates." The site includes rates for Chapter 30, Chapter 1606, and Chapter 1607. Those who fall under other GI Bill programs will also find the rates for their particular program.

### **SOCGuard and ESC Recruiting New College Partners**

In July 2006, Sherri Sims, ESC Director, Sam Huff, ESC Outreach Director, Tim Scoggins, AutoDP Director, and Marcy Shapiro, SOCGuard Program Manager, met to discuss the recruitment of new partners to the ESC family. Seventy institutions offering two-year, four-year, and graduate programs currently partner with ESC. The working group developed a list of candidates based on input from state ESOs on their preferences and the institutions receiving large amounts of FTA. The 22 states that did not have a partner institution were then divided into three groups to facilitate contact with the schools.

Originally, schools that wished to partner with ESC were exclusively SOC Degree Network institutions because of their existing requirement to issue Student Agreements (Contracts for degree). That requirement has changed due to the fact that not all states have Degree Network institutions. This change allows more flexibility to recruit additional partners.

To date, all of the institutions in the first group have been contacted and a Memorandum of Agreement along with appendices has been sent to each for review. Four schools in the second group have been contacted.

Upon signing their agreement, the institutional representative will work with AutoDP staff to validate their programs. Next, the POC will visit the ESC to orient the degree planners to their programs and work with them on how best to maximize exposure to Guard soldier/students. Once that process is completed, the degree planners will then be able to recommend the programs to ESC applicants.

To learn more about ARNG education go to:

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