



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON
BLDG 237, B AVE, P.O. Box 105021
FORT IRWIN, CA 92310-5000

AMIM-NTG-ZA

21 July 2025

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Garrison Commander's Policy Letter 34, 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 **APPLICABILITY:** This policy letter remains in effect until specifically rescinded or superseded and applies to all units and personnel assigned to the National Training Center.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. **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.

4. **POLICY:**

a. Desert University (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 to take an on-post in-person class for classes that start on or after 1300. DU allows a Soldier to take an online class that begins at 1500. A Soldier may 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 the Soldier's room or home.

b. Soldiers wishing to participate in DU should enroll in an on-post in-person college course that begins on or after 1300 or an online course that begins no earlier than 1500. 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. Unless the first O-5 Commander in the Soldier's chain of command disapproves the Soldier's request to attend "DU", the unit commander must sign the DU memo. 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 the bi-weekly on-post in-person class that begins at or after 1300 hours or online that begins at or after 1500. Only the first O-5 Commander in the Soldier's chain

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d. of command has the authority to prevent a Soldier from attending DU. In such cases, the Education Center will be notified.

e. NTC Commanders at all levels will support their Soldiers' educational goals to the maximum extent possible while meeting mission requirements. 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.

5. Questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Fort Irwin Education Center at (760) 380-4218.

Distribution: A



STEVEN L. CHADWICK
COL, AR
Commanding