

**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD**

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St. Paul, MN 55155-2004

MN National Guard Circular 621-5-1

1 January 2014

Military Personnel

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD STATE INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

Summary: This circular supersedes Minnesota National Guard Circular 621-5-1, dated 1 July 2013 with changes and is in effect until June 30, 2014, unless superseded. It provides information and describes procedures for administering the Minnesota State Incentive Programs.

Applicability: This circular is applicable to all Minnesota Army & Air National Guard Units/Organizations.

Proponent and Exception Authority: The proponent of this circular is the Joint Force Headquarters – J1 (Manpower & Personnel). The proponent has the authority to approve exceptions to this circular that are consistent with controlling laws and regulations.

Interim Changes: Interim changes to this circular are not official unless authenticated by the NGMN-PEA-Z. This circular becomes obsolete on the expiration date shown above, unless sooner rescinded or amended.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Chapter 2, State Tuition Reimbursement Program (STR)

- Change to Para 2-8. Enlisted Service Members must still apply for FTA in order to be eligible for STR. In the event a rule from the FTA program disqualifies a Service Member from FTA eligibility, the Service Member should still apply for STR. No exception to policy (ETP) request is needed to approve the STR request.

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CHAPTER 1**OVERVIEW**

1-1. **GENERAL.** The Minnesota Legislature enacted legislation that provides funds for State Incentive Programs for members of the Minnesota National Guard. This circular describes the eligibility criteria and procedures for administering the Minnesota State Incentive Programs effective from 1 July 2013 through 30 June 2014 unless sooner rescinded or amended.

1-2. REFERENCES.

- a. Minnesota Statute 192.501, Financial Incentives for National Guard members.
- b. Minnesota Statute 190.03, Laws to Conform to United States Regulations.
- c. Department of Defense Financial Management Regulation.

1-3. PURPOSE.

- a. The purpose of the State Incentive Programs are to:
 - (1) Encourage the recruitment of qualified prior and non-prior Service Members for the Minnesota National Guard.
 - (2) Encourage members currently assigned to the Inactive National Guard (ING) or Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) to re-affiliate with the Minnesota National Guard.
 - (3) Encourage current Minnesota National Guard members to extend their enlistment agreements.
 - (4) Improve the qualifications of Minnesota National Guard members through higher education.
 - (5) Reward eligible Minnesota National Guard members for their willingness to serve the needs of the State of Minnesota when ordered by the Governor and the President of the United States, in support of world-wide operational requirements.
- b. The purpose of this circular is to establish policy to administer the State Incentive Programs.

1-4. RESPONSIBILITIES.

- a. **The Adjutant General.** The Adjutant General is responsible for overall policies, guidance, administration, implementation and proper utilization of the Minnesota State Incentives Program.
- b. **The Joint Force Headquarters – J1.** The JFHQ-J1 is charged with the administration of the programs for the Adjutant General and is the official designee of the Adjutant General for such purposes. Further sub-delegation of authority may be granted to the Education Services Officer (ESO).
- c. **Recruiting and Retention Battalion.** The Recruiting and Retention Battalion is responsible to promote recruiting and retention utilizing the incentives offered by the Minnesota State Incentive Program.
- d. **State Incentives Working Group.** The State Incentives Working Group is responsible for formulating policy contained within this circular. The Working Group members are as follows:

- (1) Joint Force Headquarters - J1
- (2) Division Chief, Army Personnel
- (3) JFHQ Air Division, Military Personnel Management Officer (MPMO)
- (4) State Command Sergeant Major
- (5) State Executive Director of Military Affairs
- (6) Office of the State Surgeon

- (7) 34th Infantry Division Representative
- (8) 84th Troop Command Representative
- (9) 347th Regional Support Group Representative
- (10) 133rd Airlift Wing Representative
- (11) 148th Fighter Wing Representative
- (12) Army Recruiting and Retention Manager
- (13) Air Recruiting and Retention Superintendent
- (14) Education Services Officer
- (15) Education Section NCOIC
- (16) State Incentives Program Administrators, Recorders

e. **National Guard Commanders.** Commanders at all levels are responsible for keeping members of their commands informed of the State Incentive Programs. They must continue to monitor eligibility of those members who are receiving state incentives.

f. **National Guard Members.** National Guard Members (both Army and Air National Guard) are responsible to apply for the incentives for which they are eligible according to the policies within this circular.

g. **Army AMEDD Recruiter and ANG Retention Manager.** Provide list of student officers eligible for benefits outlined in Chapter 4.

1-5. **FUNDING.** The funding available for the State Incentive Programs is limited by the appropriations set by the State Legislature. These programs will continue as long as funds are available.

1-6. **STATE FISCAL YEAR.** The current state fiscal year begins on 1 July 2013 and ends on 30 June 2014.

1-7. **SATISFACTORY PARTICIPANT.** A satisfactory participant of the Minnesota National Guard is defined as a Service Member who meets the following criteria:

- a. Is an active drilling member of his/her unit of assignment or attachment.
- b. Has no period of absent without leave (AWOL)/unsatisfactory participation within the last 12 months.
- c. Has no more than four (4) periods of excused absence within the last 12 months.

d. Is currently deployable as per criteria required for his/her current duty position. If not deployable, must be making diligent and measurable progress towards becoming deployable, or be awaiting a Fit-for-Duty (FFD) determination by a Medical Review Board.

e. Is not under suspension of favorable actions (Army) or adverse administrative actions (Air) in accordance with applicable regulation and policy.

f. Is compliant with Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT - Army), Physical Fitness Test (Air), Ht/Wt standards (Army/Air) for the current fiscal year.

1-8. **RECOUPMENT.**

a. Funds paid under the State Incentive Programs may be recouped from those individuals who fail to complete a term of enlistment or reenlistment in the Minnesota National Guard.

b. Further details regarding recoupment procedures are explained within the chapter applicable to each program.

1-9. **EXCEPTIONS TO POLICY.** When extenuating circumstances exist, a request for exception to policy may be initiated in writing by the member and endorsed by his/her chain of command to the Education Services Office, NGMN-PEA-E. The request must clearly explain the circumstances that may merit an exception to policy. Some examples may include deployment issues, State Active Duty issues, military training conflicts that result in missed suspenses or delays, or medical issues that disrupt civilian education.

CHAPTER 2**MINNESOTA STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM**

2-1. **GENERAL.** The State of Minnesota sponsors the State Tuition Reimbursement Program (STR). The State Legislature appropriates the funding for the program biennially. If, in the future, the legislature does not fund the program, or funds are depleted, neither the State of Minnesota nor the Minnesota National Guard is obligated to continue such a program or pay out existing obligations.

2-2. **ELIGIBILITY.** The STR program is available to the following individuals, in addition to those covered under Chapters 3 & 4:

a. **Regular STR** - Current members of the Minnesota National Guard who:

(1) Are serving satisfactorily as defined by the Adjutant General in paragraph 1-7.

(2) Have successfully completed Basic Training (BT), Basic Military Training (BMT), or be an SMP Contracted Cadet; or be a Special Branch Direct Commissioned Officer (AMEDD, Chaplain, JAG Corps). Officers are authorized reimbursement if otherwise eligible regardless of military education completion date.

(3) Are between the ranks of E-1 through O-5 (to include Warrant Officers). Officers promoted to the grade of O-6 during the school term are eligible to use STR until the end of that term.

b. **Extended STR** - Former members of the Minnesota National Guard who:

(1) Have satisfactorily completed their service contract in the Minnesota National Guard or the portions of it involving selective reserve status, for which any part of that service was spent serving honorably in federal active service (Title 10 orders) or federally funded state active duty since September 11, 2001. In these cases, the person's eligibility is extended for a period of two years (2), plus an amount of time equal to the duration of that person's active service.

(a) A Service Member has satisfactorily completed their service contract when they have both reached their Expiration Term of Service (ETS) date and received an "Honorable" discharge. Service Members separated from the MNNG under the following conditions are not eligible:

1. Inter-State Transfer (IST),
2. Conditional Release in order to accession to Active Duty/Reserve Forces,
3. Separated under "General," "Other than Honorable Conditions," "Bad Conduct" or "Dishonorable" discharge,
4. Separated due to Adverse Administrative Actions,
5. Separated with a "Bar to Re-Enlistment",
6. Separated prior to ETS date unless separating due to:

i. Retirement; or
ii. A result of determinations made by the medical boards process (Medical Evaluation Board, Physical Evaluation Board, Medical MOS/AFSC review Board or Non-Duty Disability Evaluation System).

(b) Service Members currently serving in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces under an active service contract do not qualify for Extended STR.

(2) Have served honorably in the Minnesota National Guard and have been separated or discharged due to a service-connected injury, disease, or illness. In these cases, the person's eligibility is extended for eight (8) years beyond the date of separation. Eligibility effective date is 04 JUN 05.

(3) Title 10 & Title 32 Active Duty Operational Support (ADOS), Active Duty for Special Work (ADSW) and Full Time National Guard Duty – Operational Support (FTNGD-OS) are not eligible periods of service for the Extended STR program.

2-3. **RATE OF REIMBURSEMENT.** The Minnesota National Guard will reimburse up to 100% of the tuition charged for eligible coursework (undergraduate and graduate) at post-secondary institutions.

a. **UNDERGRADUATE COURSEWORK:** Reimbursement will not exceed 100% of the University of Minnesota (U of M) Twin Cities undergraduate campus Resident Semester Hour rate. The maximum reimbursement for Quarter Hours (QH) is 2/3rds (66.6%) of the Semester Hour (SH) rate at the U of M. The total amount of STR a Service Member can receive for undergraduate coursework will not exceed \$13,000 per fiscal year (1 JUL 2013 through 30 JUN 2014).

b. **GRADUATE COURSEWORK:** Reimbursement will not exceed 100% of the Resident General Tuition Rate for the University of Minnesota (U of M) Twin Cities Graduate School. The total amount of STR a Service Member can receive for Graduate coursework will not exceed \$22,000 per fiscal year (1 JUL 13 through 30 JUN 2014).

c. U of M undergraduate rate for the current academic year is found at http://onestop.umn.edu/finances/costs_and_tuition/index.html

2-4. **AUTHORIZED USES.** STR is limited to funding no more than one degree for each of the following levels (within the limitations of Para 2-6):

- a. One Certification Program funded per Service Member
- b. Associate Degree
- c. Baccalaureate (undergraduate) Degree
- d. Master's or first Professional Degree
- e. Doctorate Degree

2-5. **COURSE REQUIREMENTS.**

a. Reimbursement is authorized for:

(1) Courses taken at an accredited post secondary educational institution and its courses are eligible for placement on a transcript from the post secondary educational institution, and

(2) Undergraduate courses completed with a grade of "C" or higher, or graduate courses completed with a grade of "B" or higher, and

(3) Courses a student is currently attending at the time of direct commission (AMEDD/Chaplain/JAG Corps Officers) into the MNNG, and

(4) Courses which end prior to the Service Members Expiration Term of Service (ETS) date; unless the Service Member qualifies under paragraph 2-2 b.

b. Reimbursement is not authorized for:

(1) Courses that were not completed.

(2) Courses taken prior to completion of BT/BMT.

(3) Exam Prep Courses (e.g., GRE, GMAT).

(4) Courses that earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs – may be paid thru other funding sources).

(5) Activity fees, computer user fees, registration fees, books, room and board expenses, and other school-related fees.

c. If a student receives a tuition waiver (no tuition paid by the student or the fee statement indicates no tuition charges), reimbursement is not authorized. Examples include (but not limited to): 1) high school students who attend post-secondary coursework, where the courses are paid for by the high school, school district, or state; 2) college students who have no cost incurred for tuition costs.

2-6. **MAXIMUM LIFETIME BENEFIT.** The maximum lifetime benefit under the STR Program is funding for 208 quarter/144 semester credits.

2-7. **GUIDELINES.**

- a. Tuition reimbursement is paid upon successful completion of coursework.
- b. A member must submit a STR Obligation no later than 45 days after the course/term begin date.
- c. A member must submit a STR payment request no later than 90 days from the last official day of the course/term.
- d. The student's final fee statement dated after course completion and provided by the institution is the source document for determining the amount of reimbursement. If the fee statement does not clearly show the amount of tuition charged, the Service Member must obtain a letter from the institution that states the amount of tuition charged and a point of contact at the institution. The final fee statement must include all other benefits paid directly to the institution, or that are pending payment. These include:

(1) Federal Tuition Assistance.

(2) Chapter 33/Post 9-11 GI Bill. The Chapter 33/Post 9-11 GI Bill is the only GI Bill that must be claimed on the STR Payment request.

(3) ROTC Scholarship. All ROTC Tuition Scholarships must be reported. Do not report Room and Board scholarships or Stipends.

2-8. **ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF FUNDING.**

a. Enlisted (Traditional, M-Day) Service Members of the MN Army National Guard **MUST** apply for Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) in order to be eligible to use STR, regardless if they believe they have reached their maximum yearly cap. The ESO will verify remaining FTA funds. AGR Enlisted Soldiers and Airmen **MUST** apply for Federal Tuition Assistance in order to be eligible to use STR.

(1) In the event that FTA funding is exhausted before the end of the federal fiscal year (30 September 2013), the ESO may waive the above requirement to apply for FTA in order to be eligible for STR.

(2) The ESO will establish a window of eligibility for this exception and will notify users, unit and support personnel of the short term policy change.

(3) Upon Implementation of the Dept of Defense (DoD) Voluntary Education Partnership Memorandum of Understand (MOU) during the Summer Semester 2013, educational institutions who do not sign the DoD MOU will become ineligible to receive FTA funds. Enlisted Service Members attending these educational institutions are eligible to receive STR funding and the requirement to apply for TA is waived; no formal exception to policy required. This applies **ONLY** to schools who do not sign the DoD MOU. Participating institutions can be found at: <http://dodmou.com/InstitutionList.aspx>

(4) In the event that a rule from the FTA program disqualifies a Service Member from FTA eligibility the Service Member should apply for STR. No exception is needed to approve a request for STR provided the Service Member meets all other eligibility requirements for STR.

b. Enlisted Service Members must apply for FTA in accordance with FTA policy (AR 621-5), by applying within the following parameters:

- (1) FTA application must be requested and approved prior to the course start date in the GoArmyEd portal. FTA applications can be submitted no earlier than 60 days prior to the course start date.
- (2) Degree Plan must be uploaded into the Service Members eFile in GoArmyEd.com.
- (3) Course Schedule and Itemized Tuition & Fee statement must be uploaded into the Service Members eFile in GoArmyEd.com.
- (4) FTA account lock in the FTA portal, due to a degree plan not on file or due to overdue grades must be fixed in order to meet the FTA application timeline in Para 2-8. b. (1) above.
- (5) Service Members who's FTA Cumulative GPA is below 2.0 for undergraduate courses and 3.0 for graduate courses must provide documentation and a memorandum explaining that their FTA GPA is below the minimum requirement to their Unit Full Time Staff (FTS) in order to be eligible for STR. The documentation will be sent in with their STR Payment request. This circumstance does not in and of itself prohibit the application for STR funds.

c. MNNG officers are NOT required to apply for FTA in order to be eligible for STR.

d. Members receiving Federal Benefits which pay tuition costs directly to the institution are eligible to receive funds under the STR program. The combination of Federal Benefits and STR cannot exceed 100% of the tuition costs, not to exceed the maximum cap of each program.

e. Tuition reimbursement received under this policy may not be considered in determining a person's eligibility for a scholarship or grant-in-aid by the Minnesota Higher Education Service Office or by any other state board, commission, or entity.

2-9. APPLICATION PROCEDURES.

a. Service Member's Responsibilities:

(1) Annually read and sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (Annex A-1). This memorandum specifically outlines the member's responsibility for obtaining reimbursement under the STR Program. Submit the signed MOU to the unit. Service Member does not forward the MOU directly to the Education Service Office(ESO).

(2) Complete an Annual Obligation Request (Annex A-2). Service Members must submit the completed Annual Obligation Request form to the unit **NO LATER THAN 45 days** after their course/term start date. Late submissions of the Annual Obligation Request Form will result in non-payment. Service Members who enlist into the MN National Guard during a school term must submit the Annual Obligation Request immediately upon enlistment. The annual obligation is an accurate depiction of projected tuition costs for each term during the entire school year. The actual amount of reimbursement is dependent on the cost of tuition and the number of credits completed satisfactorily. The current school year is Summer Session II 2013 through Summer Session I 2014.

(3) Service Members must submit the following forms and supporting documents to the unit in sufficient time for the reimbursement request to be entered into the State Database **no later than 90 days** from the last official day of the course/term. See paragraph 2-10 for information on incomplete coursework or late requests for reimbursement. Service Members enrolled in accelerated programs, where several terms are completed during the course of a normal semester, should submit their requests in groups that correspond with a normal semester. Forms required for reimbursement:

(a) STR Payment Request Form (Annex A-3).

(b) Grade Report. Reports downloaded from the Internet are acceptable.

(c) Final fee statement must, 1) clearly show the amount of tuition charged; 2) be dated after course completion and 3) be provided by the institution.

(d) State payments are made via direct deposit using Minnesota Direct Deposit Authorization for Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) (Annex D-1).

(e) The ESO only requires the Direct Deposit & W-9 form on the initial STR submission, unless there are changes in a Service Member's bank or bank account information.

(4) Service Members who are unable to submit an MOU, Obligation Request form or Payment Request form in the time required due to attendance at a military school (AIT, NCOES, OES, etc) must submit the required paperwork no later than 45 days after the military school end date. Units should add justification of school attendance in the remarks block in the State Database if this situation occurs.

b. Unit Responsibilities:

(1) Execute Memorandum of Understanding. Ensure Service Member reads and signs the MOU annually. Unit will upload copy of signed MOU into the STR database during the obligation request as outlined in paragraph 2 below.

(2) Service Members must turn in their obligation form to the unit NO LATER THAN 45 days after their course/term start date. Units must ensure all Service Members using STR turn in their forms, and must enter each annual obligation into the web-based STR program within timeframes specified. Unit will upload copy of obligation request form and signed MOU into the STR database at this time.

(3) Payment Requests are time sensitive. Enter payment requests into the State Database immediately upon receipt from the Service Member. All requests for reimbursement must be submitted NO LATER THAN 90 days from the last day of the course/ term. Prior to submitting, the unit must perform a quality review of the Payment Request form (Annex A-3) to ensure the following:

(a) It is complete and clearly shows amount of tuition charged.

(b) Clearly shows the amount of Federal Benefits which pay tuition costs directly to institution.

(c) Verify that the Service Member has completed Basic Training/has completed or is projected for the ROTC Leadership Training Course.

(d) Verify that the Service Member is in good standing IAW paragraph 1-7 on the course/term end date. If they are not in good standing, return the request to the Service Member without action and explain that they have failed to meet the required standards for payment for that course/term. Unit will notify the STR manager that the Service Member is not eligible for payment for that course/term so that funds can be de-obligated.

(4) Upload payment request form, final fee statement and grade report into the STR Database.

(5) Communicate with the ESO to facilitate the administration of the tuition reimbursement program.

c. ESO Responsibilities:

(1) The ESO allocates funds according to the Annual Obligation Requests received.

(2) Processes payment requests.

(a) Verifies all information is correct; this may include contacting the student's school.

(b) Calculates the actual amount of reimbursement.

(3) Validates that Service Members have completed basic training.

(4) Denies payment on Requests for Reimbursement that arrived at the ESO in excess of 90 days after the last official day of the course/ term, payment requests that arrive incomplete or requests for those Service Members not compliant with para 1-7.

2-10. INCOMPLETE COURSEWORK AND LATE REQUESTS.

a. Incomplete Coursework:

(1) If the student has an incomplete course, the unit should still request payment for other completed classes for that course/term within the 90 day suspense. Once the student has finished the incomplete class(es), units should request payment for those courses on a new, separate payment request form. The ESO will reimburse for made up coursework, provided an annual obligation was submitted and funds are available.

(a) On initial submission, annotate the classes that are incomplete in the remarks block and the expected completion date.

(b) Student must submit initial request for reimbursement, along with fee statement and grades to the unit within 90 days.

(c) Units must retain a copy of the initial Request for Payment form and later validate that the incomplete coursework that is now finished matches the initial Request for Payment form.

(2) Upon completion of the coursework, complete a new Payment Request Form (Annex A-3), requesting reimbursement for only the courses that were originally incomplete but are now complete. Provide this request along with a grade report showing satisfactory completion.

2-11. TUITION REIMBURSEMENT OPTION FOR SPOUSES.

a. A Service Member who meets the following criteria may opt to have their Spouse use a portion of the remaining balance of their STR:

(1) Is serving satisfactorily as defined by the Adjutant General in paragraph 1-7.

(2) Has served at least 8 years of (active-drilling, non-ING) service in the Minnesota National Guard.

(3) Is between the ranks of E1 through O5 (to include Warrant Officers). Spouses of Officers promoted to the grade of O6 (Colonel) during the school term are eligible to use the State Tuition Program until the end of that term.

b. Annual Cap. A Spouse may use up to 12 semester/17 quarter credits annually, not to exceed the sponsoring Service Member's lifetime benefit of 144 semester/208 quarter credits.

c. Payment procedures will remain the same as for the Service Member, and all payments will be direct deposited into the sponsoring Service Member's bank account.

d. Rates of reimbursement will be paid in accordance with paragraph 2-3. Spouse tuition reimbursement is counted towards the Service Member's maximum yearly benefit.

2-12. **TERMINATION.** The submission of a falsified grade report, transcript, final fee statement, Payment Request form (Annex A-3) or an attempt to receive funds to which a member is not due will result in the termination from the STR Program for a minimum of one year. A Service Member who received STR funds utilizing a falsified grade report, transcript, or final fee statement may be subject to prosecution under the Minnesota Code of Military Justice (MCMJ).

CHAPTER 3**TUITION REIMBURSEMENT - SURVIVOR ENTITLEMENT**

3-1. **GENERAL.** Effective 01 July 1992, if a member of the Minnesota National Guard is killed while performing military duty, his or her surviving spouse and/or surviving dependents (to include biological children of the deceased born within 10 months after the member's death), become eligible for the State Tuition Reimbursement (STR) program.

3-2. **SCOPE.** This entitlement covers accident-related deaths that occur within the scope of a Service Member's assigned duties, while in a federal duty status or on state active service, as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 190.05. This entitlement also covers accidental death that occurs while traveling to or from the Service Member's home of record and place of duty for drill attendance or while serving in the line of duty.

3-3. ELIGIBILITY.

- a. The surviving spouse is eligible regardless of remarriage.
- b. Surviving dependents are eligible until their 24th birthday.
- c. Surviving spouse and eligible dependent(s) will remain eligible even if they move out of state and become a non-Minnesota resident.

3-4. PROCEDURES.

- a. The Office of the Adjutant General will issue a Letter of Eligibility that outlines the Tuition Reimbursement entitlement. The Education Services Office (ESO) will forward the letter to the surviving spouse; or if no spouse, to the oldest adult dependent; or the guardian of minor children. The letter will indicate eligible dependent recipient(s) and must include the following information: full name, dependent status, date of birth, and social security number.
- b. The Minnesota National Guard ESO will manage this benefit program and maintain files for all Letters of Eligibility issued.

3-5. GUIDELINES.

a. **REIMBURSEMENT RULES.** The Minnesota National Guard will reimburse up to 100% of the tuition charged for eligible coursework (undergraduate and graduate) at post-secondary institutions.

(1) The Rate of Reimbursement will be paid out in accordance with Para 2-3. U of M Tuition rates for the current academic year are found at: http://onestop.umn.edu/finances/costs_and_tuition/index.html

(2) If a student receives a tuition waiver (no tuition paid by the student or the fee statement indicates no tuition charges), reimbursement is not authorized. Examples include: 1) high school students who attempt post-secondary coursework, where the courses are paid for by the high school, school district, or state; 2) college students who have no cost incurred for tuition.

b. COURSE REQUIREMENTS.

(1) Reimbursement is authorized for:

(a) Courses taken at an accredited post secondary educational institution and courses eligible for placement on a transcript from the post secondary educational institution, and

(b) Undergraduate courses completed with a grade of "C" or higher, or graduate courses completed with a grade of "B" or higher.

(2) Reimbursement is not authorized for:

(a) Courses that were not completed.

(b) Exam Prep Courses – (e.g. GRE, GMAT).

(c) Courses that earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

(d) Activity fees, computer user fees, registration fees, books, room and board expenses, and other school-related fees.

c. **MAXIMUM LIFETIME BENEFIT.** The maximum lifetime benefit under the State Tuition Reimbursement Program is funding for 144 semester /208 quarter credits.

d. **ADMINISTRATION.**

(1) Tuition reimbursement is paid upon successful completion of coursework.

(2) A student must request tuition reimbursement no later than 90 days from the last official day of the course/term.

(3) The student's fee statement is the source document for determining the amount of reimbursement. If the fee statement does not clearly show the amount of tuition charged, the student must obtain a letter from the institution that states the amount of tuition charged and a point of contact at the institution.

3-6. **PAYMENT PROCEDURES.**

a. Memorandum of Understanding Form (MOU) (Annex F-1).

(1) This memorandum specifically outlines the student's responsibility for obtaining reimbursement under the Minnesota STR Program.

(2) Annually carefully read, sign and submit the MOU to the ESO.

b. Annual Obligation Request.

(1) Complete the Annual Survivor Obligation Request (Annex F-2) (Contact the ESO for applicable form at Ng.mn.mnarnng.mbx.assets-education@mail.mil). Submit form to the ESO NO LATER THAN 45 days after the course/term start date.

(2) The annual obligation is an accurate depiction of projected tuition costs for each term during the entire school year. The actual amount of reimbursement is dependent on the actual cost of tuition and the number of credits successfully completed. The current school year is Summer Session II 2013 through Summer Session I 2014.

c. Request for Reimbursement.

(1) Students must submit the following forms and supporting documents to the ESO NO LATER THAN 90 days after the last official day of the term.

(a) Survivor Payment Request Form (Annex F-3).

(b) Grade Report. Reports downloaded from the internet are acceptable.

(c) Final fee statement that clearly shows the amount of tuition charged. If the fee statement does not clearly show the amount of tuition charged, the student must obtain a letter from the institution that states the amount of tuition charged and include a point of contact at the institution.

(d) State payments are made via direct deposit using Minnesota Direct Deposit Authorization for Electric Funds Transfer (EFT) (Annex D-1).

(2) By signing this application, the student is verifying that all information is true and correct. It also authorizes the ESO to contact the school to verify course grades or other data.

3-7. INCOMPLETE COURSEWORK AND LATE REQUESTS.

a. Incomplete Coursework:

(1) If the student has an incomplete course, they should still request payment for other completed classes for that course/term within the 90 day suspense. Once the student has finished the incomplete class(es), they should request payment for those courses on a new, separate payment request form. The ESO will reimburse for made up coursework, provided an annual obligation was submitted and funds are available.

(a) On initial submission, annotate the classes that are incomplete in the remarks block and the expected completion date.

(b) Student must submit initial request for reimbursement, along with fee statement and grades to the ESO within 90 days.

(2) Upon completion of the coursework, complete a new Payment Request Form (Annex F-3), requesting reimbursement for only the courses that were originally incomplete but are now complete. Provide this request along with a grade report showing satisfactory completion.

3-8. TERMINATION.

a. The submission of a falsified grade report, transcript or final fee statement, Annex F-3 or an attempt to receive funds to which a student is not due will result in the termination from the STR Program for a minimum of one year.

b. The ESO will terminate the entitlement for the surviving dependents on the dependent's 24th birthday. The dependent will be paid for the term during which he/she turns 24.

CHAPTER 4**MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL STUDENT STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT**

4-1. GENERAL. To encourage currently accepted/enrolled medical, dental, and physician assistant (PA) students to accept a direct commission in the Minnesota National Guard during completion of graduate-level medical professional degrees.

4-2 ELIGIBILITY.

a. Army and Air Guard members who initially appoint as either medical/dental student officers or are already commissioned officers and attain civilian physician assistant student status (PA-S) are eligible for this program. Allocations are 15 officers (medical, dental or physician assistant) for Army and 4 officers (medical, dental or physician assistant) for Air. The combined number of National Guard participants enrolled in the program cannot exceed 19 officers per year. Participation in this program does not prohibit concurrent participation in a nationally funded Health Professional Incentive (HPI) program. AMEDD Student Recruiter (ASR) participants are restricted to State Tuition Reimbursement (STR) IAW Chapter 2 for payment rates and Time in Service (TIS) obligations for those periods of STR use.

b. To qualify for reimbursement under this program, an officer applicant must be:

(1) a satisfactory participant as defined in paragraph 1-7; and

(2) an AMEDD direct commissioned officer in a student officer status or a commissioned officer in a Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) program; or Enlisted members in the Minnesota Air National Guard that have been accepted in an approved Physician Assistance program and have been selected by the MDG Commander to be immediately commissioned and be placed in a valid Physician's Assistant Slot, once the ANG Service Member has completed PA School. Failure to graduate and/or be commissioned upon completion of the PA program will result in recoupment of unearned funds.

4-3. RATE OF REIMBURSEMENT. This program reimburses up to 100 percent of tuition costs, not to exceed 100 percent of the tuition rate of the University of Minnesota (UMN) Medical School, Twin Cities campus, for the current academic year (found at http://onestop.umn.edu/finances/costs_and_tuition/index.html).

4-4. MAXIMUM LIFETIME BENEFIT. The maximum lifetime benefit under any State Tuition Reimbursement Program (STR) is funding for 144 semester/208 quarter credits.

4-5. APPLICATION PROCEDURES. Refer to paragraph 2-9.

4-6. INCOMPLETE COURSEWORK AND LATE REQUESTS. Refer to paragraph 2-10.

4-7. SERVICE OBLIGATION AND RECOUPMENT.

a. Dental and PA Officers who receive Medical Professional STR incur a contractual service obligation of two years for every year of use of Medical Professional STR. This obligation is effective the day after the course completion date for the last term of reimbursement use under the provisions of this chapter, typically the date that the medical professional degree is conferred. These officers must obtain unrestricted professional licensure immediately after medical professional degree completion as a term of the contractual service agreement for the use of the Medical Professional STR; failure to attain unrestricted professional licensure may initiate a recoupment action. Dental student officers are required to reappoint as Dental Corps (DC) officers; PA students must initially appoint as Army Medical Specialist Corps (SP) officers or .

b. Medical officers who received Medical Professional STR incur a contractual service obligation of two years for every year of use of Medical Professional STR. This obligation is effective the day after the completion of the residency program. The Office of the State Surgeon is authorized to direct the TIS obligation for those officers who utilized both undergraduate rates STR and Medical Professional STR in any combination during their medical school training.

- c. The Service Member must sign a Contractual Service Agreement (Annex G) at the beginning of each academic school year they receive Medical Professional STR. The contractual service obligation for use of Medical Professional STR runs concurrent with all other contractual service obligations. The Service Member must remain in an active status in the National Guard in order to satisfy this service obligation.
- d. The Service Member is subject to prorated recoupment of Medical Professional STR if the officer fails to fulfill any portion of the contractual service obligation.
- e. Individuals who received tuition reimbursement prior to 1 July 2013 retain the service obligation in accordance with the policy in effect at the time they began receiving Chapter 4 Medical Professional STR; however, they must sign a Contractual Service Obligation (Annex G) at the beginning of each academic school year.
- f. Service Members can still co-use benefits up to 100 percent of tuition costs as long as STR is the last payment source. A Service Member who received STR funds utilizing a falsified grade report, transcript, or final fee statement may be subject to prosecution under the Minnesota Code of Military Justice (MCMJ).

CHAPTER 5

STATE REENLISTMENT BONUS

5-1. **GENERAL.** The Adjutant General has authorized a \$1,000 State Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) for each year of reenlistment (to a maximum of \$5,000 during a Service Members MNNG career) for Service Members in the Minnesota National Guard.

5-2. **ELIGIBILITY.** Service Members must have completed six (6) years total time in service (TIS) creditable for retirement and must have twelve (12) or less years of service creditable for retirement to meet eligibility requirements on current Expiration Term of Service (ETS) date. Source verifying documents are the NGB Form 23B (RPAM) or ANG PCARS forms. Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) and Inactive National Guard (ING) time is not considered creditable time for retirement for this purpose. The reenlisting authority or unit rep must verify TIS SRB eligibility on the day of reenlistment before contracting.

- a. Meet Minnesota National Guard reenlistment eligibility criteria.
- b. Be placed in the primary MOS/AFSC and be qualified in that MOS/AFSC. Service members must also be the grade of the assigned position or one grade below the required grade of the position to be eligible.
- c. Must have been a satisfactory participant during the 3 months prior to the date of their reenlistment.
- d. Reenlist for three or six year periods.
- e. Service Members that receive a federal reenlistment bonus that is less in dollar amount compared to the SRB for the same time in service commitment are authorized only the difference in the amount from the SRB and what is authorized for payment by the Federal Bonus, (e.g. if you have a \$2,500 3-year Federal Bonus contract, you are authorized to receive \$500.00 for a 3-year SRB contract). This is "differential SRB pay".
- f. Service Members that receive a federal reenlistment bonus are not authorized entitlement to a SRB if the amount of the federal reenlistment bonus is equivalent or greater than the SRB amount for the same contractual period.
- g. Permanent fulltime members of the Minnesota National Guard (AGR and Technicians) are NOT eligible for the State Reenlistment Bonus.

5-3. PAYMENT PROCEDURES.

a. Initial payment of \$1,000 will be made on the anniversary date of ETS after the first year of the reenlistment is complete. Additional payments of \$1,000 will be made once a year during the Service Member's anniversary month until the \$5,000 per member limit is met. The Service Member is required to complete a state direct deposit form & W-9 as all bonus payments will be paid via direct deposit (Annex D-1).

(1) Army National Guard: The Unit Retention Manager is responsible for forwarding the Reenlistment Bonus Contract, Addendum (Annex B-1) and a completed State of Minnesota direct deposit form & W-9 to the Education Services Office (ESO) so the member's payment can be processed.

(2) Air National Guard: The Base Retention Manager is responsible for forwarding the Reenlistment Bonus Contract, Addendum (Annex B-1) and a completed State of Minnesota direct deposit form & W-9 to the ESO so the member's payment can be processed.

- b. Accountability. The ESO monitors payments made and tracks future payments.

5-4. **TAXES.** Taxes are not withheld from the payment. The bonus recipient is responsible to report this payment as income when completing federal and state tax returns. Service Members will receive Form 1099R (Miscellaneous Income) for claiming income taxes.

5-5 TERMINATION OF BONUS PAYMENTS.

a. Bonus will be terminated and subsequent scheduled payments will not be paid if the Service Member:

(1) Becomes an unsatisfactory participant by—

(a) Accumulating more than four (4) or more excused absences within a 12-month period. Termination will take effect on the date of the 5th excused absence.

(b) Accumulating 1 unexcused absence within a 12-month period. Termination will take effect on the date of the 1st unexcused absence.

(c) Failing to attend or complete Annual Training (AT) without Commander's approval. Termination will take effect on the first day of annual training.

(d) Is not deployable as per criteria required for his/her current duty position, and, is not making diligent progress toward becoming deployable. Termination will take effect on the date of the non-deployability. Service Members that have undergone a medical process and are found fit for retention but are not allowed to deploy are exempt from termination.

(e) Is under suspension of favorable actions (Army) or adverse administrative actions (Air) IAW applicable regulation and policy. Termination will take effect on the date of suspension of favorable actions.

(f) Is not compliant with APFT (Army), Physical Fitness Test (Air), or Ht/Wt standards (Army/Air). Termination will take effect on the date of non-compliance.

(2) Fails to extend enlistment for time served in the ING within 30 days after return to unit. Termination is required from the effective date of transfer to the ING.

(3) Exceeds maximum time in the ING (one year). Termination is required from the date of transfer into the ING.

(4) Separates from the Minnesota National Guard for any reason. Termination is required from date of separation.

(5) Interstate Transfers (IST) to another State National Guard. Termination is required from date of transfer.

(6) Is commissioned/appointed into officer/warrant officer corps of the Minnesota National Guard. Termination is required on commission/appointment date.

(7) Is discharged from the MNNG due to a service-connected injury/illness. Termination is required from date of discharge.

(8) Becomes employed full-time with the MNNG as a permanent Federal Technician or Active Guard/Reserve (AGR). Termination is required from employment start date.

b. A Service Member is entitled to receive payment for the months served satisfactorily. The amount will be determined by multiplying the number of months served satisfactorily during the term for which the bonus was authorized by the proportionate monthly dollar amount. This proportionate dollar amount is determined by dividing the total authorized bonus amount by 12 months.

c. Termination Matrix.

EVENT	TERMINATE	TERMINATE ON
Unsatisfactory Participant – 1 AWOL	Yes	Date of 1 st AWOL
Unsatisfactory Participant – more than 4 excused absences within a 12 month period	Yes	Date of 5 th Excused Absence
Unsatisfactory Participant for AT.	Yes	1 st day of AT
Fails to extend for time spent in ING.	Yes	Date transferred to ING
Under suspension of favorable actions/adverse administrative actions	Yes	Date of suspension/adverse action
Exceeds maximum time in ING.	Yes	Date transferred to ING
Not in compliance with current APFT/PT/Ht/Wt	Yes	Date of non-compliance
Separate from MNNG for any reason	Yes	Date of separation

5-6. **UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES.** Unit Readiness or Administrative NCO needs to notify the ESO immediately upon the following:

a. Service Member becomes an unsatisfactory participant by:

- (1) Accumulating one (1) unexcused absence. Need to send date of the 1st unexcused absence.
- (2) Accumulating more than four (4) excused absences within a 12-month period. Need to send date of 5th excused absence.
- (3) Failing to attend or complete Annual Training (AT) without Commander approval. Need to send forward the date of the first day of annual training.
- (4) Being under suspension of favorable actions or adverse administrative actions. Need to send forward the date of the suspension of favorable action/adverse administrative action.
- (5) Not being in compliance with current APFT/PT; Ht/Wt standards. Need to send forward date of non-compliance. Unit needs to also send the updated flag removal once Service Members is compliant with standards.

b. Service Member fails to extend enlistment for time served in the ING within 30 days after return to unit. Unit sends to the ESO office the effective date of transfer to the ING.

c. Service Member exceeds maximum time in the ING (one year). Unit sends to the ESO office date of transfer into the ING.

d. Service Member separates from the Minnesota National Guard for any reason. Unit sends to the ESO office the date of separation.

e. Service Member Inter-State Transfers (IST) to another State National Guard unit. Unit sends to the ESO office the date of separation.

f. Service Member is commissioned/appointed into officer/warrant officer corps of the Minnesota National Guard. Termination is required on commission/appointment date.

g. Service Member is discharged due to a Service Connected injury/illness. Unit sends to the ESO office the date of discharge.

h. Service Member who becomes employed full-time with the MNNG as a permanent Federal Technician or Active Guard/Reserve (AGR). Unit sends to the ESO office the employment start date.

CHAPTER 6**MEDIC RECERTIFICATION BONUS PROGRAM**

6-1. **GENERAL.** The Adjutant General has authorized a \$1,000 bonus every two years payable in split disbursement of \$500 each year for the purpose of National Guard Medic recertification as a qualified EMT-B.

6-2. **ELIGIBILITY.** The Medic Recertification Bonus is authorized for current members of the Minnesota National Guard who:

- a. Are serving satisfactorily as defined by the Adjutant General in paragraph 1-7; and
- b. Have successfully completed Basic Training (BT) or Basic Military Training (BMT); and
- c. Have successfully completed a Medic MOS or AFSC producing advanced training; and
- d. Are currently serving in an authorized duty position that requires EMT-B certification (e.g. ARNG 68W's; ANG 4N0X1/X4N0X1) and
- e. Have a current National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) card; and
- f. Agree to serve for a period of two years starting the day after NREMT recertification.
- g. Service Members whose NREMT certification has expired are not eligible for the Medic Bonus for a period of two years.

6-3. **PAYMENT PROCEDURES.**

- a. Initial Payment of \$500 will be paid one (1) year after NREMT recertification date. The subsequent payment of \$500 will be paid two (2) years after NREMT recertification date.
- b. Service Members provide signed Statement of Understanding Form to the Unit.
- c. Service Members provide a copy of their current National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) card to the Unit.
- d. To request payment, the Unit will attach the documents listed above into the Service Member's profile in the State Incentive Database.
- e. State payments are made via direct deposit using Minnesota Direct Deposit Authorization for EFT (Annex D-1).

6-4. **TAXES.** Taxes are not withheld from the payment. The bonus recipient is responsible to report this payment as income when completing federal and state tax returns. Service Members will receive a Form 1099R (Miscellaneous Income) for claiming income taxes.

6-5. **TERMINATION OF BONUS PAYMENTS.**

- a. Bonuses will be terminated & subsequent scheduled payments will not be paid if the Service Member:
 - (1) Becomes an unsatisfactory participant by—
 - (a) Accumulating one (1) unexcused. Termination will take effect on the date of the 1st unexcused absence.
 - (b) Accumulating more than four (4) excused absences within a 12-month period. Termination will take effect on the date of the 5th excused absence.

(c) Failing to attend or complete Annual Training (AT) without the Commander's approval. Termination will take effect on the first day of annual training.

(d) Is not deployable as per criteria required for his/her current duty position, and, is not making diligent progress toward becoming deployable, or is awaiting a Fit-for-Duty (FFD) determination by a medical Review Board. Termination will take effect on the date of non-deployability. Service Members that have undergone a medical process and are found fit for retention but are not allowed to deploy are exempt from recoupment.

(e) Is under suspension of favorable actions (Army) or adverse administrative actions (Air) IAW applicable regulation and policy. Termination will take effect on the date of suspension of favorable actions.

(f) Is not compliant with APFT (Army), Physical Fitness Test (Air), Ht/Wt standards (Army/Air) .

(2) Separates from the Minnesota National Guard for any reason. Termination is required from date of separation.

(3) Inter-State Transfers (IST) to another State National Guard unit. Termination is required from transfer date.

(4) Is commissioned/appointed into officer/warrant officer corps of the Minnesota National Guard. Termination is required on commission/appointment date.

(5) Is discharged from the MNNG due to a service-connected injury/illness. Termination is required from date of discharge.

(6) Re-classifies into a non-medic MOS/AFSC. Termination is required on date new MOS is awarded.

b. A Service Member is entitled to receive payment for the months served satisfactorily. The amount will be determined by multiplying the number of months served satisfactorily during the term for which the bonus was authorized by the proportionate monthly dollar amount. This proportionate dollar amount is determined by dividing the total authorized bonus amount by 12 months.

6-6. **UNIT RESPONSIBILITIES.** Unit Readiness NCO needs to notify the Education Services Office (ESO) immediately upon the following:

a. Service Member becoming an unsatisfactory participant by:

(1) Accumulating one (1) unexcused absence. Need to send date of the 1st unexcused.

(2) Accumulating more than four (4) excused absences within a 12-month period. Need to send date of 5th excused absence.

(3) Failing to attend or complete Annual Training (AT) without Commander approval. Need to send forward the date of the first day of annual training.

(4) Being under suspension of favorable actions or adverse administrative actions. Need to send forward the date of the suspension of favorable action/adverse administrative action.

(5) Not being in compliance with current APFT/PT; Ht/Wt standards. Need to send forward date of non-compliance.

b. Service Member separates from the Minnesota National Guard for any reason. Unit sends to the ESO office the date of separation.

c. Service Member Inter-State Transfers (IST) to another State National Guard unit. Unit sends to the ESO office the date of separation.

d. Service Member accepts commission/appointment into the Minnesota National Guard. Unit sends to the ESO office the date of commission/appointment.

e. Service Member is discharge due to a Service Connected injury/illness. Unit sends to the ESO office the date of discharge.

The proponent of the Minnesota National Guard Circular is the Joint Force Headquarters – J1. Users are invited to send comments, suggested improvements and changes on DA Form 2028 (Recommended Changes to Publications and Blank Forms). Send to: The Office of Adjutant General, Minnesota National Guard, ATTN: NGMN-PEA-Z, 20 12th Street West, St. Paul, MN 55155-2004.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:



ROBERT C. LARSEN
COL, FA, MNARNG
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A (Army)
F (Air)

**MINNESOTA STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING 2013-2014**

A-1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT.

I, _____(Full Name, Rank), certify that I read this memorandum and fully understand the policies and procedures of the Minnesota State Tuition Reimbursement (STR) Program as described in Minnesota National Guard Circular 621-5-1 and this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

A-2. INTRODUCTION.

a. The State of Minnesota sponsors the STR Program. The state legislature appropriates funds for this program biennially. If, in the future, the state does not fund the STR Program, or funds are depleted, neither the State of Minnesota nor the Minnesota National Guard is obligated to continue such a program or pay out existing obligations.

b. I understand that if I do not meet all the criteria outlined in Minnesota National Guard Circular 621-5-1, dated 1 Jul 2013, I may jeopardize my entitlement to receive STR.

c. I understand the STR Program will reimburse me up to 100% of the Semester Hour tuition charged, not to exceed a maximum of \$13,000.00 per state fiscal year for Undergraduate coursework and \$22,000 for Graduate coursework. I understand my reimbursement will not exceed 100% of the University of Minnesota (U of M) Twin Cities undergraduate campus Resident Semester Hour rate for undergraduate coursework or the Resident General Tuition Rate at the U of M Twin Cities Graduate School for Graduate coursework. The maximum reimbursement for Quarter Hours (QH) is 2/3rds (66.6%) of the Semester Hour (SH) rate at the U of M.

d. I understand that, if I am designated as a Medical Professional Student as outlined in Chapter 4, the STR program only reimburses up to 100% of tuition costs, not to exceed 100% of the tuition rate of the University of Minnesota (UMN) Medical School, Twin Cities campus, for the current academic year.

e. I understand that the U of M tuition rates for the current academic year can be found at http://onestop.umn.edu/finances/costs_and_tuition/index.html.

f. I understand that if I receive federal benefits which pay tuition benefits directly to the institution, then the combination of federal benefits and STR cannot exceed 100 percent of the tuition charged. Federal benefits include, but are not limited to: FTA, CH 33 Post 9-11 GI Bill, and ROTC tuition scholarships.

g. I understand that STR is not authorized to reimburse activity fees, computer user fees, registration fees, books, room and board expenses, and other school-related fees.

A-3. CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION.

a. I understand that in order to be eligible for STR payment I must meet the following membership criteria:

(1) I am a member of the Minnesota National Guard; grades from E-1 through O-5 (to include warrant officers). If I am a Lieutenant Colonel promoted to Colonel during a school term I'm able to receive a final payment for that school term only but I am not eligible to participate in STR for future school terms.

(2) I successfully completed Basic Training (BT), Basic Military Training (BMT); I successfully completed or am projected for ROTC Leadership Course, a direct commissioned officer, AMEDD officer, Staff Specialist, Chaplain, or JAG officer.

(3) I must maintain active status in the Minnesota National Guard throughout the entire course/term for which reimbursement is tendered.

(4) I understand that if I am an Enlisted (Traditional, M-Day) Soldier of the MN Army National Guard, I **MUST** apply for Federal Tuition Assistance (FTA) in order to be eligible to use STR. If I am an AGR Enlisted

Soldier or Airmen I understand that I **MUST** apply for Federal Tuition Assistance in order to be eligible to use STR. The combination of federal benefits and STR cannot exceed 100% tuition costs.

b. I understand that to receive payment under this program I must follow the rules regarding satisfactory participation and be in good standing by the course/term end date:

(1) No periods of unauthorized absence (AWOL) within the last 12 months.

(2) No more than four (4) periods of Excused Absence during the last 12 months.

(3) I am currently deployable as per criteria required for my current duty position. If I'm not currently deployable, I am in one of these following categories: 1) making progress towards deployment status 2) awaiting a Fit-for-Duty (FFD) determination by a Medical Review Board or 3) found FFD and retained, but profiled "Non Deployable" by a Medical Review Board.

(4) I am not under suspension of favorable actions (Army) or adverse administrative actions (Air) IAW applicable regulation and policy.

(5) I am in compliance with APFT (Army) or Physical Fitness Standards (Air), and the Height/Weight standards.

c. I understand the following additional requirements:

(1) I or my spouse, must attend courses taken at an accredited post secondary educational institution, and courses are eligible for placement on a transcript from the post secondary educational institution.

(2) I will be reimbursed only for courses that are eligible for placement on a transcript from the educational institution. Courses that earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are not eligible for STR.

(3) The maximum lifetime benefit that I may receive under this program is funding equivalent to 144 semester /208 quarter credits.

(4) To use the Tuition Reimbursement Option for Spouses, I must have served at least 8 years of (active-drilling, non-ING) service in the Minnesota National Guard.

(5) My spouse may use up to 12 semester/17 quarter credits annually, not to exceed my life time benefit of 144 semester/208 quarter credits. Spouse tuition reimbursement is counted against my maximum yearly benefit cap of \$13,000.00 for undergraduate coursework and \$22,000 for graduate coursework.

(6) Courses which end after my Expiration Term of Service (ETS) date are not eligible for payment, unless I qualify under the Extended Eligibility rules (See paragraph 2-2, b. of the MN State Circular).

(7) If I receive Medical Professional STR, then I incur a two year contractual service obligation for every one year of Medical Professional STR use. Dental Corps and Army Medical Specialty Corps (PA) service obligations begin immediately after professional graduation. Medical Corps service obligations begin immediately after residency completion.

(8) If I utilize a combination of STR under the provisions of Chapter 2 and Chapter 4, the State Surgeon's Office is the final determining authority of my time-in-service contractual obligation.

d. I understand that I, or my spouse, must complete coursework in accordance with the following guidelines:

(1) Undergraduate Coursework. I, or my spouse, must achieve a grade of "C" or better, "Pass" or "Satisfactory." I understand that the National Guard will not reimburse me for any course(s) from which I, or my spouse, "withdraw" or receive a grade of "C-" or lower.

(2) Graduate Coursework. I, or my spouse, must achieve a grade of "B" or better. I understand that the National Guard will not reimburse me for any course(s) from which I, or my spouse, "withdraw" or receive a grade of "B-" or lower.

e. I understand that I will be eligible for reimbursement for the course(s) upon completion, and if the grade requirements outlined above are met.

A-4. REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURES.

a. Memorandum of Understanding. Annually, I will carefully read, sign and submit a MOU (Annex A-1) to my unit.

b. Annual Obligation Request Processing.

(1) I must complete the Annual Obligation Request (Annex A-2) and submit it to my unit NO LATER THAN 45 days after the course/term start date. I understand that failure to obligate NO LATER THAN 45 days from the course start date will result in non-payment. If I enlisted during a current school term, I will submit the Annual Obligation Request immediately and understand that the ESO will reimburse me for the current course/term only if I have previously completed Basic Training/Basic Military Training; or am an SMP contracted cadet, or am a Direct Commissioned Officer. Graduation from BT/BMT is a prerequisite for STR eligibility for enlisted Servicemembers.

(2) I understand that the annual obligation is an accurate depiction of projected tuition costs anticipated for each term during the school year, Summer Session II 2013 through Summer Session I 2014. I understand that I must do my best to accurately predict my school costs for the year. I understand that the amount of reimbursement is dependent on actual charges not solely on my annual obligation.

c. STR Payment Request Processing.

(1) I understand that I must submit the following forms and supporting documents to my unit in sufficient time for them to arrive at the ESO office no later than 90 days after the last official day of the course/term. Service Members and Airmen enrolled in accelerated programs, where several terms are completed during the course of a normal semester/quarter schedule, should submit requests in groups that correspond with a normal semester/quarter. Request payment no more than once for each semester: Summer 2, Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer 1 terms.

(a) Payment Request Form (Annex A-3).

(b) Grade Report. Grades from the internet are acceptable.

(c) Final fee statement dated after course completion and provided by the institution that clearly shows the amount of tuition charged. The final fee statement must include all other benefits paid, or pending payment, directly to the institution on the Service Member's behalf (e.g. FTA/ACES TA, CH 33/Post 9-11 GI BILL, ROTC tuition scholarship). If the fee statement does not clearly show the amount of tuition charged or other federal payments, I will obtain a letter from the institution that includes this information and lists a point of contact at the institution.

(d) Direct deposit form – State payments are made via direct deposit using Minnesota Direct Deposit Authorization for EFT (Annex D-1). Payment of Spouse Tuition Reimbursement is direct deposited into the sponsoring Service Member's bank account.

(2) I understand that my signature on Annex A-1 & Annex A-3 will verify that all information is true and correct. My signature also authorizes the ESO to contact the school to verify information.

(3) I understand that I must submit my request for tuition reimbursement NO LATER THAN 90 days after the last official day of the course/term. I understand that if I fail to meet this suspense, I am not eligible for reimbursement for that course/term.

A-5 INCOMPLETE COURSEWORK AND LATE REQUESTS.

a. Incomplete Coursework.

(1) I understand that if I have an incomplete course, that I should still request payment for all completed classes for that course/term, by submitting documents to my unit within the 90 day suspense date. The ESO will reimburse for these courses provided the annual obligation was submitted and funds are available. Retain a copy of your Annex A-3 and paperwork to submit upon completion of incomplete coursework.

(a) On initial submission, I must annotate the classes that are incomplete in the remarks block and the expected completion date.

(b) I must submit initial request for reimbursement, along with fee statement and grades to my unit within 90 days.

(2) I understand that upon completion of the coursework, I must complete a new Payment Request Form (Annex A-3) requesting reimbursement for only the courses that were originally incomplete but are now complete. I must provide this request along with a grade report showing satisfactory completion and a copy of the original payment request to my unit.

b. Late Requests for Tuition Reimbursement. If I miss the 90-day suspense, the obligation will be terminated. No reimbursement request will be approved for that course/term. For extenuating circumstances I will contact my unit.

A-6 TERMINATION. I understand that the submission of a falsified grade report, transcript or fee statement, or an attempt to receive funds for which I'm not eligible, results in termination from the STR Program for a minimum of one year. I further understand that I may be subject to prosecution under the Minnesota Code of Military Justice (MCMJ) for utilizing a falsified grade report, transcript, or final fee statement.

A-7. STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT.

I fully understand the directives outlined herein and in MNNG CIR 621-5-1 and my responsibilities for participation in the Minnesota State Tuition Reimbursement Program.

Signature of Service Member

Date

Signature of Unit Rep.

Date

**ANNUAL OBLIGATION REQUEST FORM
STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM
MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD**

-----DATA REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974-----

AUTHORITY: Minnesota Statute 192.501 Financial Incentives for National Guard Members

PRINCIPLE PURPOSE: To explain obligation and participation requirements for State Tuition Reimbursement (STR) Program and to ensure that your agreement to these conditions is a matter of record.

ROUTINE USES: To confirm requirements of obligation and participation requirements for the STR Program, occasionally as a basis for suspension, termination and recoupment if requirements are not met. **Due no later than 45 days after the course start date.**

DISCLOSURE: Disclosure of your SSN is voluntary; however, if not provided, you will not be eligible for the STR Program.

DISCLAIMER: The funding available for the STR Program is limited by the appropriations set by the State Legislature. This contract is valid for payment provided funds are available in each fiscal year of eligibility.

Name: _____ SSN: _____ Rank: _____
(Last, First, MI)

Spouse Option? (Y/N) _____ Spouse Name (if using Spouse option): _____

Current Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Birth Date: _____ Sex: Male _____ Female _____ Race: _____

Pay Grade: _____ Enlistment Date: _____ **Member Status:** M-Day/Traditional - AGR - Technician

Assigned Unit: _____ Unit Phone Number: _____ Unit Email Address: _____

School Year: _____ Qtrs or Sems (Circle one) **School Attending:** _____

Course Type: Certificate _____ Associates _____ Bachelors _____ Masters _____ Doctorate _____

Anticipated **Number of Credits:** Summer2(Jul/Aug'13) _____ Fall _____ Winter _____ Spring _____ Summer1(May/Jun'14) _____

(OR) School Spouse is Attending: _____

Spouse Course: Certificate _____ Associates _____ Bachelors _____ Masters _____ Doctorate _____

SPOUSE Number of Credits: Summer2(Jul/Aug'13) _____ Fall _____ Winter _____ Spring _____ Summer1(May/Jun'14) _____

Have you completed basic training, basic military training, or have completed are enrolled in ROTC Leadership Course?
 Yes / No (Enter N/A for Direct Commissioned Officers -AMEDD/Chaplain/JAG officers)

Have you previously submitted a Minnesota Direct Deposit Authorization for EFT? Yes / No
If no, contact your unit for the MN Direct Deposit form (Annex D-1) and submit with this request.

Remarks: _____

I understand that this Annual Obligation Request is only an estimate and that the actual amount of tuition reimbursement will be based on the actual cost of tuition. I understand that I must complete all coursework with at least a "C" grade or better for undergraduate coursework and "B" or better for post-baccalaureate/graduate- level coursework.

*I further understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that my requests for **PAYMENT** for reimbursement are forwarded to my unit in order to arrive at the Education Services Office **no later than 90 days** from the last day of the term.*

SIGNATURE

DATE

PAYMENT REQUEST FORM
STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM
MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD

-----DATA REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974-----

AUTHORITY: Minnesota Statute 192.501 Financial Incentives for National Guard Members

PRINCIPLE PURPOSE: To explain obligation and participation requirements for the State Reimbursement Program (STR) and to ensure that your agreement to these conditions is a matter of record.

ROUTINE USES: To confirm obligation and participation requirements for the STR Program. This may be used as a basis for suspension, termination and recoupment if your requirements are not met.

INSTRUCTIONS: Upon course completion, complete this form, **ATTACH GRADE REPORT** and **FINAL FEE STATEMENT**. Submit all to your unit. The form must arrive at the ESO **no later than 90 DAYS** after the last official day of your course/ term. Payment requests submitted after 90 days will be returned to the unit without action or payment.

DISCLAIMER: The funding available for the STR Program is limited by the appropriations set by the State Legislature. Contract is valid for payment, provided funds are available in each fiscal year of eligibility.

Name: _____ SSN: _____

Spouse Option? Yes / No Spouse's Name (if using Spouse option): _____

Current Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Email Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Unit: _____ Member Status (Circle): M-Day/Traditional - AGR - Technician

School Year: _____ Qtrs or Sems (Circle one) School Attended: _____

Course Type: Certificate ___ Associates ___ Bachelors ___ Masters ___ Doctorate ___

TERM: Summer2 (Jul/Aug'13) ___ Fall ___ Winter ___ Spring ___ Summer1 (May/Jun'14) ___

Total Credits Attempted: ___ Credits Eligible for Reimbursement: ___ Tuition Charged: \$ _____

Note: Fee statement or letter from the school must reflect the actual amount of tuition charged and must also state any other federal benefits used for tuition.

Have you completed basic training, basic military training, or are you projected for the ROTC Leadership Course? Yes / No (Enter N/A for Direct Commissioned Officers -AMEDD/Chaplain/JAG officers)

My Minnesota Direct Deposit Authorization for EFT form is currently on file or attached. _____ (initial)

Did you receive CH 33/Post 9-11 GI Bill which directly paid tuition costs to the institution? Yes No
If YES, what was the amount \$ _____

Did you apply for Federal Tuition Assistance Yes No If YES, what was the amount received \$ _____

Did you receive an ROTC Scholarship which directly paid TUITION COSTS to the institution Yes No
If YES, what was the amount \$ _____ (Do not report Room and Board scholarship)

FAILURE TO REPORT THE ABOVE AWARDED AMOUNTS WILL RESULT IN TERMINATION FROM THE STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM.

I verify that the address and information on this form is correct. The documentation I have submitted, herewith, is true and correct. I understand that failure to report Federal Benefits which directly pay tuition costs to the institution may result in termination from the STR program for a period of one year.

Signature

Date

Unit Administrator's Use Only:

I have verified that the Service Member meets the following requirements for participation in the program:

- The Service Member has completed basic training, basic military training, or is an SMP contracted ROTC Cadet. (Not applicable for Direct Commission Officers-AMEDD/Chaplain/JAG officers).
- The Service Member has no more than four excused absences within the last 12 months.
- The Service Member has no unexcused absences within the last 12 months.
- The Service Member is currently deployable as per criteria required for his/her current duty position. If the Service Member is not deployable, I certify that he/she is making diligent progress towards becoming deployable, or is awaiting a Fit-for-Duty (FFD) determination by medical Review Board.
- The Service Member is not under suspension of favorable actions (ARNG) or adverse administrative actions (ANG) IAW applicable regulation and policy.
- The Service Member is in compliance with APFT, Height/Weight standards.

Printed name of Unit Administrator

Unit Phone #

Date

**STATE REENLISTMENT BONUS ADDENDUM
MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD FORM**

-----DATA REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974-----

AUTHORITY: Minnesota Statute 192.501 Financial Incentives for National Guard Members

PRINCIPLE PURPOSE: To explain obligation and participation requirements for the State Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) Program and to ensure that your agreement to these conditions is a matter of record.

ROUTINE USES: To outline and confirm eligibility requirements for the SRB Program participation. This may be used as a basis for suspension, termination and recoupment if requirements are not met.

DISCLOSURE: Disclosure of your SSN is voluntary; however, if not provided, you will not be eligible for the SRB Program.

DISCLAIMER: The funding available for the SRB Program is limited by the appropriations set by the State Legislature. This contract is valid for payment provided funds are available in each fiscal year of eligibility.

B-1. GENERAL: The unit should explain all procedures and entitlements of the SRB Program upon reenlisting. The reenlistment form, (e.g. DD Form 4, DA Form 4836 or Air Guard Extension Form), must be attached to this form, Annex B-1. A copy of both documents should be provided to the Service Member at the time of extension.

B-2. ELIGIBILITY: Upon my reenlistment in the Army or Air National Guard, I am eligible for a Reenlistment Bonus under the SRB Program if I meet the following criteria: *(Read and initial all. Note: Initial only one of letters "d" OR "e" and only one of "g" OR "h" and place NA in the block not applicable).*

a. My MOS/AFSC matches my assigned position and I hold the rank/grade of the position OR am no more than one grade below the required grade of the position. _____(initial).

b. I have been an active drilling member of the MN National Guard during the 3 months prior to the date of my reenlistment. _____(initial).

c. I am a satisfactory participant as defined in paragraph 1-7 of the State Circular on the date of my reenlistment. _____(initial).

d. I am receiving a Federal Reenlistment/Extension Bonus and understand that if the federal bonus is less than the authorized full SRB Program entitlement, I am only eligible for the difference for the same contractual period of service. _____(initial). **(OR)**

e. I am not receiving a Federal Reenlistment/Extension Bonus for an amount greater than the SRB _____(initial).

f. I am currently not employed full-time as an AGR or Dual Status Federal Technician (Permanent or Indefinite status) _____(Initial).

g. I have **completed 6 years of total time in service creditable for retirement and I have 12 or fewer years of service creditable for retirement** at current Expiration Term of Service (ETS) date. I understand any time served in the IRR or the ING is not considered as part of "creditable retirement" service for this purpose. Source verifying documents are the NGB Form 23B (RPAM) or ANG PCARS forms. I am reenlisting for **3** years within 1 year prior, or 24 hours after, completion of my current ETS. _____(Initial). **(OR)**

h. I have **completed 6 years of total time in service creditable for retirement and I have 12 or fewer years of service creditable for retirement** at current Expiration Term of Service (ETS) date. I understand any time served in the IRR or the ING is not considered as part of "creditable retirement" service for this purpose. Source verifying documents are the NGB Form 23B (RPAM) or ANG PCARS forms. I am re-enlisting for **6** years within 1 year prior, or 24 hours after, completion of my current ETS. _____(Initial).

B-3. BONUS AMOUNT and PAYMENTS: Incentive amount and payments will be as follows (*Initial either item 1 OR 2 and place NA in the one not applicable*). (*Payments are based on the MN National Guard Circular 621-5-1 in effect at the time of your Reenlistment*):

a. I will receive a bonus of \$3,000 for a 3-year reenlistment or \$5,000 for a 6-year reenlistment as indicated below.

(1) _____ For a 3 year reenlistment I will receive a total bonus of \$3,000. The first \$1,000 payment will be processed on the anniversary date of ETS (after the first year the reenlistment contract is complete). Additional payments of \$1,000 will be paid once a year during my anniversary month. If I am eligible to receive a 3 year Federal Reenlistment Bonus, the total amount of the 3 yr Federal Reenlistment Bonus will be deducted from the \$3,000 State Reenlistment Bonus. I am only eligible to receive the difference of the amount.

(2) _____ For a 6 year reenlistment I will receive a total bonus of \$5,000. The first \$1,000 payment will be processed on the anniversary date of ETS (after the first year the reenlistment contract is complete). Additional payments of \$1,000 will be paid once a year during my anniversary month until the \$5,000 limit is met. If I am eligible to receive a 6 year Federal Reenlistment Bonus, the total amount of the 6 yr Federal Reenlistment Bonus will be deducted from the \$5,000. I am only eligible to receive the difference of the amount.

b. I understand that I will not receive payment if I do not meet the eligibility outlined in paragraph B-2 of this document at the time my reenlistment takes effect. My reenlistment will be verified and certified by the ESO office prior to any payment being processed.

c. I understand that I am only eligible to receive a maximum of \$5000.00 under the State Reenlistment Bonus program during my career.

d. State payments are made via direct deposit using Minnesota Direct Deposit Authorization for EFT (Annex D-1). If my form is not on file, I will attach a current Annex D-1 which includes the W-9 form.

B-4. TERMINATION OF BONUS PAYMENTS: I understand I will be terminated from bonus eligibility if I:

a. Become an unsatisfactory participant by—

(1) Accumulating more than four (4) excused absences within a 12-month period. Termination will take effect on the date of the 5th excused absence.

(2) Accumulate 1 unexcused absence. Termination will take effect on the date of the 1st unexcused absence.

(3) Fail to attend or complete Annual Training (AT) without Commander approval. Termination will take effect on the first day of annual training.

(4) Not being deployable as per criteria required for my current duty position, or, I'm not making diligent progress toward becoming deployable, or I'm non-compliant with Fit-for Duty requirements. Termination will take effect on the date of the non-deployability. (There is no termination for those that are determined thru a FFD medical evaluation to be "retained/non-deployable").

(5) Being under suspension of favorable actions (Army) or adverse administrative actions (Air) IAW applicable regulation and policy. Termination will take effect on the date of suspension of favorable actions.

(6) Not being in compliance with APFT/PT, Height/Weight standards.

b. Fail to extend my enlistment for time served in the ING within 30 days after return to my unit. Termination is required from the effective date of transfer to the ING.

c. Exceed maximum time in the ING (of more than one year). Termination is required from the date of transfer into the ING.

d. Separate from the Minnesota National Guard and enter active duty in a U.S. Armed service or Reserve Unit. Termination is required.

e. Separate from the Minnesota National Guard for any reason (Termination *is required*) unless due to death, injury, illness, or other impairment not the result of my own misconduct.

f. The ESO will recoup a prorated amount of the bonus if the Service Member does not fulfill their contracted service obligation.

B-5. TERMINATION WITHOUT RECOUPMENT.

a. I understand that if I Inter-State Transfer (IST) to another State National Guard unit, my Reenlistment bonus will be terminated without recoupment. All subsequent payments will not be paid.

b. I understand that my Reenlistment bonus will be terminated without recoupment if I accept a commission/appointment as an officer/warrant officer into the Minnesota National Guard.

c. I understand that if I'm discharged due to a Service Connected Injury or Illness that is determined not to be the result of my own misconduct and the injury or illness occurred while not assigned to a designated combat zone or combat related operation that I will have my bonus terminated without recoupment. Any subsequent payments scheduled will not be paid.

d. I understand that my bonus will be terminated without recoupment if I accept a permanent Federal Technician position or Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) billet. All subsequent payments will not be paid.

B-6. STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING: I have read this addendum and understand the requirements of my reenlistment bonus. I understand that this addendum will be void if I do not meet all of the requirements. No other promises have been made to me in connection with this reenlistment bonus addendum of signature.

Date Signed Signature of Service Member

Typed or Printed Name SSN of Service Member

Typed or Printed Address of Service Member

VERIFICATION BY SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE:

Unit/Address/Phone Number Date of signature

Typed/Printed Name/Rank of Enlisting Official Signature of Enlisting Official

----- FOR ESO USE ONLY -----

Contract was verified by State Program Manager for accuracy.

Printed name and Signature of program manager Date

**STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING
MEDIC RECERTIFICATION BONUS
MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD**

-----DATA REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974-----

AUTHORITY: Minnesota Statute 192.501 Financial Incentives for National Guard Members

PRINCIPLE PURPOSE: To explain obligation and participation requirements for State Medic Recertification Bonus and to ensure that your agreement to these conditions is a matter of record.

ROUTINE USES: To confirm requirements of obligation and participation requirements for the State Medic Recertification Bonus, occasionally as a basis for suspension, termination and recoupment if requirements are not met.

DISCLOSURE: Disclosure of your SSN is voluntary; however, if not provided, you will not be eligible for the State Medic Recertification Bonus.

DISCLAIMER: The funding available for the State Medic Recertification Program is limited by the appropriations set by the State Legislature. This contract is valid for payment provided funds are available in each fiscal year of eligibility.

C-1. ELIGIBILITY: Upon my completion of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technician recertification(NREMT), I am eligible for a Medic Recertification Bonus under the State Medic Recertification Bonus Program if I meet the following criteria:

- a. I am qualified in and hold Medic MOS/AFSC (68W) as my primary MOS/AFSC, and I am assigned to a valid Medic MOS/AFSC duty position and hold the rank and grade of, or am no more than one grade below, the required grade of the position.
- b. I agree to serve for a period of 2 years beginning the day after NREMT recertification.
- c. I have a current NREMT card.
- d. I have been a satisfactory participant defined by the Adjutant General in paragraph 1-7 prior to the date of my NREMT recertification.
- e. I have not allowed my NREMT certification to expire within the past two (2) years.

C-2. BONUS AMOUNT and PAYMENT: Incentive amount and payment will be as follows:

- a. I will receive a bonus of \$1,000 payable in split disbursement of \$500 each year for a 2-year service obligation as an EMT-B qualified medic. Initial Payment of \$500 will be paid one (1) year after NREMT recertification date. The subsequent payment of \$500 will be paid two (2) years after NREMT recertification date.
- b. I understand that I will not receive payment if I do not meet the eligibility outlined in paragraph C-1 of this ANNEX at the time my service obligation takes effect. My completion of training will be verified and certified by the State ESO office prior to any payment being processed.
- c. State payments are made via direct deposit using Minnesota Direct Deposit Authorization for EFT (Annex D-1). If my form is not on file, I will attach a current Annex D-1 which includes the W-9 form.

C-3. TERMINATION OF BONUS PAYMENTS: I understand I will be terminated from bonus eligibility if I:

- a. Become an unsatisfactory participant by—
 - (1) Accumulating more than four (4) excused absences within a 12-month period. Termination will take effect on the date of the 5th excused absence.
 - (2) Accumulate 1 unexcused absence. Termination will take effect on the date of the 1st unexcused absence.
 - (3) Fail to attend or complete Annual Training (AT) without Commander approval. Termination will take effect on the first day of annual training.
 - (4) Not being deployable as per criteria required for my current duty position, or, I'm not making diligent progress toward becoming deployable, or I'm non-compliant with Fit-for Duty requirements. Termination will take effect on the date of

the non-deplorability. (There are no recoupments for those that are determined thru a FFD medical evaluation to be "retained/non-deployable").

(5) Being under suspension of favorable actions (Army) or adverse administrative actions (Air) IAW applicable regulation and policy. Termination will take effect on the date of suspension of favorable actions.

(6) Not being in compliance with APFT/PT, Height/Weight standards.

b. Fail to extend my enlistment for time served in the ING within 30 days after return to my unit. Termination is required from the effective date of transfer to the ING.

c. Exceed maximum time in the ING (one year). Termination is required from the date of transfer into the ING.

d. Separate from the Minnesota National Guard and enter active duty in a U.S. Armed service. Termination is required.

e. Separate from the Minnesota National Guard for any reason unless due to death, injury, illness, or other impairment not the result of my own misconduct.

f. The ESO will recoup a prorated amount of the bonus if the Service Member does not fulfill their contracted service obligation.

C-4 TERMINATION WITHOUT RECOUPMENT. I understand my Medic Bonus will be terminated without recoupment if I:

a. Inter-State Transfer (IST) to another State National Guard unit.

b. Accept a Commission/Appointment into the Minnesota Army National Guard.

c. I understand that if I'm discharged due to a Service Connected Injury or Illness that is determined not to be the result of my own misconduct and the injury or illness occurred while not assigned to a designated combat zone or combat related operation that I will have my Medic Bonus terminated without recoupment. Any subsequent payments scheduled will not be paid.

d. Reclassification into a non-medic MOS/AFSC.

C-5. STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING: I have read this addendum and understand the requirements of my reenlistment bonus. I understand that this addendum will be void if I do not meet all of the requirements. No other promises have been made to me in connection with this reenlistment bonus addendum of signature.

Date Signed

Signature of Service Member or Airman

Typed or Printed Name

SSN of Service Member or Airman

Typed or Printed Address of Service Member or Airmen

VERIFICATION BY SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE:

Unit/Address/Phone Number

Date of signature

Typed/Printed Name/Rank of Unit Representative

Signature of Unit Representative

----- FOR ESO USE ONLY -----

Contract was verified by State Program Manager for accuracy.

Printed name and Signature of program manager
(Must be reviewed by program manager prior to payment.)

Date

EXTENDED ELIGIBILITY PROGRAM

MINNESOTA STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FALL 13-SUMMER 14

E-1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT.

I, _____ (Full Name), certify that I have read this memorandum prior to signing and fully understand the policies and procedures of the Minnesota Extended State Tuition Reimbursement (EXT STR) Program as described in Minnesota National Guard Circular 621-5-1 and this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

E-2. INTRODUCTION.

a. The State of Minnesota sponsors the EXT STR Program. The state legislature appropriates funds for this program biennially. If in the future, the state does not fund the EXT STR Program, or funds are depleted, neither the State of Minnesota nor the Minnesota National Guard is obligated to continue such a program or pay out existing obligations.

b. I understand the EXT STR Program will reimburse me up to 100% of the Semester Hour tuition charged, not to exceed a maximum of \$13,000.00 per state fiscal year for Undergraduate coursework and \$22,000 for Graduate coursework. I understand my reimbursement will not exceed 100% of the University of Minnesota (U of M) Twin Cities undergraduate campus Resident Semester Hour rate for undergraduate coursework or the Resident General Tuition Rate at the U of M Twin Cities Graduate School for Graduate coursework. The maximum reimbursement for Quarter Hours (QH) is 2/3rds (66.6%) of the Semester Hour (SH) rate at the U of M.

c. I understand that the U of M tuition rates for the current academic year can be found at http://onestop.umn.edu/finances/costs_and_tuition/index.html.

d. I understand that if I receive federal benefits which pay tuition benefits directly to the institution, then the combination of federal benefits and EXT STR cannot exceed 100% of the tuition cost or the EXT STR maximum credit hour benefit, whichever is less. Federal benefits include, but are not limited to: CH 33/Post 9-11 GI Bill.

e. I understand that reimbursement is not authorized for activity fees, computer user fees, registration fees, books, room and board expenses, and other school-related fees.

E-3. CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION.

a. I understand the following requirements for participation:

(1) I have satisfactorily completed my service contract from the MNARNG per paragraph 2-2 of the State Circular 621-5-1 and I'm not currently serving in any branch of the U.S. Armed Forces under an active service contract.

(2) I must attend courses taken at an accredited post secondary educational institution and courses are eligible for placement on a transcript from the post secondary educational institution.

(3) I will be reimbursed only for courses that are eligible for placement on a transcript from the educational institution. Courses that earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are not eligible for the STR Program.

(4) The maximum lifetime benefit that I may receive under this program is equivalent to 208 quarter/144 semester credits. Additionally, I understand that if my EXT STR period expires during the course/term, I am not eligible for reimbursement for that course/term.

(5) Undergraduate Study. I must achieve a grade of "C" or better, "Pass" or "Satisfactory." I understand that the National Guard will not reimburse me for any course from which I "withdraw" or receive a grade of "C-" or lower.

(6) Graduate Work. I must achieve a grade of "B" or better. I understand that the National Guard will not reimburse me for any course from which I "withdraw" or receive a grade of "B-" or lower.

b. I understand that I will be eligible for reimbursement for the course upon completion, and if the grade requirements outlined above are met.

E-4. REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURES.

a. Memorandum of Understanding. Annually, I will carefully read, sign and submit a MOU (Annex E-1) to the State Education Services Office (ESO).

b. Annual Obligation Request.

(1) I must complete the Annual Obligation Request (Annex E-2) and submit it to the ESO within 45 days of the course/term start date.

(2) I understand that the annual obligation is an estimate of tuition cost for each term during the school year. The actual amount of reimbursement is dependent on the school, credits and terms attended. The school year is Summer Session II 2013 through Summer Session I 2014.

(3) I understand that failure to obligate will result in non-payment for that course/term.

c. Request for Reimbursement Payment:

(1) I understand that I must submit the following forms and supporting documents to the ESO within 90 days after the last official day of the term. Service Members and Airmen enrolled in accelerated programs, where several terms are completed during the course of a normal semester/quarter schedule, should submit requests in groups that correspond with a normal semester/quarter. Request payment no more than once for each semester: Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer 1 and Summer 2 terms.

a. Payment Request Form (Annex E-3).

b. Grade Report. Grades from the internet are acceptable.

c. Fee statement that clearly shows the amount of tuition charged. The final fee statement must include all other benefits paid, or pending payment, directly to the institution on the Service Member's behalf (e.g. CH 33/Post 9-11 GI BILL). If the fee statement does not clearly show the amount of tuition charged or other federal payments, I will obtain a letter from the institution that includes this information and lists a point of contact at the institution.

d. Direct deposit form – State payments are made via direct deposit using Minnesota Direct Deposit Authorization for EFT (ANNEX D-1). If my form is not on file, I will attach a current Annex D-1 which includes the W-9 form.

(2) I understand that my signature on the MOU (Annex E-1) will verify that all information is true and correct. My signature also authorizes the ESO to contact the school to verify course grades.

(3) I understand that I must submit my request for tuition reimbursement within 90 days after the last official day of that course/term. I understand that if I fail to meet this suspense, I am not eligible for reimbursement.

E-5 INCOMPLETE COURSEWORK AND LATE REQUESTS.

a. Incomplete Coursework.

(1) I understand that if I have an incomplete course, that I should still request payment for all completed classes for that course/term, by submitting documents to my unit within the 90 day suspense date. The ESO will reimburse for these courses provided the annual obligation was submitted and funds are available. Retain a copy of your Annex E-3 and paperwork to submit upon completion of incomplete coursework.

(a) On initial submission, I must annotate the classes that are incomplete in the remarks block and the expected completion date.

(b) I must submit initial request for reimbursement, along with fee statement and grades to the ESO within 90 days.

(2) I understand that upon completion of the coursework, I must complete a new Payment Request Form (Annex E-3) requesting reimbursement for only the courses that were originally incomplete but are now complete. I must provide this request along with a grade report showing satisfactory completion and a copy of the original payment request to the ESO.

b. Late Requests for Tuition Reimbursement. If I miss the 90-day suspense, the obligation will be terminated. No reimbursement request will be approved for that course/term.

E-6 TERMINATION. I understand that the submission of a falsified grade report, transcript or fee statement, or an attempt to receive funds for which I'm not eligible, results in termination from the EXT STR Program for a minimum of one year.

E-7. STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT.

I fully understand the directives outlined herein and in MNNG CIR 621-5-1 and my responsibilities for participation in the Minnesota State Tuition Reimbursement Program.

Signature

Date

EXTENDED ELIGIBILITY PROGRAM

**MINNESOTA STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT
ANNUAL OBLIGATION REQUEST FORM**

----DATA REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974----

AUTHORITY: Minnesota Statute 192.501 Financial Incentives for National Guard Members

PRINCIPLE PURPOSE: To explain obligation and participation requirements for Extended State Tuition Reimbursement (EXT STR) Program and to ensure that your agreement to these conditions is a matter of record.

ROUTINE USES: To confirm requirements of obligation and participation requirements for the EXT STR Program, occasionally as a basis for suspension, termination and recoupment if requirements are not met. **Due no later than 45 days of the course start date.**

DISCLOSURE: Disclosure of your SSN is voluntary; however, if not provided, you will not be eligible for the EXT STR Program.

DISCLAIMER: The funding available for the EXT STR Program is limited by the appropriations set by the State Legislature. This contract is valid for payment provided funds are available in each fiscal year of eligibility.

Name: _____ SSN: _____
(Last, First, MI)

Current Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Birth Date: _____ Sex: Male _____ Female _____ Race: _____

School Year: _____ Qtrs or Sems (Circle one) School Attending: _____

Course Type: Certificate _____ Associates _____ Bachelors _____ Masters _____ Doctorate _____

Anticipated **Number of Credits:** Summer2(Jul/Aug'13) _____ Fall _____ Winter _____ Spring _____ Summer1(May/Jun'14) _____

Have you previously submitted a Minnesota Direct Deposit Authorization for EFT? Yes / No
If no, contact the ESO for the MN Direct Deposit form (Annex D-1) and submit with this request.

Remarks:

I understand that this Annual Obligation Request is only an estimate and that the actual amount of tuition reimbursement will be based on the actual cost of tuition. I understand that I must complete all coursework at least a "C" grade of better for undergraduate and "B" or better for post-baccalaureate/graduate- level coursework. I further understand that I'm not eligible for reimbursement under the EXT STR program if I'm currently serving or become an active serving member in any active branch or component of the U.S. Armed Forces during the school term for which I'm requesting EXT STR.

*I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that my request for reimbursement begins with forwarding this obligation form to the Education Service Office **no later than 45 days** of the course start date.*

*I further understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that my requests for reimbursement are forwarded to the Education Services Office **within 90 days** of the last day of the term.*

(SIGNATURE)

(DATE)

EXTENDED ELIGIBILITY PROGRAM

**MINNESOTA STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT
PAYMENT REQUEST FORM**

----DATA REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974----

AUTHORITY: Minnesota Statute 192.501 Financial Incentives for National Guard Members
PRINCIPLE PURPOSE: To explain obligation and participation requirements for Extended State Tuition Reimbursement (EXT STR) Program and to ensure that your agreement to these conditions is a matter of record.
ROUTINE USES: To confirm requirements of obligation and participation requirements for the EXT STR Program, occasionally as a basis for suspension, termination and recoupment if requirements are not met.
INSTRUCTIONS: Complete this form, **attach grade report** and a **fee statement** and submit to ESO. The form must arrive at the ESO **within 90 days** after the last official day of the term.
DISCLAIMER: The funding available for the EXT STR Program is limited by the appropriations set by the State Legislature. This contract is valid for payment provided funds are available in each fiscal year of eligibility.

Name: _____ SSN: _____
Current Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____
Zip Code: _____ Email Address: _____ Telephone: _____
School Year _____ Qtrs or Sems (Circle one) School Attended _____
Course Type: Certificate ___ Associates ___ Bachelors ___ Masters ___ Doctorate ___
Anticipated **Number of Credits:** Summer2(Jul/Aug'13) _____ Fall _____ Winter _____ Spring _____ Summer1(May/Jun'14) _____
Total Number of Credits Attempted: _____ Credits Eligible for Reimbursement: _____ Tuition Charged: \$ _____
Note: Fee statement or letter from the school must reflect the actual amount of tuition charged.
My Minnesota Direct Deposit Authorization for EFT form is currently on file or attached. _____ (initial)
Did you receive CH33/Post 9-11 GI Bill Benefits which directly paid tuition costs to the institution? Yes / No
If YES, what was the amount \$ _____

Remarks:

I verify that the address and information on this form is correct. The documentation I have submitted, herewith, is true and correct.

Signature Date

----- FOR ESO USE ONLY -----

Contract was verified by State Program Manager for accuracy.

Printed name and Signature of program manager Date

(Must be reviewed by program manager prior to payment being made.)

SURVIVOR STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM**MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FALL 13-SUMMER 14****F-1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT.**

I, _____ (Full Name), certify that I have read this memorandum prior to signing and fully understand the policies and procedures of the Minnesota State Tuition Reimbursements (STR) Program as described in Minnesota National Guard Circular 621-5-1 and this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

F-2. INTRODUCTION.

a. The State of Minnesota sponsors the STR Program. The state legislature appropriates funds for this program biennially. If in the future, the state does not fund the STR Program, or funds are depleted, neither the State of Minnesota nor the Minnesota National Guard is obligated to continue such a program or pay out existing obligations.

b. I understand the STR Program will reimburse me up to 100% of the Semester Hour tuition charged, not to exceed a maximum of \$13,000.00 per state fiscal year for Undergraduate coursework and \$22,000 for Graduate coursework. I understand my reimbursement will not exceed 100% of the University of Minnesota (U of M) Twin Cities undergraduate campus Resident Semester Hour rate for undergraduate coursework or the Resident General Tuition Rate at the U of M Twin Cities Graduate School for Graduate coursework. The maximum reimbursement for Quarter Hours (QH) is 2/3rds (66.6%) of the Semester Hour (SH) rate at the U of M.

c. I understand that reimbursement is not authorized for activity fees, computer user fees, registration fees, books, room and board expenses, and other school-related fees.

F-3. CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION.

a. I understand the following additional requirements:

(1) I must attend courses taken at an accredited post secondary educational institution and courses are eligible for placement on a transcript from the post secondary educational institution.

(2) I will be reimbursed only for courses that are eligible for placement on a transcript from the educational institution. Courses that earn Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are not eligible for the STR Program.

(3) The maximum lifetime benefit that I may receive under this program is equivalent to 208 quarter/144 semester credits. Additionally, I understand that if my Survivor STR period expires during the course/term, I am not eligible for reimbursement for that course/term.

(4) Undergraduate Study. I must achieve a grade of "C" or better, "Pass" or "Satisfactory." I understand that the National Guard will not reimburse me for any course from which I "withdraw" or receive a grade of "C-" or lower.

(5) Graduate Work. I must achieve a grade of "B" or better. I understand that the National Guard will not reimburse me for any course from which I "withdraw" or receive a grade of "B-" or lower.

b. I understand that I will be eligible for reimbursement for the course upon completion, and if the grade requirements outlined above are met.

F-4. REIMBURSEMENT PROCEDURES.

a. Memorandum of Understanding. Annually, I will carefully read, sign and submit an MOU to The Education Service Office (ESO).

b. Annual Obligation Request.

(1) I must complete the Annual Obligation Request (Annex F-2) and submit it to the ESO within 45 days of the course/term start date

(2) I understand that the annual obligation is an estimate of tuition cost for each term during the school year. The actual amount of reimbursement is dependent on the school, credits and terms attended. The school year is Summer Session II 2013 through Summer Session I 2014.

(3) I understand that failure to obligate may result in non-payment for that course/term.

c. Request for Reimbursement Payment.

(1) I understand that I must submit the following forms and supporting documents to the ESO within 90 days after the last official day of the term. Students enrolled in accelerated programs, where several terms are completed during the course of a normal semester should submit their requests in groups that correspond with a normal semester. Request payment no more than once for each Semester: Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer 1 and Summer 2.

(a) Payment Request Form (Annex F-3).

(b) Grade Report. Grades from the internet are acceptable.

(c) Fee statement dated after course completion and provided by the institution that clearly shows the amount of tuition charged. The final fee statement must include all other benefits paid, or pending payment, directly to the institution on the student's behalf (e.g. CH 33/Post 9-11 GI BILL). If the fee statement does not clearly show the amount of tuition charged or other federal payments, I will obtain a letter from the institution that includes this information and lists a point of contact at the institution.

(2) I understand that my signature on the Annex F-3 verifies that all information is true and correct. My signature also authorizes the ESO to contact the school to verify course grades.

(3) I understand that I must submit my request for tuition reimbursement within 90 days after the last official day of the course.

F-5 INCOMPLETE COURSEWORK AND LATE REQUESTS.

a. Incomplete Coursework.

(1) I understand that if I have an incomplete course, that I should still request payment for all completed classes for that course/term, by submitting documents to my unit within the 90 day suspense date. The ESO will reimburse for these courses provided the annual obligation was submitted and funds are available. Retain a copy of your Annex F-3 and paperwork to submit upon completion of incomplete coursework.

(a) On initial submission, I must annotate the classes that are incomplete in the remarks block and the expected completion date.

(b) I must submit initial request for reimbursement, along with fee statement and grades to the ESO within 90 days.

(2) I understand that upon completion of the coursework, I must complete a new Payment Request Form (Annex F-3) requesting reimbursement for only the courses that were originally incomplete but are now complete. I must provide this request along with a grade report showing satisfactory completion and a copy of the original payment request to the ESO.

b. Late Requests for Tuition Reimbursement. If I miss the 90-day suspense, the obligation will be terminated. No reimbursement request will be approved for that course/term.

F-6 **TERMINATION.** I understand that the submission of a falsified grade report, transcript or fee statement, or an attempt to receive funds for which I'm not eligible, results in termination from the STR Program for a minimum of one year.

F-7. **STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING AND COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT.**

I fully understand the directives outlined herein and in MNNG CIR 621-5-1 and my responsibilities for participation in the Minnesota State Tuition Reimbursement Program

Signature of Student

Date

Signature of ESO

Date

SURVIVOR STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD ANNUAL OBLIGATION REQUEST FORM

-----DATA REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974-----

AUTHORITY: Minnesota Statute 192.501 Financial Incentives for National Guard Members

PRINCIPLE PURPOSE: To explain obligation and participation requirements for State Tuition Reimbursement (STR) Program and to ensure that your agreement to these conditions is a matter of record.

ROUTINE USES: To confirm requirements of obligation and participation requirements for the STR Program, occasionally as a basis for suspension, termination and recoupment if requirements are not met.

DISCLOSURE: Disclosure of your SSN is voluntary; however, if not provided, you will not be eligible for the STR Program.

DISCLAIMER: The funding available for the STR Program is limited by the appropriations set by the State Legislature. This contract is valid for payment provided funds are available in each fiscal year of eligibility.-----

Name: _____ SSN: _____
(Last, First, MI)

Current Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Birth Date: _____ Sex: Male _____ Female _____ Race: _____

School Year: _____ Qtrs or Sems (Circle one) School Attending: _____

Course Type: Certificate ___ Associates ___ Bachelors ___ Masters ___ Doctorate ___

Anticipated **Number of Credits:** Summer2(Jul/Aug'13) _____ Fall _____ Winter _____ Spring _____ Summer1(May/Jun'14) _____

Have you previously submitted a Minnesota Direct Deposit Authorization for EFT? Yes / No
If no, contact the ESO for the MN Direct Deposit form (Annex D-1) and submit with this request.

Remarks:

I understand that this Annual Obligation Request is only an estimate and that the actual amount of tuition reimbursement will be based on the actual cost of tuition. I understand that I must complete all coursework at least a "C" grade or better for undergraduate and "B" or better for post-baccalaureate/graduate- level coursework

*I further understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that my requests for reimbursement are forwarded to the Education Services Office **within 90 days** of the last day of the term.*

(SIGNATURE)

(DATE)

SURVIVOR STATE TUITION REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD PAYMENT REQUEST

-----DATA REQUIRED BY THE PRIVACY ACT OF 1974-----

AUTHORITY: Minnesota Statute 192.501 Financial Incentives for National Guard Members

PRINCIPLE PURPOSE: To explain obligation and participation requirements for State Tuition Reimbursement (STR) Program and to ensure that your agreement to these conditions is a matter of record.

ROUTINE USES: To confirm requirements of obligation and participation requirements for the STR Program, occasionally as a basis for suspension, termination and recoupment if requirements are not met.

DISCLOSURE: Disclosure of your SSN is voluntary; however, if not provided, you will not be eligible for the STR Program.

DISCLAIMER: The funding available for the STR Program is limited by the appropriations set by the State Legislature. This contract is valid for payment provided funds are available in each fiscal year of eligibility.

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete this form, attach grade report and a fee statement and mail to: The Department of Military Affairs, Veteran Service Building, 20 12th Street West, Saint Paul, MN 55155. The form must arrive at the ESO within 90 days after the last official day of the term.

Name: _____ SSN: _____

Current Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Email Address: _____ Telephone: _____

School Year _____ Qtrs or Sems (Circle one) School Attended _____

Course Type: Certificate ___ Associates ___ Bachelors ___ Masters ___ Doctorate ___

TERM: Summer2(Jul/Aug'13) ___ Fall ___ Winter ___ Spring ___ Summer1(May/Jun'14) ___

Total Number of Credits Attempted: _____ Credits Eligible for Reimbursement: _____ Tuition Charged: \$ _____

Note: Fee statement or letter from the school must reflect the actual amount of tuition charged.

My Minnesota Direct Deposit Authorization for EFT form is currently on file or attached. _____ (Initial)

Did you receive CH 33/Post 9-11 GI Bill Benefits which directly paid tuition costs to the institution? Yes ___ No ___
If YES, what was the amount \$ _____

Remarks:

I verify that the address and information on this form is correct. The documentation I have submitted, herewith, is true and correct.

Signature

Date

----- FOR ESO USE ONLY -----

Contract was verified by State Program Manager for accuracy.

Printed name and Signature of program manager Date

(Must be reviewed by program manager prior to payment being made.)

UNIT LETTERHEAD

UNIT OFFICE SYMBOL

DATE

MEMORANDUM FOR The Adjutant General of Minnesota National Guard, Joint Forces
Headquarters, 20 12th ST West, St Paul, MN, 55155

SUBJECT: Acknowledgement of Contractual Service Obligation for use of Medical Professional State
Tuition Reimbursement.

1. I acknowledge that I incur a (initial letter "a" if you have ever received Medical Professional STR prior to 1 JUL 2013; or, letter "b" if you began receiving Medical Professional STR after 01 JUL 2014).
 - a. _____ One-year Contractual service obligation for every year of use of Medical Professional STR.
 - b. _____ Two-Year contractual service obligation for every year of use of Medical Professional STR.
2. This contractual service obligation will begin effective (initial letter "a." if you are a Dental or Physician Assistant Officer; or, letter "b." if you are a Medical Officer):
 - a. _____ the day after the course completion date for the last term of reimbursement use under the provisions of Chapter 4 (typically the date the medical professional degree is conferred).
 - b. _____ the day after the completion of the residency program.
3. I acknowledge that this contractual obligation will run concurrently with any other obligations I may have incurred.
4. I further acknowledge that I must serve in an active status in the National Guard during the period of this obligation requirement.

Soldier Signature Block