



New Educational Opportunities for Soldiers and Families

Our Soldiers and their families quietly bear the burdens of a Nation at war. Our civilians stand with them, dedicated to the nation and the Army that serves it. . . . In an environment in which we must make hard choices, they deserve the best we can offer, commensurate with their dedication and sacrifice.

2010 Army Posture Statement, February 2010

New Educational Opportunities

Introduction

People—servicemembers, families and Department of Defense (DoD) civilians—are the most important component of the U.S. military. Caring for them is a vital part of America's defense; doing so requires the utmost attention of leaders and a significant application of resources. The sacrifices and dedication of DoD family members are particularly noteworthy and complementary to those of servicemembers and DoD civilians alike. Progress in support of families strengthens recruiting, improves retention and underscores DoD's commitment to its people.

New Educational Opportunity

One deployment support initiative is Tutor.com, a DoD-funded effort that provides military families with free, unlimited access to tutoring and career services. This program is extremely beneficial as military parents are not only frequently deployed but also move more often than many other families, causing continual adjustments for themselves and their children to new schools, teachers, classes and homework. DoD has contracted with Tutor.com—an online homework help and tutoring company—to connect students to tutors for one-on-one help anytime they need it.

Tutor.com for Military Families is a program for all active component servicemembers, deployed Guard and Reserve servicemembers and deployed DoD civilians—Army, Marine Corps, Air Force and Navy—and their spouses and children. Servicemembers and their families can work with certified,



Did you know?

- There are 1.2 million American children and youths age 18 and under with at least one parent serving in the military.
- Approximately 2 million military children have experienced a parental deployment since 2001.

Source: <http://www.militaryk12partners.dodea.edu>

professional tutors or career specialists online 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to get help with homework, studying, test preparation, résumé writing and projects. The company has more than 1,800 tutors—professional teachers, college professors and graduate students—who have been screened and background-checked.

Tutoring is available in more than 20 subjects, including math, science, social studies and English, at

I am an Army wife and I have to help my kids with homework. [Tutor.com] has helped me to be able to . . . get the help they need. . . . Both my kids are actually passing all their classes now.

Army parent



all skill levels—from elementary to advanced placement. Sessions are anonymous and one-on-one. The program is designed to help students learn—tutors do not just give out answers.

To access the program, eligible military families can visit the website at <http://www.tutor.com/military> and follow the authentication procedures for their respective service. Once they have a passcode, they can work with a tutor anytime they need help. Students just enter their questions and are connected to tutors who work one-on-one with them in the interactive online classroom until their problems are solved. At the end of each session, the student may print or be e-mailed a transcript for future review. Each session is customized, so students receive individual help with their specific assignments. There is no limit to the number of sessions each eligible person can have.

There are more than 1.1 million Soldiers in the U.S. Army's active and reserve components; approximately 230,000 of them are currently deployed in 80 countries. To sustain that all-volunteer force after almost nine years of combat, the Army is committed to providing the high quality of life servicemembers deserve. With the support of Congress, the Army has made significant progress in many areas, including Soldier and family programs, child care, youth services and education. This strong support environment, reinforced with programs such as the Army Family and Community Covenants and the Interstate Education Compact, helps Soldiers and families cope with the stress of reassignments and multiple deployments.

Demands on Soldiers and their families created by repeated deployments continue to generate additional challenges, concerns and stress for families. The ability of the Army to deliver a quality of life that meets the needs of its Soldiers and their families worldwide is critical to attracting and retaining high-quality Soldiers as well as stabilizing the force. Deployed Soldiers and Army civilians and their families have been helped more than 35,000 times by tutors at Tutor.com for the Military.

This session really helped me understand something I had minimal knowledge in. Reading the textbook and getting the monotone lectures in class didn't help too much. But after spending a little bit of time on Tutor.com it all made sense. I'm glad this resource is available for me to use for such a wide range of subjects.

Army student after a session with an algebra tutor



Eligible families can access the program from any Internet-enabled computer worldwide.

The Army and Marine Corps have been working with Tutor.com for more than a year.

Adult Education and Career Help

Tutor.com also provides servicemembers and spouses one-on-one help customized for adults returning to school, getting ready for a career transition or preparing for General Educational Development (GED) or citizenship tests. The individual uploads his or her current résumé (or other document) and the tutor reviews it, suggesting the best way to translate experience into job skills and pointing out areas that may need formatting and grammar help. The program is also beneficial for parents who are helping children with homework.

Conclusion

DoD is providing eligible DoD personnel (military and civilian) and their families free, unlimited access to Tutor.com for the Military, which provides online homework help, tutoring and career support. The tutoring helps students become more confident and receive better grades; supports children during deployments and transitions; and provides adult education and career help for servicemembers and spouses. With continued support and additional funding, DoD should expand Tutor.com to include reserve component personnel and civilians in a non-deployed status. This will significantly enhance the well-being and readiness of the entire force.