

The Certification Outlook

Connecting you to credentialing resources

Volume: 2 Issue: 3

Special feature:

How one retired Air Force Master Sgt. influences future Airmen through certification

Industry credentials have the power to impact careers both while serving as well as after separation. In partnership with the Department of Defense and various academic institutions, Pearson VUE delivers credentials that help the Service member community earn recognition for their experiences and expertise. **Retired Master Sgt. Jose Mobley, USAF**, shares his perspective on the importance of credentialing for Service communities as he actively manages the test center at Eglin AFB in Florida.

What was your role in the Air Force?

I was in the Air Force for 23 years and retired as a Master Sgt. (E7). My last position was as a Support Flight Superintendent for the 65th Communications Squadron at Lajes Air Base in the Azores islands (Portugal) from 2002 – 2004.



Jose Mobley,
Retired Master Sgt. USAF

What work did you transition to after your time in the military?

I worked for the state of Florida for seven years as an employment counselor for military families. I also worked at My Career Advancement Account (MyCAA) for military spouses. In this work, I helped people recertify when they moved to a new place. This role served as a continued link to the military while also introducing me to the power of certification.

In 2012, I started working as a Test Administrator for UMUC National Testing at Eglin AFB in Florida. Drawing on my 23 years of experience in the Air Force, this work allows me to continue to support and connect with Service members and military spouses, and it's so rewarding to help them on their professional and educational journeys. I truly enjoy working with our military and civilian community at Eglin and adjacent bases that use our NTC to take their certification exams.

How do Airmen know about the certification options available to them?

The Eglin Education Office does a great job marketing available certifications to our Airmen, and they make sure to educate any newcomers about certification opportunities. We provide weekly briefings on the Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL) program to educate Airmen on how they can get funding to obtain certifications that correlate with their specific Air Force Specialty Code.

We provide testing information on a weekly basis through the Base Official Bulletin, which is a base-wide electronic communication that reaches everyone. We also receive support from the excellent partnership between the base, UMUC, and corporate partners like Pearson VUE that support the test center on base.

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How one retired Air Force Master Sgt. influences future Airmen through certification

What excites you about your daily work at the test center?

The Airmen showing up to test are really pushing themselves to advance in their careers. It's really motivating to see the ambition in these young men and women in the military, especially at junior ranks, because they're excited about their futures.

How does the test center itself contribute to an Airman's certification experience?

I work hard to make sure the test center runs smoothly and that the conditions are just right to put the Airmen in a position to succeed — that's my contribution to their success. Our test center has grown in our ability to provide an extremely smooth testing experience, and that's in large part due to the counselors, education services staff, and ESO with whom we have great rapport. In general, though, our military members are wonderful testers because of the discipline they received from their training.

Over the course of your career, have you seen any changes in the way that certifications are viewed in the DoD?

I have seen a great increase in demand from both the military and the private sector in requiring credentials and certifications for current military occupations. For example, DoD Directive 8570 has played a big role in the increased demand for cyber security certifications.

The same goes for our transitioning Airmen, as well. They know that, while having a degree is important, the employers are really looking at their experience and certifications, too. There are many positions in private industry where a certification is required to meet the entry job specification or for continuous progress in their careers.

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– Jose Mobley

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What level of growth in certification activity have you seen specifically at your test center?

From a test delivery perspective, I expect the industry to continue to grow rapidly, especially with the recertification needed to keep up with innovations in the IT field, specifically in cloud technology tracks from CompTIA or Cisco.

In 2012 - 2013 when we started, 5.4% of our testing was from certification programs delivered through Pearson VUE. The next year, we increased that number by 12%, and by the 2015-2016 academic year, 33% of all of our testing came from certification programs delivered through Pearson VUE. The demand for certifications has clearly accelerated, and it's only going to continue in the years ahead!

Have you heard from any former Airmen who have mentioned the importance that certifications have had on their careers?

There was one contractor I called “the Cisco kid” because he came in for so many Cisco certifications. One day, he came in and said, “I got a promotion because of the certifications I've earned.” He was thrilled that all of his hard work had paid off, and we were thrilled that we got to be part of his journey.

Certification program updates

The following certification programs are now available CONUS and OCONUS at Pearson VUE test centers on U.S. military bases (indicated by 🏠). Some testing programs are only available at Education Centers (indicated by 🏛️).



American Board of Health Physics:

The ABHP grants professional certification in the field of health physics, based upon and reflecting the highest standards of professional ethics and integrity. Visit [PearsonVUE.com/ABHP](https://www.pearsonvue.com/ABHP) for more information or to register for an exam. 🏛️



Project Management Institute

(PMI): PMI professional certification ensures that project managers are ready to meet the demands of projects and employers across the globe. PMI certification availability varies by base; please search for your test center to confirm availability. Visit [PearsonVUE.com/PMI](https://www.pearsonvue.com/PMI) for more information or to register for an exam. 🏠 🏛️



Association for Talent Development

Certification Institute: The ATD CI creates meaningful and relevant certifications for talent development professionals and the employers for whom they serve. Visit [PearsonVUE.com/ATD](https://www.pearsonvue.com/ATD) for more information or to register for an exam. 🏠



RIMS Certified Risk Management Professional for Federal Government:

The RIMS-Certified Risk Management Professional for Federal Government certification demonstrates the achievement of validated risk management competencies and represents the standard of education, experience and ethics that the discipline requires. Visit [PearsonVUE.com/RIMS-CRMP-FED](https://www.pearsonvue.com/RIMS-CRMP-FED) for more information or to register for an exam. 🏠



Blockchain:

Blockchain certification exams ensure individuals have the required knowledge and skills on blockchain technology, architecture, security and development. Visit [PearsonVUE.com/Blockchain](https://www.pearsonvue.com/Blockchain) for more information or to register for an exam. 🏠



Splunk:

Splunk certifications validate knowledge of and demonstrate proficiency in Splunk's universal machine data platform. Visit [PearsonVUE.com/Splunk](https://www.pearsonvue.com/Splunk) for more information or to register for an exam. 🏠



Postpartum Support International:

The Postpartum Support International Certification in Perinatal Mental Health establishes the standard of training and experience to inform families and payers of perinatal mental health specialists. Visit [PearsonVUE.com/PSI](https://www.pearsonvue.com/PSI) for more information or to register for an exam. 🏠



The Open Group:

The Open Group is a global consortium that enables the achievement of business objectives through IT standards. Visit [PearsonVUE.com/TheOpenGroup](https://www.pearsonvue.com/TheOpenGroup) for more information or to register for an exam. 🏠

People who obtain a certification report a **34%** higher weekly salary.



State regulatory program updates

The following state regulatory exams are now available CONUS and OCONUS at Education Centers.

Arkansas Foundation of Reading:

Visit PearsonVUE.com/ARSA for more information or to register for an exam.

Idaho Real Estate:

Visit PearsonVUE.com/ID/Realestate for more information or to register for an exam.

Illinois State Fire Marshal:

Visit PearsonVUE.com/IL/Fire-Marshall for more information or to register for an exam.

Iowa Insurance:

Visit PearsonVUE.com/IA/Insurance for more information or to register for an exam.

Minnesota Department of Commerce:

Visit PearsonVUE.com/MNcommerce for more information or to register for an exam.

- Insurance
- Real Estate

South Dakota Division of Insurance:

Visit PearsonVUE.com/SD/Insurance for more information or to register for an exam.

Texas Educator certification:

Visit PearsonVUE.com/TEA for more information or to register for an exam.

Texas Insurance: Visit PearsonVUE.com/TX/Insurance for more information or to register for an exam.

*Those who maintain certification
and licensure report*

**85% full-time
employment**

and only 2% unemployment.



Bureau of Labor Statistics

Don't forget

COOL: Service members in all branches can find information on training, credentials and licenses related to their jobs in the military with Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL). COOL helps to identify skill gaps and define the paths needed to earn civilian and federal positions. Additionally, each COOL website features key information about funding, accreditations and in-demand credentials. Visit www.PearsonVUE.com/military/funding to learn more about how COOL works in your branch.

mindhub™: Service members and government employees can receive 25% off training materials through mindhub, Pearson VUE's certification prep store. mindhub offers a wide variety of learning products designed to help test takers prepare for industry-recognized certifications. Simply apply coupon code GOV25 to your shopping cart at checkout to receive the discount. Visit mindhub.com/servicemember for more information.

The Certification Outlook:

We want to hear from you! Send feedback or ideas to DoD@Pearson.com.

