

STARS AND STRIPES®

CAMP LEJEUNE
Spring 2019

Servicemember's Guide to

EDUCATION and TRANSITION

VETERANS IN PIPING

TRAIN FOR TRANSITION
WHILE ACTIVE-DUTY

FOLLOW THE FINANCES

HOW TO NAVIGATE THE
FINANCIAL AID PROCESS



Photo courtesy

MILITARY ACADEMIC SKILLS PROGRAM



EDUCATION ASSISTANCE BRANCH

CAMP LEJEUNE | 910-451-3091
MCAS NEW RIVER | 910-449-5421

MCCSLEJEUNE-NEWRIVER.COM/EDU

Military Academic Skills Program (MASP) is an educational program designed specifically for improving the reading, writing, mathematical, and communication skills of military personnel (and their family members) from all DOD branches. Successful completion ensures more confident and better prepared servicemembers for their MOS/Rating, as well as preparing them for the pursuit of voluntary higher education opportunities.

This program is sponsored by Coastal Carolina Community College at no cost to participants.

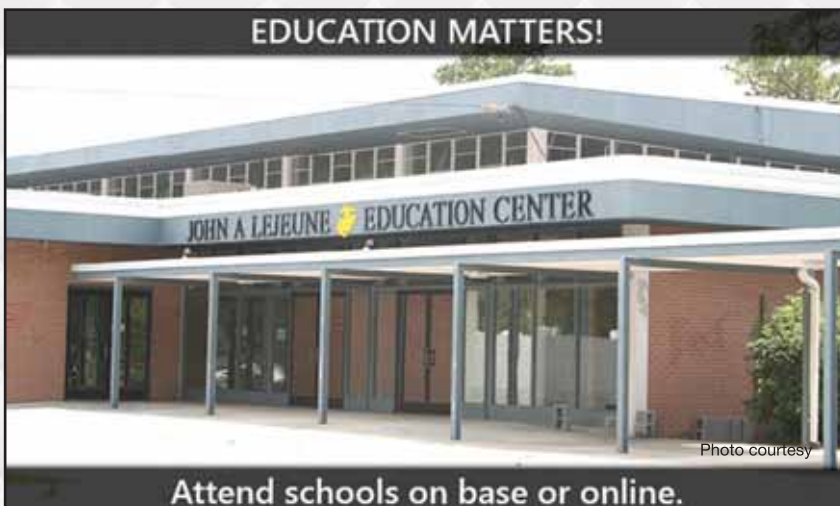


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MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

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0730 TO 1130

MATH:
1300 TO 1630

NIGHTTIME MASP SCHEDULE
SIX-WEEK CLASS SESSION
BUILDING 825

1700 TO 2100
MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY

COMMUNICATION SKILLS:
MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY

MATH:
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

Please visit our website (www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/edu) to obtain an application packet.

STARS AND STRIPES

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*Sample Listing of College to Career Programs**

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Associate Degree Nursing
Business Administration/Entrepreneurship
Collision Repair and Refinishing Technology
Commercial Drivers License (CDL)
Criminal Justice Technology
Culinary Arts
Dental Hygiene
Diesel and Heavy Equipment Technology
Electronics Engineering Technology
Emergency Management
Fire Protection
Health and Fitness Science
Hospitality Management
Powerline Technician

Now Is Your Time

APPLY NOW

***To view a full listing of programs offered,
visit coastalcarolina.edu**



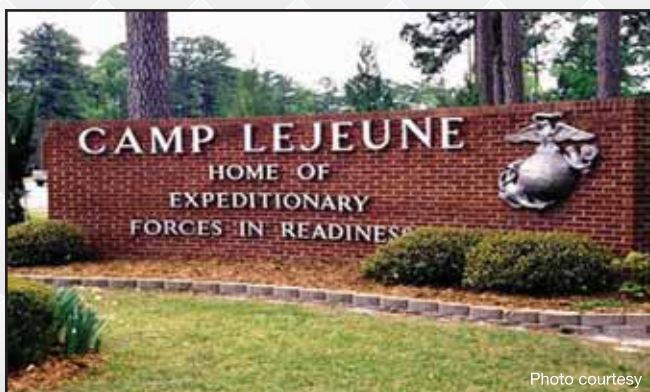


Photo courtesy



Photo courtesy

EDUCATION ASSISTANCE at **CAMP LEJEUNE/MCAS NEW RIVER**

The Education Assistance Branch can guide military personnel, family members, retirees, and DoD affiliated civilian personnel in starting or completing their journey towards their personal and professional goals. Our services cover the areas below and much more!

- General Education Guidance
- Military Tuition Assistance
- Financial Aid Information
- Military and Civilian Testing
- Military Academic Skills Program
- GI Bill Information
- Joint Services Transcripts
- U.S. Military Apprenticeship Program
- Veterans in Piping Program
- MC Cool Information

For more information, visit:

www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/edu

John A. Lejeune
Education Center
Bldg 825 Stone Street
910-451-3091
M-F 0730 to 1630

MCAS New River
Education Office
Bldg AS-212 Bancroft Street
910-449-5421
M-F 0800 to 1630

Find us on Facebook 

www.facebook.com/mccscledu/

“I just checked my Post-9/11 GI Bill enrollment. Online.”

Your time is valuable. When you need fast, easy access to manage your VA & DoD benefits, claims and military documents, go online and register for a Premium eBenefits Account at www.ebenefits.va.gov.




www.ebenefits.va.gov



Camp Lejeune-New River 2019 Education Expos

April 24, 2019
1000 to 1400

Goettge Memorial Field House



SAVE THE DATE

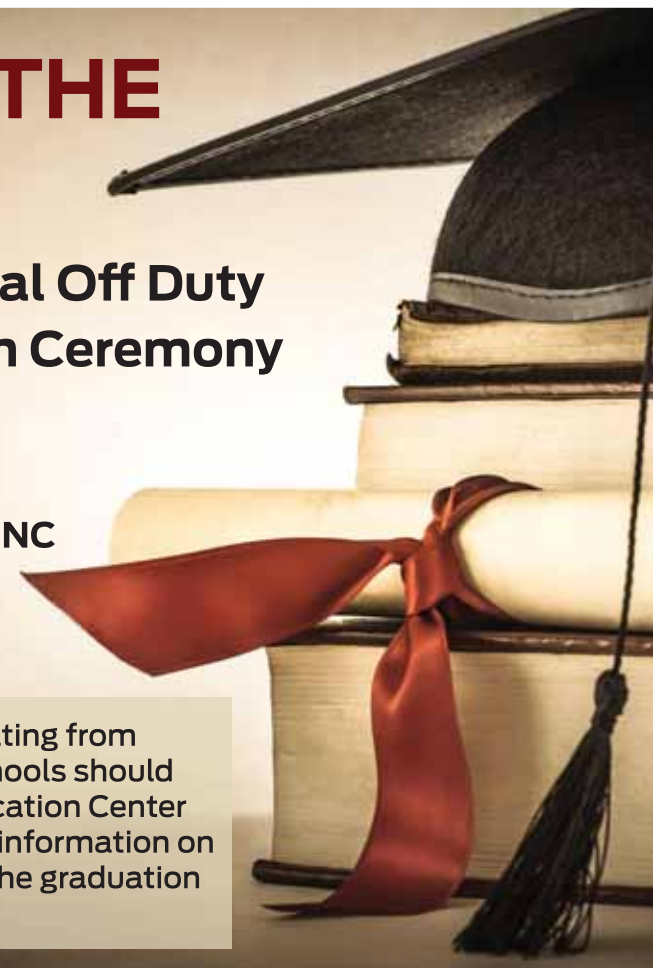
24th Annual Off Duty Graduation Ceremony

1000 to 1130

May 31, 2019

Base Theater

Camp Lejeune NC



Students graduating from non-resident schools should contact the Education Center at 450-9081 for information on participating in the graduation ceremony

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See www.DiscoveryDiving.edu for extensive schedule and additional information.

COLLEGE CREDIT *WITHOUT* COLLEGE CLASSES!

By the Camp Lejeune MCAS New River Education Assistance Branch

Expedite your college degree and save yourself time and money via the eCLEP & eDSST Exam Program available at the John A. Lejeune Education Center, MCB Camp Lejeune. These computer-based exams, equivalent to a full semester of college classes condensed into 90-minute final exams, award from three to nine general education credits per test. AD/RES military test 1x free per each of the 67 exams available. Civilians with authorized base access may test by paying all applicable fees that are nominal compared to tuition costs per class per semester. Limited computer-based and paper-based proctoring services available by appointment only. For dates and times visit www.uncw.edu/onslow/testing.html, or contact 910-962-8378.

DANTES SAT & ACT exams are available on base to AD/RES military only. Military personnel may also qualify for reimbursement of two SAT and two ACT exams administered off-base at civilian national testing sites. These exams can be used for officer programs and/or college placement. Contact 910-451-9289 for more information.

Other exams offered for AD/RES military personnel only, include AFCT retesting for MOS lateral moves, re-enlistments, career progression schools, and officer programs. Military personnel with diverse language backgrounds and training may test their foreign language abilities via Defense Language Proficiency Tests (DLPT), and Oral Proficiency Interviews (OPI). Hundreds of computer-based languages are available, varying from one to six hours. Most exams consist of two sections, reading and listening and few offer extended response (essay). The benefits of taking DLPTs include, earning three to 12 college credits per language, monthly Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus (FLPB) pay up to \$1,000, and official documentation of language abilities for use on job resumes and applications. Exams are administered Monday through Friday by appointment only, restrictions apply. Contact 910-451-3092 for more information.

Appointments and authorizations are required for all testing at the Education Center. For a complete listing and detailed description of our testing program visit www.mccslejeune-newriver.com.

Set Your Sights On Success

Staring at a blank page?

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Financial Aid

Finding Financial Aid can seem overwhelming... the Education Center is here to help guide you along the way.

Call Camp Lejeune at 910-451-3091 and/or New River at 910-449-5421 for more information.

COUNSELOR CORNER

Here are some nuggets of knowledge from the Camp Lejeune-New River Education staff:

"The goal of the Education Center staff is to help our customers earn their degree debt free!" (J.S.)

"Take advantage of alternate methods of earning college credit . . . Joint Services Transcript, CLEP, DSST, etc." (C.P.)

"Don't just rely on Tuition Assistance (TA)— look for other sources of funding including financial aid and scholarships. You could be paid to go to school." (M.L.)

"Research your school on College Navigator to get an unbiased view of the school you are interested in attending. (<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>)" (J.R.)

"Don't be talked into a class or degree path that you don't really want. Seek the path that leads to your goals." (T.R.)

"You do not have to wait two years to start school -- there are other funding options available while you wait to be eligible for military tuition assistance." (M.L.)

"Be proactive! Don't wait till the last minute to submit for financial aid." (V.B.)

"Don't get overwhelmed . . . it is one step at a time." (R.M.)

"Your goal is just a step away. . . . let us help you take the first step." (P.H.)

– Courtesy of the Education Assistance Branch Camp Lejeune-New River



Photos courtesy of marines.mil

TEACHING AS A SECOND CAREER INFORMATION SESSION

Room 111 – Building 852
John A. Lejeune Ed Center
1300 to 1500

March 14, 2019

May 16, 2019

July 18, 2019

September 19, 2019

November 14, 2019

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RESIDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

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General Information:

The Education Assistance Branch (EAB) coordinates with the resident colleges and universities aboard Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River to ensure that there is a large selection of degrees available with both in-class and online course offerings from the vocational level through the masters level.

This sheet lists face-to-face classes/degrees only; please check with the specific school for their online degree options.

Non-Resident School's Office Hours:

The Education Assistance Branch (EAB) is working with non-resident colleges and universities to offer regularly scheduled office hours for currently enrolled students who are seeking face-to-face academic advisement and financial aid advisement from their individual colleges or universities.

Please call Camp Lejeune office at 910-451-3091, voice 910-451-9076 and/or New River office at 910-449-5421 for the date and time the visiting school will be aboard both locations.



COASTAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Camp Lejeune Office 910-451-2391
New River Office 910-449-6926 / 5369
www.coastalcarolina.edu

DEGREE OFFERINGS:

- Vocational Programs (Certificates & Diplomas)
- Associate in Applied Science
- College Transfer Program
- Associate in Arts
- Associate in Fine Arts
- Associate in Science
- Associate in Engineering



CAMPBELL UNIVERSITY

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Camp Lejeune Office 910-893-7059/7045
New River Office 910-449-6600
<https://aoe.campbell.edu/camp-lejeune/>

DEGREE OFFERINGS:

- Bachelor of Business Administration
 - Accounting
 - Business Administration
- Bachelor of Applied Science
 - Business Administration
 - Criminal Justice
 - Homeland Security
 - Information Technology and Security (Either Security or Management)
- Bachelor of Health Science
- Bachelor of Science Social Science
 - Criminal Justice
 - History
 - Political Science
- Bachelor Science
 - Homeland Security
 - Information Technology and Security (Either Security or Management)
 - Psychology



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

CONTACT INFORMATION:

New River Office 910-449-6250
www.extendedcampus.siu.edu

DEGREE OFFERINGS:

- Bachelor of Science Aviation Management



EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Camp Lejeune Office 910-451-0174
<http://worldwide.erau.edu>

DEGREE OFFERINGS:

- Bachelor of Science Engineering Technology
- Bachelor of Science Technical Management



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WILMINGTON

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Camp Lejeune Office 910-451-5266
New River Office 910-449-4440
Office at Coastal Carolina's Campus 910-455-2310
www.uncw.edu/onslow

DEGREE OFFERINGS:

- Bachelor of Arts Criminology
- Bachelor of Science Exercise Science
- Bachelor of Social Work
- Master of Arts Teaching (Multiple Subjects)



BOSTON UNIVERSITY

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Camp Lejeune Office 910-451-5574
www.bu.edu

DEGREE OFFERINGS:

- Graduate Certificates
 - Project Management
 - Information Security
- Master of Science
 - Computer Information Systems
 - Leadership



WEBSTER UNIVERSITY

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Camp Lejeune Office 910-451-0951
New River Office 910-449-4677
www.webster.edu/camp-lejeune

DEGREE OFFERINGS:

- Master of Arts
 - Human Resources Management
 - International Relations
 - Management and Leadership
 - Procurement and Acquisitions Management
- Master of Business Administration (MBA)
- Graduate Certificate in Governmental Contracting

Camp Lejeune 910-451-3091 | New River 910-449-5421
www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/edu

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Education
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GI BILL COMPARISON TOOL



The VA is making it easier to research colleges and employers approved for the GI Bill. Answer just a few questions about yourself and the school/employer you are considering, and you will receive an estimate of your GI Bill benefits and some information about the facility's value and affordability.

The tool will provide you with the following information about colleges and employers:

- Outcome Measures - Graduation, Completion and Transfer Rates for Veterans
- Eligibility - See What Level of Benefits You Qualify For
- School/Employer - Programs and Accreditation Explained
 - o Accreditation matters if you plan to start school at one institution and transfer to another to complete your degree. Be sure to ask any potential school about their credit transfer policy. Accreditation is a recognized credential for schools and some programs. As stated by the U.S. Department of Education (ED), the goal of accreditation is to ensure that the education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality.
 - o The GI Bill Comparison Tool utilizes ED's database of accredited postsecondary institutions and programs which is updated every three months. The tool checks to see if the school is accredited at the institutional level by either regional, national, or hybrid accreditors. If the school has both regional and national accreditation the tool lists the school as regionally accredited. Hybrid agencies are recognized for the accreditation of both specialized

programs at larger institutions and for the accreditation of freestanding institutions.

- o Schools are accredited by private educational associations of regional or national scope. While the Department of Education does not say whether regional or national accreditation is better, a recent ED study revealed that, "Nearly 90 percent of all student credit transfer opportunities occurred between institutions that were regionally, rather than nationally, accredited."
- Benefits Estimator - Features of Benefits Explained Including Housing and Books
 - o Students training solely by distance learning may receive a monthly housing allowance equal to one-half the national average military Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH).
 - o The GI Bill benefit estimator does NOT include Kickers, College Funds, Yellow Ribbon, or Other Financial Aid.
 - o When using this tool, you will need to select the length of your original active duty enlistment obligation in order to get an estimate of your monthly benefit. The amount of time you served (2 year enlistment vs. 3+ year enlistment) will impact your monthly payment amount when using the Montgomery GI Bill.
 - o Did you participate in the buy-up program? Some servicemembers may have contributed an additional \$600 to the GI Bill to receive increased monthly benefit payments. This increased monthly benefit is only applicable to the Montgomery GI Bill or REAP.
- Veteran Indicators - Principles of

Excellence Guidelines, Yellow Ribbon Program and Number of Beneficiaries.

- School Indicators - Student statistics including the presence of a Student Veterans Group and VetSuccess on Campus.
 - Caution Flags - Indication VA or other federal agencies applied increased regulatory or legal scrutiny to a program of education.

Benefit Calculator Results

The Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits calculator is a useful tool to estimate how much your Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits will cover at a particular institution. The results of the GI Bill benefits calculator are not an official determination of benefits.

To make the calculator user friendly, we made the following assumptions:

- Semesters are 4.5 months and quarters are 3 months.
- Students maintain their enrollment status the full year (not full-time one term and part-time the next).
- VA considers the following when calculating Rate of Pursuit (ROP) in the benefit estimation:
 - Full time students are taking 12 credits per term.
 - 3/4 time students are taking 9 credits per term; the calculator uses .8 to determine the amount due.
 - More than 1/2 time students are taking 7-8 credits per term; the calculator uses .6 to determine the amount due
 - Less than 1/2 time students are taking 1-6 credits per term; the calculator uses .5 to determine the amount due.
- Students are not enrolling in the summer term.

- Rates are rounded to the nearest dollar when calculating the monthly housing allowance.

Which GI Bill benefit are you thinking of using?

You may be eligible for several types of VA education and training benefits depending on when and how long you served. There are several things to consider before you apply for a GI Bill program. One person may benefit more by using the Montgomery GI Bill while another may make an irrevocable election and use the Post-9/11 GI Bill instead. This tool allows you to compare the different programs and make an educated decision on which benefit best suits your needs.

For more detailed information on eligibility requirements and general program benefits, please check out https://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/comparison_tool.asp

Accessibility and the Comparison Tool

- The VA is dedicated to providing access for everyone, and is supporting the goal of access for everyone by providing services and strategies to implement the goals and objectives of the Section 508 legislation.
- The Comparison Tool is accessible to users utilizing assisted technologies, such as screen readers, screen magnifiers and voice recognition. Answer just a few questions about yourself and the school/employer you are considering and you'll receive an estimate of your GI Bill benefits and some information about the facility's value and affordability. The only required field for the comparison tool to work is the school/employer name.

– Courtesy of the Education Assistance Branch
Camp Lejeune-New River



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Norwich University is accredited by the New England Commission of Higher Education (formerly the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc.).



Recognized for academic excellence, U.S. News & World Report ranks Norwich University in the top 100 for Regional Universities in the North. Rankings are based on undergraduate programs.



Norwich University's Project Management concentration in the MBA and MSISA programs are accredited by the PMI Global Accreditation Center for Project Management Education Programs (GAC).



Norwich University's MBA program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs.



The National Security Agency and Department of Homeland Security have designated Norwich as a Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense.



Norwich University is recognized by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) to offer Professional Development Credits (PDCs) for SHRM-CP or SHRM-SCP.

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EVERYTHING THE TRANSITION READINESS BRANCH HAS TO OFFER.

Photo courtesy of marines.mil

TRANSITION READINESS BRANCH OVERVIEW

The Transition Readiness Branch (TRB) aboard Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) New River provides holistic lifecycle services to its servicemembers and their families. Formerly known as SEPS/TAPS, the entire program has evolved to better serve those who serve our country.

PERSONAL READINESS SEMINARS

A fairly recent addition to the whole Marine educational process is the Personal Readiness Seminar (PRS). The seminar is aimed at new servicemembers who have, within the last 90 days, arrived at their first permanent duty station. The four-hour class takes a building block approach to lay the foundation in educating the new Marines. During the class, the Marines learn about establishing credit, how to read a Leave and Earning Statement (LES),

budgeting techniques, and about resources available on base which cost little to nothing. Julie Pierce-Jennings, Personal and Professional Development (P&PD) Advisor and the lead PRS instructor, states that over 13,000 Marines have attended the class since its inception in 2015. In 2018 alone over 4,814 Marines gained the new knowledge which will make them more financially savvy. To make the class even more beneficial, Julie and her fellow PRS instructors now partner with the TRB's Personal Financial Managers (PFMs) and Personal Financial Counselors (PFCs). Updated Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) rates and the latest DoD-approved budgets are included in the class.

Servicemembers and their families often come to the TRB offices seeking advice as to whether they should leave the military or re-enlist. A unique relationship exists between the active duty leadership and the TRB staff, and the servicemember is always encouraged to stay in

uniform. If, however, a decision to transition has been made, the transition staff is here to help prepare the servicemember as they prepare to return to the civilian sector. The services the TRB provide are focused on the individual and include the five-day Transition Readiness Seminar (TRS), workshops and classes, a myriad of career services, and numerous employment opportunities with veteran-friendly companies looking for military-related skills and talents.

TRANSITION READINESS SEMINAR

A cornerstone of the TRBs facilitation platform is the Transition Readiness Seminar. This five-day seminar attended by servicemembers is a DoD-mandated requirement to separate from the Marine Corps, regardless if it is due to an administrative or medical issue after only six months of service, or after a 20 – 30-year career. While Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune

and Marine Corps Air Station New River host the seminars, sailors and Coast Guard personnel are welcomed to attend. TRS provides useful information, facilitated by TRB professionals and briefers from the Veteran Administration (VA) and Department of Labor (DOL). The seminars are held 42 – 46 times a year aboard Lejeune and 25 times a year at MCAS New River.

Servicemembers who are retiring, and their spouses, often face unique challenges after decades in a military environment. To better assist them with their transition, the TRB holds a total of 16 Retirement Seminars for those who will be retiring at 20 years or more. Four Executive Transition Readiness Seminars (ETRS) are held each year for CWO-4/5s, E-9s, and O-5s and above. Monique Penderman and Sherry Anthony, both seasoned P&PD Advisors, are the Retirement/ETRS co-leads aboard Camp Lejeune. They research and collaborate with DoD and other governmental

agencies to ensure that the curricula they present is the most recent and accurate material available to their audiences. Monique recounts the testimony of a servicemember she recently assisted to help develop his transition plan. With her help, he developed two resumes, got two interviews, and ultimately received two job offers!

Panels of veterans who have successfully transitioned are often featured during the Retirement Seminars and ETRS to speak and frankly answer questions about their own personal experiences. One such panel member had attended the Retirement Seminar a year ago. Following the guidance he was given, he and his family successfully assimilated back into the civilian sector; he enjoys his new job and his family has adjusted well.

It is difficult for senior Marines to set aside mission requirements while they prepare for their own retirements. Brent Williams and

continued to page 13

CAMP LEJEUNE TRANSITION READINESS SEMINAR OFFICE

Bldg. 824 Stone Street, Camp Lejeune
910-451-3781
Monday-Friday 0715-1630

NEW RIVER TRANSITION READINESS AND CAREER RESOURCE CENTER

Bldg. AS-912 & AS-913 Longstaf Street, New River
910-449-4914
Monday-Friday 0730-1630

continued from page 12

Photo courtesy of marines.mil

Linda Neal, P&PD Advisors, understand this. After a recent retirement seminar, they received an anonymous Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) comment which stated, "Best course that could be offered to retirement Marines, the staff is great and help at every chance, just wanted to say thank you!"

Military spouses often sacrifice careers and educational opportunities because of the constant moving associated with the military lifestyle. Deployment cycles can wreak havoc on their plans, and, because of this, they may have difficulty entering or re-entering the workforce. Resumes may reflect dated work experiences, resulting in employment gaps. The TRB has an answer to that!

FAMILY MEMBER EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Interactive Career Resource Classes are conducted aboard both Lejeune and New River, as well as at the Family Member Employment Assistance Program (FMEAP) office located conveniently in the Tarawa Terrace Housing area. Some of the classes offered include: Navigating USA Jobs, Job Fair Success, Interview Techniques, and Job Search and Resume Strategies. Servicemembers, spouses, and family members are welcome to attend these free classes and can take advantage of one-on-one appointments to develop and fine-tune resumes and job search strategies. Jennifer Ormsby and Sheila Covington operate the FMEAP office and serve as a valuable resource to family members as they are embedded in the community and maintain strong relations with local, regional, and state organizations.

Although spouses are encouraged to attend TRS, circumstances may prevent them from being with their servicemembers for the entire five days. As they are an integral part of the transition, Marine Corps Community Services has developed a three-hour Spouse

Transition and Readiness Seminar (STARS), tailor-made for spouses. STARS covers transition-related topics, benefits and entitlements, and resources, with a Q&A session featuring a panel of subject matter experts. Spouses of pre-retirees can choose to attend one of the monthly sessions and spouses of separating servicemembers have the choice of attending seminars held six times a year.

Post-service employment is often the greatest concern of the transitioning servicemember and can be a source of anxiety if there are no prospects. According to the latest research (December 2018), the Department of Labor reported that veteran unemployment has reached a historic low of 3.2%. While this is an encouraging statistic, it still requires preparation and research to find meaningful employment. Fortunately, the TRB staff assists clients with developing a resume, career coaching, and then providing opportunities for servicemembers to meet with prospective employers.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Servicemembers stationed at either Camp Lejeune or MCAS New River have the benefit of getting involved in one of ten Skill Bridge programs. With their commands' endorsement, servicemembers can actually gain industry-specific job skills which have a high probability of leading to employment with the company training them – all while on active duty! Tony Parks, the Skill Bridge Program Coordinator for Camp Lejeune and New River, explains that the number of eligible Skill Bridge programs is growing and that in FY18, over 400 servicemembers participated in one of the existing programs. His goal is to make Camp Lejeune-New River the flagship for the Skill Bridge Program in the entire DoD!

Recently, a servicemember entered the New River office inquiring about the Commercial Drivers' License (CDL) programs. Karleen Szala-Spires, P&PD Technician, explained the requirements and differences

between the programs. Soon, thereafter, he submitted his package, was accepted, and attended the course. He now has a CDL and has accepted one of eight employment offers he received while in class. Now that's a successful transition!

Myranda Brown, P&PD Technician, is the Career Fair and Transition Event lead for Camp Lejeune. She establishes relationships with employers, coordinates with base facilities, and plans all employment-related events on base. In 2018 alone, she spearheaded a Spring Career Fair with over 90 employers and over 500 servicemembers and spouses attending. In addition, she arranged stand-alone events with the companies such as Tesla, Amazon, Chevron, and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency.

In 2019, Myranda has already planned and begun the coordination for a Spring 2019 Career Fair and Hiring Event in May. In July she has the Recruit Military Transition Fair planned, and in October she will facilitate the Hiring Our Heroes Fall 2019 Transition Summit. Each of these events is completely free to the servicemembers, their families, and veterans who have base access.

Jen Beatty, P&PD Advisor, arranges and facilitates the Spring Aviation Job Fair at New River. As an average, 20 employers will travel from across the nation to attend her event and to offer servicemembers high paying, aviation-related positions. To best serve our servicemembers, Jen and Myranda collaborate to share resources, best practices, and information between New River and Lejeune.

To ensure that all working-age family members have opportunities to gain employment or volunteer experience, the FMEAP office also hosts a Teen Job and Volunteer Fair every spring. Last year the event was attended by 357 military family members and gave 184 teens the opportunity to connect with

17 different vendors/employers. For many, this was the first time they had applied for a job and the event enabled them to learn networking skills and become involved in their community.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The FMEAP staff has an extremely interactive Facebook page to better serve their clients and the community. Jenny and Sheila use the Facebook page as a means to connect clients and job seekers and, according to Jenny, last year 88 of their patrons found employment by using their services.

The value of LinkedIn to transitioning servicemembers and their families is often misunderstood and understated. Although it is a form of social media, it provides a virtual platform where the users can develop a profile, establish individual brands, and let prospective employers know they are seeking employment. According to a recent article by U.S. News and World Report, less than 15% of jobs are filled by applying to job boards, but more than 70% are filled by networking. LinkedIn provides a free, highly effective means to network. Danelle Strang, P&PD Advisor Supervisor, MCAS New River, had a previous client reach out to her via LinkedIn to tell her about his success in finding the new civilian position he wanted, thanks to her assistance and career coaching. According to the client, "I would have never gotten this job had it not been for the help you gave me...". Danelle is one of TRB's LinkedIn account managers and uses it to reach out to employers and provide virtual guidance to servicemembers and their families.

OUTREACH EVENTS

The entire TRB staff participates in outreach events. Any time a unit wants a pre-deployment brief, a Professional Military Education (PME), or a specific class, the TRB will gladly be there, regardless of the size of the audience. Gene DeFreitas and Corinne McKenna, Personal Financial Managers

(PFMs) hold a series of classes aboard both bases to include home buying, car buying, TSP/ investing, and premarital financial management, to name a few. Information regarding all classes can be accessed through TRB's website.

Often, units ask the TRB staff to speak on specific subjects, such as resume building, networking, and how to start planning for transition. Beth Galvan, P&PD Advisor, stressed the importance of developing individual plans for the future. "The most important factor in your success is time. You need to talk to your Career Planner or Unit Transition Coordinator (or Career Counselor for sailors) 12 to 14 months prior to your End of Active Service (EAS) – but definitely no later than 180 days prior. You are in charge of your plan – and you need time to build it!"

PARTING ADVICE

William "Bill" Oldenburg, Transition Readiness Branch Manager, retired in 2016 as the Station Sergeant Major of MCAS New River. He understands the challenges of transitioning from being a senior leader of Marines and Sailors to a leader and manager of a team of civilians. He routinely speaks to the Retirement Seminar, the ETRS, and to the weekly TRS classes. "The staff at the Transition Readiness Branch is expertly prepared to help you figure out the answer to the question of, 'What will I do after I leave the military?'" Each transitioning servicemember has his or her own unique challenges and circumstances that may seem overwhelming. In many cases after meeting with our team, the path back to the civilian sector becomes clear and less stressful."

If and when you are considering hanging up your uniform for the last time, the Transition Readiness Branch is here for you and your family. More information can be found at www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/trs/.

– Courtesy of the Transition Readiness Branch

TRANSITIONING SERVICEMEMBERS PREPARE FOR CAREERS IN THE PIPEFITTING INDUSTRY THROUGH SPECIALIZED TRAINING



Photo courtesy of Veterans in Piping



Photo courtesy

The United Association of Plumbers, Fitters, Welders, and Service Techs (UA) Veterans in Piping (VIP) Program has partnered with the Marine Corps to provide selected military members the opportunity to participate in its highly competitive and rigorous welding program at Camp Lejeune. Participants complete the training while still on active duty.

The 18-week VIP welding program prepares transitioning servicemembers for the paid five-year apprenticeships they'll be placed in upon graduation. Although the program's focus is welding, participants are exposed to all aspects of the trade. Work includes installation, maintenance, and repair of all types of piping systems as well as joining structural steel brackets and supports for such systems. The VIP welding program is offered at no cost to servicemembers.

The VIP program began operating aboard Camp Lejeune in 2014 and has since trained nearly 100 transitioning Marines, providing guaranteed employment upon successful completion of the program. The VIP

program runs 18 week-long training sessions offered every 20 weeks throughout the year. Contact the John A. Lejeune Education Center for application information.

Over the last decade, more than two million men and women have served and sacrificed for our nation. Despite being a disciplined and highly trainable population, military members sometimes face trouble finding a new career upon their retirement from the service. The UA's Veterans in Piping program was created in 2008 to help address this challenge, as well as to serve as a way to address growing manpower shortages in the construction industry. The UA VIP program equips transitioning servicemembers with today's sought after skills, including welding; heating, ventilation, air-conditioning and refrigeration (HVACR); and sprinkler fitting. Thousands of VIP graduates are at work with the UA all across the United States.

– Courtesy of the United Association of Veterans In Piping

LEARN MORE ABOUT VIP

VIP Information sessions are held every third Thursday of the month at 1000 located at the John A. Lejeune Education Center aboard MCB Camp Lejeune. Interested personnel must register at mccslejeune-newriver.com/edu to attend one of the upcoming sessions. For more information visit www.uavip.org

2019-2021 VIP PROGRAM SCHEDULE

COURSE	INTERVIEW DATE	START DATE	GRADUATION DATE
WELDING CLASS 13	TBA	APRIL 1, 2019	AUGUST 1, 2019
WELDING CLASS 14	TBA	AUGUST 18, 2019	DECEMBER 19, 2019
WELDING CLASS 15	TBA	JANUARY 6, 2020	MAY 7, 2020
WELDING CLASS 16	TBA	MAY 26, 2020	SEPTEMBER 24, 2020
WELDING CLASS 17	TBA	OCTOBER 12, 2020	FEBRUARY 18, 2021



LOCAL 43 VIP GRADUATE NAMED TVA APPRENTICE OF THE YEAR

COLTON JACKSON, a fifth-year apprentice at Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 43, Chattanooga, TN, was recently named TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority) Apprentice of the Year at the company's 12th annual TVA TLC Labor Management Conference.

General President Mark McManus, TVA Special Representative Dave Tolley, and Local 43 Business Manager Larry Morrison were on hand to hear Colton Jackson's speech regarding his experiences as a Veterans in Piping® (VIP®) graduate and a United Association apprentice.

Local 43 VIP Graduate-Colton Jackson graduated from the VIP welding program from Camp Lejeune, NC, and is proud to represent both the program and his local union. He has spoken at numerous functions about how the VIP program and his UA career with Local 43 have changed his life. Colton Jackson has spent his entire apprenticeship working for Jake Marshall. His experiences include fabrication of pipe, and for the last three years, he has been a part of several maintenance crews who have been involved with large projects at the Wacker Polysilicon Chemical Plant in Charleston, TN.

Local 43 Business Manager Larry Morrison and TVA Special Representative Dave Tolley selected Colton Jackson to speak at the TVA TLC Labor Management Conference. They are proud of what Colton Jackson has accomplished so far and look forward to his continued success with the United Association. Colton stated that he was very surprised to receive the TVA Apprentice of the Year Award, which was presented to him after his speech.

He looks forward to continuing to represent Local 43 and the VIP program and to absorbing as much as he can with the opportunities that he is being given.

Source: This United Association Veterans In Piping Success Story was originally printed in the United Association Journal in the September edition. <https://www.uavip.org/news-happenings/local-43-vip-graduate-named-tva-apprentice>



Photo Right:
General President Mark McManus and TVA Apprentice of the Year Award recipient Colton Jackson

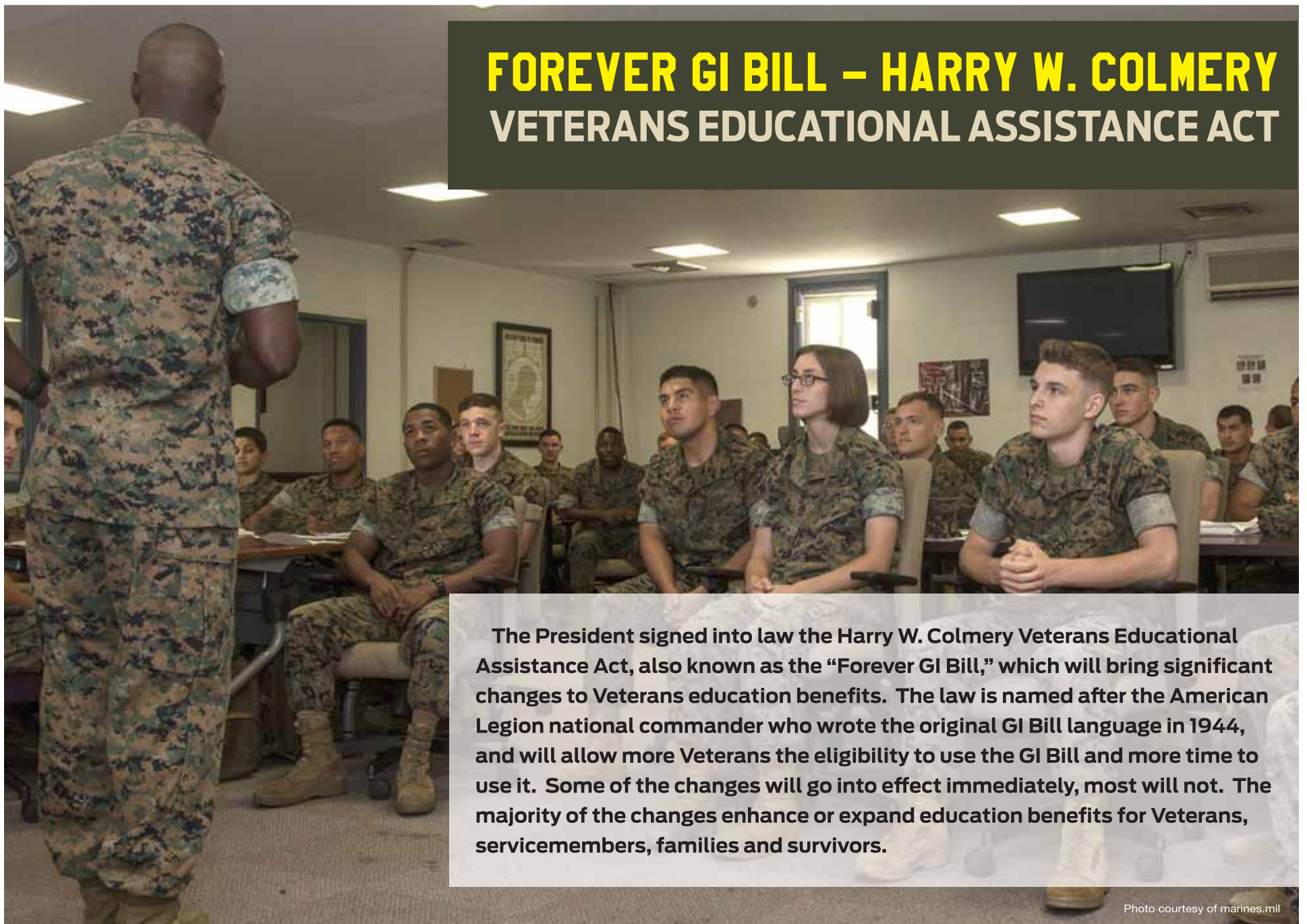
Photo courtesy



Photo Right:
From left are Local 43 Business Manager Larry Morrison, TVA Apprentice of the Year Award recipient Colton Jackson and TVA Special Representative Dave Tolley.

Photo courtesy

FOREVER GI BILL – HARRY W. COLMERY VETERANS EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT



The President signed into law the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act, also known as the “Forever GI Bill,” which will bring significant changes to Veterans education benefits. The law is named after the American Legion national commander who wrote the original GI Bill language in 1944, and will allow more Veterans the eligibility to use the GI Bill and more time to use it. Some of the changes will go into effect immediately, most will not. The majority of the changes enhance or expand education benefits for Veterans, servicemembers, families and survivors.

Photo courtesy of marines.mil

Some new provisions that go into effect immediately include:

- The 15-year time limitation to use Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits is eliminated for Veterans who left active duty on or after January 1, 2013, children who became eligible for the Fry Scholarship on or after January 1, 2013, and all Fry scholarship eligible spouses.
- The Department of Veteran’s Affairs are now authorized to restore benefits and provide relief to Veterans affected by school closures or disapprovals. Contact the VA directly if you have been disapproved or had your school close.
- Reservists who had eligibility under the Reserve Educational Assistance Program (REAP) and lost it due to the program sunset provision will have that service credited toward the Post-9/11 GI Bill program. The VA is in the process of identifying the approximately 2,800 Reservists affected by this and will send them letters with instructions.
- Certain work-study is permanently authorized; previously it had to be re-approved by Congress every few years.
- Anyone eligible for GI Bill can use their benefits at an accredited independent study program at an area career and technical school, or a postsecondary vocational school providing postsecondary level education. There is no action for you to take here, as these programs will go through the normal course of approval by the appropriate State Approving Agency. Any new programs will be added to the VA’s GI Bill Comparison Tool.
- The VA will help Veterans to more

clearly identify schools that offer them priority enrollment

The VA Education Call Center is available at 1-888-442-4551 (Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. CST) for any questions about GI Bill benefits. Local VA representatives are available at 910-451-7160 or 910-451-7253 (Monday – Friday, Room 409, Building 825, Stone Street, Camp Lejeune).

Visit <https://benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/ForeverGIBill.asp> for more information.

– Courtesy of the
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs



RECOMMENDED COLLEGE CREDIT FOR MILITARY TRAINING

The JST is the Joint Services Transcript that has replaced the Coast Guard Institute Transcript, the Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS) and the Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART). JST is an academically accepted document approved by the American Council on Education (ACE) to validate a service member's military occupational experience and training along with the corresponding ACE college credit recommendations.

All enlisted, officers and warrant officers, both active and veterans from all Army components, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy are eligible for a JST. Note that JST receives its data from underlying Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy personnel systems. Air Force personnel should contact the CCAF (Community College of the Air Force) to receive transcripts (URL: www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/transcripts.asp).

The JST provides a description of military schooling and work history in civilian language. It serves as a counseling tool for academic and career counselors in advising service members and veterans. It serves as an aid in preparing resumes and explaining Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, National Guard and Navy work experience to civilian employers. It also saves time and money by awarding academic credits,

which means less tuition to pay and less time spent in the classroom.

The data on the JST can go back as far as 1976, but data older than 1994 may be missing or incomplete. Training that was taken prior to 1976 can be added to your JST. The older the data, the greater the chance that something could be missing. DANTES data (CLEPs, DSSTs, etc.) goes back to 1975; if taken before 1975 or taken at other than a military testing center, the data will never be displayed. If the test is fairly recent, it may not yet appear. If your transcript is missing any of this information, please speak with an Education Counselor for assistance.

Register to Use the System

If you currently have a CAC card and were prior enlisted, you do not need to register for a JST account (JST should already have your personnel record). Use your CAC card to log into the system.

If you are prior Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, or Navy or do not have access to a Common Access Card (CAC) reader, then you must register for a JST account. Please follow the instructions as <https://jst.doded.mil>

– Courtesy of the Education Assistance Branch
Camp Lejeune-New River

my Career
Advancement
Account

Apply. Advance. Achieve.



My Career Advancement Account Scholarship Program

<https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/aiportal/SchoolApplication/ChooseProgram>

WHAT ARE CREDENTIALS AND WHY DO YOU NEED THEM?

You keep hearing about credentials. What are they, and why do they matter to you? Credentials supply documented proof of your ability to perform in a certifiable career field. They help develop a more diversely skilled workforce, broaden professional development, and validate professional knowledge and skills gained through experience, technical education and training.

Credentialing is the process of meeting specified professional and technical standards required to perform a job and earning official recognition. That recognition is a credential.

Why get a credential? There are two main reasons: career advancement and to smooth your transition to the civilian workforce. What type is best for you? Let's talk specifics, because there are many types.

CREDENTIAL TYPE ONE: CERTIFICATION

A certification is the action or process of someone or something with an official document attesting to a status or level of achievement. Non-governmental agencies, associations, and even private sector companies may grant certifications to individuals who meet predetermined qualifications. These qualifications are generally set by professional associations (for example, the National Commission for Certification of Crane Operators) or by industry and product-related organizations (for example, Novell Certified Engineer).

Certification is typically an optional credential; however, some state licensure boards and some

employers may require certification. For many occupations, more than one organization may offer certifications.

CREDENTIAL TYPE TWO: LICENSE

Licensure is the granting of licenses especially to practice a profession. Governmental agencies — federal, state, or local — grant licenses to individuals to practice a specific occupation, such as a medical license for doctors. State or federal laws or regulations define the standards that individuals must meet to become licensed. Licenses are typically mandatory. Many military specialties require certification or licensure to perform the same job in the civilian world. Some types of job that typically require licensing include:

- Teachers
- Healthcare workers
- Attorneys
- Real estate agents
- Cosmetology workers
- Child care workers

CREDENTIAL TYPE THREE: APPRENTICESHIP

A registered apprenticeship program is an industry-based approach to training that combines paid on-the-job learning with job related education. It is a written plan to move an employed apprentice from low or no skill level to the full performance level for occupationally identified skill sets. A registered apprenticeship program must meet program parameters established under the National Apprenticeship Act. The Act and its promulgating regulations are administered by the U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Apprenticeship or a Secretary of Labor approved State Apprenticeship Agency.

You might be able to complete an apprenticeship related to your Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) through your work in the Marine Corps. Visit <https://usmap>.

netc.navy.mil/usmapss/static/index.htm and look up your MOS to see what the requirements would be for your job specialty.

CREDENTIAL TYPE FOUR: CERTIFICATE

In a general sense, a certificate is a document containing a certified statement especially as to the truth of something, such as your completion of a program of instruction. Certificates are a type of short-term (less than 2 years) training, which can help you find a job, get a promotion, or earn more money in a civilian job. Many programs lead to a certificate, which can give you a helpful edge in the job market. Certificates are NOT the same as certifications but are commonly confused. If you have completed a certificate program, that means you earned a certificate in a given topic, but it does not mean that you are a certified professional or a certified expert in that topic.

CREDENTIAL TYPE FIVE: INTERNSHIP

An internship is a short-term job, often unpaid, that gives students and other adults hands-on work experience. Internships are NOT the same as apprenticeships, but they are also commonly confused.

To find out more information regarding finding a credential related to your work in the Marine Corps, be sure to check out the Marine Corps Credentialing On-Line (COOL) or in Maradmin 550/13. Want to know more about finding a credential related to your work in the Marine Corps?

Your local education center and transition center can provide more information so you can make an informed decision before starting on a credential. You can also visit the official site at https://www.cool.navy.mil/usmc/credentialing_basics/certification.htm

– Courtesy of the Education Assistance
Branch Camp Lejeune-New River



Photo courtesy of marines.mil

CERTIFICATION *VERSUS* CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Certification is the official professional or legal approval to do something. Aspects of professional certification may include the following:

- Earned from a professional society, educational institution or private certifier
- Must be renewed periodically or may be valid for a specific period of time
- Renewed through earning continuing education units (CEUs) or by completing courses designed to provide updated or new professional or legal information about a profession — for example, aviation, construction, technology, health care, business, real estate, teaching, finance, etc.

Certificate programs are a growing segment of the continuing education marketplace. A certificate is an official document giving proof of finishing school or completing a training course. Courses can be open to new students and experienced professionals, and allow students to demonstrate their knowledge of content at the end of the program. Aspects of certificate programs include the following:

- Results from an education process
- Awarded by educational program providers or institutions
- Indicates completion of a course or series of courses with a specific focus but is different from a degree-granting program
- Demonstrates end-result knowledge of course content

- May provide the basis or gateway for achieving a degree

Consider the difference between paralegal certification and a paralegal certificate program.

Here is a great example:

- A certified paralegal has completed a certification exam, typically given by one of two major paralegal organizations. The certified paralegal has met certain educational and work requirements and has passed an examination.
- A paralegal certificate shows that a student has successfully completed a paralegal program of education, typically offered at a college or university. Prerequisites vary, but many schools require an entering paralegal student to have either an associate or bachelor's degree in another area. Upon completion of the program, the student receives a certificate of completion in paralegal studies.

Note: A paralegal may work in the field without obtaining paralegal certification.

If you have questions about certification or certificate programs, comparing and choosing a school, succeeding in school or finding employment, contact your local education center or transition readiness branch to meet with a counselor or advisor.

– Courtesy of the Education Assistance Branch
Camp Lejeune-New River



Photo courtesy of marines.mil

HOW TO PULL YOUR VERIFICATION OF MILITARY EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING (VMET)

The VMET (Verification of Military Experience and Training), DD Form 2586, provides an overview of your military experience and training. You can use this document in conjunction with your DD Form 214, evaluation records, training certificates, awards, transcripts, and other documentation to:

- Create a resume
- Complete a job application
- Identify credit recommendations from the American Council of Education (ACE)
- Identify possible certification/waiver of apprenticeship requirements

To access your VMET, go to <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/tgps/> and log on with your DoD CAC or DS Logon.

1. Select "Access VMET Documents"
2. Select CAC or DS Logon option
3. Select "VMET document (DD-2586) and "Submit" (print your VMET)
4. Select "Cover letter" and "Submit" (print your cover letter)

The VMET document you are able to download is updated quarterly and will always contain information that lags about 3-6 months behind the current date. You can also visit <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits/homepage>. You will need to use your DoD CAC or DS Logon to access the website.

Your military training and experience may also be supported by your Joint Services Transcript which is accessible from <https://jst.doded.mil/smart/welcome.do>. Contact your local education center or transition office staff to learn more.

– Courtesy of the Education Assistance Branch
Camp Lejeune-New River



Photo courtesy of marines.mil

THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

Finding financial aid can seem overwhelming when you're trying to get ready for college or career school. The U.S. Department of Education's office of Federal Student Aid is here to help you get the money you need to pay for your education.

PREPARATION

Scholarships and state aid can help cover the cost of college or career school, but you may find yourself in need of federal assistance.

START SAVINGS: Begin saving early.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Look for scholarships through your state or college as well as national and community organizations.

STATE AID: Many states have college funding programs. Ask a guidance counselor or your college financial aid office for more information.

It's time to apply for financial aid.

FAFSA®

The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and is the only way to apply for federal student aid. The schools you list on your application will use FAFSA information to evaluate your financial need and determine how much federal aid you are eligible to receive. Many states and colleges also use information from your FAFSA to provide their own financial aid.

Each October, the FAFSA is available for the next school year. It is best to fill it out as early as you can because some aid is first come, first served.

When you complete the FAFSA, you'll need to provide personal and tax information. You may be able to automatically retrieve your tax information from the IRS.

Complete the FAFSA online at fafsa.gov. Make sure to fill out and submit the FAFSA each year you are in college.

After you submit your FAFSA, you'll receive your Student Aid Report (SAR). Your SAR summarizes the information in your FAFSA. Review it and make corrections if needed.

Your FAFSA helps your school determine the types of federal student aid you are eligible to receive.

TYPES OF FEDERAL STUDENT AID

As the largest provider of financial aid, the U.S. Department of Education's office of Federal Student Aid provides grants, loans, and work-study funds.

Grants: Grants are free money that do not have to be repaid.

Loans: Student loans are real loans (like a car or home loan) that need to be repaid with interest.

Work-Study: A work-study job gives you the opportunity to earn money to help pay your educational expenses.

AWARD

Your award letter explains the combination of federal grants, loans, and work-study a college is offering you. The offer might also contain state and institutional aid. If you receive award letters from multiple colleges or career schools, you should compare them and decide which school works best for you.

COLLEGE

Every year, millions of new students attend college or career school for the first time. Your college or career school has a financial aid office to help guide you along the way.

BEYOND EDUCATION

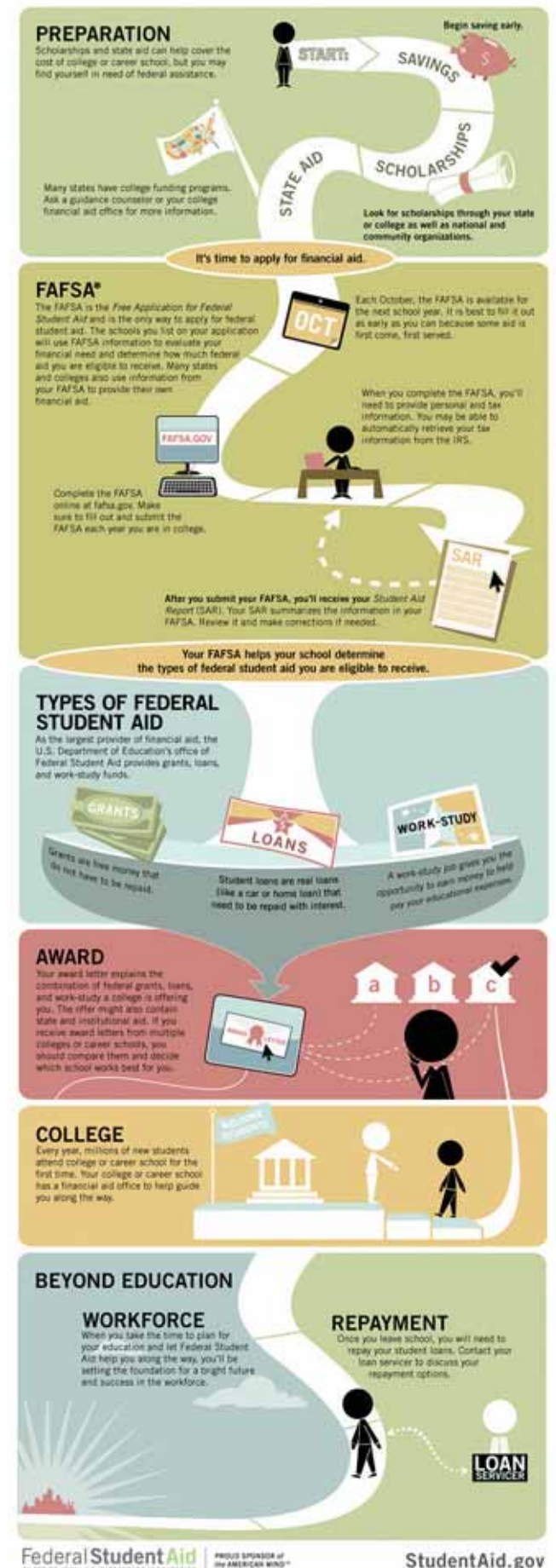
Workforce: When you take the time to plan for your education and let Federal Student Aid help you along the way, you'll be setting the foundation for a bright future and success in the workforce.

Repayment: Once you leave school, you will need to repay your student loans. Contact your loan servicer to discuss your repayment options.

— Courtesy of the Federal Student Aid
An Office of the U.S. Department of Education
Proud Sponsor of the American Mind™
StudentAid.gov

THE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS

Finding financial aid can seem overwhelming when you're trying to get ready for college or career school. The U.S. Department of Education's office of Federal Student Aid is here to help you get the money you need to pay for your education.





DID YOU KNOW

ANTI-VIRUS/ANTI-SPYWARE SOLUTIONS

The DOD antivirus program supports the operation and defense of the

DOD Information Network (DODIN) by providing virus protection to DODIN assets. Currently, the solution licensed by DISA for DOD use is Intel/McAfee AV/AS. This solution can be standardized and deployed both enterprise-wide and on isolated network enclaves (e.g., a tactical environment) to protect laptops,

desktops, servers and e-mail gateways.

STANDARD FEATURES

- Detect and clean malware and protect files from viruses, worms, rootkits, Trojans, and other threats.
- Enhanced email scanning to detect and clean viruses in Microsoft Outlook on client systems.
- Real-time protection that safeguards and secures systems from emerging threats.
- Access protection prevents unwanted changes to systems by restricting access to specified ports, files, shares, registry keys, and registry values.

- Blocks spam and filters messages to guard against inappropriate or sensitive information entering or leaving the network.

- Scan uploaded and downloaded files for malware and banned or inappropriate content on SharePoint servers.
- Search and surf online while being protected from web-based threats and restrict access to potentially harmful websites.

VALUE TO OUR MISSION PARTNERS

The Antivirus solution provides network administrators and security personnel with mechanisms to prevent, detect, track, report, and

remediate malicious computer-related activities and incidents across all DOD networks and information systems.

OPTIONAL FEATURES

The DOD Antivirus Software License Agreement with McAfee allows active DOD employees to utilize the antivirus software for home use. Home use of the antivirus products will not only protect personal PCs, but will also potentially lessen the threat of malicious logic being introduced to the workplace and compromising DOD networks. Contractors are excluded from using the software.

Source: <https://www.disa.mil/cybersecurity/network-defense/antivirus>

THIS BENEFIT JUST EXPANDED FOR TRANSITIONING TROOPS, FAMILIES

By Amy Bushatz
Courtesy of Military.com

An expansion that allows military families and troops to access Military OneSource services for a full year after transitioning out of the military is now available.

This expansion includes access to free non-medical counseling and career coaching, two benefits whose real-world price tags can add up fast.

Previously, the benefit was only available for those on active-duty and up to 180 days after transition. But military families and some Pentagon officials in the last administration, including Rosemary Williams, who had led the military family policy office, wanted an expansion.

They noted that the real challenges of transition don't even start until the end of that 180-day window. Until that point, families are often caught up with what you might call a transition honeymoon phase as they move to a new location and settle into new jobs and schools.

And the services aren't cheap when paid out of pocket. Counseling, for example, can easily cost \$100 a session without insurance coverage. That makes the 12 free sessions of non-medical counseling OneSource gives a high-value benefit for those who want to use it. Expanding the OneSource service to a year would give families access to those counseling sessions when they were actually needed.

It's also relatively cheap to the DoD. Pentagon officials estimated the expansion would cost a mere \$500,000 a year, pennies compared to some defense spending.

The Pentagon announced plans to expand it but, it wasn't until the expansion was also ordered in the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, signed by President Donald Trump Aug. 20, that officials made it live.

"Each person is unique, and so is each military-to-civilian transition," A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of defense for military community and family policy, said in a release. "We want all of Military OneSource's resources to be there when someone needs them -- whether it is a day, a week or many months after their transition to civilian life."

To use Military OneSource military families and troops can call 800-342-9647 or go to www.militaryonesource.mil.



Photo courtesy of marines.mil

PRE-SEPARATION TIMELINE

PRIOR TO SEPARATION

- Contact Career Planner or Unit Transition Coordinator to schedule pre-separation counseling interview.
- Attend pre-separation class for TRS introduction and compliance standards.
- Complete pre-separation career assessments, create eBenefits premium account, and enter dates and data in eForm. If you are disabled and getting medically separated, attend the Integrated Disability Evaluation System class.
- Schedule TRS.
- Meet with a TRB Personal and Professional Development Advisor to begin separation preparation:
 - Financial
 - Career
 - Education
 - Family

PRIOR TO SEPARATION

- Seek help if the stress of transitioning to civilian life becomes too much to handle. Contact friends in the private sector who may be helpful in finding a job. Start networking.
- Begin attending job fairs.
- Develop a fallback plan in case your first career plan falls through.
- Research specific job possibilities, job markets, and the economic conditions in the geographic areas where you want to live.
- If separating prior to fulfilling eight years of active service, you must satisfy obligations by becoming a member of the Selective Reserves or Individual Ready Reserves as stipulated in your Enlistment Contract and/or Amendments.
- Consolidate personal files and records.

12
MONTHS

24
MONTHS

PRIOR TO ANTICIPATED RETIREMENT OR 12 MONTHS PRIOR TO SEPARATION

- Contact Career Planner or Unit Transition Coordinator to schedule the Pre-Separation Counseling Interview.
- Attend a Pre-Retirement Seminar or a Transition Readiness Seminar. If you are disabled and getting a medical separation, attend the Integrated Disability Evaluation System class.
- Begin establishing a financial plan to make ends meet during the transition to civilian life.
- Take an assessment inventory, such as Kuder Journey.
- Develop an Individual Transition Plan.
- Conduct Pre-Separation counseling and initiate Electronic DD 2648 (EForm) with Unit Transition Coordinator, Career Planner or Navy Career Counselor.

180
DAYS

PRIOR TO SEPARATION

- Begin researching the job market. Develop a career plan, including a list of possible employers.
- Begin your Veteran's Affairs Disability Application (VA Form 21-256EZ).
- Review and make a copy of personnel records.
- Discuss with family possible options about your career and where to live next.
- Contact and network with family, friends, colleagues and organizations.

150
DAYS

PRE-SEPARATION
TIMELINE *continued from page 22*

PRIOR TO SEPARATION

- Send out resumes and make follow-up phone calls to check if they have arrived.
- Begin an automated job search for yourself and your spouse (if applicable) using employment data banks.
- Start assembling a wardrobe for interviewing and continue to network.
- Determine if you are eligible for separation pay.
- Complete your Veteran's Affairs Disability Application (VA Form 21-256EZ).

PRIOR TO SEPARATION

- Begin planning a visit to the area where you plan to move.
- Continue to send out resumes.
- Decide whether you want to sign up for the optional Continued Health Care Benefit Program medical coverage.
- Choose your transitional health care option; you need to use military medical facilities to sign up for TRICARE, if eligible.
- If retiring, choose an appropriate election category under the Survivor's Benefit Plan.
- For detailed information about disability compensation, benefits, and program, call the VA.
- Conduct information interviews.

PRIOR TO SEPARATION

- Conduct a job preparation visit to the area where you plan to move, attend job interviews, and visit a local Veterans Employment Representative.
- Continue to network.
- Review your Certificate of Release or Discharge for Active Duty (DD Form 214).
- Several government agencies offer special loans and programs for veterans. Check with your local VA office or with the state where you plan to relocate.
- Review and copy your medical and dental records; get a certified true copy of each.
- Consider converting your Servicemen's Group Life Insurance to Veterans Group Life Insurance (optional).

90
DAYS

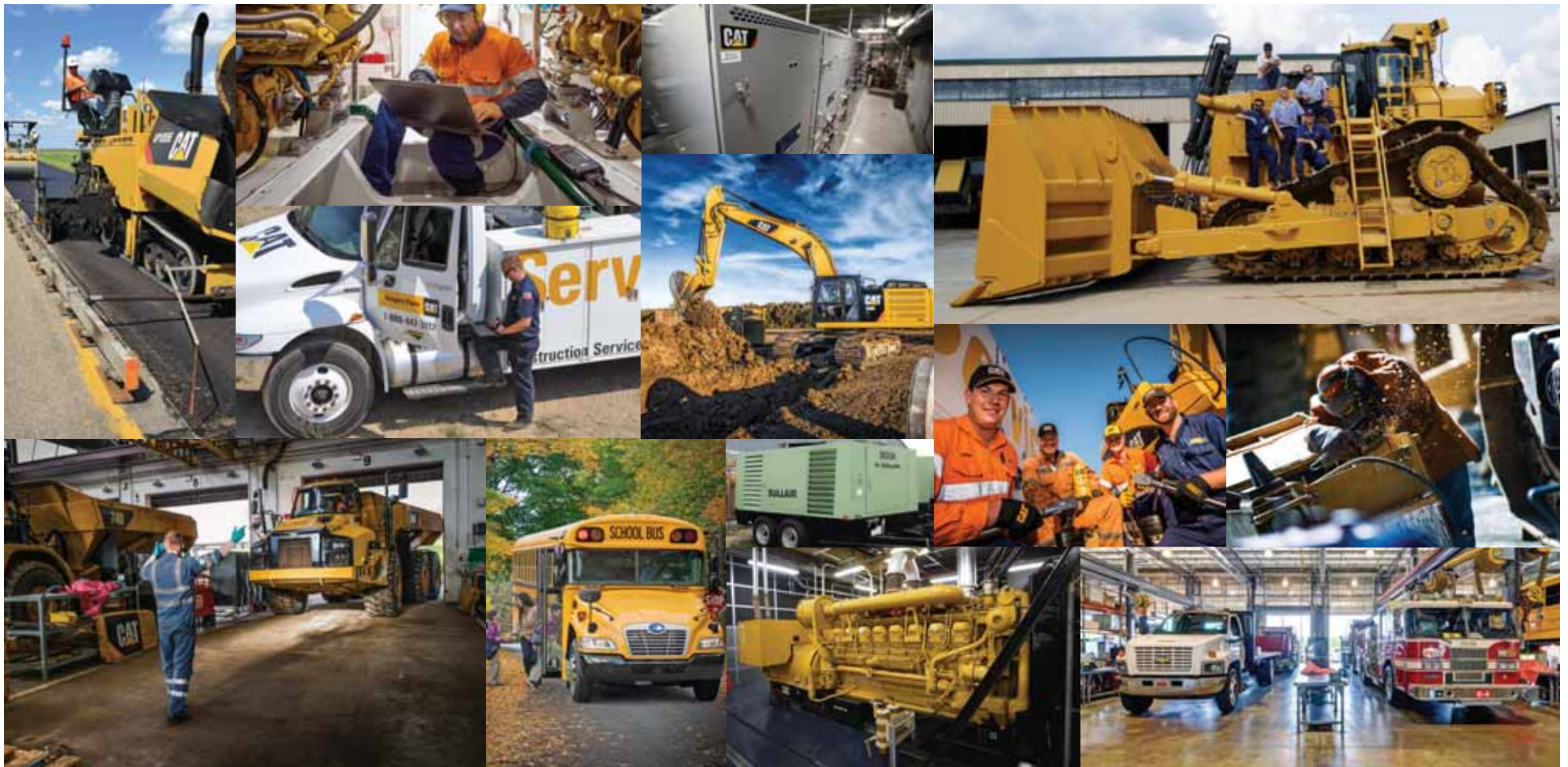
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DAYS

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DAYS

PRIOR TO SEPARATION

- Download the Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET) (DD Form 2586) document at dmdc.osd.mil/tgps or contact the Transition Readiness Branch for assistance by calling Camp Lejeune at (910) 451-3781 or 451-3754 or MCAS New River at (910) 449-4914 or by emailing lejtrs@usmc-mccs.org.
- Seek assistance from the transition office after completing the first draft of a resume.
- If considering federal employment, check job listings on usajobs.gov and explore special federal programs and hiring opportunities for veterans at federal agencies by reviewing the Federal Job Opportunities Listing, as well as other available employment data banks.
- Continue to network.
- Visit the Information and Referral office to learn about relocation options, entitlements and assistance.
- If living in government housing, arrange for a pre-inspection and obtain termination information.
- Learn about eligible education benefits under the GI Bill. Contact a local Department of Veterans Affairs representative or log on to <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal> for details.
- Take an academic entry exam, college admission test, or challenge exam if preparing for college after separation. Remember, this is free to servicemembers on active duty.
- Obtain a copy of your Joint Services Transcript (Transition Counselors can assist with this).
- Schedule a separation physical examination.
- Contact appropriate offices at your installation to discuss extended medical care (if eligible) or conversion health insurance. Learn about the options for transitional health care. Contact a local VA counselor for help with specific questions about medical care.
- Even if you have fulfilled eight years of military service, you may want to explore the option of joining the Reserves or National Guard.
- Consult with ethics division of legal office on separation or retirement employment restrictions.
- Contact Installation Transition Counselor to begin the capstone process, verifying Career Readiness Standards and establishing those warm-handovers to external organizations as necessary.



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