

# **Education and Incentives Center**

# NEWSLETTER

#### Volume 1, Issue 3

#### March 2023

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### **Military Family Education Program**

Have you signed up for the Military Family Education Program? If not, what are you waiting for!? MFEP works just like EAP but provides education funding for your dependents! Even if you do not currently have dependents, you can still earn and bank this benefit for later use. Plan ahead and get up to 120 credits or 10 semesters of college for your eligible dependents paid for! *Continues Page 2* 



### Soldier Success Story: Ms. Nicole Moore

For our first Soldier Success Story we'd like to highlight one of our very own – Ms. Nicole Moore. Nicole spent 20 years in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard and she has worked full-time at Fort Indiantown Gap since 2009. Many of you know her as the Student Loan Repayment Program Manager for the State.

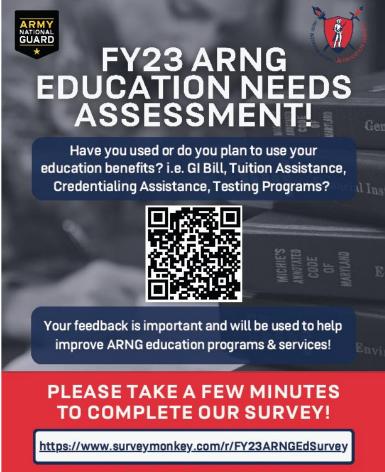
Throughout her career as a Soldier, Nicole served in various units and deployed in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM all while raising two amazing daughters. In August of 1992, she began her educational journey at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania, where she spent two years as a full-time student. As it often happens, life got in the way. *Continues Page 2* 

#### Military Family Education Program Cont. from Page 1

Interested? Be sure to complete your MFEP Form 1 when you extend or reenlist. If you're not sure how to extend, talk to your Battalion Career Counselor or Retention Office Manager about the process. **Remember, there is no obligation if you don't use the benefit but signing up for it now will start your six-year clock**.

Eligible family members will remain eligible even after your separation! Children can use the benefit up to age 26 and spouses can use the benefits up to six years after you separate from the PA National Guard.

If you have already signed up for MFEP and have questions about your credit allocation or want to add a beneficiary, log into <u>www.pheaa.org</u>, select Funding Opportunities, Aid for Military & PA National Guard, PA National Guard Military Family Education Program.



The survey is available until 30 June 2023

### **National Needs Assessment**

The Education Branch is conducting a mandatory needs assessment between APR-JUN. The needs assessment is a short, anonymous survey about your educational goals, program usage, and concerns to help our office, the ARNG, and the Army improve the services and programs we deliver to your and The survey is being administered via families. SurveyMonkey and we ask for everyone to participate to help us make our program better for you! То complete your survey today, https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FY23ARNGEdS urvev

Nicole never let go of her goal to achieve a college degree in 2018 and continued taking courses toward a Bachelor of Science degree, as time permitted. Though her path was a little longer than she had initially hoped, 30 years later in January of 2022 Nicole graduated with that Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science from the California University of Pennsylvania. Not only did Nicole achieve her goal, but she is the also first in her immediate family to obtain a college degree.

What's the moral of this story aside from never giving up on a goal you truly want and can accomplish? Nicole took advantage of the multitude of educational resources available to her based on her service in the PA National Guard. She used the counseling services through the Ed Center and her Joint Services Transcript (JST) to reduce her courseload by getting credit for the military schools and training she had already acquired. She used programs such as the Educational Assistance Program (EAP), Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA), and Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) to help pay for tuition, fees, and books...and so can you!

So, what's next for Nicole? Aside from being an integral part of our Incentives Branch, she's already started her master's degree! Nicole is an inspiration and an excellent example of one way to maximize your service in the PA National Guard.

What about you? Are you ready to start or finish your journey? Are you ready to get a degree free of cost using National Guard educational benefits? Contact the Education Center today and speak to one of our qualified Guidance Counselors so we can help you make your educational dreams a reality!

#### Federal Tuition Assistance Updates: Historical Tuition Assistance and Recoupment Waiver Requests for FY22 and FY21

Historical Tuition Assistance Requests (HTARS) and Recoupment processing in ArmyIgnitED is underway. Please see below for important details and process information regarding the creation of HTARs and Recoupment Waiver Requests for FY22 and FY21.

## Soldier Actions for Historical TA Requests for FY22 and FY21

Soldiers can request historical TA requests for courses taken in FY22 and FY21 through their Education Centers. An historical TA request is a TA request for courses taken in FY22 or FY21, but Soldiers were not able to access the system to request TA at the time of the course. Soldiers must provide proof of course completion to their Army Education Center and request an historical TA request be created on their behalf.

# Credentialing Assistance Now Available in ArmyIgnitED

Credentialing Assistance (CA) functionality in the newly upgraded ArmyIgnitED system is live! With a new look and improved performance, Service members will find it easier than ever to discover and pursue industry-recognized civilian credentials designed to enhance military careers or prepare for post-Army employment!

Soldiers have access to up to \$4,000/per fiscal year (shared between Federal Tuition Assistance and CA) to pursue credentialing and licensing goals. To get started, visit the ArmyCOOL website at https://www.cool.osd.mil/army/index.html to search for approved vendors and discover credentials right for you! Applications for CA can be submitted at https://www.armyignited.army.mil. CAC Required!

Soldiers must provide documentation for the course to include course name and number, course cost, course final grade, and the start and end dates. Documentation must also include the Soldier's name and the name of the academic institution. After the Education Counselor creates the historical TA request(s), Soldiers must log into their upgraded ArmyIgnitED account at <a href="https://www.armyignited.army.mil">https://www.armyignited.army.mil</a> and sign the historical TA request before it can be processed. Without your signature, schools will not be able to invoice the Army thus creating an outstanding balance on the Soldier's school account.

#### Soldier Actions for Recoupment Waiver Requests for FY22 and FY21 Unsuccessful Grades

Recoupment waiver requests for TA courses with undergraduate grades of D and below, and graduate grades of C and below will be considered for FY22 and earlier courses. Soldiers who intend to pursue a recoupment waiver for an FY22 or earlier course with an unsuccessful grade must still select a recoupment payment method (lump sum or a payroll deduction plan) in ArmyIgnitED and submit a recoupment waiver request packet within their 30-day suspense. The Soldier's selected recoupment repayment method will only be used if ACCESS disapproves their recoupment waiver request. The recoupment waiver request packet must be submitted to the following email address: usarmy.knox.hrc.mbx.tagd-aces@army.mil and include the following:

(1) Email Subject: "Recoupment Waiver Request for FY22 and Earlier Courses"

(2) Email Body: List Soldier's name, school name, course number and name, and dates attended.

(3) Attach the following to the email: Signed DA Form 7793, Request for Recoupment Waiver, endorsed by Commander; Other Supporting Documents (orders, emergency leave form, etc.). *Continues Page 4* 

#### Soldier Suspense to Sign Migrated TA Requests for FY22 and FY21 is 15 May 2023!

Soldiers must check for and sign any pending TA requests for previously taken courses before they can be processed. There may be TA requests for courses taken in FY21 and FY22 that were imported into Soldiers' accounts or created by Education Centers. Without this signature, Academic Institutions (schools) will not be able to invoice the Army, creating an outstanding student balance on Soldiers' school accounts. To ensure processing and payment, please log into your ArmyIgnitED account and sign these pending TA requests immediately.

NOTE: All TA requests must be signed by Soldiers inside of ArmyIgnitED. Finally, Soldiers should not sign a pending TA request for a course that was NOT taken. If you did not take the course, contact your Education Counselor for assistance.

#### 2023 MARCH MARKETING FOCUS To increase awareness of education benefits, each month the ARNG Education Services community focuses on a different program/service. Our focus this month is the Post-9/11 GI Bill@ & TEB. POST-9/11 GI BILL® How Do I Qualify? Serve at least 90 days in a period of qualifying active duty on or after September 11, 2001. Serve for 30 continuous days and separate due to a service-POST-9/ connected disability or injury ® BILL What Do I Get? Tuition and Fees -Up to 100% of in-state tuition at public schools -Up to \$25,162/year at private/foreign schools AND Book and Supply Stipend Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) Payments pro-rated based on your q alifying service NSFER TRANSFER OF EDUCATION ΠCΔ BENEFITS (TEB) How Do I Qualify? Be currently serving in the Uniformed Services with at Be currently serving in the Uniformed Services with at least is years completed Qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill® at any payment tier NOT be flagged for adverse action, APFT/ABCP failure, or Unsatisfactory Participation Have at least 4 yrs remaining/agree to a 4 yr service obligation from the date of your transfer request What Do I Get? Dependents receive same payment tier as the Soldier Spouses may use transferred benefits immediately Child/Children cannot use the benefit until transferring Solder has completed 10 yrs in the Armed Forces FOR MORE INFORMATION: MONTHL Contact the Education Support Center: 866-ARNGEDU (276-4338) Visit US On-line: www.nationalguard.com/education Contact your State Education Services Office: www.nationalguard.com/select-your-state MARKETING GI Bill® is a registered trackmark of the U.S. Department of Vets More information about education benefits offered by VA is avail www.benefits.ve.gov/gibill. FOCUS Join us on social media @arngeducation

### Credentialing Assistance: Recoupment Waivers for FY22 and Earlier Courses with Unsuccessful Grades

Recoupment waiver requests for CA courses/exams with grades of F are only being considered for FY22 and earlier courses. Soldiers who intend to pursue a recoupment waiver for an FY22 or earlier course with an F grade must submit an ArmyIgnitED message using the "Credentialing Assistance" category and request that ACAPO add a "W" grade to their CA request. Once a "W" is applied, Soldiers will select "Waiver" in ArmyIgnitED and submit a recoupment waiver request packet within their 30-day suspense.

The Soldier's selected recoupment repayment method will only be used if ACCESS disapproves their recoupment waiver request.

### Historical Tuition Assistance and Recoupment Waiver Requests Cont. from Page 3

Soldiers should contact their Army Education Center if they need assistance in completing their recoupment action or applying for a recoupment waiver request through this email address for unsuccessful grades for FY22 and earlier courses. If submitting an ArmyIgnitED message, please select "Request Appointment with Counselor" category.

### Academic Certificate & Special Programs Education Goals in AIED

The Special Programs Ed Goal is now live -- this was the previous "Pre-Commissioning" Ed Goal. The business rules pertaining to this goal are:

- One Special Program in a lifetime
- Annual TA limits apply.
- Can have this goal concurrently with all other Education Goals
- Education Goal must be created by Education Center
- Evaluated Degree Plan required at goal creation.
- All TARs route to Ed Center for approval
- Has its own 39 Semester Hour (SH) bucket

Academic certificates are coming! More information will be made available as this goal moves through the testing phase. Please watch the *Education & Incentives Newsletter* for future updates!

### **Troops to Teachers**

Troops to Teachers has had a lapse in funding and is no longer available to SMs in all 54 states and territories; however, the program received FY22 end of year funds to sustain grant agreements and program services in 25 states until May 14, 2023. The 25 states where TTT services are still available to SMs are listed in the attached newsletter. For more information go to; www.proudtoserveagain.com.

### **UPDATE: Test Center West**

All documents have been submitted for approval of the new test center site at the Mount Pleasant Armory. Our team out west is working diligently to setup the space and ensure all equipment is working properly. Please watch the *Education & Incentives Newsletter* for future updates.

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### **Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP) at** the Professional Education Center

BSEP is an intensive 40-hour resident course that focuses on improving Soldier skills in reading, vocabulary, and math. The intent of the course is to increase the General Technical (GT) score on the Armed Forces Classification Test (AFCT) to prepare Soldiers for WOCS or OCS or other academic pursuits. The course is taught with trained instructors using a standardized curriculum. Interested Soldiers should submit requests through their chain of command for submission to the Education & Incentives Division, ATTN: Education Service Officer (Mrs. Janet Hooper) as soon as possible. Seats will be filled in a first come, first served basis. Seats remain for the 10-15JUL and 18-23SEP courses. Reference FRAGORD 021 to Order 23-002 for eligibility and prerequisite details.

Soldiers can also take the **Online Academic Skills Course (OASC)**, a free online course offered through DANTES program assesses your academic strengths and weaknesses to help improve basic math, English and science skills for college-level course placement, qualification for reclassification or advance training, and military advancement. The self-paced online course can be used by Service members as a standalone course, or as a supplement to other educational resources. The individual learning paths improve your knowledge of the concepts and the skills you need to excel in each area; lessons are supported by interactive drills and practice sets, followed by quizzes to help you gauge your progress. Plus, the program has some great features like:

- Academic Help Desk
- Online Video Tutoring
- Mobile App for use anytime and anywhere

The OASC can help you improve your GT score and is great tool for GT score prediction.







#### STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT ROGRAM (SLRP)

**Did you know** that your student loans are paid annually, and it is YOUR responsibility to keep them in good standing until the annual payment has been made?

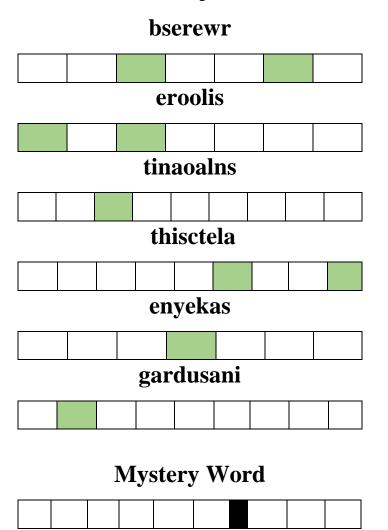
Do you know how to submit your annual SLRP payment?

Did you know that SLRP payments are taxed before the funds are paid to your lender?

The more you know about SLRP the better the program can work for you! If you don't know the answers to these questions and you have student loan repayment, please read the information paper starting on page 13!

### **Mystery Word Scramble**

Unscramble the words below. Then use the **GREEN** letters in each answer to find the scrambled mystery word at the bottom! **HINT**: Sah-wing and a miss!





#### **Word Search**

Words in the list can be found forwards, backwards, up and down, AND diagonally. GOOD LUCK!

R	Р	S	Y	С	Η	0	L	0	G	Y	С	E
E	L	Ι	G	Н	Т	Ν	Ι	N	G	W	0	Ζ
Т	U	Ι	S	Ι	Ν	G	S	S	Ν	G	Ν	L
R	R	S	U	G	Т	Н	G	U	0	R	D	Т
0	Y	0	V	Е	R	С	А	S	Т	U	Е	Ν
G	Y	В	Ι	S	Е	В	А	Q	Α	Μ	Ν	E
R	G	А	0	Ζ	S	E	Т	U	G	А	S	Μ
A	F	R	E	L	R	Y	S	А	Е	Ν	А	E
D	U	E	А	E	0	Т	R	L	Ι	Ι	Т	G
Е	R	E	D	Т	E	Ι	W	L	Т	Т	Ι	А
В	0	Т	Μ	U	В	D	С	Р	Т	Ι	0	В
Ν	А	Е	Ν	0	L	Ι	Y	С	Ι	Т	Ν	А
Ζ	F	S	S	U	S	Μ	Ν	E	S	S	А	Μ
K	Ι	Ι	А	Т	Н	U	Μ	А	Т	Ι	С	S
Η	Ν	G	Т	А	E	Н	Ζ	S	D	Ν	Ι	W
					WO	RD ]	LIST	[				
Anticyclone					Heat				Overcast			
	Br	eeze			Humidity				Retrograde			
С	onde	ensat	ion		Isobar				Squall			
Drought					Lightning			Wind				

The JST is a document approved by the American Council on Education (ACE) to validate a Service member's military occupational experience and training along with the corresponding ACE college credit recommendations.

- The JST helps college registrars award college credit for learning gained in the military.
- The JST provides a description of military schooling and work history in civilian language and serves as a counseling tool for academic and career counselors in advising Service members and veterans.
- The JST saves time and money by recommending the award of college credits, which means less tuition to pay, and less time spent in the classroom.
- The acceptance of ACE credit recommendations varies depending on an institution's policies, procedures, and degree requirements.

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### **Federal Tuition Assistance**

Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) is available for both classroom and distance learning college courses. Service members can request FTA by visiting <u>https://www.armyignited.army.mil</u>!

### **Qualifying for Federal Tuition Assistance**

### Federal Tuition Assistance Eligibility Requirements

- Be currently serving in good standing in the ARNG and have a Common Access Card (CAC)
- Soldiers cannot be flagged
- Soldiers cannot have a hold on their ArmyIgnitED Account (once created)
- Must maintain a 2.0 or higher GPA for undergraduate courses or a 3.0 or higher GPA for graduate courses
- Soldiers are NO LONGER required to complete Basic Combat Training to utilize FTA.

### Service Req./Obligation:

- Enlisted: Have an ETS or MRD after completion of FTA funded course(s)
- Officers and Warrant Officers: Subject to a two-year active-duty service obligation (ADSO) or four-year reserve duty obligation (RDSO)

### Additional Criteria:

- The college is regionally or nationally accredited AND is a participant in <u>armyignited.army.mil</u>.
- The funded course(s) meets a requirement listed in your personalized degree plan provided by the school (this can include prerequisite courses).
- You must submit your FTA request <u>at least 8</u> <u>davs</u> prior to course start date.

### **Funding Received:**

- Funding for required courses listed on an approved education plan.
- Cost of tuition (no fees) up to \$250 per semester hour.
- Up to 16 semester hours per fiscal year.

### **Things to Know Before Applying!**

- Up to 130 semester hours of undergraduate coursework.
- Up to 39 semester hours of graduate coursework.
- Up to 21 semester hours towards a Certificate (undergraduate/graduate).

 Before requesting TA the Soldier must establish an ArmyIgnitED account. Account registration and activation may require Soldiers to update their personnel record through their unit S1 administrative office. Soldiers encountering problems with ArmyIgnitED should contact their local education center or office or create an ArmyIgnitED helpdesk case for assistance.
 Soldiers must sign an electronic user agreement acknowledging compliance with Army TA Policies and procedures each time they create a TAR.

**3.** Soldiers must complete the Virtual TA Training after setting up an ArmyIgnitED account and then annually or when prompted by the system.

**4.** Soldiers must declare an education goal in terms of an associate's, baccalaureate, or master's degree. This goal must be indicated in your ArmyIgniteED Account.

5. Soldiers may submit TARs up to 60 days before the class start date but no later than eight (8) days prior to the class start date.6. Soldiers must request TA in the ArmyIgnitED portal prior to registering with their Academic Institution for classes.

### **Credentialing Assistance**

Credentialing Assistance allows Soldiers to develop marketable skills, not necessarily aligned to their military occupational specialty, which will help them find civilian employment postservice. The program supplements the Army's current credentialing programs offered through Army schools as part of institutional training. Credentials offered through this program will have a military nexus to ensure the Army benefits from the program during the Soldier's service. The Army's Credentialing Assistance (CA) Program provides soldiers with funding for more than 1,600 credentials.



### How do I qualify?

- Be currently serving in good standing in the ARNG and have a Common Access Card (CAC)
- Soldiers cannot be flagged
- Complete credential prior to separation/ETS
- Officers no longer incur a Military Service Obligation (MSO)
- Soldiers are NO LONGER required to complete Basic Combat Training to utilize CA.

### What do I get?

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- Soldiers can be eligible for up to \$4000/fiscal year between Credentialing Assistance and Tuition Assistance
- Maximum of \$1,000/year to pay for select aviation related credentials (Active Duty/AGR Soldiers only)
- CA can be used for any credential listed on Army COOL at: <u>https://www.cool.osd.mil/army</u> and does not have to be related to the Soldier's MO
  - All expenses are paid prior to course/exam start date (Soldiers who pay out of pocket will not be reimbursed)
- Popular Certifications:
  - CompTIA Network+ and CompTIA Security+
  - Project Management Professional (PMP)
  - Private Pilot, Airplane Single Engine
  - Certified Personal Trainer (NASM-CPT)
  - Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)

### How do I apply?

- Contact your State ESO/ESS to discuss the CA application process and verify eligibility.
- Ensure your credential is listed on Army COOL at: https://www.cool.osd.mil/army
- Apply online at: <u>https://www.armyignited.army.mil</u> CAC REQUIRED!

Get to Know Your Education Benefits (Cont.)

### **Education Assistance Program**

The Education Assistance Program (EAP) is a state funded program; it provides educational assistance for eligible members of the Pennsylvania National Guard. EAP funding is awarded regardless of financial need.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

- Members must have a six-year service agreement with the PA National Guard, sign a Statement of Understanding and a Promissory Note prior to submitting an application.
- Be an active satisfactory participant in the PA National Guard in good standing. (Less than 9 AWOLS in any 1-year period and meet eligibility criteria per updated flag codes in PMR 621-5 not all flags disqualify SMs from payment.
- Be an eligible member of PA National Guard prior to the first day of class.
- Be enrolled in a degree-granting or certificate-granting curriculum, course of study or training program required for entrance into a specific career to be pursued on a full-time or part-time basis or its equivalent at a school located in Pennsylvania and approved by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). There are approximately 400 schools.
- A member is not eligible for EAP benefits if receiving a Line ROTC Scholarship. However, if the member is receiving a Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Scholarship or a Dedicated National Guard Scholarship through the ROTC program, member is still eligible for EAP funding.
- The 14 State System of Higher Educations schools are:
  - Bloomsburg, California, Cheyney, Clarion, East Stroudsburg, Edinboro, Indiana, Kutztown, Lock Haven, Mansfield, Millersville, Shippensburg, Slippery Rock, West Chester
- EAP can provide full-time funding for students up to the first bachelor's degree. Once a bachelor's degree has been obtained, eligible member can only receive funding up to 11 (part-time) credits or its equivalent, even if the member is enrolled as a full-time student.
- Mobilized members that had to withdraw from classes due to deployment may be eligible for an extended EAP deadline after discharge.
- Eligible EAP members who receive a discharge for a disability incurred in the line of duty may be eligible for EAP benefits after their discharge.

### **Funding Received**

- Full-time Grants the tuition plus technology fee or \$4,097.00 whichever is less per semester. Full-time students must take 12 or more credits per semester.
- Part-time Grants for members who may or may not possess a baccalaureate degree the tuition and technology fee per credit or the \$342.00 per credit tuition and technology rate charged by PASSHE, whichever is less per semester. Part-time students can be funded up to 11 credits per semester.
- The EAP award amount can be applied to tuition costs, fees, books, and room and board up to the allowable cost of attendance for members using FTA and GI Bill (Chapter 33) for the same term.
- Funding is limited to 10 full-time semesters or 120 part-time credits.

### **Application Process**

To apply for benefits, eligible members must log into www.pheaa.org, sign on as a student and complete an EAP Form 2 (Educational Assistance Program Application). Yearly submission of an EAP application is required, the application should be used to request benefits for the entire academic year (i.e., fall, winter, spring, and summer semesters).

Get to Know Your Education Benefits (Cont.)

### **Military Family Education Program**

The Military Family Education Program (MFEP) is a state funded program designed to provide educational assistance for dependents of eligible members of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

- Members must have completed an initial contract and then commit to a six-year service agreement with the PA National Guard and sign a statement of Understanding (MFEP Form-1) and a MFEP Member Promissory Note, MFEP Form-4 and upload 1172. **\*\*Member cannot be in an MFEP and EAP contact during the same period of service\*\***
- Be an active satisfactory participant in the PA National Guard in good standing. (Less than 9 AWOLS in any 1-year period and meet eligibility per updated flag codes in PMR 621-5 not all flags disqualify SMs from payment.
- Be enrolled in a degree-granting or certificate-granting curriculum, course of study or training program required for entrance into a specific career to be pursues on a full-time or part-time basis or its equivalent at a school located in Pennsylvania and approved by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA). There are approximately 400 schools.
- The 14 State System of Higher Educations schools are:
  - Bloomsburg, California, Cheyney, Clarion, East Stroudsburg, Edinboro, Indiana, Kutztown, Lock Haven, Mansfield, Millersville, Shippensburg, Slippery Rock, West Chester

### **Funding Received**

- Full-time Grants the tuition plus technology fee or \$4,097.00 whichever is less per semester. Full-time students must take 12 or more credits per semester.
- Part-time Grants for members who may or may not possess a baccalaureate degree the tuition and technology fee per credit or the \$342.00 per credit tuition and technology rate charged by PASSHE, whichever is less per semester. Part-time students can be funded up to 11 credits per semester.
- The MFEP award amount can be applied to tuition costs, fees, books, and room and board up to the Allowable Cost of Attendance for members using FTA and GI Bill (Chapter 33) for the same term.
- Funding is limited to 10 full-time semesters or 120 part-time credits.

### **Application Process**

Applying for MFEP is a multistep process that begins with the Service member. Service members must go on to PHEAA.org and create a username and password. Once set, the Service member will log into their account and complete all items related to their military experience and background. Service member will then have to sign an MFEP Form 1 Statement of Understanding and the MFEP Promissory Note. Service members will be asked to upload their initial contract 4836 (337 ORB for officers). Additionally, Service members will need to upload MFEP Form 4 with dependent(s) information and upload a DD Form 1172. If you recently reenlisted or extended for MFEP or plan to, you will complete your MFEP Form 1 Statement of Understanding at the time of your reenlistment/extension.

Once approved by the MFEP team, your dependents, if preparing to attend or already attending college, will create a username and password of their own, sign the promissory note, and enter all school information. Dependents will then apply for the school year starting with fall of that year and ending with summer of the following year. Dependents must go on the PHEAA portal every year to fill out information for the new school year.

Please note, under **NO** circumstances should Service members EVER sign in under their student-dependent's account to fill out information on their behalf.



#### STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT ROGRAM (SLRP)

SOLDIERS: Please refer to your SLRP/CLRP addendum for further guidance.

LOANS ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SOLDIER TO MAKE SURE THEY REMAIN IN GOOD STANDING UNTIL THE ANNUAL PAYMENT HAS BEEN PAID BY THE GOVERNMENT AND RECEIVED BY THE LENDER(S).

#### How to Submit Your Annual SLRP Payment

(1) Unit or BCC generates and prints out the DD Form 2475, DOD Educational Loan Repayment Program (LRP) Annual Application from GIMS at least 60 days prior to anniversary payment date. The Unit or BCC completes and signs Section 1 of DD Form 2475 as the certifying official.

(2) Solder signs section 2 of DD Form 2475. NOTE: If a Soldier has multiple years due, only one DD 2475 (current year) has to be generated however all payments in GIMS have to be submitted to State review.

(3) Soldier will submit (mail, fax or scan) the following documentation annually through their chain of command to the State IM/SLRP Manager as noted below for each payment:

(a) Copy of National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) Summary Aid sheet dated within 30 days of scheduled anniversary payment date.

(b) Copy of NSLDS Detailed Loan information sheet(s) dated within 30 days of scheduled anniversary date. Note: must include those with a \$0 balance.

(c) Copy of original promissory note(s) and disbursement sheet(s) for all Title IV loan(s) not listed on the NSLDS website and/or loan(s) consolidated after the contract signature date.

NOTE: If you are submitting for multiple payment years, the NSLDS documents MUST be within 30 days of current payment year.

If you need any assistance on getting the process initiated, please contact Retention/Incentives Hotline at (717) 861-7805.

#### SLRP NOTES

- The National Guard DOES NOT take over your loans or advises the lender(s) on how to apply your annual payments.
- It is your responsibility to keep your loans in good standing. If a loan goes into default a payment may not be submitted on that loan until you bring it out of default status.
- SLRP payments are taxed before the funds are paid to your lender, approximately 28-30% may be withheld depending on your tax status.
- 4. If you are overdue more than one annual payment, you will only submit for one payment year at a time. Payments will be submitted for multiple previous years as long as you were eligible at date of entitlement and the fiscal year is still open. Interest will only be included in the current year payment if applicable.

#### After Payment(s) have been submitted to State Level

- PAYMENTS ARE PROCESSED IN THE ORDER OF WHICH RECEIVED AT THE STATE LEVEL.
- If anything is missing or needs correction, your Unit RNCO or BCC will be notified.
- Contract or payment(s) placed on hold due to violations of eligibility criteria, the issue(s) will need to be resolved before any payment(s) processed.
- Once the corrections have been resolved, you may be required to resubmit your payment packet if any documentation is outdated.
- When the invalid documents have been corrected and uploaded by your URNCO or BCC into the incentives system (GIMS), the SLRP Manager will verify the documents, process and submit your payment(s) through the incentives system (GIMS) to NGB for further review and approval.
- Loan payments are mailed or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to the lender(s) from DFAS around 4 to 6 weeks after receiving payment(s) from NGB if no errors are found.
- Check with your lender(s) at the end of the estimated 120 day time frame to see if
  payment(s) have/has been received and applied to your account. You can also
  compare the principal balance/interest on the Student Aid/NSLDS website.
- Be sure to periodically check your RNCO or BCC if payment(s) have not been applied; they will be contacted if anything further is required or any problems with your payments.
- DO NOT CONTACT THE INCENTIVES OFFICE BEFORE INQUIRING WITH YOUR CHAIN OF COMMAND OR BCC ON THE STATUS OF YOUR PAYMENT(S).
- NOTE: State and Federal taxes are withheld PRIOR to payment(s) being released to the lender(s).

THIS FORM IS FOR REFERENCE ONLY. DO NOT SUBMIT WITH DD 2475 AND NSLDS DOCUMENTS.

# SLRP Annual Payment Packet Checklist

\_\_\_\_ NSLDS Aid Summary Printout (lists all loans)
\_\_\_ NSLDS Loan Detail and History Printouts
(Every loan listed on the Aid Summary sheet regardless of payoff status)

DD Form 2475 (ONLY 1 form is required for an annual SLRP payment)

\_Master Promissory Note for Consolidation loans

(ONLY if new loans have been disbursed OR were consolidated AFTER contract start date)

THIS FORM IS FOR REFERENCE ONLY. DO NOT SUBMIT WITH DD 2475 AND NSLDS DOCUMENTS.

#### **NSLDS Aid Summary & Loan Detail Printouts**

You must include printouts from your National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS) record from the Federal Student Aid website. Please follow these instructions:

- Go to https://studentaid.gov and click "Log In".
- Enter your Federal Student Aid log in and password.
- · If you do not have a log in, you will need to create an account.
- After you click "Log In", you will get a 'warning' page. Click 'Accept' to take you to the dashboard.
- The first page that appears will be 'My Aid' screen. Print or save as .pdf.
- Click on 'View details' and this will take you to the 'Loan Breakdown'. Print or save as .pdf.
- Next you will click 'view loan details' for each loan listed in order. This will take you to the Loan Details Screen for each loan. Print\* this for every loan on the summary page even if the outstanding balance is \$0.00.
- Each loan detail should include 'loan status history'.

(For an example NSLDS Summary and Detail page see the following two pages)

\*Note: Print these pages through your web Browser in Portrait not Landscape or save to your desktop as a pdf to email. *No screenshots, word files, or text files will be accepted.* 

### Sample Aid Summary and Loan Breakdown

The first page(s) of the NSLDS printouts will be the Aid Summary of the total Loan Types with Total Balance and the Loan Breakdown of Loan Servicer(s).

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#### DD Form 2475

You do not have to complete a separate DD 2475 for each of the lenders that hold a loan listed on your NSLDS Summary Sheet. Only one DD 2475 is required for annual payment submission. NOTE: if you are submitting for multiple payment years, NSLDS and DD 2475 must be dated in the current payment year.

To complete the form:

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- You must use the DD Form 2475 generated from Guard Incentives Management System (GIMS). Please see your Readiness NCO or Battalion Career Counselor (BCC) annually for this form.
- In Section 2 verify all information, write/verify your email address, phone number and then sign in block f. NOTE: Wet signatures or CAC signatures only.
- 3. Add the completed DD2475 to your SLRP Annual Payment Packet.

### PA National Guard Military Family Education Program (MFEP)

Contact the State Education Office to learn more! Located on FTIG: BLDG 9-54. Walk-ins welcome!

- MFEP Team: 717-861-9959
- Guidance Counselor: Kristi Carlsen 717-861-6696
- PA Education Services Officer: Janet Hooper 717-861-2434



#### Military Family Education Program (MFEP)

 An educational assistance grant for dependents (spouse or children), earned by Army and Air National Guard members for their commitment to and service in the Pennsylvania National Guard. The MFEP grant can be used for a degree granting curriculum or certificate granting curriculum, course of study or training programs required for entrance into a specific career as determined by PHEAA at an approved PHEAA institution of higher learning, including technology fee, for up to five academic years. The member can assign the entire benefit to more dependent or a portion of the benefit to more than one dependent.

#### How much can I get?

Up to 100% of the flat in-state tuition rate for full-time students at a PA State school or equivalent at an approved school. Part-time grant is the tuition per credit or \$322 per credit, whichever amount is less plus a \$20.00 per credit technology fee

- The PA Guard Member can assign the entire benefit to one dependent or a portion of the benefit to more than one dependent.
- The member can assign the benefit to one or more dependents, up to 120 credits.

#### How Long are Dependents Eligible to Use MFEP?

- A spouse can use the assigned MFEP benefit up to 6 years after the member's separation from the PA Guard.
- Children can use the assigned MFEP benefit before reaching 26 years of age.
- Failure to fulfill the entire 6-year MFEP service commitment with the Pennsylvania National Guard, will require repayment of the total MFEP award amount, plus interest.

#### To apply for benefits, visit https://www.pheaa.org

You can also check your eligibility and allocate credits to dependents.

Click on Funding Opportunities, Aid for Military & PA National Guard, PA National Guard Military Family Education Program.



pa.ng.mil/Education 717-865-4529

