



DACOWITS: Articles of Interest

WELLNESS

[Female veterans find a place to heal together](#) (23 July) CBS News, By Mark Strassmann (Article and News Clip)

"They've all sustained some type of physical injury and you may not notice those injuries. Those invisible wounds. Those traumatic brain injuries. They look no different than you or I. But they have been through a lot."

[Military Hospital Recognized for Healthy Starts](#) (24 July) Defense Media (News Clip)

"Fort Belvoir, VA Community Hospital receives the baby-friendly hospital initiative accreditation for hospital-wide process geared towards new moms."

[Handling Of Military Sexual Assault Up For Debate](#) (27 July) Newport News Daily Press, By Hugh Lessig

"In March, the Senate rejected a bid to change how the military prosecutes sexual assault cases, keeping them within the chain of command instead of enlisting independent prosecutors. Sen. Gillibrand, D-N.Y., who sponsored that bill, said too few victims trust their own chain of command, either due to fear of reprisal or skepticism that they'll receive fair treatment."

[A Sailor, A Survivor And A Victim's Advocate](#) (27 July) Newport News Daily Press, By Hugh Lessig < Additional [Video Clip](#) >

"I think having Don't Ask, Don't Tell repealed is going to help because it's going to make it a safe forum for anyone who is not a heterosexual..."

[Time To Look At Military Personnel Costs](#) (29 July) Washington Post, By Walter Pincus

"The strain of relocating every two or three years is also a growing problem for a changing military, which includes more women and married people with dependents. Todd Harrison...has written about the strain on families. He and others have proposed recruiting skilled people at mid-career and starting them at higher ranks. That would reduce the need for others to have to relocate so often."

[Groups Sue VA Over Rules On PTSD Claims For Sexual Trauma](#) (30 July) Navy Times, By Patricia Kime

"Two advocacy groups are suing the Veterans Affairs Department for what they say are the department's discriminatory practices regarding compensation claims related to service-connected sexual assault."

[Bill Aims To Strengthen Forensic Training In Sexual Assault Cases](#) (30 July) Navy Times, By Patricia Kime

"The Defense Department must improve its procedures for investigating sexual assaults by standardizing training requirements for medical experts who examine victims and analyze rape kits..."

[Report: Female Troops Struggle To Get Reproductive Health Care](#) (30 July) Navy Times, By Patricia Kime

"Active-duty women face immense obstacles in accessing sufficient reproductive and sexual health care in the military health system, according to a new report by a Washington, D.C., think tank."

ASSIGNMENTS

[Female Officer Calls Transition of Women to Subs 'Smooth'](#) (9 July) DoD News, By Terri Moon Cronk

"Having female officers serve on submarines increases the pool of capable people who can do the job, and diversity is at the heart of our strength."

[New doors opening for female Soldiers, Marines](#) (24 July) DVIDS, By Guv Callahan

"Under the directive, female Soldiers are now able to hold previously closed jobs in infantry battalion headquarters such as chaplains, health care specialists and signal sergeants."

[Female Submariners to Be Assigned To Pearl](#) (25 July) Honolulu Star Advertiser, By William Cole

“The first women on Virginia-class attack submarines in the Pacific will serve on the USS Texas and USS Mississippi at Pearl Harbor starting in fiscal 2016...”

[Female USNA Grad Named To Blue Angels Squadron](#) (25 July) Baltimore Sun, By Joe Burris and Colin Campbell

“With her first show flight sometime next spring, the 2008 Naval Academy graduate said she could become first woman to perform in Blue Angels history.”

[Flag Officer Assignments](#). The Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus and Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan W. Greenert announced today the following assignments: Rear Adm. Sandy L. Daniels will be assigned as reserve deputy commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Daniels is currently serving as senior advisor for space to the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations, Information Dominance, N2/N6, Chief of Naval Operations, Washington, District of Columbia.

ADDITIONAL ARTICLES OF INTEREST

[MMA Marine to take the stage in beauty pageant finals](#) (14 July) Military Times, By Hope Hodge Seck

“First, she made headlines...by taking Justin Timberlake to the Marine Corps ball. She did it again when she became a professional MMA fighter upon leaving the Corps. Now, [she] has her eyes set on winning a beauty pageant...[while] expecting a baby.”

[World War II Veteran Gets Hero's Welcome](#) (26 July) Army News Service, By Lisa Ferdinando

“The oldest living female World War II veteran, 108-year-old Lucy Coffey, received a hero's welcome...”

- Photo taken at the [Women in Military Service for America \(WIMSA\) Memorial](#)
- ABC News [Video Clip](#)

Articles related to previous discussions concerning today's youth and 'Propensity to Serve':

[Preparing Children for Military Jobs](#) (30 July) DoD News (Video Clip), by Natalie Skidmore

“The Army Vice Chief of Staff discusses the lack of preparedness of American children for future military careers.”

[Military Child Education Coalition National Training Seminar](#) (30 July) DoD News

Gen. Mark A. Welsh, Air Force Chief of Staff; ADM Paul Zukunft, Coast Guard Commandant; Gen. John Paxton, Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps; Vice Adm. William French, commander, Navy Installations Command; and Michael Plymack, chief operating officer, Serco, speak at the Military Child Education Coalition National Training Seminar in Washington, DC. The National Training Seminar is a globally-recognized training event for anyone interested in serving and supporting military children. Panel discussed low ‘propensity to serve’ rates, as well as the small percentage of those who are eligible to serve in the Armed Forces.

[SOCOM Commander Praises Military Support Groups](#) (31 July) DoD News, By Amaani Lyle

“The commander of the U.S. Special Operations Command has credited groups providing support to military families for the success of thousands of young adults who go on to choose a military career, people he characterized as this century’s “Greatest Generation.” “If they signed up because they loved what their parents did...”

Education and how it pertains to a service member's upward career mobility:

The Education Edge, Sailors with higher ed. degrees advance faster, data show (28 July) Navy Times, By Mark D. Faram

Get a degree – or risk falling behind those who do.

Sailors with degrees are making rank faster than their peers each and every cycle, outpacing them because of extra advancement points from their degrees plus the benefits of more education, like better study habits.

In ratings where advancement chances are slim, the few points earned from having a degree is enough to make the difference for hundreds of sailors every cycle, new advancement data reveal. Earning a degree – or just studying for one, Navy officials say – gives sailors an advancement edge. “It really will supercharge your career,” said Ernie D’Antonio, director of voluntary education programs for the Navy’s Center for Personal and Professional Development. “Once you start on this path, you are going to change. Your mind will expand and you’ll see things differently. You will approach things differently.”

In May, when the E-4, E-5 and E-6 advancement results came out, 23.4 percent of those passing their exams got a new stripe and moved up. Yet among those with degrees, the rate was considerably higher – 27.5 percent.

That advancement edge has been the case, to varying degrees, since 2008, when the Navy began to give points to sailors with degrees. But it's not the points that put these sailors over the edge. On every advancement cycle since the changes, 70 percent or more of those with education points made it without needing those extra points.

The benefits are big. Take hospital corpsman, far and away the largest of the rates in the latest cycle. HMs with degrees in ratings E-4 through E-6 advanced at roughly twice the rate of their counterparts.

The boost was even more substantial in some rates, like air traffic controlmen, where those with degrees had advancement rates 21 percentage points higher when competing for E-5. Or degree-holding aviation electrician's mates, who saw a 17 percentage-point boost compared with their peers when up for third class.

But having a degree is by no means a lock. In some cases, those with degrees underperformed against their peers.

One example is aviation boatswain's mate (equipment), where a bit more than 9 percent of those with degrees made E-5, compared with more than 23 percent advancing as a whole. That result was due in part to the small number of eligible sailors with degrees (11), and was the exception to the general rule giving those with degrees an edge.

The boost was highest at E-5, where Navy-wide, 19.8 percent of eligible E-4s put on their second stripe. But among those with education points, the percentage was 30.6 – nearly 11 percentage points higher.

Education Benefits

The benefits of higher education extend far beyond having a diploma hanging on the wall. It will help you get ahead in the enlisted ranks, without question, officials made clear.

“These benefits are as tangible as they are intangible in that a sailor develops critical thinking skills, they develop the ability to analyze,” D’Antonio said. “They develop the ability to communicate by enhancing their communication skills.”

This likely isn't limited to academic degrees, continued D’Antonio, who said that more studies would show that sailors who complete military apprenticeships and civilian certifications have a similarly higher rate of advancement and retention.

“All those things are really tangible things they're learning through the education and certification and credentialing process they then come back and bring into the Navy,” D’Antonio said.

A sailor who gets a degree or a certification will have a higher level of confidence, which translates into professional success, he said. This starts with the commitment to studying and striking a work-life balance.

“That's big – they're learning the ability to balance, to juggle multiple balls in the air at one time,” D’Antonio said. “And all of those are critical skills are not only going to help them in their developing their professional skills – it's going to help them personally in their job and make them a better sailor and leader.”

And it's not just degrees. A 2009 Naval Postgraduate School study showed that those who use tuition assistance advance faster. It also found that sailors who use tuition assistance are more likely to stay in.

The NPS study tracked recruits who entered the Navy between 1994 and 2001 with four-year obligations. These sailors were followed for five years so researchers could survey retention choices.

“We find that first-term sailors who use [tuition assistance] to enroll in college classes have a significantly higher probability of reenlistment and of promotion to both E-4 and to E-5,” lead authors Stephen Mehay and Elda Pema wrote in their report.

At E-4, those using TA upped their advancement chances by 23 percent. At E-5, it was 20 percent, the report concluded. Those rates were higher for those who completed courses.

“TA participation increases the probability of promotion,” the study said.

Confidence Builder

Don't let past difficulties with education slow you down. Experts say many sailors succeed at college or vocational work because they're more mature and driven.

"That's a big addition to the confidence factor there, too," D'Antonio said. "Building that confidence is directly translatable into the workplace. It's literally changing sailors' lives."

Just starting a college degree can help a sailor, he said. The Navy requires a sailor to set a degree plan – laying out their educational goals before the service will shell out a dime of TA.

"You have that whole planning process where the sailor is interacting with many different people – counselors, their command – and putting it all together in an action plan for themselves with the ultimate goal of an associate, bachelor's or master's degree," he said.

Taking college classes helps sailors improve their study habits. And that helps them get ready for the Navy-wide advancement exams.

"All this makes them better leaders," D'Antoinio said. "They can deal with different paradigms and deal with different and difficult situations better because they can analyze them and make better decisions."

The bottom line, he said, is those who participate in the voluntary education and certification programs are looking to improve themselves.

"Those who use tuition assistance are looking for ways to improve themselves personally and professionally, and I think that dynamic comes through in the rest of their lives as well," he said.