

# DANTES INFORMATION BULLETIN

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NUMBER 430

WORLDWIDE EDUCATION SUPPORT TO THE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

WWW.DANTES.DODED.MIL



## Fond farewells and best wishes to three DANTES retirees

Thank you all for your long and dedicated service to DoD Voluntary Education.

We will miss you. Enjoy your retirement – you deserve it!

### Rich Mihalik

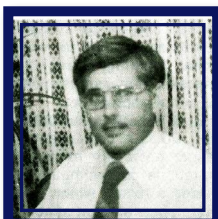


**Rich Mihalik: 1995 and now**

**R**ichard Mihalik retires this month with almost 50 years combined military and Civil Service. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1963 to 1985. In 1988 he began his second career - Civil Service - with the NAS Pensacola, Fla., Supply Department.

He joined DANTES in 1995, starting in Office Automation maintaining the Myers-Briggs program for Counseling. He then moved to IT, helping with the Website, then finally joined the Distribution Center. He is responsible for the DANTES mailroom, providing a 24-hour turnaround for material order requests and with keeping the Warehouse Distribution System up-to-date. His expertise saves on postage costs and ensures accurate inventory and material shipments to Education Centers worldwide.

### Peter Peters



**Peter Peters: 1981 and now**

**P**eter Peters, the Troops to Teachers Assistant Department Head, retired last month after 32 years of Civil Service.

He was hired by DANTES in 1981 as an Education Specialist and has been with us ever since. He started off in the Professional Information Services Division, researching and preparing educational articles and reports and coordinating DANTES workshops and seminars.

Troops to Teachers (TTT) was formalized in February 1994 and Peters was selected as the primary counselor for the new program. He was instrumental from the beginning in molding TTT into the innovative and important program it became, eventually moving up to the Assistant Department Head position. Of his many years with TTT Peters said, "TTT has had a great impact and it has given me great joy."

### Vince Harmon



**Vince Harmon: 1991 and now**

**V**incent Harmon, DANTES Deputy Director, retired this month after 40 years of Civil Service.

After serving from 1968 to 1974 in the U.S. Air Force overseas, he entered Civil Service in May 1977 as an Education Counselor at Fort Benning, Ga. He transferred in May 1978 to serve as an Education Counselor and later Education Service Officer (ESO) at Patch Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany, the first of many jobs overseas.

In April 1984 he moved to Fort Monmouth, N.J., to be the Director of Military and Education Programs, followed in November 1987 by a tour as the Camp Zama, Japan, ESO. He returned to Germany in December 1988 as Director V Corps Education in Frankfurt, Germany, and then, in June 1991, he joined DANTES as the European Advisor in Heidelberg, Germany.

Harmon came stateside in July 1993 when he was selected as the DANTES Code 30 Department Head in Pensacola, Fla. He also held a variety of management positions

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### Going “green”? New exams materials available

Military education centers, did you know that some DANTES materials are available online for download? In fact, the all-inclusive listing for Examination Programs has several new “green” materials available such as:

- » Stock #1226 – DSST Brochure – updated edition
- » Stock #1227 – DANTES Funding Guide – DSST Exam List – new two sided quick reference
- » Stock #1230 – DSST Exam Scoring 101 – new quick guide to understand scoring
- » Stock #1240 – GED® Testing Program No better time to test with DANTES - new informational handout and quick guide to DANTES GED reimbursement.

For more information on DANTES Education Programs materials, including Examination Program materials, access the Catalog of Materials on the DANTES Web site at [www.dantes.doded.mil/Sub%20Pages/Order\\_Materials/Order\\_Materials\\_Main.html](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/Sub%20Pages/Order_Materials/Order_Materials_Main.html).

### The PRAXIS Series™ update

Effective September 2012, ETS implemented a new fee structure for The PRAXIS Series. The \$50 Annual Paper-Based Registration fee was eliminated and individual exam fees increased as follows:

- » Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST®) – \$85
- » Multiple-Choice Subject Assessments – \$115
- » Constructed-Response Subject Assessments – \$139
- » Multiple-Choice/Constructed-Response Subject Assessments – \$139

See the DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH) Chapter Nine The PRAXIS Series for individual exam format and cost. Use the 2012–13 Paper-Delivered Test Registration Form found online at [www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/pdt\\_registration\\_form.pdf](http://www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/pdt_registration_form.pdf) when returning administered PRAXIS exams and fees to Prometric.

### Vince Harmon continued from page 1

in Reference Publications, Counseling, Training, and Marketing. In July 2003 he became the Education Support Programs Department Head. He moved up to Deputy Director in December 2005, where he has helped guide and shape the future of DANTES programs and Voluntary Education.

### GED reminder

The GED test is now available on an after-the-fact reimbursement basis to eligible military personnel. As a reminder, all CONUS and OCONUS DANTES test sites should have returned postmarked administered and unused exams by Oct. 15, 2012.

Test Control Officers (TCOs) may download the November edition of the DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH) Chapter One GED and DANTES Form 1560/47 from the TCO Portal. For more information visit DANTES Web page [www.dantes.doded.mil/Sub%20Pages/Exams/Exams\\_GED.html](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/Sub%20Pages/Exams/Exams_GED.html) or email [exams@navy.mil](mailto:exams@navy.mil) with “GED Reimbursement Code 20C1” in the subject line.

### Al Udeid AB, Qatar, NTC opens

On Oct. 1, 2012, the University of Maryland University College (UMUC) opened an on-base, computer-based testing (CBT) National Test Center (NTC) at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, to administer CLEP and DSST exams. The new NTC replaces the DANTES test site that has been operational since 2002.

Thousands of military members passing through Al Udeid now have the opportunity to take CLEP eCBT and DSST iBT exams at the UMUC NTC. The dedicated work of dozens of Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) from April 2002 to October 2012 helped to fill the gap to ensure that CLEP and DSST support of their clients degree completion programs continued even during their downrange deployments.

To all of those NCOs who managed these testing programs, a tremendous WELL DONE and THANKS is offered.



Pictured above: New UMUC NTC located at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar.

## HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS NEWS

### Maximize military training for college credit – Part 1

By Michele Spires, Director, Military Programs, American Council on Education (ACE)

**I**ncreasing numbers of active duty Service members and veterans are enrolling in degree and other college-level programs. They are learning that it is possible to use their military training and occupations to earn college credit. Earning college credit can be accomplished in a number of ways. Some individuals take college-level courses directly. Other students may have professional training or experience that is determined to be equivalent to classroom courses. Based on military experiences and training, Service members may have college credit recommendations to apply toward a degree requirement or program of study.

This is the first of three American Council on Education (ACE) related articles. Two more articles will follow, in the January and February DIBs.

#### Why ACE?

Under contract with DANTES, ACE convenes teams of teaching faculty who travel to military installations to evaluate military training courses and occupation-based skills, knowledge, and abilities. These evaluations are conducted to determine the learning acquired through these experiences. Team members review training materials for programs of instruction, including lesson plans, instructor materials, and examination materials. The evaluators also interview Service members, their supervisors, and subject matter specialists.

Review teams then determine if the demonstrated learning outcomes are equivalent, in part or in whole, to the learning outcomes derived from college-level coursework. Equivalencies are then expressed as credit recommendations that are quantified in terms of semester hours and level (vocational, lower and upper division undergraduate, or graduate), and qualified in terms of course titles or academic areas. Based on their individual policies and practices, colleges and universities determine credit awards.

#### How to get organized

Service members or veterans beginning or continuing a degree program need to know what will be required of them upon enrolling in a selected program of study. In addition to understanding degree completion requirements, members should gather records of any college credit that may have already been earned from various sources. These may include:

- » military transcripts documenting coursework and occupational training from the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Air Force, including active-duty, veteran, reservist, and National Guard personnel
- » two- and four-year colleges or universities previously attended
- » nationally recognized academic credit by examination testing programs, such as the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and DSST
- » workplace, professional, or other life experience training reviewed for credit by ACE or through a portfolio assessment

Service members should also research to determine if their institution is a Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) member.

By compiling and organizing this information, members will be ready to maximize their college credits, as well as have a better idea of the remaining courses needed for degree completion.

#### How can DANTES and ACE help?

The DANTES mission is to support the off-duty, voluntary education programs of the Department of Defense (DoD). Visit DANTES at [www.dantes.doded.mil](http://www.dantes.doded.mil) for more information.

For more information on ACE, go to their Web site [www.acenet.edu](http://www.acenet.edu) or email [militaryed@acenet.edu](mailto:militaryed@acenet.edu).

Look for Part 2 Military Transcripts in January and Part 3 ACE Guides in February.

Is there a topic you would like to see in the DIB?  
Do you have a question about DANTES?  
If so, let us know at [pubs@navy.mil](mailto:pubs@navy.mil).



To receive email notification when the DIB is posted to the Web site, click on the icon or send an email to [pubs@navy.mil](mailto:pubs@navy.mil).



### Academic basic skills and student success

As we continue to push for more and more of our military population to engage in higher education, we invest immeasurable amounts of human capital and thought resources to come up with new and innovative ways to persuade Service members to embark on their own education path to success and enrichment. And, although improving attendance and/or participation is important, it can only be considered in the context of individual academic readiness.

Readiness is a broad construct, and is dependent upon a variety of biological, psychological, and social aspects. But, within the myriad of issues concerning individual readiness, one aspect more than others can be attributed to overall academic readiness and student success, as explained in a report to the Secretary of Education from the Committee on Measures of Student Success, December 2009. It stated that students who lacked proficiency in basic academic skills (reading, writing, and math) were less likely to complete a degree; specifically, less than 25 percent of community college students who took remedial courses finished a degree or certificate within eight years of their enrollment (Bailey, T. (2009), *Challenge and Opportunity: Rethinking the Role and Function of Developmental Education in Community College*, New Directions for Community Colleges, vol. 145, pp. 11-30).

The importance of academic skill development, especially within our military population, cannot be

overstated. Members beginning higher education must negotiate scholastic requirements and scheduling that may be foreign to them; and without the requisite skillsets and insight, their journey, at best, is challenged.

With any military operation, the importance of unit readiness, planning, and operational sustainability is fundamental to achieving mission objectives. Service members using that same model, taking measures to assess their learning readiness, improve skill proficiencies, and develop sustainable education plans, not only ensure the quality of their education experience, but also improve their probability of success. An effective tool that can help achieve this success is Peterson's Online Academic Skills Course (OASC), which can be accessed from the DANTES home page at [www.dantes.doded.mil](http://www.dantes.doded.mil). OASC is a valuable resource available to Service members, their families, and civilian employees. The course helps users improve their basic English and math skills by identifying their strengths and weaknesses and then assigning a personalized set of lessons.

No one understands the significance of student readiness more than education counselors and support professionals who face the challenge of motivating and guiding military students considering programs in higher education. OASC is one way to help them recognize the significant preparations and planning necessary for success.



#### Mystery Quote:

"The mind is not a vessel to be filled  
but a fire to be kindled."

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.

John H. Collis, Director, Navy College Office  
NAS Corpus Christi, Texas

was the first to identify the author of last month's  
quote as Nelson Mandela.

Great job!

## FROM THE DESK OF THE SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR



HMCN (FMF/SW) David Acuff  
Senior Enlisted Advisor

As we head into the holiday season of gifts and giving, I thought it might be appropriate to talk about a special gift that you can give yourself while serving in the military... a college education. This is a gift that will literally keep on giving and will have a positive impact on both your personal and professional life now and in future years.

It has always been interesting to me, in my experience and through my own "unofficial polling," how many members from all branches of Service have told me that one of the reasons they came into the military was to pursue a college education. Unfortunately, so many Service members have placed that goal on hold or have said that they are "way too busy" or that "the timing hasn't been right." The holidays also seem to be a roadblock for many members. I have been told numerous times that, "It's too busy for me during the holidays..." or "I don't want to ruin my holidays by taking classes."

I have taken classes throughout my career while stationed on different military platforms, through many seasonal holidays and spring and summer breaks, as

I raised a family. I can identify with the "fear" that my holidays and family-time might be ruined if I was taking classes, but I am happy to report that I managed to successfully accomplish both. Furthering my education significantly enhanced my personal life and military career, and afforded my family a brighter future.

So, give yourself and family members the best holiday gift possible by starting or continuing your college education. I promise that, if you do, it will make for a brighter holiday this season and many more to come. Go see your education counselor today and learn about the numerous opportunities available in pursuing your educational goals. Don't have a counselor??? Contact DANTES or myself and we will get you pointed in the right direction. Don't delay – give yourself a gift that will keep on giving and enroll in a college course today.

I wish you a Blessed Holiday Season and much success on finishing your degree in 2013!

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 would enjoy hearing from you.



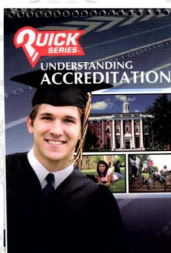
### Reference Publications CORNER

#### *Understanding Accreditation* – Quick Series

Military Education Centers  
Order your copies now  
100 per 3 months

Email: [dist@navy.mil](mailto:dist@navy.mil)

Provide your DANTES ID#,  
Stock #2424, and quantity



## STOCK #2424

### Calling all writers and camera-bugs!

Ed Centers - do you have a  
VoEd-related story to share with  
other education professionals?  
Send submissions to:  
[pubs@navy.mil](mailto:pubs@navy.mil)

### Dec. in U.S. history:

**5, 1782:** Martin van Buren, 8th U.S. President, born

**7, 1941:** The U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, attacked, killing nearly 3,000 Americans

**7, 1787:** Delaware became first state to adopt the new constitution of the United States of America.

**14, 1799:** George Washington died at Mount Vernon, Va.

**14, 1962:** The Mariner II space probe sent back information from Venus, the first data ever received from another planet

**15, 1791:** Bill of Rights (first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution) became effective

**16, 1773:** The Boston Tea Party occurred

**18, 1865:** The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified abolishing slavery

**28, 1856:** Woodrow Wilson, 28th U.S. President, born

**25, 1776:** Gen. George Washington and his men crossed the Delaware River at Trenton, N.J.

**29, 1808:** Andrew Johnson, 17th U.S. President, born



Lt Col Eurydice Stanley  
Reserve Component Advisor

### Education or unemployment/underemployment: the choice is yours

“Ma’am, I just got back from deployment. If I tell my spouse I’m going back to school instead of spending as much time at home as possible, we’re headed for divorce for sure!” If I had a nickel for every time I heard that...and if only I

had a crystal ball to show what the future could bring without a degree if the same Service member were to drawn down.

If Service members cannot make the time to go to school now, will they make time after they leave Service? Probably not. As a result, they could find themselves unemployed, or potentially underemployed - working a job that does not fully use their skills and capabilities, or is only part time. Underemployment could result in earning wages insufficient to pay for living requirements, necessitating additional employment.

Lisa Bloom captured the impact of underemployment in her book “Swagger”. Bloom writes, “Economists may debate whether or not we are officially in a recession, but there’s no doubt that our economy falters, as thirteen million are unemployed, nine million are underemployed, and millions more “discouraged” workers have given up on looking for a job altogether. For young men the numbers are even worse than the painful national averages. For them, the jobless rate hovers at 18 percent — four million young American men who want to contribute and earn an income and support themselves and their families, but who can’t find a job.” To take it a step further, according to the latest Bureau of Labor and Statistics, the unemployment rate for veteran males aged 18-24 is 30.4 percent!

Underemployment can have a significant impact on a Service member’s life. How many jobs can one actually fit into a day? How will working 12-16 hours every day impact family life? These are points a Service member can share with family members questioning the fierce urgency of pursuing education while on active duty.

Quality of life quickly diminishes when you spend all of your time at work. An E-6 told me after a “Handwriting on the Wall” educational awareness

brief, “I’m headed to my second job right now, and I’ve got a gig on the weekends.” He said he doesn’t have time for college - have you heard that before? Our goal at DANTES is to ensure Service members understand the importance of education and obtain the degree or credential suited to their goals, capabilities, training and experience. The right degree or credential can open the door to future income opportunities.

There are many new partnerships aligning military training with professional certifications. President Obama announced the We Can’t Wait initiative June 1, 2012, which, according to the Web site, “...enable(s) Service members to more easily obtain the civilian credentials and licensing required for high-growth, high-demand occupations, starting with certifications in manufacturing. The Department of Defense, at the President’s direction, has established a Military Credentialing and Licensing Task Force that will identify opportunities for Service members to earn civilian occupational credentials and licenses. The Task Force’s first action will offer up to 126,000 Service members the opportunity to gain machinist, logistics, welding, and engineering certifications for high-demand manufacturing jobs.” ([www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/veterans\\_report\\_5-31-2012.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/veterans_report_5-31-2012.pdf))

This holiday season, give yourself the gift of a future through education. Your effort will transform not only your life, but that of your family and generations to come. The choice is yours - education, unemployment or underemployment...which shall it be? Use your tuition assistance (TA) to obtain a degree or credential. You will be better prepared to fulfill your military duties and reduce the likelihood of unemployment or underemployment in case of drawdown.

Take a step toward future success by visiting our Web site at [www.dantes.doded.mil](http://www.dantes.doded.mil). I look forward to hearing from you - please contact me at [rca.navy.mil](mailto:rca.navy.mil) or follow me on Twitter for educational information and support @HOW2EDU.

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



## VA-ACME announces 2013 scholarship program

Virginia Advisory Council On Military Education (VA-ACME) will award multiple \$1,000 scholarships at its VA-ACME Conference March 28, 2013, at the Hilton Oceanfront in Virginia Beach, Va.

All VA-ACME scholarship applications and attachments must be post-marked by Feb. 4, 2013. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Awardees will be notified in March 2013 by phone and by e-mail. All payments will be made directly to the student. Members of the VA-ACME Board, VA-ACME Scholarship Committee and their families are not eligible for any of these awards. Scholarship applicants must either reside or work in Virginia. There are five different scholarship categories:

### **1. Active duty, drilling reservist, or National Guard member**

Open only to U. S. Uniformed Service members (active duty, drilling reservist, or National Guard) who have completed Basic Military Training or Officer Candidate School.

### **2. Spouse of active duty, drilling reservist, or National Guard , veteran, or military retiree**

Open to spouses of active duty, drilling reservist, National Guard, veteran, or military retiree.

### **3. Child of active duty, drilling reservist, or National Guard , veteran, or military retiree**

Open to children of active duty, drilling reservist, National Guard, veteran, or military retiree.

### **4. Permanently disabled military member or family member (spouse or child) or family member of Service member missing/killed in action**

Open only to U. S. Uniformed Service Members (active duty, drilling reservist, or National Guard) who have completed Basic Military Training or Officer Candidate School and who are permanently disabled, family member of permanently disabled military member, or family member of Service member missing/killed in action.

### **5. Veteran or retiree of the Armed Forces working or residing in Virginia**

Open only to veterans or retirees of the U. S. Uniformed Service, to include the National Guard, who have been honorably discharged.

For answers to questions, contact Willie Posadas at (757) 748-0712 or email [willieposadas@cox.net](mailto:willieposadas@cox.net). For more information, eligibility criteria, and application download, go to [www.vaacme.org/scholarships/](http://www.vaacme.org/scholarships/).



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## Other VoEd news in the world...

### **TA helps Marines get education**

[www.dvidshub.net/news/98072/ta-helps-marines-get-education](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/98072/ta-helps-marines-get-education)

### **There's always time to get ahead**

[www.dvidshub.net/news/97747/theres-always-time-get-ahead](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/97747/theres-always-time-get-ahead)

### **Stennis sailors take classes at sea**

[www.dvidshub.net/news/97134/stennis-sailors-take-classes-sea](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/97134/stennis-sailors-take-classes-sea)

### **Wounded Marines' success through transition**

[www.dvidshub.net/news/97409/wounded-marines-success-through-transition](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/97409/wounded-marines-success-through-transition)

### **Employers, educators tour Minnesota's National Guard**

[www.dvidshub.net/news/97186/employers-educators-tour-minnesotas-national-guard](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/97186/employers-educators-tour-minnesotas-national-guard)

### **Learning Resource Center helps Service members reach professional development goals**

[www.dvidshub.net/news/96721/learning-resource-center-helps-service-members-reach-professional-development-goals](http://www.dvidshub.net/news/96721/learning-resource-center-helps-service-members-reach-professional-development-goals)

# TESTING CALENDAR

Dec. 2012

5 LSAT (all locations)

Jan. 2013

23-27 Praxis\*

Feb. 2013

13 LSAT (all locations)

No testing scheduled

Notes:

- Overseas test sites send orders six weeks before the test December.
- CONUS test sites send orders four weeks before the test December.
- Contractors ship tests to arrive just before the planned test December.

\*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](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/Sub%20Pages/Exams/Docs/exams_calendar.pdf)

## DANTES

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Carol A. Berry, Ed.D., Director  
Nancy L. Hamilton, Editor

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

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Reserve Advisor	3127	1159	rca@navy.mil
DANTES Publications/ DIB	3120	1162	pubs@navy.mil
Web Site	3120	1162	dantes_webmaster@navy.mil
European Advisor	011-49-6221-17-9654 DSN: 314-373-9654		dantes@eur.army.mil
Pacific Advisor	3150	1159	dantes@navy.mil
<b>Troops to Teachers</b>	<b>3141</b>	<b>1096</b>	<b>ttt@navy.mil</b>
<b>Education Support</b>	<b>3133</b>	<b>1162</b>	
Distribution Center	452-1082	1140	dist@navy.mil
Education Outreach	3126	1162	dantes_outreach@navy.mil
Reference Resources	3131	1588	refpubs@navy.mil
WW Symposium	3126	1162	dantesww@navy.mil
<b>Education Programs</b>	<b>3245</b>	<b>1161</b>	
Counseling	3132	1161	counseling@navy.mil
Distance Learning	3129	1161	DantesDL@navy.mil
DoD MOU	3175	1161	voledconcerns@navy.mil
Examinations	3245	1160	exams@navy.mil
Military Evaluations	3213	1005	DANTES_ace@navy.mil
SOC	3121	1161	DANTES_SOC@navy.mil
Third-Party Review	3121	1161	DANTES_thirdparty@navy.mil
Training	3181	1161	dantestraining@navy.mil