

TraCen Cape May Education Update #413

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Congratulations!!

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

Name	Work Site	Test
SK2 Ruby Oyola*	TraCen (Recruit training)	SK1
SN Garric Sullivan	TraCen (UPH)	E-PME-4
YN3 Tanyia Johnson	Station Cape May	YN2
SN Stephanie O'Sullivan*	Station Cape May	SK3

* 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 – Will TA pay for a course that hasn't started yet?

Q: Everyone's talking about tuition assistance being suspended, but no one seems to know what that means. If I have a TA authorization for a course that hadn't started before TA was suspended, will TA still pay for the course?

A: Yes. The suspension of funding for TA only affects those whose TA applications hadn't been approved when the suspension took effect on 09 March 2013.

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.

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 three pages: **Residency Requirements for In-State Tuition** (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/tuition.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 week, **alternate** vs. **alternative**. (These definitions are taken from *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary* and Merriam-Webster on-line, <http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/>.)

Alternate is an adjective with four different meanings: (1) occurring or succeeding by turns ("It was a day of alternate sunshine and rain"); (2) arranged first on one side and then on the other at different levels or points along an axial line ("The ancient Egyptians laid down alternate horizontal and vertical layers of papyrus strips then pressed the layers together under heavy weight to create something to write on"); (3) every other, every second ("He works on alternate days"); (4) constituting an different choice/alternative ("For security purposes, she took an alternate route home every day").

Alternative is an adjective that means on the other hand; one or the other ("The alternative choice to that large bookcase is two small ones").

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.

Common Latin Phrases Everyone Should Know

Ipso facto means "by the fact itself". It denotes when something is true by its very nature ("If you kill someone in most cases you're *ipso facto* a murderer").

From: <http://oedb.org/library/beginning-online-learning/50-common-latin-phrases-every-college-student-should-know> and <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/ipso%2Bfacto>

Student Veterans of America-Google Scholarship

If you're a full-time student who's pursuing a bachelor's or graduate degree in computer science or a closely related field, you may be eligible to apply for one of eight \$10,000 scholarships. For details, go to <http://www.studentveterans.org/index.php/component/content/article/2-uncategorised/49-2013-google-sva-scholarship.html>. The deadline for applications is the end of this month: midnight on **31 March 2013**.

Tuition Assistance Suspended

In case you haven't already heard, ALCOAST 099/13 ("Implementation Plan FY 2013 Sequestration") suspended funding for tuition assistance (TA) until further notice.

Q1: What does "TA is suspended" mean in practical terms?

A1: Until further notice, no requests for TA are being accepted by ESOs or processed by the Coast Guard Institute.

Q2: How long is this expected to continue?

A2: There's absolutely no way to know. It all depends on what Congress decides to do and when its action (whatever that is) takes effect.

Q3: What if I have a TA authorization for a course that hasn't started yet; can I still use TA?

A3: Yes. TA authorizations are, essentially, pre-paid vouchers for whatever amount is listed on the authorization for a particular course. The Coast Guard will pay your school the amount shown on your authorization for any courses you've already started and for any courses you'll be starting on the date listed on the authorization.

Q4: If I drop a course I have an authorization for, can I use the amount on the authorization for another course?

A4: Maybe. If, for example, all you're planning to do is drop ENG101 and take HIST101 in its place, that will be allowed as long as the starting and ending dates are the same for both courses. You'll have to go through the school's add-drop process AND ask your ESO to get your authorization changed to show the new course you'll be taking. (Do this by asking your ESO by e-mail to change your authorization and providing your employee ID number, the TA authorization number, the old course number and title, and the new course number and title.) You will **not** be able to drop the course and take another one at a later time, however, even if the cost is the same as the cost of the course you dropped.

Other Education Funding Options

Even though TA can't currently be used to pay for college courses, there are many options available other than TA (as there have always been). These are:

- scholarships and grants
- loans
- GI Bill benefits.

Scholarships (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/scholarships.asp>) and grants (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/grants.asp>) provide money you don't have to repay.

Loans (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/loans.asp>) must be repaid and should be used only as a last resort. Some loans (like the CGMA Education Loan) are interest-free.

There are currently six different GI Bill education benefits (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/gibill-o.asp>, VEAP, and one for survivors of deceased servicemembers). Many people are unaware that applying for GI Bill benefits (colloquially known as activating your benefit) has no negative effects. You can apply for benefits while on active duty or after you leave the service, but whenever you do so, you will have fixed amount of time in which to use up your benefit after your last day on active duty. Each of the programs has a different length of time to use them up. **The amount of time you have to use your benefit is completely unrelated to the number of months in your entitlement (normally 36).**

Doodle 4 Google

Google holds an annual contest for K-12 students in the U.S. to redesign the Google logo. This year, the theme is “My Best Day Ever....” One winner will earn a \$30,000 college scholarship, as well as a \$50,000 technology grant for their school. Templates are available online. The application **deadline is Friday, March 22, 2013**. For complete information, go to <http://www.google.com/doodle4google/>.

Post-9/11 (New) GI Bill

Although sequestration doesn't affect GI Bill education benefits, because of its effects on TA a lot of people are reconsidering whether to use their new GI Bill benefits instead of TA. Think **very** carefully before choosing to use GI Bill benefits while on active duty, however. Although your 36-month entitlement will be reduced by an amount proportional to the number of courses/credits you're taking, you will still get more bang for your GI Bill buck if you wait to use your benefit for full-time college, rather than for one or two courses at a time. (See <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/gibill-33e.asp#charges>)

Be aware that the provisions of the current DoD policy which apply to new GI Bill benefits transferability (and which the Coast Guard currently follows) will expire on 01 August 2013. Presumably before that date, the head of each of the armed forces will notify all members of his service whether to he will continue allowing the benefit to be transferred to dependents and, if so, under what conditions such transfers will be allowed to occur. If benefit transfers are still authorized on or after 01 August 2013, obligated service will remain as described in the DoD policy (see <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/gibill-33b.asp#obligation>) unless the COMDT decides otherwise. The COMDT has not yet published a decision on these matters.

If you (a) have dependents, (b) have served on active duty for at least 90 days, AND (c) have served six or more years in uniform (ANY of the uniformed services, regular or Reserve), you may want to transfer your benefits to dependents before 01 August to be on the safe side.

And as a reminder, if you transfer your benefits, you may – at any time in the future – redistribute them or reclaim all or some of them for yourself. Also bear in mind that if you die without having transferred all months of the benefit you're entitled to, any benefits not transferred to dependents will be lost forever.

GI Bill Info Sessions

Come and play “Stump the ESO” on **Wednesday, 27 March** at the Harborview Club. At **1215 and 1900** you can ask any questions you might have about the new (Post-9/11) GI Bill. The main focus will be eligibility, transferring your benefit, and deadlines, but any subject is fair game. And for the afternoon session, feel free to bring your lunch or get food there in the club.

Free On-line Test Prep Tools

Looking for help in studying for a test? Peterson's DoD MWR Libraries has on-line study materials and practice tests for dozens of tests of all types: CLEP (all subjects), DSST (all subjects), ASVAB/AFCT, ASTB, PSAT, SAT, ACT, GRE, GMAT, LSAT.

From this site, you'll also have access to the Online Academic Skills Course (OASC) which you can use to improve your math and verbal skills, with pre-tests, lessons tailored to your needs, and more tests to see how you progressed.

These can all be used to help study for the tests listed above and for high school or college tests in the various subjects covered by the CLEP and DSST tests (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/tests.asp>). Check this all out at <http://www.petersonsdodlibrary.com>.

To MOOC or Not to MOOC

MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) have lately become all the rage. These are courses taught by faculty members at top-flight universities that are offered on-line for free to anyone who wants to sign up. MOOCs can be great for certain people in certain circumstances. But don't sign up for a MOOC thinking you'll be able to get a degree by taking the right just the right ones. At the moment, these are not-for-credit courses – at least right now. That is, at the moment you can't take and pass one of these courses and then expect that fact to count toward a degree.

MOOCs can be fantastic tools, however, to use to prepare for a credit-by-exam test (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/tests.asp>), to supplement other resources you're using to study for a college course you've paid for, or to learn about a subject you've always been interested in but didn't want to pay for.

For a long list of sites where you can check out MOOCs, go to <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/studymaterials.asp>.

Turn Your ICS/IS Courses into College Credit

Frederick Community College (FCC) in Frederick, MD will award college credit for many FEMA courses (including ICS-100, 200, 700, and 800) taken through its Emergency Management Institute (<http://training.fema.gov/IS/>). These credits are applicable to FCC's Associate of Applied Sciences degree in Emergency Management or may be transferred to other schools.

For more information, go to http://www.frederick.edu/courses_and_programs/degree_emergency_management.aspx.

Preparing for the SWE or Any Other Test?

Check out the tips on effective studying and test-taking skills at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/studying.asp>.

Military Scholarships

(courtesy of Ms. Sueann Walter, full-time ESO at the Coast Guard Academy)

If you're looking for scholarships aimed solely at military personnel (and, in some cases, their dependents), check out the spreadsheet Ms. Walter at the Coast Guard Academy prepared (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/ScholarshipList.xls>).

And don't limit yourself to these! The easier scholarships are to find and apply for (and the more money they hand out), the more people apply for them and the stiffer the competition is. In addition, look for the obscure and small-amount scholarships that few people find or bother to apply for. Remember: all money from scholarships is free money – not requiring pay-back. And it all adds up. If it takes you or your dependent an hour to complete the application for a \$100 scholarship, the return is \$100/hour. Not bad.

Check out <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/scholarships.asp>, and (especially) <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/scholarships.asp#strategy>.

CLEP's Forgotten Cousin

In addition to CLEP (the College Level Examination Program) tests, which most people have heard about, there are also DSSTs. Like CLEP tests, DSSTs are essentially final exams for college courses. They earn you 3 credits, which means that unlike the five most popular CLEP tests (which earn you 6 credits each), there's less material covered in each of DSST. And, unlike CLEP tests (which are now only available in a computer-based format), for a few more months you can take paper-and-pencil DSSTs through many ESOs.

For a complete list of DSSTs that are available, go to <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/dsst.asp>. A number of these tests cover subjects you've mastered during your Coast Guard service, either on-the-job or in training you've received. You may be able to pass the tests below with very little preparation, depending on your rate.

- Introduction to Computing
- Principles of Finance
- Principles of Financial Accounting
- Management Information Systems
- Organizational Behavior
- Personal Finance
- Human Resource Management
- Principles of Supervision
- Ethics in America
- Fundamentals of Counseling
- Drug & Alcohol Abuse
- Here's to Your Health
- Principles of Public Speaking
- Technical Writing
- Criminal Justice
- Introduction to Law Enforcement

The first time you take a DSST (like a CLEP test), it's free. If you need to re-take it, you have to pay for it. The waiting period between your tests is 90 days.

Keep in mind that these are tests – not courses. The links to each exam you'll find at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/dsst.asp> take you to that exam's short fact sheet which outlines the topics covered on the test, provides suggested references to study to prepare for the test, and a number of sample questions. But, on the whole, you have to find study materials that will work for you and study without a curriculum or instructor.

Check Out a Career in the Health Information Technology Field

Estimates from government agencies and independent studies indicate a need for 50,000 to 80,000 more health IT workers so health care facilities can implement and maintain electronic health records (EHRs) and meet meaningful use requirements.

Included in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 were grants to community colleges to be used to train "health information technology professionals": people qualified to support information exchange among health care providers and public health authorities and to redesign of workflows within the health care settings to gain the quality and efficiency benefits of EHRs.

If you're interested in finding out more about opportunities these grants create, information on colleges providing this training, their admission criteria, their tuition structures, etc. check out the fact sheet from Region D at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/HIT.pdf>. (The info on this fact sheet applies to all five regions.) And to find a community college in the region nearest you that's offering courses as part of the health IT program, go to http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt/community/healthit_hhs_gov_community_college_program/1804.

New SK Tests

Replacement Rating Advancement Tests (RATs, formerly called EOCTs) for SKs have just arrived. They are, essentially, open-book tests (examinees will be able to use only a CD with authorized references on it) and they're timed (you'll have 100 minutes in which to finish).

E-mail me if you'd like to take one of these tests with the test you want to take and the date you want to take it. I administer RATs every weekday morning at 0745 in the Education Center.

Coast Guard Institute Transcripts

The American Council on Education (ACE) evaluates “A” and “C” school curricula to determine how many credits you would have earned in college if you had covered there the same material you covered in an “A” or “C” school.

You can get a transcript of these credits from the Coast Guard Institute by downloading and submitting a form (http://uscg.mil/hq/cg1/cgi/forms/CG_Form_1561.pdf) through your ESO. When filling out the form, you have a number of options as to what you want the Institute to do.

- If this is the first time you’ve submitted a transcript request, check the “Assessment” box.
- If you’ve submitted an assessment request before, and want to update it, check the “Update to Assessment” box.

From either of these, you’ll receive an unofficial transcript by e-mail from the Institute.

- If you want an official transcript (which can be sent to a college, university, or your ESO), check the “Official Transcript” box.

Unofficial transcripts differ from official transcripts in that they’re not printed on paper (you’ll receive a PDF file). Official transcripts are printed on special, watermarked paper that makes tampering obvious and they have the Coast Guard Institute’s seal on them. To see if credits earned through military service will count toward a degree, you have to have an official transcript sent to the school you want to get the degree from.

If you’re just curious about how many credits you’ve accumulated in which subjects and don’t feel you need an assessment, you can go to ACE’s web site (<http://www.militaryguides.acenet.edu/>).

Bear in mind that every college and university in the U.S. has its own criteria for deciding whether to accept credits earned anywhere else. So credits that show up on your Coast Guard transcript may or may not be accepted toward majors and degrees at your preferred school.

New Tool for Finding Colleges

For years, ESOs have wished there were a way to find all colleges and universities in the country that offer degrees in a given major. A Google search yields lots of results, but most of them are web sites schools have to pay to get on – which eliminates schools that don’t have big advertising budgets.

The answer to ESOs’ wishes (at least the first version) is now here; it’s Department of Education’s new College Scorecard (<http://collegecost.ed.gov/scorecard/index.aspx>). It will help you find schools that offer the major you’re looking for. Although it’s a work in progress – the database is not yet complete – it’s much better than existing alternatives.

After choosing your search criteria, click on “+ Add Criteria”. You’ll then see all your search criteria appear in the left margin. Click on the “Search Institution” button and you’ll be given a list of all the schools that meet your criteria. To see the largest number of schools, use the fewest possible search criteria (probably just your desired major or majors).

If you can’t figure out how to use it, drop by the Education Center and I’ll walk you through it.

Limitations on CGMA Supplemental Education Grants

Coast Guard Mutual Assistance will reimburse their first associate’s or bachelor’s degree may request reimbursement of various college-related expenses. For more information, see <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/grants.asp#seg>. However, to quote from the CGMA Manual, “Assistance is not authorized for costs associated with preparatory courses, licenses (maritime, real estate, AC&R, etc.), or certification courses (computer, maritime, law, medical, etc).”

“High Debt and Falling Demand Trap New Veterinarians”

(courtesy of Mr. Brion Newman, full-time ESO at Base Seattle)

If you're considering a career in veterinary medicine, you should read this article from the 23 February issue of *The New York Times*: <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/02/24/business/high-debt-and-falling-demand-trap-new-veterinarians.html>.

Got Student Debt?

A recent issue of *The Washington Monthly* contained a short guide to different types of student loan repayment plans. You can find it at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/finance005.doc>.

Also, check out the info at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/loans.asp#repayment>.

GI Bill Transfer & Service Obligation

Despite ESOs' best efforts since August 2009 to ensure everyone knows about the additional service requirement you incur when you transfer new (Post-9/11) GI Bill education benefit, some people are telling us they're about to retire and weren't aware of it.

The general rule is that you must serve for four years after the date you transfer any or all of your benefit. For those who became eligible for retirement between 01 August 2009 and 01 August 2012, different service obligation periods apply (see <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/gibill-33b.asp#obligation>).

If you've transferred any or all of your benefit and leave the Coast Guard voluntarily during the service obligation period, you "must go back into the Portal and revoke [your] transfer (return transfer months to zero)," according to Mr. Reidus Stokes, the GI Bill person at PSC. You'll also need to "visit the PSD (FS) website (<http://www.uscg.mil/psc/psd/fs/GI%20Bill.asp>), print the "Revocation of Post 9/11 Transfer Benefits", sign it, date it, and e-mail or fax" it to him. "If any benefits were used, [you] will be placed in an overpayment status by the Department of Veteran Affairs" and the DVA will follow its procedures to recover the money it paid out for your dependent's education, housing allowance, etc.

If you believe you were not properly notified of the opportunity to transfer your new GI Bill benefit to dependents while you were in uniform, you can request a correction of military records to allow for transferability. To do this, submit an "Application for Correction of Military Record Under the Provisions of Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1552" (<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/eforms/dd0149.pdf>) to the Coast Guard Board for Correction of Military Records.

Be aware, however, that (to quote the instructions on the form) you must "show to the satisfaction of the Board by the evidence that you supply, or it must otherwise satisfactorily appear in the record, that the alleged entry or omission in the record was in error or unjust. Evidence, in addition to documents, may include affidavits or signed testimony of witnesses, executed under oath, and a brief of arguments supporting the application. All evidence not already included in your record must be submitted by you. The responsibility of securing evidence rests with you."

Thinking of Teaching?

If you're interested in becoming a teacher after leaving the Coast Guard, check out the resources at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/teaching.asp>. Also, consider the Troops to Teachers (TTT) program (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/t2t.asp>). The program

- provides mature, motivated, experienced, and dedicated personnel for the nation's classrooms;
- assists military personnel in making successful transitions to second careers in teaching; and
- helps relieve teacher shortages, especially in math, science, special education, career and technical subjects, and foreign languages.

The FY2013 defense authorization act made the following changes to the program (as described in *MilitaryTimesEDGE* magazine):

- reduces the minimum required time in service from six to four years;

- adds foreign language skills as one of the sought-after specialties;
- restores the program to the DoD's control;
- shortens the time to apply for the program from four years to three after leaving the military.

And even if you're not interested in the Troops to Teachers program, Ms. Melissa Fantozzi (Regional Director of the NJ, DE, MD, and DC Troops to Teachers office at 800-680-0884 or ttnj@doe.state.nj.us) is happy to help you navigate the maze of teacher certification requirements not only her assigned region but throughout the country. You can also find links to web pages describing requirements for the states in her region at <http://www.nj.gov/education/ttnj/>.

E-PME Study Resources

(courtesy of OSI Melissa Mathis, TraCen Cape May)

If you're looking for more ways to study for an E-PME AQE or for the May servicewide exam (SWE), you might want to check out these current tech resources. According to PO Mathis, "There is an app called EPME Mobile which has quizzes for the E-PME Apprentice, Journeyman, and Master materials. With the app, you can search the E-PME manuals and itemize the knowledge and performance requirements. You can also communicate with the developer about edits and updates. It's available for your tablet or smartphone." PO Mathis also pointed to "PDF Notes, an app that allows you to highlight, bookmark and take notes in any manual published in PDF format. It's for a tablet."

Also, some enterprising petty officers have created sets of electronic E-PME flashcards available at Quizlet.com. You can use them (<http://quizlet.com/subject/uscg-epme/>) or create your own, and import them to your smartphone. Two others you can use to create flashcards are Flashcards++ and StudyBlue (the latter of which is also for your computer at <http://www.studyblue.com/switch/cpt.html>).

Before Choosing a Major or Career Field . . .

If you're considering a particular college major or career field, you should first check out the *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/home.htm>). Not only does it tell you what type of education and/or training you need to enter and advance in a specific career field, but it also tells you things like what the pay is likely to be and what the hiring prospects are in the future.

College Financial Aid Presentations

Last week, CollegeWeekLive (<http://www.collegeweeklive.com/>) sponsored Financial Aid Week for college students and their families. You can watch the recorded presentations on its web site by logging in (it's free), and then clicking on the "Paying for College Videos" button. Among the topics are "Building a Career to Pay for College", "Are You Scholarship Ready?", "Career Information from the Bureau of Labor Statistics", "The 1-2-3 Step Approach to Paying for College", and many others.

New College & Career Planning Tool

Military personnel now have access to another tool to help them plan for college or a career after the Coast Guard. Kuder, a "provider of Internet-based tools and resources that help students and adults achieve their educational and career planning goals", has an Internet-based program designed specifically for military personnel. It's called Journey, and you can find out more about it and how to access it from a flyer you'll find at <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/doc/Journey.pdf>.

Journey and other similar tools (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/sitest.asp>) are powerful tools in helping you decide your future career path and what to major in, if you decide to pursue a college degree.

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 whether you need a degree to enter the field you want to work in,
- if a degree will be helpful, 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 to the Coast Guard Institute 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.

Is On-Line Learning for You?

If you're trying to decide between taking courses in a classroom or via distance learning (aka distance education), you owe it to yourself to use one or more of the on-line assessment tools available from DANTES and various colleges (<http://www.uscg.mil/hq/capemay/Education/distance.asp#01>). Spending some time with these tools could save you time and a lot of aggravation down the road.

TraCen Cape May Testing Schedule

As of next Monday (28 January 2013), tests at TraCen Cape May will be administered by appointment according to the following schedule.

Mondays (0745): EOCTs, RATs, and AQEs

Tuesdays (0745): EOCTs, RATs, and AQEs

Wednesdays (0745): EOCTs, RATs, and AQEs* or Defense Language Proficiency Tests (DLPT)

Thursdays (0745): EOCTs, RATs, and AQEs; college tests, DSSTs, SATs, ACTs

Alternating Fridays (0745): EOCTs, RATs, and AQEs

* If someone has made an appointment to take a DLPT (a 6-hour test), there will be no EOCTs, RATs, and AQEs.

College placement, AFCT, and all other tests will be scheduled on a case-by-case basis.

If you call and I don't answer the phone, I'm probably administering a test (and, because I don't want to disturb examinees I can't talk on the phone) or I'm 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.

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 which you're welcome to check out. Also in the library are the latest Professional Qualification Guides (PQGs) and Rating Performance Qualifications (RPQs) for each rate.

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.