

# **Maritime Enforcement Specialist (ME)**

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **1. When will the ME rating stand up?**

Ans: The rating will officially stand up on 01JAN2010.

### **2. How do I apply to become an ME?**

Ans: The Lateral Solicitation process for ME was formally announced via ALCOAST 445/09 on 31 July 2009. The application process for laterals is now in full swing. Members are encouraged to get their applications in early as the deadline for receiving packages is 02 October 2009. Keep in mind that every application package requires a command endorsement. Plan ahead and get those applications in now so you don't get stuck missing a deadline.

The ME selection listed will be published 10NOV2009.

### **3. Minimum Qualifications:**

Ans: Required Qualifications:

Security Clearance: Must be eligible for a SECRET clearance.

Color Vision: Must have Normal Color Vision.

Lautenberg Amendment: All applicants must be in compliance. They can have no domestic violence convictions or restraining orders prohibiting them from legally carrying a firearm.

Weight Standards: Must be in compliance with the Coast Guard Weight and Body Fat Standards (CIM 1020.8G).

Physical Fitness: Must have completed and passed either the Boarding Officer and Boat Crew Physical Fitness test or the Deployable Specialized Forces Tier II Physical Fitness Test after 01Jan09.

Desirable Characteristics:

Law Enforcement and Security Experience: Military or civilian.

Weapons Qualification: Pistol, Rifle, and Shotgun qualifications.

Drivers License: Currently hold a valid State Driver's License.

#### **4. Should I take the SWE for my legacy rating?**

Ans: YES, all members are strongly encouraged to continue to prepare for and take their legacy rating SWE if qualified. For specific information relating to SWE's and advancements in the ME rating, read the appropriate ALCOAST: for active duty, ALCOAST 410/09, Maritime Enforcement Specialist (ME) Advancements for 2010 and Beyond; for reserve, ALCOAST 411/09, Reserve Maritime Enforcement Specialist (ME) Advancements for 2010 and Beyond

Both messages can be found on the CG Portal at:

<https://cgportal.uscg.mil/lotus/myquickr/me/welcome>

(then navigate to the "Library" tab)

Both messages can also be found on the CG Reserve website:

[http://www.uscg.mil/reserve/member\\_resources.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/reserve/member_resources.asp)

(then navigate to "Maritime Enforcement Specialist (ME) Resources and Guidance")

#### **5. Will there be CWO billets?**

Ans: YES, there will be a new CWO Specialty affiliated with the ME rating. It will be called Maritime Law Enforcement and Security Specialist. (MLES)

#### **6. Should I apply for CWO in my legacy specialty?**

Ans: YES, as with the Enlisted Ratings, CWOs selected from MLES that are above the predictor will be promoted. For more information on the MLES CWO specialty, consult ALCOAST 409/09, Maritime Law Enforcement and Security Specialty (MLES) Appointments for 2010 and Beyond.

This message can be found at the CG Portal and CG Reserve websites as described above.

<https://cgportal.uscg.mil/lotus/myquickr/me/welcome>

[http://www.uscg.mil/reserve/member\\_resources.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/reserve/member_resources.asp)

#### **7. What can I do to prepare? Is there any way I can improve my chances at being selected for the new rating?**

Ans: To understand the scope of the ME rating, carefully review the ME EPQs posted on the CG Learning Portal. You can even begin getting your EPQ's signed off by qualified supervisors, however be aware the completion of EPQ's will NOT be a consideration of the selection panel. To make sure your package is more competitive, ensure you meet all of the minimum requirements listed above.

Also look at the “Desirable Characteristics” and see if there are things you can complete there (i.e., possessing current weapons qualifications, having completed BO or BTM training, possessing a state-issued driver’s license, consider obligating for more service to demonstrate your commitment to a career as an ME, etc.).

On Page 5 of the Application For Lateral Request there is a text block entitled “Other Military/Federal/State/Civilian LE/Security Experience of Skills”. Make sure you include here any qualities not covered elsewhere in the application that would make you stand out as a candidate for the ME rating. The application form can be found at

<https://cgportal.uscg.mil/lotus/myquickr/me/welcome>

(then navigate to the “Lateral Process” tab); or

[http://www.uscg.mil/reserve/member\\_resources.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/reserve/member_resources.asp)

(then navigate to “Maritime Enforcement Specialist (ME) Resources and Guidance”)

#### **8. Where can I find the ME EPQ’s?**

Ans: The ME EPQs are posted on the the CG Learning Portal.

<https://learning.uscg.mil/portal.asp> After logging in, enter then Course Catalog, click on Enlisted Advancements, and then EPQ Library. ME-Maritime Enforcement Specialist will be listed with the other ratings.

#### **9. Who can sign them off?**

Ans: Any qualified person in that subject area, ie: GM for Weapons quals, Certified BO’s for BTM qualifications, etc.

#### **10. Will I be transferred to an ME billet 01 JAN 2010 ?**

Ans: No. The ME Billets will be designated 01JAN 2010. Assignment to ME billets will take place as part of the normal rotation process. Expect to remain in your current billet until you are tour complete. If you are tour complete and have been selected as an ME, you can then expect to rotate to an ME designated billet on the next assignment cycle. If you are not tour complete, you will be rated as an ME but expect to complete your present tour prior to rotating. It is expected that it will take 3-4 years for the Coast Guard to fully populate ME billets with ME-rated members.

#### **11. Where will the ME billets be located?**

Ans: In general, you can expect to see ME billets at a broad range of operational units across the Coast Guard. MEs will be found at Deployable Specialized

Forces units (TACLETs, MSSTs, PSUs, and the MSRT), Stations, Sectors (VBS Teams), Cutters (WHECs and WMECs), MFPU, and CG Police Departments. You can also expect to see MEs at staff and instructor position at appropriate commands. Assignment slates for the coming year are currently being developed by CG PSC. In the interim, specific active duty and reserve billets (with position numbers) can be seen on the appropriate billet maps posted on both the CG Portal and CG Reserve websites. Keep in mind this is simply a comprehensive list of these billets and does not reflect what billets are vacant and available for assignment.

<https://cgportal.uscg.mil/lotus/myquickr/me/welcome>

(then navigate to the “ME Billet Map” tab); or

[http://www.uscg.mil/reserve/member\\_resources.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/reserve/member_resources.asp)

(then navigate to “Maritime Enforcement Specialist (ME) Resources and Guidance”)

**12. Will any ratings be excluded from applying for ME?**

Ans: All interested members of any ratings, active duty OR reserve, are eligible and encouraged to apply for the ME rating. The selection panel and cognizant RFMCs will consider members’ desires and weigh those against service needs as members are selected to lateral into the rating.

**13. Will I have to pay back any SRB that I have previously been given?**

Ans: No. Members having received SRBs will not be required to pay them back providing all other obligations incurred are fulfilled. Lump sum payments and already disbursed installment payments will not have to be paid back, and future installment payments will continue to be paid, again providing all other obligations incurred by the member upon accepting the SRB are fulfilled.

**14. Will I have any obligated service if I become an ME?**

Ans: No. The lateral selection panel will consider during their deliberations how much obligated time a member has remaining, however there is no requirement to extend or reenlist solely on the basis of applying for lateral to the ME rating.

**15. Will I be able to strike for ME?**

Ans: The ME rating will be a non-strikeable rating. ME A School will be located with the Maritime Law Enforcement Academy in Charleston, SC.

**16. When will the Reserve Only Port Security Rating go away and the Maritime Enforcement Specialist (ME) rating be stood up for active and reserve?**

Ans: 01 Jan 2010.

**17. Can I retire as a “PS”?**

Ans: If you have an approved retirement letter on file by 31DEC2009, you will be allowed to retire as a Port Security Specialist for up to one year.

**18. On 01 Jan 2010 will I, if I am a PS, AUTOMATICALLY become an ME’s?**

Ans: NO!!! The ME rating is not a “default” rating for PS. **YOU MUST TAKE POSITIVE ACTION** and either apply for ME, another rating that you are qualified for, or retire to RET-2 or RET-1. If no positive action is taken on your part by 01 Jan 2010, PSC-rpm will move you to the ISL.

**19. I’m a PS and DON’T want to become an ME. Can I apply for a lateral to another rating now?**

Ans: Yes, if you do not meeting any of the ME rating requirements or simply rather apply to a different legacy rating for which you are qualified for, you can submit an application for up to two other ratings. This application should be submitted using the separate application form (“Reserve Lateral Application”) found at the CG Reserve website. For more information, refer to ALCOAST 348/09, Reserve Component Later Process for the Maritime Enforcement Specialist Rating.

[http://www.uscg.mil/reserve/member\\_resources.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/reserve/member_resources.asp)

**20. I am currently assigned to a PSU as a PS. I accepted a bonus to be at a PSU. I do not want to be a PS any longer and want to apply for another rating. Can I apply? And if so, will I be reassigned to another unit once that lateral is accepted?**

Ans: All PS’s and other ratings who accepted a bonus to be at a PSU will complete that obligated service prior to being released to another assignment. This is consistent with the active duty who will stay at their current assignment until their normal rotation date occurs. You can apply for another rating but will remain in your current billet until you have satisfied your obligated service.

**21. If I am currently a PS, do I have to lateral to ME?**

Ans: As a PS, it is entirely your choice to which rating you apply for lateral, be it the ME rating or another legacy rating. Given the impending disestablishment of the PS rating, however, **YOU MUST TAKE SOME POSITIVE ACTION** or you will be moved to the ISL. If you are a PS but have no PS skills due to your current assignment, ie: You are working at a Prevention shop and have been trained to be a Facilities Inspector or Port State Control, you can apply for a lateral to MST. For questions on this, contact the PS Rating Force Master Chief PSCM Thomas McCook at (202)372-3044 or by email at Thomas.W.McCook@uscg.mil.

**22. I am a PS1 who is “qualified” to be an MST. Will I have to take a reduction in rank to lateral to MST?**

Ans: Per CG-13, Director of Reserve and Training, and IAW the Personnel Manual, there will be no reductions in rank for laterals in connection with the PS/ME merger.

**23. If I become an ME, will I have to move by drill location to a new assignment?**

Ans: As of 01 Jan 2010, you will remain at your current assignment. The Reserve Program will be looking at the new ME rating on the reserve side as to billet structure, billet location, and rating size. Any changes will be communicated to the field. Note that on the lateral application, there is an opportunity to indicate if you would be willing to travel outside Reasonable Commuting Distance (RCD) in order to drill as an ME.

**24. When can I apply for ME “A” School?**

Ans: We expect to start accepting school applicants in October. Orders are normally issued 10 weeks before the start of a class. Look for amplifying information on this process in the next few weeks.

**25. What are the minimum ASVAB scores to qualify for ME “A” School?**

Ans: Minimum ASVAB score for ME “A” School is:

$$100 = \text{Verbal Expression (VE)} + \text{Arithmetic Reasoning (AR)}$$

**26. I am tour complete in 2010. Will I rotate as an ME or my legacy rating?**

Ans: The ME billets will be designated 01Jan10. You will have to be tour complete to move to a ME designated billet. If you are not tour complete, you will be rated as a ME but completes your tour at your present location. Upon

completion of your present tour, you will be transferred to a designated ME billet. This process will take 3-4 years to complete for the entire rating.

**27. I see there aren't many E-8 or E-9 billets. What will be the advancement opportunities are for senior MEs?**

Ans: It is predicted that the advancement opportunities for the ME rating will be comparable with the average for all ratings.

**28. Will there be a sea time requirement for advancement?**

Ans: No. There are no current plans to include sea time requirements for advancement.

**29. I am a reserve that plans to request a lateral to ME. After I lateral to ME will I be able to integrate into the Coast Guard.**

Ans: Lateral to the ME rating and integration into the Active Duty component are two separate processes. The first step will be to apply for and being selected for the ME rating. Members who then desire to integrate are encouraged to communicate this desire through their command. Questions on integration can be addressed through CG PSC-rpm at [arl-ps-cgpsc-rpm-query@uscg.mil](mailto:arl-ps-cgpsc-rpm-query@uscg.mil).