Interactive Detailing application phase opens

HMC Daryhl Tolley gives HM2 Ramon Eusebio permission to process a set of permanent change of station orders. Tolley and Eusebio are hospital corpsman detailers at Navy Personnel Command (NPC).

U.S. Navy photo by MC1 LaTunya Howard

By MCC (SW) Maria Yager,
Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – The July 2011 Career Management System Interactive Detailing (CMS/ID) application phase is scheduled to open at 6 p.m. CDT July 18, and remain open until 5 a.m. CDT July 28, allowing Sailors in their orders-negotiation window to review and apply for duty assignments.

The active duty and Full Time Support application phase was scheduled to open July 13, but was delayed due to technical difficulties.

As a result Navy Personnel Command has extended the July application phase by two days, giving Sailors in their orders-negotiation window approximately 10 days to review and apply for advertised jobs and minimizing impact to the fleet.

"We regret having to delay the application phase, but it is important to remember that CMS/ID does not operate on a first come, first served basis," said Capt. Michael White, assistant commander, Navy Personnel Command for Career Management (PERS-4). "Sailors are equally considered for an assignment whether they apply on the first day or last day of the application process."

The application phase allows Sailors time to review advertised jobs and consider their career and personnel options before making an application, either on their own or through their career counselor.

CMS/ID has six phases each month; a requisition load phase, where available billets are uploaded into the system; a requisition scrub phase, where Navy officials validate uploaded billets; an application phase, where Sailors in their orders-negotiation window can review and apply for advertised assignments; a command comments phase, where commands may review, rank and comment on applications to advertised billets at their command; a detailer selection phase, where detailers match applicants to jobs; and a system maintenance phase.

Sailors may log into CMS/ID anytime after the detailer selection phase is completed to see if they have been selected for orders. Some factors a detailer must weigh when matching Sailors to jobs include the Sailors desires, qualifications, career progression and cost to the Navy.

Sailors can learn more about CMS/ID from their command career counselor or at the Navy Personnel Command CMS/ID web page at http://www.public.navy.mil/bupers-npc/enlisted/cmsid/Pages/default2.aspx.

House panel votes to fix GI Bill payment rules

By Rick Maze,
Air Force Times staff writer

A House panel has passed a plan to improve the accuracy of Post-9/11 GI Bill payments to schools, after modifying the bill in response to concerns from veterans groups about unintended consequences — including the possibility that a student could be barred from attending school while payments are being calculated.

The bill, HR 2301, is an attempt to cut down on situations in which a student ends up owing money to the Veterans Affairs Department because of an overpayment.

As passed Thursday by the House Veterans' Affairs Committee's economic opportunity panel, the bill would stop the current practice of paying full tuition and fees at the start of a term. Instead, a school will send an invoice to VA for payment after the date when a student is allowed to add or drop classes, normally two or three weeks into the start of the term.

This is a change from the original bill introduced by Rep. Marlin Stutzman, R-Ind., the subcommittee chairman, who wanted to wait until the end of the term so VA could pay based on the final number of courses taken.

Both schools and veterans complained that paying at the end of the term could create problems. If VA did not pay the charges before a new term starts, rules at many schools could prohibit student veterans from attending classes.

According to Stutzman, he doesn't want that to happen, but he also wants to cut down on errors so that veterans don't end up owing money. The compromise bill, passed by voice vote and scheduled to be taken up by the full committee next week, calls for early payments that give plenty of time for disagreements to be worked out between VA and schools.

As extra protection, the bill also would prohibit any institution receiving GI Bill payments from charging a late fee or denying enrollment to a student if VA hasn't paid tuition. There is one exception: A student may be denied enrollment if the payment is being withheld because the student is indebted to the government.

Because of concerns raised by VA, the new payment system would take effect Aug. 1, 2012, rather than this year. Stutzman said VA reported that it needed more time to prepare.

Performance evaluation, Counseling System update for Navy lieutenants

By MC1 (AW) LaTunya Howard,
Navy Personnel Command Public Affairs

MILLINGTON, Tenn. – An interim change to the Navy Performance Evaluation and Counseling System Instruction BUPERSINST 1610.10C, outlined in Naval Administrative Message (NAVADMIN) 219/11, was released by Navy Personnel Command (NPC), July 19.

"In view of continued force-shaping pressures, NPC proposed stricter limits in the ranking of lieutenants," said Cmdr. Elisabeth Stephens, deputy director, Restricted Line/Staff Detailing and Special Placement Division.

Effective with the Jan. 31, 2012, periodic evaluations, lieutenant force distribution rules will change to the following:

• Early Promote recommendation limit will remain at 20 percent.

• The combined Early Promote and Must Promote recommendations must not exceed 60 percent. The Must Promote recommendation may be increased by one for each Early Promote quota not used.

According to Stephens, the change in policy provides a mechanism for controlling performance inflation and identifies top performer early for the selective detailing and selection board purposes.

The interim change will be followed by an official change in the next revision of BUPERINST 1610.10. An updated release of navfit98a software is projected for January 2012, to incorporate this policy change

For more information read NAVADMIN 219/11, call the NPC Customer Service Center at 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (827-5672) or send an e-mail to cscmailbox@navy.mil.

The editor asks:

Did you know, a fire on *USS Forrestal* (CV 59) killed 134 service members on this day in 1967? The deadly fire on began with the accidental launch of a rocket.

On the morning of July 29, while conducting combat operations off the coast of North Vietnam, the ship was preparing to attack when a rocket from one of its own F-4 Phantom jet fighters was accidentally launched. The rocket streaked across the deck and hit a parked A-4 Skyhawk jet. The Skyhawk, which was waiting to take off, was piloted by John McCain, the current senator from Arizona.

Fuel spilled from the Skyhawk, caught fire, and then spread to nearby planes, detonating a 1,000-pound bomb, which killed many of the initial firefighters and further spread the fire. A chain reaction of explosions blew holes in the flight deck and had half the large ship on fire at one point. Many pilots were trapped in their planes as the fire spread. It took a full day before the fires could be fully contained.

Hundreds of Sailors were seriously injured and 134 lost their lives and 20 planes were destroyed in the devastating fire. It was the worst loss of a life on a U.S. Navy ship since World War II. Temporary repairs were made to the ship in the Philippines before Forrestal headed back to Norfolk, Va. It was repaired and put back into service the following April, but never returned to Vietnam.