



NY National Guard

Mission Summary and Benefits

What we are about: The NY National Guard is a reserve component of the U.S. Army. Our soldiers serve one weekend a month and two weeks in the summer after basic training. Members serve in every capacity possible in the military. (Overseas combat, foreign training, disaster relief, pandemic response.)

Basic Combat Training (BCT): Basic Training is 10 weeks at one of four locations. The locations are based off which job you choose. During this time you will be paid as an active duty Soldier. (NY National Guard is the only service that can guarantee your job)

Advanced Individual Training (AIT): This is where you will learn your specific job that you will be performing while serving in the NY National Guard. This training could range anywhere from 5 to 52 weeks based off your career field. During this time you will be getting paid as an active duty soldier.

The Contract: Everyone who joins the military does so for 8 years, however this looks different for everyone. The two most basic contracts are what we call a 3x5 for a 6x2. What this means is you will be required to be a drilling member for 3 or 6 years with the additional years being served in the inactive reserves.

Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP): RSP is a one weekend a month PAID (around \$200 a weekend) program where we prepare you for BCT by allowing you to get familiar with military life and knowledge. This is a National Guard only program which is a major contributor to why we have the highest BCT success rate!

Split Option Program: The Split Option Program is for high school juniors and committed college students. This allows you to split up BCT and AIT making it possible for you to become a fully trained Soldier while not postponing your education.

Retirement: The military is one of the last employers offering a pension style retirement at 20 years with the option to buy into an additional 401k style plan.

Health insurance: As a service member you will have the ability to enroll in Tricare health insurance which is only \$44.17 a month for an individual and \$228.27 for a family plan. This is full coverage health insurance.

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NY National Guard Education Benefits



State Tuition Assistance (STA): State Tuition Assistance allows our Soldiers to go to any SUNY, State, City or Community College for FREE! No money exchanges hands between you and the school, you simply prove you are a Guard member and get to take classes free. The NY National Guard is the **ONLY** military branch or Army component offering this. If you wish to attend a private university, the NY National Guard will match the highest SUNY tuition towards that school. This benefit is good for up to one Bachelor's degree.

Federal Tuition Assistance: This is a DoD wide benefit that will pay \$4,500 a year towards an education up to a Master's degree.

Montgomery GI Bill: Pays \$367 a month directly into your bank account while you are a full time student. This is a housing and living allowance that allows you to pay for everyday items like rent, gas, food, clothes, and school supplies so you can live better than the average college student. There is also a possibility of getting a "Kicker" added to this for those that get over a 50 on the ASVAB*.

Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP): The NY National Guard SLRP will pay off up to \$50,000 in preexisting federally backed student loans! The loans must be in your name and could never have been in default.

Simultaneous Membership Program: This allows members to be serving in the National Guard while also being in their colleges ROTC program. This means they will be receiving monetary and education benefits from two different military programs at the same time.

Military Advisors: Every college has advisors who are only for military members and veterans. What this means is that you will have better access to individuals who work with a smaller pool of students, who are familiar with your lifestyle and the benefits available to you. As most of these individuals are veterans themselves, they "speak our language" and are extremely approachable and helpful.

*The ASVAB is a 200 question test all applicant must take. The test questions range from math and English to mechanics and medical. This test is graded on a percentile scale.

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