

TraCen Cape May Education Update #327

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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
SN Keith Bernier	TraCen (UPH)	E-PME-4
SN Lawrence Mouton	CGC Finback	E-PME-4*
SK3 Aaron Abreu	TraCen (Comptroller)	SK2

* First attempt

Also, MEC Dave Hentnick, formerly a CC at TraCen Cape May now at Recruiting Office Philadelphia, just completed a bachelor's degree in management from the University of Phoenix.

Well done, all of you!

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.

Education Center Closed 22-25 March

TraCen Cape May's Education Center will be closed from Tuesday, 22 March through Friday, 25 March 2011. No testing will be conducted during that period. **Please plan accordingly.**

Question of the Week

Q: I understand that tuition assistance covers fees for things directly related to my course. So that means I can use TA to pay for my books, right?

A: Generally, no. Remember, TA covers only tuition and certain fees – as you stated, fees directly related to the course you're taking. Say, for example, you're taking a film photography course and your school charges a fee for that

course to cover consumables like darkroom supplies. That fee is directly related to the course, so it's covered by TA. But it's unlikely your school charges a separate "book fee" for any of its courses.

On the other hand, some schools do provide books along with the course syllabus, instruction, quizzes, and exams in exchange for a tuition payment. In such cases, books would be covered by TA only because they're paid for as part of the tuition.

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 **Defense Language Proficiency Test** (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/dlpt.asp>).

Grammar & Usage Corner

This feature will touch on grammar and usage questions as well as confused/misused words. This week, we'll look at two words which are often incorrectly used interchangeably: *interpreter* and *translator*.

Interpreter is a noun designating "a person who converts a thought or expression in a source language into an expression with a comparable meaning in a target language in 'real time'. The interpreter's function is to convey every semantic element (tone and register) and every intention and feeling of the message that the source-language speaker is directing to target-language recipients." (from *Wikipedia*)

In simultaneous interpretation the speaker doesn't pause for the interpreter to repeat her words in the second language, but speaks at normal speed. Simultaneous interpretation became widely known during the Nürnberg war crimes trials in 1946 and is today widely used in governmental and business settings. In consecutive interpretation the speaker says what he has to say then stops while the interpreter (who may have been taking notes) repeats in a different language what the speaker said. Consecutive interpretation, naturally, doubles the length of the speaker's presentation.

Translator is a noun designating a person who converts written or recorded text from one language to another. Translators, unlike interpreters, have "time and access to resources (dictionaries, glossaries, etc.) to produce an accurate document or verbal artifact." (from *Wikipedia*)

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.

23 March – Troops to Teachers Briefing

If you're interested in teaching after you leave the Coast Guard and if you're within commuting distance of Dover AFB in Delaware, you should plan to attend the Troops to Teachers one-hour briefing to be held there on Wednesday, 23 March at 1000.

The Troops-to-Teachers representative for Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey will provide updated program information and there will also be a guest speaker who'll talk about Delaware teacher certification and processes to acquire this state certification. He will also speak about Praxis series testing and will stay as long needed to advise attendees. You can also bring a copy of your transcripts to date and the representative will look them over.

To register for the briefing and for other particulars, call Ms. Portia Fennell at 302-677-4634 in the Education Center (261 Chad Street), which is where the briefing will be held.

31 March – ACT at TraCen Cape May

If you're trying to qualify for a Coast Guard advanced education program (e.g., ACET, PPEP, DCIT, etc.) and need to have current SAT or ACT scores, I'll be administering the ACT (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/act.asp>) on Thursday, 31 March.

Let me know if you want to take it (andrew.g.webb@uscg.mil). I have only three copies on-hand and it's first come, first served.

31 March Scholarship Application Deadline

- The Jersey Cape Military Spouse's Club is offering four \$1,000 scholarships to deserving dependents of Cape May-area uniformed personnel. Its purpose is to help meet post-secondary educational expenses. The award will be made on the basis of scholastic abilities, character, leadership, and extracurricular activities.

Eligibility requirements and the application are available from <http://coastie2coastie.net/jcmsc/index.xhtml>. Don't be surprised if you're asked to complete a survey. The survey is just the gateway to the application form. **The deadline for submitting applications via this web site is 31 March 2011.**

- The Wildwood chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) is offering a \$500 scholarship for seniors at Wildwood High School or Wildwood Catholic High School.

For more information, contact Mr. John Burgin (TraCen Cape May Facilities Engineering) at 609-898-6948 or 609-536-2754.

- Also, the director of the Tillman Foundation is hoping more eligible Guardians will apply for the Tillman Military Scholarship program this year than in the past. So far, no Guardians have been chosen to receive one of these scholarships. **Applications for the 2011-2012 academic year open on 07 March 2011.** Check out the foundation's web site for eligibility criteria and other application information: <http://www.patillmanfoundation.org/tillman-military-scholars/apply/>.

01 April Deadline for May Servicewide PDE Corrections

If you met all the qualifications for advancement by 01 February 2011, PSC will automatically send a SWE for you to the ESO at the examination board listed on the Personal Data Extract (PDE). **Your ESO has nothing to do with PDEs and you cannot request a SWE.**

Check your PDE immediately, if you haven't already done so, to make sure you check **everything** on it is correct. Remember: it's **your** sole responsibility before 01 April 2011 to ensure all PDE data is accurate, to "[r]eport any discrepancies to your administration or Servicing Personnel Office (SPO)", and to "ensure that corrective action was taken". (See paragraph 4.A. of ALCGENL012/11 (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/ALCGENL012-11.pdf>.) "The online PDE must show status of eligible in order to receive an exam. . . . Failure to report and verify online PDE corrections may result in a not eligible status for SWE or loss of points in the final multiple."

Ensuring everything on your PDE is accurate includes ensuring your examination board name and OPFAC are correct.

- 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 (and if you want to take the SWE), 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 the info on your PDE is changed.

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

Substitute exams are authorized ONLY in emergencies. 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 what circumstances justify requesting a substitute exam, see Article 5.D.3. of the *Personnel Manual*.

If you change the Exam Board on your PDE and later find out you won't be able to take your SWE at the new location, let your ESO know immediately.

For info on studying and test-taking skills, go to <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/studying.asp>.

Foreign Language Tests

If you're thinking about taking a Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT), there are a few things you should know. For the basic facts, go to <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/dlpt.asp>.

Also keep in mind that this is NOT an easy test for anyone. A lot of native speakers of non-English languages think that just because they grew up speaking the language in the home they'll do well. This seldom turns out to be the case. Those who do the best either studied the language in college or in an intensive language program and then lived in a country where that language is spoken (e.g., Mormon missionaries) or grew up speaking the language *and* went to school where that was the only language used. Americans who only speak it at home or on the street tend not to do well.

Also, there seems to be a misconception that if you do well on this test you'll automatically get FLPP (foreign language proficiency pay). That's not true. Only if you're filling a billet specified in one of two ALCOASTs can you receive FLPP. For more information, and to see where the billets are, go to <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/dlpt.asp>.

Eligibility to Take Rating or E-PME Test

There seems to be some confusion among supervisors and would-be examinees as to what a person needs to complete to take a rating or E-PME test.

Rating End-of-Course Test

To advance to E-5 and E-6 in all rates you must take and pass an end-of-course test (EOCT) on the Enlisted Performance Qualifications (EPQs) for your rate. (If you're striking for BM3, DC3, FS3, MK3, or SK3 you must also take an EOCT).

To prepare for the EOCT you complete the appropriate rating course (such as ME2 or OS1) which you order from the Coast Guard Institute through your ESO (provide your employee ID number). The course will be sent directly to you by mail at your Coast Guard address.

After completing the course, you download the EPQs for your rate (see below) and demonstrate your ability (under actual or simulated conditions) to complete each EPQ for the next higher pay grade. (See Article 5.C.7.a. of the Personnel Manual). Make sure you have the most current version of the EPQs. On page 2 of each rate's EPQs is the following statement:

"I certify that the person named below has satisfactorily completed all rate related course work and Enlisted Performance Qualifications (EPQ) for pay grade E-_____ and is eligible to take the end of course test (EOCT)."

This statement must be signed by your shop chief or division officer and shown to your ESO before you'll be allowed to take the EOCT. ***NOTE: A new Rating Performance Qualification System (RPQS) is being implemented for all rates. This process began with the MST rate and is expected to be complete by 2014. Once the process is complete, EPQs will be called Rating Performance Qualifications (RPQs) and EOCTs will be called Rating Advancement Tests.***

E-PME Advancement Qualification Exam (AQE)

To advance to any pay grade in all rates you must also complete the Enlisted Professional Military Education (E-PME) Performance Requirements and learn the E-PME Knowledge Requirements for the next higher pay grade. Like the EPQs, you download these from the CGPortal (see below). Completing the Performance Requirements means demonstrating mastery of each one.

In addition to demonstrating mastery of the relevant Performance Requirements, those seeking to advance to the even pay grades (E-4, E-6, and E-8) must also complete an Advancement Qualification Exam (AQE).

- The E-4 AQE covers the E-3 and E-4 Performance and Knowledge Requirements.
- The E-6 AQE covers the E-5 and E-6 requirements.
- The E-8 AQE covers the E-7 and E-8 requirements.

You order the Study Guide that corresponds with the AQE you plan to take by providing your ESO with your employee ID number. The Study Guide will be sent directly to you by mail at your Coast Guard address.

On page 2 of the Performance Requirements is the following statement:

"I certify that the person named below satisfactorily completed all EPME performance requirements and related course work for pay grade E-_____ and is eligible to take the Advancement Qualification Exam (AQE)."

It, like the parallel statement on the EPQs, must be signed by your shop chief or division officer and shown to your ESO before you'll be allowed to take the AQE.

Downloading Your EPQs and Performance & Knowledge Requirements

To download the EPQs for your rate and the E-PME Performance and Knowledge Requirements for all enlisted personnel, go to the CGPortal (<https://cgportal.uscg.mil/>) and click on the "Training & Education" button on the blue menu bar, then follow this path: Learning Management System > Enlisted Advancement.

For EPQs, select the relevant category the select your rate and you'll find a link to the EPQs under "Course Materials" If you're an MST, select "Rating Performance Qualification System", then "000000 MST Rating Performance Qualification System (RPQS)", then the RPQ for the applicable pay grade. **NOTE: Eventually, this is what all ratings will be using.**

For E-PME requirements, select "Enlisted Professional Military Education (EPME)" then the relevant pay grade and, under "Course Materials", you'll find separate links for the "Knowledge Requirements" and the "Performance Requirements".

Do I Need a Degree to Get the Job I Want?

Many Coast Guard personnel are more interested in working with their hands (for example, carpentry, gunsmithing, plumbing, locksmithing, electrical work) than they are in sitting in class for five hours a day to get a degree. Still, everyone tells them they need to get a degree to succeed in the civilian labor market so they feel they have to do so.

But before you jump into a degree program, think about your ultimate employment goal and work backwards from it. When planning a car trip, you don't just start driving and hope to end up somewhere you wanted to go. You have a destination in mind and figure out the best route to get there. This should be the way you also plan your career, both in the Coast Guard and in the civilian world.

Let's say you want to work as a video game designer. Assuming you want to work for a company that does nothing but design and market video games, call a half dozen of them and talk with someone who makes hiring decisions in the HR department or the like. Ask what kind of training and/or education they're looking for in new hires. Ask specifically if the people they hire need a degree, a certificate of some kind, or if demonstrated ability (e.g., via a portfolio or other samples of your work) is good enough.

Remember: a college degree requires you to take many courses totally unrelated to your field of interest. Roughly half the courses you take to earn a degree fall into this category. If you're more interested in acquiring the knowledge necessary to start working in the field that interests you, a degree may not be for you.

There are a number of paths you can take once you know whether most likely employers require a degree. You can

- work with someone who has the knowledge you want to acquire (a mentor-protégé or apprenticeship relationship, formal or informal);
- learn it on your own via resources available for free (often on the Internet, see <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/distance.asp#knowledge>);
- take college courses just in your area of interest and, perhaps, earn an academic certificate in the process (see "Academic Certificates" at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/degreedesc.asp#certs>); or

- take non-credit courses that you have to pay for, for example Excelsior College's Professional Development courses (<http://www.excelsior.edu/web/center-for-professional-development>) or the Graduate School's courses (<http://graduateschool.edu/>), which GI Bill education benefits will likely cover.

First find out if a degree is something you need or want. If you don't need a degree, but you want one and/or what you learn will be useful, by all means work toward one. The point is, don't jump into a degree program just because everyone else is doing so.

Real Estate Courses

Many Guardians and their spouses are interested in supplementing their incomes by becoming realtors. Those who are often ask me if they can use tuition assistance (TA) to pay for real estate license test preparation courses. The general answer is "no".

TA can only be used for courses from which you earn college credit that can be applied to a degree program and are offered by nationally- or regionally-accredited schools.

Before discussing the different paths you can take to a real estate license, be aware that each state has its own licensing requirements. Preparing for a licensing exam in one state may or may not prepare you for the exam in another state. You'll need to check with your state's real estate licensing authority. For example, in New Jersey, it's the Real Estate Commission of the Department of Banking and Insurance (<http://www.state.nj.us/dobi/remnu.shtml>); in Pennsylvania, it's the State Real Estate Commission (http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/state_real_estate_commission/12523). Just do the following Google search – "real estate license" "new jersey" – and look for URLs of official government web sites (NOT those ending in .com, .net, etc.).

There are a number of paths to follow toward a real estate license. The most basic is to buy one or more of the many books available on the market (e.g., *Real Estate License Exams for Dummies*, which gets excellent reviews from purchasers on Amazon.com). There are also many commercial real estate license prep courses and schools around (see, e.g., those listed at <http://www.online-education.net/real-estate-license.html>), although I can't vouch for their quality or cost-effectiveness.

And for those who really want to understand the ins and outs of all the subjects related to real estate transactions, there are college courses offered by quite a few schools.

Adams State College
Thomas Edison State College
University of California
Mississippi State University

University of Idaho
University of Mississippi
University of Nebraska

University of Oklahoma
University of Alaska
University of Southern Mississippi

These courses are **covered by TA** and you also earn college credit for them. You can read about each course in the DANTES Independent Study Catalog (<http://www.dantescatalogs.com/DISCSubjectAreas.aspx?MajorSubjectArea=PC>) search the page for topic numbers 03.14.00, 03.14.02, and 03.14.03.

There are also relatively inexpensive courses which aren't eligible for TA. For example, if you're stationed in Cape May County or Atlantic County, New Jersey you can take continuing education course from Atlantic Cape Community College that prepares you for the state licensing exam. For more info about the course, go to ACCC's web site: <http://www.atlantic.edu/conted/classes/professionalDev/real-estate-sales-pre-licensing.htm>.

New CGMA Education Loan

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA) has just announced a new education loan, which came into being on 01 March 2011 (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/loans.asp#cgma>). This interest-free loan replaces any existing education loans offered by CGMA. It will provide up to \$2,000 to eligible clients with qualified education expenses. The proceeds from this loan may not be used for child care costs or to purchase a computer. They may, however, be used to cover the cost of parking, tolls, and other transportation-related expenses.

Applicants will not need to provide a budget form since the loan is not based on need. Unlike the Supplemental Education Grant (SEG) program (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/grants.asp#seg>), this loan may be used for graduate degree programs.

Only one education loan will be authorized at a time. That is, one education loan must be paid off before another can be authorized. You can find the application for this loan at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/CGM11.pdf>.

See CGMA's flyer at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/CGMAloan.pdf>. An ALCOAST announcing this loan will be published in the next few weeks.

NJROTC Seeks Instructors

All over the country high schools have NJROTC (Navy Junior ROTC) programs that need retired Coast Guard, Navy, and Marine Corps personnel to serve as instructors. If you're interested, check out the NJROTC web site instructors pages, starting at https://www.njrotc.navy.mil/instructor/instructor_index.asp.

Success as an On-line Student

The following list, from the Illinois On-line Network, describes what qualities a student should possess to be successful in on-line learning programs:

- Be open-minded about sharing life, work, and educational experiences as part of the learning process.
- Be able to communicate through writing.
- Be self-motivated and self-disciplined.
- Be willing to "speak up" if problems arise.
- Be willing and able to commit to 4 to 15 hours per week per course.
- Be able to meet the minimum requirements for the program.
- Accept critical thinking and decision making as part of the learning process.
- Have access to a computer and an Internet connection (preferably high-speed).
- Be able to think ideas through before responding.
- Feel that high quality learning can take place without going to a traditional classroom.

ION's web site (<http://www.ion.uillinois.edu/resources/tutorials/pedagogy/StudentProfile.asp>) expands on each of these points and provides other pointers for would-be distance-learning students.

Going one step farther, the University of Georgia has come up with an on-line assessment tool you can use to determine if computer-based distance learning is for you. It's called READI (**R**eadiness for **E**ducation **A**t a **D**istance **I**ndicator, <http://goml.readi.info/>). "Upon completion of READI-SmarterMeasure, you will receive a score report which will not only help you understand your strengths and opportunities for improvement, but will also provide you with resources to help you succeed."

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.

Re-taking ASVAB Tests

Are you interested in going to "A" school for a particular rate, but realize your ASVAB scores aren't high enough? You may be unaware that at any time you can re-take one or more of the tests which comprise the AFCT (Armed Forces Classification Test) – the version of the ASVAB available only to military personnel.

Before you pick up the phone to call your ESO to schedule a test, however, keep in mind two things. First, whatever score you get on the re-test (higher, lower, or the same) it becomes your new official score. Second, if you're unsatisfied with the score you get on a re-test, you must wait six months to take that test again.

Other Considerations

- The VE score represents a scaled composite of the scores on two separate tests: PC and WK. You can't take a single test to improve your VE score.
- The WK test is a vocabulary test and, as such, is virtually impossible to prepare for. If you've become an avid reader since you took the ASVAB at a MEP Station or have memorized a dictionary, you may improve your WK score greatly. But if not, you should think twice about re-taking it – especially if your existing score is relatively high.
- You can qualify for five ratings' "A" schools (AET, AMT, AST, ET, IT) either by getting the required composite score or by getting an AFQT score of at least 65. (Your AFQT score is equal to AR + MK + (2 x VE).) To qualify for these schools via the AFQT score, you do *not* have to have a minimum AR score of 52.

For more information about the AFCT/ASVAB, each of its tests, and how to prepare for them, go to <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/asvab.asp>.

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's 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. This is a two-step process: request an assessment, request an official copy of the resulting transcript be sent to one or more colleges of your choice. ***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.

Quick Reference Study Guides

The TraCen Education Center also 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>.

Education Center Library

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) 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.