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Correspondence Course School: Correspondence Courses in Perspective

Mark Sigismund
U.S. Naval Reserve-Ready

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*Correspondence
Courses
in
Perspective*

Correspondence courses can be particularly meaningful for Reserve Officers. In the memorandum which follows, Lieutenant Commander Mark Sigismund, USNR-R, Administrative Personnel Officer at Naval Reserve Air Weapons Training Unit, NAS Willow Grove, Pa., makes a strong case for correspondence study.

Distributed to all members of the unit, the memorandum produced three immediate enrollments.

Lieutenant Commander Sigismund's memorandum, which was also published in *The Naval Reservist*, provides the reader a novel approach toward the value of correspondence study.

Subj: Correspondence Courses

In past years we were all motivated to take correspondence courses to obtain the necessary average of 12 promotion points a year; now they're no longer required. Before you allow yourself to believe that these courses have no merit, let us take a closer look at the overall situation.

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First, consider the educational value of the course itself. It has always been axiomatic that when a man stops learning, he starts stagnating. The Navy has spent much time, effort, and money in preparing these courses and in keeping them up to date. Undoubtedly there are many educational and technically useful courses still awaiting you, and they cost you nothing, except study time.

What are the component factors that makes a "Board" promote one man, while his equal, to all outward appearances, maintains his old rank? None of us really know, but isn't it possible that the board, in weighing the relative merits of two men, might give preference to the one who has done some extra work? Correspondence courses show up vividly as extra effort expended. "It's easy to attain a Satisfactory Year of Federal Service," we all say, with 24 points for drilling, a gratuity of 15, and 14 for our required ACDUTRA. They add up to a nice safe 53-- or don't they? Under the latest ACDUTRA regulation, 13 and even 12 days, have become the norm, and with the ever-present possibility of illness or other emergency causing us to miss a meeting, one might slip to 49 without even realizing it. Makeup points, and Repeat-Duty orders are usually more difficult to acquire. Read the regulations and note you are permitted to earn 60 points besides ACDUTRA. $60 - 39 = 21$; 21 points minimum you can earn each year and count on as a cushion against the unforeseen.

La\$tl\$ let u\$ look at the fi\$cal \$ide of corre\$pondence cour\$e\$. Occasionally a reservist's altruism wears thin, and thoughts turn towards retirement, with a pension at age 60. Available retirement information tells us how to compute that future pension, and each single point calculates to the monthly value shown here. This doesn't look like very much, but actuaries tell us we can enjoy retirement for at least two decades. This makes each

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point worth \$11.59 to a 20-yr LT; \$19.64 for an over-26 yr CAPT. The consensus of opinion is that it takes two hours to earn one point via correspondence courses. Even if it takes two hours, that's still good remuneration for a little spare time work.

	20 years	22 years	Over 26
CAPT	7.13¢	7.55¢	8.18¢
CDR	6.45¢	6.68¢	
LCDR	5.58¢		
LT	4.83¢		

To sign up for your next course--the line forms at the right!

* * *

Congratulations are extended to Captain William J. Clark, USNR, who graduated recently from the Naval War College Correspondence Course of Naval Command and Staff.