



RHUMB LINES

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The Quality of Today's Sailor

"The caliber of our Sailors has never been higher. Today's Sailor is facing the challenges of a global mission and meeting them head on – above all, with honor, courage and commitment."

– Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Scott R. Van Buskirk

Every day, Sailors are [working across the globe](#) in efforts including major combat operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The men and women of the United States Navy continue to develop the skills and knowledge needed to meet the challenges of the Navy's global mission, and exemplify the Navy's core values of honor, courage and commitment.

A Navy of Highly Skilled Professionals

Through their personal and professional development efforts, not only do our Sailors continue to make us a stronger Navy, but they also make us a more professional force.

- The Navy's [Credentialing Opportunities On-Line](#) (COOL) program has helped Sailors obtain more than 53,000 professional certifications since its inception in 2006. Sailors have earned professional recognition in diverse careers ranging from corrections officer and flight paramedic to executive chef.
- Last year, Sailors taking certification exams averaged an impressive 96.6 percent pass rate. Comparatively, the national average pass rate is between 70 and 85%. Thanks to the COOL program, Sailors are achieving pass rates that exceed, by double digits, the pass rates of civilians who took the same exams.
- In FY10, official reports indicated 16,500 enlisted personnel had [college credits](#) in their personnel files and more than 8,375 Sailors completed an associate, bachelor's or advanced degree.

Recruiting the Best and the Brightest

To be a [Global Force for Good](#), we must recruit the best and the brightest to join America's Navy.

- Since FY07, the Navy has exceeded the Department of Defense mandate for 90% of new recruits to have a high school diploma, achieving a rate of 98.7% in FY11.
- Also since FY07, more than 72% of Navy recruits scored higher than 50 on the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery, with 88.2% scoring above 50 in FY11, exceeding the DoD mandate of 60%.

Recognized for Their Excellence

Beyond the variety of missions they perform globally, Sailors are continually recognized for their extraordinary accomplishments, including:

- Cryptologic Technician (Collection) 1st Class Jamar J. Salters, was the winner of a [2010 Spirit of Hope Award](#) in recognition of his allegiance and selfless behavior to the needs of his fellow shipmates.
- Command Master Chief Susan Whitman, recipient of a [Sea Service Leadership Association 2011 Joy Bright Hancock Leadership Award](#).
- Logistics Specialist 1st Class Christopher Cady, winner of the [2011 Military Fatherhood Award](#).

Key Messages

- The men and women of the U.S. Navy continue to demonstrate superior professional aptitude and personal fortitude that makes America's Navy the world's most versatile and capable naval force.
- Today's Sailors are highly-skilled professionals. The jobs that Sailors perform today in support of global operations are incredibly complex and technical.
- Our most important asset is our people. While personnel programs have been implemented to manage our force, we want these exceptional Sailors to transition from shipmates to workmates.

Facts & Figures

- Our Navy is the greatest maritime force in the world, with the most talented and diverse Sailors. The fabric of our Navy is woven by the unwavering determination of the more than 324,300 active duty Sailors and 103,400 reservists.
- Today's Sailors excel in physical fitness. Pass rates for Cycle 1 of the 2011 Physical Fitness Assessment were 97% for active duty Sailors and 95% for reservists.
- During the past three years, nearly 25,000 enlisted Sailors, warrant officers and limited duty officers earned college degrees.