DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER & FORT IRWIN
FORT IRWIN, CA 92310-5000

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AFZJ-CG

23MAY12

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: NTC Policy Letter 09, Army Continuing Education System, "Desert University"

1. PURPOSE: To inform NTC personnel of the opportunities available to them through the implementation of the "Desert University" education initiative.

2. APPLICABILITY: This policy letter remains in effect until specifically rescinded or superseded and applies to all units and personnel assigned to the National Training Center.

3. REFERENCE: AR 621-5, Army Continuing Education System (RAR), 6 September 2009.

4. BACKGROUND: Pursuing educational goals while balancing mission requirements is a challenging but achievable endeavor, and very important to training and educating our professional force. Our Government has gone to great extent to make it possible for Soldiers to obtain an education. The objective of this policy is to make it possible for our NTC Soldiers to take advantage of these opportunities. Various opportunities are also available for Soldiers to receive scholarships and tuition assistance.

5. POLICY:

a. Desert University, or "DU," is an initiative that allows soldiers to achieve their educational goals. "DU" is not a school. "DU" allows a Soldier two days a week, between Monday and Thursday, during the hours of 1500-1800, to either take an on-post in-person class through Barstow Community College or Park University, or work on an online course at an approved location. Approved locations include the library, a unit day room, and the Education Center. Approved locations may not include a Soldier's room or home.

b. Soldiers wishing to participate in "DU" should enroll in a college course that is during the hours of 1500-1800 or online. Once enrolled, the Soldier should bring proof of the course registration to the Education Center, Bldg 1020, to get a "DU" memo from an education counselor. The "DU" memo requires a signature from the unit commander. Once signed, the "DU" memo should be returned to the Education Center.

c. Soldiers attending "DU" will not be placed on any duty that prevents their attendance to class or the bi-weekly 1500-1800 time periods. Only the first O-5 Commander in the Soldier's chain of command has the authority to prevent a Soldier from attending Desert University. In such cases, the Education Center will be notified.

d. NTC Commanders at all levels will support their Soldiers' educational goals to the maximum extent possible while meeting mission requirements. In particular, this applies to the release of personnel actively attending "DU" classes on Monday through Thursday. Commanders will consider both travel and class start-time when authorizing Soldiers for release.

6. Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the NTC SGS at (760) 380-3611 or the Fort Irwin Education Center at (760) 380-4218.

TERRY R. FERRELL
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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