

2007 EANGUS Conference ARNG Breakout Questions

These questions were asked by those present on August 14, 2007, at the Army Guard Breakout meeting conducted by CSM John Gipe, Senior Enlisted Leader, Army National Guard at the EANGUS Annual Conference in Oklahoma City, OK. The responses come from the Army Guard staff offices at NGB in Arlington VA.

G1- Responses

Why doesn't the Army have student loans?

The ARNG provides a Federal Tuition Assistance program that covers up to \$4,500 per FY of tuition costs. The ARNG also provides a Student Loan Repayment Program for both officer and enlisted up to \$20K. Many states offer state unique programs that include full tuition waivers to states schools while maintaining membership in the Guard. The army does not directly lend money for college education in the way of loans as this capability has not been approved by law.

The National Guard has many outstanding Soldiers. I find that most of the good or better skilled Soldiers get recruited into the officer ranks. What incentives are in place to keep those Soldiers amongst the enlisted ranks?

There are no incentives that are targeted to specifically entice enlisted soldiers from joining the officer ranks. Enlistment/reenlistment bonuses that are executed do insure that a soldier must serve at least six months before accepting a commission however payments are terminated after the six month period. The ARNG has a shortage of officers and recent incentives encourage Soldiers to access into the officer ranks.

Has DIMHRS been modified to include retirement points accounting for the Reserve Components?

DIMHRS, the Defense Integrated Military Human Resources System, will provide Soldiers the capability to see their Retirement Points Statement on-line using member Self-Service. It will also allow them to explore future retirement point possibilities to see the potential effects on their projected retired pay of promotions, different types of duty, and additional years of service using the retirement points calculator.

If a Soldier has 20yrs of service with the National Guard why should they have to wait so long before they can get their retirement?

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The ability to pay retirement benefits is constrained by law. Title 10, US CODE, § 12731, in the age and service requirements section, states that a person must be at least age 60 to apply for a non-regular retirement from a reserve component.

However, when an AGR Soldier retires, they begin receiving retirement payment as soon as they are placed on the retirement list.

Why is technology, like CAC Card requirements, not user friendly for Traditional Soldiers?

The Traditional Soldier poses many challenges which can not be avoided. The network manager must be aware of the available users, and most of all monitor network access. Nevertheless, the Common Access Card has a twofold mission; to serve as an ID card and to enable secure access to IT systems, networks, and web servers. Both subsets of the mission require changes in the traditional network configurations to provide physical and logical access to buildings and IT systems.

One of the major concerns to the Traditional Soldiers is the CAC Pin Reset. For example CAC PIN Reset was established to provide on-site services to CAC recipients who have forgotten their PINs. Portable RAPIDS was established to meet the geographical challenges of the Reserve Component personnel who are not located near a fixed RAPIDS site and require CAC issuance. The ARNG designed and deployed an ARNG Online Certificate Status Protocol infrastructure to provide the States and Territories throughout the ARNG with the ability to sustain access to their network in the event their state WAN became isolated from the GuardNET XXI or NIPRNET, where DISA hosts a DoD-wide certificate validation capability.

As these capabilities and other supporting infrastructure become increasingly standardized in the day-to-day business functions of the National Guard and Reserve Component; normalized processes will be established to further support the traditional soldier and other eligible CAC recipients. Training is crucial to ensure the CAC is being properly used, supported, and sustained throughout the enterprise. There will be shifts in how accounts are being managed in MS Active Directory and how devices will be supported in a tactical environment. As the CAC/PKI capabilities continue to mature scenarios similar to one previously mentioned will be addressed and the end-user's experience will be positively impacted.

The primary mission of the development of the Common Access Card adheres to the 2006 DOD mandate of all COCOMS, Services, and Agencies to leverage the CAC to secure access to DoD networks to mitigate the existing threat of

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unauthorized personnel infiltrating the networks through usernames and passwords. This transition required changes to the existing infrastructure and a strenuous action plan was developed to streamline the migration efforts. The intent of the migration is not to create a non-user friendly environment rather it is

being executed to incorporate an additional level to the existing security posture. Given this transition has been conducted in an incremental fashion their will be

obstacles to overcome until the entire support infrastructure has been properly deployed and allocated throughout the enterprise.

What is the Army doing to keep the number of Soldiers diagnosed with PTSD down and get those with PTSD treated?

The Post Deployment Health Reassessment (Completed 90-180 days after REFRAD) will facilitate the identification of Soldiers who have PTSD and other behavioral health issues and assist them with obtaining treatment. All Soldiers who have deployed are eligible for health care from the Veterans Administration for two years after REFRAD, for any medical problem.

How are we getting the word out about TBI and assisting the need of Soldiers who have been home now for 2-3 years, especially those Soldiers who have already separated or are preparing to separate?

Guidance has been provided to the 54 states and territories by the ARNG G3 office for all units to conduct mandatory mTBI/PTSD awareness training and the ARNG G1 provides guidance on the Post Deployment Health Reassessment programs.

I am a technician that was deployed and now utilize VA Healthcare – basically free healthcare. However, as a single mother I have to keep the family FEHB plan in order to cover just my child. Why is it that I have to pay for a family health insurance plan that only my child uses? Will children of veterans ever be included in the VA Healthcare System or something similar?

Families are only covered by the Department of Veterans Affairs if the member is 100% disabled. That program is called CHAMPVA. As far as TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS), the way the law is written, the member must purchase TRS in order for them to obtain TRS for their family members. Unfortunately, that is the way it was written into the law (NDAA 07) so there is no flexibility without a change to the law.

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Can a recruiter do a predetermination of prior service Soldiers for MOSs from other branches – seems as though it would help recruiters enlist for bonuses.

Yes, Recruiting and Retention personnel can do an initial predetermination on Prior Service personnel's MOSs from other branches. However, the final predetermination is made by each MOS proponent agency. (i.e. Infantry MOS is Ft. Benning, Artillery MOS Ft. Sill, AG MOS Ft Jackson, etc.)

Considering the amount of reconstruction and stabilization work we are doing in Iraq and Afghanistan is there a reason why the Humanitarian Service Medal hasn't been authorized?

The majority of reconstruction work is accomplished by contractors. The peacekeeping and stabilization work done by our deployed Soldiers is associated with circumstances and enemy activities considered to be combatant in nature. The Humanitarian Service Medal is not authorized for combat operations only those operations designated as humanitarian in nature. The authorization and award of the HSM is defined in the regulatory excerpt below:

REF AR 600-2-8, Chapter 2, paragraph 22,

The Humanitarian Service Medal (HSM) was established by Executive Order 11965, 19 January 1977. It is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, after 1 April 1975, distinguished themselves by meritorious direct participation in a Department of Defense (DOD) or Department of the Army (DA) approved significant military act, or operation of a humanitarian nature.

The following types of military acts or operations may qualify for award of the HSM.

- 1: Significant assistance in the event of national or international disasters, natural or man-made, such as, but not limited to, earthquakes, floods, typhoons, or conflagrations.
- 2: Relief to a starvation area.
- 3: Evacuation of personnel from an area threatened by a hostile force.
- 4: Support to and resettlement of refugees and evacuees.

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5: Other significant military activities, directly related to humanitarian service, as designated by the DA. These must be above and beyond routine actions. For example, normal Search and Rescue (SAR) operations conducted by specifically trained SAR units would not be eligible for HSM consideration.

6: Acts or operations of a similar nature, as determined by the award approval authority.

To qualify for award of a DOD or DA approved HSM operation, Soldiers must meet the following requirements:

***The President must have declared the act or event a Federal disaster or the Secretary of State must have requested emergency assistance from the Department of Defense for any act or operation to be considered for designation as a humanitarian act or operation.

Do we have educational benefits to cover or help pay for graduate degrees, i.e. M.Ds, J.Ds or Masters Degrees?

The Federal Tuition Assistance pays up to a master degree or 1st professional degree.

Why are Federal Technicians not eligible for Tricare Reserve select? Are there any plans to get this changed?

Federal Technicians are Department of the Army Civilians; as such they are eligible for the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program. The website for FEHB is www.opm.gov/insure. No, currently there are no plans to make Federal Technicians eligible for Tricare Reserve select.

Will DIHMRS finally give us a Common Operation (COP) with mobilization stations during ARNG Pre-MOB Operations?

The answer is yes. A single, three-component database will enable us to use DIMHRS to mobilize Army National Guard members and to generate active duty orders. An authorized organization, such as a mobilization station, will be able to see a common operating picture during pre-mobilization activities. However, the RCAS-Mobilization Planning Data Viewer (MPDV) will continue to provide personnel readiness tracking (and data to FORSCOM), and the Medical Operational Data Systems (MODS) will continue to be the authoritative source of medical information.

With personnel and pay integrated into one system, any personnel action conducted within DIMHRS will automatically trigger the appropriate pay actions.

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This will reduce the redundancy of data entry into multiple systems and increase the timeliness and accuracy of pay and benefits.

With the majority of states going through transition, what will be done with units, i.e. Heavy Mech units that are transitioning into light INF or MP with respect to MOSQ conversion? Is there going to be special

funding for MFT (Mob for Training) for the National Guard for total transition?

Mobilization for Training (MFT) provides individual training for Soldiers to units in preparation for mobilization. The secondary intent is to utilize more of the unfilled training seat capacity that currently, and historically, exists in The Army School System (TASS). MFT is resourced through the Army G3 and does not affect current state budgets or allocations.

Funding was already planned and allocated as early as FY 05 to be executed as units transitioned through modularity transformation. In accordance with ART Training priorities the primary focus is on MOS-T (DMOSQ), then Critical Functional (ASI/SQI), then PME, then remaining Functional/Other training.

Analysis of transition to determine reclassification training requirements for each BCT conversion was completed by NGB and sent to effect states in FY05. Additionally, a priority quota source ("NT") has been provided to units designated for transformation - which provided units greater access to additional training seats.

According to my MEDPROS in AKO, I am non deployable but I don't know why. How can I get this info if my unit doesn't know?

Check with your JFHQ-ST fulltime POC (Deputy State Surgeon) in the Office of the State Surgeon.

The Guard has RRC Automation Liaisons at FT Knox, KY why aren't their RRC Automation NCO Liaison at NGB as well? We need more command direction from NGB instead of from USAREC at FT Knox from civilian contractors.

The ARNG ARISS/USAREC Liaison Office represents the Strength Maintenance Division, NGB-ASM for ARISS and automation issues. This branch is the ARNG liaison to the 54 States and territories on all ARISS related issues. ARNG personnel should contact the ARNG ARISS branch for automation concerns

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rather than USAREC civilian contractors. The point of contact is LTC Lawrence M. Grega, NGB ASM USAREC-ARISS LNO Branch Chief/PGM MGR Bldg 6580 RM 329 FT Knox, KY, 40121-2726, O:502-626-1304/1197 Fax 0813/1158 DSN: 536 or SGM Josh Allfree, MCSE, MCSA, ARISS Liaison Sergeant Major, ARNG ARISS/USAREC Liaison Office, Fort Knox, KY, Phone: (502) 626-1117/DSN 536-1117, FAX: (502) 626-1158/DSN 536-1158

Under the new promotion system the APFT and Weapons Qualification does not count. With weapons and APFT Qualification off the promotion points worksheet, what is to keep Soldiers from just doing the bare minimum? Why do they want to excel in these areas now?

The Weapons Qualification and APFT scores do count. They are training requirements and every Soldier must qualify with their weapon and complete an APFT on an annual basis on M-Day Status, and AGR Soldiers must complete a biannual APFT.

If the EPS Redesign is implemented, Soldiers will no longer receive administrative points for Weapons Qualification and APFT. However, these events will be considered as part of the board process under the "Total Soldier" concept. Board members will still review the DA Form 705 Cards, and Soldiers should have an entry on their NCOER if they scored at least 90 in each event. The training portion of the NCOER should reflect expert qualification for Soldiers.

Soldiers need to understand that their performance in these training events does count and reflects their desire to exceed standards. Soldiers should also realize that performance during training events is important even though admin points are no longer a part of the equation. Both areas "STILL COUNT" and will be applied towards leadership/board points.

When can we start wearing the new Army Service Uniform?

The Army G1 is the proponent for uniform policy changes. Recommended changes to the uniform policy are suspended until the Army Chief of Staff decides the way ahead for the new uniform. Pending or approved changes to the uniform policy can be found at find out "What's New" with the army uniform.

It angers me to easily receive my guard benefits such as the G.I. bill and the Tuition Assistance after seeing the horrors injured Soldiers went through at Walter Reed in the media. What is being done by NGB to correct these shames?

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The Army National Guard has established the ARNG Outreach Program and has begun filling 351 ARNG positions in the Warrior Transition Units at medical facilities throughout the United States with the specific mission to assist with injured soldiers and their families.

Why can't Title 10 Soldiers get promoted to E6 while in OCS

AR 350-51 provides that US Army OCS (AC) candidates will be promoted to pay grade E-5 in accordance with AR 600-8-19 if they hold a lower grade. Candidates with a higher grade will retain that grade. Students promoted on the basis of OCS who fail the course, will be reduced to the grade held before entering OCS or to a grade deemed suitable. All State OCS candidates are automatically promoted to E6, unless their rank was higher than E6 at the commencement of OCS, then they retain the higher rank. The ARNG cannot direct the AC to promote AC OCS candidates to E-6. When Soldiers are OCS candidates they are assigned a new MOS and no longer perform duties as an E5. They perform duties as an unqualified candidate and therefore cannot compete with other E5s for promotion. Federal OCS is only 8 weeks and this does not allow for enough time to be promoted. Promotions are based on annual boards, and at the state level, the soldier is already at least an E6.

Why would the NG not set a preference to solicit and use qualified military buglers in a retired status (in uniform) to sound Taps to lay our fallen comrades to rest prior to contracting and funding civilians for that purpose?

The preferred method of TAPS at a funeral is a Live performance by a Military Member. Each state is directed to exhaust every effort to find a Military Member to perform TAPS, but if they can not identify the resource, other means must be utilized to ensure the veteran is provided appropriate honors.

In regards to T-10 movements, why is it that most Soldiers have to move every 3yrs while others remain in one area for long periods of time, for example: 13 years at NGB.

Soldiers move for a variety of reasons. It may be due to personal choice, education, or the fact that they are able to be promoted and remain competitive within the organizational structure in one location. Because a Soldier stays at NGB does not mean that the Soldier performs the same duties for the entire time. They may move to different jobs within the organization. It's no different than a Soldier at the state level who remains in the same brigade for years, moving from one job to another. Furthermore, AGR positions are career positions that do not

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require the same career management objectives to be met as is required in traditional status. A Soldier may remain in the same AGR position for a few years, but on the traditional side may move from executive officer, to commander, to staff officer during the same time frame.

If a Soldier is being discharged because of PTSD, is there any way they can be compensated for the SGLI debt they are incurring while not drilling at their units.

Regardless of the reason for missing drill, as long as the Soldier has elected SGLI, they are covered, regardless if they had any money deducted for premiums. The premium accrues as a debt to the Soldier's account, and will be deducted from the first available pay.

If officers and warrant officers are in such a great need why is it such a difficult task, if not impossible, for an Enlisted AGR Soldier to transition or become an AGR Officer or Warrant Officer?

AR 135-18, chapter 4-8 provides the regulatory guidance for an enlisted AGR Soldier to become an officer or warrant officer. The primary obstacle in transitioning from an enlisted Soldier to an officer is the lack of AGR officer positions. In order for an enlisted AGR Soldier to become an AGR officer or warrant, there must be an AGR officer position vacancy for which the person qualifies. AGR positions are specifically allocated and accounted for by federal statute. An E6 AGR position cannot be converted to an AGR WO1 or O1 position because the enlisted AGR applies for and is commissioned or appointed

WO and Officers are in need across the Army and the ARNG. We need to look towards the future and grow our force. The NGB-ARM does work with states who have Soldiers who are looking to move from Enlisted to WO or Officer. If the states have a space available, or a plan to have one we do try to work within the limits of the program overall and the states requirements/authorizations. The ARNG Officer's and Warrant Officers in the AGR program are generally in the grades Captain and Higher and CW2 and higher. When an enlisted member of the AGR program is commissioned they attain the rank of 2LT and W1. Since there are few positions within the AGR program for the experience level of junior Officers and Warrant Officers, most newly commissioned personnel return to being a traditional soldier. The net effect of possibly losing a job to become commissioned is a deterrent to seeking a promotion. In order for the ARNG to become a career program from 2LT to COL and W1 to CW5, the AGR program would have to increase authorizations significantly to accommodate the junior officer positions without losing the experienced officers.

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Are there currently any plans to increase AGR slots for Soldiers currently serving in highly needed jobs, i.e. Joint Operations?

There are Legislative actions currently in the process to increase AGR Authorizations. We have submitted a request in conjunction with the USAR to increase to 100% of our requirements by FY10. We also have submitted a

legislation proposal concerning control grades with the ARNG, USAR, ANG and USMCR for FY09. These actions would then be pushed out to the states and the states then would have the flexibility to fill positions as they see fit. The highly needed jobs, Joint Operations as asked in the question are being reviewed on the requirement side; the authorizations are being addressed as stated above. The major need for AGR positions is at the state level to support the individual ARNG units to enhance combat readiness. At the National Guard Bureau Level (Title X) there has been a significant increase of Joint Positions. To maximize the effectiveness of the limited number of AGRs personnel authorizations, the ARNG must scrutinize every AGR position outside the troops units and curtail growth in areas that does not directly enhance ARNG unit readiness.

Is there anything in the future for Techs and AGRs about receiving bonuses for the work that they do for the Guard?

There are no initiatives at this time to allow AGR and Federal Technicians to receive a bonus unless they are deployed. There has never been a shortage of applicants for AGR and technician so incentives have not been offered in the past. Incentives are not entitlements and are used to entice soldiers to either enlist or reenlist into critical unit vacancies or critical MOS's. Incentives are to be used only when all other measures fail to fill position vacancies.

Why is it that a Soldier, who enlisted in the guard under the bonus enlistment, forfeits that bonus when he/she takes a full-time job in the Guard? These Soldiers are still doing weekend drills and are putting their lives on the line like every other Soldier.

There has never been a shortage of applicants for AGR and technician so incentives have not been offered. Incentives are not entitlements and are used to entice soldiers to either enlist or reenlist into critical unit vacancies or Military Occupational Specialties.

With the ARNG's strength getting into the mid 350K, do we have to worry about cut-backs in personnel and/or equipment when the GWOT Campaign ends?

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There is always that possibility, but currently the ARNG is programmed to grow from its current strength to 358.2K.

Is there any chance of reinstating the Patrol Cap as the primary head gear? If so, what s the process?

AR 670-1, paragraph 3-5 (6) (1) provides guidance on the wear of the patrol cap. The Commander can authorize wear of the patrol cap where the wear of the beret is impractical. The Army G1 is the proponent for uniform policy and Soldiers can submit recommended changes to uniform policy.

Soldiers can submit comments and suggested improvements on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms) directly to HQDA, (DAPE-HR-IRP), 300 Pentagon, Washington, DC 20310-0300.

I was authorized the G.I. Bill; however, since my unit was deemed non-deployable I was informed that I was not eligible for the kicker. I am currently an MP which is a Critical MOS (the NGB top 10) I should be eligible for the kicker regardless of the unit, why am I being told that I am not?

The Non Prior Service kicker is for Soldiers enlisting in an MTOE or deployable TDA who have a critical skill designated as such at the time of enlistment. The limited resources are prioritized to support combat readiness.

The only way to qualify for Ch 1607 G.I. bill is to have had been deployed, why is that?

Chapter 1607 is a benefit created for Selected Reserve Soldiers who are called to active duty in response to a war or national emergency. Selected Reserve Soldiers are eligible for Chapter 1606 benefits and AGR Soldiers are eligible for Chapter 30 benefits.

I am an E-4 in a duty position that progresses to E-6 but skips the E-5 slot. How do I get promoted without leaving my unit or reclassing? Who decides the MTOE and how do they come up with it.

This issue has been brought up at the Command Sergeant Major Advisory Council meetings, and NGB will be staffing policies that will address this issue.

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The MTOE is formed from a base Army document depending on the mission of the unit. The base MTOE can be changed for a variety of reasons. The Army proponent for MTOE standardization and development is the Army G3.

What does the National Guard plan to do to help Soldiers who are trying to collect G.I. Bill (Chapter 30, 1606 and 1607) benefits only to find they end up waiting between 30-180 days before their first payment?

The Veterans Administration is the sole administrator for the MGIB benefits. The ARNG is responsible for determining the eligibility status for the VA to process accordingly. The state education officer can assist with the processing issues.

What is the rule for Soldiers, who have had a break in service of over 1 year, to receive the G.I. Bill?

Soldiers are authorized a one time break in service during their military career in which their Chapter 1606 benefits remain suspended. The Soldier's eligibility is reinstated if the break is less than one year and terminated if over 1 year.

Can we expect more force structure with the excess Soldiers (350K plus)?

The ARNG will grow to a force structure allocation (FSA) of 358.2K by FY13. There is not projected growth beyond this number at this time. The Director of the ARNG has developed a strategy for States and Territories to recruit and retain end strength (ES) above FSA to ensure units are at 100% strength in preparation for deployments or to handle other state and federal missions.

G3- Responses

MY unit has become a victim of its own success, we are being asked to support a 5:1 ratio of missions to rehearsals. How would you recommend we go about protecting our training time?

The Unit Commander has the responsibility to determine the training schedule and priorities of training in the pre-mob training process.

When should we expect to see troop deployments reduced from 18 months to 12 months?

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This is currently the policy of Office of the Secretary of Defense to have all Reserve and National Guard Personnel on maximum 12 month deployments. This took effect after 19 Jan 2007. Units mobilizing after that date have a 12 months mobilization.

Why is the APFT not required to graduate from WLC?

Upon return from deployment, Soldiers who enroll in WLC, the APFT is not required for graduation. Soldiers not returning from deployment are required to execute the APFT.

What is the policy on deploying Soldiers with 12months or less before ETS? Will they be involuntarily extended (stop-loss)?

No, stop-loss is only in effect beginning 90 days from mob date.

Why is it next to impossible to get deployed even after signing up voluntarily on AKO and GKO?

The Soldiers chain of command and State have to support the Mobilization once a Soldier is matched with a vacancy. Sometimes the Soldier is needed to support their State / unit in the coming months.

The policy letter states that ARNG Units will be mobilized for only 12months and not extended. There have been some units extended; how is that possible?

They are only extended by authority of the SECDEF and only if the mission cannot have a gap in coverage between one unit and the next.

Why are units able to deploy Soldiers who are not MOSQ'd ? These Soldiers are not able to participate on MOSQ-type activities while at drill, have not received any bonuses and cannot participate in schools or be promoted.

All Soldiers mobilized to deploy must have an MOS. Many missions in theater are MOS immaterial, i.e., SECFOR Missions do not require Soldiers performing their duties in their specifically trained MOS. This allows the unit to have maximum personnel available to perform missions that are of a general nature, such as convoy escort, which Soldiers are trained to perform at MOB Station, before deploying. Many missions are in lieu of missions and do not require a

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specific type of unit or MOSQ Soldier. A Soldier has to have an MOS to deploy on an ILO mission but does not have to be a particular MOS.

A technician is required to be MOS compatible with their position within 1year of date of hire; however, some schools are not available for up to one year; how can this be modified to accommodate those Tech-Soldiers whom are required to hold a different MOS to keep their position?

States that require a school seat that is not available in ATRRS or need a priority seat that is filled should contact ART for their assistance and disposition. Most of the time additional seat or newly scheduled course can be developed.

What is the process for awarding MOSs from other branches of service (wavier of formal training)? Additionally, can the process be sped up by giving the states the authority to award certain MOSs?

The critical task list between the two services is evaluated upon entry into the ARNG. A soldier with a comparable MOS, is awarded that MOS upon approval with the proponent school for that CMF. It is submitted for evaluation, waiver, and recommendations as to how much credit will be given the soldier.

Does NGB have a mobilization tracking database for individual Soldiers that are mobilized and by date?

Yes. It is TAPDB (The Army Personnel Data Base)

Will a unit at 50% MOSQ be activated before they reach an acceptable level? What is the acceptable level of MOSQ for activation?

Readiness levels are to be 80% for CS/CSS units (P2) and 90% for Combat Arms (P1). This includes strength and MOSQ. ILO missions only look at strength.

Currently, CMF 94 falls under ordinance. Some of the MOSs in this CMF, such as 94L and 94R are aviation specific. For career progression to SFC/E7, one has to compete for 94W. With this, 94L30 or 94R30 Soldiers will have to leave their aviation units in order to get promoted. Also, BNCOC PH II training and materials do not touch on any aviation specific maintenance systems. Is it possible to put 94L and 94R with CMF 15 for career progression training and NCOES purposes?

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Yes, a formal request would be required thru HQDA Army G1 and G3 for staffing and approval.

Is there a way to initiate a Title XX funding string for all mobilizing units? The current Title X versus Title 32 makes preparing for combat very difficult.

No, that would probably be an appropriation violation. Any mobilization of a unit for training would impact the SECDEF 12 month mob limit for reserve components thus reducing BOG time.

With the overwhelming importance of Physical Fitness, is there any chance of getting the Master Fitness Course back?

The training awards an ASI. There is currently training at Fort Jackson and Fort Mc Coy.

Are there any plans to enable NCOES to be conducted remotely in order to accommodate busy civilian careers and deployments?

Yes, HQDA, TRADOC, and the RC are currently reviewing transformation of NCOES including DL products and DTP classrooms to support these initiatives.

Transformation has required many Soldiers to change jobs/MOSs, but there seems to be a lack of availability for low density MOS Schools. Theses Soldiers are willing to go to school but the slots are either unavailable or the Soldier gets his slot bumped by a deploying Soldier. This can cause the Soldier to wait up to two years to get MOSQ'd. What can be done to get these Soldiers in to School?

States that require a school seat that is not available in ATRRS or need a priority seat that is filled should contact ART for their assistance and disposition. Most of the time additional seat or newly scheduled course can be developed. At times the RC can bump AC soldiers from school seat that have a lower priority but that process takes DA involvement.

Does the National Guard plan on pushing the Combatives Program or is that already being done?

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They have already incorporated Combatives in the POIs. They can also be incorporated into the Commanders YTP.

G4- Responses

With the BCT transformations of Armored Cav Units in Oregon and surrounding states, how long will we have to train with the SIMTEKs before we will get Bradley's back in our states?

Oregon currently has 30x of 32x Bradley Fighting Vehicles authorized in their state. The 3rd Battalion, 116th Regiment is the only unit in the state of Oregon authorized the M2/M3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles. The 3rd Battalion, 116th Regiment is a subordinate unit to 116th Cavalry Brigade, headquartered in the state of Idaho. The 116th Cavalry Brigade units span across three states, Idaho, Montana and Oregon. The 3rd Battalion, 116th Regiment is authorized 29x M2A2 Infantry Bradley Fighting Vehicle variants, with 29x on hand. Also, they are authorized 3x M3ODS Cavalry Bradley Fighting Vehicle variants, with 1x on hand. The M2A2 ODS variant will be fielded in FY 09 and the 2x remaining M3A2s will be cascaded prior to FY 09.

Who designs and approves our uniforms? Are Women included? And how does someone get on the uniform committee?

The NGB POC for the Uniform Board is SGM Easley, HQDA G-1 (DSN 225-5287). Members come from the DAG4 and various other key positions within DA Staff per direction by Chief of Staff, U.S. Army.

Regulation now requires IBA be worn by Soldiers qualifying with assigned weapons. What is being done to ensure vest are available at state level where sizes and availability are limited?

1st Army requires OTV's with plates to certify qualification. However this issue was not coordinated with the logistics community nor funded through the Programming and Budget process. States must make maximum use of existing assets until adequate quantities of OTV's and insert plates are made available. The shortfall is being addressed, but will take time to accomplish.

When will the AH-64 (long Bow) be fielded for the NCARNG?

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NC will begin receiving AH-64D (Longbow) Apaches this month. They will have 12 by Dec 07. They receive their final 12 by the end of CY08. POC is CW5 Mike Randall, NGB-AVS-A.

Regarding the fielding of the ASU for Traditional Guard Soldiers and technicians: when will they start fielding, and what items will be included in the issue?

Assuming this question refers to the ACU (not ASU) the response is that ARNG has procured and almost completed fielding of four sets of ACU's for all authorized ARNG Soldiers. Sustainment will be through the existing replacement in kind system.

Why haven't our National Guard Aviation Units been fielded with the digital ACU flight Suits?

ARNG aircrews have not begun receiving A2CUs yet because there are not enough available yet to begin a full fielding. PM, Soldier Equipment expects this situation to improve sometime within the next year. In the meantime almost all assets are going to theater.