

75 years

Coast Guard Institute celebrates three quarters of a century

The Coast Guard Institute, located at the Federal Aviation Administration's Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center in Oklahoma City, celebrated its 75th anniversary May 6.

During its history, the Institute moved and was reorganized twice. In 1928 several Coast Guard members worked at the Marine Corps Institute in Washington, D.C., to allow the Coast Guard staff to learn the Marine Corps' method of conducting correspondence course education. From that relationship, the Coast Guard Institute modeled its structure after that of the Marine Corps Institute.

Then, on May 6, 1929, all Coast Guard personnel associated with educational work reported for duty at the Coast Guard Institute's first home at Fort Trumbull, New London, Conn., where it remained for 13 years. The Institute moved across the Thomas River in 1942, to the Coast Guard's newly commissioned training station at Avery Point, Conn. When the facility closed in 1967, the Institute moved to its third and current location in Oklahoma City, to take advantage of the Federal Aviation Administration's state-of-the-art computer system, and it has been located there ever since.

The Institute hosted all functions related to advancements until 1988: correspondence course and Service-



The Coast Guard Institute once was home to senior enlisted representatives from every Coast Guard career field.

wide exam writing, course material production and distribution, along with warrant officer selection exams.

In 1988, subject matter specialists and course writers representing each enlisted rating were transferred from the Institute to the training centers that provided instruction in each rating.

Since then, the Institute has produced, distributed and scored end-of-course tests prepared at the various training centers.

The Coast Guard Institute's Nonresident Training Department, which provides course material and end-of-course tests throughout the Coast Guard for members to qualify for advancement testing, has been

working to streamline its EOCT delivery methods. Although some paper-based exams will be retained for underway and remote land units, web-based delivery of EOCTs is the future.

NRT is converting a commercially marketed electronic testing program to be able to fulfill Coast Guard EOCT requirements and hopes to complete software testing by spring 2005, with full implementation of the program by fall 2005.

Originally providing both advancement and "general and professional education services" services to Coast Guard and Merchant Marine members, the Institute's

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From the commanding officer...

By LCDR Todd Campbell
Coast Guard Institute Commanding Officer



My fourth summer in Oklahoma approaches as I pen my final Campus News article as CO. It is hard to believe that three years have passed by so quickly here at the Institute. I want to take you back to summer 2001 and my first article and do another round turn on what I still believe is critical for each Coast Guard member – taking a personal inventory of your career (skill sets, training and personal experience). Despite all of the advances in technology and processes here at CGI, if you our customers don't take this important inventory, all of our services basically go unused and bring no value to you. So let me reiterate the personal process I shared with you that I used to complete my own inventory towards my B.S. Degree and also during my pursuit of my M.S. Degree while assigned here in Oklahoma:

Step 1: Stop procrastinating! Get up now and set a date this week to gather up all your official documents (civilian and military), which certify and document your experience, training and skill set identifiers. You need not get all of all this done in one day, but press ahead with purposeful intensity to get a file started immediately and begin putting your critical documents in it.

Step 2: Get organized! Once you've gathered up all your documentation, you will need to do something with all of it. Make sure documents for your military experience and training mirror what is in Direct Access about you (check with your PERSRU on this). If you are unsure about what exactly is needed, this is where your local Education Service Officer (ESO) gets involved. Schedule a time to meet with your ESO immediately and make sure he or she gets back with you in short order.

Step 3: Get enrolled! After you meet with your ESO and receive your degree plan and unofficial USCG transcript from the Institute, get enrolled in the appropriate course(s) spelled out in your degree plan. Don't wait unless absolutely necessary. Starting off for the first time can be intimidating and is another area where people procrastinate, speaking from experience! Momentum is important in the education process. Don't let it slip away from you by not acting on the information you have been provided concerning YOUR future. Finances should absolutely NOT stop you from pursuing your education and ultimately your dreams either. Financial assistance in the Coast Guard today is the best ever and compares favorably with anything DOD offers its personnel. Take advantage of Coast Guard Tuition

Establish a reasonable goal to finish your educational plan. Write your goal down and put it in front of you on a daily basis and check-off each course you complete in the process
...write down your GOAL – it is your future!

Assistance (TA). It now pays 100 percent of your tuition costs for accredited courses up to \$250 per semester hour, up to the \$4,500 a year cap per person. Also don't forget that if you're an E-3 through E-9, you can apply for a Coast Guard Foundation grant. It will help pay for any education-related cost (including those costs not covered by tuition assistance) up to \$350 per calendar year per person (see your ESO or the CGI web site for more details).

Step 4: Set a goal! Establish a reasonable goal to finish your educational plan. Write your goal down and put it in front of you on a daily basis and check-off each course you complete in the process. These consistent actions will provide you a daily aid to help you chart progress (an important key in keeping momentum). Studies have shown that those things written down are more likely to be completed compared to those which are not. So write down your GOAL – it is your future!

Step 5: Be disciplined and stay the course! Remain enrolled every time classes are offered, if possible. Even Afloat sailors can now continue their education with the recently launched SOCCOAST Afloat program. It is very important to find a "running buddy" who is also in pursuit of their educational goals. You can be accountable to each other and offer encouragement. Everyone can find excuses to quit or get sidetracked in this educational journey, but don't let this happen to you. Remember about keeping momentum and press on! Visualize how proud you and your family will be with the accomplishment and the rewards of receiving a higher education. Graduation is the sweet reward and marks a significant milestone in achieving your educational goals. The real reward though, is knowing you have positioned yourself for increased opportunities no matter where you spend your future.

In closing I would like to announce the departure of YN3 Joshua Foss and wish him well in his pursuit of switching rates to HS. He will attend HS "A" school in

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Petaluma, CA. His contributions to the Non-Resident Training Department and Resource Support Sections have been tremendous and he will be sorely missed. I would like to welcome two new civilian employees to the Voluntary Education Department, Charles Morrison and Steven Jerrim who both are GS-9 Education Specialists. Mr. Morrison is a retired Coast Guard CWO who used to work at the Institute several years ago and comes to us from Oklahoma City Community College, while Mr. Jerrim is a recently retired USN Chief and comes to us from the VQ-3 Squadron at Tinker AFB.

In closing, I would like to thank RADM Robert Papp (former G-WT, now the D9 Commander), CAPT Steven Ratti (G-WTd), CAPT William Belmondo (G-WTT), David Walts (G-WTTd), Jim Lis (G-WTT-2), Mary Norwood (G-WTT-2), Allie Peterman (G-WTT-3), CDR Erin Brogan (G-WTT-1), LCDR Jay Vann (G-WTT-1, soon to be G-WTT-5), LT Gary Woods (G-WTT-3), LT Jonathan Murphy and Effie Meeks from Coast Guard Headquarters for their outstanding support of the Institute. I would also like to thank LT Charles Bitzer, my third executive officer, for his unwavering dedication in keeping this place a smooth running machine and for serving as acting CO this summer while I am

TAD to ATC Mobile going through HH-65 Requalification Training. Finally I would like to thank every member of Institute for their hard work doing what some people would label routine and mundane work. They are truly what makes this place tick and are some of the finest Coast Guard men and women I've ever served with in my 15 years of service.

The Institute change of command is scheduled for 27 August and my orders have me departing for Group-Air Station (soon to be Sector) Corpus Christi, Texas, as the Supply & Training Department Head. I wish LCDR Tierney the very best as she assumes duties as commanding officer of the finest O-4 command in the Coast Guard!

P.S. - Remember this year we will be having our annual ESO Symposium here in Oklahoma City from 16 - 19 August. Registration for this event will be forthcoming very soon - please keep checking our web site for details.

Sincerely,

LCDR Todd J. Campbell

Many Coast Guard courses earn college credit

Sue Riley

College Degree Branch chief

Are you missing out on one of the best-kept secrets in the Coast Guard? Did you know that many of the courses you take in the Coast Guard are recommended for college credit by the American Council on Education?

When the courses are reviewed by ACE, they are recommended for credit equivalent to courses taught at colleges and universities. For example, when you complete boot camp, you earn 4 semester hours of college credit. If you take an "A" school, you earn even more hours.

How can you use these hours? When you submit a worksheet to the College Degree Branch at the Coast Guard Institute, you will receive an unofficial transcript of your hours. Your rate credit, your military courses



(both resident and nonresident), your examination credit, and your traditional college courses will be listed.

The Institute's College Degree Branch's staff will verify the information you submit, ensuring that only the training reviewed by ACE or other accrediting bodies, will be listed on your record.

To determine if courses you've completed have been reviewed for credit, go the Institute's web site, click on the member menu, then select "Earn College Credit" and go to the link to search the ACE database.

The hours are then transferred to a degree template that

reflects the hours you have already completed as well as the number of hours required to complete the degree.

Each degree plan lists the specific college's requirements for that plan, such as English composition or mathematics. The average associate degree plan requires 60 semester hours, and the average bachelor's degree plan requires 120 semester hours.

The degree plans come from myriad colleges that belong to the SOCCOAST network of colleges. SOCCOAST colleges agree to accept transfer credit from other SOCCOAST institutions, to

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limit resident requirements to no more than 25 percent of the total degree plan, and to provide distance education courses.

Choosing a college

So what college do you want to attend? By going to the Institute's web site, you can review the entire list of 47 institutions. When you reach the web page, click on member, then select degree plans, and then CGI degree plans. The entire list of 1,087 degree plans will appear.

The exciting point about the process is that new degree plans are being added every day. Most of the degree plans offered relate to Coast Guard rates. If your rate involves computers for

example, you will note that several of the colleges offer a degree plan on computers.

Special or unusual degree plans such as education will not be found in the system, but for the most part we can find a degree plan to match your request.

Additionally, the Institute developed some degree templates based on Coast Guard rates. You can view the templates on the Institute's web site, by selecting **Member**, then **Degree plans**, and then select **Roadmaps**. The actual college requirements are listed on the Roadmaps.

When reviewing the list of programs available, you may want to note that many of the institutions offer distance learning courses. To find out more about those institu-

tions, select **Links** on the Institute's home page, then select **Education**.

Also keep in mind that four of the institutions do not have a residency requirement. Those four are Excelsior College, Thomas Edison State College, Charter Oak State College and the University of Phoenix associate of arts degree program.

The new automated degree planning program has enabled the Institute to reduce the turn-around time. You will receive a response in two or three weeks (perhaps sooner). More importantly it has greatly expanded your choice of colleges/universities and degree plans. To submit a request for service, please go to the Institute web site and click on "So you want a College Degree".

Each edition of the Campus News features one to two SOCCOAST-affiliated colleges or universities.

This edition also details one method of earning credit toward a college degree – Brown Bag University.

This dedicated network of colleges and universities will help expedite the college degree process by providing guaranteed transferability of courses. These institutions work together to make it possible for personnel to begin a degree with one institution and complete it with courses taken at other institutions as personnel relocate during



their Coast Guard careers. Enrolling in a SOCCOAST college provides a number of benefits:

- A "home college" that evaluates prior learning experiences (i.e., Coast Guard schools, rates and ratings, and national tests)
- A clear degree plan known as a student agreement stating the college's graduation requirements and

- *Guaranteed transfer of courses among SOCCOAST institutions. Personnel will not have to start over with a different college, evaluation and set of degree requirements every time they relocate — all of their credit is transferred back to the home college, which grants the degree when the requirements listed in the student agreement have been completed. Many Coasties have been to five (or more) institutions and still do not have a degree. SOCCOAST is designed to prevent this scenario.*

Florida Community College at Jacksonville

Florida Community College at Jacksonville offers Coast Guard military students and family members fully accredited, traditional education, anywhere, worldwide via online courses and well-supported, interactive, independent CD-ROM courses.

As a charter member of the SOCCOAST Afloat program, FCCJ uses online and CD-ROM courses to maximize the opportunity for students to continue their education globally while working around busy, uncertain military operational schedules.

FCCJ works hard to make your

education goals accessible through advanced technology. The college currently offers seven full online degree programs to include FCCJ's newest in environmental science, and an online business administration degree offered in an 18-month accelerated format.

Florida Community College serves more veterans than any public college in the nation, offering associate in arts degrees, associate in science degrees, and associate in applied science degrees. FCCJ has articulation agreements with 14 four-year institu-

tions to facilitate the transfer of credits earned at FCCJ and provide a seamless transition to a bachelor's degree.

One-on-one advising and counseling services to Coast Guard members and their families will provide a roadmap toward degree completion.

FCCJ also maximizes the American Council on Education credits awarded for military professional training through the Military Education Institute. MEI personnel have a combined military experience of more

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than 850 years to offer students. MEI's SOCCOAST/SOCCOAST Afloat project coordinator is recently retired after 20 years of active duty Coast Guard service and can be reached at (904) 632-5084, toll free at (877) 633-5950, or via email at jschneid@fccj.edu. MEI can provide an unofficial evaluation of your experience before you even become a member of FCCJ. Feel free to navigate MEI's Coast Guard web site at www.fccj.edu/uscg.

About FCCJ

FCCJ is one of the largest and most comprehensive community colleges in the United States. The college serves more than 60,000 students each year in more than 200 career training, university transfer and college preparatory programs through

five campuses and five major education centers. Plus FCCJ has one of the nation's largest distance learning programs.

National rankings

- 1st in professional and program development
- 1st in information technology capabilities and services
- 1st in one-year certificates
- 3rd in associate's degrees in arts and sciences
- 4th in associate's degrees in nursing
- 8th in associate's degrees (all disciplines)
- 13th in African-American students who earn associate's degrees (all disciplines)

Program scope

- 3rd in the nation for Associate in Arts University Transfer Programs

- 35 Technical Certificate Programs
- 49 Associate in Applied Science Degree Programs
- 49 Career Certificate Programs
- 61 Associate in Science Degree Programs
- 2 Advanced Technical Certificate Programs
- 1 Applied Technology Diploma Program

"At FCCJ, we pride ourselves on delivering 100 percent customer satisfaction," said Dr. Bruce Brunson, executive director of military education and corporate college. "Our students requested more flexibility and options for learning. FCCJ answered the call through increased technology, and now our college has been ranked first in the nation for technology services to faculty and students for the second year in a row by the Center for Digital Education."

Credit transfer flexibility, tuition reduction highlight CGI, Charter Oak State College partnership

Make the most of college credits you've already earned, and earn additional credits toward your college degree for specialized training received while on active Coast Guard duty. That's the liberal approach to credit transfer taken by SOCCOAST Level I member, Charter Oak State College.

A participant in the SOCCOAST program since it was launched in 2002, Charter Oak offers bachelor's and associate's degree opportunity to both commissioned and non-commissioned Coast Guard personnel who seek to advance their careers through college-level learning.

As one of America's premier distance learning colleges, Charter Oak responds to the need of members of the military for learning flexibility. The college's degree completion candidates enjoy the convenience and advantages of learning from a distance. The beauty of Charter Oak's distance learning degree program lies in the fact that

there are no academic residency requirements. There is no need for time-consuming travel to on-site classes. The college's distance learning program provides the flexibility that allows you to set your own learning schedule.

Charter Oak president, Merle W. Harris, notes that comments entered in Charter Oak course completion surveys by distance learning students frequently allude to the fact that they experienced greater interaction with other students in their online courses than with fellow students in on-campus courses they had previously taken.

The college offers degree completion opportunity in several major areas, among them Organizational Development, Health Care Administration and Public Safety Administration. Students may opt to custom design their programs to fit both career and personal needs. An experienced staff of academic advisers is available to assist in developing degree programs that contribute to



the successful achievement of students' learning objectives.

Charter Oak's distance learning catalog encompasses more than 70 web-based and video courses that address the areas of anthropology, art, business, communications, economics, English, health care, history, mathematics, nursing, philosophy, political science, psychology, science and the social sciences.

Of interest to members of the U.S. Coast Guard seeking to complete a college degree should be Charter Oak's new Military Partnership Program (MPP). The program offers a comprehensive fee structure has been carefully designed to discount Charter Oak's academic services fee and minimize student out-of-pocket expense. The MPP comprehensive fee incorporates the use of six credits toward the associate degree or 12 credits toward the bachelor's degree completed with Charter Oak distance

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main focus until 1994 was on advancement within the Coast Guard.

In July 1994, the Institute enhanced its service repertoire when it began providing Coast Guard personnel with a broad range of voluntary education programs.

This landmark program for voluntary education was initially begun with a team of three people: LCDR Tim Scoggins, Ms. Sue Riley and Dr. John Lewis. This team provided military transcripts, education assessments, degree plans and scholarship searches to a customer base of fewer than 100 people in 1999. By the end of fiscal 2003, the Institute's voluntary education staff grew to seven, headed by Ms. Joyce Taylor and has a customer base of more than 3,000; its services have been broadened to include a college network – known as Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Coast Guard Program, also known as SOCCOAST and SOCCOAST Afloat, dedicated to the unique educational needs of Coast Guard members – education counseling services, free college admission exams and numerous other services are also provided.

The SOCCOAST program was launched in the Coast Guard in spring 2002. This program, overseen by the Institute, provides Coast Guard members with a dedicated consortium of colleges and universities to assist Coast Guard members as they transfer from one institution to another throughout numerous moves over their Coast Guard careers.

“As long as personnel have a student agreement with their home college, they can take courses at other SOCCOAST network institutions with a guaranteed credit transfer back to their home college,” said Joyce Taylor, director of Coast Guard voluntary education services. Nearly 500 Coast Guard members have signed SOCCOAST student agreements since the program’s inception.

As an adjunct to the SOCCOAST program, the Institute launched the SOCCOAST Afloat program in October 2003. This program operates according to the same policies and procedures as the SOCCOAST program but provides added incentive for shipboard personnel.

Five partner education institutions have agreed to loan laptop computers to cutters with five or more members enrolled in the program. To further support the program, the Coast Guard has leased a laptop computer for each cutter 87 feet and larger.

Six months after the program’s start, 225 students have enrolled in the SOCCOAST Afloat network and have completed 75 courses.

In concert with the service’s voluntary education efforts, Coast Guard tuition assistance administration was centralized at the Institute in the fall of 1997. That first year, the service awarded \$193,000 for tuition assistance to just over 200 applicants.

This figure has steadily risen each year since to a projected tuition assistance expenditure of more than \$14 million in fiscal 2004, which is

expected to be awarded to more than 8,000 applicants.

In October 2002, the Coast Guard achieved TA parity with DOD services by offering 100 percent assistance up to \$250 per semester hour with a \$4,500 cap per year per person.

As a supplement to the tuition assistance program, the Institute also administers the Coast Guard Foundation’s Education Grant Program. This grant provides up to \$350 annually to enlisted members E-3 through E-9 to cover education costs not funded by the tuition assistance program. More than 1,110 received this grant during calendar year 2003 with a budget in excess of \$250,000.

While the Coast Guard Institute has seen some of its missions move to other Coast Guard locations during its history, it continues with new missions and services as it presses ahead entering its 76th year of operation.

“Our vision is to provide excellence in education and training services in a real-time environment without boundaries to our members,” said LCDR Todd J. Campbell, the Institute’s commanding officer.

Despite its small size, the Coast Guard Institute continues to impact all members of the Coast Guard with services vital to the professional and personal growth of our workforce. Living the motto “Semper Paratus” (always ready) the Coast Guard Institute continues to fulfill the mandate of the few who saw the vision for education services as an important part of readiness.

courses. The fee discount structure will allow Coast Guard members and their spouses – regardless of geographic location – to matriculate at Charter Oak at a cost less than that paid by Connecticut residents. The MPP program was launched July 1.

Servicemembers should initiate their degree planning and advisement process by contacting the

Coast Guard Institute's Voluntary Education Division. Details of all Charter Oak programs, including the MPP program, may be obtained from the college’s military transfer coordinator, Bob Frederick. He can be reached via e-mail at bfrederick@charteroak.edu or by calling (860) 832-3868.

Accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Charter Oak State College was

established in 1973 to assist adult learners in achieving their educational goals through flexible degree programs. The ability to provide such flexibility has earned Charter Oak widespread recognition as the college that offers "Degrees Without Boundaries." Learn more about the College and its programs by visiting www.charteroak.edu.

College fees increase

School Name	Degree Program	Tuition Per hour	Application/Initial Evaluation	Enrollment Fee, or Credit Assessment/Matriculation Fee	Graduation or Program Completion Fee	Other Fees
Charter Oak State College	ALL	\$85 for video-based courses \$125 for online courses \$20 registration fee for all courses	\$50	\$375 for AA/AS \$825 for BA/BS	\$155	
	AAS - Option 1 Distance Learning Courses	\$185 tuition \$20 Materials Fee \$45 Technology fee	None	\$75	\$75	6 credit hours required at
Excelsior College	AAS - Option 2 Transfer in all credits	N/A	None	\$475	\$230	\$375 annual services fee assessed if enrolled longer than 2 years.
Excelsior College	AA/AS - Option 1 Distance Learning Courses	Same as AAS	None	\$75	\$75	9 credit hours required at Excelsior. \$10 fee for non-matriculated students
Excelsior College	AA/AS - Option 2 Transfer in all credits	N/A	None	\$595	\$245	\$430 annual services fee assessed if enrolled longer than 1 year.
Excelsior College	BA/BS - Option 1 Distance Learning Courses	Same as AAS	None	\$150	\$150	12 credit hours required at Excelsior - \$10 fee for non-matriculated students
Excelsior College	BA/BS - Option 2 Transfer in all credits	N/A	None	\$815	\$270	\$495 annual services fee assessed if enrolled longer than 1 year.

School Name	Degree Program	Tuition Per hour	Application/ Initial Evaluation	Enrollment Fee, or Credit Assessment/ Matriculation Fee	Graduation or Program Completion Fee	Other Fees
Excelsior College	ALL					Course in-Information Literacy Required. (No technology or Course materials fee.)
Thomas Edison State College	Military Degree Completion Program - all levels	\$180	\$75	None	\$190	6 credit for AA/AAS/AS and 12 hours for BS/BA
Thomas Edison State College	Enrollment options: Transfer in all credits	N/A	\$75	\$1,050	\$190	\$1,050 annual services fee assessed if enrolled longer than 1 year
University of Phoenix	AA	Traditional courses - \$190 per credit On-line courses \$250 per credit	\$110	None	\$55	English cours (EML 299) must be completed through UoP.
University of Phoenix	BA/BS	\$330 per credit	\$100	None	\$55	
University of Phoenix	BSN	\$289	\$100	None	\$55	
University of Phoenix	Masters MSN & MAED	\$307	\$100	None	\$55	
University of Phoenix	Graduate Business/Technology	\$409	\$100	None	\$55	
University of Phoenix	Doctorate - DM, EDD DHA, DBA	\$446	\$100	None	\$55	