

## TraCen Cape May Education Update #365

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***Links from this page to non-Coast Guard sites are provided as a customer service and do not represent any implicit or explicit endorsement by the United States Coast Guard of any commercial or private issues, products, or services presented there.***

### Congratulations!!

The following personnel in the Cape May area passed Coast Guard Institute end-of-course, AQEs, and other tests since the last update:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Work Site</b>	<b>Test</b>
YN3 Valerie Shaffer	TraCen (Recruit SPO)	YN2
HS2 Mindy Sawmiller	HSWL FO Cape May	E-PME-6
HS3 Anthony Weed	HSWL FO Cape May	HS2*
HS3 Jack Martin	HSWL FO Cape May	HS2*
HS3 Mya Dejanakul	HSWL FO Cape May	HS2*
HS3 Jonathan Munger	HSWL FO Cape May	HS2*
HS3 Katelyn Danielson	HSWL FO Cape May	HS2*
SK3 Derek Gibson	TraCen (Comptroller)	SK2

\* First attempt

Well done, all of you!!!

And if you've just finished a degree program or have any other noteworthy academic achievement to brag about, please let me know so I can recognize you for it.

## Question of the Week – Transferring GI Bill Benefits

**Q:** I've heard through the grapevine that if I transfer my Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to a dependent, I'll have to serve four more years in the Coast Guard. Is that true?

**A:** A lot of uniformed Coast Guard personnel seem unaware that they could incur a service obligation beyond the time they plan to stay in the Coast Guard if they wait too long to transfer benefits under the new (Post-9/11) GI Bill to their dependents. Here's the deal.

If you were eligible for retirement or become eligible for retirement any time between 01 August 2009 and 01 August 2012, you will be required to serve anywhere between zero and three years of additional service beyond the date you transfer all or part of your benefits to a dependent.

If you become eligible for retirement on or after 01 August 2012, you will be required to serve an additional four years on active duty, unless Coast Guard policy or a law precludes you from doing so. If that's the case, you'll have to agree to serve for the maximum amount of time allowed by policy or statute.

But note that the service obligation extends from the date you transfer your benefits to dependents. If you plan to serve for 20 years and then retire, and transfer new GI Bill benefits to your dependents four or more years before your planned retirement date, you'll effectively incur no service obligation. But if you wait until less than four years before your planned retirement date, you'll have to serve however many more months or years take you to the benefit transfer date plus four years.

As noted on my web site, if you don't want to stay in the Coast Guard longer than 20 years, be sure to transfer at least one month of benefits to each dependent before you reach the 16-year point in your career. For more information, go to <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/gibill-33b.asp> and <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/gibill-33c.asp>.

If you have a question you'd like answered as a Question of the Week, e-mail it to me at [andrew.g.webb@uscg.mil](mailto:andrew.g.webb@uscg.mil).

## Web Page in the Spotlight

There's a lot of stuff on the TraCen Cape May web site you might not check out if you didn't know it was there. So this week, I'm spotlighting **Studying & Test-taking Skills** (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/studying.asp>).

## Grammar & Usage Corner

A number of people have asked that I expand my weekly "Frequently-Confused/Misused Words" entry to cover grammar and usage questions other than confused/misused words as well. This is my first attempt to do so.

This week, the issue is the use (misuse) of quotation marks for emphasis.

Rather than reinvent the wheel, I've copied and pasted below an excellent discussion of this issue from DailyWritings (<http://www.dailywritingtips.com/>). It references comments made to the blog by a reader named Daniel.

As Daniel's post pointed out, quotation marks can be used to express irony, as in the sentence:

Uncle Joe was really "sad" about it.

The use of the quotation marks indicates that Uncle Joe was not, in fact, sad at all. The quotation marks are a signal to the reader about the true meaning of the sentence.

When the quotation marks are misused, however, they can obscure your meaning. I saw a flyer on a college campus that read:

"You're invited"  
Resume workshop  
"All" majors  
"Free"

The person who made the flyer apparently wanted to emphasize "you're invited," "all," and "free," but the misplaced quotation marks just make it seem as though the writer is being sarcastic [i.e., the word or phrase in quotation marks isn't really what the words say it is].

You can see many illustrations (often humorous) of this misusage you might see in everyday situations at <http://www.unnecessaryquotes.com/>.

If you want to emphasize a word or phrase, use **boldface** or *italics*.

Another misusage of quotation marks is with widely understood but colloquial words and phrases. But to paraphrase Strunk & White, colloquialisms and slang require no quotation marks. Here are two examples.

Congress is considering reducing the sentencing disparity for use of powdered versus "crack" cocaine.

There's no reason to put the word *crack* in quotation marks in that sentence any more than it would be necessary to use them with "powdered" or any other adjective.

My brother told me to "buzz off".

Again, colloquialisms and slang don't require quotation marks.

If there are any word usage, grammar, or similar issues you've encountered, please e-mail them to me at [andrew.g.webb@uscg.mil](mailto:andrew.g.webb@uscg.mil).

## SAT & ACT at TraCen Cape May

The SAT Reasoning Test (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/sat.asp>) will be administered at TraCen Cape May on **Tuesday, 21 February starting at 1000**.

The ACT test (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/act.asp>) will be administered on **Thursday, 22 March at 0730**.

If you're trying to qualify for a Coast Guard program that requires you to have taken either the ACT or SAT and want to take one of these tests, please let me know ASAP. There are two seats available for the SAT and three for the ACT. They will be reserved on a first come, first served. I usually administer these tests once a quarter.

ACT and the CollegeBoard, through DAN TES, authorize ESOs to administer these tests only for uniformed personnel.

ESO s may administer the ACT at any time of the year, but can administer the SAT only between 01 October and 30 June. You can see a comparison of the SAT and ACT at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/comparison.asp>.

Be aware that in almost all cases military personnel don't need to take either the ACT or SAT to take college courses.

In general, military personnel are authorized to take one ACT or SAT paid for by DAN TES. So if you want to take both, one would free and you'd have to pay for the other. The ACT costs \$34; the SAT costs \$49.

You can read/download *Preparing for the ACT* (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/PreparingACT.pdf>) and *Taking the ACT* (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/TakingACT.pdf>) for more information about the test. Unfortunately, no comparable info on the SAT is available in PDF format.

## SAT or ACT: Which is Better for Me?

The SAT Reasoning test (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/sat.asp>) and the ACT (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/act.asp>) emphasize different things, so check them both out before deciding which you want to take. You can find a comparison at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/comparison.asp>.

Military personnel (both regular and Reserve) may take the SAT Reasoning Test and ACT at DANTES military test sites throughout the country. There is no charge for the first test, but you must pay for all subsequent tests. INCONUS DANTES military test sites are not allowed to offer either test to anyone but uniformed military personnel.

ESOs who are DANTES Test Control Officers (TCOs) may obtain and administer the ACT at their units at any time. Be aware, however, that the ACT must be ordered at least 30 days before the scheduled test date. To make sure your ESO actually has the test before your scheduled test date request it at least five weeks before the date you want to take it.

The SAT Reasoning Test is slightly different. Although your TCO will receive it within about two weeks after ordering it, TCOs may only administer the test from 01 October through 30 June each year.

Both the ACT and SAT must be returned within 45 days of the date they're sent to the TCO (not the date they arrive).

Be aware that in almost all cases military personnel don't need to take either the ACT or SAT to be able to take college courses.

## Free SAT & ACT Preparation Software

eKnowledge Corporation, MLB, the NFL, and other sponsors have teamed up to provide free SAT and ACT preparation software to servicemembers and their families. If you received the software last year, you'll need to get a free upgrade. While the software is free (retail price \$200), you must pay \$13.84, which covers the cost of technical and customer support, registration, licensure, processing, handling, and worldwide shipping.

Parents of high school students applying for college next year should get this software early, so their children can begin preparing ASAP.

To order, go to [www.eknowledge.com/usa](http://www.eknowledge.com/usa) or call 951-256-4076. You will need to provide a "Sponsorship Code". E-mail me if you'd like it and I'll send it to you. However, once you get the code **PLEASE** don't share it with anyone – even other military personnel or dependents.

## Study Resources

If you're taking college courses or studying for a credit-by-exam test (e.g., CLEP, DSST, ECE) and would like some extra help, check out the study resources listed at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/studymaterials.asp>.

There are videos of college course lectures offered by world-renowned universities such as the University of California at Berkeley, Harvard, MIT, and the Wharton Business school) as well as resources of various kinds on individual concepts or whole courses, such as Khan Academy, the Online Academic Skills Course, and Annenberg Media.

## Recording Professional Development Achievements

If you want an advanced degree entered into DirectAccess, fill out form PPC-2030 (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/PPC2030.pdf>), attach copies of your diploma and the corresponding transcript, and take it to your SPO or other YN who enters data into DirectAccess. This applies to enlisted personnel and officers.

Your SPO or YN can also enter Graduate Record Exam (GRE), Law School Admission Test (LSAT), and other standardized test scores into DirectAccess. To send such scores directly to PSC-psd-mr – which is highly recommended – follow the instructions outlined on page 19 of the *Officer Postgraduate and Advanced Education Application Process Guide* ([http://www.uscg.mil/opm/Opm1/Opm1docs/PG/AY12Docs/AY12\\_PG-AdvEd\\_Process\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.uscg.mil/opm/Opm1/Opm1docs/PG/AY12Docs/AY12_PG-AdvEd_Process_Guide.pdf)).

And many junior officers are unaware of the procedures for ensuring promotion boards and detailers know about higher education they've completed and their extracurricular career development activities. If this is you, fill out form CG-4082 (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/CG4082.pdf>) and e-mail it (with scanned copies – front and back – of your official transcript or a certified copy of it) to the appropriate person at the Personnel Service Center Military Records Branch (PSC-psd-mr, formerly known as adm-3) (<http://www.uscg.mil/psc/adm/adm3/contact.asp>).

## Audio & eBooks

(courtesy of BMCM Dawn Smith, TraGen Cape May CMC)

If you're in the mood for a good book but don't want to go to the library each time to check out and return it, or you would like to listen to one during those long trips, try downloading them on your computer, iPod, MP3 player, eReader or other portable device anytime 24/7.

All you have to do is download free software from <http://srlc.lib.overdrive.com/B281F114-51D9-458E-B032-608262A3A36F/10/420/en/default.htm>, then use your New Jersey public library card number at the same site to download the eBook or Audiobook of your choice. You'll have a certain amount of time to "borrow" the book for, and may have to wait for more popular titles, but it's better than going out in the cold!

To get a library card, you'll need to go to a branch of your county's public library, which you can find at <http://www.librarysites.info/states/nj.htm>. Once you have it, you can use the card not only for physical, e-, or audio books in your county's collection, but you can get virtually any book in New Jersey via inter-library loan.

## May Servicewide Exams

As a reminder, the deadline for completing all eligibility requirements for the May servicewide exam (SWE) is 01 February 2012.

For those who've never taken a SWE before (or those who may have forgotten), if you've met all the qualifications (as laid out on your Personal Data Extract or PDE) by 01 February 2012, PSC will automatically send a SWE for you to the ESO at the examination board listed on your PDE. **You do not have to (and cannot) request a SWE.**

When your PDE is made available on DirectAccess in early February, make sure you check **everything** on it carefully – including your examination board name and OPFAC.

- Are you going to be on leave or TAD on the date of your SWE?
- Will you be in-transit due to a PCS move on the date of your SWE?
- Are you going to be away from the unit listed on your PDE for any other reason on the date of your SWE?

If so, do the following:

- find a unit you know you'll be geographically near on your SWE date,

- contact the ESO at that unit and ask if it's OK to take your SWE there,
- assuming the ESO says "yes", ask for the unit's OPFAC,
- let your SPO know what the name and OPFAC of that unit so PSC knows to change your PDE.

PSC will automatically send your exam to the unit list as your exam board on your PDE.

**Substitute exams are not authorized except in emergencies over which you have no control.** Regular leave (even if you scheduled a Caribbean cruise six months ago) is not an emergency. A wedding – even your own – is not an emergency. For more information on just which circumstances justify requesting a substitute exam, see Article 3.B.3. of the *Enlisted Accessions, Evaluations, and Advancements Manual*.

If you revise the PDE info concerning your exam site and later find out you won't be able to take your exam there after all or at the scheduled date and time, let your ESO know ASAP.

For more servicewide exam information, go to <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/swe.asp>.

## TEACH Grant Program

The Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program provides grants of up to \$4,000 per year to students who agree to teach for four years at an elementary school, secondary school, or educational service agency that serves students from low-income families and to meet other requirements. The terms and conditions of this teaching service obligation are explained in the TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve that you must sign before you receive a TEACH Grant.

For more information, go to <http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/TEACHGrant.pdf>.

## Five Surprising \$100K Jobs That Don't Require a Degree

Practically everyone you talk with about your future tells you, "Get a degree!!" But while data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates that people with degrees generally face a reduced prospect of unemployment and have a higher earning potential ([http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep\\_chart\\_001.htm](http://www.bls.gov/emp/ep_chart_001.htm) and <http://www.focus.com/images/view/8740/>), that's not the case for everyone.

A recent article on Monster.com highlights this fact and lists five high-paying careers available to people who don't have college degrees (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/jobmisc029.doc>).

## Do I Need a Degree to Get the Job I Want?

Many Coast Guard personnel are more interested in working with their hands (for example, carpentry, gunsmithing, plumbing, locksmithing, electrical work) than they are in sitting in class for five hours a day to get a degree. Still, everyone tells them they need to get a degree to succeed in the civilian labor market so they feel they have to do so.

But before you jump into a degree program, think about your ultimate employment goal and work backwards from it. When planning a car trip, you don't just start driving and hope to end up somewhere you wanted to go. You have a destination in mind and figure out the best route to get there. This should be the way you also plan your career, both in the Coast Guard and in the civilian world.

Let's say you want to work as a video game designer. Assuming you want to work for a company that does nothing but design and market video games, call a half dozen of them and talk with someone who makes hiring decisions in the HR department or the like. Ask what kind of training and/or education they're looking for in new hires. Ask specifically if the people they hire need a degree, a certificate of some kind, or if demonstrated ability (e.g., via a portfolio or other samples of your work) is good enough.

Remember: a college degree requires you to take many courses totally unrelated to your field of interest. Roughly half the courses you take to earn a degree fall into this category. If you're more interested in acquiring the knowledge necessary to start working in the field that interests you, a degree may not be for you.

There are a number of paths you can take once you know whether most likely employers require a degree. You can

- work with someone who has the knowledge you want to acquire (a mentor-protégé or apprenticeship relationship, formal or informal);
- learn it on your own via resources available for free (often on the Internet, see <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/distance.asp#knowledge>);
- take college courses just in your area of interest and, perhaps, earn an academic certificate in the process (see "Academic Certificates" at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/degreedesc.asp#certs>); or
- take non-credit courses that you have to pay for, for example Excelsior College's Professional Development courses (<http://www.excelsior.edu/web/center-for-professional-development>) or the Graduate School's courses (<http://graduateschool.edu/>), which GI Bill education benefits will likely cover.

First find out if a degree is something you need or want. If you don't need a degree, but you want one and/or what you learn will be useful, by all means work toward one. The point is, don't jump into a degree program just because everyone else is doing so.

## Summer Career Academy

The National Energy Center of Excellence at Bismarck State College (North Dakota) is offering the first annual Summer Career Academy to youth ages 14-16 on 19 to 21 June 2012. The academy will provide participants with an exciting opportunity to engage in energy-related lab experiments, tour energy facilities, and learn from faculty teaching at a world-class center known for training the industry's workforce.

The cost of attending? Nothing. Participants will attend free of charge thanks to support from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Montana Dakota Utilities, Otter Tail Power Cooperative, and Bismarck State College. Students will stay in the college's dorms and food will be provided.

Space is limited to 20 students. Interested students need to apply by 01 March 2012. Applications are at <http://energy.bismarckstate.edu/nece/academy/>. Students who are selected will be notified by 23 March 2012. For more information on the academy, contact Joan Trygg at 701-224-2445 or at [Joan.Trygg@bismarckstate.edu](mailto:Joan.Trygg@bismarckstate.edu).

## Unpredictable Schedule Keeping You from Earning a Degree?

A lot of people attached to operational units or who otherwise can't predict when they'll have free time to study are frustrated by traditional term-based colleges. (By "term-based" I mean schools that run on fixed terms such as semesters and quarters.) Often times, an assignment is due or a test must be taken on a certain date but you get called away by official duties.

There's an easy fix to this dilemma: take courses from a school that offers self-paced courses.

All the schools listed on my web site (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/schools.asp#self-paced>) offer such courses. Most have whole degree programs via self-paced courses, some only offer a few courses. You can start a course at any time – there are no fixed deadlines for registering, completing lessons, taking tests, or even finishing the course. You can register at any time of the year and work at your own pace.

Some schools require you to complete their courses in four months, but most give you nine months, and a few give you a year or even two years. Those with shorter time frames grant extensions. Most of these schools allow you to complete these courses in as little as six weeks and some have no minimum time requirement at all.

An added benefit of these programs is that in most cases tuition is lower than the maximum tuition assistance will cover. (The lower the tuition, the more courses per year you can take using tuition assistance.) And these are not just for military personnel.

## Thinking About Taking College Courses?

If you're interested in taking college courses, but are unsure where to start or what to do first, go to <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/starting.asp>. The seven steps provided there will help you

- understand terminology and how you progress toward a degree,
- figure out what you want a degree for,
- determine what you want to major in,
- find colleges/universities which offer degrees in your desired major,
- request degree plans from your chosen school(s),
- submit a request for an education assessment and to have official transcripts of your assessment sent to colleges you've identified, and
- pick your first course.

This is the hardest part of the process. Once you've done this, it's just a matter of deciding which type of funding to use (tuition assistance, GI Bill, scholarships, loans, or a combination of these) and applying for it. Tuition assistance (TA) and GI Bill funding is easy to use and readily available. You've got to plan ahead if you want to get scholarships because applications are usually due at specific times of the year that might not coincide with dates your courses begin. And loans, while they're readily available, should be your last recourse.

## CGES Scholarships

The Coast Guard Exchange System is accepting application for three scholarships (\$1,500, \$750, and \$500) based on academic achievements, accomplishments, interests, and participation and leadership in school-oriented and volunteer activities. **The deadline for applications is 28 February 2012.**

You can find complete details at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/ALCGPSC145-11.pdf>.

## Sea Service Women Scholarship

(courtesy of SueAnn Walter, full-time ESO at the Coast Guard Academy)

Applications are being accepted for a \$1,500 scholarship for a relative (male or female) of a sea service woman. The application deadline is **09 March 2012.**

"Eligibility is open to any female or male relative of a sea service woman who has served or is currently serving in the Navy, Coast Guard, or Marine Corps or their Reserve components." Applicants may be related to the sea service woman by birth, legal adoption, or marriage.

For more information, go to <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/WAVES-scholarship.pdf>

## CG Foundation Scholarships

The Coast Guard Foundation recently announced its scholarship programs for 2012 (see ALCOAST 584/11, <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/alcoast584-11.pdf>). Check out the ALCOAST for details on these eight scholarships. **The application deadline is 15 March 2012.**

## Having Difficulty with Math?

Are you brushing up on math basics before re-starting a delayed degree? Mystified by physics? Stymied by certain concepts in your college math course? If so, the on-line Khan Academy may be just what you're looking for to help get over academic hurdles. A recent article in *Wired* magazine ([http://www.wired.com/magazine/2011/07/ff\\_khan?rXFb&mbid=su\\_ppc\\_mag\\_3&rQZb](http://www.wired.com/magazine/2011/07/ff_khan?rXFb&mbid=su_ppc_mag_3&rQZb)) will tell you all about it.

Or go to the Khan Academy web site (<http://www.khanacademy.org/>). It's a fantastic tool for learning a whole subject or just mastering a particular concept.

## Thinking of Starting Your Own Business?

If you're thinking about starting your own business, either while you're still in uniform or after you leave the Coast Guard, check out a sampling of resources for entrepreneurs at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/smallbiz.asp>. There you'll find general resources applicable to all types of small businesses on many different subjects (e.g., drafting a business plan, finding funding, etc.).

There are also sections aimed at those interested in starting not-for-profit businesses and those interested in social entrepreneurship. Contrary to the popular notion, not-for-profit doesn't mean "no profit" or that you can't earn a substantial salary. It just means most of the profit has to be put toward specific things, usually plowed back into the business. There's also a section with links to labor market information.

Finally, drop by the Education Center to pick up a copy of the book *Best Career and Education Web Sites*. Chapters 7 ("Self-Employment and Small Business") and 8 ("Temporary Work, Contract Employment, Freelancing, Teleworking, and Volunteering") have many great leads.

## Career & Education Planning Tools

Many people in the Coast Guard – military and civilians alike – are unsure of what career fields best match their personal interests and abilities. While you might be extremely competent at what you're doing in the Coast Guard, you might have skills you'd rather put to use in some other field. ESOs throughout the Coast Guard (including TraCen Cape May's) have access to many different tools you can use to assess your interests and possible ways to earn a living while pursuing those interests.

For more information, go to <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/discover.asp> and <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/sitestest.asp>.

## TraCen Cape May Testing Calendar

Tests at TraCen Cape May are administered by appointment according to the following schedule:

Tuesdays (0730): EOCTs, RATs, and AQEs\*  
 Wednesdays (0800): Defense Language Proficiency Tests  
 Thursdays (0745): college tests, CLEP tests, DSSTs, SATs, ACTs

\* If operations or your work schedule make it impossible for you to take an EOCT, RAT, or AQE on a Tuesday morning, you can take it on a Thursday morning.

This schedule leaves most of the day on Tuesdays, as well as all day on Mondays and Fridays available for other occasional tests, counseling, and other face-to-face interactions with you. When no one is taking a language test, the doors to the Education Center are open on Mondays, as well.

If you call and I don't answer the phone, I'm usually administering a test (and, because of the noise, can't talk on the phone) or otherwise busy with someone in the office. E-mail is the best way to get in touch with me at [andrew.g.webb@uscg.mil](mailto:andrew.g.webb@uscg.mil).

## Leaving the Coast Guard?

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. Check out the information on my web site related to career transition (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/careertrans.asp>).

Also, stop by the Education Center to check out the (small) supply of booklets related to rejoining the civilian work force. Here are the topics of the booklets:

- Jobs With a Future
- How to Develop Job Resources
- The Resume
- The Cover Letter: A Resume Should Never Stand Alone
- The Mature Resume: The Resume with Experience
- The Follow-up Letter
- The Interview
- How to Choose a Career: A Guide to Self-Assessment
- Civilian Again
- Leaving the Service ... and Beginning Your Next Career
- Military to Civilian: Your Resume and Job Hunt
- Effective Goal Setting: How to Reach the Goals You Set for Yourself

You should also request an education assessment from the Coast Guard Institute (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/collegefaq.asp>) to get a transcript of college credit you've acquired through your service in the Coast Guard. ***If you don't request an assessment before you leave active duty, you can't get one (or a transcript) later.***

If you're not planning to go to school right away, you'll probably need to find work. Here are two excellent resources for finding a job – or even a second career. Also, Military.com has a very good series of web pages devoted to veterans (<http://www.military.com/Careers/Home>).

And don't discount the idea of working in the public sector. Not only are there thousands of jobs in the federal government, identical to private-sector jobs in which you can put your skills, knowledge, and experience to use while maintaining job security unavailable in the private sector. There are a number of web sites at which you can find information useful to military personnel transitioning to civilian life and veterans.

The U.S. Office of Personnel Management has a veterans' employment web site called "Feds Hire Vets" (<http://www.fedshirevets.gov/>). Its purpose is to implement the federal government's strategy for recruiting and employing military veterans. It's intended to be the preeminent source for federal employment information for veterans, transitioning service members, and their families. And the main federal government jobs web site is at <http://www.fedjobs.gov/>.

And (courtesy of Brion Newman, full-time ESO at Base Seattle) the state of Maryland also has a similar site called the Military to Federal Jobs Crosswalk (Mil2FedJobs, <http://www.mil2fedjobs.com/>) to help you "translate military occupations to federal jobs".

Finally, don't overlook government jobs entities at other levels – state, county, municipality, school district, port district, etc. – which provide benefits similar to those available through the federal government.

## **ACCC's Library Open for Studying**

One more thing: the new campus's classrooms, labs, and library are all state-of-the-art. Even if you're not ready to register for classes right away, you should take the opportunity to visit the campus and look around. The Director of Academic and Student Services has extended a personal invitation to anyone who'd like to use the library to study, for research, or for pleasure reading. It's very quiet, well-lit, and has very comfortable furniture.

## **Education Center Library**

The TraCen Education Center has a binder full of SparkCharts Quick Reference Guides on almost 40 subjects. You're welcome to use these in the Education Center or make copies to take with you. You can check out the subjects available at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/books.asp#spark>.

In addition to SparkCharts, the Education Center also has a library of books on leadership, management, Coast Guard history, and other topics. Also in the library are the latest Professional Qualification Guides (PQGs) and Enlisted Performance Qualifications (EPQs) for each rating.

The Education Center also has dozens of brochures and books on college, financial aid, the officer program application process, and other things. If there are multiple copies, you're welcome to take one.