

STARS AND STRIPES®

CAMP LEJEUNE
Fall 2019

Servicemember's Guide to

EDUCATION and TRANSITION

**GET THE MOST
OUT OF YOUR
BENEFITS**

FREE GI BILL
COMPARISON TOOL

**PREPARE FOR
TOMORROW,
TODAY**

YOUR TRANSITION
JOURNEY STARTS HERE



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.



Photo courtesy

Attend schools on base or online.

DAYTIME MASP SCHEDULE FOUR-WEEK CLASS SESSION BUILDING 825

0730 TO 1630
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY

COMMUNICATION SKILLS:
0730 TO 1130

MATH ESSENTIALS:
1300 TO 1630

NIGHTTIME MASP SCHEDULE SIX-WEEK CLASS SESSION BUILDING 825

1700 TO 2100
MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY

COMMUNICATION SKILLS:
MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY

MATH ESSENTIALS:
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

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

STARS AND STRIPES

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Washington, D.C. 20001-3050
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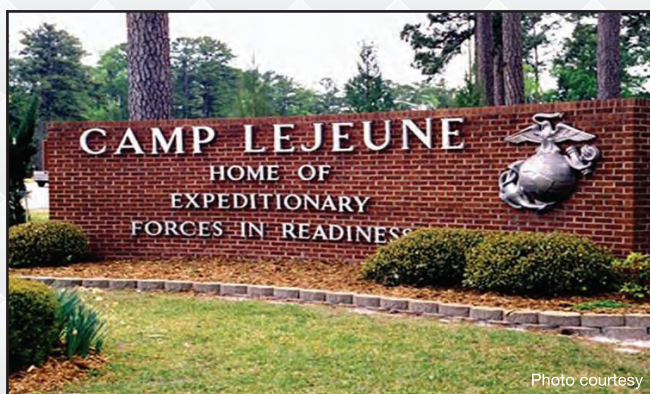
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Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/mccscledu/

EDUCATION ASSISTANCE at CAMP LEJEUNE/MCAS NEW RIVER

The Education Assistance Branch can guide military personnel, family members, retirees, and DoD affiliated civilians 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 (JST)
- U.S. Military Apprenticeship Program
- Veterans in Piping Program
- MC Cool Information

For more information, visit:

www.mccslejeune-newriver.com/edu

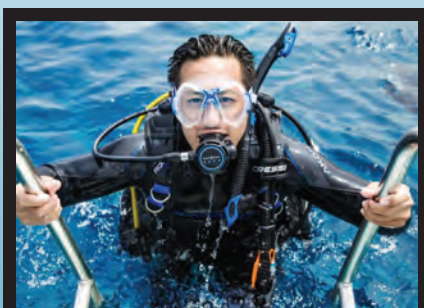
John A. Lejeune
Education Center
Bldg 825 Stone Street
910-451-3091
M-F 0730 to 1630

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

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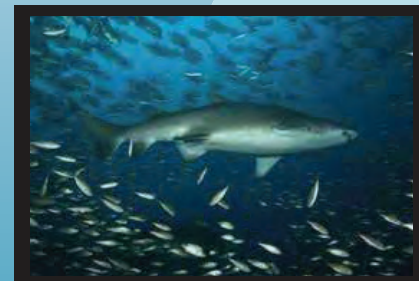
Crewing on Charter Vessels, Divemaster at Dive Resorts, Commercial Diving School or continuing on to become an Open Water SCUBA Instructor are only a few of the career possibilities.

- Start as a Beginner and Graduate as an internationally recognized PADI Divemaster or Instructor.
- International SCUBA Instructor is ranked as 1 of the top 10 jobs in the world!
- These career programs are eligible for NC National Guard Tuition Assistance.
- **GI Bill® eligible**, beginners to instructor programs are here!
- Other SCUBA programs available. Call or email dive@DiscoveryDiving.edu for more information



7 programs:

- Dive master
- Scuba Instructor
- Master Scuba Diver Trainer
- Master Instructor
- Scientific Diver
- Public Safety Diver
- Technical Diver



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252-728-2265

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



**Camp Lejeune-
New River
2020
Education Expo**

April 15, 2020
1000 to 1400
Goettge Memorial
Field House

The graphic features a teal background with five circular icons: a globe with a graduation cap, a graduation cap on a stand, a computer monitor with a graduation cap, a graduation cap on a stand, and a graduation cap on a stand. A white banner at the bottom contains the event details.



SAVE THE DATE

**25th Annual Off-Duty
Graduation Ceremony**

May 29, 2020
1000 to 1130
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.

The graphic features a background image of a graduation cap with a yellow tassel and a red ribbon tied around it.

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

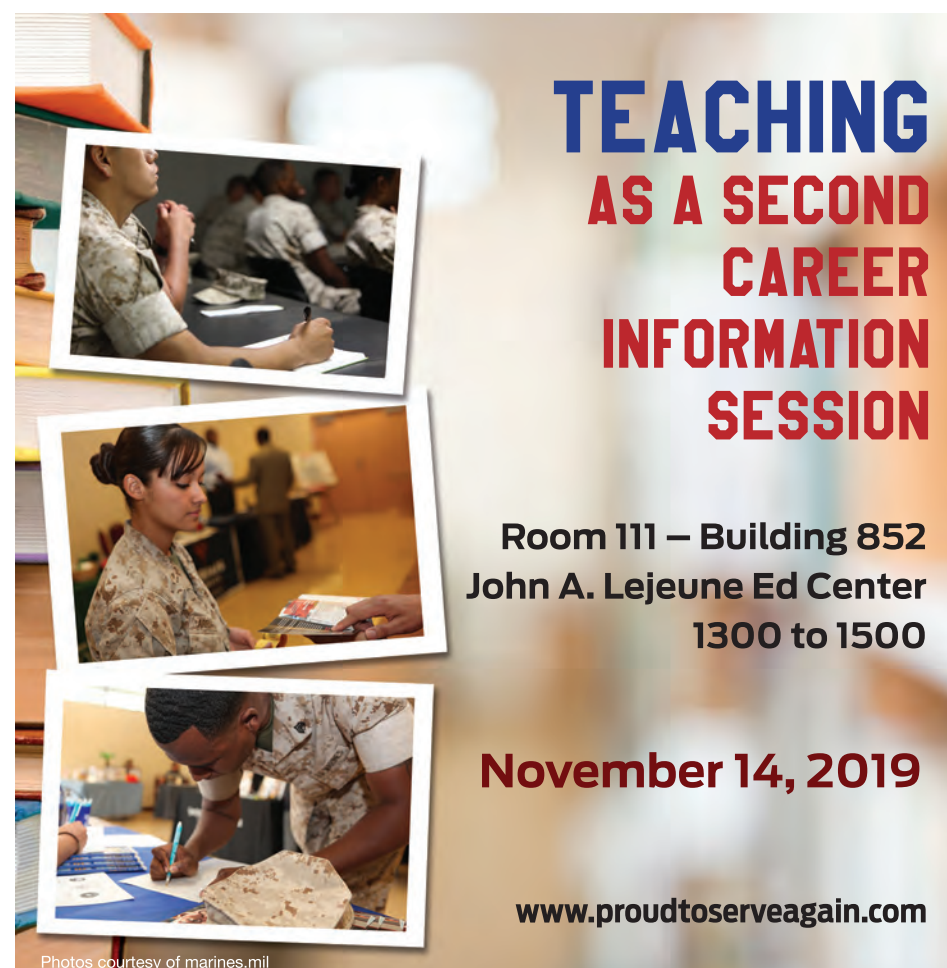
Your time is valuable. When you need fast, easy access to manage your VA & DoD benefits, claims and military documents, go online and register for a Premium eBenefits Account at www.ebenefits.va.gov.



eBenefits
www.ebenefits.va.gov



The graphic features a dark blue background with white text and logos. The Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense logos are prominently displayed.



**TEACHING
AS A SECOND
CAREER
INFORMATION
SESSION**

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

November 14, 2019

www.proudtoserveagain.com

Photos courtesy of marines.mil

The graphic features a background image of three people in military uniforms sitting at a table, looking at documents. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font.



FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION PROTECTING AMERICA'S CONSUMERS

New Federal Law Allows Consumers to Place Free Credit Freezes And Yearlong Fraud Alerts

Consumers who are concerned about identity theft or data breaches can freeze their credit and place one-year fraud alerts for free.

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<https://www.cool.navy.mil/usmc/>



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THIS SCHOOL IS REGULATED AS A COMMERCIAL MOTOR CARRIER BY THE US DOT AND NC. IT TAKES FEWER THAN 300 HOURS TO COMPLETE THIS PROGRAM; THEREFORE IT IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR TITLE IV FUNDING.



miller-motte-edu
800-404-9851



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 Online College Examination Program (eCLEP) and Online DANTES Sub Subject Standardized Tests (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. Active-duty and reserve military test one time 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.

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 Active-duty and reserve military personnel only, include Armed Forces Classification Test (AFCT) retesting for Military Occupational Specialty (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 a 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.

SAT/ACT EXAM REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

Active-duty and reserve servicemembers may take one FREE SAT (with essay) and one FREE ACT (without essay) at official designated on-base DANTES military testing sites. The policy is limited to CONUS administration of these reimbursable exam at off-base civilian National Testing Centers.

The reimbursable SAT/ACT exams are not administered on Camp Lejeune or MCAS New River.



Call 910-451-9289 or 910-451-3902 if you have any questions.



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.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GOING TO SCHOOL?

Marines can now use their Tuition Assistance (TA) upon unit discretion and no longer have to wait for their two-year mark to start college.

Tuition Assistance is different funding from your GI Bill. It is funding for your education while you serve on active-duty.

The first step in becoming eligible to use your TA is to complete the Higher Education Prep Course (HEP US001) on <https://jko.jten.mil>. Once you complete the course, bring your certificate to the Education Center for one-on-one advisement to finalize your steps towards eligibility.



Bring any questions you have about college to the Camp Lejeune or MCAS New River Education Center!

Set your sights on success!

Staring at a blank page?

CONNECT WITH A LIVE TUTOR TO REFINE A THESIS OR OUTLINE, GET TIPS ON THE BEST WAYS TO RESEARCH A TOPIC, OR WORK THROUGH SOMETHING THAT DOESN'T SOUND RIGHT.

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Receive academic help when you need it for any subject!

MASP SUCCESS STORY

My AFQT score went from a 46 to a 73; my GT score went from a 95 to a 112. All of my scores improve by at least 12-17 points! Anyone taking this class can be sure that if they pay attention, take it seriously and use the library Armed Services Vocational

Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) books on the weekends then they will succeed.

Julie was an amazing math teacher – keep her if you can!

I am now going to submit for Marine Security Guard Detachment Commander and afterwards submit for Warrant Officer since I now qualify for both!

-Sgt Jamaul Taylor



MASP TESTING CHANGE!

The TABE test is aligned to the national College and Career Readiness Standards for the three core subject areas: reading, mathematics, and language. For admittance into the MASP program, you must take paperwork to the Camp Lejeune Learning Lab (CLLL) where you will complete the intake process (takes approximately twenty minutes). Once the intake process is completed, your next step is to take the TABE test which now takes approximately four hours to complete. Your test will be scored and available your first day of class.

Direct all questions to the Education Assistance Branch staff.

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.



**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

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, 910-451-9076 (voice) 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



**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

**MARINE &
Family**

Education
Assistance Branch
Camp Lejeune-New River

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Military mobility can make continuing your education seem impossible. WGU North Carolina is your solution.

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- GI Bill® Benefits
- Tuition Assistance
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nc.wgu.edu/military



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GI BILL COMPARISON TOOL



Photo courtesy of marines.mil

The Veteran Affairs (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 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 (two year enlistment vs. three+ 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 Reserve Educational Assistance Program (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 four and a half months and quarters are three 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 nine credits per term; the calculator uses .8 to determine the amount due.
 - More than 1/2 time students are taking seven to eight credits per term; the calculator uses .6 to determine the amount due
 - Less than 1/2 time students are taking one to six 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

EMBRY-RIDDLE OFFERING NEW SKILLBRIDGE PROGRAM ON MARINE CORPS AIR STATION NEW RIVER



Photos by Lance Cpl. Damaris Arias

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University - Worldwide is implementing a new workforce development initiative to connect transitioning U.S. military personnel, veterans and military spouses to hiring partners this August on Marine Corps Air Station New River.

"The unique thing about this is that it is the first and only program in the country of this kind and we are fortunate to have it here," said Ricky Cannon, campus director for Embry-Riddle Marine Corps Base Camp

Lejeune. "Make no mistake that this is not just a class it is a skillbridge program which helps transitioning Marines within 180 of transitioning out of the Marines into exciting jobs with our aviation hiring partners Pratt & Whitney & AAR."

Skillbridge programs provide a bridge between the USMC and the next career Marines will enter. Companies provide training in hopes to hire service members into global organizations.

The Aviation Maintenance

Technology program is a nine-week, full-time program designed to train and place transitioning servicemembers, honorably-discharged veterans and eligible military spouses into aviation maintenance and technician careers with reputable aerospace industry partners who are committed to hiring them.

"The education that they receive from Embry-Riddle will prepare them for their A&P Part 65 certification and they will receive 18 credits of college for the nine week program," Cannon said. "That's the equivalent of having a Bachelor's Degree in the aeronautics field. If these people went to a community college for a program like this it would take them six months or more to learn the same amount. We give it to them in nine weeks. It's like drinking from a fire hose."

Applicants are not required to have

an aviation maintenance background, but a mechanical aptitude is required. Since the training classroom is the duty location for active servicemembers, full-time attendance is mandatory.

"We have a motor transport and an embarker registered right now, which is fortunate for them because they are interested in the aeronautics field."

The program is currently open to military servicemembers who are within six months of separation or retirement, as well as recently transitioned veterans with an honorable discharge and military spouses. Program attendees must meet eligibility requirements and be willing to relocate to industry partner hiring locations.

– Courtesy Story Staff Reports at
Camp Lejeune Globe
camplejuneglobe.com

Photo below:

U.S. Marine Corps CH-53E Super Stallion with Heavy Marine Helicopter Squadron 461, Marine Aircraft Group 29, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, retrogrades back to Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C., Sept. 19, 2018. Hurricane Florence impacted Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River with periods of strong winds, heavy rains, flooding of urban and low lying areas, flash floods and coastal storm surges. (U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Damaris Arias)



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

Photo courtesy of marines.mil

Change is a common occurrence that many people are accustomed to, whether it's a change in careers, a new home, a new town, or a new car. There are different comfort levels when dealing with change. With change comes stress, adventure, and new beginnings. Some are taught to manage change through resiliency or transition readiness training. Even the training opportunities have to change to be relevant. Fiscal year 2019 has brought many changes to the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) for servicemembers. These changes are being implemented October 1, 2019, across the military branches. The Marine Corps has been tasked with improving the TAP program and incorporating more opportunities to better assess the level of transition readiness a servicemember requires to complete the Marine for Life Cycle.

The backbone of the Transition Readiness Branch's (TRB) instructional opportunities is the Transition Readiness Seminar (TRS). This is a comprehensive five-day seminar that all separating or retiring servicemembers are required to

attend per DoD mandated requirements. This requirement is in place regardless of the type of separation; whether it is due to an administrative or medical separation after only six months of service, or retiring after 20 years or more of service. These seminars are hosted aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune (MCB Camp Lejeune) and Marine Corps Air Station New River (MCAS New River), additionally all branches of service (Army, Navy, Coast Guard, and Air Force) are welcome to attend at these locations. During TRS, useful transition information is disseminated by TRB professionals and briefers from the Veteran Administration (VA) and Department of Labor (DOL).

Tony Parks has been with the Transition Readiness Branch since June 2012 and has a very unique perspective of the Transition Readiness Program. "I am excited to see the program evolve and line up with the needs of the clients and support the mission of the Marine Corps...We have done this once before and the Marines were very excited to attend a course that lines up with the individual's vision of their civilian life.

This is an excellent opportunity for the servicemembers to tailor their individual needs within the seminar and use the advising team to hone in the details."

In 2019, Camp Lejeune hosted 39 weeks of TRS and MCAS New River hosted 21 weeks of TRS. For all retiring personnel with 20 years or more of military service, TRB provided a total of 12 Retirement Seminars on Camp Lejeune and six Retirement Seminars on MCAS New River. Additionally, for all retiring CWO-4/5s, E-9s, and O-5 and above there were four Executive Transition Readiness Seminars (ETRS) provided aboard MCB Camp Lejeune.

As a result of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) FY19, new transition requirements will be implemented effective October 1, 2019. The first of these requirements is no later than 365 days prior to End of Active Service (EAS) all servicemembers must complete an Initial Counseling (IC) and Pre-Separation Counseling with a TRB Advisor, the IC does have a prerequisite, the servicemember must complete a

Self-Assessment Transition Plan prior to meeting with the TRB Advisor. This new requirement acts as a collection tool to assist the servicemember with identifying transition needs and serve as a "roadmap" throughout the transition process. Also, the Self-Assessment Transition Plan will be a guide for the TRB Advisor during the Pre-Separation Counseling to provide recommendations and determine which tier (I, II, or III) to place the servicemember into, the tier is determined by the individual's level of transition readiness at that time.

The guidance provided for each tier group determines the level of transition readiness. The tier will also depict the number of days the servicemember is required to attend TRS. What defines a tier? Tier I might consist of retirees, reserve components returning to work, or those unable to work or go to school; as such these individuals require minimal transition services and are only required to participate in TRS days one and two with no additional deliverables required. Tier II could be a first or subsequent term Marine having confirmed employment

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

and/or attendance to school/training, or having less than 20 years education/civilian experience; these individuals will require moderate transition services and are only required to participate in TRS days one, two, and three with the opportunity to elect to participate in days four and five; which are the transition two-day tracks (Accessing Higher Education, Vocational Training, Employment, or Entrepreneurship); and requires the servicemember to complete a financial plan, gap analysis, resume (DOL), or institution comparison (AHE/VoTech). The last tier, tier III, may be the first-term and/or Administrative Separations; these servicemembers will require more concentrated transition services and must participate in all five days of TRS and are required to complete a financial plan, gap analysis, resume (DOL), and institution comparison (AHE/VoTech).

During day one of TRS (Department of Defense Day), a servicemember can expect to receive classes on Resilient Transitions, Military Occupation Crosswalk, Financial Planning, Marine for Life, Reserve Obligation Opportunity, and other USMC specific instruction. Day two will be provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. They will discuss the servicemember's benefits and services. Day three, provided by the Department of Labor, is mandatory for tier II and tier III and will include employment preparation information. Days four and five are specialized two-day transition tracks required for tier III and optional for tier II. The servicemember can choose from Accessing Higher Education, Vocational Training, Employment, or Entrepreneurship (Boots 2 Business).

The two-day specialized transition tracks offered on days four and five are determined by the servicemember's transition plan discussed during the IC with the TRB Advisor. The Accessing

Higher Education (AHE) track is a two-day session for individuals that are interested in pursuing higher education. This two-day track prepares them for college life and re-entering school, completing college applications, transferring credits, researching schools, financial assistance, and learning about campus realities. The AHE track will assist with defining career goals, identifying education needs, discovering educational opportunities, locating local veteran resources and support, utilizing the VA Education Benefits, and gaining tools for academic success.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to continue instructing Accessing Higher Education pathway course with the newest modifications to the Transition Readiness Seminar course. Since I began with the Transition Assistance Branch in March of 2013, I have seen many changes to this program. AHE initially was taught as a two-day course within the TRS week. Shortly after a change was made to cut it down to one day. Then, upon further examination, AHE was cut to half a day of instruction. I am passionate about providing servicemembers' information regarding higher education during their transition as well as to spouses and dependents. I believe we have a greater opportunity to give the servicemembers resources they desire and allow them time to research and contemplate the information in the curriculum without rushing due to time constraints. I'm excited to bring this information to more servicemembers," said Jennifer Beaty, a Personal and Professional Development Advisor.

The Career Exploration and Planning Track (CEPT) is a two-day session led by the Department of Labor (DOL). The CEPT provides participants with answers to questions such as, "what do I want to do, and how do I get there?" This workshop offers a unique opportunity

for individual career exploration, to identify skills, increase awareness of training and credentialing programs, and develop an action plan to achieve career goals. Servicemembers who attend CEPT will complete a personalized career development assessment of occupational interest, aptitudes, and work values. This industry-standard assessment will present workshop participants with a variety of tailored job recommendations aligned with interests and aptitudes, some of which are classified as "high demand" or "high growth" occupations. CEPT participants will learn to narrow their career focus by establishing achievable career goals and development strategies. The facilitators will guide participants through a variety of career considerations including labor market projections, increased wage potential, education, apprenticeships, certifications, and licensure requirements.

The last of the two-day tracks goes by many names, Entrepreneurship, How to Start a Small Business or Boots 2 Business. In the end, this specialized track was designed by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for anyone interested in pursuing small business or franchise ownership. This track explores the personal side of entrepreneurship and business opportunities. For example, what it takes to start a business, such as having a vision and staying self-motivated. This track also covers the development of a business plan and potential sources of capital and financing. It will also present an opportunity to learn from other business owners. This track teaches participants how to improve business skills and how to use and access business tools and resources in order to launch and maintain a successful business. This session will cover identifying and connecting with small business resources, tools and

knowledge needed to identify business opportunities, developing a draft business plan, and what ingredients are crucial for a start-up's success such as feasibility study, market demographics, funding sources, and business owner support.

The events of a servicemember's transition readiness are documented within an electronic form, known as the eForm DD-2648. This eForm is housed in the servicemember's MilConnect profile, where they initiate and finalize their transition from military service. Upon completion of the five-days of TRS, the completed eForm DD-2648 will be sent by their TRB Advisor to their unit's commanding officer or capstone designee. They then meet with the servicemember to complete the capstone process prior to separation or retirement. This is the culminating event that will close out the eForm DD-2648 and finalize the capstone process. The eForm DD-2648 will be used as part of the servicemember's documentation for IPAC checkout. It is recommended that the servicemember print off three copies of the DD-2648 from MilConnect; one for their records, one for the unit (as it is an inspectable item), and one to use for the check-out ultimately for IPAC.

As the TRB continues to enhance the seminar and make necessary changes to the transition processes this will be challenging, exciting, and new for everyone. The TRB at Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River work very closely with the command leadership ensuring they are providing timely and effective services for their servicemembers. The transition process now belongs to the servicemember and their commander, with deciding the track selection and future success of the servicemembers.

*– 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 Tech's (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

2020-2022 VIP PROGRAM SCHEDULE

CLASS START TIME: 0700		CLASS END TIME: 1530	WEEK DAYS: MONDAY - FRIDAY
COURSE	INTERVIEW DATE	START DATE	GRADUATION DATE
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
WELDING CLASS 18	TBA	MARCH 8, 2021	JULY 8, 2021
WELDING CLASS 19	TBA	JULY 26, 2021	NOVEMBER 25, 2021
WELDING CLASS 20	TBA	DECEMBER 13, 2021	APRIL 21, 2022
WELDING CLASS 21	TBA	MAY 9, 2022	SEPTEMBER 8, 2022



EMBRACING HER SKILLS AS A PIPEFITTER/WELDER

The fifth class for the VIP welding program at Camp Lejeune included two women, and it just so happened that one of those women, Rachel LaBlance, graduated at the top of the class. Bill Platt, a member of Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 630, West Palm Beach, FL, is the VIP welding instructor at the Camp Lejeune, NC, VIP program.

Platt said, "When I first met Rachel, I knew right away that she was going to be an asset to any local that she was going to go to. She jumped right in and started unloading trucks, and to be honest, she outshined every-one. Rachel had some welding experience as a Marine aircraft welder—with different techniques, but a welder nonetheless. She was a tungsten inert gas (TIG) welder, welding aircraft frames and parts, but when a welder understands the weld puddle and the process of welding, it's effortless to teach the other techniques and processes. Rachel understood all of that, and once we started training, she took to it incredibly well. She had never stick welded before, but she just took to it. She was one of the first to pass a weld test, and she ended up having more certifications than anyone." Rachel graduated from the program with eight welding certifications and her OSHA-30.

The way Rachel described events in her life is as if there had been a plan all along—a plan that had been designed for her. She stated that her participation in the welding VIP program at Camp Lejeune was part of that predestined plan. "Going through high school," she said, "in my junior year, I had the opportunity to attend a vocational school. I had always had an interest in automotive mechanics. Growing up with a single mom in an all-female household, I don't know where I got that from. I just always had an interest in vehicles and auto mechanics. During that time, I welded a little bit, but not much."

Rachel joined the Marines after accompanying her brother-in-law to meet with a recruiter. At the time, it wasn't her intention to join the Marines. As she described it, she "just happened to be there." She continued, "The recruiter started talking to me. He asked me what I planned to do, and he introduced me to Motor T in the Marine Corps.

There are two avenues you can take—a mechanic or a driver. I was originally interested in being a mechanic, but I failed the depth perception test, so that avenue was no longer an option, and I became what they refer to as 'open contract' in the Marines. I was lucky enough that they filled me in as an aircraft mechanic. So, I went to Pensacola, FL, for my A School after I graduated from Boot Camp in '09. Once I graduated from A School, I went to Naval Air Station, Oceana, VA, to learn the basics of aviation and airframes. I learned deposit, fiberglass, and carbon repairs, and I got my first distinction at Cherry Point, shortly after I raised my hand to go through a three-month welding program that taught me how to TIG weld. I could do welds that passed x-ray. I recertified every year and continued to do that for eight years. I deployed in 2011 as an aircraft welder. We were only deployed if there was an incident in which an aircraft needed to be repaired. I was the only welder with my squadron, so it was a lot of pressure."

While in the Marines, Rachel got married and had two children, Colton and Mia. She felt it was time to go home. Her readiness officer told her about the VIP program, and right away, Rachel thought it would be the perfect fit. She initially had some concerns about whether the program's start date would coincide with her transitioning schedule, but she credits her commanding officers from her small unit with making it happen. "The fact that they let me participate in this program was amazing," she said.

After completing the program, Rachel was assigned to Plumbers and Pipefitters Local 101 in Belleville, IL, to continue with her apprenticeship training. She had family in the area and felt it would be a great place to raise her family. Local 101 is home to the Prairie State Energy Campus, which was built and continues to be maintained by UA labor. Rachel's VIP instructor, Billy Platt, explained, "When Rachel was placed in Local 101, Business Manager Scott Deitz requested that she have a couple of specific certifications that are required to work at the Prairie State Energy Campus. We got her trained in those processes with no trouble at all. She ran three coupons, and on the fourth, she tested. I got into the



Photo courtesy

"I can't speak enough about the transition from the Marine Corps to the UA. The Marine Corps taught me everything that I would need to know to be successful in my new career."



Photo courtesy

weld booth with her, and she followed everything I did. She is going to be a star UA welder for years to come. I'm very proud to call her my friend."

Rachel is now a fourth-year apprentice, and she loves what she does. She also remains in touch with Billy Platt. She will turn out as a journeyman in August. She stated, "I can't speak enough about the transition from the Marine Corps to the UA. The Marine Corps taught me everything that I would need to know to be successful in my new career. Initially, when I first came on the job, I worked with my steward. I think they were feeling me out to see where I would fit in the best. I am a single mom now, and I must say that the union hall has worked with me tremendously when it comes to working out my childcare issues. My kids often stay with their dad when I'm working. My son is eight, and my daughter is now four. I do miss the Marine Corps, but between work and raising my kids, I don't have a lot of spare time. I'm currently going through a med gas class through my apprenticeship so that I can work in hospitals. I am trying to prepare for everything. Down the road, I would love to be a VIP instructor at a Marine Corps base. I will work on getting my CWI (certified welding inspector) certification in the future to be eligible for that. I'm also interested in attending the Instructor Training Program in Ann Arbor to learn to be an instructor."

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-Bill Platt

Looking back on the program, Rachel had some final thoughts. She said, "Applying for the VIP program was the best decision I ever made. I always encourage other Marines to try to get into the program. There will always be naysayers wherever you go. You just have to stay focused, keep your mind in the game, and have goals to continue to work toward." As Rachel prepares to turn out as a journeyman, she continues to up the bar regarding her own aspirations. With the training and support she receives from the UA, Rachel's goals will be within her reach

- Courtesy of the Career Opportunities in Piping for Transitioning Veterans

VETERANS IN PIPING PROGRAM GRADUATES

16 SERVICEMEMBERS

The United Association Veterans in Piping (UA VIP) Program held an open house and graduation ceremony at the UA VIP classroom building on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Aug. 1, 2019.

The event commemorated the UA VIP Program's fifth anniversary at MCB Camp Lejeune and served to celebrate

the graduation of the program's 13th welding class.

The UA VIP Program proudly partners with the military to provide free career skills training to active-duty transitioning military servicemembers to prepare them for a career in the piping industry. Upon transition from the military, UA VIP graduates are

guaranteed employment with a UA signatory contractor and direct entry into the UA's five-year apprenticeship program in an agreed upon location nationwide.

"This 18-week course offers accelerated training in welding while they are still active-duty," said David Porter, instructor and administrator with

United Association. "Servicemembers get free skills training, industry recognized certifications, direct entry into UA apprenticeships and guaranteed job placement. Essentially they can leave the military with peace of mind because they will have a job."

UA VIP has recently completed construction on their expanded classroom. They can now accept 20 students per class, instead of only 16.

"The new classroom is going to be great for the next class," said Cpl. Daniel Queathem, a student with the UA VIP Program. "This program was really beneficial. There was no out of pocket expense. The school and tools were free."

With UA VIP paying the \$12,000-\$15,000 fees and tool donations from DeWalt and Milwaukee tools, students have the chance to concentrate on their studies while they learn their new trade.

"Anyone who is serious about welding as a career does not want to miss out on this class," said Sgt. Joe Karcher, another student in the program. "They will never get another opportunity like it."

Anyone interested in the UA VIP program can consult with a career counselor at the career education building or stop by the UA VIP classroom, which is located next to the Auto Hobby shop on Birch Street.

"We, at the education center, are here to act as facilitator between the Marine or Sailor and their unit," said Rick Bowman, education counselor with Marine Corps Community Services. "We offer three classes a year, and there is an interview process to get into the school. In order to apply, candidates have to be on the backside of their End of Active Services (EAS) and really want it."

– By Erin Vance Lifestyles Writer
Courtesy of Camp Lejeune Globe
camplejuneuneglobe.com



PHOTO 01



PHOTO 02



PHOTO 03

PHOTO 04

Photo 01: United Association of Veterans in Piping Program's 13th welding class poses for a photo at their graduation ceremony onboard Marine Corps Base Camp LeJeune, Aug. 1. The celebration marks UA VIP's fifth anniversary at MCB Camp Lejeune and served to celebrate the graduation of the class before they check out with their units and move across the country to their new guaranteed employment opportunities. (Photo by Erin Lance)

Photo 02: The United Association of Veterans in Piping Programs unveiled its newly renovated classrooms and equipment prior to class 13's graduation on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Aug. 1. The program has been utilizing the portable trailers outside while renovations have been underway. The new classroom allows for more students to take the course and provides each student with more space at individual work stations. (Photo by Erin Lance)

Photo 03: U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Robert Stewart III explains the new equipment and process he has learned over the past 18 weeks prior to his graduation ceremony at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Aug. 5. (Photo by Erin Lance)

Photo 04: U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Trevor Antwine shows his brother, Lance Cpl. Forrest Antwine the new equipment and explains what he has learned during his 18-week piping course on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, Aug. 1. (Photo by Erin Lance)



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*

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 three to six 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

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 servicemember'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 servicemembers 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://mycaa.militaryonesource.mil/mycaa>

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 veteran 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

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

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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.

LOAN
SERVICER



5 WAYS TO HELP MANAGE YOUR STUDENT DEBT LOAD

Outstanding student debt reached \$1.47 trillion at the end of 2018, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. That's more than the amount owed on all the credit cards in the country — or all the auto loans.

Even more disturbing, more than one in 10 student loans is delinquent.

Missing student-loan payments can make it difficult, if not impossible, to buy a car or home due to the impact on your credit score, and delinquency can make other debt more expensive. What's more, filing for bankruptcy usually doesn't wipe out student loans.

These steps can help you better manage your student loans:

- **Prioritize your loan payments.** Student debt isn't something you should ignore if you're having trouble making ends meet. Instead, build the payment into your monthly budget and cut back elsewhere — on that daily latte, for example. Missing payments hurts your credit rating and, because interest accrues, you'll end up owing even more.
- **Don't be afraid to seek help.** Your loan provider may agree to ease the burden by reducing your monthly payments. Or it may let you defer making payments for a period of time to help you get back on your feet. But be aware, these steps will extend the life of the loan and you'll end up

paying more in interest.

- **Take advantage of available programs.** The federal Pay As You Earn (PAYE) program limits monthly payments to 10% of your discretionary income, a calculation based on your income in comparison to federal poverty guidelines. Those in public service, including the military, also can have their remaining balance forgiven if they've been making regular loan payments for 10 years and it still isn't paid off. If you're in the private sector, you can get balance forgiveness after 20 years. Note that the IRS treats the amount forgiven as taxable income, so you may be hit with a big tax bill at the end of the year.
- **Use military status to cut your rate.** The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) caps the student loan interest rate of active servicemembers at 6% if they incurred the debt before entering active duty.
- **Consider consolidating.** Combining several loans into one can save money while streamlining your bills. Contact your loan providers to ask about plans they offer. Be sure to understand your new payment schedule, interest rates and whether you'll have to pay any fees before signing.

— By Lisa Severson, USAA
Courtesy of Military.com



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>

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 Transition Readiness Branch (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 (TRS). 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 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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