

TraCen Cape May Education Update #344

In this Update:

- Congratulations!!
- Question of the week
- Web page in the spotlight
- Grammar & usage corner
- November SWE info
- ACT at TraCen Cape May
- Using your GI Bill education benefit
- Reservists with lots of active duty service
- On-line college Spanish courses
- Reservists & credit for non-CG correspondence courses
- Colleges with unique (or nearly-unique) programs
- Solicitation for videos
- 01AUG changes to new GI Bill
- Scholarships for military personnel & their spouses
- Military scholarship opportunity
- Requesting rating courses
- Junior officers, listen up!
- GRE & GMAT test reimbursement
- Energy industry degree & non-degree programs
- Career & education planning tools
- How to go to college almost for free
- Is distance learning for you?
- Credit-by-exam test prep
- Civilian career myths
- Reserve resource guide
- TraCen Cape May testing calendar
- Miscellaneous

Congratulations!!

The following personnel in the Cape May area passed Coast Guard Institute end-of-course, AQEs, and other tests since the last update:

Name	Work Site	Test
BM2 Matthew Alber	CGC Finback	E-PME-6

Well done, PO Alber!

And if you've just finished a degree program or have any other noteworthy academic achievement to brag about, please let me know so I can recognize you for it.

Question of the Week

Q: How can I figure out if TA will pay for a course I want to take?

A: Once you get past the two main criteria, the Coast Guard's rules for determining whether TA will pay for a given course are admittedly somewhat confusing. Those two main criteria are:

- the institution offering the course must be regionally (most prestigious) or nationally accredited *and*
- the credits you earn for the course must be applicable to a degree program.

The usual question after knowing these two criteria is, “You say the course’s credits have to be applicable to a degree program; do I have to be pursuing a degree in that program to take the course?” The short answer is “no”. Here’s an example.

Say you want to take an OUPV (operator of uninspected passenger vessel or 6-pack license) course. Say further that an accredited community college has such a course and that it will let you use the credits earned from that course to satisfy an elective requirement in one of its degree programs. You could use TA to pay for that course, even if you’re not pursuing a degree program.

But be aware that the institution which offers the course (i.e., the one listed on your TA authorization) must be the same institution which provides the grade report (listing a letter grade, not “Pass” or “Fail”) and awards the college credit.

There are other eligibility rules, in addition to these, in the Performance, Training, & Education Manual (COMDTINST M1500.10C). I’ve synopsized them on my web site at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/ta.asp#eligibility>

If you have a question you’d like answered as a Question of the Week, e-mail it to me at andrew.g.webb@uscg.mil.

Web Page in the Spotlight

There’s a lot of stuff on the TraCen Cape May web site you might not check out if you didn’t know it was there. So this week, I’m spotlighting ***Helmets to Hardhats*** (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/h2h.asp>).

Grammar & Usage Corner

This feature will touch on grammar and usage questions as well as confused/misused/mispronounced words. This week, *biannual* and *biennial*.

Biannual means twice a year: “She received copies of her biannual professional journal in February and August.”

Biennial means once every two years: “Although the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate have frequent sessions every year, each Congress is biennial. The 112th Congress convened in early January 2011 (following the 2010 elections) and will adjourn in late 2012.”

If there are any word usage, grammar, or similar issues you’ve encountered, please e-mail them to me at andrew.g.webb@uscg.mil.

November SWE Info

The message with details on the November SWE was published on 29 July 2011 (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/ALCGENL140-11.pdf>). Anyone who plans on taking this SWE should read it carefully. ***Particularly important is paragraph 4.A., describing the would-be examinee’s responsibilities.***

For those who’ve never taken a SWE before (or those who may have forgotten), if you’ve met all the qualifications (as laid out on your Personal Data Extract or PDE) by 01 August 2011, PSC will automatically send a SWE for you to the ESO at the examination board listed on the PDE. ***Neither you nor your ESO can request a SWE.***

When your PDE is made available (on DirectAccess in early August), make sure you check **everything** on it carefully – including your examination board name and OPFAC.

- Are you going to be on leave or TAD on the date of your SWE?
- Will you be in-transit due to a PCS move on the date of your SWE?
- Are you going to be away from the unit listed on your PDE for any other reason on the date of your SWE?

If so, do the following:

- find a unit you know you'll be geographically near on your SWE date,
- contact the ESO at that unit and ask if it's OK to take your SWE there,
- assuming the ESO says "yes", ask for the unit's OPFAC,
- let your SPO know what the name and OPFAC of that unit so PSC knows to change your PDE.

PSC will automatically send your exam to the unit list as your exam board on your PDE.

Substitute exams are not authorized except in emergencies over which you have no control. Regular leave (even if you scheduled a Caribbean cruise six months ago) is not an emergency. A wedding – even your own – is not an emergency. For more information on just which circumstances justify requesting a substitute exam, see Article 5.D.3. of the *Personnel Manual*.

If you revise the PDE info concerning your exam site and later find out you won't be able to take your exam there after all or at the scheduled date and time, let your ESO know ASAP.

ACT at TraCen Cape May

The ACT test (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/act.asp>) will be administered at TraCen Cape May on Thursday, 01 September 2011.

If you're trying to qualify for a Coast Guard program that requires you to have taken either the ACT or SAT and want to take this test, please let me know ASAP. The first three people to get in touch with me (first come, first served) will get a seat. I usually administer these tests once a quarter.

ACT and the CollegeBoard, through DANTES, authorize ESOs to administer these tests only for uniformed personnel.

ESO's may administer the ACT at any time of the year, but can administer the SAT only between 01 October and 30 June. You can see a comparison of the SAT and ACT at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/comparison.asp>.

Be aware that in almost all cases military personnel don't need to take either the ACT or SAT to be admitted to take college courses.

You can read/download *Preparing for the ACT* (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/PreparingACT.pdf>) and *Taking the ACT* (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/TakingACT.pdf>) for more information about the test.

Government, Military Face Severe Shortage of Cybersecurity Experts

The latest edition of *National Defense* magazine (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/jobmisc027.pdf>) has an article that should be of interest to anyone who's interested in working in cyber security.

Using Your GI Bill Education Benefit

Although there are many differences among the various GI Bill education programs (MGIB-AD, MGIB-SR, REAP, Post-9/11 GI Bill), there are also a number of similarities. The main similarity people seem not to understand concerns the 36 months of benefits. These 36 months have **absolutely nothing** to do with the amount of time you have to use your benefit. It's merely a way of keeping track of how much of your benefit you have left.

Everyone, under all the programs, starts out with 36 months of benefits. You can use your benefits consecutively without a break or over many periods with breaks between them within the allotted usage period (which varies from program to program). For every day you're using your benefit (assuming you're going to school or undergoing training full-time), one day will be deducted from your initial 36 month benefit. If you're not going full-time, a fraction of a day will be deducted for each day you're using your benefit.

EXAMPLE 1: If you're going to college full-time and take one semester (103 days) of courses, 103 days will be deducted from your 36 months (1,080 days) of benefits, leaving you with approximately 977 days of benefits. As you take more courses, more days will be deducted until you have zero days of the benefit left.

EXAMPLE 2: If you're in a half-time vocational training program (4 hours per day), half a day will be deducted for each day you're receiving benefits.

You can take as much time off as you like from school or training and you'll still have however much time you had when you last stopped using the benefit (i.e., 36 months minus however many days of the benefit you've used up to that time).

The allotted usage periods for the four programs named above are as follows:

- MGIB-AD – 10 years from the last day you served on active duty for more than 90 days (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/gibill-30.asp>)
- MGIB-SR – until you leave the Selected Reserve (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/gibill-1606.asp>)
- REAP – 10 years from your discharge from the Selected Reserve with an honorable discharge (generally) (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/gibill-reap.asp>)
- Post-9/11 GI Bill – 15 years from the last day you served on active duty for more than 90 days (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/gibill-330.asp>)

Reservists With a Lot of Active Duty Service

If you're a Reservist and have served on active duty for extended periods (or even multiple short periods which add up to three years or more), you may be eligible for one of the other three GI Bill benefit programs other than the MGIB-SR. For example, if you served on active duty continuously for two or more years, you could be eligible for benefits under the MGIB-AD or REAP or the new (Post-9/11) GI Bill. (A period of active duty service can only be used to qualify for one GI Bill program.)

Talk with your ESO for more information if you think you might be eligible for other GI Bill benefits.

On-line College Spanish Courses

If you're interested in taking one or more Spanish language courses on-line and either don't want to or can't afford to use those which are commercially available, check out the dozens of courses available from many different regionally-accredited colleges and universities throughout the country.

DANTES's web site (<http://www.dantescatalogs.com/DISCCourses.aspx?ISCCode=11.26.00&MajorSubjectArea=PC>) lists them, gives a short description of what they entail, and lists all costs associated with them. Tuition assistance (TA) can be used to pay for all or most costs of all these courses and you'll earn college credit for them as well.

The DANTES Independent Study Catalog

(<http://www.dantescatalogs.com/DISCSUBJECTAREAS.aspx?MajorSubjectArea=PC>) lists similar courses for many other languages, as well.

Another option comes from Ms. Kristi Hilton (full-time ESO at Sector Columbia River). She found courses offered by the University of Texas at <http://courses.webhost.utexas.edu/dec/college/searchresults.cfm>. You'll also earn college credit for these courses and the cost is only \$147.60/credit. If you want to use TA, there's a "Military Tuition Assistance" option on the payment page. If you run into snags trying to use TA to pay for the course, the school's Registrar, Ms. Carol Tremaine (at 512-471-2906), will answer any questions you have about the procedure.

Reservists & Credit for Non-Coast Guard Correspondence Courses

(courtesy of Mr. Brion Newman, full-time ESO at Base Seattle)

Although this isn't related directly to Coast Guard education programs, Reservists may be interested in an item in the most recent issue of the Pay & Personnel Center's "Servicing Personnel Office News" dealing with earning retirement points via non-Coast Guard correspondence courses:

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/20110401SPONews.pdf>.

Colleges with Unique (or Nearly-Unique) Programs

If you're interested in a post-Coast Guard career related to sports, you've likely had a hard time finding any college degree programs that fit what you're looking for. Check out **United States Sports Academy** (<http://www.ussa.edu>). USSA has programs by which you can earn a certificate (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/degreeedesc.asp#certs>) or bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree in many fields related to sports. These include sports performance, personal training, strength and conditioning, coaching, management, fitness and health, and sports medicine.

USSA is regionally accredited, its courses are self-paced (allowing you to finish in as little as ___ weeks or to take as long as 16 weeks to complete) and you can use tuition assistance to pay for them.

Western Governors University (to quote Wikipedia) "is a private, nonprofit, American online university with more than 24,000 students across all 50 states. WGU is a competency-based university, and offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs in business, teacher education, information technology, and health professions (nursing). The school was founded in 1997 by a bi-partisan group of 19 governors of states in the western United States. Its mission is to improve quality and expand access to post-secondary educational opportunities." (<http://www.wgu.edu/>)

WGU is also regionally accredited and its courses are also self-paced. What makes it unique is that its courses are "competency-based" (http://www.wgu.edu/why_WGU/competency_based_approach). The payment arrangement is also unique. Students are charged a fixed amount per six-month term which varies from \$2,890 for the teachers ed programs to \$4,250 for one of its nursing programs. (Tuition has been the same since 2009. http://www.wgu.edu/tuition_financial_aid/tuition) The more courses (credits) you take, the lower your per-credit tuition and the farther your annual TA allowance will take you.

Solicitation for Videos

I'm interested in getting some videos from Coast Guard personnel (regular and Reserve military, as well as civilians) and/or their spouses who have used Coast Guard education benefits. I plan to use them to put life into the dry words on my web site. I'm **not** looking for videos saying nice things about me but for short vignettes describing one or more Coast Guard education benefits you've used and how doing so has positively affected you.

Please contact me if you'd like to know specifically what I'm looking for and if you could make a short (3-minute) video using a phone, camera, web cam, etc. It can be as simple as a talking head or as creative as you want to be.

01 August Changes to New GI Bill

If you've been using the new (Post-9/11) GI Bill for awhile, you may be affected by changes to which take effect on 01 August 2011. Here are a few of them.

The biggest change is the elimination of state-specific maximum payment rates. Instead, the new GI Bill will pay the actual cost of tuition and fees at all publicly-funded institutions of higher learning. For privately-funded and foreign schools, it will pay up to \$17,500 per year for tuition and fees (the Yellow Ribbon program remains available).

Any housing allowance a student is eligible for will be pro-rated according to her rate of pursuit (i.e., the number of credits she's taking divided by the number of credits the school considers to constitute full-time status) rounded to the next higher number ending in zero. If a student is taking 9 credits and 12 is considered full-time, for example, her rate of pursuit is 75% and she will receive 80% of the E-5 w/ dependents BAH rate (assuming she's eligible for the 100% payment rate).

Also, students not pursuing a degree who are attending an institution of higher learning half-time or less will become eligible for a stipend of \$1,000 per school year.

For a list of these and other changes, go to <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/20110801GIBillchanges.pdf>.

Scholarships for Military Personnel & their Spouses

The Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) is making awarding five \$1,000 scholarships to military personnel and the five to spouses of military personnel who are pursuing degrees. Submitting applications is done via CCME's web site (<http://www.ccmeonline.org/scholarships.aspx>) where you can also find all the criteria.

The deadline for submissions is 01 September 2011.

Military Scholarship Opportunity

Until 02 September 2011, the National Association of Institutions for Military Education Services (NAIMES) is accepting applications for the 2011 Student Spotlight Scholarships. All Coast Guard personnel (regulars and reservists) who are on active duty and are currently pursuing a degree using tuition assistance are eligible to apply.

A \$1,200 cash prize and commemorative plaque will be awarded to the top project in three categories: (1) undergraduate student with less than 60 credits earned; (2) undergraduate student with 60 or more credits; and 3) graduate student.

To demonstrate your academic achievement, the selection committee would like you to address, in any format you select (essay, prose, art, video, etc.) how your military service has contributed to your sense of citizenry. (Art and video projects must be submitted electronically or on DVD.)

You may address the theme from a macro or micro perspective; the key is to identify what you consider your academic accomplishment(s) and then link the accomplishment(s) to your military career. Note: There is not a set minimum or maximum page length for an essay or other written submission.

The application deadline is Friday, 02 September 2011. Application, resume, and project must be submitted online at www.naimes.org/upload.asp. Winners will be notified no later than 28 October 2011.

For detailed information about the NAIMES Student Spotlight Scholarship, to go www.naimes.org/spotlight.asp or contact Ms. Cheri Arfsten, Director, Military and Veterans Programs, Pikes Peak Community College at 719-502-3054 or cheri.arfsten@ppcc.edu.

Requesting Rating Courses

When requesting the rating course you need to study (in conjunction with your EPQs) to take an end-of-course test (EOCT), be sure to provide your ESO with your employee ID number and the name of the course you want.

Also keep in mind that units which are library units maintain a library of EOCTs (and AQEs). Virtually all large, shore-based units and many floating units as well are library units. That means that for most Coast Guard units, ordering tests is a thing of the past. You just arrange with your ESO the date/time for taking the test.

Junior Officers, Listen Up!

Many junior officers are unaware of the procedures for ensuring promotion boards and detailers know about higher education they've completed and their extracurricular career development activities. You should fill out form CG-4082 (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/CG4082.pdf>) and e-mail it (with scanned copies – front and back – of your official transcript or a certified copy of it) to the appropriate person at the Personnel Service Center Military Records Branch (PSC-psd-mr, formerly known as adm-3) (<http://www.uscg.mil/psc/adm/adm3/contact.asp>).

If you want an advanced degree entered into DirectAccess, fill out form PPC-2030 (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/PPC2030.pdf>), attach copies of your diploma and the corresponding transcript, and take it to your SPO or other YN who enters data into DirectAccess.

Your SPO or YN can also enter Graduate Record Exam (GRE), Law School Admission Test (LSAT), and other standardized test scores into DirectAccess. To send such scores directly to PSC-psd-mr – which is highly recommended

– follow the instructions outlined on page 19 of the *Officer Postgraduate and Advanced Education Application Process Guide* (http://www.uscg.mil/opm/Opm1/Opm1docs/PG/AY12Docs/AY12_PG-AdvEd_Process_Guide.pdf).

GRE & GMAT Test Reimbursement

While you have to pay to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT), you may be eligible for reimbursement for the cost of the test. You're eligible for a one-time reimbursement if you meet all the following conditions:

- you're currently in the Coast Guard (regular or Reserve), and
- you've never been reimbursed by DANTES for a GMAT or GRE, and
- you're applying to enroll or are currently enrolled in a graduate school requiring the GMAT or GRE or you have to take one of them to fulfill a legitimate Coast Guard requirement, and
- you submit your reimbursement request within 90 days of taking the test.

You can find the reimbursement request form at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/GMAT-reimb.pdf>.

Energy Industry Degree & Non-Degree Programs

Are you interested in working in any of the following fields after you leave the Coast Guard?

- Electric Power Technology
- Electrical Transmission Systems
- Instrumentation & Control
- Nuclear Power
- Petroleum Production
- Power Plant Technology
- Process Plant Technology
- Energy Management

If so, you can earn an undergraduate degree or certificate or just take individual courses in these fields. They're offered on-line by the National Energy Center of Excellence (NECE) at Bismarck State College in North Dakota – a regionally-accredited public college.

For more information, go to <http://energy.bismarckstate.edu/>.

Career & Education Planning Tools

Many people in the Coast Guard – military and civilians alike – are unsure of what career fields best match their personal interests and abilities. While you might be extremely competent at what you're doing in the Coast Guard, you might have skills you'd rather put to use in some other field. ESOs throughout the Coast Guard (including TraCen Cape May's) have access to many different tools you can use to assess your interests and possible ways to earn a living while pursuing those interests.

For more information, go to <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/discover.asp> and <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/sitest.asp>.

How to Go to College Almost for Free

Whether you'd like more money for your own education (even if you're using TA or receiving GI Bill benefits) or for a dependent, you should check out <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/scholarships.asp#strategy>. You'll see that finding money for college *is* possible using a logical, linear (and not all that daunting) methodology devised by Ben Kaplan.

Also, the Education Center recently acquired Mr. Kaplan's video, "Finding College Cash in Tough Times" (<http://www.cityofcollegedreams.org/store/finding-college-cash-in-tough-times>). After a short introduction it covers the following topics:

- Part I: Exploding 3 Myths about Paying for College
- Part II: 3 Strategies for Maximizing Need-based Financial Aid
- Part III: 3 Steps for Finding Merit Scholarships
- Part IV: 3 Components of a Winning Scholarship Game Plan
- Part V: 3 Strategies for Making Your Application Shine
- Part VI: Concluding Thoughts & Final Quiz

Although I can't lend out the video, you can watch it in the Education Center. Please contact me (andrew.g.webb@uscg.mil) if you're interested in seeing it. The total running time is 71 minutes. If there's enough interest to warrant it, we'll show it in the auditorium; otherwise, in the Education Center.

Is Distance Learning for You?

Because of its convenience (no need to leave the house to attend classes), distance learning appeals to working people – especially to military personnel. This fact means many Coast Guard personnel (who are often not near large population centers) have opportunities for higher education they might not have had in the past.

But before you plunk down the application fee for a distance learning course, check out the information about distance learning at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/distance.asp>. And before you hop on the on-line course bandwagon, spend a little time with the University of Georgia's on-line assessment tool to help you determine if computer-based distance learning is for you (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/distance.asp#01>).

Civilian Career Myths

Excelsior College's alumni magazine often includes articles of use to military personnel about to enter or re-enter the civilian work force. The latest issue has an article entitled "Fact or Fiction: The Truth About Career Myths" (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/careermyths.pdf>). You can also read "Skills Employers Seek" (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/skills.pdf>) and the Fall/Winter 2008 issue.

Check 'em out!

Reserve Resource Guide

In addition to the web site of the Coast Guard Office of Reserve Affairs (<http://www.uscg.mil/reserve/>), Reservists should also check out TraCen Petaluma's Reserve Resource Guide (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg1/tracenpetaluma/RRG/>). Together, these provide info on and links to info on every facet of Coast Guard affairs related to service in the Reserve.

TraCen Cape May Testing Calendar

Tests at TraCen Cape May are administered by appointment according to the following schedule:

- Mondays (0800): Defense Language Proficiency Tests
- Tuesdays (0800): EOCTs and AQEs*
- Thursdays (0745): college tests, CLEP tests, DSSTs, SATs, ACTs

* If operations or your work schedule make it impossible for you to take an EOCT or AQE on a Tuesday morning, you can take it on a Thursday morning.

This schedule leaves most of the day on Tuesdays, as well as all day on Wednesdays, Fridays available for other occasional tests, counseling, and other face-to-face interactions with you. When no one is taking a language test, the doors to the Education Center are open on Mondays, as well.

If you call and I don't answer the phone, I'm usually administering a test (and, because of the noise, can't talk on the phone) or otherwise busy with someone in the office. E-mail is the best way to get in touch with me at andrew.g.webb@uscg.mil.

Leaving the Coast Guard?

If you're leaving the Coast Guard within the next twelve months (whether through retirement, resignation, or expiration of your enlistment), you should be making plans for what you'll be doing after you take off your uniform for the last time. Check out the information on my web site related to career transition (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/careertrans.asp>).

Also, stop by the Education Center to check out the (small) supply of booklets related to rejoining the civilian work force. Here are the topics of the booklets:

- Jobs With a Future
- How to Develop Job Resources
- The Resume
- The Cover Letter: A Resume Should Never Stand Alone
- The Mature Resume: The Resume with Experience
- The Follow-up Letter
- The Interview
- How to Choose a Career: A Guide to Self-Assessment
- Civilian Again
- Leaving the Service ... and Beginning Your Next Career
- Military to Civilian: Your Resume and Job Hunt
- Effective Goal Setting: How to Reach the Goals You Set for Yourself

You should also request an education assessment from the Coast Guard Institute (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/collegefaq.asp>) to get a transcript of college credit you've acquired through your service in the Coast Guard. ***If you don't request an assessment before you leave active duty, you can't get one (or a transcript) later.***

If you're not planning to go to school right away, you'll probably need to find work. Here are two excellent resources for finding a job – or even a second career. Also, Military.com has a very good series of web pages devoted to veterans (<http://www.military.com/Careers/Home>).

And don't discount the idea of working in the public sector. Not only are there thousands of jobs in the federal government, identical to private-sector jobs in which you can put your skills, knowledge, and experience to use while maintaining job security unavailable in the private sector (<http://www.fedjobs.gov/>), governmental entities at all levels – state, county, municipality, school district, port district, etc. – provide similar benefits.

ACCC's Library Open for Studying

One more thing: the new campus's classrooms, labs, and library are all state-of-the-art. Even if you're not ready to register for classes right away, you should take the opportunity to visit the campus and look around. The Director of Academic and Student Services has extended a personal invitation to anyone who'd like to use the library to study, for research, or for pleasure reading. It's very quiet, well-lit, and has very comfortable furniture.

Education Center Library

The TraCen Education Center has a binder full of SparkCharts Quick Reference Guides on almost 40 subjects. You're welcome to use these in the Education Center or make copies to take with you. You can check out the subjects available at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/books.asp#spark>.

In addition to SparkCharts, the Education Center also has a library of books on leadership, management, Coast Guard history, and other topics. Also in the library are the latest Professional Qualification Guides (PQGs) and Enlisted Performance Qualifications (EPQs) for each rating.

The Education Center also has dozens of brochures and books on college, financial aid, the officer program application process, and other things. If there are multiple copies, you're welcome to take one.