

# DANTES

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

WORLDWIDE EDUCATION SUPPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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WWW.DANTES.DODED.MIL



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

## Join DANTES and Navy VoEd in celebrating the big 4-0

### Navy VoEd's #NavyVoEd #My5Words campaign

Navy Voluntary Education (VoEd) will reach their 40th milestone May 14. In 1974, the Navy Campus for Achievement was formalized by OPNAV instruction 1560.45. The minimum program goals were: a high school diploma for all Sailors; a baccalaureate degree for all officers; and remedial education for Sailors who needed it. The most popular VoEd program is tuition assistance, with almost five million enrollments and 1.5 billion dollars in expenditures over the past 40 years.

To celebrate 40 years of VoEd accomplishments, the Center for Personal and Professional Development (CPPD) asked current and former Sailors to share their successes as a result of using Navy VOLED programs, such as tuition assistance, Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE), and United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP). The social media campaign is called “#NavyVoEd #My5Words.”

Through the month of May, submitted photos and stories will be posted on CPPD's Facebook ([www.facebook.com/pages/Center-for-Personal-and-Professional-Development/100056459206](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Center-for-Personal-and-Professional-Development/100056459206)) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/CENPERSPROFDEV>) pages, along with the hashtags #NavyVOLED #My5Words.

So, enjoy the celebrations wherever you may be, and share your personal Navy VoEd story!

### DANTES turns 40 in June!

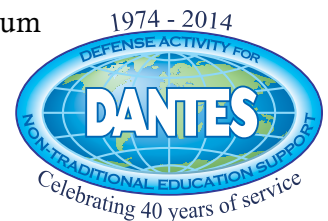
In May of 1974, a memorandum from the Deputy Secretary of Defense to senior military leadership commissioned the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES). Later that year, DANTES was established as an echelon three, Navy command, with the Navy as executive agent. DANTES was created to provide educational programs and products to the military. Over the years, DANTES has provided these vital educational services to millions of military personnel, impacting their lives and those of their families.

From the start, DANTES managed two critical support functions that were the cornerstone in what has become a comprehensive menu of programs and resources that have enabled the Services to offer very successful and efficient voluntary education programs. Those original support functions were the credit-by-examination programs and the development of self-study opportunities offered to Service members from civilian schools and colleges.

DANTES has come a long way from those humble beginnings — only four employees and two programs — to where we are today, 63 dedicated staff members providing over 20 programs and services to. We have a very simple motto that helps us to focus on what is important: “It’s all about the Service member!”

As we reflect on DANTES' history and on the future, it is appropriate to thank all who went before us, for their hard work and dedication. And, we are also grateful for the support we have gotten over the years from the VoEd Service Chiefs, OUSD and our Executive Agent, the Navy, without which DANTES would not exist.

Look for more 40th Anniversary news at [www.facebook.com/DANTES.DoD](http://www.facebook.com/DANTES.DoD) and [www.twitter.com/DoD\\_DANTES](http://www.twitter.com/DoD_DANTES)



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## EXAMINATIONS NEWS

### 2014 GED® voucher and reimbursement information

Eligible Service members may use the DANTES-sponsored voucher payment method to take the computer-based 2014 GED at official GED Test Centers. Military family members and supported civilians are not eligible for the voucher payment.

TCOs, to order a DANTES-sponsored voucher, email [exams@navy.mil](mailto:exams@navy.mil), Code 20C1, with the following information:

- » TCO name and DANTES Test Site ID number
- » examinee name and pay grade
- » verification that the Service member has been counseled about GED preparation resources (i.e., adult education programs, the GED Ready™, free Quarter Length Practice Test or Sample Questions)

All candidate registration and scheduling must be confirmed under the DANTES/Armed Forces jurisdiction for credentialing purposes. TCOs, refer to the DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH), Chapter 1, with regard to TCO Responsibilities and to advise the Service member appropriately regarding Examinee Responsibilities.

Also, the DANTES GED Reimbursement Form (1560/47) for after-the-fact reimbursement of the 2014 GED has been extended until July 1, 2014.

For more information, email [exams@navy.mil](mailto:exams@navy.mil) with “DANTES-sponsored Voucher Code 20C1” in the subject line.

## DANTES PERSONNEL NEWS

### Welcome aboard to two new DANTES team members

Welcome Katrena B. King, who checked aboard April 7 as the Education Programs Department Administrative Assistant.

Prior to launching her Civil Service career, King retired as Chief Petty Officer after 22 years in the US Navy. Her duty assignments took her around the world, from Diego Garcia to Naval Air Station (NAS) Whidbey Island, Wash., NAS Puerto Rico, NAS Rota Spain and finally NAS Pensacola, Fla. She also served onboard USS Forrestal (AVT59) and USS Boxer (LHD4), where she completed three deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

King entered Federal Service in 2008 as an Education Technician for Naval Air Technical Training Center (NATTC) Pensacola, Fla., working in Student Control. In 2011, she accepted a position with the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE), assisting Navy and Marine Corps Service members deployed onboard ships and squadrons. Now, she brings her dedication to Service member education support to DANTES.

King's can-do attitude will make her a valuable asset to DANTES, and she says she “is up for the challenge!”



**Pictured l-r: Katrena King, DANTES Education Programs Administrative Assistant, and Jamie Henderson, DANTES Executive Assistant.**

A belated welcome to Jamie Henderson, who arrived at DANTES back in January to fill the long-vacant Director's Executive Assistant position.

Henderson began her Civil Service career in Iwakuni, Japan, where she worked at M. C. Perry High school and was responsible for registration, transcripts, and teacher certification tracking.

She then transferred to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N. C., where she worked for Naval Facilities

Midlant in the Facilities Engineering and Acquisition Division, assigned to the contracting division.

Relocating to Pensacola, Fla., she began at the 451st Training Squadron as the Commander Secretary and was promoted after 2 years to the 479th Flying Training Group's Commander Secretary. These squadrons are responsible for the Undergraduate Combat Systems Officer training for the United States Air Force. Henderson earned numerous awards, from Civilian of the Quarter squadron level all the way to Civilian of the Year wing level. She is currently attending Liberty University in pursuit of an Accounting degree.

Henderson brought a wealth of administrative experience to the Director's office and quickly became an integral member of the DANTES team.

# DANTES PARTNERSHIPS NEWS

## SPMs submitting lists of courses for review in FY15

Service Program Managers (SPM) for the Military Evaluations Program (MEP) are preparing a list of potential military courses or occupations projected for review by the American Council on Education (ACE) in FY15. This critical period targets courses and occupations that require an ACE evaluation in order to continue recommended credit for certain courses and avoid a period of end-dating, while other courses are new to the process.

Each branch of Service determines which courses and occupations submitted to ACE for review and in the event that the course information (i.e., training hours, curricula, etc.) fall short of the required rigor, ACE informs the SPM of their concerns and may require pulling courses from the review schedule.

For more information on ACE-recommended credit for military courses, refer to the Military Guide ([www.acenet.edu/news-room/Pages/Military-Guide-Online.aspx](http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Pages/Military-Guide-Online.aspx)) or call the DANTES Military Evaluations 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  
Fridays, 2 pm EST (May 9, 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.

**Missed a DIB edition?**  
**Click HERE to view archived DIBs.**

## SOC updates

### DANTES congratulates Dr. Alex McNamara on his retirement

Dr. Alexander (Alex) McNamara retired from his position as Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) SOCAD Project Director May 2, 2014. He first came to SOC in January 2004 as the eArmyU Program Manager. In 2005, he became the Associate SOCAD Director for GoArmyEd, and in September 2013, he was promoted to SOCAD Project Director.

In departing, McNamara stated, "It was truly a honor and a privilege to work with Army education over the past ten years."

### Patrice Hamilton arrives at SOC

SOC selected Patrice Hamilton to serve as Associate Director of the GoArmyEd Team in January 2014. She arrived at SOC with valuable on-the-job experience, having worked directly with Soldiers and their family members in the field.

Hamilton earned her Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from South Carolina State University and her Master of Education degree from American Intercontinental University. She is an Army spouse who began her professional career as a Family Readiness Group Coordinator at Fort Benning, Ga. In 2005, she began her work with ACES as part of the eArmyU staff at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and shortly thereafter she became an ACES Contract Education Counselor. In 2009 Patrice was chosen as a Department of the Army Education Services Specialist at Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington, where she served until joining SOC in Washington, D.C.

Hamilton states, "I have been very fortunate to have worked closely with Alex McNamara for the last several months, experiencing his passion and intensity for educating Soldiers."

Soldiers and their family members are, indeed, fortunate to have Hamilton on the SOC staff with her field experience to help guide and implement GoArmyEd policies and procedures.

**Do you have a VoEd-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).**



## TROOPS TO TEACHERS NEWS

### Virginia Navy retiree teaches & learns with students

By Joe Wargo, Virginia State TTT Director

When Caroline Tetschner talks about working with her middle school students, her face lights up. The Troops to Teachers (TTT) participant recently began her second year of teaching eighth grade English at Greenbrier Middle School in Chesapeake, Va. A former Navy Public Affairs Officer, Tetschner felt a calling to work with children. "I love kids, especially the older ones where I feel I can have a professional relationship. Additionally, I believe all teachers in the public school system are in a position of great trust, a trust I take very seriously," she says. Greenbrier is in the Tidewater fleet concentration area where she has many students who come from Navy families, an area she knows personally.



**2010: US Navy Cdr. Caroline Tetschner**

Tetschner says she became interested in teaching when she learned about the TTT program through her former shipmates. While on active duty, she met Virginia State TTT representative Greg Coogan, another retired Navy officer. Tetschner says she really appreciated that Coogan also had been a teacher himself. She relates, "Greg guided me step-by-step through the process and was always there for me when I had

the next stupid question." She decided to obtain her Teaching Certificate in Secondary English by enrolling in Virginia Wesleyan College in Norfolk, Va..

Tetschner's passion for teaching comes from her love of the content area – English literature, reading and writing. These all gleaned during her 27 years in the military and from her professional civilian background. It was a natural transition to move from writing for a living, as a Public Affairs Officer in the Navy and former National Public Radio Reporter, to teaching students about the many rewards of writing and reading. When she talks about the importance of verbal and written communication skills for students and adults, Tetschner is clearly enthusiastic. "Whether children want to become police officers, music producers, or pro athletes, they need to realize that each profession requires excellent communication abilities."

Every week, as part of her own self-improvement, Tetschner writes herself notes on a takeaway lesson she has learned at school or from her students. There is



**2013: Caroline Tetschner teaching her 8th graders at Greenbrier Middle School.**

always room for improvement, she explains about her practice. "Every day, the students and I learn from each other."

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



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## FROM THE DESK OF THE SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR



HMCM (FMF/SW) David Acuff  
Senior Enlisted Advisor

Did you know that over 75 percent of Service members are now participating in online classes? Not only are military members taking more and more classes online, they are also using funding from both tuition assistance (TA) and their GI Bill. With this growing trend, DANTES remains dedicated and innovative in providing military members with the resources

needed for participating in online education programs to ensure they achieve their academic and career goals. Having completed portions of my under graduate and all of my graduate studies online, I gained significant experience with distance learning as a student.

Last month, I participated in part two of the four-part Sloan-C Webinar Series: "Increasing Online Student Success & Retention for Service Members." Specifically, I discussed: Advantages and Disadvantages of Asynchronous/Synchronous Courses; Importance of Time Management & Retention; the Critical Role of Military and Institution Academic Advisors; and Online Challenges Relating to Deployment: Technology, Engagement, and Leave of Absence. In case you missed it, you can view it at [www.sloanconsortium.org/institute/webinars/increasing-online-student-success-for-veterans](http://www.sloanconsortium.org/institute/webinars/increasing-online-student-success-for-veterans).

During the webinar, I was afforded the opportunity to provide recommendations, strategies and resources to support Service members enrolled in online education programs. One resource I discussed is education counselors - both physical and virtual. Counselors can discuss with military members the many options and services available to them for pursuing their educational goals. Need help finding a counselor? Go to [www.dantes.doded.mil/service-members/contact-a-counselor/index.html](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/service-members/contact-a-counselor/index.html).

I recommended that Service members take advantage of DSST and/or College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams to reduce the number of classes they may need for their degree program. Military members can earn college credit for what they already know by making qualifying scores on introductory-level college subject examinations. Service members should be aware that the first time they take a test, it is fully funded. However, if they fail the test they will have to pay for any retests of that subject. Visit [www.dantes.doded.mil/service-members/prep-for-college/earn-college-credit/index.html](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/service-members/prep-for-college/earn-college-credit/index.html) to learn more.

Another recommendation I discussed was taking a career interest inventory. Some Service members may be unsure what they want to study or pursue as a second career in the future. The Kuder Journey provides reliable tools to assess member's interests, and then suggest education and career options. It's another no-cost benefit for Service members ([www.dantes.kuder.com](http://www.dantes.kuder.com)).



My next topic was the Online Academic Skills Course (OASC) and College Placement Skills Training (CPST) programs. Both OASC and CPST are designed for individuals who want to build their reading comprehension, vocabulary, and math skills to pass their exams, excel in their jobs, advance their careers, or continue their education. The courses are self-paced, with individualized lessons to increase proficiency in each of these academic areas. Participants may also choose an abbreviated review with shortened lessons through the online course. Lessons are supported by interactive exercises such as drag-and-drop matching, video-game-style multiple choice or dynamic flash cards. Quizzes and practice problem sets also help students gauge how well they are mastering the material. CPST and OASC also provide helpful articles covering such topics as "How to Beat Test Stress" and "Last-Minute Study Tips" and offer detailed tips and strategies for doing well on college entry and testing exams. Active duty Service members can access these programs via their Service portals (AKO, NKO, AF-Portal, and Coast Guard). Because both courses are self-paced and online, you access it 24/7 whether you're in the Fleet, Field, Air, or even from the comfort of your own home! All you need is an Internet connection and the desire to get started! Register and log in at [www.nelnetsolutions.com/dantes/](http://www.nelnetsolutions.com/dantes/).

The final recommendation I discussed was the DANTES Distance Learning Readiness Self-Assessment (DLRSA), developed to give members the opportunity to assess their skills and identify possible weaknesses that may affect their success when taking distance learning classes. This is a no-cost benefit that can be found on our Web site at [www.dantes.doded.mil/service-members/prep-for-college/self-assessment/index.html](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/service-members/prep-for-college/self-assessment/index.html).

In closing, the Sloan-C Webinar was a great experience and I was pleased to have an opportunity to participate. 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.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE RESERVE COMPONENT ADVISOR



Lt Col Eurydice Stanley  
Reserve Component Advisor

### Can education reduce the rate of military suicides? (Part one of a two-part series)

Can voluntary education reduce the ever-increasing rate of military suicides? This question has ruminated through my head throughout my tenure as the Reserve Component Advisor (RCA) at DANTES. One might ask how the topics of education and suicide prevention fit together – hopefully, the research presented will make a case compelling enough to at least garner future consideration. Ultimately, my goal is to start a dialogue that may lead into continued research regarding the attributes of promoting the pursuit of voluntary education for Service members as a means of suicide prevention.

On average, we lose one Service member to suicide every 18 hours (<http://usnews.nbcnews.com/news/2013/05/23/18447439-one-every-18-hours-military-suicide-rate-still-high-despite-hard-fight-to-stem-deaths?lite>), more than one per day...and the number of Veteran suicides is much higher. This issue could well be described as a crisis, considering that, comparatively, we lose more Service Members to suicide than we do to war ([www.nytimes.com/2012/06/09/us/suicides-eclipse-war-deaths-for-us-troops.html?r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/09/us/suicides-eclipse-war-deaths-for-us-troops.html?r=0)). As the rates of suicides increase throughout our ranks, we must be willing to “look outside of the box” to identify potential resources and solutions.

A **2013 study** by the Journal of the American Medical Association suggests that primary factors for military members mirrored the civilian public: being male, and suffering from depression and alcohol or drug abuse. Other reports add issues such as financial strife (which may increase considerably due to the drawdown, combat exposure, post-traumatic stress and misuse of prescription medications. The question remains, what other strategies can leaders employ to stop this internal assault against our Service members? I submit one consideration – promote voluntary education.

During a 2012 Pentagon speech, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel stated, “This issue, suicides, is perhaps the most frustrating challenge that I have come across since becoming Secretary of Defense last year. Despite the increased efforts, the increased attention, the trends continue to move in a troubling and tragic direction.” ([www.defense.gov/speeches/speech.aspx?speechid=1686](http://www.defense.gov/speeches/speech.aspx?speechid=1686)) During his speech, he promoted the critical need for increased

leadership awareness and involvement. I'd like to provide some suggestions for leadership intervention, mentorship and guidance.

In the area of suicide prevention, everyone must consider themselves to be a leader who can potentially provide assistance to Service members in crisis. While encouraging them to obtain proper medical treatment, you can also open the door to their future by helping them identify educational goals and dreams. Send them to the DANTES Web site at [www.dantes.doded.mil/index.html](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/index.html) to show them resources available solely for their educational success. Your intervention could truly mean the difference between life and death, as evidenced by a recent Department of Defense study that reported the highest rates of suicide in 2012 were enlisted Service members with little education ([www.military.com/daily-news/2014/04/26/report-finds-suicides-most-common-among-young-enlisted-men.html](http://www.military.com/daily-news/2014/04/26/report-finds-suicides-most-common-among-young-enlisted-men.html)).

In the 2010 report, “Leading Health Indicators,” the statistics for suicides for those with degrees was lower than those without. The study states, “Among education groups, persons with at least some college education had the lowest (best) suicide rate, 9.9 per 100,000 population (age adjusted) in 2002, whereas high school graduates had a rate of 18.4 per 100,000 (age adjusted), almost twice the best group rate.” ([www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hpdata2010/hpdata2010\\_final\\_review\\_leading\\_health\\_indicators.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/hpdata2010/hpdata2010_final_review_leading_health_indicators.pdf)) The same findings could hold true for the military, a smaller sample size of society. The findings of both of these studies suggest the importance of continued research, which may find a possible correlation between increased Service member education and the reduction of military suicides.

This topic has no easy answers, but research may prove that voluntary education may be a valid place to start. Often, the pride associated with earning a degree or credential can be the impetus to continue the pursuit of advanced degrees...and could potentially unlock more doors to success. Promote Service member voluntary education...mentor, guide and lead...because suicide prevention begins with each and every one of us.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you ([rca@navy.mil](mailto:rca@navy.mil)).





## New DANTES Web site links

The DANTES Web site ([www.dantes.doded.mil/index.html](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/index.html)) had a recent update, with an all new layout and navigation model. Below are links to some frequently visited pages.

- » Examinations: contains information and links to the TCO Portal; ACT and SAT; GRE and GMAT (and Reimbursement Request forms); Praxis; GED; LSAT; and CLEP/DSST Pass Rates  
[www.dantes.doded.mil/service-members/prep-for-college/examinations/index.html](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/service-members/prep-for-college/examinations/index.html)
- » Earn College Credit: information on CLEP and DSST exams  
[www.dantes.doded.mil/service-members/prep-for-college/earn-college-credit/index.html](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/service-members/prep-for-college/earn-college-credit/index.html)
- » Prep For College: under Education Resources at the bottom of the page, information on OASC/CPST; Kuder Journey; and Tutor.com  
[www.dantes.doded.mil/service-members/prep-for-college/index.html](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/service-members/prep-for-college/index.html)
- » Counselor Support Programs: information on Kuder Journey; SOC; and ACE  
[www.dantes.doded.mil/education-counselors/counselor-support-programs/index.html](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/education-counselors/counselor-support-programs/index.html)
- » DEPH  
[www.dantes.doded.mil/content/Abridged DEPH Part 1 1st Qtr Update FY14-Smooth.pdf#zoom=100](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/content/Abridged%20DEPH%20Part%201%201st%20Qtr%20Update%20FY14-Smooth.pdf#zoom=100)

## Free Sloan-C Webinar Series 2014 continues in May and June

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 last month, with HMCM (FMF/SW) David Acuff, DANTES Senior Enlisted Advisor, as one of the panelists. He was glad to take part, saying, “I sincerely appreciated participating as a panelist for the Webinar Series and believe both DANTES’s and Sloan-C’s commitment to quality on-line learning will further help Service members in pursuit of their educational goals. Thanks Sloan-C.” To view the FREE recorded webinar, go to <http://sloanconsortium.org/institute/webinars/2014/4/student-alumni-panel-what-veterans-servicemembers-want-faculty-administr-0>.

Two more sessions are scheduled, 12-1:30 pm ET:

- » May 14: Campus Administrative Panel: Meeting the Diverse Needs of Veterans, Servicemembers

& Military Family Members Enrolled in Online Education

- » June 4: Research Panel: Findings from Recent/ Current Studies on Supporting Online Student Success for Veterans, Servicemembers & Military Family Members

For more details on webinar topics and to view previous webinars, 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).

## Changes to Service programs:

### Coast Guard:

April 7, per ALCOAST 148/14, the new annual cap for Coast Guard share of tuition assistance (TA) is \$3375. This updated guideline is not retroactive and will affect future TA requests only. The Coast Guard will continue to fund 75 percent of the tuition cost of members not to exceed \$187.50 per credit hour.

[www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/TACCTS\\_Blasts/TACCTS\\_updates.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/TACCTS_Blasts/TACCTS_updates.asp)

### Navy & Marine Corps:

March 18, the TA program will continue to pay 100 percent of Sailors’ tuition and enrollment fees in FY15.  
[www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story\\_id=79726](http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=79726)



# Transitioning from Troop to Teacher

by Janine Boldrin

## Have you thought of becoming a teacher?

If you enjoy the leadership aspects of your time in the military and want to continue serving your country, going into the education field may be an opportunity to explore. Thousands of former service members have made the move though the assistance of Troops to Teachers, a Department of Defense program that was established in 1994, which recruits qualified transitioning service members to teach in public and charter schools throughout the United States.

“(Troops to Teachers) is a wonderful resource with everything from career transition to understanding the teaching certification process,” said Caroline Tetschner, Commander (Ret.) Navy Reserves, who became a teacher in Norfolk, Va., through the Troops to Teachers program. “They provided a much-needed pathway of understanding.”

## What is Troops to Teachers?

Since 2002, nearly 13,000 teachers have been helped through the Troops to Teachers program. Eighty-three percent were men with the majority of participants (7,700) teaching in high schools. Troops to Teachers counseling and referral services are available to all current and former members of the United States Armed Forces, as long as their last period of service was characterized as honorable.

Beth Lambert, Command Master Chief (Retired) Navy, who went through the Troops to Teachers program and is now in her fifth year of teaching, recommends that service members seek information and assistance as early as possible if they

are considering becoming a teacher. “The closer to retirement you get, the higher your stress level will rise and demands on your time will increase,” added Lambert.

Troops to Teachers helps participants with identifying state certification requirements, programs that can lead to certification, and employment opportunities in the teaching field. Financial assistance is also available to eligible service members.

While the original intent of Troops to Teachers was to provide quality teachers for high-need schools and for in-demand subject areas (including science, math, and technology), Troops to Teachers now assists eligible military personnel in making the transition into teaching regardless of what and where they want to teach. The program has also been expanded to include service members who want to pursue non-instructional education positions including becoming a teacher’s aide, school nurse, librarian, or administrator.

The former service members who apply to the Troops to Teachers program are often a good fit for school systems that are hungry for minority males to teach science, technology, and math (STEM) subjects, according to Kringer. Schools are also seeking good role models — a role many veterans can fill.

“Our country desperately needs the skills that we developed through our years of military service,” said Lambert, who was selected as the outstanding new teacher of the year for the Norfolk Public School System after her first year of teaching. “Many of our young students need a caring yet firm teacher [who] can make them believe in their own ability to

succeed. We have done this with young recruits for years and this skill easily translates into the classroom environment.”

## Want to get started?

If you are considering making the move to becoming a teacher, success starts with good planning, said Joy Crabaugh, DoD Spokesperson for Personnel and Readiness.

Here are four things she recommends Troops to Teachers candidates do to make the transition a little easier:

### Think about location.

“State certification requirements vary and knowing where you want to teach will be important in planning your own course of instruction,” said Crabaugh.

The most popular states for Troops to Teacher participants are Texas, Florida, Virginia, Georgia and North Carolina, but service members can get assistance from Troops to Teachers if they are considering teaching in any state. Counselors can help service members understand the opportunities that will exist for them based on the subject areas and locations they are interested in pursuing.

“Service members should take a hard look at where they want to live and work as a teacher

and begin planning long before the end of their enlistment or period of service in the military,” said Peter Chapla, who served in the Marine Corps prior to becoming a teacher in Pennsylvania. Chapla is now a high school principal. He said the most important element in getting hired is to build a good network in the



Peter Chapla and son



location where you want to teach. "In Pennsylvania, one must have at least 5 of 9 school board votes in order to be hired."

## Evaluate and expand your skills.

Service members should examine their existing skill set. What training and experience can you bring to the classroom? Do you have a teaching or education background? Leadership, organizational skills, flexibility, and discipline are a few of the many skills Crabaugh points to when discussing Troops to Teachers candidates.

And for those with a little time left in the service, consider how you can strengthen your education-oriented skill set during your remaining time in the military.

"(Take) advantage of all technology training offered through the military," said Daniel Leija, Master Sergeant (Ret.) Air Force, who became a third grade teacher in Texas. Leija said the technology training he received in the military was a valuable asset on the campuses where he has taught. "I would also recommend taking advantage of any military instructor courses offered through local and command levels. The knowledge and experience gained from these types of courses transfers directly to the teaching field."

## Head to the classroom.

One of the best ways to get an idea if teaching is for you is to get out and talk to education professionals who can give you first-hand knowledge of the profession.

"Spend some time in the classroom first

and interview, have lunch with a couple of teachers," recommended Tetschner.

New technology, plus increasing standards and testing are only a few of the modern education dynamics that today's teachers must embrace.



Daniel Leija

"Many of the experiences we remember from our own days as students in the classroom have been replaced in order to meet the needs of an ever-changing society," said Leija, who now volunteers as a Troops-To-Teachers military mentor. "I highly recommend visiting classrooms and classroom teachers in high-needs schools to get a true feel for the rewards and challenges associated with the profession."

Visiting schools and talking with teachers will also help you determine what subject areas you enjoy teaching (math, science, special education, etc.) and if you have a grade level preference.

## Connect with Troops to Teachers.

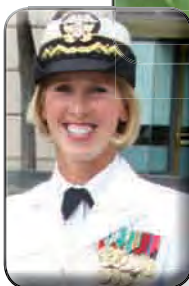
Veterans can register with Troops to Teachers at any point in the process of determining if they want to be a teacher. If you know what state in which you want to teach, contact the state office. Troops to Teachers counselors are positioned to help veterans understand all of the moving parts involved in the process.



Caroline Tetschner

"There are a myriad of colleges offering teaching certification programs but I really needed one designed for a working adult, close to my home," said Tetschner who received assistance from Troops to

Teachers advisors to understand her options. "The fact [my] advisors were both former teachers was a tremendous assistance."



For David Parks, who taught Social Studies after serving in the Army for 24 years, Troops to Teachers was a vital link in funding his teaching certification at a local community college. Parks is now Dean of Students at a charter high school in Arizona.

"I received financial assistance with training, mentorship, encouragement, and support throughout my transition period," said Lambert. "The staff was always ready to assist me with any of the issues that came up during the training and support period."

Lambert was placed in an inner city school, which qualified her for a bonus through Troops to Teachers each year of her first three years of teaching.



David Parks

"Every morning I remind myself that it is another glorious day in service of my nation educating the youth of our country, making a difference in the lives of students every day," said Lambert.

Service members who use the program can remain in contact with Troops to Teachers even after accepting position in order to take advantage of its networking and mentorship opportunities. Participants can also get assistance with additional placements or if they chose to change subjects or states from which they were originally placed.

For more information on the Troops to Teachers program, visit [www.proudtoserveagain.com](http://www.proudtoserveagain.com).

Janine Boldrin is a freelance writer and author of *The Thinking Spouse's Guide to Military Life*. She lives near Fort Campbell, Ky., with her active-duty husband and three children.

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