

General Educational Development (GED) Plus Program

What is it? The ARNG General Educational Development (GED) Plus program is an enlistment option facilitating the enlistment of non-high school graduate applicants who score 50 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 be unlikely to receive additional instruction and coaching toward passing the GED test. GED Plus is a structured regimented institution where students experience both a military training environment and a positive 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 To attend, the student must complete ninth grade and be withdrawn from high school for at least six months.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 maintain its enrollment of Soldiers up to 1500 in FY12. This program is paramount for actual 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 increasingly troublesome 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 who would not otherwise have been eligible for enlistment. The ARNG is in the process of completing a partnership with the Active Army to have Active Army and Reserve Warriors through the GED Plus Program in FY12.

Why is this important to the National Guard? The GED Plus program has proven to be a successful tool for offering applicants the opportunity to meet their educational goals and in enlisting quality Soldiers into the ARNG. Success of the GED Plus program is measured by pass-rate on the AFQT. Since inception, program success for GED graduates has dramatically improved from 73% in FY07 to 98.6% in FY11.