

## Tuition Assistance Parity

**Issue:** Members of the Air National Guard do not receive Federal Tuition Assistance

**Background:** The U.S. Air Force (USAF) does not allocate funds for members of the Air National Guard (ANG) to receive Federal Tuition Assistance (TA). Historically, Title 32 Airmen could access the TA funds when they were deployed in a Title 10 status, or on Active Guard and Reserve Title 32 status. In October 2015, an Associate's degree became a mandatory prerequisite for promotion to the ranks of E-8 (Senior Master Sergeant) and E-9 (Chief Master Sergeant) in the Air National Guard. A recent USAF policy change, impacting Airmen's need to receive higher education, created a scenario where EANGUS members believe the Air Force should consider changing its policy to allow members to receive TA. Specifically, this policy change mandates that in order to achieve senior enlisted ranks, ANG members must possess a degree.

State Tuition Assistance programs substitute a force-wide funding for the Air National Guard. Unfortunately, State programs are disparate and disadvantage Airmen in States where resources are marginal or nonexistent. Federal TA provides a common foundation of funding to achieve policy requirements.

**Recommendation:** The Veterans Education Project urges the Air National Guard to fund Federal Tuition Assistance for all ANG members.