

## When counseling, think GPS – goals, programs and strategies

**A**re you a military education center counselor or a student who needs some help with finding the right program? Then think about the content of a counseling session and seek results like a map to a new place.

Today, many of us have a navigation system in our cars, or a GARMIN®, or a Smart phone that can give us directions when we are trying to visit unfamiliar locations. Those tools, or GPS (global positioning systems) help us pinpoint where we are at a given moment and maps out the best route for getting to our destination. These systems can even get us back on track if we deviate or get lost along the way. A great educational counseling session serves the same purpose.

For counselors, their job is to help their clients articulate their needs and then translate those needs into a plan of action. Developing great communication skills, whether face-to-face, on the telephone or by email is critical when trying to draw information from the client that they need to help map out the path to the individual's goal. During the session, the counselor should ask many questions, some of which might not seem to be germane to the immediate conversation, but help the counselor to get to know the client and gain an understanding of their needs. These conversations help lay the groundwork for building the education plan. Some of these questions should be about the client's immediate goals, long-term goals, areas of academic or vocational interest, timeframes for accomplishing the goals, and perhaps an informal discussion on academic preparedness.

For client, they have to be willing to answer the questions honestly, providing the counselor with as much information as they can about what they want in their education program. The client has to be open enough to discuss with the counselor those short and long term goals, an honest assessment of academic strengths and weaknesses, availability for taking classes and a variety of other details that should be considered when establishing an executable education plan.

### Think in terms of GOALS, PROGRAMS and STRATEGIES or GPS

By helping the client establish short and long-term goals, the client has visual milestones, which done correctly, forms the basis for the roadmap. By breaking down the process into individual steps, helps put more control into the hands of the student. By breaking the process down step-by-step, the path to the coveted degree is more manageable and less intimidating. Much like the old saw "how does one eat an elephant?" – students find that by working toward their goals step-by-step, they can "eat that elephant" and attain their goals.

Once client goals are laid out, time to discuss programs at schools that will help the client achieve their newly mapped goals. This may involve researching programs online, programs that are available on the local installation or in the local community. The counselor has to have a fairly comprehensive, working knowledge of available programs. Like sifting pebbles through a sieve, the counselor should help the client identify institutions that will best fit their individual needs and goals. For some students, institution selection might be fairly simple, for others, the student may have to do a little homework to determine which institution is the best fit. Conversation about delivery platform is equally as important, whether to attend face-to-face or via distance learning is part of that sorting out process. While distance learning is perfect for some students, it can be the quickest path to disaster for others and maybe the end of the road. There are instruments available to help individuals assess whether they are ready

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Barry Nelson  
Exams  
Program Manager

## EXAMINATIONS NEWS

### DANTES testing guidelines refresher

It is vital that Education centers and Service members stay up-to-date on DANTES testing and retesting policies, as well as be aware of resources available for college credit exam study and preparations. Below are current policies, guidelines and resources.

#### DANTES funded testing

Testing is Department of Defense (DoD) funded for the first attempt on any of the 142 titles offered across the CLEP, DSST and ECE programs. Eligible spouses of Reserve components and Coast Guard may continue to test with service-provided funding on any CLEP and DSST examination title they have not previously taken. DANTES sponsorship of the three credit-by examination programs continues to be a valuable resource, in addition to tuition assistance, for Service members to move ahead in meeting education and career goals.

Both CLEP and DSST programs offer computer-based exams at base-sponsored and on-campus National Test Centers (NTCs), as well as paper-based test titles at DANTES test sites without NTCs. ECE test titles are available at DANTES test sites and participating NTCs. For each first attempt at an examination title at either a base-sponsored NTC or a DANTES test site, there is no test fee or administration fee. For examinations administered at on-campus NTCs, the individual must pay the institution's administration fee (usually \$15-\$20).

#### Member funded testing

Candidates who previously took a CLEP, DSST or ECE exam funded by DANTES may personally fund a retest

after waiting the requisite time frame from the last test date on that particular test title. Self-funded examinees must pay examination and administration fees (check with the NTC to determine the form of payment required) and register as a civilian. Important notes:

- » If an examinee attempts to retest a CLEP or DSST test title as self-funded before the 180 calendar days requisite waiting period has elapsed, the test score will be invalidated, the waiting period will start over and the test fee will NOT be refunded
- » For ECE, examinees must wait 60 days before retaking the test title again and 120 days after the second attempt and subsequent retests even though the exam is self-funded

Payment policies to retest at a paper-based DANTES Test Site are:

- » CLEP - either by certified check or money order in U.S. dollars, drawn on a U.S. Bank, made payable to College Level Examination Program
- » DSST - either by certified check or money order in U.S. dollars, drawn on a U.S. Bank, made payable to Prometric
- » ECE - either by personal check or money order in U.S. dollars, drawn on a U.S. bank, made payable to Excelsior College; or pay by credit card prior to testing

#### Member funded retest transcripts

For member funded retesting, test scores are not transmitted to the service transcript systems and are not part of the consolidated transcript system. If a retest is taken for a particular degree requirement, a Designated Institution (DI) code

must be identified at the time of testing. For Air Force personnel, examinees may select the DI code for CCAF. For an official transcript to be shipped to the service transcript system or to a school at a later date, the individual must contact the individual testing agencies and order a transcript.

#### Be prepared to test

Earning college credit from a credit-by-exam on the first attempt is a confidence builder and a financial benefit. It serves as a terrific opportunity for Service members to maintain the academic momentum that is the key to overall student success. That success is dependent on dedicated teamwork between the education center and student.

When assisting prospective examinees, DANTES Test Sites must follow DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH) requirements to determine an examinee's eligibility and readiness to test before administering a paper-based CLEP, DSST or ECE exam, or referring the Service member to a National Test Center. This includes providing overall pass rates by test title, providing practice questions (if available), counseling to determine a candidate's background or experience in the areas covered by the examination, or referring to a counselor for guidance. Before issuing an exam, TCOs and counselors must screen examinees to determine if they are retesting as self-funded, and if so, provide the guidance needed to avoid score invalidation. TCOs and counselors are reminded to use the tools DANTES provides to help guide potential examinees.

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### Test preparation practices survey provides keys to success

In October 2010, DANTES conducted a survey on test preparation practices at DANTES test sites and base-sponsored National Test Centers (NTCs) with high pass rates (above 60 percent) and low pass rates (below 40 percent). With the recent retesting policy change, DANTES wanted to know how test sites conducting their CLEP, DSST and ECE testing program contribute to student success.

Twenty surveys were distributed with a return rate of 60 percent. The categories of selected participants included test sites offering paper-based testing with high and low pass rates and NTCs offering computer-based testing with high and low pass rates.

The following questions were included on the survey:

- » What preparation material does your education center use to help personnel prepare for their exams through CLEP, DSST and Excelsior?
- » Do you have a counseling protocol that your education center generally follows which may help improve pass rates of personnel testing at your installation? If so, please provide a short description of that protocol.
- » Do you have any best practices which could be replicated that might help other test centers improve their pass rates?
- » What do you think contributes to the pass rate at your particular site?
- » Do you have any other comments to share regarding how or why you think personnel testing at your test center pass their exams?

Most of the comments were fairly consistent among all the test sites. For example, updated material and information are the keys to successful completion of the exams.

There were a few noteworthy test preparation practices at DANTES test sites and bases with NTCs that appear to increase exam pass rates:

- » Some test sites developed an informative brochure with popular URLs for study guide/practice exams; this simplifies the test taking process.
- » Counseling tailored to the student; review student age, time in service, education background and readiness to test.
- » Test taking seminars.
- » A knowledgeable and experienced education staff.

In summary, well trained counselors staffed to support base populations, providing guided instruction, current material and resources and an overall positive test environment are all key practices to increase academic testing pass rates and student success.

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### When counseling, think GPS

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for DL. These instruments are not designed to exclude distance learning as an option, but rather to help the client assess their readiness and providing executable information to help them make an informed decision about educational platforms. For those who need more time to make that choice, follow-up is very important so they do not stall on the road to their degree. This follow-up might be a simple email, reengaging the client to see if they have made any progress. Some clients will need more interaction, think of it as exploring alternative routes to the destination.

Finally, the counselor should spell out actionable, executable strategies for the client to use to begin their academic journey. Much like the step-by-step directions from a popular mapping program, the student should

be able to use these strategies to find their way. These strategies should include, specific steps – like visit or contact the school of choice and begin the enrollment process; obtain transcripts (including military training transcripts) from prior college experiences for the home college to assess and include on their degree plan; select appropriate courses; file for military tuition assistance as appropriate; identify exams through the CLEP, DSST or ECE programs that would apply to the chosen degree program and provide information on exam preparation and scheduling; etc. Sound complex? Well it is, but a well-planned program that includes great directions will make even a long journey to a four-year degree seem like a quick trip to the base PX. Just think G – P- S, Goals, Programs and Strategies.





Dr. Sandra Winborne  
Credentialing  
Program Manager

## CREDENTIALING NEWS

### NETA Forms MOU with DANTES

The National Exercise Trainers Association (NETA) recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with DANTES that establishes policy through DANTES for Test Sites to administer exams to military personnel worldwide. NETA is a fitness testing association that started in 1977 and certified over 120,000 professionals in the fitness industry. Currently, NETA offers two certification examinations: Personal Trainer and Group Fitness. Visit NETA at [www.ndeita.com/](http://www.ndeita.com/). For information on NETA, refer to the DANTES Web site [www.dantes.doded.mil](http://www.dantes.doded.mil). Both the DANTES National Calendar of Credentialing Tests and the DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH) provide information on NETA. Or, contact the DANTES Credentialing Program by e-mail at [certprog@navy.mil](mailto:certprog@navy.mil) or call (850) 452-1111 Ext. 3194 or DSN 922-1111 Ext. 3194 or 3213.

### ASE Exam Fees Increase

As announced in the January 2011 DIB, Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) funding ends after the May administration cycle. This is the final opportunity for Service members to receive up to three ASE exams at no cost to them. Note that the ASE registration fee that all examination candidates must pay at the time they sign up through the DANTES Test Control Officer increased to \$30. Candidates are required to submit a check or money order for the registration fee. Candidates may also utilize the option to pay by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express).

In the event that a military candidate receives deployment commitments during the scheduled administration cycle or an emergency occurs, a refund may be requested from ASE. The request procedure is available at [www.dantes.doded.mil/Dantes\\_web/library/docs/certification/ASE6.pdf](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/Dantes_web/library/docs/certification/ASE6.pdf). Future ASE testing continues at DANTES Test Sites that can support the administrations. All candidates at that time pay both registration fees and tests fees. Send inquiries to the DANTES Credentialing Program at [certprog@navy.mil](mailto:certprog@navy.mil) or call (850) 452-1111 Ext 3194 or 3213.

### DANTES testing guidelines refresher

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Test-takers should approach the examination experience with discipline, confidence and solid preparation in order to succeed. For more information on DANTES Academic Examination Programs, go to [www.dantes.doded.mil/Dantes\\_web/examinations/index.htm](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/Dantes_web/examinations/index.htm) or contact [exams@navy.mil](mailto:exams@navy.mil).

For specific information about the testing programs, lists of exam titles, current civilian examination fees, and transcript request procedures, go to:

- » CLEP – [www.collegeboard.com/clep/military](http://www.collegeboard.com/clep/military)
- » DSST – [www.getcollegecredit.com/military](http://www.getcollegecredit.com/military)
- » ECE – [www.excelsior.edu/Excelsior\\_College/Excelsior\\_College\\_Examinations](http://www.excelsior.edu/Excelsior_College/Excelsior_College_Examinations)

### March in U.S. history:

**1, 1781:** Formal ratification of the Articles of Confederation was announced by Congress  
**1, 1961:** President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps  
**4, 1789:** The first meeting of the new Congress under the new U.S. Constitution took place in New York City  
**6, 1836:** Fort Alamo fell to Mexican troops led by General Santa Anna; "Remember the Alamo" became a rallying cry for Texans fighting for independence from Mexico  
**10, 1880:** The Salvation Army was founded in the U.S.  
**15, 1767:** Andrew Jackson, the 7th U.S. President, born  
**16, 1751:** James Madison, the 4th U.S. President, born  
**16, 1968:** New York Senator Robert Kennedy announced his intention to run for the Democratic presidential nomination  
**18, 1837:** Grover Cleveland, the 22nd and 24th U.S. president, born  
**19, 2003:** The U.S. launched an attack against Iraq to topple dictator Saddam Hussein from power  
**19, 1848:** Wyatt Earp, Wild West lawman, born  
**23, 1775:** Patrick Henry ignited the American Revolution with a speech before the Virginia convention in Richmond, stating, "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"  
**29, 1790:** John Tyler, 10th U.S. President, born  
**30, 1981:** President Ronald Reagan was shot in the chest in Washington, D.C.; a 22-caliber bullet was removed from his left lung.



Kathy Westlake  
Field Services  
Operations

## DISTANCE LEARNING NEWS

### DANTES Catalog of Nationally Accredited Distance Learning Program news



#### New school affiliated with DANTES:

California Southern University

930 Roosevelt

Irvine, CA 92620

714-882-2254

Toll free: 800-477-2254

Fax: 714-480-7871

E-mail: [tly@calsouthern.edu](mailto:tly@calsouthern.edu)

Internet: [www.calsouthern.edu/](http://www.calsouthern.edu/)

Accreditation: Distance Education and Training Council

[Associate of Arts in Liberal Studies](#)

[BA - Bachelor of Arts in Psychology](#)

[BBA - Bachelor of Business Administration](#)

[Master of Arts in Psychology](#)

[Master of Science in Psychology](#)

[Master of Business Administration](#)

[Master of Science in Law](#)

[PsyD - Doctor of Psychology](#)

[DBA - Doctor of Business Administration](#)

[JD - Juris Doctor](#)

#### Grantham University adds new degree programs

Grantham University announced they are adding a Bachelor of Business Administration in Human Resource Management and a Master of Science in Business Intelligence to their current degree offerings. The bachelor's degree in Human Resource Management is designed to provide professional development for students interested in working in the field of Human Resource Management. The program is designed to provide a comprehensive study of core competencies within the field: Business Management, Business Law, Labor Relations,



Employment Law, Training and Development, Performance Management, Quality Management, Compensation, and Organizational Behavior.

The master's degree in Business Intelligence is designed to provide students with a solid foundation in technology and decision making tools that will contribute to their ability to collect, interpret, and utilize information. This program integrates technological concepts within a relevant, functional business application framework. The program provides students with an advanced business education in the fields of technology and decision science.

For more information about Grantham and its new programs, visit [www.grantham.edu](http://www.grantham.edu) or call 800-955-2527. Grantham University is listed in the DANTES Catalog of Nationally Accredited Distance Learning Program at [www.dantescatalogs.com/NADLPDetails.aspx?InstitutionID=173](http://www.dantescatalogs.com/NADLPDetails.aspx?InstitutionID=173)

### DANTES External Degree Catalog news

#### TUI University changes name to Trident University International

The TUI University Web site shows off a new look and a new



name: Trident University. The name is new, but the school behind the name is still TUI. The addition of the evocative word Trident, and its three prongs, represent: a commitment to Academic Excellence, Compassionate Support and Unparalleled Access; the course delivery components of Case Assignments, Session Long Projects and Threaded Discussions; and the bachelor's, master's and Ph.D degree levels.

Also, for the tens of thousands of alumni the world over who occupy leadership positions in business, healthcare, education and in the military and who already understand the breadth, depth and life changing impact of the TUI experience, the three prongs of the trident will represent something far more personal ~ their courage and persistence to Aspire, Believe and Achieve.

For more information about Trident University and their programs, visit [www.tuiu.edu](http://www.tuiu.edu). Trident University is listed in the DANTES External Degree Catalog at [www.dantescatalogs.com/NADLPDetails.aspx?InstitutionID=139](http://www.dantescatalogs.com/NADLPDetails.aspx?InstitutionID=139).

## REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS News

### Is graduate school in your future?

The U.S. News & World Report 2011 Edition America's Best Graduate Schools (DANTES Stock #2466) provides valuable information on choosing a graduate school and helpful financial advice.

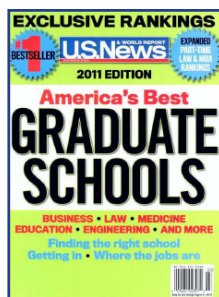
U.S. News & World Report analyzes more than 12,000 graduate programs to develop their rankings in the areas of business, education, engineering, law, and medicine. Two types of data are examined: expert opinions about program quality and statistical indicators that measure the quality of a school's faculty, research, and students.

This publication offers graduate school rankings in 11 key disciplines, including business, law, medicine and health, engineering, arts and humanities, and education. It also provides over 1,200 programs featuring the latest admission

requirements, deadlines, career prospects, starting salaries, and more.

The ultimate decision of which graduate school to choose is an individual choice, and this directory can be a helpful source of information during the search for just the right school for you. Visit your education center today to include America's Best Graduate Schools in your graduate school research.

Military education centers may order up to 25 copies per every 6 months. E-mail [dist@navy.mil](mailto:dist@navy.mil) and provide quantity, DANTES ID and stock #2466.



**DANTES Stock  
#2466**

### Directive-9 supports military families

President Barack Obama, first lady Michelle Obama, and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, put forward nearly 50 commitments by Federal agencies responding to the President's directive to establish a comprehensive Federal approach to supporting military families. Strengthening Our Military Families: Meeting America's Commitment is the result of an effort led by the National Security Staff and Domestic Policy Council responding to the Presidential Study Directive-9 calling on all Cabinet Secretaries and other agency heads to find better ways to provide our military families with the support they deserve.

They address the concerns and challenges of the families of Active Duty and Reserve Component Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard members; Veterans; and those who have fallen. Each Cabinet Secretary pledged to continue to communicate these priorities, share expertise, and establish sustainable solutions through leveraging partnerships.

For additional information on Directive-9, go to [www.defense.gov/home/features/2011/0111\\_initiative/](http://www.defense.gov/home/features/2011/0111_initiative/).

#### Mystery Quote

"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it."

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. And no fair using Google!

### Reference Publications CORNER

*New 2011-2012 Edition*  
*"Federal Student Aid at a Glance"*  
**DANTES STOCK #2431**

Military Education Centers ORDER NOW  
100 per every 6 months





## FROM THE DESK OF THE ADVISOR



HMCM (FMF/SW) David Acuff  
Senior Enlisted Advisor

I visited my son's kindergarten class for an open house last week and stopped at the school library. As you enter the library there is a display set-up in the corner with an old wooden card catalog cabinet. The cabinet was decorated with plants and other oddities sticking out of its many drawers. Wow... did that make me feel old! The library uses

a computer instead of the old card catalog, but showcased the cabinet and an old typewriter in a "respectful-deference" to a bygone era.

Recently, as I finished typing a paper for one of my Distance Learning (DL) classes, I reflected on how, not so long ago, difficult and time-consuming it was to conduct research for a paper and gather the necessary references. I remember standing at the card catalog counter and writing down on scratch paper where the books could be found for my research. "Back-in-the-day" most of us did not have access to a personal computer (PC) and word processing software was barely imagined. Typewriters



were the standard for preparing a term paper. I remember the painful task of typing the paper and trying to format the page with margins, footnotes, references and the bibliography. Since I wasn't very skilled when it came to using a typewriter I, along with most others in a given class, paid someone to type the paper for me.

Today, almost all Service members own a PC or



laptop connected to the Internet and most have access to computers or laptops while at Sea or in the Field or Air. My DL college even provides access to word processing programs free of charge for those who may not have a program installed on their PC. With a word processing program and the Internet, you are able to access a school's virtual library and internet references with ease. By using Internet library search engines it is extremely easy to find "peer-reviewed" reference materials upon which to build the framework for a thesis or defend an answer to a question posed by a professor. Today, I was able to access my school's virtual library, use its search engine to help research the topic and then hit the button that formatted the peer-reviewed article into an APA or MLA reference and footnote that I was then able to cut and paste into my paper.....wow!

Bottom line - what are you waiting for??? The tools available to us as we pursue our educational goals are so easy to access and are truly amazing. Even for students in the Fleet, Field and Air, colleges recognize there are challenges accessing the Internet and so prepare CDs with targeted reference materials to augment a Warrior's access to needed information to complete their college course. With the numerous voluntary educational benefits the military has to offer, we have a unique opportunity to achieve our goals, no matter where we serve. So, go see your education counselor today and learn about the many opportunities available in pursuing your educational goals. Don't have a counselor??? Contact DANTES or myself and we will point you in the right direction.

Until next time, keep up with DANTES on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/DANTES.DoD](http://www.facebook.com/DANTES.DoD)) or contact me at [ea@navy.mil](mailto:ea@navy.mil). I'd enjoy hearing from you.

Click here  
to have the  
DIB sent  
monthly to  
your e-mail.

### Correction Notice

There was an error in the February 2011 DIB front page article titled "President signs improved Post-9/11 GI Bill." Under (Effective 1 August 2011), the second bullet should read: Private and foreign school costs are capped at \$17,500 annually. The February 2011 DIB has been corrected and may be viewed at [www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes\\_web/library/docs/bulletin/feb11.pdf](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/docs/bulletin/feb11.pdf). We apologize for any confusion this may have caused our readers.



Sharon Beaudoin  
Education Outreach  
Manager

## EDUCATION OUTREACH NEWS

### Over 1,000 attend February's CCME Symposium

The Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) had a great turnout for their annual symposium held Feb. 14-17 in Tampa, Fla. More than 1,100 attendees had the opportunity to explore 152 exhibits and gather for three full days of general and concurrent sessions. CCME President Belinda Jones welcomed representatives from numerous colleges and universities as well as voluntary education personnel from each Armed Services branch.

Terry W. Hartle, American Council on Education senior vice president, Division of Government and Public Affairs, delivered the opening keynote address which emphasized legislative initiatives and updates pertaining to higher education. Hartle explained that America has seen extraordinary growth in higher education over the past few years. He pointed out that America now has more students in higher education than in high

school. Higher education cost increases and declines in new jobs are major concerns. Hartle noted that the military is the only major American institution to gain public confidence over the past decade.

Other speakers included: Keith Wilson, U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs; Kay Gilcher, U.S. Dept. of Education; and Marilee Fitzgerald, Acting Department of Defense (DoD) Education Activity Director.

The DoD Standardized Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was a major topic of discussion at the symposium. Carolyn Baker, Chief of Continuing Education Programs, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) Military Community and Family Policy, led multiple sessions to unveil details of the MOU that is soon to be established between DoD and all schools accepting military tuition assistance. CCME honored Baker at Thursday's awards banquet by presenting her with the 2011 CCME President's Award for "significant

contributions that have advanced the cause of military education."

Also recognized was Loretta Cornett-Huff, who received the CCME Lifetime Achievement Award for her over 40 years dedication to education. Over nineteen years of this service has been as the command education services officer for the Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay and Camp H.M. Smith. Cornett-Huff has received numerous government, professional and community awards, including honors for initiating the Tuition Assistance pilot study for the Marine Corps that utilized the existing Navy College Management Information System (NCMIS) partnership. In 2010, she was the Marine Corps co-recipient of the first Barry Cobb award. A frequent presenter at DANTES symposiums, she is a member of CCME.

More information on symposium presentations, along with a listing of all award winners, will be posted at the CCME Web site [www.ccmeonline.org](http://www.ccmeonline.org).

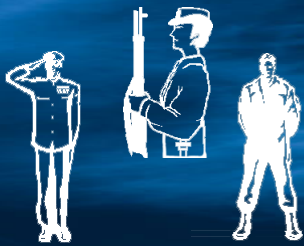


Pictured above (left to right): Belinda Jones, CCME President, presents the 2011 CCME President's Award to Carolyn Baker, Chief of DoD Continuing Education.



Pictured above (left to right): Jones presents the CCME Lifetime Achievement Award to Loretta Cornett-Huff, Command Education Services Officer USMC-JEC, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii.





# TRANSITIONS



## Marine Corps LSP brings diversity, self-discipline to campuses

The Marine Corps Leadership Scholar Program (LSP) is seeking educational institutions with whom to partner in order to provide expedited admission processing for qualified Marines when they transition back to civilian life after separation from active duty or retirement.

Originally launched with the California State University System, the program has grown and been formalized Marine Corps-wide. There are currently 85 campuses around the nation participating in this program.

According to Beth Morgan, Director of Higher Education Initiatives for Marine Corps Community Services, who manages the LSP program, "The recent Commandant's Planning Guidance directed that Transition Assistance Programs be revolutionized to better support transitioning Marines. This new program is one of those initiatives and we need the assistance of institutions of higher learning to help Marines who are interested in obtaining an



undergraduate degree when they leave active duty or retire."

Morgan added, "To participate, educational institutions enter into an agreement with the Marine Corps to commit to the foundation of an LSP at the institution. Institutions dictate all academic criteria, along with residency and other requirements, and establish all documentation deadlines, processing timelines, and reporting instructions. Institutions will also decide how many LSP applicants they will accept each year."

Once an agreement has been reached, the institution's information will be posted on the LSP Web site (currently under development) for Marines to view. The LSP is also publicized via Marine Corps education services officers, unit commanders, and internal Marine Corps publications.

To qualify for admittance under an LSP program, Marines must be

transitioning from active duty or retiring under honorable conditions, and must meet the academic criteria set by the participating institution. Typically, students will use Post 9-11 GI Bill benefits to pay for tuition and other fees associated with pursuing their undergraduate degree.

University of North Carolina System President, Erskine Bowles, commented last year at the institution's LSP signing ceremony, "Most importantly I'm here to make a commitment to you. That is why we are going to do this. I promise you we're in this game for the long haul. We want to be good partners with the Marines. For us it's a chance to have our students live and learn from these Marines who have had experiences throughout the globe, experiences that we can learn from."

To learn more, contact Beth Morgan, Director, and Higher Education Initiatives for Marine Corps Community Services, via phone at (760) 429-4124 or e-mail [Beth.Morgan@usmc.mil](mailto:Beth.Morgan@usmc.mil).

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## DoL Web site is Key to Career Success

Veterans are valuable and needed members of the American workforce. The U.S. Department of Labor wants to ensure that current and former military personnel have access to the career tools necessary to find good jobs with good wages and career pathways.

The Key to Career Success campaign is designed to connect veterans with workforce services at One-Stop Career Centers in order to access high-quality employment and training services.

Key to Career Success services are available to any U.S. military

personnel transitioning to civilian life; to specified National Guard and Reserve personnel; and to other veterans looking for job search help.

Complete information is available at [www.careeronestop.org/MILITARYTRANSITION/AboutKeyToCareerSuccess.aspx](http://www.careeronestop.org/MILITARYTRANSITION/AboutKeyToCareerSuccess.aspx).

## Yokota NCO balances deployment, education and family

Most Airmen return home from their deployment with new friends and interesting stories to tell. But one noncommissioned officer deployed to Contingency Operating Base Speicher, Iraq, will also return home with the next level of her education completed. U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Gissell Gilbert, is working on the last class needed to earn her bachelor of science in information technology management.

"Completing my degree has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life," Gilbert said. On her third deployment (but the first without her husband, Tech. Sgt. Andy Gilbert) she has completed 36 credit hours toward her bachelor's degree since July 2010.

Gilbert felt the process was simpler than expected, especially

being in a new place and without her husband. "All you really need is proper time management," she said.

The Brooklyn, N.Y., native completed an associate of applied science of information management through the Community College of the Air Force in December 2009. Gilbert then began working on her bachelor's degree through TUI in California. "I'm getting a degree in line with my job in the Air Force," she said. "It will improve my technical ability and improve the effectiveness at which I do my job."

For Gilbert's full story, go to [www.dvidshub.net/news/64005/yokota-nco-earns-bachelors-degree-while-balancing-deployment-marriage](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/64005/yokota-nco-earns-bachelors-degree-while-balancing-deployment-marriage).

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Story by Staff Sgt. R. Michael Longoria



Staff Sgt. Gissell Gilbert poses while holding a laptop and a picture of her and her husband while balancing schoolbooks on her head.

photo by Senior Airman  
Andrew Lee

## Private Kant proves he can

When Pvt. Jeffrey P. Kant tried to enlist in the military two years ago in Orange County, Calif., recruiters laughed at the tattoo laden, high school dropout and told him to move along. But that didn't dissuade Kant from trying again.

After beginning laser treatments to remove the tattoos, he was ready to take the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) to see if he could qualify to enlist. Kant scored a 16 but needed at least a 31. He was devastated. Math was his greatest weakness so he worked weekly with a tutor to help him increase his scores. Six months later, Kant retested and made a 33, only to learn that the minimum ASVAB score to enter the military had been increased to 50.

Distressed, Kant talked to a friend who told him about an Army National Guard program called GED Plus which allows applicants to join with a 31 ASVAB score as long as they pass the GED examination. He contacted the California Army National Guard and soon received approval. Kant was sworn in, kissed his family goodbye and left for the GED Plus Program.

Kant failed on his first attempt at taking the GED examination. "I wasn't upset. This program

gives you three chances to pass. I got a 390 in math and that was the only subject I failed. I was so proud of myself! Never in my life would I have thought I'd be able to do that. That motivated me."

Kant took remedial math classes with GED Plus and a week later scored a 470, enabling him to re-take the GED examination.

The results of the second test came back and he was told that he passed. "I was blown away," said Kant. "We were going through our graduation ceremony and I was trying to hold it in. The minute the company commander put the diploma in my hand---it meant the world. I've never graduated from anything in my life. I've never succeeded in anything in my life--ever. I'm still in shock! I did it! I feel amazing right now. I feel like I'm on top of the world."

To read Kant's full story, go to [www.dvidshub.net/news/64598/private-kant-proves-he-can](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/64598/private-kant-proves-he-can).

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Story by Capt. Kyle Key



Private Kant after graduation from the National Guard GED Plus program Jan. 28, 2011.  
Photo by Capt. Kyle Key

# TESTING CALENDAR

## March 2011

24 ASE Registration Deadline

## April 2011

10-16 GRE Subject\*

15 ECE Extended Response (Essay)

30 Apr - 4 May Praxis\*

## May 2011

5, 10, 12 ASE (CONUS)

10, 11, 12 ASE (Overseas)

## June 2011

6 LSAT (50 United States, Canada and the Caribbean)

7 LSAT (Europe, Middle East and Africa)

11 ECE Extended Response (Essay)\*

27 LSAT (Asia, Australia and New Zealand)

## July 2011

23-27 Praxis\*

### 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/dantes\\_web/library/docs/examinations/exams\\_calendar.pdf](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/docs/examinations/exams_calendar.pdf)

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6490 SAUFLEY FIELD ROAD  
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Carol A. Berry, Ed.D., Director

Nancy L. Hamilton, Editor

[pubs@navy.mil](mailto:pubs@navy.mil)

## DANTES telephone numbers are:

DSN 922-1111 (plus extension); CML (850) 452-1111 (plus extension)

Office	Ext.	Fax	E-mail
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