

Greeting Shipmates!

As you can see from this week's review, it seems everything is focused on your path. From what you wear on your feet, to where you want to go as a leader (Chief), to your future goals of education. What path are you on right now? What path do you wish to be on and what are you doing to help others get on their right path? As we start out this week, ask yourself these questions and better yet, ask your Shipmate. We All are on this journey, together we can navigate a course that leads to mission fulfillment and personal achievement.

Remember, you matter! Make a positive impact on someone's life today!

Latest Updates

Post GI Bill Revised. The Navy released revisions to the policy on Aug. 4 providing Sailors, veterans and their families updated information on their educational benefit options.

When the Post 9/11 GI Bill came about, it was a tremendous undertaking and an opportunity for Congress to reward our service members and veterans for their service to this country. As our policy-makers reviewed the program, they realized there were individual groups who have also served that were omitted and that implementation could be made easier.

The new policy adds benefits explanations and introduces new changes outlined below:

- All public school in-state tuition and fees are covered.
- Annual tuition has been capped at \$17,500 for private and foreign schools.
- Tuition payment tiers now apply to active duty personnel.
- The Post 9/11 GI Bill will now only pay the net cost for tuition and fees – that is, it will only pay what scholarships, grants and loans do not cover.
- Housing stipends will not be paid during semester breaks.
- Monthly living stipend will be paid based on rate of pursuit.
- Entrance exam fees may now be reimbursed.
- Active duty members and spouses can receive book and supply stipend entitlements.
- Non-degree programs, on-the-job training, apprenticeship training, flight programs and correspondence training are now eligible for benefits.

Most of the changes take effect Aug.1 prior to the beginning of the fall term. One of the big things that affect our active duty members is that prior to this new bill, members could receive 100 percent of their tuition and fees paid for as long as they have 90 days of qualifying active duty time. The new bill prorates the payment based on the member's qualifying time. Also, active duty members will, like veterans, receive tiered benefits, from 40 to 100 percent.

Another significant change will be how the GI Bill deals with other scholarships and loans. Previously, the GI Bill issued set amounts based on tuition and fees. The benefit will now pay only net costs after scholarships, grants and loans are applied.

Net bill payer applies to Sailors when they use tuition assistance (TA). This is referred to as Top Up. TA pays first and the GI Bill picks up the difference. Sailors don't normally get scholarships or loans, so the greatest impact on this policy change will be to veterans, drilling reservists, and dependents, including dependents of active duty military.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) made this policy change to keep those who used the benefit from pocketing extra funds and to save money. The change was not meant to push veterans and dependents away from grants and loans. Those who select the more expensive schools may have to get a grant or loan to cover the full costs of the tuition and fees. For example, if the student wants to attend a private school and the tuition is \$25,000 annually, the VA will only pay \$17,500. The student might want to get a loan for \$7,500. The loan would pay first and the VA would cover the rest.

Additionally, for those students whose private school or foreign school tuition exceeds the \$17,500 limit, the Yellow Ribbon GI Education Enhancement Program (Yellow Ribbon Program) is available. The program is a provision of the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008. This program allows institutions of higher learning (degree granting institutions) in the United States to voluntarily enter into an agreement with VA to fund tuition expenses that exceed the established caps. The institution can contribute up to 50% of those expenses and VA will match the same amount as the institution. This service is available to veterans eligible for 100 percent entitlement and may be available to some children transferees entitled to 100 percent benefits. The Yellow Ribbon program may also be used to cover additional costs for attendance at public schools if the student is paying out-of-state tuition and fees. Members should check to see if the school of choice is a Yellow Ribbon school.

Navy Provides Policy for Minimalist Footwear. Navy announced approval for Sailors to wear minimalist footwear with the Navy Physical Training Uniform during command or unit physical training, individual physical training and the semi-annual physical readiness test Aug. 5.

This was the result of requests from the Fleet for guidance on the wear of these types of footwear," said Capt. William Park, head, Officer Personnel Plans and Policy. "After thoroughly reviewing potential benefits and impacts in the Fleet, leadership gave the approval."

Path to Chief Petty Officer Paved with Many Factors. More than 3,500 Sailors were selected to join the chief petty officer ranks when Navy announced on Aug. 1 the results of the fiscal year 2012 active duty Chief Petty Officer selection board.

This is just the beginning for those selected, starting a new journey in their military career. Much more will be expected of these Sailors as they step into a role of greater responsibility.

The board convened on June 20 to review the records of 19,588 selection board-eligible candidates. The board was charged with reviewing pertinent sections from candidates' official military personnel file which includes performance evaluations, awards and any correspondence the candidate submits to the board.

A precept instructs selection-board members to seek the best and fully qualified candidates, and instructs the board on which factors they may consider and which factors they may not consider when evaluating candidates. The most important selection criteria item is sustained superior performance in difficult and challenging leadership positions throughout their career but especially over the last five years. That is the biggest item which determines selection. Other factors the board considered include:



- Educational, personal and professional development
- Competency and skill information
- Anti-terrorism and force protection
- Language, regional and cultural experience
- Naval Special Warfare and Navy Expeditionary Force experience
- Special duty assignments:
- Collateral duties
- Overseas and arduous duty

Additionally, the board was directed to give consideration to candidates who have displayed superior performance while serving in individual augmentee, Global War on Terrorism support assignments or overseas contingency operations assignments.

After the selection board reviews the records of all eligible candidates and selects the best and fully qualified Sailors based on the precept, their results are forwarded to the Chief of Naval Personnel for final approval.

The precept may be reviewed in its entirety in the enlisted selection board section at www.npc.navy.mil.

The active-duty chief petty officer board is the largest selection board conducted in the Navy and typically lasts four weeks.

The First Tee National Guard and Reserve Program. A Nationwide Free Life Skills and Golf Instruction Program for Children of the National Guard and Reserves.

Locate your nearest chapter of The First Tee at www.thefirsttee.org.

Navy Reserve Policy Board Issue Submission. Every Sailor has the opportunity to participate in shaping policies which guide our Reserve Force. The Navy Reserve Policy Board (NRPB) meets in Norfolk to address issues provided from the field. The Policy board reviews issues throughout the year and is your direct line of communication to the Force policy makers. Electronic inputs are the preferred method and can be emailed to NRPB@navy.mil.

For initial inputs, a blank issue submission form and additional guidance is available on the NRWS (private side). Just click on the link below.

Thank you for your input and bringing Deckplate issues to senior Navy Leadership.

<https://private.navyreserve.navy.mil/3447B/n5/Shared%20Documents/n5a.aspx>

The Weekly NR Employment Scorecard:

<https://private.navyreserve.navy.mil/3447B/n3/NR%20Employment%20for%20OCNR/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

August Ready Now! Newsletter:

<http://www.navyreserve.navy.mil/Ready%20Now/Shared%20Documents/Newsletter.aspx>

Administrative Procedures for Navy Reservists [BUPERSINST 1001.39F](#)

Administrative Procedures for the Drilling Reserve and Participating Members of the Individual Ready Reserve [COMNAVRESFORINST 1001.5F](#)

Please use the above links if you have any questions regarding Administrative Policy. Make sure you are up to date regarding any changes to current policy regarding your Sailors!



NAVADMINs

235/11 [CHANGES TO POST 9-11 GI BILL](#)

238/11 [MINIMALIST FOOTWEAR](#)

Around the Force

The Navy authorized the first cutting of aluminum for the sixth littoral combat ship, the future USS Jackson (LCS 6), at Austal's Modular Manufacturing facility in Mobile, Ala., Aug. 1. The "first cut" is a significant ship construction milestone, signifying the ship's progression from design drawings to the beginning of a tangible form.

The littoral combat ship is a key part of our future fleet and demands the very best skill and effort from government and industry teams," said Program Executive Officer for Littoral Combat Ships (PEO LCS) Rear Adm. James Murdoch. "The commencement of production of LCS 6 marks another significant milestone in the program, and demonstrates the efficiency benefits of our 'block buy' arrangements with the ship builders. These fixed-price contracts ensure cost efficiency in the program and best value for the taxpayer.

The LCS is an entirely new breed of U.S. Navy warship. A fast, agile, and networked surface combatant, LCS's modular, focused-mission design will provide combatant commanders the required warfighting capabilities and operational flexibility to ensure maritime dominance and access for the joint force. LCS will operate with focused-mission packages that deploy manned and unmanned vehicles to execute missions as assigned by combatant commanders.

PEO LCS, established July 11 and an affiliated program executive office of Naval Sea Systems Command, provides a single program executive responsible for acquiring and maintaining the littoral mission capabilities of the littoral combat ship class, beginning with procurement, and ending with fleet employment and sustainment. PEO LCS designs, delivers and maintains the systems, equipment and weapons necessary for the littoral combat ship warfighter to dominate the littoral battle space and provide U. S. forces with assured access to coastal areas.

This month in History:

- Office of Naval Research was est. Aug 1, 1946.*
- Medical Service Corps est. Aug 4, 1947.*
- First atomic bomb dropped, Hiroshima, Japan Aug 6, 1945.*
- U.S. Naval Academy est. Aug 15, 1845.*
- Dental Corps est. Aug 22, 1912.*
- Marine Corps Reserve est. Aug 29, 1916.*
- BUMED est. Aug 31, 1842.*

As of 1 August 2011:			
<u>Operational Support Snapshot</u>		<u>RC Medical Readiness</u>	
FY11 Pres Bud End Strength	65,500	Fully Medically Ready:	85.5% (from 85.9%)
RC Sailors (FTS/SELRES) Onboard:	64,785	Partially Medically Ready:	4.0% (from 4.1%)
RC Sailors Performing Operational Support:	20,410	Total:	89.5% (from 90.0%)
RC Sailors Mobilized or Deployed:	4503		
RC CPOs Mobilized	757		
RC Flag Officers on Active Duty:	33		