



PerscomOnline.army.mil enhances career potential

By Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) Phil Tegtmeier

This issue we are reviewing an official military Web site. The thought of going to some stodgy old bureaucratic-looking site and trying to make it seem attractive wasn't high on my list of things I like to do, but off I went down the information highway to do my duty.

Surprise. The Web site we selected, <https://www.perscomonline.army.mil>, is anything but a stodgy old site. I found a user-friendly place with information on programs I was unaware of, Web site managers ready to respond at the drop of a beret, and a wealth of links to information that will enhance any NCO's career and promotion potential.

Speaking of new, I learned a new acronym that's COOL. One of the links is to a site for Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL). There, an NCO can get information on finding and attending courses that not only prepare a soldier for that day of transition into the civilian world, but that also adds to the professionalism of our NCO Corps.

Many Army job specialties have civilian equivalents, jobs that require certificates of training, degrees or licenses. The site walks the viewer through the process of determining if any such credentialing opportunities exist for a given specialty, locates the courses or training required to become credentialed and gives information on how the Army can help pay for the training or school.

I also found a link to "PERSCOM A-Z," an alphabetical list of information and services available through the Web. Some save soldiers money; others provide training and job-hunting assistance to spouses. I clicked on a few topics in the list, and I got an error message that one of the links was broken. I sent off an e-mail to the Web site manager through the "Contact the Webmaster" link at the bottom of the home page. In half an hour, I got back an e-mail from Staff Sgt. Robert Wirth thanking me for my interest in the site and telling me the link had been fixed. Half an hour. Give Staff Sgt. Wirth a hand.

The best feature I found of immediate use to any NCO was the section "Soldier Services." Under "Enlisted Information" I found links to publications, newsletters, on-line official files and more. For example, I found a link to an NCOER Preparation Guide the folks at the Enlisted Records Center put together (the shortcut to the guide is at <https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/select/NCOERGuide.htm>). Talk about useful products — and all at the Web surfer's fingertips.

This Web site is a must-visit for NCOs who want to better themselves, their soldiers and the NCO Corps as a whole. A five-star site.

How we rate it

Ease of use:
★★★★★

Value to user:
★★★★★

Design quality:
★★★★★

Overall rating:
★★★★★
(Scale of 1-5 stars)