



*Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges  
and SOCCOAST*



# Goals of the Presentation

- Introduce SOC, its membership, and its structure
- Provide information on SOCCOAST
- Set an agenda for the next year





# *SERVICEMEMBERS OPPORTUNITY COLLEGES*



# What is SOC?

- Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges was founded in 1972 and functions in cooperation with 15 higher education associations, the Department of Defense, and the Military Services including the National Guard and the Coast Guard.
- Its mission is to:
  - Serve as a vehicle to help coordinate postsecondary educational opportunities for servicemembers
  - Strengthen liaison and working relationships among military and higher education representatives
  - Advocate for the flexibility needed to improve access and availability of programs for servicemembers

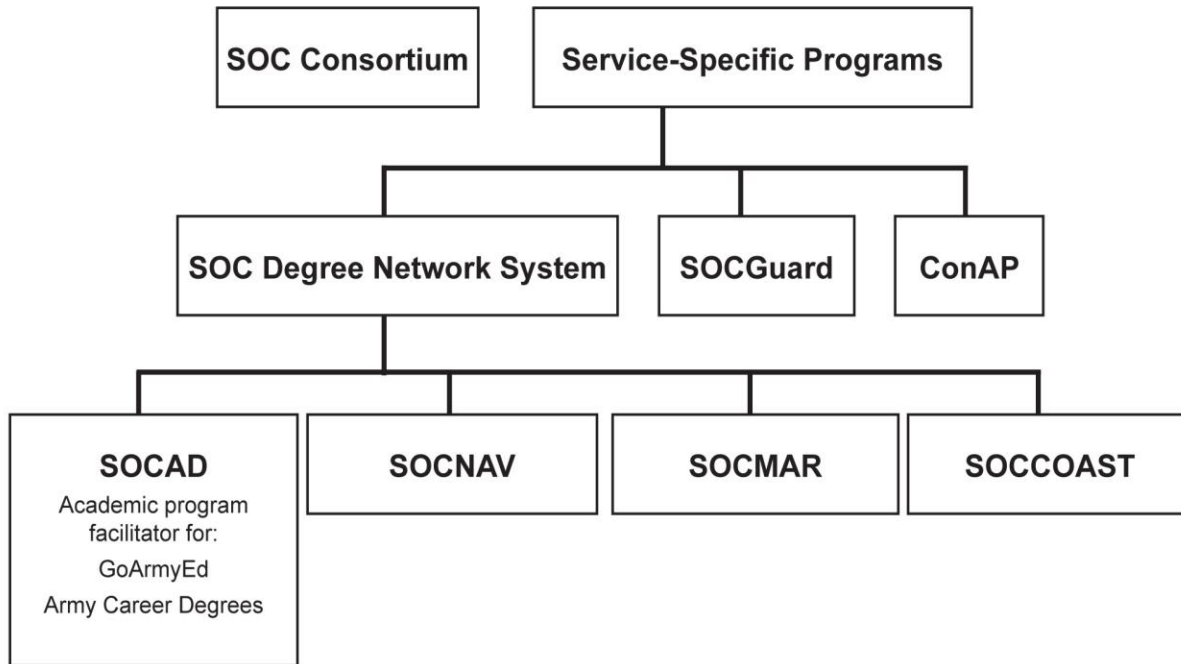
# SOC's Role in Voluntary Education

- The DOD Memorandum of Understanding identifies SOC's principles and criteria as an eligibility requirement; in order to receive Tuition Assistance, schools must agree to adhere to these guidelines
- SOC's cooperating agencies include AASCU, AACC, ACE, CHEA, AACRAO, NASPA, and others. SOC works closely with DANTES, CCME, CAEL and Veterans Affairs
- SOC's "*Military Student Bill of Rights*" is the standard for providing a quality educational experience to servicemembers
- SOC provides services to active duty, spouses and children, Reservists and National Guard, and veterans





# Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges



# SOC Consortium Guidelines

- Adhere and affirm compliance to the SOC Principles and Criteria
- Be appropriately accredited and eligible to receive tuition assistance and veterans benefits
- Provide flexibility and award the maximum number of transfer credits possible
- Offer a reduced academic residency requirements (25% maximum, or 30% for undergraduate degrees offered 100% online, and no final year or semester requirement)
- Recognize and use *ACE Guide* in evaluating military training courses (Service Schools) and award credit where appropriate to degree
- Award credit for at least one Nationally-Recognized Testing Programs such as CLEP, DSST, ECE (Excelsior College Examinations)





# *SOCOAST*



# SOCCOAST by the numbers...

- 214 individual degrees offered as part of SOCCOAST
  - Associate Level: General Studies and Liberal Arts is the largest
  - Bachelor's Level: Homeland Security/Criminal Justice is the largest
- 57 distinct institutions serving SOCCOAST
  - 35 in SOCCOAST-2
  - 41 in SOCCOAST-4
- Since its inception:
  - 6,021 student agreements have been issued
  - 155,687 semester hours in nontraditional credit have been awarded



# SOCCOAST by the numbers...

- Four-Year Schools
  5. Columbia College
  4. Emory Riddle Worldwide
  3. Excelsior College
  2. American Military University
  1. University of Phoenix
  
- Two-Year Schools
  5. Vincennes University
  4. Excelsior College
  3. Columbia College
  2. University of Phoenix
  1. Coastline Community College

From date of inception | Based on Student Agreements  
received through June 20, 2011



# SOCCOAST Commitment

- SOCCOAST will advocate for the rights of the servicemember and provide assistance where and when possible to ensure the best customer service experience.
- SOCCOAST will work with various constituents including the Coast Guard Institute, Coast Guard educational professionals, Colleges and Universities, and others to build a solid foundation for servicemembers to use their educational benefits.
- SOCCOAST will provide the best opportunities for Coast Guard members and their families including access to affordable, reputable degree programs and institutions.
- SOCCOAST will act as a liaison between the Coast Guard and the Institutions, forming a diverse and usable degree network program and course articulations.
- SOCCOAST will disseminate information and perform training on topics relevant and necessary to all constituents.
- SOCCOAST staff will be available, respond in a timely manner, provide excellent customer service, and assist in projects as outlined by its Statement of Work



# SOCCOAST

- Project Director (that'd be me...)
  - Answers questions, troubleshoots, and follows up on complaints
  - Works with the Coast Guard Institute to determine which schools/programs are needed in SOCCOAST, and then works to integrate them
  - Provides training and workshops
  - Acts as a resource to the Educational Advisory Committee
  - Solicits materials and information for SOC publications and data analysis
  - Serves as the lead “academic” representative for SOC programs
  - Other duties as assigned



# SOCOAST

SOC Degree Network System Associate and Bachelor's Degrees for the Coast Guard

SOC

SOC Consortium

SOCAD

SOCNAV

SOCMAR

SOCOAST

SOCGuard

ConAP

Area Last Updated: July 29, 2011

Publications/Forms/Resources

SOC DNS Tools

News

For Students

For Colleges

For Military Counselors/ESOs

Afloat Education

Related Links

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## SOCOAST SOC Degree Network System Associate and Bachelor's Degrees for the Coast Guard

### Highlights include:

- Appropriately accredited institutions selected by the Coast Guard to offer associate and bachelor's degrees to Coast Guard personnel, their spouses, and adult children worldwide
- Military-friendly colleges with flexible policies that allow mobile Coast Guard personnel and their families to complete degrees without suffering a loss of credit
- Degrees offered via traditional and distance-learning delivery in popular academic areas or "networks", and unique degrees tailored to military experience and training
- A listing of SOCCOAST college policies, points-of-contact, degrees, location offerings, and course transfer guarantees in the *SOC Degree Network System-2 and -4 Handbooks*

### Degree Network System and SOC Consortium WORKSHOP INFORMATION

Schedule and Recent Workshop  
Briefing Slides

### Key Features of SOCCOAST

#### Home College

The SOCCOAST college that offers the degree you wish to pursue

[SOCOAST-2 Associate Degree Colleges](#)  
[SOCOAST-4 Bachelor's Degree Colleges](#)

#### Reduced Academic Residency

You only have to complete 25% or less of degree requirements with your home college (30% for completely online programs).

#### Credit for Non-Traditional Learning

SOCOAST colleges award credit for military experience and training based on American Council on Education (ACE) recommendations, and standardized tests such as CLEP and DSST, where it is appropriate to your degree plan.

#### Student Agreement

Your home college agrees to issue a SOCCOAST Student Agreement (evaluation of completed and remaining degree requirements) by the time you complete six semester hours of credit with that college. This serves as a "contract for degree" between you and your home college and remains in effect even if you leave the military.

#### Guaranteed Course Transfer

SOC DNS Core member institutions guarantee transfer of courses in SOC DNS Course Categories, so that courses may be transferred back to the home college without prior approval. Courses mapped to SOC DNS Course Categories appear on the SOC DNS Student Agreement, in Chapter 8 of the *SOC Degree Network System Handbooks*, and in the [Guaranteed-Transfer Courses](#) section of the Web site.

[www.soc.aascu.org/soccoast](http://www.soc.aascu.org/soccoast)



Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges

# Upcoming Initiatives

- Re-evaluating SOCCOAST's size and scope
  - A leaner, meaner SOCCOAST
  - Needs Assessment
- Rating Degree Programs
  - Expand academic programs based on CG need; tie to ratings and degree completion
- Expansion of the AFLOAT/EMBARK Program
  - Explore new ways and partnerships to offer coursework

# Upcoming Initiatives

- Integration of CGI Transcripts into the SMART program
  - Expanding access to SOC transferability courses and data
- Tracking and Identifying Military Students
  - National initiative to better report items (CCME)
  - Integration and use of technology (DOD WW)
- Improved access to information and materials
  - SOCCOAST website and publications

# Contact Information

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