

ARNG EDUCATION NEWSLETTER FOR THE SOLDIER

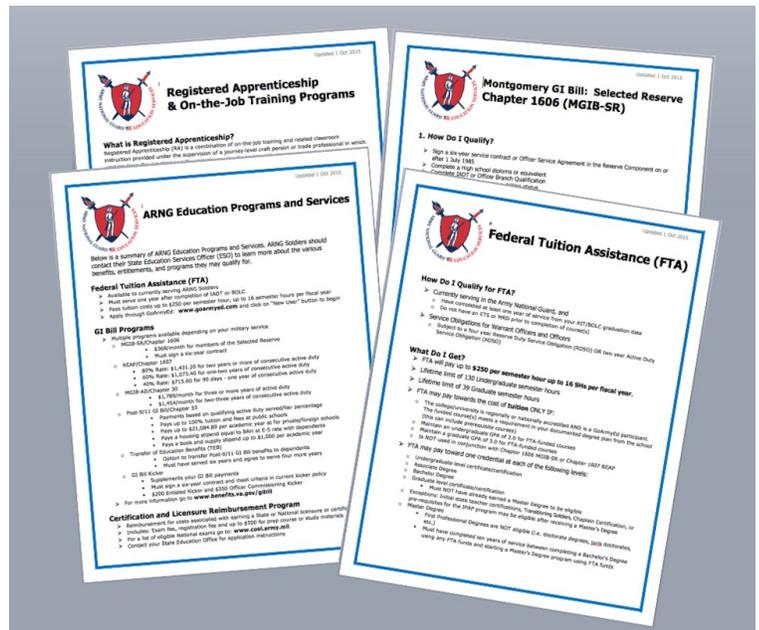


FY16 Education Flyers Published

For FY16, the NGB Education Services Branch updated and published 17 flyers designed to help you better understand your education benefits. The flyers are a great resource for units and the Soldiers they serve. To receive copies of these updated flyers, contact your State Education Services Office, <http://www.nationalguard.com/contacts/eso>.

Flyer topics include:

1. Education Services Summary
2. Federal Tuition Assistance
3. GI Bill Chapter 1606
4. GI Bill Chapter 1607
5. GI Bill Chapter 30
6. GI Bill Chapter 33
7. GI Bill TEB
8. GI Bill Kicker
9. GI Bill How To Apply
10. GI Bill Comparison Chart
11. Testing APT
12. Testing CLRP
13. Testing DANTES
14. Apprenticeship
15. Troops to Teachers
16. FAFSA
17. Education Links



DoD Virtual Education Fair Coming Soon!

New this year for American Education Week (AEW), which runs from 16-20 Nov., is the advent of a "DoD Virtual Education Fair". The fair offers an informative, pressure-free experience, where Soldiers can learn about: Tuition Assistance, GI Bill benefits, degree and certificate programs and information on schools working with DoD to provide a quality education to service members and military spouses.

The Virtual Fair will be conducted on Thursday, 19 Nov 2015 from 0800-1800 EST. During this time Army, USAR and ARNG education counselors will be available via live chat to answer questions. To access the Virtual Ed Fair, go to: <http://www.dodeducationfair.com/>

Charting the Right Educational Pathway

By Mr. Troy Gipps, Marketing & Outreach Coordinator

Prior to contacting your State Education Services Office (ESO) for education counseling and benefit processing support, it is important to identify the career fields that interest you and, if possible, specific employers in your area to help you chart the right education pathway.

The U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics' online Occupational Outlook Handbook (<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>) is a great tool for identifying high growth industries and conducting research on various occupational groups and specific job titles. The information is general in nature and provides national employment trend data, so the next logical step is to compare the data with your local employment market. What are the high growth industries in your state? How can you leverage your skills and interests to meet the needs of employers? What educational pathway will bridge the gap to a high-paying, rewarding career?

State Departments of Labor and Workforce Development (http://www.dol.gov/whd/contacts/state_of.htm) can help you identify high-growth industries, hiring trends, and specific employers in your state that are facing a skills gap. Information regarding employers in receipt of state and federal workforce development grants may also be available. These types of grant are used by states to shape and develop the local job market.

The next step is often overlooked. Once you have identified potential employers, contact them and ask to speak with their talent acquisition manager. What types of employees are they seeking? Is a college degree a baseline requirement for employment in your chosen career field? If so, does the employer have a preference to hire new employees who have graduated from a particular college or university program? Will a trade or professional certification credential enhance career opportunities? Do they offer apprenticeship, on-the-job training, or mentorship programs for new hires? Answers to these questions will help refine your choice of career fields, potential employers, and the education level required to reach your goal.

Finally, contact your State ESO (<http://www.nationalguard.com/contacts/eso>) for additional counseling support and to identify the appropriate mix of benefits required to help fund your chosen educational pathway.

Education Counseling Tools/Links:

HERC - an online tool that provides college degree plans for ARNG Soldiers as well as links to hundreds of tuition free college courses - <http://www.militaryherc.net/>

VIA - a decision support tool that helps you: identify your long term career goal, choose a degree plan that prepares you for your career goal, and select a "best fit" and "best value" school offering the your preferred degree plan - (accessed through your student profile on GoArmyEd)

TA Decide - an online information and comparison tool tailored to the unique educational needs of Servicemembers - <https://www.dodmou.com/TADECIDE/>

College Navigator - provides important data to help refine a college search - <http://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

GI Bill Comparison Tool - enables users to calculate benefits and research approved programs of study - <https://www.vets.gov/gi-bill-comparison-tool>

Kuder Journey - a one-stop-shop for Service members as they plan, prepare and transition to civilian employment - <http://dantes.kuder.com>

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