

RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS

COURSE OVERVIEW:

Army ROTC is a four-year program consisting of the 2-year Basic Course and the 2-year Advanced Course. Individuals may receive credit for the ROTC Basic Course by successfully completing one of the following:

- a. Military Science I and Military Science II (MS I/II) in an approved ROTC program
- b. Leader's Training Course (LTC)
- c. Initial Active Duty Training (IADT), to include both Basic Training (BT) and Advanced Individual Training (AIT)

If otherwise qualified, members of the Army National Guard who have completed IADT or BT are eligible to enter the ROTC Advanced Course. To maintain academic alignment for undergraduate students (freshman - MS I, sophomore - MS II, junior - MS III, senior - MS IV), the ARNG member would normally enter ROTC at the beginning of the junior year in college. Qualified individuals who are enrolled in a graduate program of at least two years in duration may also contract into the ROTC Advanced Course if they have completed the ROTC Basic Course, or equivalent. Army National Guard members who have completed BT or IADT, and are college freshmen or sophomores, may enroll in the ROTC Basic Course (MS I/II) if they choose to do so.

To remain in the Army National Guard while also contracting into the ROTC Advanced Course, the individual must join the Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP). SMP cadets are advanced to the pay grade of E-5 or retain a higher pay grade if previously earned, and serve in the rank of Cadet (CDT). SMP members will not mobilize or deploy with their unit, unless the Secretary of the Army directs they be commissioned. MS II cadets are also eligible to participate in SMP.

Cadets normally attend the 5-week LDAC (Leadership Development Assessment Course) at Fort Lewis, WA at the end of the MS III year and are commissioned at the end of the MS IV year. To be commissioned, the individual must have completed a Baccalaureate, or an Associate's degree in the case of the five Military Junior Colleges (MJC). Those selected for Reserve Forces Duty (RFD) may be commissioned prior to completing the degree as long as they have completed all ROTC course requirements.

SMP ENROLLMENT PREREQUISITES:

To join or remain in the Army National Guard and contract in the ROTC Advanced Course, the individual must become a Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) Cadet.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- a. Academic: At least 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale.
- b. Citizenship: Must be a U.S. citizen to commission.
- c. Medical: Meet standards of Chapter II commissioning physical.
- d. Age: Applicants must be under 27 years of age on day of commissioning. Up to three years may be added on a one-for-one basis for previous active duty service.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Candidates must apply through the Professor of Military Science (PMS) at a Senior Army ROTC program. SMP application is initiated by the PMS and completed by the National Guard unit commander.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE: (Contd.)

If cadets intend to remain in the Reserve Components upon commissioning, they must sign a Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) contract and obtain a GRFD control number. Prior to commissioning, cadet may seek approval to revoke the GRFD option and seek Active Duty. However, if a cadet contracts without a GRFD control number, there is no guarantee the individual will be able to remain in the Reserve Components after commissioning.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SMP billets are authorized up to 4% of combined officer/enlisted unit strength (this is normally averaged out over the state as a whole). However, SMPs assigned to a unit may not exceed 3 per supervising officer.

If the ARNG unit mobilizes, uncontracted members who are in the ROTC Basic Course (MSI/MSII) will mobilize with the unit. Since they are not contracted, these cadets are not SMP.

SMP cadets will NOT mobilize with their unit, but will be transferred to a non-mobilizing unit. Upon unit mobilization, the Secretary of the Army will determine if ROTC cadets (to include SMP) will be commissioned immediately or will continue in pre-commissioning training. If commissioned, the lieutenants who were previously SMP cadets may be directed to mobilize with their units.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND MONTGOMERY G.I. BILL:

Numerous sources of financial assistance are available for those attending ROTC. Check with the State Education Services Officer (ESO), ARNG recruiters and/or the ROTC PMS for more information. Financial assistance applicable to ROTC includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Army ROTC 2-year Reserve Forces Duty Scholarships.
- b. Army ROTC 2-year Dedicated Army National Guard Scholarships (same benefits as above, but participants must serve 8-year military service obligation in the ARNG).
- c. Montgomery G.I. Bill and Kicker payments (up to 36 months).
- d. Federal Tuition Assistance.
- e. State-specific scholarships, loans and tuition assistance of up to 100% tuition and fees.

NGB and States require the cadet to sign a GRFD contract before receiving financial assistance.

SIMULTANEOUS MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM (SMP)

Purpose:

Explain basic facts regarding Senior ROTC SMP

References:

AR 601-210, chap 10, dated 28 Feb 95
AR 145-1, chap 1.16 and 3.17, dated 23 Jul 96
AR 140-1, chap 2, dated 1 Sep 94
NGR 600-1, chap 13, dated 15 Apr 94

Definition:

SMP is a program in which SROTC (contracted) MS II or advanced course cadets (MSIII/IV) simultaneously serve as members of the ARNG.

Eligibility/Requirements:

Only MSII's – MSIV may participate in the SMP. Basic course cadets may not participate in the SMP. Enlisted members of the ARNG must participate in the SMP in order to contract as members of SROTC advanced course (MSII's – MSIV).

SROTC cadets who contract (as MS II's or MSIII's) in the advanced course under Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) must participate in the SMP. This includes all Reserve Forces Duty (RFD) and Dedicated Army National Guard (Ded ARNG) scholarship recipients.

IAW AR 601-210, SROTC cadets who receive SROTC scholarships (other than RFD scholarships) may not participate in SMP unless scholarship is converted to GRFD.

SROTC cadets who contract in the advanced course as non-scholarship, non-GRFD, may participate in SMP, but this is not a requirement.

Benefits:

SMP cadets serve in ARNG units in the rank of "cadet" and receive drill pay in pay grade E-6 or higher (higher pay grade is commensurate to enlisted rank prior to contracting). Example: ARNG E-6 soldier contracts as MSIII; receives drill pay in pay grade of E-6 while participating in SMP.

SMP cadets receive longevity credit (for period of satisfactory participation in SMP) toward reserve retirement. Example: A cadet serves two years in SMP, serves 18 years (retirement qualifying) in ARNG unit as commissioned officer. This earns a 20-year reserve retirement.

Commissioned officers receive time in service credit for base pay calculation for time served as an SMP member.

SMP cadets receive extra opportunities to learn and practice leadership under supervision of commissioned and non-commissioned officers.

Unit Information:

Units may assign SMP (Simultaneous Membership Program) cadets at the maximum rate of 4% of combined officer/enlisted authorized strength of General Officer Commands (GOCOMs), provided there are no more than 3 SMP cadets per commissioned officer supervisor.

SMP cadets may be assigned to one unit and attached to another.

SMP cadets count as part of the enlisted strength of a unit, although they are considered over-strength and non-deployable assets.

Initial Active Duty for Training (IADT) (Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training) is deferred pending completion of SROTC and commissioning.

Mobilization/Call to Active Duty:

Contracted SMP cadets may not be mobilized and deployed.

Upon partial/full mobilization, by declaration of war or national emergency by Congress, or call to AD of the Selected Reserve by the President, the Secretary of the Army will determine either to commission SMP cadets as lieutenants (at which time they may then be mobilized) or direct continued pre-commissioning training for the cadets. SMP cadets will not be mobilized.

Enlisted members of ARNG who are also taking SROTC basic course (but are not contracted, advanced course members) may not participate in SMP. These soldiers are eligible for mobilization/deployment.

SMP members who do not perform satisfactorily may be removed from the SROTC program and the SMP. These enlisted soldiers will revert to their enlisted contract requirements and may be mobilized/deployed with their units.

Necessary Forms for SMP:

Cadets or enlisted soldiers who contract and become SMP participants must complete selected Cadet Command Forms/contracts as well as ARNG forms. In addition to the forms necessary for contracting, the following form is necessary for SMP participation: NGB Form 594-I (SMP agreement between Cadet Command and ARNG unit).

To ensure service in the ARNG upon commissioning, the SMP cadet must obtain a Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD) control number from Cadet Command and complete Cadet Command Form 202-R (Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Non-Scholarship Endorsement) or Cadet Command Form 203-R (Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty Scholarship Endorsement).

NOTE: If the SMP cadet is a GRFD scholarship recipient, the cadet must sign Cadet Command Form 203-R and participate in the SMP.