
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

News Release #56-14
May 19, 2014
Contact: Ed Barker

850.452.4858
(DSN) 922.4858
(FAX) 850.452.4900

NCO Pensacola celebrates as Navy VOLED turns 40

PENSACOLA, Fla, -- Naval Air Station Pensacola (NASP) joined Navy College Offices around the world as they celebrated 40 years of Voluntary Education (VOLED) history May 14.

The Navy's VOLED program officially launched in 1974 and since then, more than 130,000 Sailors have taken advantage of educational opportunities to reach their goal of a professional credential and/or a college degree. Schools offering degrees through Navy VOLED that first year included Pensacola Junior College (now Pensacola State College) and the University of West Florida.

One of those successful students attending the NASP NCO anniversary was the Naval Education and Training Command Chief of Staff, Capt. John Jones. Jones enlisted in the Navy in 1978 and credits education with much of his success.

"If it weren't for Navy College and being able to complete my associate degree while on active duty, I'd never have been selected for the Limited Duty Officer Program," said Jones. "I was able to use Tuition Assistance to help fund both my bachelor's and master's degrees in business management."

Ken Spradlin, educational specialist for the NASP NCO said that although the Pensacola office has seen many changes over the years, their core mission has not varied.

“Our NCO team has always sought to provide service members with outstanding customer support and great educational counseling,” said Spradlin. “Quality educational opportunities enable the development of strong analytical skills, and that has a direct link to Navy mission readiness and accomplishment.”

Since 1974, the Navy has spent more than \$1.5 billion in Tuition Assistance (TA) funding for nearly 5 million course enrollments. TA is the Navy’s most popular VOLED program, with approximately 15 percent of Sailors (around 45,000) participating at any given time.

For more information on the Navy College Program, visit:
<https://www.navycollege.navy.mil/>

-USN-

Story by Ed Barker, Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Voluntary Education statistics through the years (*if you have room for these in a sidebar*)

VOLED has kept statistics for many of the past 40 years, depending on record-keeping capabilities at the time. Some available statistics are:

- Tuition Assistance course enrollments (FYs 1974-2013): 4,951,730
- Tuition Assistance expenditure (FYs 1974-2013): \$1,470,310,730
- Current annual average of Sailors using TA: 15%
- Degrees documented (FYs 1985-2013): More than 132,130
- High school/GEDs recorded (FYs 1985-2013): 11,324
- Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE) expenditure (FYs 04-13): \$108,478,000
- NCPACE enrollments (FYs 95-13): 419,566
- United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) certificate Navy completions (FYs 76-13): 59,751
- USMAP certificate Navy completions in FY-13: 6,334
- FY-12 to FY-13, USMAP recorded a 24% increase in enrollments, 22% increase in completions, and a 23% increase in overall participation
- Most popular USMAP trade (FY 13): Computer operator

- Most popular USMAP trade (All time): Computer operator
- Graduate Education Voucher (GEV) program graduates (FY 00-13): 1,229
- GEV program expenditure (FY 00-13): \$29 million
- Advanced Education Voucher (AEV) Program graduates (FY 00-13): 30
- AEV Program expenditure (FY 00-13): \$1.5 million
- Most popular VOLED Program: Tuition Assistance