

STARS  AND STRIPES. Servicemember's  
Guide to

# EDUCATION and TRANSITION

Camp Lejeune Fall 2018

**YOU COULD EARN  
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without taking a class

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Updated regulations  
for using the  
Marine Corps Military  
Tuition Assistance.

**Certification vs.  
Certificate Programs.**

Either way, make sure  
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## MILITARY ACADEMIC SKILLS PROGRAM EDUCATION ASSISTANCE BRANCH

**CAMP LEJEUNE | 910-451-3091**  
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**MCCSLEJEUNE-NEWRIVER.COM/EDU**

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.



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

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

**DAYTIME MASP SCHEDULE**  
**FOUR-WEEK CLASS SESSION**  
BUILDING 825

0730 TO 1630  
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

**COMMUNICATION SKILLS:**  
0730 TO 1130

**MATH:**  
1300 TO 1630

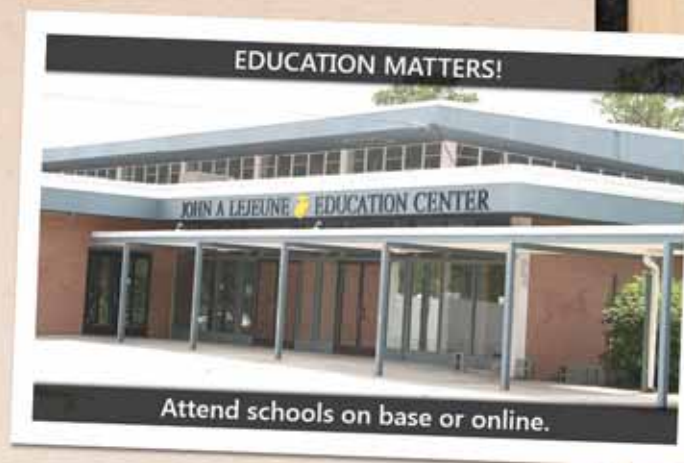
**NIGHTTIME MASP SCHEDULE**  
**SIX-WEEK CLASS SESSION**  
BUILDING 825

1700 TO 2100  
MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY

**COMMUNICATION SKILLS:**  
MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY

**MATH:**  
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

**Please visit our website ([www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/edu](http://www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/edu)) to obtain an application packet.**



Courtesy photo

## STARS AND STRIPES

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529 14th Street NW, Suite 350,  
Washington, D.C. 20045-1301, 202-761-0776

Cover Photo By: Lance Cpl. Yamil Casarreal

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Left photo: U.S. Air Force photo by Jodi Martinez/Released

## 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 Service Transcripts
- U.S. Military Apprenticeship Program
- Veterans In Piping Program
- MC Cool Information
- Leadership Scholar Program



For more information, visit:

[www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/edu](http://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/](http://www.facebook.com/mccscledu/)

## TEACHING AS A SECOND CAREER INFORMATION SESSION

Room 409 – Building 852  
John A. Lejeune Ed Center  
1300 to 1500

**September 20, 2018**  
**November 15, 2018**

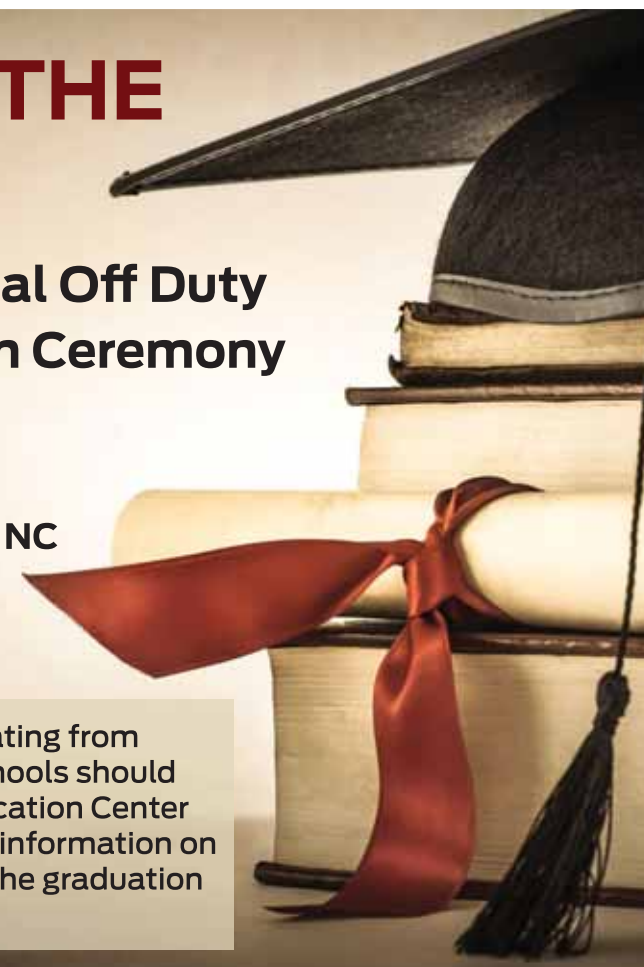
[www.proudtoserveagain.com](http://www.proudtoserveagain.com)

## 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



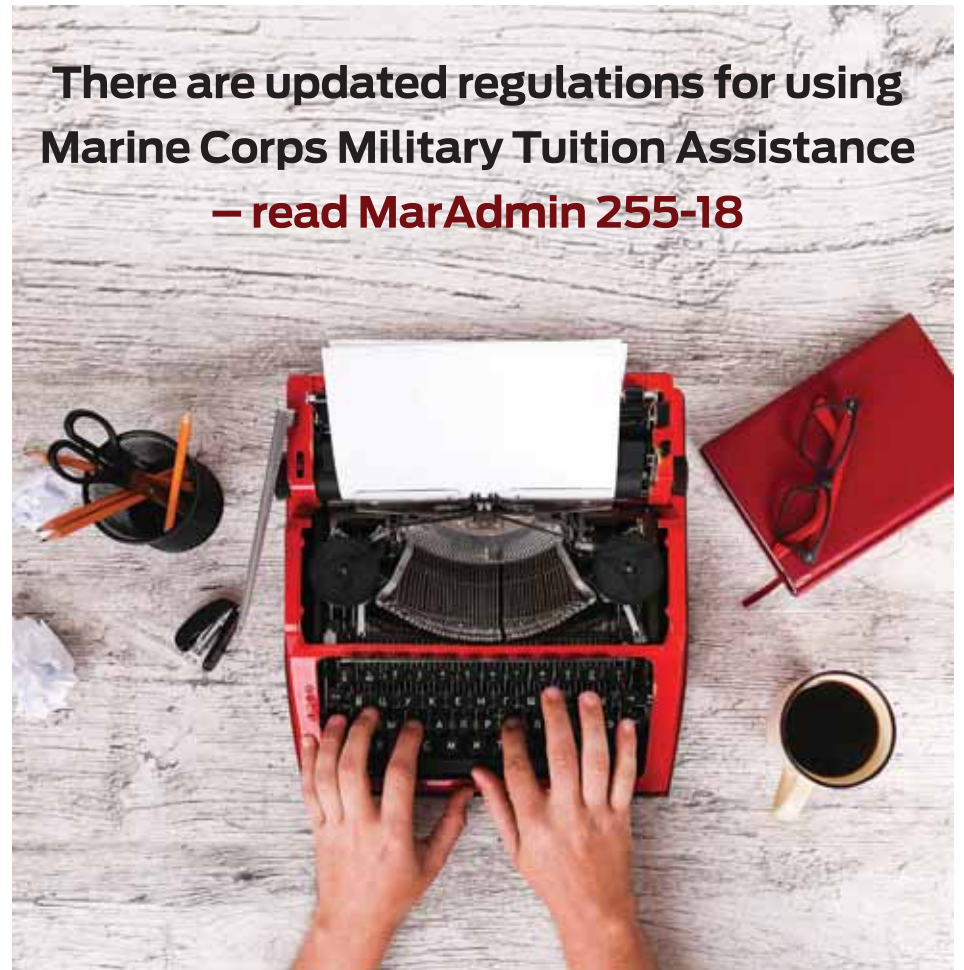
Photos courtesy of marines.mil

## Camp Lejeune-New River 2019 Education Expos

April 17, 2019  
1000 to 1400  
Goettge Memorial Field House



There are updated regulations for using  
Marine Corps Military Tuition Assistance  
– read **MarAdmin 255-18**



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State University

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# 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](http://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 modalities, 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 thru 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](http://www.mccslejeune-newriver.com).

Photo courtesy of marines.mil

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REFINE A THESIS OR OUTLINE,  
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DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT.

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Receive academic help when you need it for any subject

Scholarship  
Grants  
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.

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

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



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- **GI Bill® eligible**, beginners to instructor programs are here!
- Other SCUBA programs available. Call or email [dive@DiscoveryDiving.edu](mailto:dive@DiscoveryDiving.edu) for more information



### 7 programs:

- Dive master
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- Master Scuba Diver Trainer
- Master Instructor
- Scientific Diver
- Public Safety Diver
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*See [www.DiscoveryDiving.edu](http://www.DiscoveryDiving.edu) for extensive schedule and additional information.*

## RESIDENT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

### EDUCATION ASSISTANCE BRANCH • CAMP LEJEUNE-NEW RIVER

#### 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.



#### CRAVEN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

##### CONTACT INFORMATION:

New River Office 910-449-4111  
Main Campus Representative 252-444-6013  
markst@cravencc.edu / zaccardk@cravencc.edu  
<http://cravencc.edu/workforcedevelopment/>

##### DEGREE OFFERINGS:

- Airframes and Power Plant Licensure

#### 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.



#### 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



#### COASTAL CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

##### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Camp Lejeune Office 910-451-2391  
New River Office 910-449-6926 / 5369  
[www.coastalcarolina.edu](http://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



#### 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](http://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)



#### 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



#### BOSTON UNIVERSITY

##### CONTACT INFORMATION:

Camp Lejeune Office 910-451-5574  
[www.bu.edu](http://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](http://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



#### SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

##### CONTACT INFORMATION:

New River Office 910-449-6250  
[www.extendedcampus.siu.edu](http://www.extendedcampus.siu.edu)

##### DEGREE OFFERINGS:

- Bachelor of Science Aviation Management

Camp Lejeune 910-451-3091 | New River 910-449-5421  
[www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/edu](http://www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/edu)



Education  
Assistance Branch  
Camp Lejeune-New River





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**Stephan Bohanan**  
Master Sergeant, USMC, Ret.  
2015 Norwich Graduate

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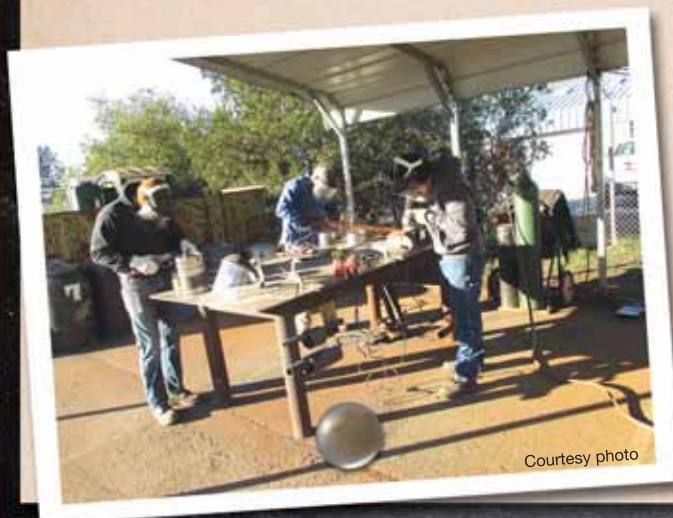
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Photo courtesy of Veterans in Piping



Courtesy photo

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

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 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](http://mccslejeune-newriver.com/edu) to attend one of the upcoming sessions. For more information visit [www.uavip.org](http://www.uavip.org)

### 2018-2019 VIP PROGRAM SCHEDULE

| COURSE           | INTERVIEW DATE | START DATE    | GRADUATION DATE |
|------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| WELDING CLASS 12 | TBA            | NOV. 5, 2018  | MARCH 14, 2019  |
| WELDING CLASS 13 | TBA            | APRIL 1, 2019 | AUG. 1, 2019    |
| WELDING CLASS 14 | TBA            | AUG. 19, 2019 | DEC. 19, 2019   |

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## Take **ADVANTAGE** of everything the TRANSITION READINESS BRANCH has to offer.

### TRANSITION READINESS BRANCH

The Transition Readiness Branch's (TRB) successful support of thousands of servicemembers and their families in 2018 is grounded in facilitating a myriad of seminars, one-on-one appointments, outreaches, and job fairs. In addition to the previous platforms, TRBs professionals have perfected the nuances of the recently added DD2648 eForm and accompanying capstone. The broad scope of pragmatic support and resources provided by TRBs team affords servicemembers and their families assistance with DOD required documents as well as employment and education help. All are essential for transitional support to serve those who serve.

A cornerstone of the TRBs facilitation platform is the Transition Readiness Seminar (TRS). This five-day seminar attended by servicemembers is one of the criteria to separate from the United States Marine Corps (USMC). While Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River host the seminar, sailors and Coast Guard personnel are welcomed to attend. TRS provides useful information from not only TRBs professionals but also Veteran Administration and Department of Labor (DOL) briefers. A significant portion of the TRBs TRS facilitation platform is grounded in introducing servicemembers to Career Readiness Standards (CRS), which are essential components of creating a successful transition as well as completing the DD2648 eForm and subsequent capstone appointment.

The end goal is for servicemembers to complete the DD2648 eForm at their capstone appointment with a

TRB professional in a productive, thorough manner, which requires servicemembers to complete the recommended CRS deliverables: Individual Transition Plan (ITP), resume draft, GAP Analysis (GAP), and budget. The ITP is considered a living document in that it provides servicemembers space to document necessary transition requirements such as health insurance, housing, transportation, exceptional family needs as well as civilian clothing requirements, accurate Verification of Military Education and Training (VMET) and Joint Service Transcript (JST) data. The immediate benefits of assessing personal and professional needs, as presented in the ITP, prompts servicemembers to evaluate services and resources they currently have and may need in the civilian sector. The added bonus of reviewing their VMET and JST gives servicemembers time and opportunity to make necessary corrections to the documents; each supports the resume writing process and can be used as documentation to validate assertions on their resume.

Whether servicemembers are seeking immediate employment upon separation or not, a resume is a critical transition document. The resume draft is often initiated during the three days of DOL. The initial draft can be the catalyst for servicemembers to move beyond a draft to a completed, professional resume while working with TRB professionals. In addition to working one-on-one with servicemembers and their families fine-tuning resume drafts, TRBs professionals facilitate a variety of classes supporting resume writing and job search skills: Navigating USA Jobs, Job Fair Success, Interview Techniques, and Job Search and Resume Strategies. Mock Interviews are also a vital

service in the resume writing realm. This process allows servicemembers to complete the exercise of interviewing; however, it is with the TRB team who can then encourage best practices and coach areas that need improvement. The resume review component of the capstone appointment is not merely for the completion of the DD2648; it is an opportunity to interact with servicemembers and their families to assess needs and make referrals. It is a comprehensive approach in preparing servicemembers for the next stage of employment.

One of the essential documents included in the CRS is the GAP Analysis. With prompts, it guides servicemembers through several steps in assessing the skills they have gleaned on active duty as well as the data for their future career. The skills include hard-skills such certifications in IT, CDL, CNA, heavy equipment operation, and marksmanship. Others include soft-skills such as time management, safety, leadership, and mentorship. The GAP Analysis not only encourages servicemembers to assess their employment history and earned certificates but also to investigate the criteria of the career they will pursue. Using proven research methods, servicemembers can examine the career of their choice to determine the skills and education required for that job, if the career field matches their Career Interest Assessment survey results, and what are the labor market predictions for employment and income by state. The GAP Analysis is another factor that can support resume writing and job search strategies. It can also lead servicemembers toward education paths given the requirements of the desired position. Moreover, it is another opportunity for TRBs

professionals to assist and make referrals as needed.

Regardless if servicemembers are attending an institution of higher learning or seeking employment, their budget is paramount. The CRS budget is thorough; it addresses current account holdings, savings, investments, current and anticipated income and expenses, debt, and a financial action plan moving forward, pre- and post-separation. A successful budget hinges on servicemembers taking a realistic look at how much money they are earning and how that money is being used. The same approach is considered when assessing projected living expenses and income post separation. The goal of the budget is to ascertain if servicemembers have created a life-style they can or cannot sustain after completion of service. The overall state of servicemembers finances can have a direct impact on their ability to meet their education goals and have time to find their ideal employment. As with the other CRS components, resources and referrals are available for servicemembers to have a better understanding of money management and long-

term financial success.

Following TRS and the subsequent completion of the CRS curriculum, servicemembers attend their capstone appointment with a TRB professional. This provides an opportunity for TRB professionals to meet one-on-one with servicemembers for relevant conversation regarding all of the CRS components. Because the week of TRS is merely a fraction of the TRBs ability to support servicemembers, the capstone has become the catalyst for additional support and relevant referrals. However, there is a pervasive misconception servicemembers cannot meet with TRB professionals prior to attending TRS. Preparing for separation requires forethought and support. Servicemembers are encouraged to meet with TRB professionals as soon as they realize they are separating. Servicemembers can and should meet early and often during their transition process. Actually, servicemembers are encouraged to initiate contact with the TRB team approximately a year from their EAS date regardless of when they schedule or attend TRS. This assertion is not intended to delay or circumvent attending TRS; it



Photos courtesy of marines.mil

*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*

is shared as an ideal formula for a prepared transition. Again, the benefit of early separation planning with TRB professionals who are proficient in budget management, job search strategies, interview techniques, education benefits, and resume writing supports optimum separation efforts.

In addition to the successful implementation of the DD2648 eForm and accompanying capstone, Personal & Professional Development (P&PD) Advisors within the TRB instruct the Personal Readiness Seminar (PRS). This is a financial seminar organized and implemented for new-joins after they have attended their school and before they are assigned to their units. It is designed to front-load savvy financial practices so that these servicemembers are aware of TSP criteria, predatory practices, education resources, and sound budgeting. They are also introduced to the benefits of the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, the servicemember Relief Act, and Family Member Employment Assistance Program.

P&PD Advisors also assist servicemembers with education support: applying for grants, writing application essays, completing the Certificate of Eligibility, and selecting ideal institutions to meet individual needs. In fact, P&PD Advisors facilitate a two-day Accessing Higher Education class for servicemembers and their family members who are interested in finding out more about the higher education experience. Beth Galvan, a P&PD Advisor, who often facilitates the class, shares, "The Accessing Higher Education track allows students the opportunity to learn about different aspects of life on a college campus. Students learn about their degree completion program, student and veteran services, area demographics, and finance options. Guiding students through this process and seeing them excited about going to college makes AHE my favorite class to teach."

The TRB team also participates in outreach activities. These activities include base and unit events, the Corporal's Course, and TRB Overview briefs upon

request. Furthermore, during the week of TRS, many companies participate in mini-job fairs each Wednesday. The TRB also hosts multiple annual job fairs. Previous job fairs have included more than 90 hiring companies and over 500 servicemembers and family members attending the single day event. Historically, the TRB has worked closely with Amazon as it launched its Military Initiative at Camp Lejeune. Smithfield Foods, Home Depot, and Customs and Border Protection have also fostered relationships with TRB to help transitioning servicemembers. Customs and Border Patrol's Casey H. Adams Commander, Special Emphasis Recruitment Team states, "U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is proud to be strategically aligned with the Transition Assistance Program Office on Camp Lejeune. With the passage of the Border Jobs for Veterans Act, CBP has partnered with the DOD to create an entire system to streamline the recruiting and hiring of transitioning servicemembers. Together, we will continue our commitment to assist transitioning servicemembers find careers by conducting CBP Days, Military Hiring Hubs and focusing on applicant care." Additionally, New River Air Station hosts a regional and aviation job fair along with several industry specific visits from companies that specialize in aviation. Because of events and relationships such as these and with one-on-one transition support for employment and education, the TRB is an ideal location to meet all transition needs.

Beyond useful seminars, outreaches, and one-on-one appointments, the TRB is now a Commanding General Required Inspection Core Program. From October 2017 to mid-July 2018, the TRB served 6,881 servicemembers in TRS and interacted with 84,292 servicemembers for capstones as well as extended appointments and briefs. Additionally, 5,632 servicemembers received the PRS brief, and FMEAP served 4,658 individuals. This data reflects servicemembers attending TRS where they begin the separation process by creating an eBenefits Premium

account and completing assessments identifying personal interests for potential career or college majors prior to attending TRS. During TRS, servicemembers are also exposed to the tracks the TRB offers: education, employment, and entrepreneurship. Even though the capstone, with its accompanying CRS content, is standardized and designed to initiate separation planning, the core tenets of separating from military service are uniquely personal and individualized often requiring additional support beyond TRS. Attending TRS and completing the capstone are the catalysts for substantive conversations and interventions with TRBs team members working to meet the needs of transitioning servicemembers and their families. The timeliness of attending TRS and completing the capstone directly correlates to servicemembers ability to experience the vast resources available at the TRB.

The team of TRB professionals consists of a computer assistant, technicians, administrators, financial management advisors, a SkillBridge Program Coordinator, staff supervisors, a TRB manager, and the aforementioned professionals who are prolific; they strive to meet the needs of servicemembers as well as their family members. While the term "transition" is associated with separating from military service, the TRB team supports education, employment, and entrepreneur efforts of spouses and family members during military service as they transition into new careers or education opportunities. The TRBs Family Member Employment Assistance Program (FMEAP) is in operation specifically to support military spouses and family members. FMEAP provides classes that cover resume writing, job search strategies, and interview best practices. As a whole, TRBs two-fold goal of supporting servicemember families and helping transitioning servicemembers thrive in the civilian sector extends further than completing TRS, CRS curriculum, and the capstone. The TRB team is well-trained in transition preparation; therefore, the team's focus on supporting those who serve and their families is the cornerstone of

the Transition Readiness Branch (TRB) throughout their military careers and into separation.

The Branch's overarching goal is to support transitioning servicemembers in every aspect of their separation in a timely manner with superlative customer service and relevant resources. TRS sessions are designed to work in concert with P&PD Advisors and TRBs team members prior to attending or immediately after TRS. The collaboration of TRBs team, P&PD Advisors, and TRS subject matter experts as well as completing CRS curriculum and the capstone are ideal catalysts for a thoughtful, well-planned transition. Irna Green-Harrison, a TRB professional shares her perspective, "I have been part of supporting transitioning servicemembers for 13 years and have been part of many changes over the years. All of the changes have been for the better; however, the one thing that has not changed is my and the TRB team's passion, drive, and commitment to serving those who serve and have served."

### TRS: THE EXECUTIVE AND PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINARS

The Executive Transition Readiness Seminar and Pre-Retirement Seminar are designed to introduce retirees to civilian job search strategies and subsequent recruitment processes they have not experienced while on active duty such as writing targeted resumes, dressing for an interview, discussing salaries, and civilian terminology. According to Monique Penderman, TRB Personal and Professional Development Advisor and facilitator of ETRS and Pre-Retirement Seminars, "Retiring servicemembers face unique challenges. They are highly experienced in their fields but can have difficulty communicating their experience on a resume in a way that translates to the civilian sector. One of the most rewarding aspects of working with this demographic is the opportunity not only to guide them through the retirement classes but also to work with them one-on-one throughout their transitions. Our retirees tend to communicate

with us far beyond their retirement dates and willingly share their successes as well as their struggles. This is valuable to us as advisors as it allows us to adapt our instruction accordingly and tailor our classes to their distinct needs."

Sherry Anthony, a P&PD advisor also said, "Most of the feedback we get from participants addresses their surprise regarding how much they did not know about job searching, resume writing, and salary negotiation. We also receive positive feedback from many of our attending spouses, who are already in the civilian environment. They share how beneficial it is for active duty members to learn about workplace dynamics. As we continue to teach the pre-retirement seminars, we strive to help our participants be comfortable with their transition, and successful in their future endeavors."

### TRB: SKILLBRIDGE PROGRAM

The Transition Readiness Branch's SkillBridge Program (SBP) collaborates with institutions and organizations such as Miller-Motte College and Onward to Opportunity. SkillBridge Coordinator and TRB Personal and Professional Advisor, Tony Parks shares, "servicemembers have an opportunity to attend DOD approved SBP training programs that meet industry standards for employment. The program provides training opportunities for careers in demand that require specific training and education or certification at no or low cost to servicemembers by using either GI Bill funding or program grants." An example of Parks' explanation is Miller-Motte College's Commercial Driver License (CDL) Program, which partners with SBP to assist active duty servicemembers obtain desired training for post-separation employment. The CDL Program has been in place for three years and has supported numerous servicemembers successfully earn their license and secure employment or use it for additional skill development to work in other industries: 98 attendees and 97 graduates. Another SBP is

*continued to page 14*

**continued from page 13**

Onward to Opportunity (O2O), a program supported by the Shultz Family Foundation and JP Morgan Chase Company. O2O is an online self-paced program that upon completion guarantees an interview with a prospective employer. The program offers a customer service certificate and a singular IT certification from one of five certificate opportunities. Shane Murray, O2O Program Coordinator summarizes, "my goal is to assist participants by providing all of the resources and tools necessary to support servicemembers secure desired training for a second career and build a strong professional network that accurately reflects their value and desire to make an impact in civilian society." Additionally, one of the most successful and sought after programs is Veterans in Piping (VIP). This pipe fitting welder program is an apprenticeship for steam pipe fitting. servicemembers must apply and interview for acceptance in the program, which has a 99% graduation to employment rate. Parks reiterates his commitment to serving servicemembers, "I have recently conducted 14 outreach events speaking about SBP and explaining the benefits of each program. I get the pleasure of talking to servicemembers on an individual basis to discuss what program

will work best for them. As the program coordinator, I am always looking for training programs that have a direct employment pathway."

**TRB: PERSONAL READINESS SEMINAR (PRS)**

The Personal Readiness Seminar (PRS) is one of the newest additions to the Marine For Life Cycle model for transition planning. Unlike other transitioning seminars, this four-hour seminar is for U.S. Marines within 90 days of arriving at their first permanent duty station. Julie Pierce-Jennings, TRB Personal and Professional Development Advisor explains, "The Personal Readiness Seminar is given within the first 90 days servicemembers arrive at their first permanent duty station. The seminar is designed to equip servicemembers with a solid basic financial foundation ensuring they stay mission ready. My and my team's goal in the seminar is to empower each Marine with the knowledge leading to smart decisions when purchasing a car, using a credit card, saving for retirement, and utilizing Personal & Professional Development base resources. In 2017, PRS instructed 5,583 servicemembers arriving aboard Camp Lejeune and provided potentially life enhancing financial knowledge." The bulk of the PRS curriculum is concentrated on financial

planning fundamentals as well as the impact financial practices and habits can have on transition. This seminar acknowledges the importance of maintaining personal readiness to achieve mission readiness.

**TRB: ONE-ON-ONE ADVISING SERVICES**

TRB Advisors also facilitate individualized advising sessions for servicemembers and their families. This is an opportunity to build rapport and work with individual servicemembers with each's specific goal and or circumstance. This service encompasses employment, education, and financial support. According to TRB Personal and Professional Development Advisor Lauren Ramos, "having the opportunity and ability to work with individual servicemembers is a significant part of my and my colleague's day; our focus is supporting servicemembers and in-turn their families. My use of the term 'our' is the cornerstone of what we do. Our team is a group of excellent collaborators who rely on the diverse backgrounds of the entire staff to support the various goals of servicemembers." Mrs. Ramos also states, "The servicemembers we meet with have already accomplished so much. We are fortunate to simply have the opportunity to support their future education and career goals as they finish their

service. While they are planning for their future post-separation, they remain accountable for their responsibilities as active duty servicemembers. We do what we do, all we can do, because they deserve it." She continues, "The highlight of my job is helping lift some of the weight off of their shoulders by helping each servicemember edit a resume, prepare a college application and essay, plan for expenses, and plan a mock interview. My team and I are invested in the long term future success of the servicemembers we serve, one-on-one appointments afford each of us the opportunity to serve those who serve."

**TRB: FAMILY MEMBER EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The Family Member Employment Assistance Program (FMEAP) provides employment related referral services, career and skill assessments, career coaching, job search guidance, portable career opportunities, and education center referrals/guidance. FMEAP served 10,177 individuals in Fiscal Year 2017; the beginning of Fiscal Year 2018, October to January, FMEAP has served 2,057 individuals. The program is dedicated to supporting spouses and dependent family members throughout the career exploration process. FMEAP, unlike TRS,

is able to support families of servicemembers secure current employment as well as assist in the transition process. FMEAP hosts job fairs including a Teen Job Fair and Local Job Fair as well as a variety of workshops to meet employment needs such as Navigating MCCS Employment, Navigating USA Jobs, and Interview Techniques. They also partner with Coastal Carolina Community College to offer Human Resource Development related courses. FMEAP supports the transition needs of military spouses and their families through the Spouse Transition and Readiness Seminar (S.T.A.R.S), which is offered to spouses of servicemembers who are retiring or EASing. Attendees for any of these courses could be eligible for free childcare at base CDCs to allow those with children greater ease in attending. Jennifer Ormsby shares the success of her and her team, "over the course of 2017, FMEAP Personal and Professional Advisors have assisted over 650 individuals in their job search process. Though not everyone reports back with their successes, we have had over 65 individuals inform us of being hired in 2018 alone. One of our greatest resources is our Facebook page where we communicate 'hot jobs' to over 860 followers, providing them current and reliable information about vacancies in the area."

— Courtesy of the  
Transition Readiness Branch

## 2018 Transition Readiness Seminar (TRS) Workshops

MCB Camp Lejeune Transition Readiness Seminar • 910-451-3754 (Camp Lejeune)

| January      | February     | March | April        | May   | June  | July         | August | September | October      | November | December |
|--------------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|--------------|--------|-----------|--------------|----------|----------|
| 8-12         | 5-9          | 5-9   | 2-6          | 7-11  | 4-8   | 9-13         | 6-10   | 10-14     | 1-5*         | 5-9      | 3-7      |
| 22-26        | 12-16        | 12-16 | 9-13         | 14-18 | 11-15 | 16-20        | 13-17  | 17-21     | 15-19        | 26-30    | 10-14    |
| 29 Jan-2 Feb | 26 Feb-2 Mar | 19-23 | 23-27        | 21-25 | 18-22 | 30 Jul-3 Aug | 20-24  | 24-28     | 29 Oct-2 Nov |          | 17-21    |
|              |              | 26-30 | 30 Apr-3 May |       | 25-29 |              | 27-31  |           |              |          |          |

\*JOB FAIR APRIL 17,18,19\*

\*JOB FAIR OCT 2-3\*

| MCB Camp Lejeune Pre-Retirement |          |           |
|---------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| January                         | February | March     |
| 22-26                           | 12-16    | 12-16     |
| April                           | May      | June      |
| 16-20                           | 21-25    | 11-15     |
| July                            | August   | September |
| 23-27                           | 13-17    | 17-21     |
| October                         | November | December  |
| 29 Oct-2 Nov                    | 5-9*     | 3-7       |

\* This date is reserved for a supplemental class only if needed due to two holidays during the month.

| MCB Camp Lejeune ETRS |   |      |
|-----------------------|---|------|
| January               | April   | July |
| 8-12                  | 9-13  | 9-13 |
| October               | Open to CWO-4, CWO-5, E-9 and O-5 and above only. |      |
| 15-19                 |   |      |

Ask your Career Planner to  
reserve your seat today!

| MCAS New River Transition Readiness Seminar • 910-449-4914 (New River) |              |           |              |          |      |
|--|--------------|-----------|--------------|----------|------|
| January  | February     | March     | April        | May      | June |
| 8-12   | 5-9          | 26-30     | 9-13         | 14-18    | 4-8  |
| 22-26  | 26 Feb-2 Mar |           | 30 Apr-4 May |          |      |
| July   | August       | September | October      | December |      |
| 9-13   | 6-10         | 24-28     | 15-19        | 10-14    |      |
| 23-27  | 20-24        |           | 29 Oct-2 Nov |          |      |

| MCAS New River Pre-Retirement |       |           |          |
|-------------------------------|-------|-----------|----------|
| March                         | June  | September | November |
| 12-16                         | 18-22 | 10-14     | 26-30    |

[mccslejeune-newriver.com/trs](http://mccslejeune-newriver.com/trs)



# 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 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](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

# 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.

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



Photo courtesy of marines.mil



# 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 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](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



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, or 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

## TUITION ASSISTANCE (TA) DECIDE

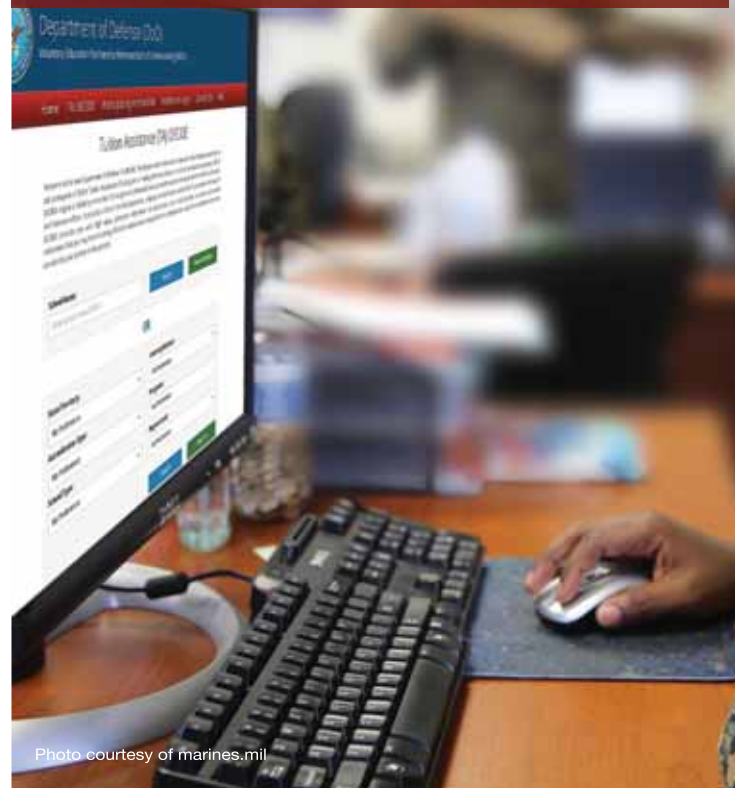


Photo courtesy of marines.mil

Welcome to the new Department of Defense TA DECIDE. This dynamic information and comparison tool is designed specifically to aid participants of DoD's Tuition Assistance (TA) program in making informed choices on schools and education programs. The TA DECIDE engine is fueled by more than 10 recognized and trusted data sources from across the departments of Defense, Education and Veterans Affairs. It provides a first of its kind experience, uniquely tailored to the needs of the TA participant. We hope TA DECIDE provides you with high value, actionable information on educational costs and outcomes to compare educational institutions that you may be considering. While this website was designed for the individual user, your service's education counselor can also be your partner in this process.

<https://www.dodmou.com/TADECIDE>

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

# MYVOLED PATH APP



With the MyVolEdPath mobile app, you have a wealth of military education resources in the palm of your hand. You can maximize use of your military education benefits and create a customized path to education and advancement – anytime, anywhere.

Have you ever looked at all the available information about military education benefits and wondered, “Where do I even start?” If so, MyVolEdPath is exactly the answer you need.

With user-friendly design, comprehensive checklists, and step-by-step processes already laid out, MyVolEdPath provides a clear path to follow for military advancement, a college degree, or a civilian career.

MyVolEdPath makes it easy to get started and map out a plan to reach your goals.

**EXPLORE** – Maximize the military education benefits you’ve earned, and find out how those benefits make education more accessible and affordable.

**NAVIGATE** – Create your personal path to education and advancement with options customized to your needs and goals.

**ACHIEVE** – Align your career and educational plan with your own strengths and interests. Take control of your future – no matter where your path leads.

**CHOOSE** – Find a virtual education center, connect with a counselor, and enjoy 24/7 access to resources, forums, and FAQs.

**CONNECT** – When you have questions, we have answers. Get support in real time via the live chat feature.

**DISCOVER** – Stay informed with the latest voluntary education news, videos, blogs, and podcasts.

Let us help you prepare for your future on your schedule. With the MyVolEdPath app, when you reach out, we are always there. Download it today! It is available on the App Store or get it on Google Play.

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

## Daryl L. Minus, Ed.D. Education Assistance Branch Manager Personal & Professional Development (P&PD)

Daryl joined MCCS Lejeune-New River in July 2018. He serves as the Education Service Officer for the Education Assistance Branch (EAB), one of three branches that fall under Personal & Professional Development Programs (P&PD). Daryl has amassed a 25-year career in higher education as an innovative administrator/executive in community college and university settings. Prior to joining MCCS Lejeune-New River, he held positions of Dean or Vice President in the California, Virginia, and North Carolina community college systems.

Daryl has significant experience with developing academic programs and strategic initiatives that impact student success. He has managed comprehensive student services and enrollment

management operations including admissions, financial aid, Veteran's centers, federal TRIO programs, learning support services, counseling/academic advising, career development, student life, and disability support services. Daryl also served as a chief academic officer and provided leadership to workforce solutions, basic skills programs, institutional effectiveness/planning, and distance learning/professional development. Daryl has secured over \$6 million in grant funding from federal, state, and private sources for student scholarships, enhanced support programs, and cutting-edge instructional equipment.

For Daryl, key "themes" that underscore the mission of EAB are focusing on creating accessible educational



Courtesy photo

opportunities, minimizing barriers to post-secondary goal achievement, and continuously enhancing the customer experience in ways that transform lives. Daryl is guided by leadership principles that value learning, diversity, collaboration, and a commitment to enhancing the caliber of educational attainment in the Marine Corps.

## 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 Service Transcript, CLEP, DSST, etc." (C.P.)

"Don't just rely on Tuition Assistance – 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 (TA)." (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

## QUOTES FROM THE COMMANDANT'S MESSAGES

“Excerpts from “Seize the Initiative” (Feb 2017) and from “Execute” (Jan 2018)”

“Pursue educational opportunities and earn a degree. If you are already an avid reader and write, take it to another level”

“Most importantly, we all must be willing to embrace change . . . not for the sake of change, but change to make us better.”

“Complacency kills, both tactically and intellectually.”

“Marine, we have the world we have, not the world we want . . . and this world requires that we get better. Better as Marines, better as warfighters, and better as leaders.”

# 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](http://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

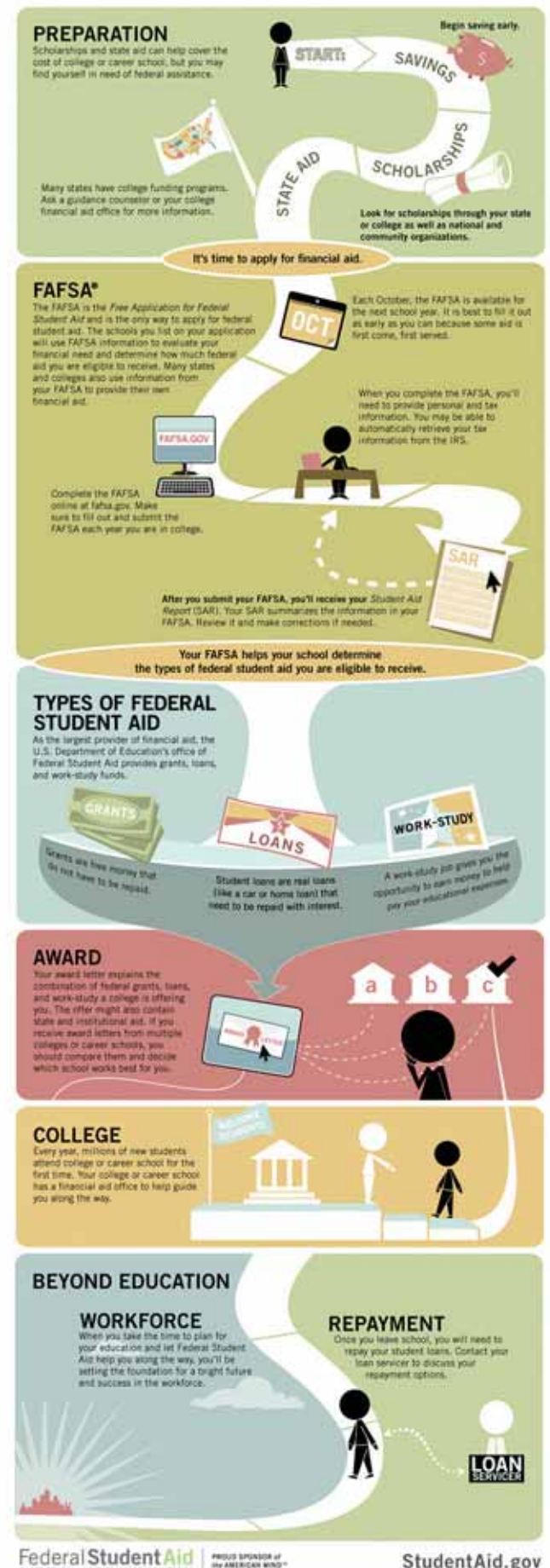
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[StudentAid.gov](http://StudentAid.gov)

## 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.



# 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**

**60  
DAYS**

**30  
DAYS**

**120  
DAYS**

## PRIOR TO SEPARATION

- Download the Verification of Military Experience and Training (VMET) (DD Form 2586) document at [dmdc.osd.mil/tgps](http://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](mailto: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](http://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 Service 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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