

Education Updates

September 13th is a career fair day. There will be over 20 colleges, USCG recruiter, and possibly veteran affairs. *



Question of the Week

Q: Last semester I signed up for two courses and got TA for both of them. But a few weeks after the semester started I had to drop one of them. I told my ESO, she had the Institute cancel the TA for the course, and I got a new TA authorization listing only the course I was taking. But a few days ago, I got a computer-generated letter from the Navy telling me I have to provide a grade report for the course I dropped or repay the Navy for the TA it spent on the course.

The Coast Guard Institute says my school billed the Navy in January for the course I dropped the previous November. Why did the Navy pay for the dropped course when I got a new authorization saying it would only pay for the course I didn't drop? And what should I do now? I can't provide a grade report since I didn't take the course and I don't want to pay money for a course I didn't take.

A: Although the Institute generated a corrected TA authorization, apparently the Navy's billing system had no way of knowing you were only taking one of the two courses on the original authorization. As a result, when your school submitted the original TA authorization for payment, the Navy automatically paid for both courses. Now that it's been 60 days since the courses ended, the Navy expects you to provide a grade report for both courses listed on the original authorization.

Did you provide your school with the revised TA authorization listing only the course you actually took? If not or if you provided it only after the school had already billed the Navy, I'm sorry to say that it's now up to you to get the school to repay the TA money it received for the course you didn't take. Once the school has checked its records to see that, indeed, you didn't take the course, I'm sure it will gladly refund the money to the Navy.

If you have a question you'd like answered as a Question of the Week, e-mail it to me at Kristi.L.Hilton@uscg.mil.



Thursday Sept.5th 4-8pm 8 week on base College math starts
DeVry will be at Sector Columbia River on Friday August 26th for
CLEP, DSST and ECE testing and info from 1000 - 1700pm .



Featured Books Available in Education Center

Barron's GRE Flash Cards

- 2011 Exclusive Rankings America's Best Graduate Schools
- Financial Aid for Veterans, Military Personnel, and Their Families
- Occupational Outlook Handbook
- The Best 366 colleges

Books from Commandants reading list

[CLEP DVD's](#) on 5 or more subjects plus paper and pencil practice exams

Education Updates

Info from Education Service Officer Symposium

Last week I attended sessions on the new eTesting that has started this week with the MST members. I also attended sessions on advanced education programs, Pearson Vue testing such as COMP TIA, Rate force Master Chief panel discussion, GI Bill updates, ASVAB/AFCT updates, and an overview of the Coast Guard Foundation grants. I was able to meet with 48 different colleges and now have a huge array of information for members. I will feature a new college each week.

Reservists

Welcome LTJG Aaron McClellan to the planning staff at the Sector location. He is a prior reservist that is on an active duty tour representing the reservists in the planning section.

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.



Did you know that a reservist may earn extra points towards retirement when they complete a Non-CG correspondence course? Most members do not realize that when a reservist completes a Correspondence Course while on Active Duty, they do **not** receive points to count towards their retirement. Reserve Policy Manual 8.C.5.b states “No retirement points will be credited for any courses completed while a member is on active duty or on an inactive status list”.

However, as with so many other rules, there is an exception to this. For example, when a reservist attends the Naval War College (NWC), or similar, for a course that **required them to complete correspondence prerequisites prior** to attending, they are entitled to receive retirement points. They must provide the SPO with a copy of the completion certification letter they received from the Navy or other agency. Somewhere in the letter it will state something equivalent to: “**prior** to your arrival / commencement at the Naval War College, you were **required** to complete a significant amount of reading..., etc.”



Military Scholarship Opportunity for members & 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.

Education Updates

DISCOVER[®]

ACT



Explore Major and Occupation Descriptions with DISCOVER[®] an Internet-based career planning program created and administered by ACT, "an independent, not-for-profit organization that provides more than a hundred assessment, research, information, and program management services in the broad areas of education and workforce development." (A more familiar of ACT's products is the ACT – the [American College Test or ACT.](#))

Contact your



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).

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/20110801GIBillchanges.pdf>



CollegeWeekLive ---- Dependents info

If you're the parent of a college-bound student or are otherwise interested in getting good information about college, check out [College Week Live](#). CWL is an ongoing on-line college fair to help prospective students in their college planning by connecting them with colleges in a live, interactive environment.

You'll be able to find information from dozens of colleges and research scholarships.



University of Oklahoma [OU Distance Learning](#) - no admission application needed. Courses offered: General Chemistry, Calculus, Introductory Nutrition, General Physics, Beginning and intermediate Spanish and many

more.

Reserve Resource Guide

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Sector Columbia River available testing:

@uscg.mil 503-861-6231/cp 503-298-9856/f 503-861-6286

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DeVry will begin testing at Sector Columbia River beginning on August 18th . Contact Lacey Torgerson at 435-764-3065. Testing is always available at the Portland location.

- Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT) - monthly
- CLEP, DSST, – available through DeVry University email LTorgerson@devry.edu
- ASTB testing for OCS
- Air Force University E-Exams <http://www.au.af.mil/au/afiadl/printcatalog-5Nov2010Update.pdf>
- ASVAB as needed
- Proctoring exam services provided
- EOCT/EPME - scheduled (praqs have to be signed off)



College Board has officially announced that it is discontinuing CLEP paper and pencil testing. As a National Test Center we are not allowed to paper test on site.



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. During the transition to leaving you might check out: [preseparation counseling checklist](#)

You should also request an education assessment from the Coast Guard Institute [USCG Transcript](#) .

If you're not planning to go to school right away, you'll probably need to find work. Military.com has a very good series of web pages devoted to veterans (<http://www.military.com/Careers/Home>).

Kristi Hilton, GS 9
Education Service Specialist (ESS)

Collateral Duty ESO's
MSU Portland – LTJG Kim Rule
Station Cape D LT Ahlin
Sector Columbia River Leo Lake
Alert ENS Marquis
Fir Benjaman Wilson
Ant Kennewick Gary Hurdle
Station Tillamook Bay BMC Ryan Sanford
Grays Harbor Jerry Farmer
ANT Kennewick Gary Hurdle