



EDUCATION AND INCENTIVES DIVISION NEWSLETTER

FY26 Quarter 1
October-December

♦
FY26



UNLOCKING
NEW
BENEFITS
SOON!



Image source: www.pa.ng.mil

Here's what has happened in the last quarter and what's to come!

This past quarter, the Education & Incentives Division celebrated the graduation of MSG Andrew Bankert, who earned his bachelor's degree using FTA. His story is a powerful reminder of how Guard benefits can shape long-term success.

We also said farewell to longtime team members MSG Branden Beebe, Mr. Israel Miller, and Mr. Gary Rosendo as they transitioned into well-earned retirement.

In their place, we welcomed MSG Anthony Varner as the new State Incentives Manager and Mr. Steven Wilt as our Guidance Counselor. Both bring expertise and a strong commitment to supporting Soldiers on their career and educational journey.

Looking ahead, MFEP and EAP Round 2 is offering another opportunity for Soldiers to receive state education funding. Keep an eye out for internal announcements with instructions.

A major change is also on the horizon: Blended Retirement System (BRS) continuation pay will decrease from 2.5% to 0.5% starting January 2026. Soldiers who are eligible for continuation pay should consider locking in their contracts before the change takes place.

Finally, FY26 is here. CA opened September 13. TA will follow soon. Start planning now and reach out if you need help!

Enjoy this quarter's newsletter!

In this newsletter you can expect:

Graduate
Spotlights

Reenlist
smart... cash
in right!

"I signed my
MFEP
agreement,
now what?"

Soldier
Spotlight:
SFC Burger

FAQs and
MythBusters

x Captain O'keefe



MFEP Round 2

More Benefits. More Flexibility. More Opportunity.

The Military Family Education Program (MFEP) allows eligible Pennsylvania National Guard members to earn college education benefits for their spouse or children.

- **Coming Soon:** The updated MFEP is almost here! We're excited to roll out Round 2 with new features designed to make education benefits even more flexible and accessible to Guard families.
- **Why the Delay:** The expected release date of **September 5** was postponed to ensure all updates align with the latest Pennsylvania Military Regulation (PMR). Accuracy and compliance are our top priorities before launching.
- **What's Changing:** MFEP Round 2 will bring improved eligibility flexibility. We are expecting to make this benefit accessible to both current and new Service Members, regardless of contract length.
- **What We're Doing Now:** While updates are being finalized, we're preparing detailed guidance and FAQs to help Soldiers and dependents navigate the new process with ease.
- **What to Expect Next:** Stay tuned for official launch details and step-by-step instructions.
 - Service Members who became eligible for the benefit on September 5th will be backdated on their signed MFEP agreement once the PMR is approved.
- If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us at ng.pa.paarng.list.jfhq-g1-mfep@army.mil

GRADUATE SPOTLIGHT



SGM WILL, CHARLES

Recently earned a **Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies** from **Peirce College** in Philadelphia. After beginning college in 1989 and completing the journey in 2025, he proves it's never too late to finish what you started. Balancing coursework with Guard duties and family life wasn't easy, but years of disciplined study prepared him for success. He utilized the **GI Bill, FTA, EAP**, and sharing **MFEP benefits** with his children. Now entering his final three years in uniform as a Technician, he hopes to mentor the next generation of Soldiers and emphasize the importance of higher education across the Guard.



MSG VARNER, ANTHONY

Recently earned a **Bachelor's Degree in Business** from **Post University**, completing a journey that began nearly a decade ago. With over 20 years of service in the PAARNG, he recognized the importance of pairing his leadership experience with formal education. Balancing a demanding full-time career and family life with five children, he managed his coursework through late-night study sessions and steady progress, one class at a time. Funded entirely through **Federal Tuition Assistance**, his achievement reflects dedication, time management, and lifelong learning. Now serving as the State Incentives Manager, MSG Varner plans to pursue an HR certification while enjoying time with his family.



SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT: SFC JOHN BURGER



Turning Commitment into Opportunity: SFC Burger Leverages Military Family Education Program for His Daughter's Education

SFC John Burger didn't take the traditional route into the Pennsylvania Army National Guard. Joining in his late 30s, he now proudly serves as a Truck Master with Alpha Company, 128th Brigade Support Battalion and has built a 15-year career as an 88M Motor Transport Operator. But one of his proudest accomplishments isn't just his own - it's helping his daughter attend St. Vincent College debt-free through the Military Family Education Program (MFEP).

"When I joined the Guard, I had already started saving for my kids' college, but you always wonder if it'll be enough," Burger shared. "MFEP made the difference. My daughter Sarah is going through college with zero debt."

SFC Burger described the application process as simple and well-supported, thanks to helpful guidance from the state's education office. "They walked us through everything," he said. "The school was familiar with the benefit, which made the process even smoother."

Through a mix of savings, scholarships, grants, and MFEP, the family avoided student loans altogether. "MFEP was the icing on the cake. It made a huge financial difference, and it's tax-free," he emphasized.

His advice to fellow Soldiers: "Do your homework early. Call the education office, know the deadlines, and don't wait. This benefit could change your family's life."

For SFC Burger and his family, MFEP wasn't just a benefit, it was a turning point. "If it didn't exist, we probably would've dipped into savings or picked up extra work. Instead, we got peace of mind and the ability to support our daughter's education. That's a win."

"Thanks to MFEP, my daughter is going through college with zero debt. That kind of peace of mind is priceless"



A Few Notes To Remember

- MFEP can be used at any accredited school in Pennsylvania, including private colleges and trade programs. 100% Tuition at any PASSHE school or \$4245 per semester.
- MFEP covers up to 10 semesters (120 credits) of tuition for dependents or spouses.
- For help, contact the Education and Incentives Office at (717)-865-4529 or email us at ng.pa.paarng.list.jfhq-g1-education@army.mil.





INCENTIVE CORNER: REENLIST SMART



MAKE YOUR CONTRACT COUNT

- Quarter 1 of the Fiscal Year is the best time to reenlist: fresh funding and best incentive tiers.
- Qualify for the highest bonuses, SLRP, and education perks.
- A reenlistment without a plan is just time on paper, but one with purpose can launch your career and unlock real benefits.
- Review your options with a Career Counselor before making a decision.



ALIGN YOUR CONTRACT WITH YOUR GOALS

Reenlisting isn't just about staying in; it's about leveling up!

- **Education First:** Reenlist to support school goals - yours and your dependents with MFEP, GI Bill, or SLRP
- **Grow Your Career:** Reenlist into an MOS that supports upward mobility or cross-training.
- **BRS + TSP = Future Paychecks:** Reenlist to keep building your retirement stream



Incentive Snapshot (Q1 FY26)



- \$10,000 bonus for 3-year reenlistments
- \$4,500 bonus for 79T AGR reenlistments
- Student Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) for up to \$50,000
- MFEP & EAP Round Two (September)
- Look out this October 2025 for the FY26 Selective Reserve Incentive Policy (SRIP) update



Pro-Tips

- If you're within 12 months of ETS, now is the time to talk to a Career Counselor.
- Incentives aren't automatic. If you don't ask, you don't get paid.
- Reenlistment Bonuses (REB) are only eligible for SMs who have less than 13 years and one-month time in service for Legacy. No less than 5 years and no more than 6 years one month for BRS.

Blended Retirement System Continuation Pay (BRS-CP) Change

- Don't miss your shot at full continuation pay!
- In January 2026, BRS continuation pay drops from 2.5x to 0.5x base pay. It will be computed using the Service Member's current pay grade and years of service.
- This is a **one-time** direct cash payout available to National Guard service members enrolled in the Blended Retirement System.
- Have at least 8 years, but less than 12 years time in service from Pay Entry Base Date (PEBD)
- Have four years of service remaining.



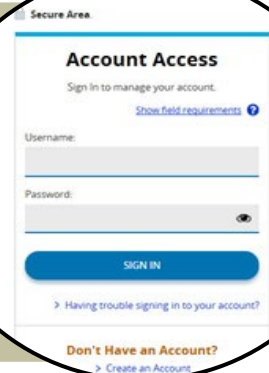
Questions about your incentives, contact your BCC or email us at: ng.pa.paarng.list.jfhq-g1-bonuses-and-incentives@army.mil

HOW TO GUIDE: "I SIGNED MY MFEP AGREEMENT, NOW WHAT?"

This quarter's How-To Guide provides a quick and easy overview of how to sign up for your Military Family Education Program (MFEP) benefit. Even if you're not ready to add a beneficiary just yet, it's important to complete your application now to ensure you're set up for future use.

SIGN IN TO THE PHEAA WEBSITE

- Congratulations! You've extended and obtained one of the most unique benefits in the country. First things first, head over to your iPerms and confirm that your signed **MFEP Form 1** is in your record.
- Once that's complete, enter "**www.pheaa.org**" into your web browser.
- Sign in as a **"Borrower/Students"** and continue to AES Account Access.
- If you are a returning user, login. If this is your first time, Create an Account.



The screenshot shows the 'Secure Area' header and 'Account Access' title. Below the title is a link for 'Show field requirements'. The form includes fields for 'Username' and 'Password' with a toggle for visibility. A blue 'SIGN IN' button is at the bottom. Below the button are links for 'Having trouble signing in to your account?' and 'Don't Have an Account? Create an Account'.

ACCESS THE MFEP APPLICATION

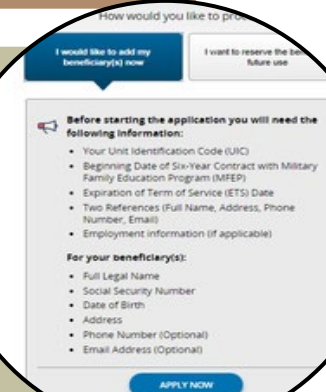
- Once logged in, you'll be directed to your **"Account Summary"**.
- At the bottom of your summary, click the **"Grant Programs for Pennsylvania National Guard Programs Educational Assistance"** link.
- The PA National Guard Programs page will display. Click **"Apply Now"** button under Military Family Education Program (MFEP).
- Sign your **"Statement of Understanding"** before continuing.



The screenshot shows the 'Military Family Education Program (MFEP)' title and a brief description of the program. At the bottom, there is a blue 'APPLY NOW' button.

ADD BENEFICIARY OR RESERVE FOR FUTURE USE

- Click one of the following options to the question: How would you like to proceed?
 - I would like to add my beneficiary(s) now
 - I want to reserve the benefit for future use
- If you select to reserve benefit, you do not need to go any further.
- If you select add my beneficiary(s), click **"Apply Now"**

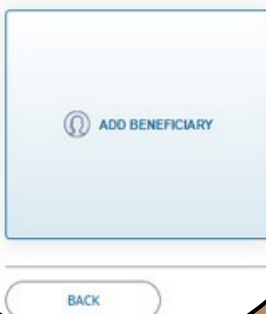


The screenshot shows two options: 'I would like to add my beneficiary(s) now' and 'I want to reserve the benefit for future use'. Below these is a section titled 'Before starting the application you will need the following information:' with a list of required information. At the bottom is a blue 'APPLY NOW' button.

SIGN AND SUBMIT APPLICATION


- You will input **YOUR** personal and military information.
- Once complete, you can begin adding your Beneficiary Information.
- The **"Credit Allotment"** page will display and next to each beneficiary, enter the number of credits allocated to beneficiary. **Note: A total of 120 credits is available to be allocated.**
- Continue to fill out any additional information. Review the **Terms and Conditions, Sign and Submit.**

Beneficiary Information



The screenshot shows a large blue box with a plus icon and the text 'ADD BENEFICIARY'. Below the box is a 'BACK' button.

This guide is just a quick overview of the MFEP setup process. For a more in-depth walkthrough; including how your beneficiary can sign up to use the benefit, check out our full PDF guide.

 Scan the QR code to access the full guide ----->





FAQs and MythBusters



Can I use **multiple education benefits at once?**

Absolutely! You can combine programs like EAP, GI Bill AND Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) strategically across different semesters.



Can I use **EAP** or **MFEP** for my **Doctoral program?**

Yes, you can use these benefits for a Doctoral program at the graduate rate of **\$534/credit + Technology fee \$29/credit.**



I don't need to apply for **FAFSA** because the PA National Guard covers 100% of my tuition.

Even if you're using military education benefits like **EAP**, **FTA**, or the **GI Bill**, completing the FAFSA can unlock additional grants or scholarships; including the **Pell Grant**, which doesn't need to be repaid.



THANK YOU FOR READING!

EDUCATION AND INCENTIVES DIVISION	717-865-4529
www.pa.ng.mil/education	Fort Indiantown Gap - Building 9-54 Annville, PA 17003



SEPTEMBER 2025

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS

To increase awareness of education benefits, each month the PANG Education Services community focuses on a different education program/ service. Our focus this month is:

Financial Aid & College Scholarships

Government Financial Aid Resources

- Government Financial Aid for Military Service and family members
- FAFSA

.ORG Websites Hosting Scholarships

- Fisher House
- The American Legion
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Folds of Honor
- Student Veterans of America
- DoD STEM Opportunities
 - Science, Mathematics & Research for Transformation (SMART) Scholarship Program
 - Stokes Educational Scholarship Program

Scholarship Search Sites & .COM Websites

- Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP)—Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)
- Peterson's Scholarships, Grants, and Prizes
- CollegeBoard Scholarship Search
- DANTES Financial Aid & Scholarships
- Scholarships.com
- StudentScholarshipSearch.com
- FastWeb.com

For More Information:

Visit us Online:

<https://www.pa.ng.mil/education/>

Contact the Pennsylvania National Guard Education Center : **(717)-865-4529** or email us [**ng.pa.paarng.list.jfhq-g1-education@army.mil**](mailto:ng.pa.paarng.list.jfhq-g1-education@army.mil)



Join us on social media
[@arngeducation](https://www.instagram.com/arngeducation)



PANG EDUCATION SERVICES

October 2025

To increase awareness of education benefits, each month the PANG Education Services community focuses on a different education program/services.

Our focus this month is: **MGIB-Selected Reserve (MGIB-SR) & Kicker**



MGIB-SR

- **How Do I Qualify?**
 - Sign a 6 year-enlistment contract or Officer Service Agreement
 - Have a High school diploma or equivalent Complete Initial
 - Active Duty for Training (IADT) or Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC)/(Officer Training School (OTS) for Airmen)
- **What Do I Get?**
 - \$493 per month for full-time enrollment (effective October 1, 2025)
 - Payment made directly to the Service Member each
 - month Can be used with FTA if enrolled half-time or more

MGIB-SR 'Kicker'

- **Available to:**
 - Non-prior service Service Members
 - Prior service Service Members
 - Officer Commissioning Programs
 - Must have an AFQT score of 50 or higher (Cat I-III) and meet all other criteria listed in the ARNG/ANG Voluntary Education Policy
- **What Do I Get?**
 - Up to \$350 per month IN ADDITION to your basic GI Bill® payment.
 - Payment made directly to the Service Member and tax free!

For More Information:

Visit us Online:

<https://www.pa.ng.mil/education/>

Contact the Pennsylvania National Guard Education Center : (717)-865-4529 or email us

ng.pa.paarnq.list.jfhq-g1-education@army.mil



Join us on social media

@arngeducation



PANG EDUCATION SERVICES

November 2025

To increase awareness of education benefits, each month the PANG Education Services community focuses on a different education program/services.

Our focus this month is: **MGIB-Active Duty, Post-9/11 GI Bill® & Transfer of Education Benefits (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-connected disability or injury
- **What Do I Get?**
 - Tuition and Fees
 - Up to 100% of in-state tuition at public schools
 - Up to \$29,920/year at private/foreign schools
 - Up to \$1,000 Book and Supply Stipend
 - Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA)
 - Payments pro-rated based on your qualifying service

Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB)

- **How Do I Qualify?**
 - Be currently serving in the Uniformed Services with at least 6 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 years remaining/agree to a 4 year 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 Soldier has completed 10 years in the Armed Forces

MGIB-AD

- **How Do I Qualify?**
 - Serve 2 years or more on active-duty
 - Contribute \$1,200
 - Receive an Honorable discharge
- **What Do I get?**
 - 3+ years of service = \$2,518 per month (Full-time enrollment)
 - 2-3 years of service = \$2,043 per month (Full-time enrollment)

For More Information:

Visit us Online:

<https://www.pa.ng.mil/education/>

Contact the Pennsylvania National Guard Education Center : (717)-865-4529 or email us

ng.pa.paarng.list.jfhq-g1-education@army.mil



Join us on social media
[@arngeducation](#)



ARNG EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

**CONTACT
YOUR STATE
EDUCATION
OFFICE TO
LEARN MORE!**

FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE (FTA)

- Pays tuition costs up to \$250 per semester hour, up to 18 SHs up to \$4,500 per fiscal year (Max TA and CA)
- May be used to earn one degree at each of the following levels, Associates, Bachelor's and Master's
- One academic certificate (undergraduate or graduate) up to 21 semester hours per lifetime/career
- Apply online at: <https://armyignited.cce.af.mil/student/account/login>

STATE TUITION ASSISTANCE (STA)

- Up to 100% tuition assistance; programs vary by state
- To find out what your state offers, go to:
www.nationalguard.com/pennsylvania

CREDENTIALING ASSISTANCE (CA)

- Pays training, fees, books, and exam costs for any credential listed on the Army COOL web site, www.cool.osd.mil/army
- Soldiers may pursue one credential per FY up to \$2,000 per FY (Max \$4,500 TA & CA)
- Apply online at: <https://armyignited.cce.af.mil/student/account/login>

GI BILL® PROGRAMS

- MGIB-SR/Chapter 1606 and Kicker
- MGIB-AD/Chapter 30
- Post-9/11 GI Bill/Chapter 33 and TEB
- Apply online at: www.benefits.va.gov/gibill

ARMY PERSONNEL TESTING

- Free testing opportunities including: AFCT, SIFT, DLAB, DLPT, & OPI
- Offered at select ARNG and Active Army locations

DANTES PROGRAMS

- Access to your Joint Services Transcript (JST) available at: <https://jst.doded.mil/jst>
- College credit through CLEP and DSST: <https://clep.collegeboard.org>
- Free college planning resources including
 - TA Decide: <https://vpt.dodmou.com/TADECIDE/>
 - Career Path Decide: <https://www.careerpathdecide.org/profile-work-type>
 - Kuder Journey: <https://dantes.kuder.com/landing-page>
- Free college and test prep resources available at: www.dantes.petersons.com
- Free tutoring available at: <https://military.tutor.com>
- For more info go to: <https://www.dantes.mil>

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Contact your State Education Services Office:
www.nationalguard.com/pennsylvania
- Contact the Education Support Center: 717-865-4529
or ng.pa.paarng.list.jfhq-g1-education@army.mil
- Visit us Online: www.pa.ng.mil/education/

GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/>.



Join us on social media
[@arngeducation](https://www.instagram.com/arngeducation)

