

## Education Updates

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\*\*\*September 13<sup>th</sup> is a career fair day. There will be over 20 colleges\*\*\*



### Question of the Week

**Q, Do I take the old EPME4 exam that expires on Oct. 1 or the new one?**

**A.** Anyone who takes the "old" EPME test prior to 01OCT11, and completes it with a passing grade, will in fact be "grandfathered". Bottom line, if they take the test prior to 01OCT11 and pass it, even if they don't go to A school or Strike within the next 5 years, they will have successfully met that specific part of the advancement requirements.

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](mailto:Kristi.L.Hilton@uscg.mil).



<http://www.uscg.mil/worklife/default.asp> The office of work-life will be at Camp Rilea the third week of Sept. Flyers will soon be distributed by command personnel. Topics include financial counseling, 9/11 Gi Bill, housing, emergency preparedness, and other topics that might interest dependents.



### New MST Advancement Materials & Tests

As stated in ALCGENL 140/11 (announcing the November 2011 servicewide exam (SWE),

<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/ALCGENL140-11.pdf>) and ALCOAST 033/11 (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/ALCOAST033-11.pdf>), MST3s seeking to compete for advancement to MST2 do not have to complete an end-of-course test (EOCT) to take the SWE. To take the November 2011 MST1 SWE, MST2s must have passed the MST1 EOCT (not the Rating Advancement Test or RAT). However, MSTs seeking to take the November 2011 SWE (all subsequent SWEs) must also have completed the new RPQs, available for download from the Learning Management System (<https://elearning.uscg.mil/>) under "Enlisted Advancement". Replacements for the MST2 and MST1 EOCTs (called Rating Advancement Tests or RATs) are now available.

Finally, to take a SWE in May 2012 and thereafter, all MSTs must also have core competencies as described in paragraph 7.A. of ALCOAST 033/11.

### New GM1 & GM2 Courses & Tests

ALCOAST 395/11 (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/ALCOAST395-11.pdf>) announced new GM1 and GM2 courses and EOCTs, based on the most current EPQs (CG-3303C-GM) which you can download from the Learning Management System (<https://elearning.uscg.mil/>) under "Enlisted Advancement".

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Completion of relevant EPQs is required before you can take either the GM2 or GM1 EOCT and passing the EOCT is required to take the May 2012 SWE and all subsequent SWEs.

### New IS2 Course & Test

ALCOAST 378/11 (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/ALCOAST378-11.pdf>) announced a new IS2 course and EOCT, based on the most current EPQs (CG-3303C-IS) which you can download from the Learning Management System (<https://elearning.uscg.mil/>) under “Enlisted Advancement”.

Completion of the EPQs is required before you can take the EOCT, and passing the EOCT is required to take the May 2012 SWE and all subsequent SWEs.

Keep in mind that the IS2 course is For Official Use Only (FOUO). That being the case, you may only use it in a secure space at work and when you’re not using the course it must be stored at work in a locked container.

### **Enlisted Individual Development Plan**

The first-termer or enlisted member should arrange a meeting with the ESS/ESO to discuss education topics listed on page 16. [http://www.uscg.mil/forms/cg/CG\\_5357.pd](http://www.uscg.mil/forms/cg/CG_5357.pd)

### **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

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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.”

### 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/tracenetpetaluma/RRG/>). Together, these provide info on and links to info on every facet of Coast Guard affairs related to service in the Reserve.

**Selected Reserve Direct Commission deadline is 03OCT11** [Deadlines](#) & [requirements](#)



### Wendy’s High School Heisman Scholarship

#### **Everyone wins with the Wendy’s High School Heisman Program.**

Students who apply for the Wendy’s High School Heisman Program are already winners! They excel in class, in sports, and in the community. To honor as many high achievers as possible, the Heisman Trophy award program is divided into a number of stages. Seniors from every school and every state get recognized. Plus, all future high school graduates can [take advantage of program resources and scholarship information](#) to get closer to their goals of higher education.

### Heisman Trophy Award Program Stages and Awards

#### Application Winners

Every senior who applies for the Wendy’s High School Heisman Program receives: A 2011 Wendy’s High School Heisman Program Official Certificate recognizing participation in the Heisman Trophy award program and the applicant’s proven ability to learn, perform, and lead. Already applied? [Download your certificate now.](#)

A chance to win a Wendy’s Gift Card worth \$10. Just be one of the first 30,000 applicants to apply! [Apply now.](#) One senior male and one senior female from every school will be selected as a School Winner. School Winners receive: A School Winner Certificate and Heisman Patch

#### 1,020 State Finalists

From the School Winners, 20 finalists—10 senior males and 10 senior females—from every state and the District of Columbia will advance to State Finalists. Each State Finalist receives



The new VS old: <http://poetsandquants.com/2011/06/15/quick-guide-to-the-new-vs-old-gre/> 50% off in Sept. and Oct.



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## 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.

## Sector Columbia River available testing:

DeVry will begin testing at Sector Columbia River beginning on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Contact Lacey Torgerson at 503-2036427. Testing is always available at the Portland location.

- Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT) - monthly
- CLEP, DSST, – available through DeVry University email [LTorgerson@devry.edu](mailto: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. DeVry will be doing online testing.



Starting on Thursday Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> 4-8pm 8 week on base College math starts



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](#)

Kristi Hilton, GS 9  
Education Service Specialist (ESS)

Collateral Duty ESO's  
MSU Portland – LTJG Kim Rule  
Station Cape D LT Ahlin  
Alert ENS Marquis  
Fir Benjamin Wilson  
Ant Kennewick Gary Hurdle  
Station Tillamook Bay BMC Ryan Sanford  
Grays Harbor Jerry Farmer  
ANT Kennewick Gary Hurdle  
CGC Steadfast