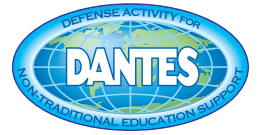


DANTES INFORMATION BULLETIN



DECEMBER 2011
NUMBER 419

WORLDWIDE EDUCATION SUPPORT TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

WWW.DANTES.DODED.MIL

DoD VoEd MOU application deadline draws near

DoD Instruction 1322.25, Voluntary Education (VoEd) Programs, states all institutions providing high school completion and post secondary education programs through the DoD Tuition Assistance (TA) Program must agree to the new DoD Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). **A signed copy of the MOU must be on-file with DoD prior to Service members receiving TA approval to attend their institution.** Schools have until Jan. 1, 2012, to comply with the policy.

On Oct. 20, 2011, Carolyn Baker, Chief, DoD Continuing Education Programs, wrote an informative letter to the institutions, which can be viewed

under MOU Clarifications at www.dodmou.com/. Institutions wishing to submit an application can login to the DoD MOU Web site at www.dodmou.com/Login.aspx.

Students, or prospective students, should be aware of the significance of this instruction. **If their school does not have an approved MOU on file after Jan. 1, 2012, they will not be eligible for TA funding for that particular school.**

To view the Participating Institutions list, visit www.dodmou.com/InstitutionList.aspx. The Participating Institutions list can be searched by alphabetical listing, accreditation, State, or keyword. At this writing, there are 956 parent institutions and 2024 sub institutions on the list. If a student's school is not on the list, it would be in that student's best interest to make an inquiry to see if an MOU is in process.

Above: The DoD MOU Institution Login Web page.

Above: The DoD MOU Web site Participating Institutions tab takes the user to a listing of institutions with approved MOUs on file.

What's Inside?

Examinations	2/3
Reference Publications	4
WV12 Trivia	5
Higher Education	6
Transitions	7
SEA	8
RCA	10
Testing Calendar/Contacts	11



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In CONUS CLEP® transition pilot program underway

With the closeout of CLEP paper-and-pencil testing (PPT) in CONUS effective Dec. 31, 2011, the College Board and DANTES have implemented a fully funded pilot program for the period Oct. 1, 2011 through Sept. 30, 2012. This program will greatly facilitate the transition of remaining in CONUS paper-based DANTES test sites without National Test Centers (NTCs) to 100 percent eCBT testing. In addition, the program will ensure that a nearby community test center (on-campus NTC) is open in those areas where PPT testing was previously conducted, providing uninterrupted access to CLEP

exams for DANTES-funded test takers.

One significant change to the current base-sponsored/on-base NTC process is that the college or university test center will no longer have to sign an MOU with the local base. This change under the pilot program will expedite the NTC establishment process. Those bases currently progressing toward getting a base-sponsored NTC should expedite the process in 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 an MOU under the pilot program.

Another change under this pilot program concerns the terms of payment for the test center payment agreement. DANTES will provide funding for the initial (first time) administration of a CLEP exam test title to test-takers for both the exam and the \$20 per exam administration fee charged by the on-campus NTC.

If you have questions regarding the transition of CLEP paper and pencil exams to computer-based testing in CONUS, contact the DANTES Examinations Program at DSN 922-1111 ext. 3118, CML 850-452-1111 ext. 3118, or e-mail exams@navy.mil.

CLEP® professional development webinars now available

The College Board CLEP program invites DANTES-sponsored test site administrators seeking to better prepare examinees to take College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams to join them on the newly launched CLEP professional development webinar entitled “CLEP for Military Members and Veterans”. This one-hour session is free and conducted once a month by a CLEP staff member.

As part of the CLEP professional development Web series, “CLEP for Military Members and Veterans” is designed to reach veterans affairs officers, advisors, and test center administrators. These sessions highlight the benefits with regard to CLEP exams available to active duty military Service members, veterans, and eligible spouses as well as offering a platform where an exchange of best practices can take place. In addition, the College

Board welcomes suggestions for information to include in future sessions that could benefit others in military education.

While sessions have been scheduled only through December 2011, the “CLEP for Military Members and Veterans” webinar will be conducted in future months on the third Wednesday of every month from 2:00-3:00 p.m. EST. Note that a maximum of 30 participants may register for a session. If a session is full, register for the next available session. The College Board will post the 2012 schedule, running through June, in the January DIB, so keep a look out.

In addition to the above webinar, the CLEP program also hosts a one-hour session entitled “CLEP Overview.” This session is designed to provide an overview of the program and topics, including the types and design of CLEP Exams, the benefits for both students

and institutions, the process of adopting a CLEP policy for college campuses, and ideas on publicizing CLEP opportunities for students. The “CLEP Overview” webinar is conducted every second Tuesday of the month from 2:30-3:30 p.m. EST.

To register for these and other informative CLEP webinars, go to clep.collegeboard.org/professional.

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.

FY12 GED testing – NOW is the time

For Test Control Officers (TCOs) providing GED testing services, NOW is the time to test non-High School graduates while DANTES-funded paper-based testing is still available.

On Oct. 1, 2013 (FY13), GED Testing Services (GEDTS) will convert their exams from paper-based to computer-based testing (CBT). In that same year, DANTES will implement a new contract with GEDTS to provide GED CBT testing to Service members. DANTES, in cooperation with GEDTS, will determine the sites that will convert to Pearson VUE Authorized Test Centers (PVTCs) to offer the 2002 Series GED Tests by computer. Once the sites have been determined based on contractual agreements with DANTES, a launch plan will be developed to outline the process. For overseas testing, the PVTCs already operating at military installations could provide the CBT GED through collaboration with GEDTS, DANTES, and the Pearson VUE Channel for military and government agencies. The primary focus for 2013 will be Camp Robinson in Arkansas, with the potential addition of Great Lakes in Illinois.

The benefits of GEDTS migrating to computer-based GED exams include: no paper inventory tracking; enhanced test security; eligibility and test scheduling completed online; automated confirmation letters; shorter test administration times; and automated results processing. There are two primary areas of focus for the newly evolved GED Testing Service. GEDTS plans to develop a new assessment system that will continue to measure high school equivalency, but will add new career and college-ready performance levels and enhanced scoring. Their plan is to add GED CBT in all states before the new assessment is launched in early 2014.

As a result of these important changes, and before the transition to CBT occurs, education center DANTES Test Sites should test personnel now with paper-based GED exams so that military members currently serving may obtain a high school equivalency credential. The exploration of community based sites providing CBT to military members in CONUS is being considered but locations may be limited, the cost of CBT will more than double the cost of paper-based testing, and the GED exam is changing, so personnel who start on the paper but do not pass all for the credential, must retake the entire exam.

For more information, contact the DANTES Examination Program at exams@navy.mil.

**Missed a DIB
edition?**

**Click [HERE](#) to view
archived DIBs.**

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

**Or, do you have a question
about a DANTES program?**

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

Returning ACT® test materials

Attention DANTES-sponsored test site test administrators: when returning ACT test materials, it is important to remember that the Supervisor's Report Form **MUST** be included with each shipment of completed answer folders.

Test Control Officers (TCOs) should follow these instructions when completing the form:

- » use a geographic name such as Ft. Lewis Education Center or Eglin AFB Education Center
- » use the 2-digit code from the state code list; APO, FPO, AA, AE and AP use "FF"
- » DANTES test sites should use the following codes:
 - 99894 Air Force
 - 99895 Army
 - 99896 Coast Guard
 - 99897 Marine Corps
 - 99898 Navy
- » enter the number of answer folders to be scored
- » enter the month, day and year of the test date for the answer folders enclosed
- » DANTES test sites enter "98" followed by the DANTES four-digit ID number

These instructions are also located on the Supervisor's Report Form. Photocopied Supervisor's Report Forms are not authorized. DANTES test site personnel repeatedly failing to use the ACT Supervisor's Report Form may lose authorization to administer the ACT.

For more information, consult the FY12 DANTES Exams Program Handbook (DEPH) accessible to TCOs at <https://dantestcoportal.prometric.com/Login/Login.aspx>, or contact exams@navy.mil.

Student tax credit modified

For the 2011 and 2012 tax years, the Hope credit has been modified to the American opportunity tax credit - an expanded college tax credit. In 2013, unless Congress passes legislation extending these new tax credits, the former terms will go back into effect.

The American opportunity tax credit is worth as much as \$2,500 in tax credits on the first \$4,000 of qualifying college expenses and is effective through four years of enrollment. Allowable expenses can include books, lab supplies, software, and other materials needed for class.

If you qualify as a lower income taxpayer and the credit exceeds your tax bill for the year, up to 40 percent of the credit or \$1,000 will be paid directly to you as a refund.

The credit decreases starting with single taxpayers making \$80,000 a year and disappears at \$90,000. For married taxpayers the thresholds are \$160,000 and \$180,000. If you've already used the Hope credit for

the first two years of education, you can still use the American opportunity tax credit for the junior and senior years.

To qualify, you must be enrolled at least half time in a college, university or other accredited post-secondary educational institution.

The changes in the Hope credit do not affect the lifetime learning credit which is used for higher education. However, you cannot claim the tuition and fees tax deduction in the same year that you claim the American opportunity tax credit or the lifetime learning credit. You must choose among them.

For more details go to the IRS Web site (or check with your tax advisor): www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=211309,00.html.

NOTE: A deduction reduces the amount of income subject to tax. A tax credit reduces the amount of income tax you have to pay.

DANTES PERSONNEL NEWS

DANTES welcomes new Education Support employee

Gina Perry joins the DANTES team in December as a Management Analyst in support of DANTES contracts.

Perry earned a political science/international relations bachelor's degree from San Diego State University in 1988. Upon graduation, she returned to Pensacola, Fla., and joined Gulf Power Company, helping to stand up the company's Total Quality Management effort, and teaching leadership principles, quality theory, and statistical process control.

In 2002, Perry became a systems analyst in support of Defense Finance and Accounting Service-Technology Services Organization - Pensacola. In 2006, she joined Commander Navy Installations Command



(CNIC) as an analyst supporting Public Private Competitions. In 2008 she was assigned responsibility for establishing the newly-created organization's manpower/subcontract requirements, monitoring performance and cost effectiveness, and ensuring compliance with applicable OPNAV instructions.

Welcome Aboard, Gina!

DANTES Web site Hot News

11/17/11: [New TTT Registration page URL](#)

11/17/11: [DANTES DLRSA links added to Web site](#)

11/07/11: [DANTES Releases DL Readiness Self-assessment tool](#)

11/07/11: [Readmission of Servicemembers to Postsecondary Institutions DoE brief](#)

11/04/11: [New edition arrives - DANTES Stock #2440](#)

10/07/11: [WW12 Registration now open!](#)

09/12/11: [Credentialing links added to DANTES Resource page](#)

DoD Worldwide Team SPIRIT Trivia contest #5

The trivia contest, the first event in the Worldwide Symposium Team SPIRIT competition, continues to be hard fought. In November, 100 percent of those responding had the correct answer - Veterans Day was called "Armistice Day" until 1954 to commemorate the end of "the war to end all wars" on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, 1918.

The November contest was declared a tie, since the first two answers were submitted at exactly the same time! Both teams, Navy and Coast Guard, were awarded a 150 point prize. The co-winners were Kelly Curreri of NASP Navy College Office, Pensacola, Fla. and Jose Velazquez of USCG Personnel Service Center, Arlington, Va.

The point standings as of Nov. 22, 2011:

- » 640 USCG
- » 390 Navy
- » 210 Army
- » 140 Air Force
- » 50 USMC
- » 10 National Guard

The first correct answer to arrive in the official contest inbox (dantesww@navy.mil) will earn that player's team 150 points 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.

* Throughout December, watch for "Holiday Bonus" questions that may be posted at random to the WW12 Web site or to any of the official DANTES or WW12 social media pages.

JOINT EFFORT, JOINT SUCCESS

WW12
DoD WORLDWIDE
EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM & EXPO

EDUCATING THE FORCE

MGM GRAND, LAS VEGAS

JULY 23-27, 2012

WW12
DoD WORLDWIDE
EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM & EXPO

Trivia Question

#5

Who is the only U.S. President to have held a Ph.D. (not including honorary degrees)?

At DoD Worldwide, attendees will collaborate with the most qualified experts in fields relevant to military voluntary education. So far, at least 56 of selected WW12 presenters have earned the right to be called "Dr." (Ph.D., Ed.D., etc.).



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.

Mystery Quote:

"Only the Educated are free."

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.

Sandra Azevedo, Education Counselor, 62D AW - FDE
Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA

was the first to identify the author of last month's quote as
Abigail Adams.

Great job!

Second national campus survey on veteran programs launched on Veterans Day 2011

A coalition of higher education associations selected Veterans Day to launch the second iteration of its national survey on campus programs and services offered to student veterans and active duty military students.

An online survey link was e-mailed to student personnel administrators on Nov. 11. Survey results will be presented in July 2012 at the [Department of Defense \(DoD\) Worldwide Education Symposium](#) in Las Vegas, Nev.

Over 700 colleges and universities across the country—public, private, and proprietary—participated in the 2008 survey. The 2009 survey report, *From Soldier to Student: Easing the Transition of Service Members on Campus*, can be found [here](#).

Questions about the 2011 survey or about the 2008 data can be addressed to Bryan Cook at (202) 939-9381 or policy@acenet.edu. If you know of a college administrator who should receive the

survey, notify ACE at this contact information.

Participating associations include:

- » [American Association of State Colleges and Universities](#)
- » [American Council on Education](#),
- » [National Association of Student Personnel Administrators](#)
- » [National Association of Veteran's Program Administrators](#)

You ought to be in pictures!

In the fall of 2010, Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) developed an initiative during which many shared their views on video about several current topics and issues related to voluntary education. The video was then formatted in a composite format and presented at a general session at the 2011 Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) Annual Symposium in Tampa.

This activity was so successful and well received that another SOC sponsored video will be produced for a different venue - the [Department of Defense \(DoD\) Worldwide Education Symposium](#) in July 2012.

If you plan to attend the 2012 CCME in Orlando (Feb. 13-16), you are invited to share your thoughts with the DoD education leadership,

military education services personnel worldwide, and your colleagues in the higher education community. Videos will be recorded throughout the week, which will then be woven into a collage that will be on view at the DoD Worldwide Education Symposium in Las Vegas, Nev. In order to capture the broadest breadth of views, sound and video bites will be used rather than each recording in its entirety.

For those not attending the CCME, there are additional participation options:

- » submit a video prepared at your own facility or office
- » submit an audio recording, perhaps accompanied by a photo of yourself or one depicting voluntary education activities at your institution/installation

- » Submit written responses that can be presented in the collage as quotes

The primary goal of this activity is to document and collect personal responses to the questions, not focus on the visual aesthetics. The success of this videography project depends on your thoughts and input.

If you wish to participate, respond by Dec. 12, 2011, to Marcy Shapiro, shapirom@aascu.org, 202-478-4674. For those submitting their own recordings or written comments, additional details including recommended specifications and mailing address will be provided.

For proposed questions and additional details about the project, visit the SOC Web site at www.soc.aascu.org/socgen/WhatsNew.html.

**Servicemembers
Opportunity
Colleges®**

Serving the Voluntary Education Needs of the Military Services



TRANSITIONS



Call to action!

Separation actions are actively taking place within each Service: 50,000 soldiers downsized starting March 2012; 3,000 airmen cut over the past 18 months; 124 Naval officers facing early retirement. When it is your time to transition from military service to civilian life, will you be ready?

DANTES-sponsored programs can help with your transition. [Testing programs](#), [ACE recommended credit for service training](#), and [SOC degree](#) planning options can be used to accelerate your degree. The online career planning program [DISCOVER](#) can help you reach decisions regarding educational and vocational choices. Assess your readiness for distance learning with the DANTES Distance Learning Readiness Self-Assessment ([DANTES DLRSA](#)).

Facing 450 billion dollars worth of DoD cuts, it is not far-fetched to predict that military education programs may be impacted. You would be wise to take advantage of education benefits now, rather than later.

Navy provides one-stop shop for transition information

Navy Personnel Command (NPC) established a transition assistance information page on their Web site providing Sailors and leadership a central location to find transition assistance information and resources. The page features links to Shipmates to Workmates, Credentialing Opportunities On-Line (COOL), TurboTAP and Selected Reserve opportunities, which are programs that can assist transitioning Sailors. The page also features links to the latest transition news that can help Sailors learn about new and upcoming services, benefits and upcoming initiatives.

Full story: www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=63732

VA Web site links

The Veterans Affairs (VA) Web site is loaded with helpful transition information and assistance. Here are a few of their pages:

Transition Assistance

www1.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book/benefits_chap10.asp
eBenefits portal

www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits-portal/ebenefits.portal

National Resource Directory

www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov/

The Pre-Discharge Program

www.vba.va.gov/predischarge/

Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors handbook

www1.va.gov/OPA/publications/benefits_book.asp

Fed job seekers

Fedshirevets.gov is an Office of Personnel Management (OPM) operated one stop resource, providing Federal employment information for veterans and transitioning Service members.

www.fedshirevets.gov/

Veterans connect

The social-networking Web site ArmedZilla was unveiled on Veterans Day, an online community for veterans, their families, and friends.

www.armedzilla.com/

Hiring Our Heroes

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Hiring Our Heroes program is an effort to help veterans and their spouses find employment.

Since the program's launch in March 2011, more than 3,400 veterans and military spouses, and 50 wounded warriors, have been helped to find employment.

www.uschamber.com/veterans

TurboTAP.org

The DoD Transition Assistance Program (TAP) was developed to assist in the transitioning of military personnel and family members leaving the service.

TurboTAP.org is the official Web site providing transition information and supplements the services offered by the Transition Assistance Offices and other groups. This site is also supported by the Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs.

FROM THE DESK OF THE SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR



HMCM (FMF/SW) David Acuff
Senior Enlisted Advisor

DANTES is located in Pensacola, Fla., known as the “Cradle of Naval Aviation.” Tens of thousands of Naval Aviators have received their training here, including [John H. Glenn](#), USMC, the first American to orbit the earth in 1962; and [Neil Armstrong](#), the first man to set foot on the moon in 1969. The Blue Angels, the Navy’s Flight Demonstration

Squadron, is stationed here and continually provides exciting performances for thousands around the globe each year.

As we come to the end of 2011, I thought it important to note that this year marks the 100th Anniversary of Naval Aviation. This momentous anniversary has been celebrated year-long across the country by paying tribute to the amazing progress and achievements of United States Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard Aviation. Recently, I was invited to a “Winging” ceremony, which marks the culmination of nearly two years of specialized training preparing officers of the United States Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard for the rigorous demands of aerial combat and carrier operations. Completion of the ceremony earns each officer the title of “Naval Aviator” and the right to wear the coveted “Wings of Gold.” I thought to myself, what a fitting way to close out the centennial celebration of Naval Aviation by attending a Winging!

One of the officers receiving his wings is a friend of mine who had been in the Navy nine years and was prior enlisted. He not only was a flight student with an aggressive training schedule, but he managed to volunteer as a coach for our sons’ football team. As I watched Lt. j.g. Nicholas S. Maret being pinned with his “Wings of Gold,” I was struck by the journey he made working through the enlisted ranks to earn a commission and ultimately his Wings. I decided to ask him a few questions concerning that journey. He was happy to oblige and wanted to share his story to help encourage other enlisted members to pursue their educational goals.

Acuff: Congratulations on earning your Wings! Can you describe how DANTES programs may have helped you attain your educational and career goals?

Maret: Thank you. DANTES provided me with the opportunity to take College-Level

Examination Program (CLEP) tests which allowed me to accumulate more college credits. The college I attended in the Seaman To Admiral (STA-21) program accepted a CLEP for English so that was one less class to take, it also made me more competitive for enlisted evaluations and strengthened my STA-21 package. The STA-21 program is designed to enable active-duty Sailors to earn a college degree and become commissioned officers for the 21st century.

Acuff: What was your enlisted rate and rank?

Maret: Aviation Electronics/ AT2 AW/SW (Air Warfare/Surface Warfare).

Acuff: How did your base education office help you get started taking college classes in the military?

Maret: The Navy college office in Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, was a great resource to have. They worked with me to set up CLEP tests and even provided study materials in advance. In addition to taking CLEPs, they helped me enroll in on-base college courses using tuition assistance.

Acuff: What did you need to become a candidate for the STA-21 program?

Maret: Specifics can be found on the Web site, www.sta-21.navy.mil, but a quick overview is: a U.S. citizen, able to obtain a baccalaureate degree in 36 months or less, have taken the SAT with a minimum combined score of 1000 or the ACT with a minimum combined score of 41, and have no record of disciplinary action under Article 15, UCMJ, within the preceding three years leading up to the application deadline.

Acuff: When did you get picked up for the program and what brought you to earning your wings today?

Maret: I was selected in October 2005 for the FY06 STA-21 class. The Navy sends all STA-21 candidates to Newport, R. I., for the Naval Science Institute which is eight weeks of Officer Training. From there, candidates go off to their prospective colleges, in my case Miami University in Ohio. While at Miami, I was attached to the NROTC unit and drilled as any Midshipman would, and was allowed 36 months to complete my degree. Once graduated from college I was commissioned as an ensign, then sent to Naval Air Station Pensacola (NASP) for flight training. While at NASP, all pilots complete Aviation Preflight Indoctrination (API). This is an intense six weeks of academics in which students must meet minimum scores in order to continue on through the aviation pipeline. After completion of API, I was sent to NAS

[continued on page 9](#)

From the desk of the Senior Enlisted Advisor

[continued from page 8](#)

Whiting Field, Fla., for primary flight training in the T-34C for seven months then on to advanced helicopter flight training for six months. From the date I was selected for STA-21 it's taken just under six years to earn my Wings.

Acuff: What advice would you offer other Service members thinking about pursuing off-duty education?

Maret: Off-duty education is extremely important and the military is providing the necessary tools for Service members to pursue their education. The base education office is a great resource to inform you of exactly what's available. For instance, they can enroll you in CLEP tests which are at no cost to Service members on their first attempt. They can help you enroll in college courses and show you how to make the most of your tuition assistance. Also, shore duty is a great time to pursue college credits, even if you don't think you're going to continue on to get a degree (which you should strive to do). Those college credits could separate you from your peers when it comes time for evaluations, which ultimately will advance your military career.

Acuff: Thank you for your time and congratulations again Lt. j.g. Maret!



Pictured above (l-r): Cara Middleman-Maret pins her husband, Lt. j.g. Nicholas S. Maret with "Wings of Gold"



Pictured above: Attending the Oct. 21, 2011, Navy Aviation Winging Ceremony at NAS Whiting Field, Fla. (l-r): Ryan Abbot (US Army veteran); Lt. j.g. Nicholas Maret (US Navy); Robin Griffiths (USMC veteran); HMCM (FMF/SW) David Acuff (US Navy).



I hope his success inspires you to pursue your educational goals. Remember, take advantage of the free counseling support offered at your base education office or virtual education center – it was his first step to an entirely different career.

I wish you a Blessed Holiday Season and much success on finishing your degree in 2012! Please contact me at ea@navy.mil. I would enjoy hearing from you and possibly visiting your military installation.



Lt Col Eurydice Stanley
Reserve Component Advisor

Post 9/11 GI Bill: The earned gift that can keep on giving

December is the one month in the year when all the world's religions converge with some form of symbolic event. However, before heading out to the malls to shop for loved ones, take a moment to give the most important gift of all – transfer

your Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits to your family members. With the click of your mouse, you can provide for your next generation!

A recent Army Times article addressed the importance of transferring at least one month of your Post 9/11 GI Bill to family members prior to retirement to ensure that they retain your educational benefits. I took heed to their warning and did so, and felt that I was being very responsible for doing so. However, as I discussed the article with Sgt. Maj. Jodi Courts, Minnesota Army National Guard Education NCOIC, he shared more aggressive thoughts, "My guidance to Soldiers is that they transfer all of their benefit under the assumption that they would pass away tomorrow. You can't transfer benefits when you are dead, however, you can transfer and revoke the benefit at any time after the initial transfer."

Courts' advice made a lot of sense, causing me to question why it was not being shared with everyone. I visited the GI Bill Education Support Center at the Professional Education Center in Little Rock, Ark. Jim Walters, GI Bill Support Team member, agreed with Courts. "If you plan to transfer the benefits later, just commit to it now. One month is a placeholder. Once you're out, you can't go back. Why not max

out the benefits now? Don't put it off." He also noted that the transfer must be done by the Service member, and it cannot be done by power of attorney in case of accidental death.

The Post 9/11 GI Bill can be used 15 years from your last date of active federal service. Your children must use the benefits before their 26 birthday. Payments are made in tiers, 100% of tuition and fees at any state supported college, but private institutions are capped at \$17,500 per year.

After receiving Courts' sage advice, I went on the VA Web site (www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/post_911_gibill/transfer_of_benefits.html) and transferred all of my benefits equally between my two children, equating to 18 months each. Essentially, I gave them graduate school, because they are both enrolled in the prepaid Florida Education Enrollment Program. It was an amazing moment, and it will be a gift that continues to give to future generations. Best of all, you can share in that feeling by doing the same thing RIGHT NOW!

One other reason to take action now is that there is a four year service obligation for transfers for personnel with less than 20 years of service. Don't waste time debating an action that can be easily transferred back to you if you change your mind and decide to use the benefits yourself. Tomorrow is promised to no one – prepare for future generations today!

I wish for you peace, health, prosperity and joy in the year to come. It is quite an honor to serve with you in our joint critical endeavor to promote voluntary education services for our Service members - Seasons Blessings!

Contact the DANTES RCA at rca@navy.mil.

Other VolEd news in the world...

VEC assists Sailors, Veterans in updating SMARTs

www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=63755

Soldiers, educators offer tips on taking class while deployed

www.dvidshub.net/news/79425/soldiers-educators-offer-tips-taking-class-while-deployed

Post 9/11 GI Bill: broadening educational horizons

www.dvidshub.net/news/79665/post-9-11-gi-bill-broadening-educational-horizons

Tennessee charter school program collaborates with Tennessee Troops to Teachers

www.educationnews.org/education-policy-and-politics/tennessee-charter-school-incubator-to-see-military-advice/

TESTING CALENDAR

December 2011

5 LSAT (all locations)

January 2012

14-18 Praxis*

February 2012

13 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

6490 SAUFLEY FIELD ROAD
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