



# RHUMB LINES

*Straight Lines to Navigate By*



January 30, 2012

## Transition Assistance Programs and Benefits

*"To ensure each Sailor is optimally prepared for transition, it is imperative that every leader in the chain of command take an active role in the transition process."*

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

The Navy is committed to providing meaningful and effective transition assistance to all Sailors separating from the Navy, whether they separate after four years or 30 years of service. Leaders must provide transitioning Sailors adequate time and opportunity to use Navy transition assistance programs and services. Completing pre-separation counseling early gives separating service members the opportunity to learn about and take advantage of the services and benefits available to assist them and their families' transition into civilian life.

### Transition Assistance Benefits For All Sailors

- Navy [Fleet and Family Support Centers](#) conduct [Transition Assistance Program \(TAP\)](#) workshops and provide assistance with resume writing, financial counseling, relocation counseling, questions about veteran's benefits, and educational benefits and opportunities.
- The [Office of Civilian Human Resources \(OCHR\)](#) provides Sailors and veterans with information on applying for jobs in the federal service and can assist in explaining the hiring process.
- The "[Shipmates to Workmates](#)" initiative assists Sailors seeking employment with Navy commands such as NAVSEA, NAVAIR, SPAWAR, NAVFAC, NAVSUP, CNIC and Military Sealift Command (MSC).
- Affiliation with the Navy Reserve, Selected Reserve (SELRES) and Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) are options for Sailors meeting requirements. Details can be found on the [Career Transition Office \(CTO\) website](#).

### Transition Assistance Benefits Available To Involuntarily Separated Sailors

- Sailors may be entitled to Involuntary Separation Pay. Eligibility information on Involuntary Separation Pay can be found in [MILPERSMAN 1910-050](#).
- [Sailors will receive transitional TRICARE](#) coverage for six months and have the option to purchase up to 18 months of health care coverage through the [Continued Health Care Benefit Program](#).
- Sailors may also be eligible to retain [commissary and exchange benefits](#) for two years after separation.

### Tailored Assistance For Sailors Separated By The Enlisted Retention Board (ERB)

- [Navy Personnel Command's ERB webpage](#) provides information on additional transition benefits available to Sailors separating as a result of ERB. Read the [Transition Assistance Handbook](#) for detailed explanations and links.
- NPC's Fleet Engagement Team is visiting fleet concentration areas to meet with ERB-affected Sailors, families and Navy leadership to discuss transition benefits and answer questions. View the Transition Assistance [schedule of events at the NPC web site](#).
- Sailors assigned overseas or on deployment are provided a minimum of 60 days INCONUS prior to separation to ease their transition into the civilian sector. [NAVADMIN 332/11](#) has full details.
- Navy is providing [one-on-one personalized career coaching](#), as well as resume writing and job search assistance.
- Sailors separating due to the ERB may request a time of service waiver to apply for funding towards taking commercial certification and/or licensure exams found through [Navy Credentialing Opportunities Online \(COOL\)](#).
- Sailors not selected for retention by the ERB who have accumulated 15 years of service prior to Sept. 1, 2012, will be offered opportunities for [early retirement](#).

### Key Messages

- TAP can be relied on as a trusted source during transition from military service to civilian life.
- The NPC Website is the [one-stop shop for ERB transition assistance](#) resources and information.
- TA services provide transitioning Sailors and their families with the skills, tools and self-confidence to ensure successful re-entry into the civilian work force.

### Facts & Figures

- Sailors can use the Pre-Separation Counseling Checklist [DD 2648](#) for Active Duty and [DD 2648-1](#) for Reserve Sailors to guide their transition.
- "Shipmates to Workmates" [career forums](#) will be held in San Diego, Washington, Hawaii and Jacksonville.
- Sailors and families may call the [NPC Customer Service Center](#) at 1-866-U-ASK-NPC for transition assistance information.