

# DANTES INFORMATION BULLETIN

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WORLDWIDE EDUCATION SUPPORT TO THE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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## New DANTES DL self-assessment tool released

DANTES recently released the Distance Learning Readiness Self-Assessment (DLRSA) tool, created by Dr. Carol Berry, DANTES Director, to help students self-assess their readiness for distance learning.

The DANTES DLRSA resulted after a review of tuition assistance data revealed that more than 70 percent of all military personnel were self-selecting into distance learning (DL) courses and experiencing lower completion rates than comparable face-to-face classes. It is critical that Service members are successful when taking a distance learning class. Failure creates a wave of negative impact on the Service member and his/her education, as well as the government; both parties have invested time and money into the education process.

While no instrument has proven to predict success in distance learning, having a clear understanding of one's individual circumstances may influence a student's behavior in the pursuit of education goals, and may be the difference between completing and not completing the class. By making a student aware of personal strengths and weaknesses, steps can be taken

to address those issues that might interfere with overall educational success.

While the DANTES DLRSA helps students determine their readiness for DL, it should not be used to deny enrollment in a distance learning course. The guidance and information should inform and help students self-screen their current skills, habits and understanding of DL, thereby helping students to make choices that lead to a successful educational experience.

There are several components to this program: the self-assessment; Counselor's Guide; PowerPoint training for staff and counselors, providing background on DL research and theory; and a protocol for implementation. The Counselor Guide provides information about the instrument for education center counselors on how to review and discuss the results with clients.

Anyone can take the DLRSA at the DANTES DL Online Catalogs Web site [www.dantescatalogs.com/](http://www.dantescatalogs.com/). Counselors with a valid DANTES ID number can also request a copy of the guide and training slides.



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## DoD VoEd MOU update

Check out [www.dodmou.com](http://www.dodmou.com) for the latest update from the Office of Under Secretary of Defense (OUSD). In the bottom right-hand corner is a list of resources, with a recently added link "MOU Clarifications," which goes to a letter from Carolyn Baker, Chief, DoD Continuing Education Programs OUSD, providing clarifications on the MOU.

## GED testing update

Test centers currently stocking GED Test Batteries will receive Forms IG, ID and Alternate IJ for use beginning Jan. 1, 2012. The current year 2011 GED batteries (Forms IC, IE, and Alternate II) must be returned to GEDTS no later than Jan. 31, 2012. The 2012 GED Test Forms IG, ID and Alternate IJ cannot be used until January 2012.

Non-stocking GED test sites must return GED batteries within 60 days of postmark date. Use stocked test batteries to test or retest military and overseas civilians.

Ensure examinees retest using a different form of the test.

## ACT reminder

TCOs - before placing an order for new ACT test materials, look in your safe. If you have Form 65F of the ACT test booklets and 2010-2011 answer folders, they expired Oct. 31, 2011, and can no longer be used. To order the new form, see page II-2-6 of the FY12 DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH) ACT Chapter 2. The DEPH is located on the TCO Portal at <https://dantestcoportal.prometric.com/Login/Login.aspx>.

Remember, unused 2010-2011 ACT Answer Folders with the test booklets must also be returned or accounted for in writing if they cannot be returned. New test materials will not be sent until ACT reconciles the test center's inventory.

Use the FY12 ACT Test Form 64F for the new testing year beginning Nov. 1, 2011. This form is valid until Oct. 31, 2012. Materials are not sent automatically. They must be ordered by the TCO/ATCO.

## CLEP Study Guide 2011-2012 edition

The 2011-2012 edition of the CLEP Study Guides is available to DANTES test sites for DANTES TCOs and ATCOs with a TCO Portal username and password account. Several of the Services have also included these study guides on their knowledge online systems. Copyright provisions allow for local reproduction and/or installation on an installation network by technical support personnel. If installed on the installation's network, access must be limited to on-base personnel only.

TCOs should encourage prospective examinees to review the study guide for the respective test before taking the actual CLEP test. Each study guide contains sections relating to Knowledge and Skills Required, Sample Test Questions, and Study Resources.

Following the recommendations in "Preparing for Taking CLEP Tests," in conjunction with the study guide, can assist examinees to determine their readiness for taking CLEP tests and prepare them to be successful.

## Reminder of deadlines for CONUS CLEP paper-based testing

	Date
Final date for stocking and non-stocking DANTES-sponsored Test Sites in CONUS to order CLEP paper-based exams and optional essays. Any paper-based CLEP exams ordered after October 1, 2011 will not be honored.	10/1/2011
FINAL date for Testing	12/31/2011
FINAL deadline for postmarked administered exams to be returned for scoring and for unused exams to be returned	1/5/2012
FINAL date for testing agencies to score completed exams	2/15/2012

For questions, contact [exams@navy.mil](mailto:exams@navy.mil).

### Mystery Quote:

"Learning is not attained by chance; it must be sought for with ardor and diligence."

If you know who said this, let us know at [pubs@navy.mil](mailto:pubs@navy.mil).

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

Shelly Owczarski, Chief, Voluntary Education/Library Programs,  
HQ AFMC/A1DS, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH

was the first to identify the author of last month's quote as  
Malcolm Forbes.

Great job!

### Looking for a new career?

The Holland Self-Directed Search® (SDS) assessment could be the ticket to success. This 30-minute, paper-based assessment does not require an education counselor to be on site to interpret the assessment. The SDS is simple-to-use, self-administered, self-scored, and self-interpreted. Clients can match the occupation that best suits their interests and abilities such as Realist, Investigative, Artistic, Conventional, Social, and Enterprising.

After the client takes the assessment, his/her answers will result in a 3-letter code, such as ASC (Artistic, Social Conventional.) The codes can then be matched to occupations found in the Occupations Finder (DANTES Stock #1153). These are occupations that the client may wish to consider in the future or occupations similar to those listed.

Education center counselors can order the following Self-Directed booklets by sending an e-mail to the DANTES Distribution Center at [dist@navy.mil](mailto:dist@navy.mil). Include the DANTES Stock Number, quantity and the education center's DANTES ID Number.

- » You and Your Career: Stock #1151; 200 per year limit
- » Assessment Booklet: Stock #1152; 100 per year limit
- » The Occupations Finder: Stock #1153; 100 per year limit
- » Technical Manual: Stock #1154; 2 per year limit
- » Professional User's Guide: Stock #1155; 2 per year limit

For more information on the Holland's Self-Directed Search or any other counseling assessment program, e-mail [counseling@navy.mil](mailto:counseling@navy.mil).

#### Correction Notice

In the October DIB article "National Test Center opened at RAF Alconbury, England," Col. Michael D. Reiner was mistakenly identified as the Command Chief, 423rd Air Base Group. His title should have been listed as Commander, 423rd Air Base Group. The October DIB has been corrected. We apologize for the error.



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](mailto:pubs@navy.mil).

#### Calling all writers and camera-bugs!

Ed Centers - do you have a VolEd-related story to share with other education professionals?

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

#### Nov. in U.S. history:

**2, 1795:** James K. Polk, 11th President, born

**3, 1948:** Chicago Tribune proclaimed "Dewey Defeats Truman"

**6, 1860:** Abraham Lincoln elected 16th U.S. President

**7, 1944:** President Franklin D. Roosevelt elected to an unprecedented fourth term

**10, 1775:** U.S. Marine Corps established as part of the U.S. Navy

**11:** Veterans Day (formerly called Armistice Day)

**15, 1777:** Articles of Confederation adopted by Continental Congress

**19, 1863:** President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address during ceremonies dedicating 17 acres of the Gettysburg Battlefield as a National Cemetery

**19, 1831:** James A. Garfield, 20th President, born

**20, 1962:** The Cuban Missile Crisis concluded as President John F. Kennedy announced he had lifted the U.S. Naval blockade of Cuba

**22, 1963:** President John F. Kennedy assassinated in downtown Dallas

**23, 1804:** Franklin Pierce, 14th President, born

**24, 1784:** Zachary Taylor, 12th President, born

**25, 1783:** The last British troops left New York City at end of the Revolutionary War

**26, 1789:** President George Washington proclaimed the first American holiday - Thanksgiving Day, a day of prayer and public thanksgiving in gratitude for the successful establishment of the new American republic

**30, 1835:** Author Mark Twain born



### American Legion – Need A Lift? – 61st Edition

**N**eed a Lift? is a 152-page booklet updated annually to serve as a financial aid reference guide to veterans and their family members. The 2012 edition is now available online at [www.needalift.org/](http://www.needalift.org/).

This guide is made available by the American Legion and written by an organization of wartime veterans. It is filled with information on grants, scholarships, student loans, tax incentives, and more. You can download the entire guide in .PDF format, or search specific topics online.

Chapter four is dedicated to scholarships and programs offered by The American Legion. For more information, go to [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org).

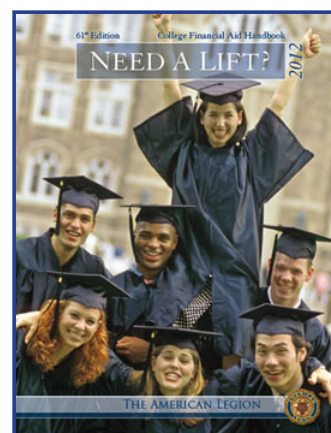
Two of the National Level Scholarships offered are:

#### American Legion Legacy Scholarship

- » Amount and number of awards depend on the income from the trust. Scholarship recipients may reapply
- » Eligibility: Child/children or legally adopted child/children or a child of a spouse by a prior marriage or dependent child as defined by the U.S. Armed Services for active duty personnel of the U.S. military and National Guard, and military reservists who were federalized and die on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001; must be a high school senior or high school graduate to apply; scholarships are for undergraduate study at a U.S. school of higher education
- » Application: Available at [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) or e-mail [acy@legion.org](mailto:acy@legion.org)
- » Deadline: April 15

#### Eight and Forty Lung & Respiratory Nursing Scholarship

- » Established to assist registered nurses with advanced preparation for positions in supervision, administration or teaching
- » Scholarship awards are \$5,000 each
- » Eligibility: Student must be an RN and have prospects of being employed in specific occupations in hospitals, clinics, or health departments on completion their education; position must have a full time and direct relationship to pediatric lung and respiratory control
- » Application: Obtain full details from the local Eight and Forty Scholarship Chairman or write to:  
The American Legion Education Program  
Attention Eight and Forty Scholarships  
Box 1055  
Indianapolis, IN 46206-1055.
- » Deadline: May 15, awards announced on July 1



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### Other VolEd news in the world...

Sailors work toward college degrees at 'Makin Island University' with NCPACE

[www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story\\_id=63237](http://www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=63237)

Division offers Wi-Fi incentive to boost college enrollment

[www.army.mil/article/46869/](http://www.army.mil/article/46869/)

Goal seeker, reach for a higher education

[www.marines.mil/unit/2ndmardiv/Pages/Goalseeker,reachforahighereducation.aspx](http://www.marines.mil/unit/2ndmardiv/Pages/Goalseeker,reachforahighereducation.aspx)

Troops to Teachers helps former Service members serve again

[www.dvidshub.net/news/77853/troops-teachers-helps-former-service-members-serve-again](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/77853/troops-teachers-helps-former-service-members-serve-again)

## DoD Worldwide Team SPIRIT Trivia contest #4

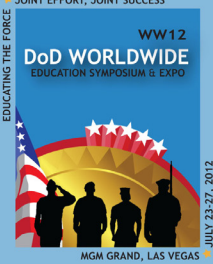
Congratulations, again, to the U.S. Coast Guard and to Shelby Dill, Education Services Officer at Sector Houston-Galveston. Dill was first (by one minute!) to correctly answer that the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds moved their base of operations to Nellis Air Force Base in 1956.

Things were just warming up before. Now, it's on! Teams Coast Guard, Air Force, and Navy submitted correct answers just minutes apart! Coast Guard got there first, however. That's two wins in a row and they've taken the lead.

The point standings as of Oct. 31, 2011:

- » 410 Coast Guard
- » 190 Navy
- » 160 Army
- » 70 Air Force
- » 30 Marine Corps
- » 10 National Guard

This month, we honor and thank all who served in the United States Armed Forces on Veterans Day which, by law, is observed on November 11, regardless of what day of the week this date happens to fall.



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

### #4

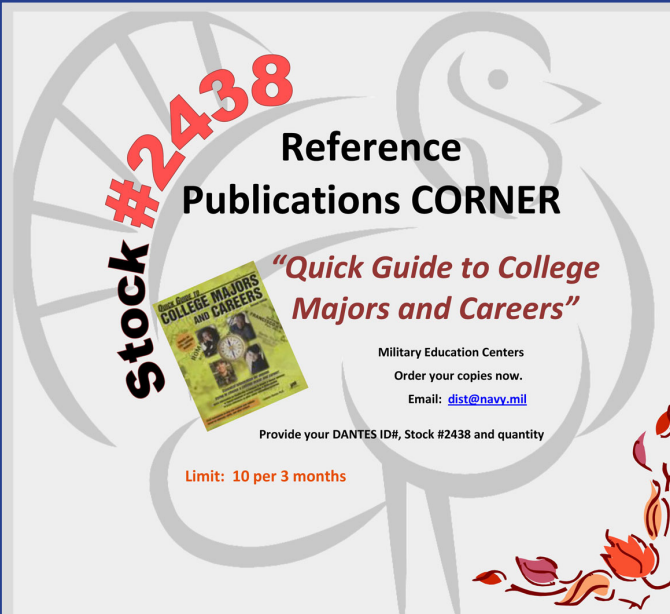
Considering why  
November 11 is significant,  
what did we call Veterans  
Day until 1954?

The first correct answer to arrive in the official contest inbox ([dantesww@navy.mil](mailto: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.

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](mailto:pubs@navy.mil).

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



**Stock #2438**

## Reference Publications CORNER

*"Quick Guide to College  
Majors and Careers"*

Military Education Centers  
Order your copies now.  
Email: [dist@navy.mil](mailto:dist@navy.mil)

Provide your DANTES ID#, Stock #2438 and quantity

Limit: 10 per 3 months

## HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS NEWS

### Campuses to honor veterans on 11-11-11

Join 134 colleges and universities in 46 states for this year's Remembrance Day National Roll Call.

Each participating school will have students, faculty, staff and community members read each of the 6,200-plus names of the casualties of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), and observe a nationwide "minute of silence" at 11 a.m. Pacific Standard Time. The Remembrance Day National Roll Call is sponsored nationally by the Veterans Knowledge Community (VKC) of NASPA Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. NASPA is a 12,000 member association for the advancement, health, and sustainability of the student affairs professionals. The VKC mission is to advocate for best practices to help student veterans transition to college and succeed.

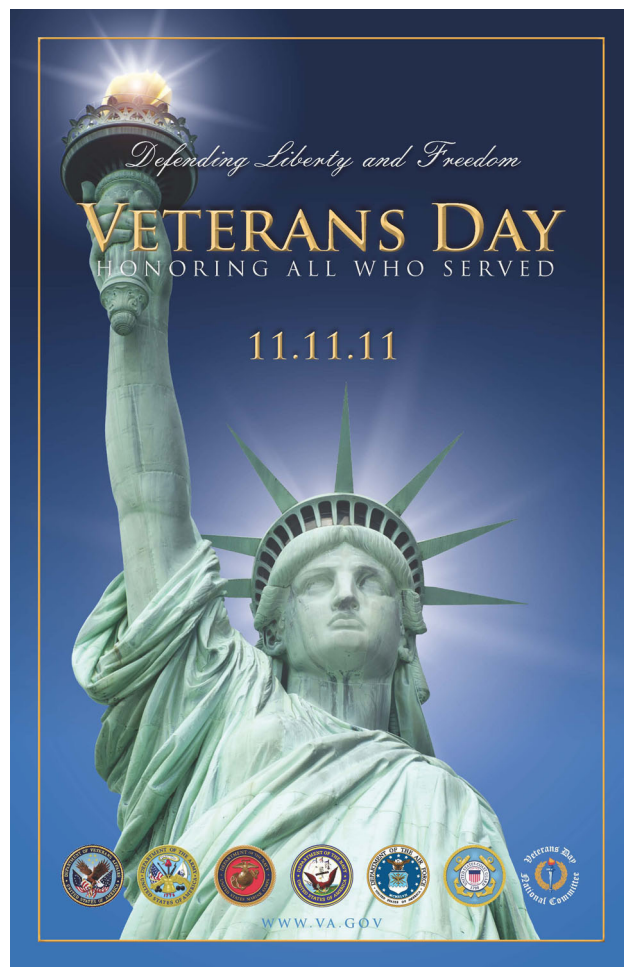
"We wanted to rally campus communities across the nation to send a powerful message to the troops currently serving that their peers have not forgotten their sacrifices or those of the fallen," said retired Lt. Col. Brett Morris, the National Roll Call coordinator. He added, "There is no effort to raise money or promote individual programs, the event is simply to honor those who have sacrificed so much on our behalf." Morris is the Associate Director for Veterans Affairs at Eastern Kentucky University.

To join the National Roll Call, e-mail [RemembranceRollCall@gmail.com](mailto:RemembranceRollCall@gmail.com). To see a list of participating schools, visit [va.eku.edu/rollcall](http://va.eku.edu/rollcall). For more information, contact Brett Morris, Associate Director for Veterans Affairs, Eastern Kentucky University, 859-622-7838.

### DANTES helps with CFC

Once again, DANTES personnel put forth a tremendous effort to support Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) charities. In addition to personal pledges, they held a breakfast burrito sale, a chili-cookoff and sale, and a yard sale/breakfast sale. Hmm... does anyone else see a common theme (FOOD) here?

DANTES personnel raised over \$6,500, or 162 percent of their goal, for CFC charities. Good job to everyone involved!



### FSU announces initiatives to create Veteran-friendly campus

Florida State University (FSU) recently announced several new initiatives that will help the university in its efforts to become the most veteran-friendly public university in the nation.

The new initiatives include: establishing a Florida State Veterans Center, which will reach veterans of all generations; hiring a director of the Florida State Veterans Center to implement the center's mission; and launching an annual Student Veteran Film Festival to raise awareness of veterans' issues and support the establishment of a veterans center.

Plans are under way to build a 35,000-square-foot building to bring the Florida State Veterans Center, ROTC offices, and a World War II museum together into one facility that would promote collaboration.

To read the entire article, go to [www.fsu.com/Featured-Stories/Florida-State-University-announces-initiatives-to-create-most-veteran-friendly-campus-in-nation](http://www.fsu.com/Featured-Stories/Florida-State-University-announces-initiatives-to-create-most-veteran-friendly-campus-in-nation).



## FROM THE DESK OF THE SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR



HMCM (FMF/SW) David Acuff  
Senior Enlisted Advisor

**H**ave you taken courses from different colleges throughout your career? How do you keep track of it all? Perhaps you took college courses prior to entering the military. Maybe you remember being told that there were college credit recommendations for courses at certain service schools you attended. You might recall hearing that veterans can earn

college credit based on military experience. What about College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) or DANTES Subject Standardized Test (DSST) exams you've passed? "How do you keep track of it all?"

Fortunately, there are collection points for almost all of your educational accomplishments. The five Services have developed transcript and education repositories for American Council on Education (ACE) college credit recommendations for their members.



There is the Army ACE Registry Transcript Service (AARTS), and the Sailor Marine ACE Registry Transcript (SMART). The Air Force has records available through the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) and the Air Force Virtual Education Center.

Coast Guard personnel have access to Tuition Assistance and documentation of Navy Courses they have attended via the online SMART portal. Additionally, the Coast Guard is working to have educational transcripts available to its members by September 2012.

Military transcripts are convenient, computer-generated documents that carefully track your military training and coursework. These services have been around for a while starting with the development of AARTS in 1987 and then the implementation of SMART in 1999. Created by the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps in partnership with ACE, both documents list personal student data, courses, and occupations evaluated by ACE to include descriptions, learning outcomes and equivalent college credit recommendations, as well as national college-level



exam results. The transcripts are endorsed by ACE, carry the official ACE seal, and are regularly monitored for quality assurance. AARTS and SMART transcripts are available online as personal copies or may be officially sent to accredited colleges and universities at the student's request, at no charge to the Service member.

Transcripts must be ordered from:

- » Navy and Marine Corps: <https://smart.navy.mil/smart/welcome.do>
- » Army: [aarts.army.mil/](http://aarts.army.mil/)
- » Air Force: [www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/transcripts.asp](http://www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/transcripts.asp)
- » Coast Guard: [www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/active\\_duty/go\\_to\\_college/official\\_transcript.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgi/active_duty/go_to_college/official_transcript.asp)

Many colleges and universities review Service transcripts for potential transfer of credit. However, the school you are considering may not accept military transcripts for the award of college credit you seek. It is important that you know as much as possible about the policies for awarding extra-institutional credit at the school you are considering. How recommended credit can be applied to your program



of study and the total number of semester hours acceptable may have an effect on your enrollment decision. It is important to know about the institution's participation as a Servicemember Opportunity College (SOC) institution and just how much potential credit they will accept to meet degree requirements. SOC is funded by the Department of Defense (DoD) and coordinated through DANTES. Since the decision to award credit for any military training and coursework rests entirely with the receiving institution, it may be wise to research more than one school to maximize college credit potential for your military experiences. Take advantage of the free counseling support offered at your base education office or virtual education center.

I wish you much success on completing your degree! Please contact me at [ea@navy.mil](mailto:ea@navy.mil). I would enjoy hearing from you and possibly visiting your military installation.





Lt Col Eurydice Stanley  
Reserve Component Advisor

### The Handwriting Is On The Wall

The “Accommodating Ability” series started in last month’s DIB will be continued at a future date. Instead, I want to discuss recent events that will significantly impact Service members and should be a wake-up call for those sitting on the fence trying to determine their goals for the future. One

may have overlooked these points of interest when reviewed individually, but taken collectively, they become a compelling call for action. The handwriting is on the wall...are you reading the signs?

As Defense Secretary Leon Panetta wades through 450 billion dollars worth of Department of Defense (DoD) cuts, it is not far-fetched to predict that military education programs may be impacted. For example, the Marine Corps just recently recanted its Oct. 26, 2011, Marine Administrative Message reducing the previous \$3,500 annual education cap to \$875 per Marine. The impact would have been devastating to Marines pursuing a degree, and similar actions will most likely take place on a smaller scale throughout the DoD.

Separation actions are actively taking place within each Service. The Army G-1, Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, recently announced that the Army will downsize by 50,000 soldiers starting March 2012 through accession cuts and voluntary and involuntary separations ([www.armytimes.com/news/2011/09/army-to-cut-nearly-50000-soldiers-over-5-years-092511/](http://www.armytimes.com/news/2011/09/army-to-cut-nearly-50000-soldiers-over-5-years-092511/)). The Air Force cut 3,000 airmen over the past 18 months through date of separation rollbacks. The Navy Selective Early Retirement Board cut 124 O-5s and O-6s – with more to come. Service members must hope for the best while preparing for the worst.

The good news is, military senior leadership continues to call attention to the importance of ensuring that Service members are properly prepared for transition. During farewell remarks, former Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff, Adm. Mike Mullen, commented regarding the contributions of Service members, “War has changed them and their loved ones forever, but it has not changed their dreams. You can help make those dreams come true. Hire them. Help them buy a home. Get them started on the path to an education. Give them a chance.” Yes, there is support at every echelon, but ultimately, it

is dependent upon each Service member to do the work necessary to secure their future success.

In a similar demonstration of support, the Honorable John M. McHugh, Secretary of the Army, recently signed the Army Transition Policy emphasizing the Army’s obligation to better prepare “...transitioning Soldiers, Family members, and Department of the Army (DA) Civilians for opportunities beyond their service to the Army” ([www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/tagd/acap/acap\\_documents/about\\_acap/SA\\_Signed\\_TransitionPolicy.pdf](http://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/tagd/acap/acap_documents/about_acap/SA_Signed_TransitionPolicy.pdf)). This directive mandates the involvement of leadership at every level, and similar directives may be produced within each Service.

Three critical transition-related directives in the Army Transition Policy specifically fall within the realm of the education arena and bear emphasizing in this DANTES-generated forum: the necessity of promoting lifelong learning, the importance of credentialing and the criticality of education counseling.

A degree does not signify the end of learning! Remaining open to opportunities as they arise to consistently learn new skills will ensure you remain marketable and versatile during a job search. Effective Oct. 1, 2011, one of the many changes to the Post 9/11 GI Bill includes the opportunity to pursue non-college, non-degree courses to obtain a skill ([www.armytimes.com/news/2011/09/military-gi-bill-now-covers-vocational-training-092711w/](http://www.armytimes.com/news/2011/09/military-gi-bill-now-covers-vocational-training-092711w/)). This change is very significant as it shortens the training time of personnel who may not be interested in pursuing a college degree, but are interested in pursuing a vocation.

Earning the proper professional credential can be a very important component of a Service member’s employment tool kit. It may compliment a college degree or stand alone, providing entry into a completely different arena. Earning the correct credential or certification could mean the difference between obtaining the job of your dreams or simply accepting the first unfulfilling opportunity that comes your way. Unsure about what credentials are available to you? Visit Army COOL (<https://www.cool.army.mil>) or Navy COOL (<https://www.cool.navy.mil>) Web sites to identify the credentials necessary for the vocation that interests you. Keep in mind that credentialing includes certification and licensure, and there may be multiple credentials required in various career fields. Ensure that you give yourself time, because some programs may take up to ten years – start now!

[continued on page 9](#)



# Handwriting

continued from page 8

If you are undecided regarding where your future interests lie, it is crucial to seek the support and guidance of educational counselors. They may be available on your installation or in a virtual capacity (such as [www.goarmyed.com](http://www.goarmyed.com)). Counselors provide resources, such as the DISCOVER assessment, to help you determine vocational preferences, recommend degree programs that compliment your interests and assist with resume development.

With budget cuts and reduction of forces imminent, it is important that you do not rely on military experience alone to secure a job in the civilian sector. The DoL's latest unemployment rates for veterans range from 9.1% for veterans overall to a staggering 21.9% for Iraq and Afghanistan-era veterans ages 18-24 ([www.bls.gov/news.release/vet.nr0.htm](http://www.bls.gov/news.release/vet.nr0.htm)). Unemployment expenditures exceed 500 million dollars this year for the Army alone, and may possibly surpass one billion dollars with all Services combined. Given that unemployment is an expense that is not budgeted, military programs may be impacted if unemployment expenses catapult. Education does not guarantee employment, but as reflected in DoL statistics, the rates of unemployment for veterans with degrees are consistently lower than those without.

Prepare now: invest the time and effort to set yourself up for success! Identify personal and educational goals and objectives on a timeline beginning, as Stephen Covey says, "... with the end in mind." Ask yourself where you ultimately want to end up, determine what it takes to meet your objective and start from there.

The time is now to establish a plan regarding your future – a truth for every member of the DoD. A DANTES brief entitled "The Handwriting is on the Wall" further synthesizes the issues within this article, with suggestions to help prepare DoD personnel for transition. Whether through drawdown or retirement, everyone should make plans. The objective of the brief is to promote awareness and trigger action on the part of recipients who may realize it is in their own best interests to take the time necessary to prepare for the future. If you are interested in bringing this brief to your unit or organization, contact me at the e-mail below.

It is my sincere hope that this information has compelled you to take action now, encouraged you to leverage available resources and implored you to prepare for success! If you leave the DoD (voluntarily or involuntarily) without a plan, you plan to fail! The handwriting is on the wall...are you reading the signs?

Contact the DANTES RCA at [rca@navy.mil](mailto:rca@navy.mil).

## If not now, when?

By Master Sgt. William Roeder, Education/Test Control Officer, 65th Air Expeditionary Group, Eskan Village, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

As the Education/Test Control Officer, one of my daily questions I ask my customers is, "Are you enrolled in school?" The response is often, "I don't have time" or "I will do it when I retire" or numerous spurious comments. My response is, "If not now, when? When will you start? Why do you wait?"

I then explain the Air Force Tuition Program and how a student has an allotment of \$4500 a year for tuition. Thus, a student can start a college program for the cost of a college text book. Consider this fact, "According to a new U.S. Census Bureau study, education levels had more effect on earnings over a 40-year span in the workforce than any other demographic factor, such as gender, race and Hispanic origin" ([www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/acs-14.pdf](http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/acs-14.pdf), pg. 8). The difference of pay for those with a degree and those without are staggering. A high school graduate will only earn roughly \$1 million while a college graduate with a bachelor will make twice that much money during his/her lifetime. The current enlisted education is amazingly low, as only 5.7 percent have a bachelor degree and only 19.3 percent has an associate degree ([www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-110301-069.pdf](http://www.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-110301-069.pdf), pg. 49). That means 94.3 percent of the Air Force enlisted personnel are losing around \$1.1 million in their lifetime. Today's college environment is much different than in the past. Almost every major university offers an online method to obtaining a degree and with the USAF Associate to Bachelor program, this makes the journey to a college degree much easier!

As a Unit Training Manger for 18 years and working at several Air Force commands, I have noticed a common theme when people out-process through my office: they wish they would have taken advantage of the college benefits while on active duty. One must understand an education is an investment in yourself and your future. The Air Force is providing a method and medium for this investment. As in any investment and goal there will be roadblocks, struggles and challenges, which is what makes achieving the goal so much more fulfilling! Big goals require a big backbone!

This is my mission — to assist people to meet their educational needs and goals! Which brings me back to my original question, "If not now, when?" Don't hesitate to take advantage of your benefits now!

# TESTING CALENDAR

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.

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