



*A History of Service. A Promise to Lead.*

February 3, 2017

Norwich University provides the following comments on Vermont House Legislation H.72 Vermont National Guard Educational Assistance Program.

Norwich University fully supports the creation of the Vermont National Guard Educational Assistance Program and strongly urges the legislature to make the program available to students attending all public and private higher education institutions in Vermont.

**BACKGROUND:** Norwich University founded almost 200 years ago in Norwich, Vermont, is the oldest private military school in the United States and recognized as the birthplace of the Reserve Officer Training Corps. Norwich University was founded on the principle of the citizen soldier; all educated persons should be prepared to defend the republic in time of crisis.

Norwich and the Vermont National Guard have a long standing partnership. This partnership is exemplified by the service of our alumni in the Vermont National Guard. Today a National Guard Regional Training Center is located on our Northfield, VT Campus, allowing students to drill on campus along with its other important functions.

Norwich has been producing leaders for the military, public, and private sector with 120 students commissioning annually as military officers to serve our nation. The desire to serve goes beyond the students who elect a full time military career to include National Guard soldiers and airmen.

Today Norwich has 221 drilling National Guard soldiers and airmen enrolled full time. These students come from 31 states yet only 12 individuals list Vermont as their home of record. The students serve in the National Guard while in college and many continue to serve in the Vermont National Guard upon graduation. Of this group only six in 2017 received the existing State of Vermont National Guard Educational Assistance Program benefit. Norwich University is an important recruiting venue for the Vermont National Guard.

Norwich University provides significant gift aid to the National Guard students.

Norwich University National Guard Scholarship Recipient Summary  
2016-17 Academic Year  
*Compiled by Martin Daniels, Director, SFP*

Highlights by Award Type:

National Guard Education Assistance Program - \$7,000 per year awards

- 1 of 6 students is from Vermont
- Funding for 2016-17: \$42,000
- Total NU Gift Awards for 2016-17: \$129,075

Guaranteed Reserve Forces Scholarship - "ROTC Equivalent" 100% tuition and fee coverage awards

- 1 of 31 Students is from Vermont
- Funding for 2016-17: \$1,139,657
- Total NU gift awards for 2016-17: \$394,060

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### Additional Drilling Guardsmen

- 10 of 184 Students
- Total NU gift awards for 2016-17: \$3,778,229

Norwich and other private colleges provide the National Guard with student choice and academic diversity of education programs. Norwich, for example, has a number of nationally recognized educational programs in cyber security, engineering, architecture, and social sciences, which are not duplicated in the State Colleges. These programs develop students intellectually and to be leaders in their field of discipline.

The surrounding states of Maine and New York extend their tuition benefit to private colleges. They limit the benefit to the in-state tuition of the state university system. Norwich and most of the private colleges derive a majority of their students from outside of Vermont, which has the positive impact of increasing the Vermont Guard recruiting pool.

**BENEFITS:** The implementation of a Vermont National Guard Tuition Scholarship Program, including private colleges, will increase recruiting, increase post-secondary enrollment at Vermont's public and private colleges, attract more young people to Vermont, provide the skills required in the Guard not found in our public colleges, such as cyber security, digital investigations, and help develop our future leaders for the Guard and Vermont. These leaders contribute to the economic well-being of our state and the quality and well-being of our communities.