College degrees can increase Sailors' advancement percentage

By Ed Barker,
Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs

Sailors with college degrees can increase their chances for advancement, according to data provided by the Navy Advancement Center (NAC).

According to the NAC data on the September 2009 through September 2010 advancement cycles for E4/5/6, Sailors with a college degree advanced at a rate that was higher than their counterparts without a degree. For example, on the September 2010 cycle 208 exams, 22.9 percent of Sailors with a degree advanced, while 16.4 percent of Sailors without a degree advanced.

"The September 2008 exam cycle was the introduction of education points into the calculations for the E4-E6 final multiple score (FMS)," said Lt. Cmdr. Jim LeViness, director of the NAC. "This review of the data shows the difference a degree can make, but only if it's combined with sustained, superior performance and excellent test scores. An important point is that degrees must be verified and recorded properly to earn points."

Details of the education points process can be found in Naval Administrative Message NAVADMIN 301/07. Sailors competing for advancement to paygrades E4-E6 will be awarded two points for an accredited associate degree, and four points for an accredited baccalaureate degree or above. Education points will be awarded for the highest degree held, and will increase the overall FMS points with no reduction in points from other factors.

"According to our data, most of the Sailors with degrees would have advanced even without the education points," said Master Chief Electrician's Mate (SS) Jeromie Cook, Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center command master chief. "Education enables and reinforces the critical thinking skills that make a better Sailor, and a more efficient, more technical future force. Education points help, but a degree alone won't get you there. Sailors need to remember that the biggest point makers will always be their evaluations and exam score."

YN2 Michael Davila takes the Navywide E6 advancement exam at the base enlisted club on board Yokosuka base March 3. Sailors are given three hours to answer 200 questions that test their knowledge of their rating and basic military requirements.
U.S. Navy photo by MC3 Andrew Ryan Smith

To receive the advancement points for education, Sailors must ensure transcripts with degree information are forwarded directly from their academic institution to the Virtual Education Center (VEC) at:

Center for Personal and Professional Development
Attn: Virtual Education Center
1905 Regulus Ave
Suite 234
Virginia Beach, VA 23461-2099
Phone: (877) 838-1659

"We've always known that education has a positive impact on performance and advancement, but this is the first time we had numbers to validate how much," said Jennie Humes, deputy director of Voluntary Education (VOLED) for the Navy. "Command leaders should guide Sailors in the attainment of their career goals by ensuring Sailors are aware of available education opportunities, including academic skills courses in addition to degree programs. Developing study habits from earning a degree can also help Sailors in their studying for exams."

Sailors are also strongly encouraged to verify degrees and are documented in their Sailor Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART) by visiting https://smart.navy.mil.

To allow sufficient time for the VEC to process all documents, transcripts for Sailors competing for advancement must be received by the first of the month in which their advancement exam occurs.

Navy issues temporary hold on movement of personnel to Japan

From Chief of Naval Personnel Public Affairs

The Navy released Naval Administrative Message NAVADMIN 084/11 March 17 announcing that the movement of personnel to tenant commands and activities in Japan should be stopped effective immediately.

Due to the damage following the Japanese earthquake and tsunami, it has been determined by the Secretary of the Navy that the movement of personnel to tenant commands and activities in Japan should be stopped effective immediately.

The temporary hold shall remain in effect until further guidance from Navy Personnel Command.

These prudent measures will assist humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts by reducing the demand for food, water, fuel and electricity.

The stop movement order affects all personnel scheduled to report to tenant commands and activities in Japan as either an ultimate duty station or an intermediate duty station in conjunction with a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) move.

This order does not affect Sailors with Temporary Assigned Duty (TAD) orders however, they should contact their chain of command to determine whether to execute these orders as scheduled.

Personnel with orders to commands in the affected area who have not yet detached from their current command are directed to remain in place at their current command. If this is not possible, they should contact their detailer for further guidance.

Members who have already detached, but have not departed the area of their home port, are directed to report to the nearest beach detachment or Temporary Processing Unit for temporary duty awaiting further transfer.

Members who have detached from their command (sea or shore) and have commenced travel should report to the nearest naval installation and contact their detailer for further direction.

All Sailors or family members affected by this stop movement and needing assistance should use the Navy Family Accountability and Assessment System (NFAAS) to ensure the Navy can track and assess support requirements.

Personnel who have additional questions should contact their detailer for further assistance and guidance or call the Navy Personnel Command Customer Service Center at 1-866-827-5672, DSN 882-5672 or for hearing impaired TDD 1-866-297-1971.

For more information on this stop movement order, visit www.npc.navy.mil. For more information from the chief of naval personnel, visit www.navy.mil/cnp.

15th International Friendship Half Marathon - Half marathon, 5K, 10K and 2K Parent/Child runs will be held at Sagami General Depot, April 17 starting at 9 a.m. This event is free for all SOFA sponsored personnel and their family members. Call 263-7980/5995 to sign up or for more information.

Yokosuka Pink Ribbon Support Group - The Yokosuka Pink Ribbon Support Group for breast cancer survivors, meets at the Fleet and Family Support Center every Tuesday from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Call 243-7878 for more information.

TRICARE University Online Education - TRICARE offers free online courses at www.tricare.mil/tricareu. The courses range from basic TRICARE information to the premium-based health care plan, TRICARE Reserve Select. Visit www.tricare.mil for more information.

Marines assigned to Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, board a KC-130J Super Hercules aircraft March 16, to provide assistance to areas in Japan affected by a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami.

U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Justin Wheeler