



Reserve Info Bulletin

Coast Guard Voluntary Credentialing Program (VCP)

On 15 JAN 2020, the Coast Guard announced promulgation of the Coast Guard Voluntary Credentialing Program (VCP), [COMDTINST 1540.10](#), to establish policy on program eligibility, professional credentials and occupations covered, oversight mechanisms for the payment of expenses and benefits, as well as limitations, roles and responsibilities for implementing the Voluntary Credentialing Program.

CG COOL: Coast Guard Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (CG COOL) <https://www.cool.osd.mil/> is the online tool available for all Coast Guard Service members to find information on credentials, certifications, and licenses related to their military occupations and duties.

This site identifies occupation related credentials, highlights potential knowledge gaps between military training and civilian credentialing requirements, and provides guidance to assist in filling those gaps. The site outlines the process for requesting Credentialing Assistance (CA).

REIMBURSEMENT: The Coast Guard will reimburse eligible personnel for voluntary credentialing expenses including certification fees, licensing exam fees, maintenance fees, renewals, and membership dues (when applicable) for those credentials listed on CG COOL that are directly related to their ratings or service experience.

CA may not be used to pay the expenses of a member to obtain professional credentials that are a prerequisite for appointment in the armed forces or their specific job.

ELIGIBILITY: Eligible members include enlisted personnel (AD and SELRES) in good standing, as identified in the instruction.

FUNDING: CA will be provided on a first come, first served basis. Funding for the program will suspend if/when the fiscal year program funds allocation is reached. Eligible Service members may only apply for one credential per FY (e.g. one new credential, renewal, or maintenance fee).

Questions should be directed to the CG COOL mailbox at: CGCOOL@USCG.MIL.

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R 151358 JAN 20

FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//FC-C//

TO ALCOAST

UNCLAS //N01540//

ACN 008/20

SUBJ: PROMULGATION OF THE COAST GUARD VOLUNTARY CREDENTIALING PROGRAM (VCP) POLICY, COMDTINST 1540.10

A. Coast Guard Voluntary Credentialing Program (VCP), COMDTINST 1540.10

B. Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, PL 113-291, § 551, 128 Stat. 3292, 3376-3377 (2014)

C. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC 011425 JUN 18/ALCOAST 214/18

D. The Coast Guard Strategic Plan 2018-2022

1. This ACN announces promulgation of REF (A) to establish policy on program eligibility, professional credentials and occupations covered, oversight mechanisms for the payment of expenses and benefits, as well as limitations, roles and responsibilities for implementing the Voluntary Credentialing Program mandated by REF (B). Initiated by REF (C), the VCP was one of the Commandant's Early Action Items. Voluntary Credentialing is a critical element supporting improved workforce career development as part of Priority 1 of REF (D).

2. Coast Guard Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (CG COOL)

<https://www.cool.osd.mil/> is the online tool available for all Coast Guard Service members to find information on credentials, certifications, and licenses related to their military occupations and duties. This site identifies occupation related credentials, highlights potential knowledge gaps between military training and civilian credentialing requirements, and provides guidance to assist in filling those gaps. The site outlines the process for requesting Credentialing Assistance (CA).

3. The Coast Guard will reimburse eligible personnel for voluntary credentialing expenses including certification fees, licensing exam fees, maintenance fees, renewals, and membership dues (when applicable) for those credentials listed on CG COOL that are directly related to their ratings or service experience. CA may not be used to pay the expenses of a member to obtain professional credentials that are a prerequisite for appointment in the armed forces or their specific job. Eligible members include enlisted personnel (AD and SELRES) in good standing, as identified in the instruction.

4. CA will be provided on a first come, first served basis. Funding for the program will suspend if/when the fiscal year program funds allocation is reached. Eligible Service members may only apply for one credential per FY (e.g. one new credential, renewal, or maintenance fee).

5. Questions should be directed to the CG COOL mailbox at: CGCOOL@USCG.MIL.

6. Released by RDML B. K. Penoyer, Commander, Force Readiness Command.

7. Internet release is authorized.