

Troy University and the United States armed forces: Positioning Statement

Introduction

Troy University boasts a rich history of support of the United States armed forces and the men and women who serve in uniform. This record includes the establishment of teaching sites on military bases throughout the world and participation in distance learning initiatives with both the Army and the Navy. Today, Troy University serves approximately 1,450 students through GoArmy.com/Army Continuing Education Services, the distance learning arm of the United States Army.

This paper will provide examples of Troy University's activities related to the U.S. military and a statement affirming continued support in this vital area.

A brief history

In 1950, Troy University, then called Troy State Teachers College, began offering extension courses at nearby Fort Rucker, Alabama, the home of Army Aviation. Later, these operations were expanded to Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery. These extension centers were the forerunner of what is known today as Global Campus, the division of Troy University that operates all teaching sites outside of the State of Alabama. Troy University continues to operate teaching sites at Fort Rucker and Maxwell AFB.

In the 1970s, Troy University's relationship with the military expanded when the University was awarded a Department of Defense contract to establish teaching sites on U.S. military bases in Europe. In 1973, TROY was invited by the United States Air Force to establish teaching sites in Northwest Florida at Hurlburt, Tyndall and Eglin AFBs.

Currently, Troy University operates teaching stateside sites at Eglin, Hurlburt, and Tyndall in Florida, Fort Lewis in Washington, Fort Bragg in North Carolina, Shaw AFB in South Carolina, Fort Benning in Georgia, National Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Maryland, and in Virginia at Fort Belvoir, Fort Eustis, Fort Monroe, Fort Myer, Langley AFB, Little Creek, and Norfolk Naval Base. In addition, Troy University teaching sites are located outside the United States through a contract with the Pacific Command at Yongsan Army Garrison in Korea and on Kadena and Misawa Air Bases in Japan.

A culture of support for the military

- TROY supports current students, alumni, and friends of the University who are serving in harm's way through the "TROY for Troops" program. The program, led by Troy University first lady Janice Hawkins, is designed to identify and thank current students, alumni, faculty or staff members—or members of their

immediate families— who are on active military duty. A special link to the University’s website includes a message to the troops from Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr., accompanied by a form that Trojans in military service can complete to update their contact information. Trojans serving in combat zones as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom will be sent a special gift from the University.

- Troy University has pledged to support military veterans and active-duty personnel attending college by providing the maximum tuition assistance allowed through the Yellow Ribbon Program of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. Troy University will pay 50 percent of the established tuition and fee charges not already covered under the bill.
- Several members of the senior leadership team at Troy University are military veterans, and Chancellor Jack Hawkins, Jr. currently serves on the Board of Visitors for Air University, housed at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery.
- Each fall, the University chooses the football game scheduled closest to Veterans Day as a special “Salute to Veterans” game with appropriate activities. In addition, the TROY athletic program has signed a two-year contract to play a home-and-home football series with the U.S. Naval Academy.
- Troy University is home to active Army and Air Force ROTC units.
- The TROY Symphony Band’s annual “Salute to Veterans” concert each fall is one of the most popular concerts of the year and is performed on the campuses in Troy and Montgomery.
- More than 50 TROY alumni serve as general or flag-rank officers and have been profiled in a cover story in the Troy University alumni magazine.

Statement of position

Troy University will continue its support of the United States military in these areas:

1. TROY will continue to seek ways to partner with the Department of Defense and individual branches of the United States armed forces to meet the educational needs of America’s fighting men and women.
2. TROY’s student-centered environment will ensure that its students who are active-duty personnel, military veterans, military spouses, or other family members will receive the attention they need to achieve their academic goals.
3. TROY will support its faculty and staff members who are members of National Guard or Reserve units.