

FOR The Recruiting & Retention Force of all States, Puerto Rico, The Virgin Islands, Guam and the District of Columbia

SUBJECT: FY07 National Guard College First (NGCF) Enlistment Option

1. References:

- a. ARNG Enlistment Criteria Memorandum with Change 1, dated 15 Jun 06.
- b. Change 1 to ARNG GI Bill Kicker Program Policy, dated 28 April 2006.
- c. SMOM #06-138, dated 3 May 06, SMOM #06-141, dated 9 May 06.

2. Policy. This message authorizes the continuation of the NGCF Enlistment Option from 1 Oct 06 thru 31 Mar 07. This guidance supersedes previous NGCF enlistment guidance. Key changes or clarifications in this policy have been underlined.

3. Authority. This option provides NPS applicants the opportunity to serve in the ARNG and complete up to two years of full-time schooling without being subject to deployment. Due to the stabilization element of the NGCF option, each State may elect to offer or not offer this option to eligible applicants. States that elect to offer this option may increase the stabilization period at their discretion but may not reduce it.

4. Limitations. The NGCF enlistment option may be combined with other enlistment options (i.e.OCS Enlistment Option) and is currently NOT limited to a maximum number of enlistments. If necessary, guidance on enlistment limitations will be provided by NGB-ARM directly to the States.

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

- a. Be a NPS HSSR, HSDG, HSDG Equivalent (includes GED holders) or a currently enrolled college student.
- b. Score a 50 or higher on the ASVAB (CAT I-III).
- c. Agree to complete IADT thru-ticket (the split training option is not authorized for CF enlistments).
- d. Meet all other applicable criteria as stated in the current ARNG ECM.

6. Incentives. NGCF applicants are eligible to receive the NPS enlistment bonus IAW the SRIP Policy being offered at time of enlistment. In addition, NGCF applicants who enlist for at least 6 years (6X2 or 8X0) into one of their State's 30 critical MOSs and are assigned to a MTOE unit will receive a \$350 Montgomery G.I. Bill (MGIB) Kicker.

7. College Enrollment and Attendance Requirement. Applicants who enlist under the NGCF enlistment option must be enrolled in a college or university that is accredited by the U.S. Department of Education within 90 days of completion of Advanced Individual Training (AIT) and remain a full-time student in good standing for the duration of their contract period. Individuals who fail to meet this requirement are subject to termination of their stabilization period and reduction of their MGIB Kicker (if applicable).

Note: States may authorize a Soldier to defer their enrollment date up to but not more than 180 days after completion of AIT based on extenuating circumstances.

8. Enlistment Procedures. The following enlistment procedures must be followed by RRNCOs and MEPS Guidance Counselors when enlisting a NGCF applicant.

a. DD Form 1966 Series. RRNCOs will enter one of the following remarks as applicable in the remarks section of the DD Form 1966 Series, page 4:

-“I am enlisting in the National Guard College First Enlistment Option under the 6X2 or 8X0 enlistment option. I understand that I am entitled to 2 years of stabilization and must be a full-time college student in good standing in order to remain eligible for this option.”

OR

-“I am enlisting in the National Guard College First Enlistment Option under the 3X5 or 4X4 enlistment option. I understand that I am entitled to 1 year of stabilization and must be a full-time college student in good standing in order to remain eligible for this option.”

b. College First Annex. A NGCF Annex has been added to ARISS and must be printed out and completed at the MEPS. MEPS Guidance Counselors will ensure this Annex is signed by the applicant and attached to the DD Form 4 upon enlistment to validate the NGCF enlistment option.

c. ARNG GI Bill Kicker Contract. The following pen and ink change is authorized to the ARNG Kicker Contract (Annex K to DD Form 4) by adding paragraph d under Section III Acknowledgement/Eligibility as indicated below. As a reminder, a control number must be requested through iMARC for any applicant eligible to receive the ARNG Kicker.

“d. National Guard College First Enlistment Option. I am a “Non Prior Service applicant, Category I-III A (50 or higher on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery), enlisting into a valid position vacancy into an ARNG critical MOS and MTOE unit; ____ (initials); \$350 rate.”

Strength Maintenance Operations Message 06-XXX (Page 3)

d. Tracking Code. 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 quals screen record. If additional assistance is needed, MEPS GC's should call the NGB ROC for guidance.

9. Stabilization Period. NGCF Applicants who enlist on a 6X2 or 8X0 enlistment contract will receive a two (2) year stabilization period after completion of AIT. NGCF applicants who enlist on either a 3X5 or 4X4 enlistment contract will receive a one (1) year stabilization period after completion of AIT. States are responsible for tracking the stabilization period of NGCF enlistments and ensuring they meet the eligibility criteria stated in this policy to remain in a non-deployable status.

Note: The stabilization period exempts Soldiers from current mobilization authority (OIF/OEF) but does not exempt Soldier's from a new, full federal mobilization under Presidential or Secretary of Defense authority, or State mobilizations under gubernatorial authority.

10. Points of contact for the NGCF enlistment option are as follows:

a. Recruiting and Retention Policy, SGM Ken Hardy at 703-607-5799 or email: kenneth.hardy@ngb.army.mil.

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

c. MGIB Kicker Policy is the GI Bill Support Team at PEC at 1-866-628-5999 or esc@ngpec.org.

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