



# U.S. COAST GUARD



## Homeland Security

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### ASVAB RENORMING

ALCOAST 318/04 announced that on 1 July 2004, DOD will implement new norms for the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB). We will make appropriate changes to our ASVAB calculations, data systems and reporting processes to align with these new norms. Our changes will go into effect on 1 July 2004 as well, and will ensure we retain the same ASVAB aptitude standards we currently use for recruiting, A-School assignments, and OCS qualifications.

Since 1976, the Coast Guard, Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy have used the ASVAB, which is a multiple aptitude test battery designed to predict training and job performance in military occupations. ASVAB results are reported as a percentile of a statistically normed test population. The current ASVAB was normed in 1980, and no longer reflects the aptitude of today's youth population. Over the course of the last two decades, average test scores have generally risen. The Coast Guard is interested in maintaining the absolute level of test scores as opposed to a specific percentile, hence the need to adjust to the new norms.

The Armed Forces Qualification Test (AFQT) score used to establish entry-level aptitude for the Armed Services is a combination of ASVAB math and verbal tests. The current qualifying AFQT score for enlisted accession into the Coast Guard is 40. On July 1, 2004, we will adjust our minimum AFQT score to 36. *The ASVAB tests and minimum raw scores themselves will not change.* This adjustment in AFQT scores will maintain our current qualification standards for new recruits.

In addition to adjusting the AFQT scores, we will also adjust our class A-School and Officer Candidate composite test scores to the new norms. *As with the AFQT, the raw scores directly measuring member aptitude will not change.* For example, if SN Ann Doe qualified for a particular A-School based on a test taken before July 1, 2004, she will be qualified for the same "A" school after July 1, 2004, when the new norms are effective. For the list of adjusted ASVAB composite scores reflecting the new norms, refer to ALCOAST 318/04.

All individual ASVAB scores in Direct Access will be converted to the new norm in July 2004. These converted scores can then be compared to the new ASVAB minimums resulting in the exact same individual qualification for schools as before the updated norm effective date of 1 July 2004. *During the transition period and until all scores are converted, commands and members evaluating personnel for A-School and Officer Candidate qualification should ensure that the ASVAB scores are compared against the proper normed minimums.*

The Air Force, which has the same AFQT requirements as the Coast Guard, will also align their minimum AFQT enlistment qualifying scores with the new

ASVAB norms. The Army, Navy and Marine Corps have indicated they will not align their reporting scores with the new norms at this time, which essentially raises their standards for recruiting, although those standards will continue to be slightly below the Coast Guard and Air Force.

General questions concerning ASVAB scores should be addressed to Mrs. Mary Norwood, 202-267-2987, COMDT (G-WTT-2).

Regards,

*RADM Kenneth T. Venuto*  
Ken Venuto

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