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Vouchers enable accelerated officer graduate education

PENSACOLA, Fla. – Naval officers unable to pursue full-time graduate studies now have an additional education option with the FY-15 Graduate Education Voucher (GEV) program, announced Aug. 25.

Detailed in Naval Administrative Message (NAVADMIN) 191/14, the GEV program offers eligible officers the opportunity to receive funded graduate education during off-duty hours. Through GEV, unrestricted line (URL) officers can apply to receive funding for Navy-relevant graduate education meeting the requirements of at least one subspecialty code as specified by the Navy Subspecialty System.

“Many officers find it challenging to maintain their career progression and simultaneously schedule full-time education at Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) or other institutions,” said Dr. Cheral Cook, graduate education coordinator for Naval Education and Training Command (NETC). “The GEV program offers an accelerated path to an off-duty master’s degree with financial support of up to \$20,000 per fiscal year, with a total limit of \$40,000 for the entire course of study.”

All required fees normally charged by the university relating directly to student application and enrollment, including mandatory health fees and health insurance, laboratory fees, vehicle registration and identification cards, and computer fees are reimbursable. Other reimbursable expenses include the cost of textbooks and

course materials, and limited expenditures for transcript and entry fees, and final thesis production.

Lt. Jeffrey Cornielle, a submarine officer and instructor at the Naval Submarine Training Center Pacific at Pearl Harbor, recently completed his master's degree with Pennsylvania State University.

"This degree program has enabled me to approach problem solving from more than the traditional methods that I learned through Naval training," said Cornielle. "It provided me more insight on personnel management and its important role in the overall engineering project management process. I now have the tools to take a step back from a problem and understand how to evaluate all facets of that problem before making an educated decision which could make a strong impact on my mission's success. This is definitely a great tool to have available for my post-Navy career when that time comes."

GEV applicants select a regionally accredited school and choose a specific course of study meeting their community's subspecialty requirements. Education plans are reviewed and approved for the Navy subspecialty code by NPS.

The GEV program is targeted at officers with demonstrated superior performance and upward career mobility who are transferring or have recently reported to shore duty, in order to allow sufficient time for completion of a graduate program. The GEV program is open to URL active-duty officers in pay grades O-3 through O-5, in designators 111X (Surface Warfare), 112X (Submarine Warfare), 113X (Special Warfare/SEAL), 114X (Special Operations), and 13XX (Naval Aviator/Naval Flight Officer).

There are 120 planned quotas available for FY-15 as follows: Surface Warfare - 42; Submarine - 27; Aviation - 49; Special Warfare/Special Operations/Explosive

Ordnance Disposal - 2. Quotas by degree program and warfare areas are listed in the in the NAVADMIN, and additional information can be found on the Navy College Program's GEV Web page at:

https://www.navycollege.navy.mil/gev/gev_home.aspx.

Some restrictions apply and enrollment in the program carries a service obligation of three times the number of months of education completed, with a minimum of 24, and a maximum of 36 months obligation. Officers completing a degree using GEV should expect to serve one tour in a subspecialty billet not later than the second tour following graduation. OPNAVINST 1520.37B contains additional information on specific program requirements. Interested officers should submit written requests to their detailer, per the NAVADMIN and OPNAV instruction. Program-specific GEV questions should be addressed to Marjorie Dilworth at 850-473-6064, DSN: 753 or via e-mail at: marjorie.dilworth@navy.mil.

For those not qualifying for the GEV program, educational assistance may be available through the Tuition Assistance program, G.I. Bill or other graduate education programs, as listed on the Navy College Web site at

<https://www.navycollege.navy.mil/> .

For more information on the Naval Education and Training Command, visit the NETC website at: <https://www.netc.navy.mil>.

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

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