

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

WORLDWIDE EDUCATION SUPPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JUNE 2014 NUMBER 444

WWW.DANTES.DODED.MIL

**1974 - 2014: Celebrating 40 years of service!**

## Enhanced MOU partnership with educational institutions

On May 15, 2014, the Department of Defense (DoD) published to the Federal Register Change 2, DoDI 1322.25, "Voluntary Education Programs," increasing protections to Service members and their families through an enhanced memorandum of understanding (MOU) partnership with educational institutions. The initiative, part of the president's Executive Order for Principles of Excellence, is designed to improve oversight of the educational programs offered to Service members and their families by establishing new uniform rules that ensure a quality DoD Tuition Assistance (TA) program.

The TA program is designed to provide opportunities for Service members to realize their educational goals while allowing for judicious oversight of taxpayer dollars. All educational institutions providing education programs to Service members and their families are required to:

1. Provide meaningful information to students about the financial cost and attendance at an institution so military-connected students can make informed decisions on where to attend school.
2. Not use unfair, deceptive, and abusive recruiting practices.
3. Provide academic and student support services.

In addition, new uniform criteria will strengthen existing procedures for educational institutions' access to DoD installations.

### What's new with the DoD MOU?

DoD policy requires educational institutions that wish to participate in the DoD TA program to sign an MOU conveying the commitments and agreements between the educational institution and DoD prior to an educational institution receiving funds from a Service's TA program.

All main institutions, to include additional locations, must be accredited by a nationally/regionally accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (ED), be Title IV certified (per dataset), and Veterans Affairs (VA) approved.

- » The DoD MOU approved list of accrediting agencies recognized by ED may be found at [www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation\\_pg9.html](http://www2.ed.gov/admins/finaid/accred/accreditation_pg9.html).
- » Only institutions with an OPE ID number issued by ED will be eligible to initiate an application for the new DoD MOU. For additional assistance with Title IV eligibility, visit [www.eligcert.ed.gov](http://www.eligcert.ed.gov).
- » For VA approval assistance, contact the National Association of State Approving Agencies for your state at [inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchInstitutionCriteria.do](http://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchInstitutionCriteria.do).

The data source used to pre-populate basic educational institution information during the application process is extracted from the ED Postsecondary Education Participants System (i.e. name, address, accrediting agency, etc.). An institution point of contact is required to complete additional fields that are not pre-populated. If the pre-populated information shown on the application is incorrect or needs to be changed, it is the institution's responsibility to contact the ED to correct the data.

The DoD MOU Web site has been updated with improvements and innovations designed to make it as user-friendly as possible. See the graphic on page 2 to view some of the changes made with the user in mind.

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# Enhanced MOU partnership with educational institutions

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The Participating Institutions list identifies all of the schools (main and additional locations) that have an active DoD MOU on file. To view the current lists, click on the Participating Institutions tab at the top of the DoD MOU homepage.

To submit a DoD MOU Verification Application, go to [www.dodmou.com](http://www.dodmou.com) then follow the three steps at the bottom of the page. While it is optional to view the sample DoD MOU, it is strongly encouraged to review the application checklist to ensure the required items are collected prior to completing the DoD MOU Verification Application. Once the required items on the checklist have been collected, it is time TO GET STARTED.



In accordance with the DoDI 1322.25, Change 2, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) have been created to provide clarification of the new requirements, policy, and procedures. To view the list, click on the FAQ tab at the top of the DoD MOU homepage.

The latest MOU news and resources can be found on the right side panels.

For assistance with the DoD MOU program, contact the DoD MOU at (850) 452-1111 ext. 3175 or [voledconcerns@navy.mil](mailto:voledconcerns@navy.mil).

## DANTES PERSONNEL NEWS

### DANTES welcomes new Exams team member



Michelle Alexander joined the DANTES team May 19, working with the GMAT and GRE programs in the Examinations Programs department.

Alexander served 24 years in the Air Force and retired in December 2013. She began her career at Andrews AFB in Washington, D.C., working in Customer Service. She then went on

to travel the world, with assignments in Turkey, Korea, Qatar, Kansas, Nevada, and at four Florida bases. Alexander received numerous awards and decorations during her career, most notably earning the Personnel

Manager of the Year award twice and being STEP promoted to a higher rank, ahead of her peers.

Alexander's last assignment was NAS Pensacola, Fla., where she worked with the 479th Flying Training Group as the Superintendent of the Commanders Support Staff. The group is responsible for the Undergraduate Combat Systems Officer Training for the United States Air Force.

She is currently attending Pensacola State College in pursuit of her degree in the Institute for Technology with a minor in Photography.

Welcome aboard, Michelle!

**Share your VoEd story!**  
Send it to [pubs@navy.mil](mailto:pubs@navy.mil).

## EXAMINATIONS NEWS

### SAT Form 69 cutoff date

Test Control Officers (TCOs) are reminded that the last day to administer the current year Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT®) Form 69 is June 30, 2014. SAT exams administered from July 1 to Sept. 30 will not be scored. TCOs should inform potential examinees of ACT availability during this period.

TCOs must return all SAT Form 69 examinations immediately following the June 30 cutoff. The SAT form for use during 2014-2015 may be ordered at the same time, but it will not be shipped until the test center's entire inventory of FY14 SAT testing materials are received by the testing agency. The new SAT will be shipped in September 2014.

Additional support materials, such as the DANTES Examiner's Manual for the SAT, are not automatically shipped and must also be ordered prior to administration of current year SAT Examination. Test centers may resume SAT administration after Oct. 1.

Send questions about the SAT to [exams@navy.mil](mailto:exams@navy.mil).

### Praxis paper-based tests to end

ETS recently announced paper-based Praxis administrations at DANTES Test Sites will no longer be available effective June 30, 2014.

DANTES funds only one administration of the Praxis I: PPST Battery (complete or partial) and one administration of the Praxis II: Subject Assessments (which includes the PLT), per lifetime at a DANTES Test Site. Funding for Service members as described will continue once DANTES establishes a reimbursement policy, with a proposed availability date of Oct. 1, 2014.

TCOs should continue to monitor the DANTES Web site, DANTES Examinations Program Handbook (DEPH) and DIBs for funding policy updates and testing support information for military and military-affiliated civilians. Email questions or concerns to [exams@navy.mil](mailto:exams@navy.mil). Visit [www.ets.org/praxis](http://www.ets.org/praxis) for information regarding registration and test dates at a National Test Center.

**Is there a topic you would like to see covered in the DIB?**

**Do you have a question about DANTES?**

**If so, let us know at [pubs@navy.mil](mailto:pubs@navy.mil).**

### SAT to be updated

The College Board recently announced that it will be making changes to the SAT® and partnering with Khan Academy to make free test-preparation programs available to all students.

The redesigned SAT will launch in spring 2016 and will focus on the knowledge and skills that current research shows are most essential for college and career readiness and success. The College Board is redesigning the exam to be focused, useful, open, and clear. It will better reflect the best of classwork and provide more opportunity than ever for students to showcase the skills that matter most for college.

In addition to making changes to the test, the College Board is partnering with Khan Academy to provide free test-preparation programs and resources to all students.

In the future, a whole suite of materials will be available to support the redesigned SAT. For now, the College Board and Khan Academy have developed practice materials to help students prepare for the current SAT. The materials are available — free of charge — at [www.khanacademy.org/sat](http://www.khanacademy.org/sat).

For descriptions of the major SAT changes, full test specifications, sample questions for each section, and to sign up for notifications as additional information and practice materials become available, visit [www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat](http://www.collegeboard.org/delivering-opportunity/sat).

### New DSST Cybersecurity exam and discounts on exams

Reminder! The newest DSST exam, Fundamentals of Cybersecurity, has been evaluated and recommended for credit by the American Council on Education (ACE) for three upper-division level college credits and covers Information Systems Security, Application Security, Network Security, and more.

Students are encouraged to take advantage of a limited-time offer: \$10 off any DSST exam retake. Use promo code DIBTENOFF14 when registering. This offer is valid now through June 30, 2014.

To help provide guidance around subject areas, students can take a practice exam to familiarize themselves with the overall exam experience. Students can visit [www.getcollegecredit.com](http://www.getcollegecredit.com) and click on "Take a Practice Exam Now," then complete registration, pay for the practice exam (only \$5.00 per title) and take it within a 24-hour window. Scores are provided immediately following the completion of the exam.



# DANTES EUROPEAN ADVISOR NEWS

## Celebrating success - Old World style!

It is that time of year again, when graduates are recognized and degrees conferred. It happens all across the United States, and it happens in our overseas locations as well. It is a much anticipated time, something students and their families, faculty, administrators, and education services personnel look forward to each year. For education services personnel, it validates all that they do each day to provide education programs and services to our Service members.

In Europe and downrange, all of the contracted schools conduct a commencement ceremony in

Germany, and recognition ceremonies are conducted at various bases and installations throughout the theaters.

Our Service members, our students and their families, indeed have much to be proud of and much to celebrate. Likewise, faculty, administrators, and all education services personnel can also be very proud of their efforts to provide educational opportunities comparable to those available in the United States to our Service members, family members, and civilians stationed overseas. Students, family members, faculty, administrators and education services personnel: celebrate your success — you have earned it!



### Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU)

ERAU kicked off the celebrations this year, conducting their commencement for the graduating class of 2014 at the Lufthansa Training and Conference Center close to Darmstadt, Germany, April 26, 2014. ERAU serves students in the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Turkey and Kuwait. Approximately 30 of their 122 graduates were present for the ceremony, one coming from as far as Kuwait in order to celebrate.

Dr. iur. Elmar M. Giemulla, keynote speaker, provided the graduates with food for thought as he shared his life's lessons: there is no wrong decision as long as you can build up; stick to your decisions; try to communicate and overcome prejudices; dare something; and finally, life has so much in store for us which seems contradictory, but in reality they often go together.

Following the commencement, students and guests celebrated in the lobby of the center with delicious food and drinks normally reserved for those traveling in



Lufthansa first class. Highlights of the commencement and celebration can be seen at [www.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner\\_id/820961/uiconf\\_id/11212171/entry\\_id/1\\_bqt4yaa8/embed/auto](http://www.kaltura.com/index.php/extwidget/preview/partner_id/820961/uiconf_id/11212171/entry_id/1_bqt4yaa8/embed/auto).



**Congratulating a recent graduate at the NSA Bahrain recognition ceremony (l-r): Ernie D'Antonio, VolEd Director; and US Navy Capt. David Meron, NSA Bahrain Commanding Officer**



### Bahrain Navy College office

Bahrain Navy College Office conducted their ceremony May 1, 2014. Approximately 80 graduates from University of Maryland, Central Texas College, and other schools where students completed their degrees through distance education, were recognized. Vice Adm. John W. Miller, 5th Fleet, was the guest speaker. Graduates and guests then celebrated at a formal reception at the Diplomat Hotel.

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# Celebrating success

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## University of Maryland University College (UMUC) Europe



The largest celebration was UMUC Europe's commencement May 3, 2014, at the Gartenschau (Garden Show) in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Almost 300 of the over 1,200 graduates were in attendance. This was the first ceremony held outside of Heidelberg, Germany, since UMUC Europe's first graduating class in 1951. UMUC relocated their headquarters to Kaiserslautern following the closure of the

Army garrison in Heidelberg last year.

In her introductions, Stephanie Styll, Associate Vice President and Deputy Director, provided some background about the students graduating: 107 earned master's degrees, 528 bachelor's degrees and 597 associate degrees; 85 of the graduates received their degrees while deployed downrange; the average time to earn an associate degree was five and a half years at the average age of 31; the average time to earn a bachelor's degree was seven and a half years at the average age of 35; the average time to earn a master's degree was three and a half years at the average age of 37; and 42 percent of the graduates are active duty Service members. Graduates represented 41 states, with Texas, California, Florida and Washington most heavily represented.

In his commencement address, Dr. Allan Berg, Senior Vice President and Overseas Director, provided the graduates with five key points as they go forward in their careers and education:

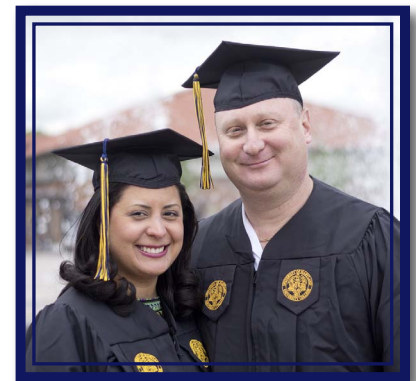
1. Protect your reputation.
2. Push yourself mentally.
3. Do your best at jobs at hand.
4. Pursue new intellectual interests.
5. Keep career plans simple.

Visit UMUC Europe on Facebook for highlights of the commencement.



More than 200 graduates from the UMUC Europe Class of 2014 gather before the May 3 commencement ceremony.

Spouses Chief Warrant Officer Jim Shackelton and Sgt. 1st Class Liza Shackelton earned most of their credits while studying downrange during a combined seven deployments, and marched hand-in-hand to receive their degrees together.



### More celebrating to be done!

U.S. Army Garrison Hohenfels conducted a recognition ceremony the week of May 12, and there are others scheduled throughout Europe and the downrange locations.

University of Oklahoma will conduct their commencement on June 7 and Central Texas College will close out the celebration season with their ceremony on June 20.



# DANTES PARTNERSHIPS NEWS

## 2014 ACE Guide CD now available

The 2014 American Council on Education (ACE) Military Guide on CD (DANTES Stock # 2102) just arrived at the DANTES Distribution Center. DANTES will distribute one CD to active authorized base education centers. CDs should arrive by June 15, 2014.

The ACE Military Guide is a comprehensive document providing status on military courses and Service occupations that ACE has evaluated and recommended credit for. At the request of each Service, reviews are conducted by college and university faculty who presently teach in the area(s) they review.

For additional information on the Military Evaluations Program, contact the Program Manager at (850) 452-1111 ext. 3213.

## ACE military programs webinar dates

The American Council on Education (ACE) announced 2014 dates for two informative webinars:

- » Demystifying Military Evaluations  
Fridays, 2 pm EST (July 11, Sept. 5)  
Register online: [www.acenet.edu/events/Pages/Demystifying-Military-Evaluations.aspx](http://www.acenet.edu/events/Pages/Demystifying-Military-Evaluations.aspx)
- » Using the Joint Services Transcript (JST) and the Military Guide  
Friday, 2 pm EST (Aug. 8)  
Register online: [www.acenet.edu/events/Pages/Using-the-JST-and-the-Military-Guide.aspx](http://www.acenet.edu/events/Pages/Using-the-JST-and-the-Military-Guide.aspx)

These webinars are offered by ACE free of charge but do require registration. A link to the online event will be provided after registration.

## Upcoming SOC workshops

The Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) conducts a number of regional college workshops for current member institutions and institutions considering joining the SOC Consortium.

Workshops explore the challenges and opportunities of integrating military students into higher education and how best to support their educational endeavors. Workshops also highlight ways colleges can use SOC programs to recruit and retain students in a military market consisting of active-duty Service members, Reserve component members, and Guard members.

The next workshops will be held in Washington, DC:

- » July 16 – SOC Consortium Workshop
- » July 17 – SOC Degree Network System (DNS) Workshop

Additional details will soon be posted on the SOC Web site. Go to [www.soc.aascu.org/socgen/Workshops.html](http://www.soc.aascu.org/socgen/Workshops.html) for more information and registration.



To receive email notification when the DIB is posted to the Web site, send an email to [pubs@navy.mil](mailto:pubs@navy.mil).

## Correction:

An error was made in the May DIB article "Changes to Service programs" on page seven. The Army degree plan policy stated in the article was incorrect. The Army section has been removed from the article and the revised May DIB can be viewed at: [www.dantes.doded.mil/content/dib/2014/DIB\\_May\\_2014.pdf](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/content/dib/2014/DIB_May_2014.pdf).

We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

## June in U.S. history:

**3, 1808:** Confederate president Jefferson Davis born.

**6, 1872:** Susan B. Anthony was arrested, tried and fined \$100 (which she refused to pay) for voting in a presidential election.

**6, 1944:** D-Day began at the beaches of Normandy, involving over 1.5 million soldiers.

**8, 1867:** Frank Lloyd Wright born, considered the most influential architect of his time.

**12, 1924:** George Bush, 41st U.S. President, born.

**14, 1951:** Univac 1, the world's first commercial electronic computer, was installed at the Census Bureau.

**17, 1972:** A seemingly routine burglary in the Watergate complex began chain of events leading to the resignation of President Nixon in 1974.

**18, 1983:** Dr. Sally Ride, physicist and pilot, became the 1st American woman in space.

**28, 1919:** Treaty of Versailles was signed, ending WWI

## TROOPS TO TEACHERS NEWS

### North Carolina honors fallen hero with “Corporal Pruitt Rainey Brass to Class Act”

by Douglas Taggart, North Carolina TTT State Director

Pruitt Rainey was modest when speaking of himself with North Carolina Troops to Teachers (TTT) State Director Doug Taggart, back in 2007. “I wrestled in high school, would like to coach wrestling and maybe one day become a PE teacher.” Regrettably, Taggart never got the chance to finish guiding him into that goal of a teaching career. Army Cpl. Pruitt Rainey was killed in action in July 2008, at the Battle of Wanat in Afghanistan. Taggart did not know Rainey was one of the soldiers killed until he saw the article in the paper. He felt terrible for Rainey’s family, and, what really hit home about a young soldier dying, the lost potential. “We’ll never know if Rainey would have gone on to be a great teacher, school principal, or, as he matured, a respected school system superintendent or renowned politician.”

Last year, three representatives in North Carolina’s General Assembly introduced a bill to help veterans become teachers. Taggart had told them Rainey’s story and they decided to name the bill after him. A perfect way to honor Rainey’s memory. The bill was unanimously approved as a law by both the Senate and House and signed by the Governor July 17, 2013.

The **Corporal Pruitt Rainey Brass to Class Act** makes choosing a teaching career in North Carolina a little bit more attractive for someone that has served in the military. North Carolina is not the first state to give some credit for salary purposes to Veterans that choose education as a next career, but that is one of the features.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2013

#### HOUSE BILL 767 RATIFIED BILL

AN ACT ENACTING THE CORPORAL PRUITT RAINEY BRASS TO CLASS ACT, WHICH DIRECTS THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH RULES FOR AWARDING CREDIT FOR PRIOR WORK EXPERIENCE GIVEN TO CERTAIN VETERANS FOR THE PURPOSE OF PLACING THEM ON STATE SALARY SCHEDULES.



**Army Cpl. Pruitt Rainey**  
Killed in action, July 2008, at the  
Battle of Wanat in Afghanistan.

Two credits will start being applied in July 2014 at the request of the newly hired veteran-as-teacher:

1. Instructor credit - A two to one year credit for salary purposes will be available to anyone who served as a military instructor regardless of the area they taught AND regardless of the degree held at the time of their instructor duty.
2. Leadership credit - A two to one year credit for salary purposes will also be available for anyone that served in a leadership role in the military.

Individuals will be required to document both instructor and leadership roles effectively by submitting government issued documents that support such Service. For more information on the Act or to speak with Troops to Teachers North Carolina State Director Doug Taggart, contact [dtaggart@troopstoteachers.net](mailto:dtaggart@troopstoteachers.net).

For general information on the TTT program:

» Web sites:

[www.dantes.doded.mil/service-members/troops-to-teachers-faq/index.html](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/service-members/troops-to-teachers-faq/index.html)

[www.proudtoserveagain.com/](http://www.proudtoserveagain.com/)

» email: [ttt@navy.mil](mailto:ttt@navy.mil)

» Toll free: (800) 231-6242

» DSN: 459-1320

» Fax: (850) 452-1096



## FROM THE DESK OF THE SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR



HMCM (FMF/SW) David Acuff  
Senior Enlisted Advisor

### Sssh..... be vigilant and remember good OPSEC!

Last month DANTES personnel, along with a host of other military commands, were required to complete their annual Operational Security (OPSEC) training. Also last month, I participated in the Sloan-C Webinar Series: "Increasing Online Student Success & Retention for Service Members."

During the webinar, the topic of OPSEC and the military student was discussed. In case you missed the webinar, feel free to view it at [www.sloanconsortium.org/institute/webinars/2014/4/student-alumni-panel-what-veterans-servicemembers-want-faculty-administr-0](http://www.sloanconsortium.org/institute/webinars/2014/4/student-alumni-panel-what-veterans-servicemembers-want-faculty-administr-0).

Additionally, I realized that it has been almost two years since I had last discussed OPSEC in this forum. With so much emphasis on OPSEC last month, I thought it might be appropriate to discuss it and what it has to do with Voluntary Education (VoEd) and DANTES. Actually, the potential to breach OPSEC while pursuing your educational goals is very real.

A brick and mortar institution involves face-to-face personal interaction between faculty and students in a classroom environment. Military members may be inclined to share with their professors and classmates timeframes that they will be unavailable to participate in the class, or times they need to reschedule exams or request project deadline extensions, due to military operational commitments. This could potentially cause a serious compromise of mission operations.

With Distance Learning (DL) there may be even more opportunities to breach OPSEC. In DL courses there are often requirements to monitor and post on-line to Message Boards (MBs) and Threaded Discussions (TDs). As an example, a Service member tells his/her professor or classmates "I will have little or no Internet connectivity for a while due to an upcoming deployment. My ship will be out to sea but I will reconnect with the class once we hit port in Bahrain or Yemen next Friday." Imagine what an intelligence operative or terrorist could do with that information!

Several times, in pursuit of my personal education goals, I have encouraged Sailors in my division or work center to take classes at the same time as other shipmates ("misery loves company" as the old adage goes). Imagine if a group of Sailors and Marines let

classmates and the professor know that they wouldn't be able to post on MBs/TDs or meet project deadlines due to an upcoming deployment schedule to Iraq or Afghanistan. If each Service member revealed only a small detail about flights, ships movement or deployments, you can envision how a terrorist could put the pieces together to get the whole picture.

Most online classes will begin with classroom introductions. Students usually will post their comments in TDs/MBs. Here, a student by way of introduction may give a brief personal history along with work and career background. Be careful not to reveal too much personal and career information. This can also serve as an alert to would-be terrorists.

The World War II slogans of "Loose lips sink ships," or in more recent times "Loose 'tweets' sink ships, airplanes, etc..." are all good reminders of the harm that can be caused when disclosing even the most benign details to outside personnel. Many of the colleges that military members attend work with Service members to overcome challenges they face due to their Service. Remember, any "institution of learning" could potentially become a great source of military intelligence for a terrorist when Service members are not vigilant and practicing good OPSEC.

Still another area of danger for some Service members is that they may want to stick to "what they know best" while completing assignments and expound on military job experiences when writing papers or developing projects. It can become an easy and unintentional misstep for members to become too comfortable talking about their job and what they are doing in Service to our country. The information that could be potentially gleaned by terrorists from something as simple as a term paper could be devastating to national security.

Access and use of DoD computers and equipment must also be safe-guarded. While the DoD does not have a specific policy prohibiting unclassified resources from being utilized for pursuits of VoEd during lunch breaks and off-duty times, Service members must be careful not to engage in activities with educational



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Lt Col Eurydice Stanley  
Reserve Component Advisor

### Can education reduce suicide? (part two) A three pronged approach

Welcome back from the Memorial Day holiday! When remembering those who have died in our nation's Service, did you include Service members who may have taken their own lives? As military education advocates, I encourage you to

continue that reflection by thinking about the many ways you can help education play a critical role in both saving and improving the lives of Service members. You have the ability to impress upon them the need to pursue education as if their life depended on it – because it may.

To continue last month's dialogue on the potential role of education in the battle against Service member suicide, I will present some emerging research that strongly suggests a role for education to help restore the hope, trust, and social connections that are damaged by traumatic experience. There have been many studies to determine strategies to reduce Service member suicide. One study that sought answers from African American women, the demographic with the lowest incidence of suicide rate, may have applicable answers ([www.militarymentalhealth.org/blog/2012/09/could-the-key-to-suicide-prevention-lie-in-the-lifestyles-of-african-american-women/](http://www.militarymentalhealth.org/blog/2012/09/could-the-key-to-suicide-prevention-lie-in-the-lifestyles-of-african-american-women/)). According to Jan Kemp, Veterans Affairs Mental Health Director for Suicide Prevention, three characteristics commonly found in African American women are also critical to suicide prevention: (1) strong social support, (2) open and honest communication and (3) positive support. Based on personal observations and the reports of Veterans interviewed during my tenure as DANTES Reserve Component Advisor, I believe Service members are more likely to feel a sense of community on campus when all three of these elements are represented. That truth, coupled with other observations, leads me to propose a three-pronged approach to leveraging education in the suicide prevention battle.

#### 1. Promotion of education by leadership

General Douglas MacArthur said, "A good Soldier, whether he leads a platoon or an Army, is expected to look backward as well as forward, but he must think only forward." Visionary military leaders recognize that education not only increases Service member proficiency in their current positions, but also prepares them for future success – in or

out of the military, particularly during a drawdown. Military leaders who promote education promote Service member development and growth. This is a critical aspect in the war against suicide, because a key indicator of suicide risk is the loss of hope for the future.

#### 2. Dynamic, supportive Veteran Services programs on campus

Dr. Barton Buechner, adjunct professor of military psychology at Adler University, made a presentation at the 2014 Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) conference that provided new evidence for the central role of education in recovering from trauma and offered strategies for helping Service members feel more comfortable on campuses. Dr. Buechner's conceptual model of "contextual mentoring" points towards the campus Veteran Service Coordinator as a "social translator" or "bridge" to help student Veterans make sense of the different social world of college, while providing direction and honest, credible mentoring communication support. Service members returning to school often describe feelings of frustration and isolation on college campuses. The intervention of a mentor, or coordinated network of mentors, may literally make a life-or-death difference for them. Dr. Buechner pointed out that the predictions of Waller (1947) that higher education has the potential to help returning Veterans "reconnect with the communicative world of society" have now been validated by a longitudinal study of World War II Veterans. The Harvard Grant Study by Vaillant (2012) has proven that level of education is the single most significant determinant of physical and mental health over the lifespan. During a recent interview, Dr. Buechner commented that education not only provides essential social networks and communicative linkages for returning Veterans, but also a "disciplining of the mind" that can be a significant aspect of suicide prevention.

#### 3. Collaborative, open communications between all Service member support elements

Many schools are now working on interdisciplinary partnerships, both on campus and in the veterans community. For example, the successful union between the Fayetteville State University and the Fort Bragg Veterans Center was detailed in the March 2014 edition of Military Advanced Education. This program, referred to as the Collaborative Institute for Interprofessional Education and Practice (CI-PEP),

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## Desk of the SEA

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institutions that could possibly compromise OPSEC. The use of a Common Access Card (CAC) to log onto DoD resources is a sacred trust between the DoD and its members. Although the assumption may be that DoD computers have the most stringent and best anti-virus and firewall protections, be aware there is always a risk when navigating away from DoD portals. Also, members should never surrender or copy their CAC to educational institutions. Be sure to check with your local command regarding the use of DoD resources in the pursuit of VolEd. To learn more about the DoD OPSEC program, go to <http://cdsetrain.dtic.mil/opsec/index.htm> and [www.fas.org/irp/doddir/dod/d5205\\_02.pdf](http://www.fas.org/irp/doddir/dod/d5205_02.pdf).

Until next time, keep up with DANTES on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/DANTES.DoD](http://www.facebook.com/DANTES.DoD) or contact me at [ea@navy.mil](mailto:ea@navy.mil). I would enjoy hearing from you. Remember... be vigilant, practice good OPSEC!

**Do you have a VolEd-related story to share?**

**Is there a topic you would like to see covered in the DIB?**

**Do you have a question about DANTES?**

**If so, send submissions to [pubs@navy.mil](mailto:pubs@navy.mil).**



## Desk of the RCA

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includes numerous campus elements including Veterans, nursing, psychology and social work all working together to provide services, support and mentorship to military members, Veterans and their families. Dr. Buechner has developed an integrated interdisciplinary model of "contextual mentoring" that aligns the human domains of "mind, brain, system, and culture" in the education process that illustrates how all of these influences can work together in coordination ([www.vetransitions.org](http://www.vetransitions.org)). Similarly, DANTES aligns the domains of the needs of the Service member, Department of Defense and educational professionals ([www.dantes.doded.mil/index.html](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/index.html)). If all elements work collaboratively, Service member education can be obtained in a coordinated environment that can ensure Service member success.

### Promote education. Restore hope. Preserve life.

In conclusion, in "Heal my PTSD," Michelle Rosenthal wrote, "Education is the key to taking back the power trauma steals." ([www.healmyptsd.com/education](http://www.healmyptsd.com/education)) Although she referred to PTSD education, research presented in this article suggests that education resulting in the award of a college degree or credential can have the same empowering effect. I urge all parties involved in Service member support to take the first step in regaining personal power by becoming familiar with the products and services that can help Service members obtain their educations on the DANTES Web site ([www.dantes.doded.mil/index.html](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/index.html)) or meet with an education services professional.

In this article, I have attempted to show how collaborative intervention leveraging education by military leadership, health care professionals and educational institutions can provide the support necessary for Service members to deal with suicide ideations. I believe education has the ability to increase an individual's intellectual capacity, improve self-esteem and provide hope. Promote education. Restore hope. Preserve life. It has been my honor to serve with you.

### Additional resources

For more reading on this subject, I suggest the following references:

- » Triumphs of experience: the Men of the Harvard Grant Study: Vaillant, G. E. (2012), Cambridge, Mass., Belknap Press of Harvard University Press
- » Dr. Buechner's CCME presentation: a graph on slide 6 shows a comparison of predictors of health across the lifespan from the Harvard Grant study ([www.dropbox.com/s/t50z9tib8f5gtcd/CCME%20Conference%20FINAL%20CUT.pptx](http://www.dropbox.com/s/t50z9tib8f5gtcd/CCME%20Conference%20FINAL%20CUT.pptx))
- » University of Utah National Center for Veteran Studies 2012 study: identifies "a desire to end intense emotional distress" as one reason soldiers may commit suicide; other reasons, such as PTSD, TBI, financial concerns, depression, moral injury and mental illness, have also been attributed (<http://usatoday30.usatoday.com/news/military/story/2012-07-10/army-study-soldiers-suicides/56136192/1>)
- » Army Study to Assess Risk and Resilience in Servicemembers (Army STARRS): the Army, in conjunction with the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), conducted the largest study to date of mental health risk and resilience among U.S. military personnel ([www.armystarrs.org/](http://www.armystarrs.org/))

## Final Sloan-C Webinar Series 2014 session to be held June 4

The Sloan Consortium (Sloan-C) is sponsoring a free webinar series titled “Veterans, Service Members & Military Family Members Webinar Series 2014.” The series includes four webinars focused on increasing online student success and retention for veterans, Service members, and military family members. They will cover federal regulations, resources and services, research, and best practices.

The first session, “Executive Panel: Overview of Current & Pending Federal Regulations for the Post 9/11 GI Bill, DoD Tuition Assistance, Retention/Graduation Rates & Compliance,” took place March 19 and included Dr. Carol Berry, DANTES Director, and Dawn Bilodeau, Chief for Department of Defense (DoD) Voluntary Education, as panelists.

The second session, “Student & Alumni Panel: What Veterans & Service members Want Faculty & Administrators to Know about Online Education,” was held April 16, with HMCM (FMF/SW) David Acuff, DANTES Senior Enlisted Advisor, as one of the panelists.

The third session, “Campus Administrative Panel: Meeting the Diverse Needs of Veterans, Servicemembers & Military Family Members Enrolled in Online Education,” took place May 14.

The fourth and final session, “Research Panel: Findings from Recent/Current Studies on Supporting Online Student Success for Veterans, Servicemembers & Military Family Members,” will take place June 4.

To register for the FREE final session, or to view FREE recordings of previous sessions, go to [www.sloanconsortium.org/institute/webinars/increasing-online-student-success-for-veterans](http://www.sloanconsortium.org/institute/webinars/increasing-online-student-success-for-veterans).

## ACE job opening

The American Council on Education (ACE) is seeking out candidates for their Senior Program Manager position.

The Senior Program Manager is key to the successful preparation and completion of military course and occupation reviews for potential college credit recommendations from ACE faculty teams. Some functions include:

- » analyze and process course and occupation materials, identify discrepancies and reconcile them prior to review
- » coordinate review logistics with military schoolhouses and faculty evaluators
- » travel with team and work closely with military course managers, faculty evaluators, and ACE Field Coordinator
- » conduct post-review activities

To view job description and requirements, or to apply, click [HERE](#).

## Other VolEd news in the world...

### National Guard uniform gives applicants vital edge at military academies

[www.dvidshub.net/news/130007/national-guard-uniform-gives-applicants-vital-edge-military-academies#U30AVldWSo](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/130007/national-guard-uniform-gives-applicants-vital-edge-military-academies#U30AVldWSo)

### Eligible AF officers may apply for advanced degree, experience programs

[www.af.mil/News/ArticleDisplay/tabid/223/Article/484941/eligible-officers-may-apply-for-advanced-degree-experience-programs.aspx](http://www.af.mil/News/ArticleDisplay/tabid/223/Article/484941/eligible-officers-may-apply-for-advanced-degree-experience-programs.aspx)

### Sallie Mae to pay millions to settle claims it overcharged military borrowers

<http://chronicle.com/article/Sallie-Mae-to-Pay-Millions-to/146543/>

## NCO Pensacola celebrates as Navy VOLED turns 40

Naval Air Station Pensacola joined Navy College Offices (NCOs) around the world as they celebrated 40 years of Voluntary Education (VOLED) history May 14. For the full story: [www.netc.navy.mil/netc/PAO/NETCNews.aspx?Art=pr\\_05614.pdf](http://www.netc.navy.mil/netc/PAO/NETCNews.aspx?Art=pr_05614.pdf).

Some VolEd statistics kept over the past 40 years:

- » Tuition Assistance (TA) course enrollments (FYs 1974-2013):  
4,951,730
- » TA expenditure (FYs 1974-2013):  
\$1,470,310,730
- » current annual average of Sailors using TA:  
15%
- » degrees documented (FYs 1985-2013):  
over 132,130
- » High school/GEDs recorded (FYs 1985-2013):  
11,324
- » United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP) certificate Navy completions (FYs 76-13):  
59,751
- » Most popular USMAP trade:  
computer operator
- » FY-12 to FY-13, USMAP recorded a 24% increase in enrollments, 22% increase in completions, and a 23% increase in overall participation
- » Most popular VOLED program:  
Tuition Assistance!



## DANTES Social Media

Join us for up-to-date information, conversations, or just let us know how your education journey is going!

**DANTES Twitter** [https://twitter.com/DoD\\_DANTES](https://twitter.com/DoD_DANTES)

**DANTES Pulse blog** <http://dantespulse.com>

**DANTES Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/DANTES.DoD>

**DANTES Youtube** <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAD8yGhGBeDAIPMW7Eu-sA>

# TESTING CALENDAR

[http://www.dantes.doded.mil/\\_content/Exams\\_Calendar.pdf](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/_content/Exams_Calendar.pdf)

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**PENSACOLA, FL 32509-5243**  
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Reserve Advisor			Currently Vacant
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Troops to Teachers	3141	1096	<a href="mailto:ttt@navy.mil">ttt@navy.mil</a>
Education Support	3133	1162	
Distribution Center	452-1082	1140	<a href="mailto:dist@navy.mil">dist@navy.mil</a>
Reference Resources	3131	1588	<a href="mailto:refpubs@navy.mil">refpubs@navy.mil</a>
Education Programs	3245	1161	
Counseling	3132	1161	<a href="mailto:counseling@navy.mil">counseling@navy.mil</a>
Distance Learning	3129	1161	<a href="mailto:DantesDL@navy.mil">DantesDL@navy.mil</a>
DoD MOU	3175	1161	<a href="mailto:voledconcerns@navy.mil">voledconcerns@navy.mil</a>
Examinations	3245	1160	<a href="mailto:exams@navy.mil">exams@navy.mil</a>
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