

ARNG Education Support Center (ESC)

What is it?

The Army National Guard Education Support Center (ESC), located at the Professional Education Center (PEC) in Arkansas, is the focal point of education benefits for ARNG Soldiers, their dependents, and Civilian employees of the ARNG. The ESC provides GI Bill eligibility analysis, educational counseling, degree planning, and various other educational services to Soldiers and the education offices in all 50 States and 4 Territories. The ESC also counsels and assists numerous Soldiers and Civilian workers who visit PEC for conferences and resident classes. The ESC provides information about the Active Duty, Reserve, and Mobilization GI Bills, the ARNG GI Bill Kicker, and the Work Study program. The ESC provides guidance to Soldiers on various educational assistance programs including Federal Tuition Assistance, state funded programs, ROTC scholarships, and the Student Loan Repayment Program. The ESC provides information about testing programs for college credit such as College Level Examination Program (CLEP), college entrance exams such as SAT, GRE, and GMAT, certification and licensing exams, as well as test preparation programs. They assist in administering the GED Plus testing to new recruits. The ESC also disseminates information about and counseling for programs such as Troops to Teachers, Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOCGuard), eDISCOVER, Army e-Learning, and ACE Army Registry Transcript System (AARTS).

What has the ARNG done?

The GI Bill Support Team assisted with the implementation of the Post 9/11 GI Bill transferability process and as of January 2010 has assisted over 8000 ARNG Soldiers through the process. The team responded to over 6000 inquiries from the VA to ensure accurate benefit payments to Soldiers and conducted over 5000 one-on-one counseling sessions via phone or walk-ins.

The Counseling Support Team had over 3200 contacts resulting in over 2800 degree plan packets mailed. Of these packets over 8900 individual degree plans were produced. The team also performed over 2400 military credit assessments.

The GED Testing team tested 2283 GED Plus Soldiers in FY09 with a pass rate of 96.6%. The team was noted as the best test site in the Nation by Dantes staff.

What continued efforts does the Army have planned for the future?

In addition to the services listed above, recent additions to benefits and services include:

- Soldiers who are eligible for the MGIB-AD (regardless if their original 10-year delimiting period has expired) who are federally mobilized and serve 90 continuous days or more will have a new 10-year delimiting period established at the point of their latest discharge from active duty.
- Soldiers can use the new Education Website to complete Federal Tuition Assistance forms, request information, apply for degree planning services, and use eDiscover services.
- Army e-Learning provides free Internet access to over 1,500 information technology, business skills, and interpersonal skills courses.

- The ESC identifies, contacts, and tracks junior officers without degrees, helping them to get on the path to degree completion and thereby increasing the retention rate of junior officers in the ARNG.

Why is this important to the Army?

Education is the bedrock for a strong nation and a strong military. Many Soldiers join the military to advance their educational and career opportunities. Thousands of Soldiers and ARNG Civilians take advantage of educational benefits and services during their active years and during their retirement or post-military time. Communicating about these benefits increases the likelihood that these benefits will be known by and used by those who have earned the rights to the programs. The ESC ensures that benefits are used efficiently and effectively.

For additional information [click here.](#)

<https://education.ng.mil>

<http://www.soc.aascu.org/socguard/Default.html>

www.atrrs.army.mil/channels/eLearning/smartforce/