

General Educational Development (GED) Plus Program

What is it? The ARNG GED Plus program is an enlistment option allowing the enlistment of non- high school graduate applicants who scores 31 or above on the Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT), with the stipulation that they earn their General Equivalency Diploma prior to attending Initial Entry Training (IET). GED Plus is a residential program located at Camp J.T. Robinson, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

What has the National Guard done? In September 2005, the Department of Defense authorized the GED Plus program in order to increase the available population of eligible military applicants by providing GED preparation courses to individuals who otherwise would not be able to receive additional instruction to successfully pass the GED test. GED Plus is a quasi-military institution where students experience both a military training environment and a structured academic environment. To attend, the student must complete ninth grade and be withdrawn from high school for at least six months. Applicants must be 18 years of age or be otherwise ineligible to return to their local high school.

What continued efforts does the National Guard have planned for the future? The ARNG plans to increase its enrollment of Soldiers up to 3500 in FY11. This program is paramount for end strength sustainment because 1.23 million students fail to graduate from high school each year and approximately 39 million adults in the U.S. have not earned a HS Diploma. These statistics are compounded by overweight and obesity statistics. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, less than one-third of adults over age 20 in the U.S. are at a "healthy weight." The GED Plus program has the potential to produce thousands of new ARNG recruits that would not have been eligible for enlistment. The ARNG is in the process of completing a partnership with the Active Army to put 500 Active Army Warriors thru the GED Plus Program in FY11.

Why is this important to the National Guard? The GED Plus program has proven to be a successful tool in offering applicants the opportunity to meet their educational goals and in enlisting quality Soldiers into the ARNG. Success of the GED Plus program is defined by the proper academic placement of students' performance on the AFQT. Since inception, program success rate of GED graduates has dramatically improved from 73% in FY07 to 98.6% in FY10.