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Center for
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Development

December 2011

Leading the Way in Sailor Development – Sailor Transition Assistance

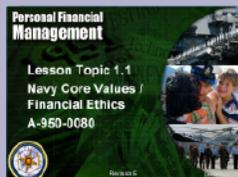
Message from the CO



Between the Enlisted Retention Board (ERB), Perform to Serve (PTS) and other force-shaping mechanisms, we've all been touched this year by a shipmate being asked to transition earlier than they had planned. We owe our brothers and sisters in arms our best effort to ease the tension and turmoil of this transition. In this case, knowledge truly is power, so ensure the right people on your leadership team are promoting all available resources. Below we offer a few reminders, but the embedded links contain a wealth of information to assist. For those that are transitioning and plan to use the post-911 GI Bill, I am somewhat concerned about the ongoing predatory practices of some educational institutions that do not, unfortunately, share our Sailor's best interest. While the administration of the GI Bill falls under the purview of the Department of Veterans Affairs, our Sailors would be wise to utilize a Navy College or Virtual Education Center (VEC) counselor to discuss their education strategy before making a significant education commitment. Although CPPD educational resources are designed for those currently on active duty, I pledge that we will continue to support recently separated Sailors to the best of our ability – just call. Fly and Sail safe, and may you enjoy a blessed holiday season.

– CAPT Chuck Hollingsworth

Personal Development



The Navy's Personal Financial Management (PFM) course is designed to educate, train and provide Sailors the awareness of financial responsibility at the beginning of their careers. Now, more than ever, topics delivered during the two day course enlisted Sailors received after accession training are important for all of our shipmates, not just those affected by the ERB, PTS and Continuation Boards. In addition to your Command Financial Specialist (CFS) and other members of the chain of command, there are [financial resources](#) which offer assistance, like your local Fleet and Family Service Center (FFSC) and the [NKO PFM](#) page that every Sailor should know about and take advantage of for assistance. Commands are encouraged to schedule the mandatory [General Military Training](#) topic "Personal Financial Management Money Management" to assist Sailors who need to create a budget and save for the future.

Professional Development



Command Career Counselors (CCC) are generally thought of as the people to see when one wants to "Stay Navy", and not so much as the person to see when separating. But transition counseling is a large part of a CCC's duties. With the recent release of the ERB results, and the Enlisted Continuation Board results coming soon, the CCC is a critical resource in the transition process. The Command Career Counselor course (A-501-0011) trains CCCs to perform transition counseling and assist with completing the [mandated pre-separation checklist \(DD 2648\)](#). As part of the transition counseling, CCCs refer Sailors to additional resources such as Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshops, the [pre-separation guide](#) and new [Transition Assistance handbook](#), and can even assist with developing an Individual Transition Plan.

Voluntary Education



Service members who are transitioning out of the military are highly encouraged to use the [Voluntary Education Center \(VEC\)](#), and the [Navy College Offices \(NCOs\)](#) for education services to prepare for the next stage of life, especially if they are stationed at remote naval stations far away from their school of choice. NCOs can conduct interest inventories, education plans, outreach briefings, and other counseling to ensure Sailors leaving the military have the right information and tools to properly pursue an education and succeed in their degree goals. The VEC is also available and offers education services, including education counseling, authentication of transcripts, posting of degrees in Sailors' service records, [Sailor and Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript \(SMART\)](#) updates, and answering general inquiries. The VEC can be reached via phone (1-877-838-1659), email (VEC@navy.mil), and most recently through a web-cam enabled video capability. It is open Monday-Friday, 0600 to 2100 Eastern Time. Make sure your personnel use these resources as they make the transition out of the military.

CMC Corner

The release of the ERB results brought renewed emphasis to the topic of career planning. For those specifically affected by the ERB, one benefit you should make sure your Sailors take full advantage of is "time". I recommend they have detailed conversations with your Command Career Counselor and an experienced mentor when making transition plans. Make a trip to Fleet and Family Services to see firsthand what services and training are available. Take advantage of the remaining time with full active duty benefits while preparing for separation, including inquiring about [SMART transcripts](#) at your local Navy College Office and Virtual Education Center to ensure your Sailors have received education counseling and have an education plan. Lastly, read everything you can about the [Post 9/11 GI bill](#). Remember, the skills learned while serving are valuable and, may be what makes the difference when pursuing a job or career. Leaders, make sure your remaining Sailors are getting their Career Development Boards at the right time to ensure their careers are being managed as well.

– CMDMCM Stephan Fontenot

Key Messages/BLUF

- ◆ Resources to assist our Sailors who are transitioning from uniformed service to civilian life need to be readily accessible and encouraged.
- ◆ Navy Career Counselors are not only for Sailors who are "Staying Navy" but can be a valuable transition resource.
- ◆ Make sure Sailors pursuing an education take advantage of the Navy College Office or Voluntary Education Center counseling to develop an education plan best suited to their situation.

Quick Hits

 [Transition Assistance handbook](#)

 [NAVMIN 332/11](#)

Go to

 [Navy Knowledge Online](#)

 [Navy College Office Website](#)

 [Virtual Education Center](#)

 [CPPD Website](#)

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1-877-838-1659



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