Minnesota Army National Guard
Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Officer Incentive Programs
Medical and Dental Corps
(1 October 2011 - 30 September 2013)

The Minnesota Army National Guard offers incentives to attract and retain healthcare professionals possessing or qualifying for training in critical skills needed in wartime and to maintain readiness in the Army National Guard. All officers must attend monthly drills and 15 days of annual training with their assigned unit in order to receive incentives. A separate contract is required for each incentive program.

The following incentive programs are offered to licensed professionals in, and students of, M.D., D.O., D.D.S. and D.M.D. programs appointed as AMEDD commissioned officers during the period 1 October 2011 and 30 September 2013:

Healthcare Professional Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP):
Offered to licensed professionals. The total amount of this incentive may not exceed $240,000. Annual amounts payable are up to $40,000. Participation in this program requires the Officer fulfill a satisfactory year of service with their unit of assignment (50 retirement points) for each year repayment is to be received.

Special Pay:
Offered to licensed professionals. Individuals contracting for Special Pay for approved ARNG specialties will receive $25,000/year for a three-year contract, $20,000/year for a two-year contract and $15,000/year for a one-year contract. Participants must choose one, two, or three years of affiliation with the ARNG at the time of application. Contracts MUST be signed prior to taking the oath of office. *Psychiatrists, see Note 1

If, after the initial service obligation has been met and the Officer’s specialty remains on the critical wartime specialties list, the Officer is eligible to renew his special pay contract. A new agreement is required to initiate subsequent incentive payment and obligation.

Medical Professional Student Tuition Reimbursement (STR):
Offered to students. When available, this program reimburses up to 100% of tuition costs, not to exceed 100% of the tuition rate of the University of Minnesota Medical School, Twin Cities campus, for the current year. This program has a maximum lifetime benefit of 144 semester credits. Participants incur an obligation of two years of National Guard service for every year of Medical Professional STR utilization. Please contact CPT Jed Gadient at jed.gadient@us.army.mil to inquire about the availability of this tremendous incentive.

Medical/Dental Student Stipend Program (MDSSP):
Offered to students. The monthly stipend is currently $2,122 and increases annually on July 1st by the percentage that military pay is increased that year. Individual must be unconditionally accepted into the educational program for which they seek funding. Participants in MDSSP incur an obligation of one year of National Guard service for every six months of MDSSP utilization. *See Note 2
Specialized Training Assistance Program (STRAP):
Offered to officers in residency. The monthly stipend is currently $2,088. This stipend increases annually on July 1st by the percentage that military pay is increased for that year. Applicants must be unconditionally accepted into the educational program or residency, as applicable, for them to seek funding. Applicants must complete all prerequisites when they submit their application for consideration. Medical Corps applicants in dual residency are ineligible, unless both programs are on the authorized incentive list at the time the applicant signs the contract. Participation in this program incurs one year of National Guard service for every six months of STRAP utilization.

A STRAP contract can be extended to meet the needs of the Student Officer should they choose to enter into a Fellowship following their residency training. This extension requires special approval and incurs the same obligation of one year of National Guard service for every six months of STRAP utilization. *See Note 2*

Continuing Medical Education/Continuing Health Education (CME/CHE) Reimbursement:
Licensed medical professionals are authorized up to $2,500 of reimbursement for continuing medical (health) education per year to attend either:

- One CME/CHE event in person (this includes registration, travel and per diem pay) OR
- CME/CHE training conducted through distance learning including correspondence courses that does not exceed the $2,500 cap

*Note 1:
The following is the amount of special pay allowed/per year of contractual obligation for psychiatrists:

$20,000 per year for a 3-year contract
$15,000 per year for a 2-year contract
$10,000 per year for a 1-year contract

*Note 2: Statement of Understanding
Army Policy currently states that those officers participating in STRAP and MDSSP will not be available to local commanders, or to the DARNG, in meeting mobilization cross-leveling requirements unless the Surgeon General approves such action. In the event of war or national emergency, participants will be subject to order to active duty as required by Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA). In view of foregoing; Medical/Dental school and residency training may be interrupted in order to meet those mobilization requirements described above.