

The Certification Outlook

Connecting you to credentialing resources

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Special feature: How certification impacted the life of a retired Marine Master Sgt.

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 community earn recognition for their experiences and expertise. Retired Master Sgt. William (Bill) Rybczynski, USMC, spoke with us about his credentialing experiences during his 20 years in the Marines and how they prepared him for success in the civilian sector.

What did you do in the military?

I started out in the infantry and then, after Desert Storm, spent time as a Drill Instructor and Senior Drill Instructor at Parris Island. After that, I lat moved to the 4066 MOS, where I served at CSSG-23 at the Marine Corps Air

Station Beaufort in South Carolina. From Beaufort, I was stationed at the Marine Corps Communications and Electronics School in Quantico, Virginia, where I taught the Small Systems Course, and then I helped move the school to 29 Palms, California. While in 29 Palms, I continued to teach the Small Systems Course and began to aggressively pursue professional certification and even taught night classes for a private IT school in Palm Springs, California.

From 29 Palms, I transitioned to Marine Forces Pacific (MARFORPAC), Camp Smith, Hawaii, where I served as the Information System Security Manager and continued to pursue professional certification. While serving at MARFORPAC, I was selected as one of the first 0689 Information Assurance Technicians. My last tour of duty was at Headquarters Marine Corps C4 where I served as the Senior Information Assurance Chief directly supporting Dr. Letteer who is the Chief, Cybersecurity Division, and the designated Marine Corps Authorizing Official.



Bill Rybczynski (present day)

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– Bill Rybczynski

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What role did certification play in your military experience?

Certification helped to establish my credibility and expertise during my time in the Marine Corps and, I believe, successfully contributed to my selection as one of the first 0689 Information Assurance Technicians in the Marine Corps.

Special feature: How certification impacted the life of a retired Marine Master Sgt.

What you do now?

Currently, I am the Senior Vice President of the Cybersecurity Division of RPI Group, Inc., which is headquartered in Fredericksburg, Virginia. This division serves both government and commercial clients by performing risk and security assessments, evaluating business processes to develop strategic recommendations and providing training to personnel as well as providing secure Industrial Control System and Operational Technology security solutions.

Are you currently certified?

I am still professionally certified as an (ISC)² CISSP and ISACA CISM.

Did you use any study or training materials?

To prepare for my certifications, I used a number of different resources, including classroom training, self-paced training and practice tests.

How has certification played a role in your professional journey while serving, during transition and after separation?

I believe that my ongoing pursuit of professional certification and a strong work ethic directly contributed to my success while on active duty. Because of the number of certifications I held during my military career, I was able to understand the challenges students faced. Because of that, when I retired, I worked with a private training company. The continual study for earning the Continuing Education Credits/Units required for my current certifications helps me to ensure my knowledge and skills stay current in today's ever-changing cyber environment.

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proves they have
the skills to support
their mission and, more
importantly, imparts to
them the skills to do their
jobs effectively.

– Bill Rybczynski

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Is there anything else regarding your personal or professional experiences with certification that you wish to add?

Certification is a journey that never ends. Whether you are working to acquire your first certification, a new certification or keeping your certifications current with CEU, you are the first line of defense protecting cyberspace. Your ability to apply what you have learned is the most important part of the journey, whether that is in the military or in the civilian world.



Bill Rybczynski with family in Hawaii upon promotion to Master Sgt.

Do you have any recommendations or words of advice for our test centers and trainers regarding administering certifications in the military?

Trainers should understand that the students who come to the classroom are focused first on their daily mission, which is to support the Warfighter. Trainers should help them understand how the training they are providing is more than just a mandate to earn a certification. Certification proves they have the skills to support their mission and, more importantly, imparts to them the skills to do their jobs effectively. Certification itself is not the end goal. Instead, it's the application of what the student has learned that's truly valuable and that ultimately results in their certification.

Certification program updates

The following programs are now available worldwide at either Pearson VUE test centers on U.S. military bases (indicated by 🏠) or within U.S. military education centers (indicated by 🏛️).



Entrepreneurship and Small Business: ESB validates the foundational skills required to build exciting entrepreneurial careers in small business. Exam vouchers are available as single vouchers, voucher/retake exam combinations or as part of the Asset Management System. Visit PearsonVUE.com/ESB for more information or to register for an exam. 🏠



Georgia Insurance: Georgia Insurance licensures are ideal for Service members and spouses interested in working in the insurance industry in Georgia. Visit PearsonVUE.com/ga/insurance for more information or to register for an exam. 🏛️



HR Certification Institute™ (HRCI): The HR Certification Institute offers a variety of certifications that are ideal for people who are interested in pursuing a career in human resources to advance global HR practices. With a suite of credentials for all levels of human resource management proficiency, HRCI is recognized as the premier HR certification organization worldwide. Visit PearsonVUE.com/HRCI for more information or to register for an exam. 🏛️



Intelligence Fundamentals Professional Certification (IFPC): The IFPC program has established a common standard of the fundamental knowledge and skills expected of all who serve in and support the DoD Intelligence Enterprise (DIE). Visit PearsonVUE.com/IFPC for more information or to register for an exam. 🏠



InterNational Electrical Testing Association (NETA): InterNational NETA recognizes four levels of competency within the electrical testing industry in accordance with ANSI/NETA ETT Standard for Certification of Electrical Testing Technicians. Levels 2, 3 and 4 are attained through certification exams administered by Pearson VUE. Visit PearsonVUE.com/NETA for more information or to register for an exam. 🏛️



Intuit QuickBooks: Intuit's QuickBooks Certified User (QBCU) certification is an industry-recognized credential that effectively validates one's skills in QuickBooks accounting software. Visit PearsonVUE.com/intuit for more information or to register for an exam. 🏠



RES: RES offers a certification program designed to validate IT professionals with the technical capabilities and expertise needed to effectively use the RES product portfolio. Visit PearsonVUE.com/RES for more information or to register for an exam. 🏠



ServSafe®: The ServSafe Food Protection Management program is recognized by more federal, state and local jurisdictions than any other food safety certification. The SFPM exam, available from the National Restaurant Association, is ideal for food industry managers. Visit PearsonVUE.com/NRA for more information or to register for an exam. 🏠



86% of IT professionals said they **would recommend certification** to a colleague when discussing a career or advancement in IT.

Learn more: PearsonVUE.com/VOC

Get to know us: Rodrigo Rampazzo, Sales and Operations Manager – Pearson VUE

How long have you worked at Pearson VUE?

I have been working at Pearson VUE for 13 years and working with the Government and Federal market for the past 10 years.

What is your favorite thing about your job?

My favorite thing is building rapport with prospects during their journey to becoming customers because I really enjoy building relationships and trust with new and existing partners. I am a firm believer that a good salesperson is not just someone who sells a product or service but someone who takes a prospect from skeptic to believer.



When you are not at work, what do you enjoy doing?

I really enjoy spending time with my family. My wife and I have two kids (8 year old boy and 11 year old girl) and they sure keep us busy. We love the outdoors, boating, bike rides, travel and exploring new places.

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.

Contact us with questions regarding our:

Test center operations

Rodrigo Rampazzo
Sales & Operations Manager
Rodrigo.Rampazzo@Pearson.com
952-681-4769

Full suite of testing services

Sue Jackson
Director of Market Development
Sue.Jackson@Pearson.com
952-681-4110

Learning materials & support

Christopher Bloor
Director of Federal Sales
Christopher.Bloor@Pearson.com
952-221-8890

The Certification Outlook:

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

