

## **National Guard Bureau Statement Army National Guard Recruiting Update, January 30, 2006**

For the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2006, the Army National Guard has exceeded its enlistment goal by signing up 13,466 recruits, achieving 108.6 percent of its 12,605 goal.

This marks the first quarter since 1993 that the ARNG has exceeded its enlistment goals for this period of the year and the first time to meet three consecutive months of recruiting goals since 2003.

Guard officials note several changes they believe account for the rise in enlistments.

- The new “American Soldier” advertising campaign.
- Congress recently authorized the Army National Guard to offer a special Recruiting Assistance Program. Individual guardsmen who help recruit new soldiers can receive a \$2,000 incentive for each referral of a non-prior service lead that results in an enlistment.
- Between Aug 04 and Dec 05, the Army Guard increased the numbers of recruiters nationwide from 2,700 to 5,100.
- Enlistment and re-enlistment bonuses increased by 100 percent or more during Fiscal Year 2005, from \$5000 to \$10,000 for new recruits, and from \$5,000 to \$15,000 for prior service soldiers who join the Guard.
- These benefits were further increased for FY 2006 as new soldiers will receive up to \$20,000 for joining the ARNG along with 100 percent tuition assistance or the Montgomery G.I. Bill. Many states have increased their compensation packages for National Guard soldiers as well making service in the Guard an excellent way to serve their State and nation.

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ARNG Retention continues to be strong, coming in above 100 percent as ARNG soldiers renew their commitment to serve in the ARNG. Retention bonuses, individual soldier confidence in their leaders and unit camaraderie are the keys to this success.

Guard officials expect the pace to continue and improve more as they enter the better months for recruiting in Feb-May 06. With the historic levels of production experienced so far this fiscal year the ARNG is aggressively working to achieve the congressionally authorized end strength goal of 350,000 by Sep. 30, 2006.