



Message from the CO

COs, XO's, Dept Heads, Leaders at all levels,

At CPPD, we strongly believe in the Navy's [Voluntary Education](#) program, which is a conduit for equipping Sailors with strong analytical skills, the ability to make informed decisions, and avenues to pursue their life-long educational and credentialing goals. Why? Because it's not enough to provide Sailors solely with technical training to perform their jobs. We must also provide them with learning opportunities to assess risk and apply critical thinking skills to make sound personal and professional decisions. The [Chief of Naval Personnel](#) recently said, "Education is truly the Navy's asymmetric advantage in developing leaders who can innovate, adapt and succeed in warfighting and meet strategic challenges in dynamic, unpredictable environments, both today and into the future." Yes, technical skills are important. So are critical thinking skills that provide the ability to problem solve, plan, lead, respond and innovate. I challenge you as leaders to continually provide Sailors with opportunities to expand their education – and their minds.

– CAPT J.P. Newcomer

CMC Corner

Most ratings today have an identified path for obtaining a degree. Whether pursuing an associate, bachelor's or master's degree, Sailors can explore the multitude of options on their "MyEducation" tab on the [Navy College Program](#) website. Education professionals at one of CPPD's 35 [Navy College Offices](#) or the [Virtual Education Center](#) can guide Sailors regarding what school and degree plan is best for them. These education professionals provide unbiased advice such as how lower-level and some upper-level requirements can be completed through [CLEP](#) and [DANTES](#) exams, which save Sailors time -- and money. Also, degrees mean points on advancement exams. With today's operationally dynamic environment, it's challenging to complete degree requirements, but many Sailors do it every year. With hard work and commitment, Sailors can complete a degree – and be more competitive for advancement.

– CMDCM Ken Schmidt

Quick Hits

- [DANTES Strategic Plan](#)
- [Distance Learning Partnership](#)
- [Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges](#)

Go to

- [Navy Knowledge Online](#)
- [Navy College Program](#)
- [Virtual Education Center](#)

Contact Us

- [CPPD Feedback](#)

Call us Toll-Free

- [Virtual Education Center](#)
1-877-838-1659



Personal and Professional Development



The [American Council on Education](#) (ACE) is the major coordinating body for all the nation's higher education institutions, representing more than 1,600 college and university presidents and 200 related associations nationwide. It seeks to provide leadership and a unifying voice on higher education issues and influence public policy through advocacy, research and program initiatives. Efforts by ACE to [help service members](#) with higher education goals reach back to World War I. Since then, ACE has implemented programs and services to reduce obstacles service members and veterans can face when beginning or resuming post-secondary education. [ACE's college credit recommendation](#) connects workplace learning with colleges and universities by helping them gain access to academic credit for formal courses and examinations taken outside traditional degree programs. Credit earned through military training and experience can provide service members and veterans with an important jump-start when pursuing higher education. CPPD currently offers several courses and occupations/Navy Enlisted Classification (NEC) codes that ACE has recommended credit for. Courses include: [Command Master Chief/Chief of the Boat](#); [Command Spouse Leadership](#); Journeyman Instructor Training (JIT); Command Career Counselor and [Bearings](#). Occupations/NECs include: [Master Training Specialist/Mentor](#); Navy Instructor Training, (formerly JIT) NEC 9502; Career Information Program Specialist, NEC 9588; and [Equal Opportunity Advisor](#), NEC 9515. CPPD will be hosting a visit from ACE in February 2013 to evaluate our Navy Instructor Training, Master Training Specialist, Tasked Based Curriculum Development, Bearings, and Professional Development Instructor courses, as well as NECs 9502 and 9518. Sailors can contact a [Navy College Office](#) or the [Virtual Education Center](#) for more on ACE credit recommendation.

Voluntary Education



The [Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript](#) (SMART) is recognized by academic institutions as an official source for evaluating how many non-traditional credits will satisfy specific requirements for a college degree. While the SMART includes [ACE](#) recommended college credits based on military training and experience, this "transcript" also includes results of [College Level Examination Program](#) (CLEP), Defense Activity for Non-traditional Education Support ([DANTES](#)) Subject Standardized Tests (DSST), and Defense Language Proficiency Tests, past degree and certificate information, college courses taken using [tuition assistance](#) (TA) or the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education ([NCPACE](#)), as well as other pertinent information. Credits reflected on the SMART not only speed up the time it takes to complete a degree, but also save the Navy TA dollars. Sailors can access their SMART by going to the "MyEducation" tab on the Navy College Website. Contact your local [Navy College Office](#) or the [Virtual Education Center](#) for more information on maintaining a current SMART.



Key Messages/BLUF

- ◆ Because of the large selection of academic institutions, Sailors may become overwhelmed in making a decision on which school is right for them. Professional counselors at the Virtual Education Center (VEC) and 35 Navy College Offices (NCO) worldwide are honest brokers, helping Sailors find the best school/degree match for them.
- ◆ Sailors receive two promotion points for an associate degree and four promotion points for a bachelor's degree.
- ◆ With a variety of flexible education programs available to meet Sailors' needs, Navy service and completing a college degree are compatible.