



From the Advisor's Desk

This news release has been approved by ACES

Army Continuing Education System (ACES) Prepares for GoArmyEd.com

ACES is in a time of monumental change. Automation is clearly emerging as the new pathway for many academic processes. On 1 Apr 06, ACES will launch the new GoArmyEd portal at www.GoArmyEd.com for Soldiers, Army Education personnel, and participating schools to process TA and conduct ACES business online in order to enable Soldiers to pursue higher learning.

Centralized Tuition Assistance Management (CTAM), a part of GoArmyEd, has been a hot topic of ACES for several years, and with manpower cuts across Army, the idea of CTAM has become a reality. In July 2005, a contract was awarded to move forward with CTAM and to build the new GoArmyEd portal with the assistance of International Business Machines (IBM), Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC), and other contracted support staff.

This undertaking has been enormous and affects 113 Army Education Centers (AECs) worldwide, staffed with education personnel whose primary responsibility is to offer education programs and services to Soldiers. The change also will affect Soldiers who traditionally sought educational guidance at AECs. This will still be possible; however, with the change to automation, the GoArmyEd portal will be the one-stop location for Soldiers to process their tuition assistance (TA) and to sign up for courses. In addition, Soldiers will have access to a 24/7 Helpdesk for technical assistance. By creating a virtual online gateway to obtain TA and making postsecondary online college course enrollment easier for them, Soldiers will be able to access their education opportunities anytime, anywhere in a paperless, automated environment.

For ACES personnel, the new system will eliminate time spent at AECs processing hundreds of TA payment invoices each month. The old process was tedious. The elimination of time consuming paperwork will now enable AEC personnel to spend time on their critical task – counseling Soldiers.

All schools that have historically processed TA with ACES will be listed in the GoArmyEd portal. ACES identified over 150 schools located on Army installations, with whom the Army has Memorandums of Understanding/Agreement (MOU/MOA), contracts, eArmyU providers, or Army Career Degree (ACD) Schools or schools with 200 or more TA enrollments in FY 04 or FY05. These schools supported 111,738 Soldiers, which represent 90 percent of Army's TA-funded enrollments. These schools were sent a Letter of Instruction (LOI) detailing how to become part of the new GoArmyEd portal.

GoArmyEd will give Soldiers many postsecondary options. They will be able to take courses from LOI schools or non-LOI schools. Soldiers who choose courses through non-LOI schools will pay their tuition up-front and receive reimbursement based on a passing grade directly from the Army after they have completed the course. (Note: This self-pay process is pending further legal review and final decision by senior Army leadership.)

The popular eArmyU program, a cutting edge online academic program offering over 145 degree and certificate programs from 28 colleges and universities, was developed for mobile Soldiers in 2001. It has become very popular, with over 65,000 Soldiers enrolled to date. GoArmyEd was built upon the functionality of the existing eArmyU portal and data warehouse and is being engineered under the current eArmyU contract. On 1 Apr 06, eArmyU will remain an option for Soldiers and will be located on the new GoArmyEd.com Website.

Ms. Kelley Mustion, Program Manager for the GoArmyEd - CTAM project, is helping to put in place the "Champion" effort led by Ms. Dian Stoskopf, Director of ACES. The "Champion" effort is to inform all stakeholders about GoArmyEd, signifying the "biggest change in the history of ACES," said Mustion. "Everyone is working around the clock to make this a big success for the Army. We have employed a team of experts that are helping us develop what will be the '**Virtual Gateway**' to education for Soldiers."

"This effort to streamline processes is absolutely necessary in a downsizing environment," said Ms. Stoskopf. "CTAM is empowering the ACES staff to become more effective problem solvers and trouble shooters. Soldiers fight wars to ensure our safety and democracy – let's give them the tools they need to climb the steps of our higher academic community."

The big question is - how can ACES personnel ensure that Soldiers are prepared to use the new GoArmyEd portal? First, a portal log-on will automatically be created for Soldiers who have used TA since Oct 04. Beginning 1 Apr 06, Soldiers will be notified by email on how to transition to GoArmyEd. Soldiers who are new to Army Education, have never participated in classes through eArmyU, or who do not receive a migration email, will be able to create a password by logging onto www.GoArmyEd.com and clicking the "Apply Now" button to open an account on the GoArmyEd system beginning 1 Apr 06. Soldiers who already have access to

eArmyU will automatically have access to GoArmyEd and will not need to request additional passwords.

The changes ahead for Army Education are exciting. Keeping pace with changing times through online Army Education services supports highly mobile Soldiers. Warfighters must stay connected!

For more information about GoArmyEd, visit the Web site, www.GoArmyEd.com, or contact your Army Education Center.