

STARS  AND STRIPES. Service member's
Guide to

EDUCATION and TRANSITION

Cherry Point Spring 2018

A How-To Guide for
Military Spouses
Who Want to Continue
Their Education

BE AWARE:
Colleges, Scholarship Committees
Check Your Social Media

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS:
A Marine's Educational Journey

EDUCATION PROGRAM SERVICES ABOARD MCAS CHERRY POINT

By Cynthia Bouie, Education Services Specialist, MCAS Cherry Point

Photo courtesy of marines.mil

EDUCATION ACADEMIC ADVISEMENT

In today's challenging economy, it is vital to promote education and training to stay competitive in the job market. Not only are education and knowledge highly valued in the workplace but they also help strengthen our nation's communities and economy. The Education Office personnel provide a broad range of academic and career advice, including how to choose a school, how to enroll, how to select a program of study, and how to find a job that is complementary to an individual's personality and behavioral tendencies, financial options, etc.

We also have many additional programs and services that help Service members, their families and civilians aboard the installation achieve their personal and professional goals. Among these services are the Tuition Assistance Program (TA), Military Academic Skills Program (MASP), Marine Corps Credentialing Opportunities Online (MCCOOL), the United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) and a full range of testing services.

We understand that everyone is not college oriented. Therefore, the Marine Corps has implemented the United Services Military Apprenticeship program and the Marine Corps COOL program to help military members earn civilian certificates and credentials related to their Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). Not only do these programs aid in promotion potential, but they also provide a competitive advantage for those transitioning.

EDUCATION TESTING

Military Classification Tests such as Armed Forces Classification Test (AFCT),

Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT), Defense Language Aptitude Battery (DLAB), and Aviation Selection Test Battery (ASTB) are available for Service members. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) tests are available at no cost to eligible active-duty, Guard, and reserve Service members, retirees, military dependents, DOD civilians and Department of Homeland Security civilians. The ACT and SAT are available for active-duty personnel only.

Also, we offer free proctoring services for the entire military community. Through a partnership with Craven Community College's National Testing Center, we offer DSST tests and CLEP tests free for active-duty and available for the rest of the community at a fee. These examinations are available in more than 70 subject areas and are similar to end-of-course tests offered by colleges and universities. A tester who passes an exam may earn college credits toward a degree, depending on the school's credit acceptance policies.

MILITARY ACADEMIC SKILLS PROGRAM (MASP)

The Military Academic Skills Program is available to improve reading, mathematics, communications, and writing skills. The three-week course is free to active-duty; it strengthens attendees' foundations and builds confidence to start a college course or complete required career testing. It can also fulfill requirements for TA participation.

MILITARY TUITION ASSISTANCE (TA)

The Marine Corps makes available \$4,500 per year for tuition assistance fees to Marines. MCO 1560.25 provides rules and regulations regarding TA usage.

First-time students must complete the online Higher Education Preparation (HEP) course via Joint Knowledge Online (JKO) at <https://nemesi.jten.mil>. The course number is HEP-US001. Before using TA, the course must be completed. Service members must have a minimum time in service of 24 months, a minimum GT score of 100 or a minimum TABE score of 10.2 and must complete Marine Corps Institute (MCI) Personal Financial Management (Course ID 3420G).

Other government funding programs include the Montgomery GI Bill, the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the Marine Corps College Fund. These education benefits extend well beyond active duty and are awarded based on the number of years served and the specific education program in which you enroll. In some cases, the benefits may also be transferred to your spouse or child.

UNITED SERVICES MILITARY APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (USMAP)

The USMAP is the largest apprenticeship program sponsor registered with the United States Department of Labor. It is a formal military training program that provides active-duty Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard Service members the opportunity to improve their job skills and to complete their civilian apprenticeship requirements while on active duty. From program inception, nearly 20,000 Marines and sailors have completed their certificates of apprenticeship for free from more than 120 trades. For more information about USMAP, visit usmap.cnet.navy.mil or contact one of the USMAP registrars in the Education Office.

MARINES CORPS COOL

Marine Corps COOL is a Web-based hub of catalogs that provides extensive information on occupational credentials, including certifications, licenses, apprenticeships and growth opportunities correlating with every enlisted Marine Corps Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). You will find "how to" instructions for pursuing these credentials, links to credentialing organizations, and referrals to programs that may help pay for credentialing fees such as the COOL vouchers and the Montgomery or Post-9/11 GI Bill. Visit www.cool.navy.mil/usmc or contact the Education Office to learn more.

Joint Services Transcript (JST), formerly SMART, is an academically accepted record validated by the American Council on Education (ACE). The primary purpose of JST is to assist Service members in obtaining college credit for their military experience. Visit <https://jst.doded.mil> to create an account to view your JST or contact the Education Office to learn more.

Education services can be costly and time-restricted in the civilian sector, so take advantage of these services now while on active duty. Please call or visit the Education Office to meet with education technicians or career and education specialists today.

More information

Contact the Personal and Professional Education Office in Building 4335 C Street, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, NC or call (252) 466-3500 from 0700-1630 Monday through Friday.

STARS AND STRIPES

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- Accounting²
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- Marketing²
- Organizational Administration
- Psychology

¹ Compared to the direct cost of attending UNC and NC State

² Major coursework offered online only.

phone: **252.772.4044**

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EDUCATION ASSISTANCE at CHERRY POINT

The Education Advisers at the Education Center are available to assist personnel in starting or completing their journey toward their education and career goals by offering the following services:

- Financial aid advising.
- Military Academic Skills Program (MASP).
- Apprenticeship program information.
- Joint Services transcripts and corrections.
- Education and career advising and information for active duty, retirees, family members, and DoD affiliated personnel.
- Information on credentialing and certification.
- Military and Civilian Testing Office.

For more information, contact:
Cherry Point Education Office
Jerry W. Marvel Training and Education Center
C Street, Building 4335, Room 109

252-466-3500
www.mccscherrypoint.com
Monday - Friday 0700-1630

COLLEGE CREDIT FOR MILITARY TRAINING

By Dana Bayliss
Education and Career Specialist,
MCAS Cherry Point

Did you know your military experience might be worth college credit?

Colleges and universities are becoming more military friendly, meaning, the addition of veteran campus centers, military school liaisons, and more allowances of military training into college credits are becoming frequent when dealing with military students.

How do you get these credits? The American Council on Education (ACE) is the nation's leading higher education association, and their mission is to promote, protect, and advocate for students, faculty, and administrators in higher education. ACE provides recommended credits for formal courses and occupations offered by all branches of the military. All recommendations are based on reviews conducted by college and university faculty members who are actively teaching in the areas they review (acenet.edu).

Once a Service member decides on a school, he/she sends an official copy of the Joint Services Transcripts (JST) to the appropriate school personnel to have an evaluation conducted. This person is usually the academic advisor.

The registrar's office then decides which courses will count as transfer credit into their program. It is the sole discretion of each educational institution to determine if they will accept these credits. However, many of them will transfer at least a few credit hours. ACE has even gone as far as to create an ACE CREDIT College and University Network, which is a group of more than 2,000 institutions of higher learning that considers ACE credit. Interested readers can view the list at www2.acenet.edu/CREDITCollegeNetwork.

Both active-duty and veterans can access their JST by visiting <https://jst.doded.mil> and creating an account, which allows them to electronically send an official copy to their school. The Marine Corps Voluntary Education Offices also have the capability to send official transcripts and submit any needed corrections to the document. Not all schools accept these credits, but it is worth the minimal time it takes to provide a copy to the college or university and see what credits await you.

For more information, contact the Personal and Professional Education Office in Building 4335 C Street Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, NC, or call (252) 466-3500 from 0700 to 1630 Monday through Friday.





SPRING 2018 Events Calendar

MARCH

07 Resume Writing/MCCS LEAP	1300-1500
07 Budgeting Workshop	1300-1530
08 Applying for Your GIBILL	1300-1400
12-30 Military Academic Skills Program	0700-1630
15 Federal Resume Writing	0900-1100
15 Retirement, TSP & Me	0900-1130
16 Career and Education Fair	0930-1230
16 Applying for Your GIBILL	1300-1400
20 Home Buying	0900-1130
22 Personal Readiness Seminar	0730-1200
27 Couponing Workshop	1100-1230

APRIL

05 Teen Work/Budgeting Workshop	1000-1400
06 Applying for Your GIBILL	1300-1400
09-27 Military Academic Skills Program	0700-1630
11 Budgeting Workshop	0900-1130
12 Basic Saving and Investing	1300-1530
12 Applying for Your GIBILL	1300-1400
19 Federal Resume Writing	1300-1530
20 Applying for Your GIBILL	1300-1400
24 Car Buying Strategies	0900-1100
26 Personal Readiness Seminar	0730-1200
27 Career and Education Fair	0930-1230

MAY

03 Money Habitudes	0900-1100
07-25 Military Academic Skills Program	0700-1630
09 Budgeting Workshop	1300-1530
11 Career and Education Fair	0930-1230
11 Applying for Your GIBILL	1300-1400
17 Credit/Debt Management	0900-1130
17 Federal Resume Writing	0900-1130
18 Applying for Your GIBILL	1300-1400
22 Retirement, TSP, and Me	0900-1130
24 Personal Readiness Seminar	0730-1200
25 Applying for Your GIBILL	1300-1400
31 Home Buying/Selling	0900-1130



**JOIN US FOR
GRADUATION 2018**

**PERSONAL AND
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

When: May 31, 2018
Where: Two Rivers Theater and
Event Center at 1000

Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point's Personal and Professional Development Education Program invites you to join us for our 43rd annual Graduation Ceremony.

If you graduated or will graduate from a regionally or nationally accredited school, between the dates of August 2017 and May 2018, you are invited to participate in the MCAS Cherry Point Graduation ceremony.

Participating graduates must register no later than May 1 by visiting <http://mccscherrypoint.com/programs/personal-professional-development/educationprograms/graduation-registration-request>.

SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS



Photo courtesy

*Staff Sergeant Corbett, Atiya L.
U. S. Marine Corps*

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”

- Nelson Mandela”

A MARINE'S EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY

By MCAS Cherry Point Personal and Professional Development Program

Active-duty Marine. Dual-military couple. Blended family of 4 children. Industrial and Organizational Psychologist (I/O).

Staff Sergeant Atiya L. Corbett isn't satisfied with the status quo as a Marine. Corbett has 18 years in the Marine Corps, and she wants to make sure she can be just as successful after she retires in a few years. This article is her account of the journey and trials and tribulations towards successfully completing her Master's degree while on active duty. Through careful planning she has learned to manage her time well and balance her educational goals with her career, family life, and staying faithful to the Corps.

The road there.

In 2000, upon checking into my first Fleet Marine Corps duty station aboard Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, I registered for my first college courses at Campbell University. I started college as a promise to my parents that I would still pursue my education even after I joined the Marine Corps. For my parents, education was the number one priority for me. However, I grew up with the challenge of being told that I could be deaf due to complications with my hearing as a young child. Because of my hearing issues during childhood,

I was in speech therapy throughout elementary school. Knowing the value of education and how much it meant to my parents and me, I set a goal for myself, which would lead me down a road of academic success.

At every duty station throughout my Marine Corps career, I have taken college courses with the use of the Tuition Assistance (TA) Program. Every step of the way, Base Education has assisted me with meeting my educational goals. In 2003, I graduated with an Associate in Arts and Science from Campbell University. While studying and attending night classes, I was still going on field exercises, and deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), and all while being a single parent. I was stationed in Beaufort, South Carolina in 2004, where I attended the University of South Carolina in Beaufort (USCB). My educational goal at this duty station was to complete my bachelor's degree, however I was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Upon returning from deployment, I was transferred to the Marine Corps Engineer School as an instructor. As I continued on in my career, I sought out programs in which I could utilize my education to serve the Marine Corps.

In 2009, I was selected for the Staff Non-commissioned Officer (SNCO) Degree Completion Program (SNCO-

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SPOTLIGHT ON SUCCESS

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DCP), where I was able to attain my Bachelor of Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington (UNCW). This program allows SNCOs to complete a bachelor's degree, and also work in the area of their degree discipline. While in the program, I did all my schooling in class on the UNCW campus as a full-time student. By this time, I was married with a blended family. The major challenge, I faced during this time was the distance between my husband and me as a dual military couple, as he received orders to Okinawa, Japan one year prior to my degree completion. I found myself managing my household, and raising three children all under the age 8 years old by myself while going to school. In December 2010, I graduated with my bachelor's degree, and we joined my husband in Okinawa, where I served my payback tour in the SNCO-DCP.

While stationed in Okinawa, I attended Troy University, where I completed several graduate level courses in International Relations. Not sure of what type of Master's degree I wanted to pursue, I continued to stay active in higher learning. In March 2011, I stopped school to focus on volunteering and giving support to Operation Tomodachi. Once I completed my payback tour at the end of 2013, I was stationed back stateside at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, North Carolina in 2014, where I sought assistance from Base Education aboard MCAS Cherry Point. The education specialists were key to me successfully navigating my education benefits and selecting the right school to complete my Master's degree. They have been a vital part of my upcoming graduation on May 31, 2018. I will be graduating from Adler School of Professional Psychology, with my Master's degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology (I/O Psychologist).

Thank you.

Throughout my journey of continuing higher learning while serving on active duty,

I have faced various adversities. Although there have been many road blocks along my path to accomplishing my goal of education success, I approach each challenge with a steadfast attitude. It's not easy year after year, staying on track with your dreams that are transformed into goals which turns into accomplishments by you creating a habit for success.

My goal of becoming an I/O Psychologist was fostered and nurtured by my husband who spent many days caring for our family. While I dedicated most of my weeknights and weekends studying and doing homework. Even my children helped me by ensuring that I was prepared for the next work day by gathering my uniform items and doing household chores. I am honored to have such a loving family who cared about me staying the course. This success would not have been possible if I did not have the strong support system that I have had over the years. Thank you to every friend and family member who helped me accomplish my goals. Most of all I dedicate my continued success to my parents, Alfred (Sr.) and Mary Cunningham.

No excuse.

My advice, for each Service member, who wants to pursue higher education is to be honest with yourself about how much time they have. If you have time to party, and if you have an hour to play around on social media or video games, you have time to work towards an educational goal. Instead of waiting to use the Post 9/11 education benefits after service, I encourage you to use it while still serving and use Tuition Assistance. A lot of people get stuck focusing on which schools they can attend or how difficult it will be to get started. Don't be intimidated, my best advice is get help from your local Base Education.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can

use to change the world” this quote by Nelson Mandela, has been a beacon of light for me. You will find out it isn't as difficult as you would think going into it. Think of all the crazy difficult things we do while we are in the military -- physical, mental, and emotional challenges that we overcome because we believe in one another and believe in ourselves. Getting a college degree while you're wearing the uniform is just another positive challenge, and one that will often reward you greatly **BOTH** inside and outside the military as years go by.

If I could travel to every base in the Marine Corps and shout this out -- If you are a Service member right now, please do yourself a huge favor and at least pause and consider what a college degree could do for you professionally. There are ways to get it done. Treat it like a mission. You must always complete the mission. Make this your mission and you will exceed even your loftiest expectations of yourself in the classroom. Do it for yourself. Do it for your family. Do it for the military brothers and sisters to your left and right!

Photos courtesy



DEFENSE ACTIVITIES FOR NON-TRADITIONAL EDUCATION SERVICES (DANTES)

When planning your educational future, it can seem like there is an overwhelming amount of requirements that one must complete, and around every turn comes another expense. Fortunately, there are many programs and services in place to smooth the process for Service members and their families. On all Marine Corps installations or bases, you will find an education team ready to assist you in planning your career and education goals. One of the many benefits Service members receive is the utilization of The DANTES program. DANTES is a Department of Defense component of the Defense

Human Resources Activity (DHRA) that provides leadership and support through partnerships across the education community. They provide funding for exams such as the ACT, SAT, GMAT, GRE, CLEP and DSST. The Education Office at Cherry Point is a DANTES Test Center and can administer all of these exams except the GRE and LSAT. Listed below is an explanation of each exam. If you are interested in registering for one of these, please follow the instructions below or call us for more information at 252-466-3500.

EXAM

DESCRIPTION

HOW DANTES PAYS

ACT

The ACT is designed to assess general educational development and measure performance of intellectual tasks required of a college student. The ACT is composed of four academic tests that measure academic development in English, mathematics, reading and science.

DANTES Test Sites:

- One funded ACT is provided per lifetime of service for service members.
- Funding is provided by contract agreement between DANTES and ACT at time of testing. No money is exchanged.
- The ACT Writing exam is not available at DANTES Test Sites.
- ACT retests at DANTES Test Sites are not funded; military members are responsible for paying the test fee.

ACT National or International Test Centers:

- Up to two ACT exams are funded per lifetime of service for service members.
 - The ACT is funded on an “after-the-fact” reimbursement basis. Official score report and payment receipt are required.
 - Service members are responsible for scheduling the test, adhering to the published National and International Test Dates Calendar, and paying the test fee at time of registration.
- NOTE:* Civilians and military dependents are not eligible for DANTES-funded or reimbursed ACTs and may not test at DANTES Test Sites.

SAT

The SAT is an entrance exam used by most colleges and universities to make admissions decisions. The SAT assesses critical thinking skills needed for success in college and future career success. The test is based on knowledge developed through coursework in the following areas: reading, writing, language and math

DANTES Test Sites:

- One SAT with Essay is funded per lifetime of service for service members.
 - Funding is provided by contract agreement between DANTES and the College Board.
 - The SAT with Essay is available and required at DANTES Test Sites.
 - SAT retests at DANTES Test Sites are not funded; military members are responsible for paying the retest fee.
- NOTE:* Civilians and military dependents are not eligible for DANTES-funded or reimbursed SATs and may not test at DANTES Test Sites.

SAT National or International Test Centers:

- Up to two SAT exams are funded per lifetime of service for service members.
- The SAT with Essay is available and strongly encouraged by DANTES.
- The SAT is funded on an “after-the-fact” reimbursement basis. Official score report and payment receipt are required.
- Service members are responsible for scheduling the test, and adhering to the published National and International Test Dates Calendar, and paying the test fee at the time of registration.

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EXAM	DESCRIPTION	HOW DANTE'S PAYS
GMAT	The GMAT is available computer based throughout the year. For Cherry Point, visit www.pearsonvue.com/military to schedule a test time.	DANTES reimburses the test fee for eligible military personnel, once per lifetime. Electronically complete the reimbursement request form and digitally sign it using your CAC ID at: https://daims.doded.mil/Reimbursements/ReimbursementRegistration.aspx
GRE General Test	The GRE revised General Test is offered on computer throughout the year in most regions of the world. Paper-based administrations are offered in areas where computer-based testing is not available. Obtain information regarding GRE testing policies, fees, registration procedures and the nearest GRE Test Center by visiting www.ets.org/mygre	DANTES reimburses the test fee for eligible military personnel, once per lifetime. Electronically complete the reimbursement request form and digitally sign it using your CAC ID at: https://daims.doded.mil/Reimbursements/ReimbursementRegistration.aspx
GRE Subject Tests	The GRE Subject exams are given at paper-delivered National Test Centers worldwide three times a year, in September, October and April. Paper-delivered GRE Subject exams are no longer available through DANTE'S test sites. Obtain information regarding GRE testing policies, fees, registration procedures and the nearest GRE Test Center by visiting www.ets.org/mygre	DANTES reimburses the test fee for eligible military personnel, once per lifetime. Electronically complete the reimbursement request form and digitally sign it using your CAC ID at: https://daims.doded.mil/Reimbursements/ReimbursementRegistration.aspx
CLEP	CLEP exams test mastery of college-level material acquired in a variety of ways - through general academic instructions, significant independent study or extracurricular work. CLEP exam takers include adults just entering or returning to school, military Service members and traditional college students	<p>CLEP National Test Centers</p> <p><i>On-Campus:</i> test centers are colleges and universities that do not agree to waive the registration fee. Service members are responsible for paying the registration fee which is not funded or reimbursed by DANTE'S.</p> <p><i>Fully-Funded:</i> test centers may be located on-base or on-campus and agree to waive the registration fee for DANTE'S-funded examinees. Administration and examination fees are paid by DANTE'S. Non-refundable advance registration fees at sites not designated as Fully-Funded are not funded or reimbursed by DANTE'S. Service members and eligible civilians self-fund the administration fee. Fees vary by institution.</p> <p>(FULLY FUNDED AT CHERRY POINT)</p>
DSST	A form of prior learning assessment, DSSTs offer students a cost-effective, timesaving way to use their knowledge acquired outside of the classroom (perhaps from reading, on-the-job training, or independent study) to accomplish their educational goals. Over 2,000 colleges and universities recognize the DSST program and award college credit for passing scores	<p>DSST National Test Centers</p> <p><i>On-Campus:</i> test centers are colleges and universities that do not agree to waive the registration fee. Service members are responsible for paying the registration fee which is not funded or reimbursed by DANTE'S.</p> <p><i>Fully-Funded:</i> test centers may be located on-base or on-campus and agree to waive the registration fee for DANTE'S-funded examinees. Administration and examination fees are paid by DANTE'S. Non-refundable advance registration fees at sites not designated as Fully-Funded are not funded or reimbursed by DANTE'S. Service members and eligible civilians self-fund the administration fee which may vary by institution.</p> <p>(FULLY FUNDED AT CHERRY POINT)</p>

EFFECTS OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON COLLEGE ADMISSIONS AND SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Did you know colleges, athletic departments, and scholarship committees are now routinely looking at personal social media sites to assess the character, credibility, talent, creativity and commitment of applicants?

A recent study from Kaplan University found that 31% of college admission officers check personal social media sites to see if an applicant would make a good fit at their educational institution.

The Kaplan study also reported that 12% of college admission applicants were rejected because of what the college saw on the applicant's social media page.

Admission officers interviewed for this study reported using search engines and social networking sites to verify information, research students who were candidates for scholarships or entry into high-demand programs with limited spaces. In all these cases the intent was to protect the school from potential embarrassment. No school wants to announce the winner of a prestigious scholarship only to have discovered compromising pictures on the Internet the next day. Online research appears to be more of a precaution at this point or a source of additional information for critical decision making.

Ways in which you can use Social Media to your advantage in your college search

1. Join LinkedIn.

Joining this professional network

demonstrates that you are serious about your future. Make a point to connect with teachers, employers, your parents' friends and colleagues, and others who know you. You could even direct

admission teams to your LinkedIn profile by including the address in your application.

2. Participate in online groups related to colleges of interest.

Follow the Twitter, Instagram and Facebook pages of your target schools. This is a great way to learn more about prospective colleges. Plus, by commenting and asking great questions you raise your name recognition and improve your digital footprint.

3. Keep it positive.

Post your successes on your social media sites just in case someone from admissions takes a peek. Link to the editorial you've written for your school paper, upload a video of your cello recital or post a photo of your soccer team after a big win. Share articles that underscore your interest in history or your love of modern dance.

Ways in which you can use Social Media to your advantage in your college search

4. Find out if your prospective colleges use ZeeMee.

ZeeMee is a new social media platform geared toward college admissions. College-bound students can set up a free profile and then upload photos and videos, list their study interests, or expound on a favorite extracurricular activity. Colleges that partner with ZeeMee provide a place to include your profile link on their applications.

5. Not happy with your Google results? Change the story.

If you're not thrilled with what shows up about you online, there are ways to fix it. Social media accounts are usually some of the top returns, so cleaning up those profiles goes a long way. School activity is likely to show up as well from writing an article for the school paper to participating in an extracurricular activity or club that's on the high school website. Try starting your own foodie blog or commenting on online news stories from your local paper or even the New York Times to boost your online presence. Just make sure your comments are thought out and positive.

How much time have you spent thinking about your online reputation?

- Once you have an online presence – whether you have a place where you share photos or videos or post comments – you also have an online reputation.
- What we do online is judged by others in the same way as if we were sharing space in a classroom, cafeteria or party. In other words, what we do online means as much to our reputation as what we do offline.
- Social networking allows people to check each other out before they even meet. So, you can see how managing your online reputation is just as important as managing your reputation in person.

You can shape your online reputation by taking time to think before you post.

- Nowadays, it takes only seconds to snap a photo and upload it or post a comment online. Indeed,

expressing oneself to hundreds, or even thousands, has become that easy.

- But it can be nearly impossible to permanently delete a photo or comment once it's posted. While you may be able to delete it in one place, there may be cached versions or copies stored elsewhere beyond your control.
- Digital storage is cheap and computer memory is plentiful. And, unlike people, the internet never forgets.
- So, take care of your online rep by taking the time to think before you click. Think twice about every piece of information before you post it. Make sure you really want it online, because once it's there, it's likely there for good.
- If you take the time to shape your online rep, you won't have to worry if people check you out online and pass judgment when you're not around!

If you have any questions or need assistance please contact the PPDP Education Program located in the Training and Education building room 109 or we can be reached by phone at 252-466-3500.

— *Courtesy of MCAS Cherry Point*



Photo courtesy of marines.mil



Photo courtesy of marines.mil

MARINE CORPS CREDENTIALING PROGRAM

By Dana Bayliss, Education and
Career Specialist, MCAS Cherry Point

The Navy and Army have developed an online credentialing program that allows their Service members to search for credentials and certifications that help them translate their military training and experience into something civilian employers can easily recognize. The Marine Corps recognized the importance of this type of program and has worked diligently to establish the same service. Now, enlisted Marines can log onto Marine Corps COOL (Credentialing Opportunities On-Line) at www.cool.navy.mil/usmc/index.htm, and begin their pursuit of certifications and credentials. Having certifications and credentials will help with improving the Service member's transition back to civilian employment, promotion potential while still in service and the overall professionalism of the force. In addition to the website, the Marine Corps has funds in place for credential exam vouchers available to eligible Marine Corps and Marine Corps Reserve personnel. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity. Contact your local Marine Corps Education Office to learn more about this program and eligibility requirements.

Discovery
DIVING

Go Pro! Love Your Job! Travel!!

*Discovery Diving Co.® is offering beginner to Open Water SCUBA Instructor Career Programs!
We have programs beginning every 6 weeks.*



GO PRO!!

Take it to the next level by becoming a PADI Open Water SCUBA Instructor (OWSI). As a leader in the recreational SCUBA industry, gain the skills needed to educate adventure enthusiasts about the exciting sport of SCUBA diving. Graduates will receive international recognition for that training through the PADI (Professional Association of Dive Instructor) organization.

Interested in having a Professional SCUBA Career?

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- Master Scuba Diver Trainer
- Master Instructor
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- Public Safety Diver
- Technical Diver



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

FIRST STEPS TO CHOOSING AN OCCUPATION

By Dana Bayliss, Education and Career Specialist, MCAS Cherry Point

One of the biggest challenges that military spouses face as they travel from duty station to duty station, is finding a job that they are qualified for. This is especially true if their spouse is stationed at an installation in a rural area, where it is even harder to find employment.

There are plenty of websites and news articles out there that claim they have researched the best jobs, fastest growing jobs, and highest paying jobs. However, with the overwhelming amount of information available, some conflicting, how do you make the decision on which career and degree to pursue?

First, the decision should not be based solely upon employment projections. While these can be helpful in narrowing down a career path, providing beneficial inputs, one should also consider the following factors. Will it add value to your life; is it something you love to do; is it challenging; do you have the skills and abilities to do the job; what is the culture like; what is the salary and promotion potential; is it conducive to the type of lifestyle you want?

If you are unsure about what types of

jobs will fit into your wants and needs, you may take a free career assessment at the Education Office. A career assessment will help determine possible options for careers based on a series of questions that relate to skills and interests.

Once you have narrowed down which jobs fit into the above factors, it is time to consider employment projections. The best resource for this is The Bureau of Labor Statistics. They develop projections of industrial and occupational employment based on a series of six interrelated steps: labor force, aggregate economy, final demand, industry output, employment by industry and employment by occupations. The stringent research and processes involved in these projections allow for a more accurate prediction. Be aware though, this is just that, a prediction. There are many unknown factors that may affect the economy over the projection period (<http://www.bls.gov/emp/nioem/empioan.htm>).

For those who would rather speak with an expert, the Cherry Point Personal and Professional Development Program's Education and Career Specialists are qualified and available to help you with your education and career goals.

To view a current list of The Department of Bureau Statistic's fastest growing occupations, visit <http://www.bls.gov/ooh/fastest-growing.htm>.



Photos courtesy of marines.mil



MYCAA: A GREAT WAY TO HELP FUND THE MILITARY SPOUSE'S EDUCATION

By Lasette Doherty,
Education Services Specialist

Military Spouse Career Advancement Account (MYCAA) is a component of the DOD Spouse Education and Career Opportunities Program that was initiated to help military spouses earn a license, certification or Associate's degree in a portable career field. This program offers a maximum education benefit of \$4000 with an annual cap of \$2000. A waiver may be requested for the yearly cap if initial tuition is more than \$2000.

Eligibility guidelines require that the Service member must be on active duty in pay grades E-1 to E-5, W-1 to W-2, and O-1 to O-2. The military spouse must also start and complete the coursework while the sponsor is Active Duty.

Over 3000 schools are participating in the MYCAA program. If a spouse encounters a school that is not currently participating in the MYCAA program, the spouse and school can take the necessary steps for the accredited school to enroll and participate.

If a spouse is unsure what school they would like to enroll in, they can visit the following sites to assist in their search: <https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>; www.careeronestop.org; www.militaryonesource.mil.

Once a program and school has been

identified, the next step in the process is to create a MyCAA Account at <https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa/>. The spouse will need to have a Training Plan that includes the Portable Career Field and Occupation, School Location and the Course and/or Credential Exam information (degree plan).

Once approved through MYCAA (up to 14 business days for approval), spouses must request MyCAA financial assistance for each class that begins within the next 15-60 days.

Payments are then made directly to the school.

Some additional information for spouses to consider when applying for MYCAA is that they have three years to complete their program and participants are allowed to change their stated Career Goal ONCE. The spouse cannot take courses to complete a Bachelor's Degree or higher and MYCAA does not pay for school fees.

If a military spouse is looking to change or start a career that may make working and moving within the military lifestyle a solid reality, the MYCAA program may be just what they need to help them start and keep their career throughout their military journey.

If you would like more information about this exciting opportunity, please visit your local Education Office in Bldg. 4335, Room 109 or call 252-466-3500.



A HOW-TO GUIDE FOR OBTAINING AN EDUCATION AS A MILITARY SPOUSE

By *Lasette Doherty,*
MCAS Cherry Point

Have you thought about going back to school or starting your post-secondary education? Sometimes, just the thought of starting something new seems overwhelming. You may have questions about who to call first or how you are going to afford to pay for it. You may even question your career choice or have no idea what it is that you really want to do. The good news is that your local education office can help you with all of these concerns and more.

Choosing a career can be intimidating. We often think about choosing a career as a lifelong commitment, and for some, it is. For others, however, choosing a career path is a learning experience that helps us discover our true passions. You may ask, how do we discover what it is that we want to do when we have no idea of where to start? Your Education Office knows just how to help. Through a variety of interest inventories, you may be able to narrow your career choices. One of the first places to start is O*Net Online at onetonline.org. Here, you can take the interest inventory, "My Next Move," and discover careers you may be interested in that fit your personality and goals. You can also peruse this site to learn about the careers the inventory matches you with.

Funding your education is high on the priority list for most spouses, but it's not as challenging as you may think. You have an abundance of opportunities to help, which include grants, scholarships, and loans. Grants are, essentially, free money that you do not have to repay. The grant that most people think about first is the Pell Grant. This is a "needs based" grant that you apply for at fafsa.gov (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The best part of receiving a Pell Grant is that once your tuition is paid in full, if there are funds left over, you are able to use those on other college expenses like books, transportation, or housing. Because this is a "needs based" grant, you may not get offered enough to cover all your costs. Don't let that stop you from accomplishing your career goals. There are other funding opportunities, such as scholarships, in which you may apply. In addition, if your active-duty spouse meets certain requirements, they have the option to transfer a portion or all of their Post-9/11 GI Bill Education benefits to you.

Did you know that there are millions of dollars in scholarship money just waiting for you? While some scholarships are more focused on certain careers than others, there is a large majority that you may qualify for. Your local Education Office has a comprehensive list of scholarships for you to review and apply for. One scholarship for military spouses, in particular, is the Military Spouse Career Advancement Account (MyCAA). This program assists spouses of active-duty Services members with as much as \$4,000. You must be pursuing a license, certification, or associate degree with an approved school and your spouse must be in pay grades E-1 to E-5, W-1-W-2, and O1-O2. Your Service member must also be on Title 10 orders. To get more information about this scholarship specifically, visit <https://aiportal.acc.af.mil/mycaa>. Lastly, when you have exhausted all Pell Grant opportunities and Scholarship applications, you may need to apply for education loans.

There are a number of banks/vendors available to help fund your education; the key to remember, however, is to take only

what you need. You will have to repay any loans that you take. There are two kinds of loans that the Federal Government may offer when you complete your FAFSA; the Stafford subsidized loan and/or a Stafford unsubsidized loan. Of course, there are eligibility requirements for each of these, but the biggest difference between

the two is that with the Stafford Subsidized Loan no interest accrues while you are in school at least half time. With these options, you do not need to let money stop you from pursuing your education. You can come to the Education Office or call to make an appointment to talk about these opportunities.

Once you know what degree you want to pursue and how you are going to fund it, how do you know which school is best? How do you apply? Does the school require entry exams? Should you do a strictly online program or one that is in a classroom setting? Locally, we have four colleges located at the Education Office that may be able to fit your needs. These schools are Craven Community College, Boston College, Park University, and Southern Illinois University. Of course, there are many more schools both in the area

and online that may fit your needs, as well. Your Education Services Specialist can meet with you to discover your unique goals and help you choose the school that best fulfills them.

Through a partnership with Craven Community College and the Education Office, our National Testing Center offers College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and DSST exams. With these, you are able to earn credit without taking a traditional or online class. Instead, if you are comfortable with the material, you are able to take an exam and earn credit for a fraction of the cost of a college course. Study materials are available in the Education Office and the Marine Warrior Library. Another advantage of taking CLEP or DSST exams is that they can help you complete your degree faster. The key thing to remember is to always check with your college before you take an exam to ensure the credit will be awarded towards your degree or program.

What if you have decided to attend a school online through an out-of-state university or technical program? Many colleges and schools require that you take proctored exams when taking classes online. The good news is that your Education Office is authorized to proctor your exams for free.

The Education Office offers walk-in and scheduled appointments to all active duty, veterans, reservists, DoD Civilians, and family members. You can reach us at 252-466-3500 or visit us in the Jerry W. Marvel Training and Education Building 4335, C Street, Room 109.



TUTORING RESOURCES

Starting college or returning to school as an adult can be daunting. The idea of taking statistics or chemistry may make you hesitate, but don't let doubts stand in your way. Opportunities for both military and civilians needing help with homework assignments is available for free to active duty Service members and their eligible family members through Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families. This program is funded by the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) MWR Library Program, the DoD Navy General Library Program, the DoD Voluntary Education Program and Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA).

Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families program provides around-the-clock online tutoring services and you can connect to a tutor from any internet-enabled device, including smart phones and tablets. Tutors are available every day of the year except four annual holidays (Christmas, Thanksgiving, New Year's Day, and the fourth of July).

Who is Eligible to Use Tutor.com/ military at No Cost?

- Active duty service members in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard (including full-time and/or deployed National Guard and Reserve)
- Children (grades K-12) of an active duty Service member (including full-time and/or deployed National Guard and Reserve) in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and DoD deployed Civilians
- Children (grades K-12) of KIA service members
- Spouses and children (grades K-college) of active duty Coast Guard service members
- Coast Guard Reservists (regardless of status), their spouses and their children (grades K-college)

Tutors can assist students in more than 16 subjects - from kindergarten to college-level calculus, statistics and physics - as well as state standardized tests and the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Testing (ACT)

exams. The website will match one student with one tutor, and they are certified to assist students in different subjects and levels of education. Students and tutors will meet in an interactive workspace through a chat session. All of the sessions are anonymous and conducted by screened, certified tutors and career specialists who have all completed a third-party background. Tutors won't give answers to a student or write a paper for them, instead providing guidance and resources. Tutors will also work with parents desiring instruction on effectively tutoring their children.

Of the students who use tutor.com, 90 percent have improved one grade level, and 60 percent have improved two grade levels, according to Maureen Haney, a program manager at Tutor.com for U.S. Military Families.

To set up an account visit <https://military.tutor.com/home> and click on your branch of service.

— Courtesy of MCAS Cherry Point



MARINE WARRIOR LIBRARY OFFERING *FREE* 3-D PRINTING

MCAS Cherry Point's Marine Warrior Library is now offering free 3-D printing services to the Cherry Point community. The library purchased a 3-D Systems CubePro printer as part of a HQMC initiated "Makerspace" program that intends to bring STEM/STEAM learning into Marine Corps Libraries.

The CubePro is a dual extruder printer, capable of printing in the traditional ABS and PLA filaments, as well as newer nylon, flex, and wood infused filaments. In addition to free access to 3-D printing hardware and supplies, the Marine Warrior Library also provides a suite of powerful 3-D printing software. Library customers are able to scan real-life objects and print them using Sense software, sculpt their own creations with virtual clay in Cubify Sculpt, and design precise parts with Cubify Invent and Design.

Since purchasing the printer, library staff have assisted with a large variety of 3-D printing projects, from simple children's toys, to functional equipment in use by local Marines. Library staff offer monthly instructional 3-D printing workshops, as well as personalized one-on-one help for individual projects. For more information on the Marine Warrior Library's 3-D printer, please call (252) 466-3552.

— Courtesy of MCAS Cherry Point



Courtesy photo

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