

## NETTTS puts vets in fast lane with scholarships

*This report provided by New England Tractor Trailer Training School.*

The transition back into civilian life for veterans is of great national concern. In 2005, leaders of the commercial driver training industry united to create a nonprofit foundation called the Commercial Driver Training Foundation Inc. out of concern for the welfare of those who volunteer for the armed forces. CDTFI has received pledges of 2,400 partial scholarships to help make the trucking industry a more affordable option. CDTFI has awarded scholarships for active duty and honorably discharged veterans of the U.S. armed services and Military Reserve and National Guard personnel in 13 states. Scholarships have been awarded to students attending New England Tractor Trailer Training School, Georgia Driving Academy, All State Career, Coastal Truck Driving Schools, Drive Co Truck Driving Schools, NuWay Driving Academy, United Truck and Car Driving School, Western Truck Schools, Western Pacific Truck

Schools and National Transportation Training Centers.

Mark Greenberg, president of the New England Tractor Trailer Training School and chairman of CDTFI, understood the problem many young servicemen face when returning from duty and was one of the first institutions to give veterans scholarships.

"We are excited about the growing interest in our scholarship program. The trucking industry is a great place for young men and women from our armed forces. They will be employed in a secure job in a high-demand occupation that gives them the ability to live in practically any part of the country with virtually no chance that their jobs will be outsourced. We are excited to help give these individuals the opportunity to make the easiest and most successful transition possible," Greenberg said.

CDTFI held its annual conference in Albuquerque, N.M., in May to discuss its Military Scholarship Assistance Program. Two Air National Guard members — Therese Sanchez, 150th FW family readiness program coordinator, and Maurine Rice, 150th FW chief master sergeant — spoke about the importance of programs that help successfully transition members of the military. Sanchez spoke to the at-

tendees, including more than 100 people representing driver training schools, along with many of the largest trucking companies in the country.

"Many guardsmen may have not had employment up to their deployment, or their job situation changed during their deployment; companies may have downsized or gone under. Many guardsmen were self-employed prior to deployment and return having to re-establish their company or business," said Sanchez. "Sometimes they return from deployment and realize that they were not content in the career path they had previously chosen prior to deployment."

Sanchez said the opportunity "this foundation provides helps change people's lives in a positive direction."

The CDTFI Military Assistance Scholarships are available to all qualified individuals who are either serving in the military reserves or National Guard, contemplating separation from military service or who have been honorably discharged. The scholarships are available at 31 institutions throughout the country. Applications can be submitted to the Commercial Driver Training Foundation Inc. through its Web site at [www.cdtfi.org](http://www.cdtfi.org).