

DANTES INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WORLDWIDE EDUCATION SUPPORT TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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DoD Worldwide 2012: Capitalize on triennial opportunity to impact VoEd, grow professionally

Registration opens Oct. 7, 2011, for the Department of Defense (DoD) Worldwide Education Symposium 2012 (WW12). The event occurs only once every three years so much anticipation is building as voluntary education professionals across DoD, along with supportive schools and educational organizations, prepare to attend another memorable event. WW12 takes place July 23-27, 2012, at the MGM Grand Hotel and Conference Center in Las Vegas, Nev.

WW12's theme is "Educating the Force—Joint Effort, Joint Success" because the symposium planning committee recognizes the complex demands placed on today's military members. If this dedicated force is to have the best educational opportunities, a joint effort from the education community is needed. WW12 wants to be the spearhead of that effort.

This symposium's planning committee has representatives from each Service component, DANTES, SOC, and ACE; and enlists the Chief of DoD Continuing Education, Carolyn Baker, as its Executive Chair. The committee met for a fourth time recently in Las Vegas to stamp their approval on the topics that will be featured at next summer's event. They know that sending representatives to the symposium requires a significant investment from organizations struggling to defend every precious dollar spent. DoD Worldwide must deliver unquestionable value to attendees—a justifiable investment in learning and human capital.

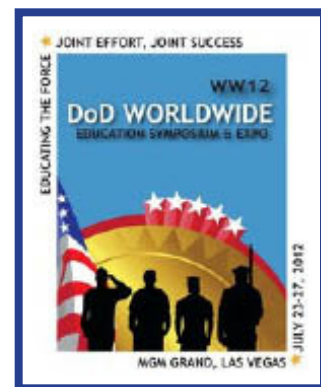
The program taking shape is aimed at delivering this value. WW12 will again offer three inspiring keynote addresses in general session and three notable "super session" speakers will be featured in large breakout sessions.

The planning committee scrutinized dozens of proposals to assemble a breakout session program that covers the broad spectrum of vital issues VoEd faces these days. They feel that the program going forward will allow attendees to hear from and interact with some of the most progressive thinkers impacting today's military students. Attendees will find over seventy diverse topics from which to choose.

Notably, one of the five session tracks will focus on counselor development. This track's topics range from practical applications to fill the counselor's toolbox, such as the basics of DANTES and SOC, to more theoretical topics like the role of military mentorship and "Rediscovering the Joy of Education."

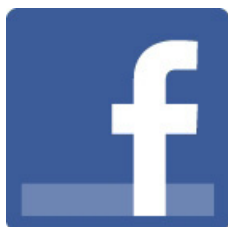
Keith Wilson, Department of Veterans Affairs Education Services Director, will return in 2012 to deliver two sessions on GI Bill updates; but a Q & A session is also planned that will be facilitated by top VA officials to focus exclusively on concerns from the field.

The most seasoned Worldwide attendees will find breakout sessions that unveil peer-reviewed primary and secondary research. Published authors and foremost experts will lecture at their first Worldwide symposium on timely topics such as the employment outlook, knowledge transfer in the workplace, and social networking and other emerging media.



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Pilot program to maximize CLEP eCBT in CONUS

With the closeout of CLEP paper and pencil exams in CONUS effective Dec. 31, 2011, the College Board and DANTES will begin a pilot program starting Oct. 1, 2011, through Sept. 30, 2012. The purpose is to facilitate the transition of remaining paper-based DANTES Test Sites in CONUS without National Test Centers (NTCs) to 100% eCBT. By opening these nearby community-based test centers (on-campus NTC), we hope to ensure uninterrupted access to CLEP exams for DANTES-funded test takers. During the pilot DANTES will fund both the exam and administration fee charged by the college or university test center for eligible military examinees.

The college or university test centers are not required to sign a MOU with the local base, unlike the base-sponsored NTC model. This change under the pilot program should expedite the NTC establishment process. Those bases currently making progress toward getting a base-sponsored NTC should expedite the process by completing their MOU with the hosting school to activate their NTC, or wait for the testing agency to recruit a nearby school for the NTC without a MOU under the pilot program.

The procedure for retesting at a community test center is the same as retesting at a base-sponsored NTC. Examinees retaking a test title are required to pay the examination fee required by the testing agency and the administration fee required by the institution administering the exam. Examinees must check with the test center to determine the form of payment required. Examinees must wait the required 180 calendar days from the last test date to personally fund a retest on the same title. Testing on an alternate form of the same title does not change this policy. If an examinee tests before the 180 calendar days waiting period has elapsed, the test score will be invalidated, the waiting period will start over and the test fee will not be refunded.

Before referring an examinee to a community NTC, or base-sponsored NTC, on base education center personnel should make a genuine effort to determine an examinee's readiness to test. This includes administering a practice test (if available), counseling to determine candidate's background or experience in the areas covered by the examination and referral to a counselor for guidance as needed. Additionally, prior to testing at the community-based NTC, candidate's past examination history must be reviewed to determine

eligibility to test. This history is available on the TCO Portal. Select "Candidate Exam Inquiry") to review the history and determine if they are retesting and if so, advise the member they must pay for the exam and the sitting fee out of pocket.

FY12 DEPH now available

The FY12 DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH, Parts I and II), has been updated and is available online to DANTES testing personnel with access to the Test Control Officer (TCO) Portal at <https://dantestcoportal.prometric.com/Login/Login.aspx>.

Once in the TCO Portal, view or download the FY12 DEPH, FY12 calendar of national test dates, and utilize other functions such as the online Document Receipt Form and Annual Testing Facilities Review form.

The DEPH Part I Abridged version is also available on the DANTES Web site under Examinations, then Education Staff Information / www.dantes.doded.mil/Sub%20Pages/Exams/Docs/DEPH_part1.pdf.

For questions concerning electronic DEPH publications or your TCO Portal account, contact the DANTES Examinations Program at exams@navy.mil.

DoD Worldwide 2012

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Exposure to the extensive array of exhibitors is also a compelling reason to experience WW12. Last symposium, the hall was filled to capacity and offered attendees the chance to discover how very many options are open to the military students they advise and serve. The MGM's spacious Marquee ballroom makes it possible for WW12 to feature twice as many exhibitors next summer, with available spaces filling up quickly!

Visit the WW12 Web site at www.ww2012.com for registration and other information. Other keynote and super session speakers will be announced as they are confirmed and the potential line-up is impressive. Also at the Web site, find links to WW12 on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter where you can join pre-symposium discussions and keep up with breaking symposium news. Registration is open to all who have a stake in educating the force—don't miss out on VolEd's most anticipated event.

EXAMINATIONS NEWS (CON'T)

Important dates for test sites

The dawning of a new fiscal year can be daunting for Test Control Officers (TCOs). The DEPH should be reviewed for policy changes and testing program updates, some exams need to be returned, new exams may need to be ordered, and the availability or delivery format has changed for certain exams. The information below can be used as a guide to ensure your local test site has the correct exam inventory.

- » **ACT:** The current Test Form 65F is valid until Oct. 31, 2011. The 2011-2012 testing year begins Nov. 1, 2011, with Test Form 64F. Initial orders for test and materials must be received by Oct. 15, 2011. New materials will not be shipped until outdated test booklets (65F) and answer folders (2010-2011) are returned to and verified by ACT.
- » **CLEP:** The last day for CONUS stocking and non-stocking DANTES-sponsored test sites to order CLEP paper-based exams and optional essays was Oct. 1, 2011. Any paper-based CLEP exams ordered after Oct. 1, 2011, will not be honored. All CONUS DANTES test sites must administer CLEP paper-based exams by Dec. 31, 2011. The final deadline to return exams for scoring or any unused exams is Jan. 5, 2012.
- » **ECE:** The last day to administer ECEs was Sept. 30, 2011. Exams are to be returned immediately and must be postmarked no later than Oct. 7, 2011.
- » **SAT:** All 2010-2011 SAT exams (SAT63) should have been returned by July 1, 2011. TCOs may order new SAT65 exams once all outdated materials are returned and reconciled against the test center's inventory.

For more information, contact exams@navy.mil.

CLEP OCONUS PPT extension

As reported in the Sept. 2011 DIB, College Board will discontinue paper and pencil testing (PPT) in CONUS effective Dec. 31, 2011. However, in support of military troops in remote locations overseas, College Board will postpone the discontinuation of OCONUS PPT until Sept. 30, 2012. This is to ensure that forward deployed Service members continue to have access to the 14 paper titles while overseas. With more than 30 base-sponsored National Test Centers now located at military locations overseas, and more troops returning home over the course of the next year, we anticipate the number of overseas military personnel to greatly decrease, thus reducing the need for PPT to continue.

Upon returning to the States, troops are encouraged to seek test centers offering computer-based testing.

Key closeout dates for PPT service:

	CONUS	OCONUS
Last Date for Testing	12/31/2011	9/30/2012
Final date for stocking and non-stocking DANTES-sponsored Test Sites to order CLEP exams and optional essays	10/1/2011	7/1/2012
Deadline for postmarked administered exams and unused exams to be returned	1/5/2012	10/5/2012
Final date for testing agencies to score completed exams	2/15/2012	11/15/2012

For questions, contact exams@navy.mil.

Conclusion of Excelsior College Testing

DANTES funding for Excelsior College Examinations (ECEs) ended Sept. 30, 2011. Paper-based DANTES testing sites must return all ECE exam booklets and testing materials with a shipping postmark date not later than Oct. 7, 2011. ECEs administered after Sept. 30, 2011, will not be processed unless paid for by the member. Members must contact Excelsior College prior to testing to register and pay for their exam, via phone at 888-723-9267 or 518-464-8500, or at www.excelsior.edu.

ECEs and the UExcel Examination program will remain available in computer-based format on a self-paid basis at base-sponsored NTC's, computer-based DANTES Testing Centers,

and Pearson VUE civilian testing centers. Members should contact their local education office to determine if Tuition Assistance (TA) is available for ECEs and UExcel exams.

A signed Official Transcript request and \$12 transcript fee are required to report ECE grades to another institution or organization effective Oct. 1, 2011. Transcripts can be ordered online through MyExcelsior, or by faxing signed transcript instructions and payment information to the Bursar's Office at 518-464-8700.

Contact Excelsior College at 888-647-2388 (enter 1-6-6 at the automated greeting) or 518-464-8500 (international), or at testadmn@excelsior.edu with any questions.

Transition: Use of credentialing

The role of credentialing in the military is a well-debated topic of discussion. How do you defend the worthiness of credentialing when the primary purpose of the military is to safeguard the country's shores and interests around the world? The civilian workforce realizes that credentialing allows employers to separate the best from good. The intention of most who obtain credentialing while on active duty is not to separate from Service. Perhaps it assists them to take pride in planning smart today while also working smarter for tomorrow. While this article focuses on credentialing, other components of future employment for former military members may include documented training and educational degrees.

Using credentialing to prepare military members to transition to the civilian workforce is a goal attainable through publications, training, and Web sites similar to the Bureau of Labor and Statistics (www.bls.gov/emp/ep_table_103.htm), in which they project future occupations. The chart below illustrates this growth in a number of careers.

The journey to transition from military to the civilian workforce takes time. Individuals interested in occupations requiring credentials should begin their inquiry at least three to five years before the anticipated transition date.

Fast Growing Occupations Through 2018 (abridged)

2008 National Employment Matrix Title	Code	Major Occupational Group	Employment		Changes, 2008-2018		Median Annual wage quartile, 2008	Most significant source of postsecondary education or training
			2008	2018	No	%		
Biomedical engineers	17-2031	Professional and related	16.0	27.6	11.6	72.02	VH	Bachelor's degree
Network systems/data comm. analysts	15-1081	Professional and related	292.0	447.8	155.8	53.36	VH	Bachelor's degree
Personal and home care aides	39-9021	Service	817.2	1,193.0	375.8	45.99	VL	Short-term OJT
Medical scientists, except epidemiologists	19-1042	Professional and related	109.4	153.6	44.2	40.36	VH	Doctoral degree
Physician assistants	29-1071	Professional and related	74.8	103.9	29.2	38.99	VH	Master's degree
Biochemists and biophysicists	19-1021	Professional and related	23.2	31.9	8.7	37.42	VH	Doctoral degree
Athletic trainers	29-9091	Professional and related	16.3	22.4	6.0	36.95	H	Bachelor's degree
Physical therapist aides	31-2022	Service	46.1	62.8	16.7	36.29	L	Short-term OJT
Dental hygienists	29-2021	Professional and related	174.1	237.0	62.9	36.14	VH	Associate degree
Veterinary technologists and technicians	29-2056	Professional and related	79.6	108.1	28.5	35.77	L	Associate degree
Dental assistants	31-9091	Service	295.3	400.9	105.6	35.75	L	Moderate-term OJT
Computer software engineers, apps	15-1031	Professional and related	514.8	689.9	175.1	34.01	VH	Bachelor's degree
Medical assistants	31-9092	Service	483.6	647.5	163.9	33.9	L	Moderate-term OJT
Physical therapist assistants	31-2021	Service	63.8	85.0	21.2	33.28	H	Associate degree
Occupational therapist aides	31-2012	Service	7.8	10.2	2.4	30.74	L	Short-term OJT
Environmental engineers	17-2081	Professional and related	54.3	70.9	16.6	30.62	VH	Bachelor's degree
Pharmacy technicians	29-2052	Professional and related	326.3	426.0	99.8	30.57	L	Moderate-term OJT
Computer S/W engineers, systems S/W	15-1032	Professional and related	394.8	515.0	120.2	30.44	VH	Bachelor's degree
Physical therapists	29-1123	Professional and related	185.5	241.7	56.2	30.27	VH	Master's degree
Personal financial advisors	13-2052	Management, business, and financial	208.4	271.2	62.8	30.13	VH	Bachelor's degree
Environmental engineering technicians	17-3025	Professional and related	21.2	27.5	6.4	30.1	H	Associate degree
Occupational therapist assistants	31-2011	Service	26.6	34.6	7.9	29.78	H	Associate degree

Source: Employment Projections Program, U.S. Department of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (Last Modified December 2010)

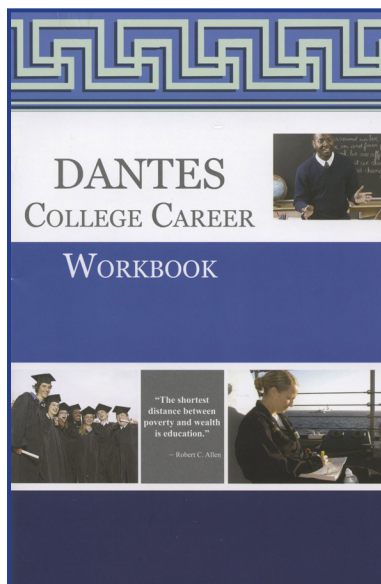
DANTES College Career Workbook

Counselors - Do you find yourselves with less and less time to provide degree planning guidance to Service members? The DANTES College Career Workbook is a time-saving counseling tool that can be distributed to your clients prior to their first one-on-one counseling session. In order to provide the most appropriate program of study for your client, ask them to do some homework prior to the session:

1. Review the College Career Workbook
2. Complete the assignments
3. Annotate questions or concerns
4. Explore degree plans and career paths
5. Bring copies of all military and college transcripts

Preparing for the counseling session will bring better desired outcomes for you and your client.

The workbook is available both online (www.dantes.doded.mil/Sub%20Pages/Order_Materials/Docs/Counselor_3115.pdf) and in the paper version. To order the paper version, DANTES stock #3115, send an e-mail to the DANTES Distribution Center at dist@navy.mil.



DANTES College Career Workbook
DANTES Stock #3115

Calling all writers and camera-bugs!

Ed Centers - do you have a VoEd-related story to share with other education professionals? If so, DANTES is waiting to hear from you.

Send submissions to pubs@navy.mil. If sending photos, please include names and a description of the event.



To have the DANTES Information Bulletin (DIB) sent monthly to your e-mail, click on the icon or send an e-mail to pubs@navy.mil.

Oct. in U.S. history:

4, 1822: Rutherford B. Hayes 19th U.S. President, born
5, 1830: Chester A. Arthur, 21st President of the U.S., born
8, 1871: The Great Fire of Chicago erupted
13, 1775: The U.S. Navy was born after the 2nd Continental Congress authorized acquisition of a fleet of ships.
13, 1792: The cornerstone of the White House was laid by George Washington
14, 1890: Dwight Eisenhower, 34th U.S. President, born
14, 1964: Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize
16, 1701: Yale University founded
19, 1781: The British Army surrendered to the Americans at Yorktown
21, 1879: Thomas Edison successfully tested an electric incandescent lamp
21, 1915: The first transatlantic radio voice message was made by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company from Virginia to Paris
24, 1861: The first transcontinental telegram in America was sent from San Francisco to Washington, addressed to President Abraham Lincoln
26, 1881: The shoot-out at the O.K. Corral in Tombstone, Ariz., between the feuding Clanton and Earp families
27, 1858: Theodore Roosevelt, 26th U.S. President, born
28, 1636: Harvard University founded
28, 1886: The Statue of Liberty dedicated
30, 1735: John Adams, 2nd U.S. President, born
Another popular month for Presidents' birthdays (5)!

SOC - serving the VoEd needs of the military Services

Servicemembers Opportunity College (SOC) was created in 1972 to provide educational opportunities to Service members who, because they frequently moved from place to place, had trouble completing college degrees. SOC functions in cooperation with 15 higher education associations, the DoD, Active and Reserve Components of the military Services, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to expand and improve voluntary postsecondary education opportunities for Service members worldwide.

The SOC Consortium, comprised of more than 1,900 college and university members, enrolls hundreds of thousands of Service members, their family members, and veterans annually in associate, bachelor, and graduate-level degree programs on school campuses,



military installations, armories within the United States and overseas, and through distance learning and learning assessment. These voluntary programs are a significant joint venture and require strong commitment and coordination among academic institutions

and agencies, the military Services including the National Guard, the Coast Guard, and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD).

Among others, SOC Consortium members commit to:

- » Reasonable Transfer of Credit: avoid excessive loss of previously earned credit and avoid course work duplication
- » Reduced Academic Residency: limited to no more than 25 percent of degree requirements with no final year or semester in residence (may require 30 percent for undergraduate degrees offered 100 percent online)
- » Credit for Military Training and Experience: recognize and use ACE Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services in evaluating and awarding academic credit for military training and experience
- » Credit for Nationally-Recognized Testing Programs: award credit for at least one nationally-recognized testing program such as College-Level Examination Program (CLEP), DSST Examinations, Excelsior College Examinations (ECE)

For more information about SOC, visit www.soc.aascu.org.

[aascu.org](http://www.soc.aascu.org).



DoD WORLDWIDE EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM 2012

★ EDUCATING THE FORCE - JOINT EFFORT, JOINT SUCCESS ★

MGM GRAND, LAS VEGAS ★ JULY 23-27, 2012

REGISTER NOW!

WW12 registration opens October 7

The Department of Defense (DoD) is pleased to announce that attendee registration for the DoD Worldwide Education Symposium 2012 (WW12) opens Oct. 7, 2011. Held every three years, WW12 is expected to attract over 2,500 attendees, with over 50 percent representing DoD. To ensure your attendance, early registration is strongly encouraged.

The theme for WW12 is "Educating the Force — Joint Effort, Joint Success" and will explore strategies to effectively deliver voluntary education programs that enhance the Service member's capacity to serve while enabling them to improve their quality of life. This highly anticipated event is the

most-attended conference focused on military education programs, and, for some, the only conference they will attend in 2012.

Mark your calendars to register beginning Oct. 7, 2011, at www.ww2012.com.

Previously known as the Worldwide Military Services Education Conference and coordinated by DANTES since 1994, each conference held has expanded in participation and scope. This year's event promises to be the best yet, providing career development and stimulating creative thought about current educational issues while fostering joint service partnerships to meet changing needs and declining resources.

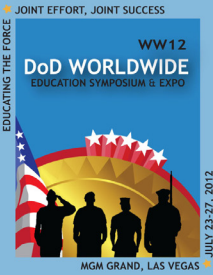
DoD Worldwide Team SPIRIT Trivia contest #3

Congratulations to Jose A. Velazquez of USCG Personnel Service Center, Arlington, Va.! He was the first to answer that John C. Fremont arrived in Las Vegas in 1844 and kept a journal describing two springs he found. Today the infamous “Fremont Street” in downtown Las Vegas is named in his honor.

The contest is heating up! Army and Coast Guard are currently tied for the lead with Team Navy on their heels! All six teams have points on the board.

Las Vegas is home to Nellis Air Force Base where the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds are based. The Thunderbirds were established at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona, where Native American culture and folklore influenced their name.

The first correct answer to arrive in the official contest inbox (dantesww@navy.mil) will earn that player's team 150 points toward a first place finish in the Trivia event of the 2012 DoD Worldwide Education Symposium's Team SPIRIT competition. Subsequent correct answers earn 10 points for the player's team. Questions expire 10 business days from their first posting.



JOINT EFFORT, JOINT SUCCESS

WW12
DoD WORLDWIDE
EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM & EXPO

EDUCATING THE FORCE

JULY 23-27, 2012

MGM GRAND, LAS VEGAS

WW12

DoD WORLDWIDE
EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM & EXPO

Trivia Question

#3

In what year did the Thunderbirds move to Nellis Air Force Base?

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

Or, do you have a question about one of the DANTES programs?

If so, let us know at pubs@navy.mil.

Missed a DIB edition?
Click [HERE](#) to view archived DIBs.



Reference Publications CORNER

"College Success Tips for Adult Learners"

Military Education Centers
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Provide your DANTES ID#, Stock Item #2448, and quantity

Stock #2448



LIMIT: 100 per 3 months

A Distance Learning (precautionary) tale

Distance Learning (DL) is a marvelous means for millions of students to achieve their education goals. Without this extremely flexible education alternative to traditional education, many would still be in need of coursework to complete a degree program. Those considering DL as a pathway to degree completion may have heard many DL cautionary tales and promises of “easy” pathways to degree completion; however, more often than not, the “Real from Ideal” picture can be unclear.

Whether these “tales” are told by actual DL students or third-party DL hearsay-ers, kernels of truth can be found mixed in with the hyperbole, but important nuances and keys to success could be overlooked. Usually, the DL story is told solely from the student point of view, without consideration for the other-side of the DL coin—the professor requirements. The following are two common assumptions that one should avoid when enrolling in distance learning courses.

The first assumption to avoid is that “Distance Learning” means “absent learning.” Professors who facilitate DL courses are mandated by accreditation and institutional guidelines to develop comprehensive DL programs that are equal in quality and scope to the schoolhouse program equivalent. This demand for instructional continuity between face-to-face and virtual online classrooms creates an array of unique challenges to student/instructor and student/student interactions. Although online interactions can be difficult or even uncomfortable for some, interaction between instructors and students is becoming a fundamental part of syllabi. Improving technology and

increasing bandwidth have significantly improved the availability of these virtual interactions; though some DL students may not realize that virtual individual and group participation is not optional. As with face-to-face courses, the grade is a multi-dimensional collection of assignments, class interactions, quizzes, tests, and instructor determined criteria—without successful completion of all published requirements, the student’s grade will suffer.

The second assumption one should avoid is that the lack of instructor oversight means student freedom. In fact, students can be somewhat hindered by the absence of routine instructor interaction. In face-to-face classes, the professor has regular interactions with the students where they hopefully can gauge general understanding of the class discussion and lecture, then adjust accordingly. In the virtual setting, professors have to use other tools to gauge student understanding, often relying on written discussions and other submitted assignments. Distance learners must be able to express in the written word their understanding; if not, the instructor may think there are gaps in understanding the content and grade accordingly.

Distance learning is a great way for students hindered by difficult schedules and other responsibilities to obtain a quality education. However, before embarking on a DL journey, they must ensure they have a clear understanding of the DL terrain, have the required DL supplies, and have clear DL directions. If there is a cautionary tale to tell—leave your DL hubris and DL assumptions at the DL door.

Other VoEd news in the world...

149th Infantry Regiment soldier balances three jobs and school while deployed

www.dvidshub.net/news/76408/149th-infantry-regiment-soldier-balances-three-jobs-and-school-while-deployed

Cavalry troops utilize first fully operational DDTC in the Army

www.dvidshub.net/news/75757/cavalry-troops-utilize-first-fully-operational-ddtc-army

Online Academic Skills Program easier to validate; helps 15K Sailors

[https:// www.netc.navy.mil/ documents/NewsReleases/pr_10011.pdf](https://www.netc.navy.mil/documents/NewsReleases/pr_10011.pdf)

Navy COOL certifications boost engineering rating roadmaps

[https:// www.netc.navy.mil/ documents/NewsReleases/pr_10211.pdf](https://www.netc.navy.mil/documents/NewsReleases/pr_10211.pdf)

FROM THE DESK OF THE SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR



HMCM (FMF/SW) David Acuff
Senior Enlisted Advisor

Recently a small group from DANTES visited Nellis Air Force Base located in Nevada's far-southeast region of the Mojave Desert. The base is home to the largest and most demanding advanced combat air-training missions in the world and is the pinnacle of advanced air combat aviation training for the Air Force. Of equal importance, the base also serves as home to the

Thunderbirds. This air demonstration squadron tours the United States and much of the world, performing aerobatic formation and solo flying in specially marked USAF jet aircraft.

A trip to Nellis would not have been complete without stopping to see the Thunderbirds and we were fortunate to see them fly and meet with the Squadron Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Mical. As the Chief showed us around the squadron, I had an opportunity to speak with him concerning his educational journey. Mical said he was appreciative of the opportunities that were afforded Service members concerning voluntary education, especially DANTES-sponsored College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams and DSSTs. "I tested and passed several CLEP exams that were ultimately credited towards my college degree," Mical said. While at the squadron we also met with Master Sgt. Kimberley Harrison from Thunderbirds Public Affairs. She was excited about the resources DANTES offered military members, noting, "DANTES programs, especially CLEP and DSSTs, have helped many of my friends in the Air Force earn their college degrees much faster than they originally thought possible."

I was happy to hear the success stories Chief Master Sgt. Mical and Master Sgt. Harris shared. Last month I wrote how Service members can "skip" many core university courses and receive credit for them through college credit examinations such as CLEP and DSSTs. By passing these examinations, individuals can earn one-third or more of the credits required for a degree. These examinations are available in more than 150 subject areas and are similar to final examinations given by colleges and universities. Credit by examination is a relatively fast, low cost way to receive college credit. As you can see, there are definite advantages to passing DSST and CLEP exams. However, as a reminder, it is critical that you adequately prepare yourself to take these tests as there is no free retesting on the same test title.



Pictured above (l-r): Master Sgt. Kimberley Harrison, Thunderbirds Public Affairs; and Chief Master Sgt. Thomas Mical, Squadron Command Chief.

In closing, this column affords a unique opportunity to reach out to my fellow Service members concerning VolEd and DANTES programs. If there is an opportunity to visit or speak to NCOs, SNCOs, or at events at your military installation please let me know, I would appreciate an invite. If you have a success story with military VolEd that you would like to share, send it to me and maybe you'll see it published in this forum. Until next time, keep up with DANTES on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DANTES.DoD or contact me at ea@navy.mil. I would enjoy hearing from you.

Mystery Quote:

"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one."

If you know who said this, let us know at pubs@navy.mil.

The first correct responder will get his or her name published in the next DIB.

C. David Ellard, Education Services Officer
MCAS Beaufort & MCRD Parris Island, SC
was the first to identify the author of last month's quote as William Butler Yeats.

Great job!



Lt Col Eurydice Stanley
Reserve Component Advisor

Accommodating Ability

(Two Part Series – Wounded Warrior Educational Accommodations)

In a recent study conducted by Dr. Mary Lee Vance and Wayne K. Miller entitled “Serving Wounded Warriors: Current Practices in Postsecondary Education,” 2,500 members of the Association on Higher Education and Disabilities (AHEAD) were

queried regarding their programs for Wounded Warriors. It was noted that 90 percent of the Wounded Warriors have a myriad of issues, to include: medical and health challenges; mobility; learning disabilities; with psychological challenges being the most frequent difficulty (deploymentpsych.org/resources/articles/military-undergraduate).

This study, and many others like it, speaks to the necessity of increased resources on college campuses for Wounded Warriors. It was noted in the study that 51 percent of Wounded Warriors are referred to other offices for assistance, and 70 percent of referred services are located within 50 miles of the educational institutions. If assistance and transportation are additional concerns, the already daunting thought of going back to school could seem absolutely insurmountable to Wounded Warriors and Veterans in need of additional services.

To best accommodate our Wounded Warriors, efforts such as the Military and Veterans Resource Center at the University of West Florida (UWF) are a good example of how colleges and universities can address this need. The UWF program was recognized by “G.I. Jobs Magazine” as a military friendly school (www.militaryfriendlyschoools.com/list-2011.aspx). Criteria for making the Military Friendly Schools List included efforts to recruit and retain military and veteran students, results in recruiting military and veteran students and academic accreditations. This concept is not new, but unfortunately it is not common, causing many Veterans to fend for themselves.

Marc Churchwell, Director of UWF’s Veterans program, said they make available services “...for the whole Veteran. We provide a health and wellness counseling center on campus addressing issues such as PTSD and mental illness. We provide a Combat Veterans Support Group for group therapy on

campus and a training program for staff called Gateway Training, to help identify Service members who may be suicidal and refer them to the appropriate services. For physical accommodations, the Inclusion Program provides assistance such as note-takers and test takers. If they need transportation, we coordinate with the local Disabled American Veterans (DAV).” They also collaborate with the Vet Center, run by the Department of Veterans Affairs, to provide additional resources and counseling if needed.

Creating a “one-stop-shop” to service Veterans supported by organizations who cater to the needs of Veterans and Wounded Warriors is simply a sound business practice as our Service members return from deployment and saturate the educational market. As noted by Churchwell, “We don’t need to build the need or the participants, they both are already there. We need to build our programs around them.”

It was concern over the needs of Wounded Warriors and how those needs impact their educational goals that prompted DANTES staff to explore and learn more about disabilities. As part of our learning experience, DANTES recently had the honor and challenge of providing disability education awareness as part of an annual Diversity Day training at Naval Air Station Pensacola, Fla. The booth slogan, “We Can, We Do, We Overcome,” made staff and participants alike recognize the daily challenges faced by the differently-abled, and recognize how much we take for granted. We strove to provide both educational and interactive disability awareness information for NAS Pensacola personnel, featuring representatives from numerous organizations that serve as advocates for the rights of the disabled. Many of the organizations that supported our booth specifically addressed the needs of Wounded Warriors. Both staff and visitors to the booth had the opportunity to learn about various disabilities and to experience them through simulation activities. Our disability awareness booth was awarded second place out of the many booths featured at Diversity Day, but most importantly, our goal of increasing awareness was achieved!

Next month, I will continue to explore additional resources available to Wounded Warriors. Until then, remember that despite any obstacle, “We Can, We Do, We Overcome!”

Contact the DANTES RCA at rca@navy.mil.

Nellis AFB and Regis University offer new on-base test center

Representatives from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and Regis University participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony July 28, 2011, that marked the official opening of the new Nellis National Test Center. Alice Patton, 99th Force Support Squadron chief of education and training, and Julie Swan, 99 FSS force development flight chief, partnered with Regis University to bring an on-base National Test Center to Nellis.

The test center will allow eligible military and civilian members to receive college credit by earning qualifying scores on the college-level examination program (CLEP) and DSST computer-based tests. These computerized versions allow test-takers access to all 35 CLEP and 37 DSST examinations and provide instant unofficial score results to the test-takers upon completion of the test.

To read the full story, go to www.nellis.af.mil/news/story_print.asp?id=123266264.



Pictured l-r: Julie Swan, 99th Force Support flight chief; Col. Carol Yannarella, 99th Air Base Wing vice commander; James Garvey, 99th Force Support Squadron deputy; Roxanne Gonzales, Academic Dean, Regis University; Kevin Miller, Campus Director, Regis University; and William Ide, 99th Force Support Squadron test control officer.

photo by Airman 1st Class Daniel Hughes

National Test Center opened at RAF Alconbury, England

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new National Test Center (NTC) at RAF Alconbury, England, took place Aug. 16, 2011.

The University of Maryland University College (UMUC) operates the center, which provides a convenient way to take CLEP, DSST and Pearson-VUE exams close to home and with immediate results.

Anyone signing up with UMUC at the event had their application fee waived. The UMUC Academic Advisor, Damien Bakula, was also on hand to advise and assist students.



Pictured l-r: Col. Michael D. Reiner, Commander, 423rd Air Base Group; and Tone Lawson, Deputy to the vice Director of UMUC Europe.

Hawaii Pacific University opens Military/Veterans Center

Boasting an increase from 400 to more than 1,600 students using veterans' education benefits in recent years, Hawaii Pacific University (HPU) has responded by opening an HPU Military/Veterans Center on its downtown campus. The center will offer HPU's military students and family members, veterans, and DoD employees a one-stop shop for academic, student support, and Veterans Affairs services.

The downtown center marks a significant milestone for HPU. It will provide student services mirroring those provided by HPU Military Campus Programs (MCP) offices on Oahu's military bases. Military students rely on MCP staff for support focused on their particular needs, said MCP Assistant Dean Ralph Gallogly, an Air Force veteran. "They expect that same style of support when they attend the university's main campus and the Military/Veterans Center will help the University meet that expectation," Gallogly said. "It will provide the military community a place they can call 'home' on the main campus."

Marine Corps veteran Kenneth Gatlin will serve as the center's academic advisor. Ron Nicholas, an Air Force veteran, and Jacquelyn Pacheco, an Army veteran, will serve as VA School Certifying Officials and transcript evaluators. Military/Veterans Center Director, Tom Flores, will lead the team.

For the full story, go to 207.97.208.129/HPUNews/hpu-in-the-news/MW_PDFs/w081711.pdf

TESTING CALENDAR

October 2011

4 LSAT (all locations)

16-22 GRE Subject*

ECE: Effective Oct. 1, 2011, Excelsior College Exams will no longer be DANTES-funded and the paper-based version retired. Computer-based ECEs will continue to be available on a self-pay basis through authorized National Test Centers. Visit www.excelsior.edu for information.

November 2011

12-16 Praxis*

13-19 GRE Subject*

December 2011

5 LSAT (all locations)

Notes:

– Overseas test sites send orders six weeks before the test date.

– CONUS test sites send orders four weeks before the test date.

– Contractors ship tests to arrive just before the planned test date.

*Choose only one day to administer. Submit separate Prometric order forms for GRE Subject and Praxis.

http://www.dantes.doded.mil/Sub%20Pages/Exams/Docs/exams_calendar.pdf

DANTES

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<http://www.dantes.doded.mil>

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