

Education Updates



Question of the Week

Q: I have a question about SWE award points listed on my PDE. I read that points are given for awards approved before 30 June. Does approved mean the date the CG-1650 Award Recommendation form was signed by the person with approving authority or does it mean the date the certificate was signed?

A: According to YNCM Brown at the PPC in Topeka (via Brion Newman, full-time ESO at Base Seattle), the date the CO signed the award certificate should be the same as the date on the CG-1650. The same date on the DirectAccess entry noting the award should also be the same. Keep in mind that the date the award is actually presented is unlikely to be the date the CO signed it, the date on the CG-1650 form, or the date in DirectAccess. If an award is signed by the CO and entered into DirectAccess by the SWE eligibility deadline (01 July for Reservists, 01 August and 01 February for regulars) it applies to that SWE cycle and should appear on the PDE.

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.



Reservist

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.

Q? Does the ICS 700 and 800 courses count towards retirement points or can there be any education credit for them? They are listed in mandatory training and on the roster for credit. The answer will follow in Friday's newsletter.



Monday August 29th 4-8pm 8 week on base English class starts
Thursday Sept. 5th 4-8pm 8 week on base College math starts

DeVry will be visiting Cape D and Tongue Point on August 2nd for registration and info from 1100 - 1400pm and Sector 1400 - 1700.



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

First year and second year Spanish on
University of Texas has a University courses. They do not require admission as degree. You do receive a grade and credit. courses.



line

Extension that has online these courses do not lead to a Check out the [Spanish](#)

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Reservists & Tuition Assistance

Reservists may be unaware that they may use Coast Guard tuition assistance (TA) to pay for courses which meet the eligibility and use rules laid out in the Performance, Training, & Education Manual (COMDTINST M1500.10 (series)). These rules are summarized at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/ta.asp#eligibility>. The PT&E Manual states that “TA is not authorized for reservists who have not met participation standards for the 12 months immediately prior to application or for reservists who are more than six months out of compliance for readiness metrics.” However, Reservists who have not served for a year are presumed to be in compliance with the readiness criteria set forth in the Reserve Policy Manual (COMDTINST M1001.28 (series)). That means that Reservists who just graduated from boot camp may apply for TA.



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.



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>



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 the book [How to Go to College Almost for Free Ben Kaplan](#). You'll see that finding money for college is possible using a logical, linear (and not all that daunting) methodology devised by Ben Kaplan.



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). CWL is an ongoing on-line college fair to help prospective students in their

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college planning by connecting them with colleges in a live, interactive environment. You'll be able to find information from dozens of

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

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.



Sector Columbia River available testing:

DeVry will begin testing on base 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, ACT, SAT – available through DeVry University email LTorgerson@devry.edu
- APEX 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)

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.

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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>).

DISCOVER® is 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](#).)

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