

**West Virginia Army National Guard
Officer Commissioning Programs**

(304) 561-6385/(800) 642-3619

**The West Virginia Army National Guard needs strong leadership. Consider becoming an officer.
Consider making a difference!**

Our soldiers need quality first line leaders
You are highly trained, motivated, educated

Why Become an Officer?

Increased responsibility
Patriotism
Challenges
Build your resume
Develop your leadership style
Make a difference
Employers seek military leaders

Officer Programs.

I. State Officer Candidate School (OCS) is a 3-phase program conducted during Inactive Duty Training (IDT) weekends and two 15-day Annual Training (AT) periods. The entire program takes 18 months to complete. This OCS program is conducted by the 197th Regional Training Institute (RTI) according to the following schedule. . .

Example:

Phase 0	Preparatory training begins with weekend training assemblies at Camp Dawson in February through May of each year
Phase I	A 15-day AT period in July at Camp Fredrick, Maryland
Phase II	IDT (weekend training) at Camp Dawson begins immediately after Phase I, August through June of the following year
Phase III	A 15-day AT period at Fort McClellan, Alabama in July of your second year
Graduation	Lieutenant Bar is pinned on in August of your second year

Approximately 6 months prior to completion of state OCS, you will choose an officer branch and unit of assignment. Upon completion of the Accelerated OCS program, you will receive your commission and the “gold” bar.

a. State OCS Enrollment Criteria:

- Minimum of 60 semester credits prior o Phase I start date
- Minimum GT score from ASVAB of 110
- Minimum age 18, maximum age 30 to commission (up to age 35 with state waiver)
- AIT graduate unless OCS enlistment option
- Pass standard 3-event Army Physical Fitness Test / Meet height and weight standards
- Have a secret security clearance or a clearance request submitted
- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Pass a medical examination for commission (Chapter 2, AR 40-501)
- All physical or moral waivers must have been requested (if applicable)

b. Additional Criteria for Commission as a 2LT

Minimum of 90 semester hours

Minimum SAT/850 or ACT/19 (NA if college graduate)

Pass another standard 3-event APFT / Continue to meet height and weight standards

c. Incentives:

Paid as an E6

MGIB Kicker of \$350.00

Commissioning bonus of \$2,000.

II. The National Guard Bureau's Accelerated OCS (501) program is challenging 8-week, 3-Phase program conducted at Fort McClellan, Alabama. It is conducted only once each year between January and March.

Prior to departing for the 501 program, you will have to choose a branch and unit to be appointed in – your unit/battalion commander will assist you with these choices. Upon completion of the Accelerated OCS program, you may receive your commission and gold bar as early as mid April.

a. Accelerated OCS (501) /enrollment/Appointment Criteria:

Minimum of 90 semester credits

Minimum SAT/850 or ACT/19 (N/A if college graduate)

Minimum GT score (from ASVAB) of 110

Minimum age 18, maximum age 30 (up to age 35 with state waiver)

AIT graduate unless enlisted under the OCS enlistment option

Pass standard 3-event Army Physical Fitness Test / Meet height and weight standards

Have a secret security clearance or a clearance request submitted

Must be a U.S. citizen

Pass a medical examination for commission (Chapter 2, AR 40-501)

All physical or moral waivers must have been approved (if applicable)

b. Incentives:

Paid as an E6

MGIB Kicker of \$350.00

III. The National Guard Bureau's Accelerated Summer OCS Program is challenging 8-week, 3-Phase program conducted at Camp Fredrick, Maryland, Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania, and Fort McClellan, Alabama. It is conducted in the months of June - August.

Prior to departing for the Accelerated Summer OCS Program, you will have to choose a branch and unit to be appointed in – your unit/battalion commander will assist you with these choices. Upon completion of the Accelerated OCS program, you will receive your commission and gold bar in August of that year.

a. Accelerated OCS /enrollment/Appointment Criteria:

Minimum of 90 semester credits

Minimum SAT/850 or ACT/19 (N/A if college graduate)

Minimum GT score (from ASVAB) of 110

Minimum age 18, maximum age 30 (up to age 35 with state waiver)

AIT graduate unless enlisted under the OCS enlistment option

Pass standard 3-event Army Physical Fitness Test / Meet height and weight standards

Have a secret security clearance or an interim secret clearance

Must be a U.S. citizen

Pass a medical examination for commission (Chapter 2, AR 40-501)

All physical or moral waivers must have been approved (if applicable)

b. Incentives:

Paid as an E6

MGIB Kicker of \$350.00

IV. Federal OCS is a 14-week program conducted at Ft. Benning, Georgia, home of the Infantry. Here you learn “officership” with male and female soldiers from the Active Army, National Guard and Army Reserve. There are many opportunities throughout the training year to attend one of the OCS classes.

Prior to departing for the federal OCS program, you will have to choose a branch and unit to be appointed in your unit/battalion commander will assist you with these choices. Upon completion of the OCS, you will receive your commission and the gold bar pinned on during a graduation ceremony at Ft. Benning.

a. Federal OCS Enrollment/Appointment Criteria:

- Minimum of 90 semester credits
- Minimum SAT/850 or ACT/19 (NA if college graduate)
- Minimum GT score of 110 (from ASVAB)
- Minimum age 18, maximum age 30 (up to age 35 with state waiver)
- AIT graduate unless OCS enlistment option
- Pass standard 3-event Army Physical Fitness Test / Meet height and weight standards
- Have a secret security clearance or a clearance request submitted
- Must be a U.S. citizen
- Pass a medical examination for commission (Chapter 2, AR 40-501)
- All physical or moral waivers must be approved (if applicable)

b. Incentives:

- Paid as an E5
- MGIB Kicker of \$350

V. Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) is the college elective that trains the Army’s (and the National Guard’s) future commissioned officers. ROTC combines classroom work with practical instruction on how to take charge and take command – skills that can help you succeed later in either a military or civilian career. Army ROTC is traditionally a 4-year program, which is divided into two parts: a Basic Course and an Advanced Course. The Basic Course is usually taken during your freshman and sophomore years. The Advance Course is usually taken during your final two years of college and includes a paid six-week Advance Camp that is normally attended in the summer between your junior and senior years.

If you are already a member of the National Guard who has completed basic training and advanced individual training, you can participate in ROTC and need only complete the Advance Course (junior and senior year). You can also be part of the National Guard’s Simultaneous Membership Program as an SMP Cadet. There is a good likelihood that scholarships might be available for individuals selecting a Guaranteed Reserve Forces Contract – this insures that you will be able to accept your commission in the National Guard versus an active duty commitment. These scholarships are **IN ADDITION** to other incentives offered by the West Virginia Army National Guard.

a. Senior Army ROTC Enrollment Criteria for Advance Course

- Grade point average of 2.0 or better
- 60 Semester credits
- Complete Army basic training and advanced individual training to enter MS III

b. Additional Criteria for Commission as a 2LT

- Must complete 4 consecutive semesters as MS III and MS IV
- Maximum age for commissioning is 27
- Pass standard 3-event Army Physical Fitness Test / Meet height and weight standards
- Have a secret security clearance or a clearance request submitted
- Must be a US citizen
- Pass a medical examination for commission (Chapter 2, AR 40-501)
- All waivers must be approved if applicable

c. Incentives:

- Paid as an E5
- MGIB of \$350 (if eligible)
- ROTC pay of \$350

There are a number of colleges and universities in West Virginia that offer Army ROTC as part of their elective curriculum or are affiliated with an institution that does. They include:

---- Host Institution----		----Affiliated Institution(s) ----
West Virginia University		Fairmont State University
Marshall University		None
West Virginia State University		University of Charleston West Virginia Institute of Technology

VI. Direct Commission is a vehicle to obtain a commission for individuals who have demonstrated superb leadership potential during their service. The intent of the ARNG direct commissioning program is to offer an alternate-commissioning source to exceptionally qualified individuals. Individuals with NCOER's indicating above average accomplishments and leadership skills would be potential candidates. Strong NCOER's and letters of recommendation from the Company and Battalion Command are a must.

a. Basic Branch Direct Commission Application Criteria

- Minimum of a 4-year college degree
- Minimum of two years active duty
- Current member of the National Guard in grade of SGT or above
- Minimum GT score (from ASVAB) of 110
- Minimum age 18, maximum age 30 (up to age 35 with state waiver)
- Pass standard 3-event Army Physical Fitness Test / Meet height and weight standards
- Have a secret security clearance or a clearance request submitted
- Must be a citizen
- Pass a medical examination (at MEPS or Army Medical Treatment Facility) for commission (Chapter 2, AR 40-501)
- Statement of never having been enrolled in OCS
- All waivers must be approved before a packet can be submitted