

MARITIME ENFORCEMENT SPECIALIST (ME)



FORCE NOTES

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Rating Force Master Chief: MECM Gordon Muise
Gordon.J.Muise@uscg.mil

"A" School Chief: MECM Randy Krahn
Randy.L.Krahn@uscg.mil

Course Writer & SWE Writer: MECM Steve Lowry
Steven.J.Lowry@uscg.mil

PS Transition Force Master Chief: PSCM Tom McCook
Thomas.W.McCook@uscg.mil

Official disclaimer: This newsletter is for the sole purpose of passing information to those within the Maritime Enforcement specialist rating. The material contained within is not for record purposes nor represents any Coast Guard official policy. Questions, comments, things of interest may be sent to: Gordon.J.Muise@uscg.mil

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GREETINGS:

ALCGPSC 067/09, Announcement of Active Duty Maritime Enforcement Specialist (ME) Rating Lateral Selection Results; and ALCGPSC 068/09, Reserve PS Disposition and ME Lateral Panel Results, have been released.

Congratulations on all those who were selected to become a Maritime Enforcement Specialist! You are pioneers of the new ME rating!

The ME rating badge and the MLES Warrant Specialty items should be available from the UDC by 01 Dec. Check with your local Coast Guard Exchange to see when they plan to stock these items. Also some CG Exchanges have the ME rating coin in stock. If not they are available from Northwest Territorial Mint.

http://store.nwtmint.com/Coast_Guard/Rate/4

The lateral selection panel had the difficult task of narrowing the candidate pool from 1456 applicants to 1053 to fill the billets. This means the panel had to say **NO** to around 400 persons, some of which were very qualified. Some pay grades were very competitive and while others were not. We expect the rating to grow over the coming years, but not so much in the near future due to financial constraints. We recently added 34 new ME billets to plus up the LEDETs. There are also other billets that are being looked at for possible conversion to ME billets.

We still have a long road ahead before the ME rating is fully populated. There will be 3-4 years of mismatch of bodies to billets, since the plan is to rotate persons only when they are tour complete. There will be cases where needs the service will over ride that policy. There also are many training gaps to be addressed, since people are lateralizing over with a variety of training backgrounds and experience. Some people have no formal training other than OJT; some have a lot of training from sources outside the Coast Guard. All good training, but it is not standardized. Also there are duties associated with the ME rating that weren't part of the original planned duties of a ME, such as Weapons Petty Officer, Small Arms Instructor, or Tactical Boat Crew Member. Though they are small aspects of the rating, we need to ensure there is training available to meet this need.

TRAINING & EPQS:

Now is the time to update your IDP to address how you plan to advance your career as a Maritime Enforcement Specialist. Hopefully your unit has drafted a unit training plan that outlines the process to get all its MEs (Active Duty & Reserve) through their ME EPQs, but remember EPQs are the member's responsibility to complete. I am encouraging commands to be proactive in your career development.

Enlisted Performance Qualifications (EPQs) set the standards that a member must meet to advance within their rating. Additionally they are used to develop A school curriculum and SWE questions. As stated in the last line of the EPQ instructions ***"It is the member's responsibility to be proficient in all currently published performance qualifications, up to and including those of their present pay grade for their specific rating to facilitate learning of junior personnel"***. EPQ sign off was not required to lateral to ME, but will ultimately be needed for future advancements. See ALCOAST 410/09 (Active Duty) or ALCOAST 411/09

(Reserve) for details. EPQs are meant to be building blocks of the advancement process. So the best way forward is to start at the beginning. Each ME should start at task 4.A.01 and work up to and including their current pay grade to ensure they are capable of completing the standards as written. Don't just quickly read the task statement and move on. Take time to fully understand what the standards are and that you can meet the standard. You are a pioneer of the ME rating, and as such you should be making the effort to ensure everyone is headed on the correct path including yourself.

When you create a unit training plan for your MEs, please ensure to include both active duty and reserve members. Please offer space in your training sessions to MEs from other units in your local area that don't have the capability to train MEs. You might even want to think big on a regional scale. This has been successful in the past in many ways throughout the Coast Guard, such as the Officer In Charge Colleges, Boat Courses, BTM courses, etc. Ensure you are using instructors that are current on the material they are teaching. Lesson plans are available on the MLEA web site. Also check for availability of the traveling LE Training Teams. The goal is to have the best trained MEs so they are ready to protect American Waterways, and our interests throughout the world.

Reminder: If you plan to take the May 2010 SWE, you must have completed your EPQ tasks for the next higher pay grade prior to 01 Feb 2010.

PS TRANSITION RFMC:

Each rating has a Rating Force Master Chief (RFMC) to oversee the rating. Since PS was a Reserve only rating it had a reserve member as the RFMC. Though the PS rating is being disestablished there is still a need to have an advocate for former PS members. The decision was made that the billet will remain filled for three years following the disestablishment of the rating to provide expert support to the ME and other rating RFMCs in managing this transition. Specific responsibilities of the PS transition RFMC during this timeframe would include:

- a. Advise the Master Chief Petty Officer of Coast Guard Reserve Forces on progress of the PS/ME merger.
- b. Track all PS's non-compliant with the lateral application process detailed in ALCOAST 348/09, and handle associated ISL issues.
- c. Work with CG-131, CG PSC-rpm, ME RFMC, FORCECOM, & OPCOM to refine the appropriate size of the ME reserve workforce and location of billets.
- d. Act as a conduit between CGPSC-rpm and legacy rating rating RFMCs to ensure reserve equitable consideration for reserve members seeking to

- lateral to legacy ratings as noted in the Reserve Policy Manual, COMDTINST M1001.28A.
- e. Monitor the progress of all members of the legacy PS rating throughout the transition process.

FROM THE ME DETAILER:

ME ASSIGNMENTS AY2010: Members who are tour complete in AY 2010 and whose name appears on the ME lateral message are reminded to submit an updated e-resume NLT 27 Nov 2009. Extensions will only be considered for members who successfully lateral and are currently sitting in an ME position. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call or email.

Bosn Steve Engle, ME assignment Officer

FROM THE SCHOOL HOUSE:

Greetings from the Maritime Enforcement Specialist "A" School staff at the Maritime Law Enforcement Academy. The staff is putting the finishing touches on all the little details that encompass our new program and are excited to complete this groundbreaking project. The Academy is working hard to finalize the product to ensure the success of the Coast Guard's newest rating. The academic and physical fitness programs have taken shape and are in the final stages of development. We have identified the characteristics and expectations of our soon to be Petty Officers and look forward to training our Guardians for their future role. Our Staff is looking forward to opening our doors and is eager to see all of our new students soon. Additional information regarding reporting aboard, travel and "A" School life can be found at the following link.

<http://cgweb.mlca.uscg.mil/mlea/index.php>

UNITED SERVICES MILITARY APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (USMAP):

The United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) is a formal military training program that provides active duty Coast Guard, Marine Corps, and Navy service members the opportunity to improve their job skills and to complete their civilian apprenticeship requirements while they are on active duty. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) provides the nationally recognized "Certificate of Completion" upon program completion.

SIMPLE QUALIFICATIONS

- be active duty/FTS, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, or Navy and,
- be designated in a Rating/MOS and,
- have sufficient time to complete the program while on active duty and,
- possess a high school diploma or GED and,
- the selected trade must be your primary job at your command.

EASY COMPLETION

USMAP requires no off-duty hours and can grant up to one half of the required [on-the-job training hours](#) for military experience. You may also get credit for previous apprenticeships.

GOOD BENEFITS

USMAP enhances your job skills and shows your motivation for more challenging military assignments. Having a DOL Certificate of Completion is a definite advantage in getting better civilian jobs since employers know the value of apprenticeships. Keep reading if you want to get a jump on the competition for those great career jobs. For more information see the below link:

<https://usmap.cnet.navy.mil/usmapss/static/usmap.jsp>

Two of the military occupations that are available to the ME rating is Police Officer I (Government Service) and Security Specialist. Graduates of the Boarding Officer course at MLEA meet the minimum training needed to enter the program. Members selected to lateral to ME can enroll now with USMAP. It is useless to enroll if you are not in a billet that will offer the OJT opportunities that are needed to complete the program. To enroll see your local ESO.

PHOTOS & VIDEOS:

I like to collect photos and videos. I use them for a variety of reasons, such as presentations. If you have an interesting photo or video relating to the ME world of work, please forward it onto to me. You are welcome to include a description of the activities of the shot including names. I don't need many shots of the same

person doing the same event from different angles; please just send me the best version of it.

USEFUL LINKS:

<https://cgportal.uscg.mil/lotus/myquickr/me/welcome> Central location for information dealing with the ME rating.

<http://cgweb.mlca.uscg.mil/mlea/index.php> MLE Academy

<http://www2.tracenetaluma.com/tqc/cschoollistings.asp> TQC School listings

Please share these Force Notes with your shipmates!

G.J. Muise, MECM
Maritime Enforcement Specialist
Rating Force Master Chief
(202)372-1319

HAVE A NICE DAY!