

*Corporate America looks to Combat Veterans to Lead*



Corporate America could use a few good men and women, it seems. Chief executive officers with a military background take their combat experience to a different battleground, and the business world applauds.

There is great emphasis placed on the transition from military to civilian life.

The regiment and structure found in a military lifestyle meets the "real world." That leadership and discipline may transfer to the boardroom.

Lt. Col. Steve Boylan, United States Army, sees a direct correlation to the courses he teaches at University of Phoenix Online and the military world. Lt. Col. Boylan is the Director of the Combined Press Information Center in Baghdad. He also teaches three online courses in business.

"I think there are things the military can bring to the civilian side of the business world," he said.

The lieutenant colonel compares the content of online business courses to military training and leadership practices. He finds many similarities between the military and business world. From the very beginning of class, he compares his rank and career with that of someone working in a large company. He tells students, through his posted biography, that his Army division is equivalent to a civilian company of 45,000 employees, and he is the equivalent of a vice president of public relations or communications.

Lt. Col. Boylan tries to convince young soldiers that their military experience will benefit them in the civilian world, and encourages them to get their degree. The key, according to Boylan, is learning how to translate their experience, how to "change the terms." He said ramifications with leadership and management illustrate such. For example, he explained, what might lead to a federal conviction in the military translates into getting fired in the corporate world.

Many companies even look for top executives with a military background.

SEE **Veterans, Pg. 3**

**Baghdad Chief of Public Affairs leads Business Students**



**Lt. Col. Steve Boylan answers reporters' questions at a September 2004 press conference. In addition to teaching online courses, Lt. Col. Boylan heads up the press center for military forces in Iraq.** Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Steve Boylan

*Army Lieutenant Colonel balances demanding duties with homework assignments*

Baghdad, Iraq – There is no such thing as a slow day for Lt. Col. Steve Boylan. The director of the Combined Press Information Center in Baghdad spends his day briefing reporters, managing a team of Iraqi translators, and coordinating internal military communications.

"There hasn't been a typical day yet I can figure out. Every day has new challenges," he said.

Lt. Col. Boylan works around the clock, tending to media emergencies and new developments in Iraq. On a slow day he puts in a mere 15 hours. Yet, somehow he

manages to work in time to teach courses for University of Phoenix Online. The Chief of Public Affairs typically teaches two online classes at a time.

"It's a welcome diversion away from work, so I can wrap my mind around something else for a while," he said.

Lt. Col. Boylan gets a wide variety of students in class, ranging from stay-at-home moms to corporate executives.

Jamie Gentry, a Bachelor of Science in Business/Management student, is an administrative assistant for Warner Brothers. She hopes a bachelor's degree will help with career advancement. Lt. Col. Boylan facilitated Gentry's Organizational Behavior course.

SEE **Boylan, Pg. 2**

College Degrees Earn **STRIPES**

*Service members won't get far without college degrees*

A high school diploma may get a sailor onboard with the U.S. Navy. But before long, enlisted men and women will need more than a 12th grade education to advance in the Navy. This comes after an announcement from Navy leaders.

The Navy's Chief Learning Officer is raising the bar on education. Vice Adm. Alfred G. Harms Jr., Commander, Naval Education and Training Command, is calling on sailors to get their degrees.

As part of the Navy's new Professional Military Education Continuum, a sailor will need a degree to earn certain promotions. According to the Naval Education and Training Command, the PME Continuum integrates post-secondary education, military training, and leadership skills.

In announcing the new plan, Vice Adm. Harms said, "As sailors become more senior, education will provide more strategic perspectives, and develop more effective management and business practices. Leadership development will be more position-focused to align with roles across a career. Ultimately, from the earliest days of their careers, our sailors and their leaders will know what professional military education is expected and required."

Plan to hold an associate's degree to make senior chief. Eventually, a bachelor's degree will be required to for command master chief and other senior enlisted jobs.

Vice Adm. Harms commends distance learning education. He said, "The sailors like the flexibility this approach provides, and they want it."

University of Phoenix Online military students tend to agree.

SEE **Stripes, Pg. 4**



U.S. Navy photo by Shannon Bosserman



**Education Doesn't Stop in Combat Zones** STORY ON Pg. 3



Want to learn more about University of Phoenix programs? For more information, visit [www.uopx.com/overseaspatriot](http://www.uopx.com/overseaspatriot).

## UNIVERSITY OF PHOENIX BRINGS GRADUATION CEREMONIES

## OVERSEAS

*University of Phoenix graduates walk in overseas ceremonies for the first time*

Graduation marks the end of a long journey. Until this year, University of Phoenix graduates had to travel to the United States to celebrate their achievement. This year, military students stationed at installations throughout Europe and Asia have the opportunity to walk in graduation ceremonies on or near the bases where they are stationed.

The Asia Pacific University of Phoenix campus held four ceremonies. Graduates crossed the stage to receive diplomas at Yongsan Army Garrison, Kadena Air Force Base, Yokota Enlisted Club, and Andersen Air Force Base. A total of 62 military students walked in the Asia Pacific graduation ceremonies. Military students and their spouses in the Asia Pacific region have the opportunity to earn a Master of Education or Master of Management degree by taking on site courses.

Master of Education and Master of Business Administration



**Seventeen University of Phoenix students walked in a graduation ceremony at Yokota Air Force Base on May 14, 2005. The graduating class is among the first to walk in University of Phoenix graduation ceremonies in the Asia Pacific region.**

graduates stationed in Europe will walk in a commencement ceremony on June 26, 2005. It will take place at Patrick Henry Village - Village Pavilions. Fifty five graduates will cross

Sullivan Barracks, Wiesbaden Army Airfield, Hanau-Pioneer Kaserne, Ramstein Air Base, and Spangdahlem Air Base.

the stage and receive diplomas, to pomp and circumstance played by a traditional German band. About 200 guests are expected to attend.

Dr. Bill Pepicello, University of Phoenix Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, will speak at the ceremony. Dr. Pepicello is the founding dean of the School of Advanced Studies, which houses the University's doctoral programs. He has also served as Dean of the College of General and Professional Studies and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Europe graduates completed their degrees through on-site courses, held at Naval Air Station, Sigonella, Naval Support Activity, Naples, Aviano Air Base, Mildenhall Air Base, Lakenheath Air Base, Shape NATO Base, Heidelberg-Patton Barracks, Mannheim-

## Boylan from Pg. 1

Gentry was impressed with her instructor's background after reading the biography he posted the first day of class. "I was like wow. He's not only had a full life, he's overseas," she said.

Gentry said she bragged to her friends about her instructor's experience. She said Lt. Col. Boylan's job in Iraq did not prevent him from providing feedback to the class in a timely fashion.

"It says that he's a hard worker, and that he's willing to learn and teach. He's very dedicated," she said.

Sabrina Nunez, a student in Boylan's Introduction to Research and Information Utilization course, was also impressed with her instructor's experience.

"I was blown away," Nunez said, "With that background I'm sure I'll learn about research techniques other people wouldn't know of."

In addition to civilians, Lt. Col. Boylan comes across military students in his classes. The first thing he tries to do is break them of military habits. Getting them to call him by his first name, rather than "sir," is the first step.

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tent of online business courses to military training and leadership practices. He finds many similarities between the military and business world. From the very beginning of class, he compares his rank and career with that of someone working in a large company. He tells students, through his posted biography, that his Army division is equivalent to a civilian company of 45,000 employees, and he is the equivalent of a vice president of public relations or communications.

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His work at the Combined Press Information Center comes after more than 20 years with the Army. Lt. Col. Boylan piloted AH-64 Apache helicopters before moving into public affairs. He has spent time in the Army teaching senior leaders how to interact with the media. He received



**Lt. Col. Steve Boylan visits the Saddam Bunker Convention Center. Lt. Col. Boylan is the Director of the Combined Press Information Center in Iraq. He teaches two University of Phoenix Online courses.**

*Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Steve Boylan.*

a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from Mercer University and a Master in Management from Webster University.

Lt. Col. Boylan is in good company at University of Phoenix Online. University faculty include more than 9,000 highly qualified instructors from across the country. Because University of Phoenix Online is not restricted by geography, the university can draw from the most qualified in any given

field or subject from all over the world.

All instructors hold a master's or doctoral degree. In addition, they currently hold high-level positions within the fields they teach. To facilitate a productive and stimulating online learning environment, faculty must also complete an extensive testing, training, and mentoring program. All faculty must meet rigorous standards for both content knowledge and facilitation skills to pass the selection process.

Lt. Col. Boylan has led more than 130 classes, mentorships, and peer reviews, most of which were with University of Phoenix.

"It's the interaction. It keeps me current with what's going on. To do this, you have to enjoy it. It's not for everybody," he said.

When asked about retirement, Lt. Col. Boylan admits it is tough to determine when he will separate from the military. His job in Iraq remains urgent. By law, he said the government must keep Americans informed on what their military is doing.

"We have an obligation to tell the American public what their sons and daughters, wives and husbands are doing, especially when in harm's way," he said.

Lt. Col. Boylan's wife and three children live in Wausau, Wisconsin.

# Education Doesn't **STOP** in Combat Zones

*A former Army ranger battles homework while deployed with 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment*

By Spc. Sarah Wilkins  
1st Corps Public Affairs  
Northwest Guardian, Fort Lewis

**S**itting before an overheating laptop with bombs going off in the background and a fine layer of Afghanistan's dust settling throughout a green Army tent, 43-year-old Buck Whitfield studiously works on finishing his homework.

He only needs a few more credits to earn his bachelor's in computer science, and regularly deploying with 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment to combat zones doesn't keep the former Ranger private and Special Forces sergeant major from completing his objective.

"It's like the rest of the world shuts down — it's like he's in a zone," said Pfc. Joseph Easton, a Ranger who deployed with Buck in July and returned with him last month. "He's totally concentrated on getting his work done."

In a remote mountain village, Buck connects to the University of Phoenix's online degree program and chats with fellow students half a world away.

He doesn't have the same characteristics as a regular college student, and he doesn't have to worry about future employment, since he already has a job in the computer field. It's just a job that requires extra skills.

Worn desert combat boots and a dusty bulletproof vest rest on the floor by his desk, surrounded by pictures of former exploits and comrades — including a graduation class photo of his Ranger buddies.

Near the top of his vest, frayed duct tape with black marker notating his blood type stands out as a reminder of the job's dangers.

But for a man who "wanted to be something special" and "needed something more," continuing more than 20 years of service to the Army — only now in a civilian capacity and facing many of the same dangers — seemed a natural progression.

The workaholic father of three children who possesses a dry, sarcastic sense of humor, said he needs new challenges in his life. So, he decided to use his communications background to keep working in the special operations community after retiring as a computer specialist — all the while improving his education and spending more time with his wife and kids.

Buck got out of the special operations lifestyle when he realized how much of his children's lives he missed because of constant deployments. The turning point occurred when his oldest son graduated from Marine Corps boot camp and walked across the field to shake his hand. "The conversion was made — he's a man now," said Buck. "When I shook his hand at graduation, it was the last time as a boy...I missed a lot of opportunities." So he turned in his retirement papers and



**Buck Whitfield does not let his deployments with 2nd Bn., 75th Ranger Regt, get in the way of his studies. Whitfield continues his studies online, while deployed to Afghanistan, and other combat zones.**

*Photo courtesy of Buck Whitfield*

took a civilian job helping the Rangers with computer setup and troubleshooting.

That was before Sept. 11, however, and the Rangers suddenly started deploying frequently in response to the Global War on Terrorism — and they needed Buck and his co-workers to go overseas with them for computer support. Called up once more to serve his country away from his family, Buck wouldn't let his goal of attaining a bachelor's disappear. Luckily, everything Buck needs to work on his degree, he can carry with him. All he needs are a laptop and an Internet connection. The coursework, syllabi and book material are available on the class's Web site — and Buck has plenty of real-world scenarios to make his classes relevant.

"He's one of the best that we have over there, and I'm very proud to have had him in my class," said Jeromy McMahon, one of Buck's professors.

"(His presence in Afghanistan) really puts things in perspective," said McMahon. "I have a lot of admiration and respect for him."

Rangers whom he works with and encourages to excel also praise his traits and experiences. Buck regularly talks to Soldiers about increasing their education and gaining knowledge through online college programs.

"He's setting an example...he says if he can do it, any other Soldier can do it, as well," said 21-year-old Easton. "He's not just a civilian — he's actually been where all of us have been."

He still continues his military regimen by working out, keeping up with Rangers on occasional runs and sharpening his weapons' skills at ranges. That dedication and adherence to physical standards are assets in the war zones he frequently inhabits.

He'll likely keep deploying to war zones as America continues its fight against terrorism — and he'll continue to complete his goal of earning a slip of paper symbolizing a gaining knowledge and perseverance. "He proves himself not by telling them what he's done, but by his deeds," said Jerry Cooper, chief of the 2nd Bn., 75th Ranger Regt. special operations communication facility. "He sets goals for himself that are high and then achieves them."

## Educational Benefits *Forgotten*

Montgomery GI Bill Boosted to more than \$1,000 a month

Many men and women join the military for the educational benefits, but surprisingly few service members actually take advantage of them. According to Military.com, 90 percent of all service members enter the service for the educational benefits, yet less than 50 percent use these benefits. Currently, the Montgomery GI Bill offers as much as \$36,000 towards tuition in return for a three-year military commitment. Service members pay in \$100 a month for

one year. As of October 1, 2004, that investment comes back as more than \$1,000 a month for three years. That's thirty times the original investment.

Typically, service members have ten years to use GI benefits. The monthly benefit, according to the Veteran's Association, is based on the type of training and length of service. At times, the Department of Defense adds extra money to a MGIB funds, called "kickers."

The Veteran's Association reports reservists may qualify for MGIB benefits, as well. This applies to Guard and Reserve members activated under Title 10 U.S. Code, who served on active duty continu-

ously for 24 months. In order to receive Chapter 30 benefits, service members must meet the following requirements:

- Have no active duty prior to 7/1/85
- Have been called to active duty under Title 10 U.S. Code after 7/1/85
- Have served a minimum of 24 months of continuous active duty
- Complete DD Form 2366 Election to Participate in the MGIB Active Duty Program
- Pay \$1200 to DSAF to enroll in the program
- Have Honorable service for the active duty period

For more information on the Montgomery GI Bill, go to <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.

## Veterans from Pg. 1

USA Today reports that "war-seasoned" businessmen are in high demand. In a published report, USA Today claims "Combat veterans don't rattle easily. They have seen the pressure, and they've seen it young. There is no substitute for war to force twentysomethings into life-or-death decisions that influence their leadership style decades later."

A business crisis may not compare to a life-and-death decision in the time of war. Yet, business executives claim having war veterans on board gives them a competitive advantage.

## Life *After* Graduation

Here's a look at what some of our top University of Phoenix military graduates are up to.



Photo courtesy of Carlos Mercado

**Carlos L. Mercado, Jr.**, 2004 MBA graduate, was promoted to Lieutenant Commander in the U.S. Coast Guard and has become the first Commanding Officer of the Maritime Safety and Security Team in Florida. Prior to his present assignment, he served as the plank owner Executive Officer for MSST 91103, San Pedro, California. He managed operations, administration, human resources, and Maritime Homeland Security Deployments for MSST 91103 throughout the Pacific Area of responsibility. Lieutenant Commander Mercado enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard in 1983. He served 11 years as an Enlisted member, in which he was stationed onboard two cutters, two air stations, and one Base/Group. In January 1994, he accepted orders to attend Coast Guard Officer Candidate School in Yorktown, Virginia. In July 1994, he earned his commission as an Ensign. LCDR Mercado's personal military awards include two Coast Guard Commendation Medals with operational distinguishing device, two Coast Guard Achievement Medals with the operational distinguishing device, and three Commandant Letter of Commendations with the operational distinguishing device.

**Michael Bryne**, 2001 BSB/M graduate, accepted a position as Head of the Navy T&E and Fleet Training Section for the Naval Air Systems Command's Land Range at China Lake, California.

**Francine M. Chavez**, 2002 BSB/M graduate, accepted a position through the Keystone Internship Program with the Department of Defense as a Contract Administrator working for the Defense Contract Management Agency in San Diego, California.

**Anthony Falvo**, 2003 BSB/MKT graduate, received the Reserve Military Member of the Year award from the U.S. Joint Forces Command. Falvo is currently pursuing an MBA with University of Phoenix Online.

**Chantel L.R. Jolly**, 2003 BSB/M graduate, was selected as the Louisiana National Guard 2004 Non-commissioned Officer of the Year and was nominated as one of the 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

**Brad D. Pryor**, 2003 BSB/M graduate, received his commission as a naval officer after completing Officer Candidate School at Naval Aviation Schools Command, Pensacola, Florida.

**Arlene Arzola-Kloch**, 2003 MAOM graduate, was promoted to Intelligence Analyst for the Federal Bureau of Investigation's San Diego Field Office. Arzola-Kloch's husband is a United States Marine.

**Arthur Boudreau**, 2004 MBA/TM graduate, was promoted to Program Manager for the Joint MILSAT-COM Network Integrated Control System, located in San Diego, California, for U.S. Navy communications shore stations around the world.

**Rhonda Fleming-Makell**, 2003 MBA/TM graduate, has become the first African-American woman to retire as a commissioned officer in the Coast Guard's 214-year history.

**Kea Parker**, 2004 AAGS graduate, has accepted a position with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Atlanta, Georgia, and is working on a degree in accounting.

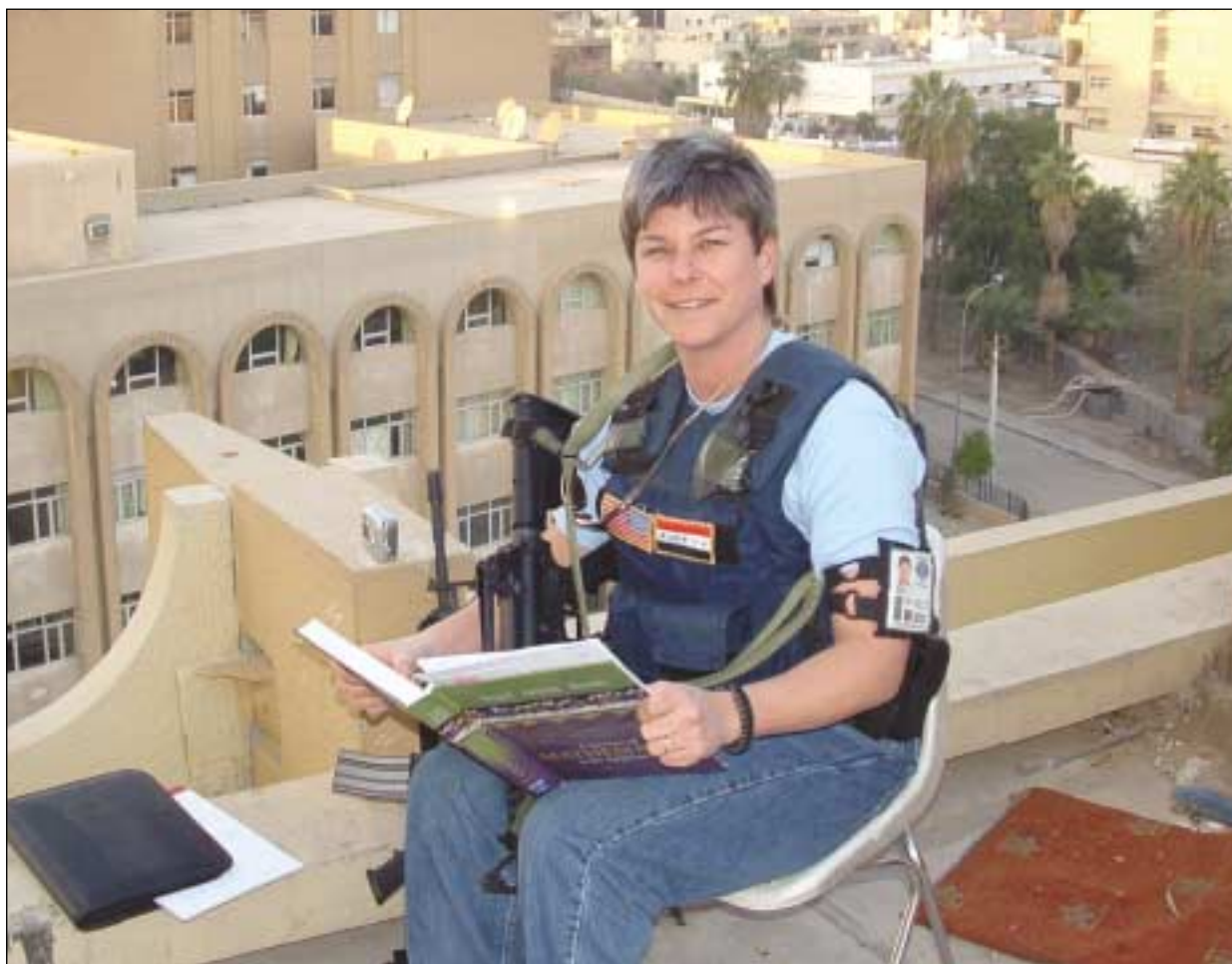
**Sean Spitler**, 2004 AAGS graduate, has been hired by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security – Transportation Security Administration and is currently pursuing a BSCJA degree.

**Michael Castaneda**, 2004 BSCJA University of Phoenix graduate, has been promoted to Chief of Security at Fort Bliss, Texas.

**Scott Milliet**, 2003 BSB/M graduate, has been accepted to Officer Candidates School in Pensacola, Florida, and will be commissioned as a Supply Corps Officer.

**Timothy G. Uding**, 2004 BSB/A graduate, was promoted to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force. Uding is a Standardization and Evaluations Superintendent assigned to the 337th Security Forces Squadron, Kirtland Air Force Base, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**Christopher A. Smith**, 2003 MAOM graduate, recently attended the Joint Civilian Orientation Conference sponsored by the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Smith was one of only 50 civilians from throughout the United States selected to participate in this program.



Donna Sheain, a Department of Defense civilian employee and University of Phoenix Online student, completes an assignment from the rooftop of a building in Baghdad. Sheain is enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration program. She is currently working in central Baghdad in the Red Zone.

## October 2004 Alumni Network Foundation Scholarship Awarded

32 University of Phoenix students win scholarship money

The top winner of the October 2004 Alumni Network Foundation Scholarship received a \$2,500 Scholarship. The remaining winners received awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for a grand total of \$38,000.

University of Phoenix students are continuously looking for scholarship dollars and there are scholarships available through the Alumni Network and from other outside sources.

Students can download an application for any or all open scholarships offered by the UOP Alumni Network by following this link:

<https://www.phoenixalumni.com/Scholarships/SC01.asp>.

Students can also do free searches online for scholarships offered externally. The two best websites for this are [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and [www.srnexpress.com](http://www.srnexpress.com).

119 students applied for the October scholarship. The Alumni Network has committees for each of the scholarships offered. The committee is required to have at least three, and no more than five members. These committee members score the applicants individually and the committee scores are averaged to determine the scholarship recipients.

### Stripes from Pg. 1

SK1 Alex Jean-Gilles is currently stationed in Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily. SK1 Jean-Gilles, a University of Phoenix Online student, said, "It wasn't until 2002 that I realized in order to advance in my profession and in my personal life that it was absolutely necessary that I finished my degree."

Now four classes away from a Bachelor of Science in Management, the sailor has a new goal in mind. He wants to become a Naval officer. "It's always been my goal to be an officer in the U.S. Navy," he said, "without a degree it's nearly impossible."

SK1 Jean-Gilles finds his coursework instrumental to his advancement. "Being an officer in the military is a leadership and management position, and I figured a degree in management will give me the tools necessary to do well," he said.

These tools will allow the sailor, amongst other things, to apply for a commission and attend officer candidate school in the supply corps.

The Navy isn't the only military branch hitting the books. According to RAND Corporation, the Department of Defense finances formal education for servicemembers for three reasons. By educating its forces, the military stands to gain in the following areas: increased productivity, longer retention, and increased morale.

Promotion of enlisted personnel across all services is based on a three-tiered system. At the senior NCO level, education plays a key role in promotion.

## Questions? Comments?

We want to hear from you. Is there something you'd like to see in the next issue of Overseas Patriot? Do you have a colleague that should be recognized or featured? What can we do better? Email comments to [mary.brandenberger@phoenix.edu](mailto:mary.brandenberger@phoenix.edu).

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