

MOA signed in North Dakota is a win-win-win for TTT, National Guard instructors, and N.D. public schools

by Le Gaub, TTT Lewis and Clark Region Program Manager

North Dakota is currently experiencing a severe shortage of vocational-technical skill instructors qualified to teach Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses in the public school area. Active duty North Dakota National Guard members teach construction related skills, and often seek second careers upon retirement. Troops to Teachers (TTT) is in the business of transitioning military members to teaching in high needs areas. Hmmm... Is there a way to bring them all together?

The Lewis and Clark Region of TTT found a way. A recently completed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the North Dakota Career and Technical Education (CTE) Director, Wayne Kutzer, will facilitate the transition of military instructors in the National Guard to public school teachers. Col. Marvin Zerr of the North Dakota National Guard, and who is also the North Dakota TTT representative, worked with Le Gaub, Program Manager for the Lewis and Clark Region, to consummate the agreement. The MOA was signed Dec. 22, 2014, in Bismarck, N.D.

The North Dakota National Guard operates a regional training institute (RTI) at Camp Grafton, where military members are trained in construction related skills such as carpentry, plumbing, and electrical work. During TTT seminars at the RTI, Zerr informed the instructors of the critical need for CTE teachers in North Dakota, as oil industry development

has created a high demand for skilled vocational-technical workers.

Gaub suggested that Kutzer visit the RTI with Zerr to observe these instructors during training and to review the RTI curriculum. Kutzer was favorably impressed and opened the door to these cadre members, accepting their military instructor experience and assisting them to become public school teachers.

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MOA signing day: (pictured l-r) Lt. Col. Brock Larson, RTI OIC; Wayne Kutzer, N.D. CTE Director; Col. Marvin Zerr, N.D. TTT; Command Sgt. Maj. Alan Grinsteinner, RTI Commandant; and Chief Warrant Officer Lee Bushaw, N.D. NG Education OIC.

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N.D. MOA is a win-win-win

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The agreement includes several parts:

- » to help meet their need in CTE teachers, the Lewis and Clark Region pledged to work with the RTI to identify instructors interested in teaching in North Dakota's public schools, provide them advice and assistance, and provide job placement assistance; they will also help instructors use their Joint Services Transcript (JST) to provide documentation of military training, skill level and length of time working in CTE skills
- » the North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education has agreed to accept the training experience of those cadre members who participate in the TTT program as meeting the requirements for CTE teacher licensure
- » the CTE director will provide a "qualified to teach CTE" letter to these RTI instructors to use in their job application and interview process while seeking employment as public school CTE teachers in North Dakota
- » the CTE director will also advocate on behalf of these TTT participants to schools and hiring authorities throughout the state
- » the TTT participants will be enrolled in the North Dakota Transition to Teaching program to provide additional support during their first year of teaching
- » as an added bonus, the CTE director has pledged to make TTT participants aware of job openings before they are formally announced and expedite their applications for licensure

As Gaub stated, "This agreement is an excellent example of how military skills can be translated and transferred to the public schools of America while supporting the transition of America's veterans into new careers as public school teachers."

This memorandum will provide a way for Guardsmen who are TTT participants to transition into teaching critical skills in North Dakota schools. Win. Win. Win.



Pictured above, left and below: Plumbing, electrical and heavy equipment operator are just a few of the critical subjects students are taught at the N.D. Regional Training Institute at Camp Grafton.



Pictured right and far right: RTI students learn paving skills while also honoring one of their own, working on the Sgt. 1st Class Darren Linde Memorial Bench. Linde was killed in 2012 while deployed to Afghanistan.



EXAMINATIONS NEWS

SAT and ACT score reporting policies refresher

Attention DANTES testing personnel: As application deadlines for education and Service programs approach, it's important to ensure Service members understand SAT and ACT score reporting policies. Accurate information is vital for test-takers scheduling exams within a restricted timetable.

- » SAT does not offer emergency or rapid scoring services
- » ACT does not offer expedited scoring

The College Board reports scores of SATs administered at DANTES Test Sites electronically and paper-based. Approximately five weeks after answer sheets are received, examinees may contact the College Board and request their registration number to access scores electronically in their MySAT account. Paper score reports are mailed after approximately eight weeks to the address provided at the time of testing.

ACT reports paper-based scores of exams administered at DANTES Test Sites approximately two to four weeks after receipt of the answer folders at ACT.

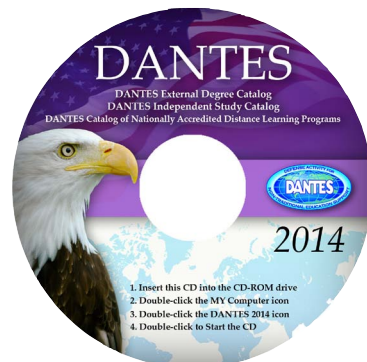
When in doubt, refer to the appropriate DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH) chapter or email the Exams Program at exams@navy.mil.

DISTANCE LEARNING NEWS

DANTES announces end of Distance Learning Catalogs

The DANTES Distance Learning (DL) catalogs have been valuable tools for education centers for many years. However, most institutions have developed their own respective online catalogs, making the DL catalog content redundant and not in keeping with current technology. Therefore, the decision was made to sunset the catalogs. DL catalogs will no longer be available online and the CD version will no longer be distributed.

Auxiliary to retiring the DL catalogs, DoD has been working to develop initiatives that more closely align with the needs of our Service members and that better support the Principles of Excellence. The goal is to empower Service members via tools that can assist them in making more informed decisions as to which educational institution best meets their needs. Look for information about initiatives in the coming months.



REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS NEWS

Need a refresher in your English and math skills? OASC and CPST can help!

There are two FREE online programs just for Service members and their families to help strengthen their English and math skills.

The Online Academic Skills Course (OASC) helps build reading comprehension, vocabulary and math skills, enabling Service members to excel in their jobs, pass exams, advance in their career, or continue their education.

The College Placement Skills Training (CPST) is an addition to OASC, and is designed to determine an individual's readiness for college-level courses, and provide any remediation needed to improve academic skills. CPST includes lessons on sentence relationships,

essay writing, algebra and college level mathematics, specifically to assist with preparation for college courses and college entrance examinations.

OASC and CPST begin with an assessment of the individual's current level in the areas of English and Math; then, through a customized learning path, teach the concepts and skills needed to increase proficiency in these academic skills areas.

OASC and CPST are:

1. Sponsored by DANTES.
2. Accessible 24/7.
3. NO COST to Service members and their families.
4. Available at www.nelnetsolutions.com/dantes/.



BUILD YOUR SKILLS ■ ACE YOUR EXAMS ■ ADVANCE YOUR CAREER

DANTES PARTNERSHIPS NEWS

JST stakeholders meet at CCME Symposium

Last month, the DIB reported on the success of the Joint Services Transcript (JST) and refinements undertaken since going live in 2013. Key to that success is JST Operations' total commitment to their customers. From attention to stakeholder input, to meeting Service member and veteran needs, to supporting the colleges and universities that receive and evaluate the JST in order to apply military learning to civilian degree programs, the JST Operational staff are there to help.

Recently, stakeholders from Higher Education, American Council on Education (ACE), Joint Services Transcript (JST) Operations, Military Voluntary Education, and DANTES attended a pre-conference forum at CCME. Michele Spires, Military Evaluations Director for ACE, and Laurine Anderson, JST Program Manager, led the interactive session. Anderson discussed JST updates and innovations over the past year and several works-in-progress, while Spires facilitated an exercise yielding feedback and suggestions for further improvements.

Some recently added services and features include:

- » linking United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI) records prior to 1974 to the JST
- » adding the ability to enter 'support' requests while logged into JST, then automatically routing them to the proper Service for resolution
- » giving academic institutions the ability to build degree templates and populate Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) agreements online

Top priorities and suggestions taken from the forum are communication strategies, expanding course details, adding certification information, aligning learning outcomes with subject area credit recommendations, and other ideas to improve access and acceptance.

For more information, visit <https://jst.doded.mil> or email questions or comments to jst@doded.mil.

Ed Centers:

Do you have a VolEd-related story or photo to share?

If so, send submissions to pubs@navy.mil.

MOU business hours change

The Department of Defense MOU Team business hours of operation have changed.

The new hours are Mon-Fri, 7:00 am to 3:30 p.m. (CST).

For assistance, contact:
• voledconcerns@navy.mil
• 850-452-1111 ext. 3175

DoD MWR Libraries offers FREE online resources

DoD MWR Libraries offers a number of Peterson's online resources online and may now be accessed at www.nelnetsolutions.com/dodlibrary/ and logged onto by Service.

This online resource is available at no cost to the end user. Members of the United States military, DoD civilians and contractors, and their family members are eligible to use the materials.

Eligible members can find resources to help them plan, prepare and achieve their education and career goals. The site contains online, printable, and portable practice tests, eBooks, full length online courses, school searches, and more.

If you use these materials, send a note to the DIB editor letting us know what you think! Email pubs@navy.mil.



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FROM THE DESK OF THE SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR



CMSgt Adalberto Velez
Senior Enlisted Advisor

The military enlisted advancement and promotion system has many obvious benefits: increased privileges; job opportunities; positions of authority; and of course — more money in the paycheck. Ask any enlisted Service member who has spent a military career successfully rising through the ranks about the secret of their

success, and you're likely to get this answer: "Know how the promotion system works."

If you are among the thousands wanting to advance, prepare now for promotion. Make sure you have every box checked. If your Service requires a test, pull the appropriate references to study. I never once advanced in rank without studying hard for a promotion test. The belief that your promotion will come after you have "done-the-time" is not true. There are Service members being released from active duty today because they are not advancing according to their Service's established promotion criteria and timelines. Enlisted promotions are competitive — there are more people eligible for promotion than there are available positions.

The Services each have their own methods to choose the best, based upon points for specific achievements, promotion boards, and combinations of both. Due to the competitive nature of the military, it is sometimes tough getting enough promotion points to get promoted. If you are looking for more promotion points, consider enrolling in some college classes. Are you in the Army and consistently coming in under the cut-off score for promotion? Although the Air Force and Coast Guard don't allow specific points toward promotion, a Service member's education level is taken into consideration for promotion boards and special assignments. Ensure you know your Service's way for promotion. If you do not know, seek assistance by starting with your supervisor.

Having a degree can make the difference when it comes to getting that dream assignment or promotion. With the Navy's continued emphasis on education, you can earn two points for an associate degree and four points for a bachelor's degree.

The military recognizes the importance of civilian education in teaching critical thinking skills. By adding promotion points for education the military encourages Service members to continue their education while still serving. Remember, not all Services provide promotion points for education.

By leveraging all of the educational benefits provided by the military, you can keep your out-of-pocket expenses to a minimum. DANTES sponsors several credit-by-exam programs that can save you tuition, book costs and, most of all, a lot of your time. By studying for and taking exams through the CLEP and DSST exam programs, you can complete most if not all of your general education requirements.

By using these testing programs, tuition assistance, and, as needed, your 9/11 GI Bill, earning a college degree can be well within your financial reach.

Go see your education counselor today and learn about the numerous opportunities available in pursuing your educational goals. Don't delay - enroll in a college course today and increase your opportunity for promotion.

If you have a military Voluntary Education success story that you would like to share, send it to me at ea@navy.mil and maybe you'll see it published in this forum. I would enjoy hearing from you!

ACE WEBINARS AND EVENTS

ACE 97th Annual Meeting March 14-17

One of the country's premier higher education events, bringing together nearly 2,000 higher education leaders to network and hear from leaders and newsmakers discussing the most pressing issues of the day.

<http://www.aceannualmeeting.org/>

College and University Partnerships webinar series on credit for prior learning (CPL)

Highlighting a number of critical areas required for successful CPL programs, the series brings to you a group of seasoned CPL practitioners from two- and four-year institutions across the nation. Sessions include: A CPL Primer, Parts 1 & 2; Internal Marketing; Mapping Military Training & Occupations to Postsecondary Credentials Parts 1 & 2; Advising for Success; and College/Employer Partnerships. Sessions run March to Nov. 2015.

www.acenet.edu/events/Pages/CUP-Webinar-Series-on-Credit-for-Prior-Learning.aspx

A Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) Primer

Part 1: What is CPL and why should it be recognized? (Complimentary) March 5, 2:00 - 3:30 EST

Part 2: How do we build an effective credit for prior learning program at our institutions? (Complimentary) March 10, 2:00 - 3:30 EST

www.acenet.edu/events/Pages/A-CPL-Primer.aspx

Year in review: FY14 military education snapshot

FY14 active duty military student profile

What did the average active duty military student look like in FY14? At the recent Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) Symposium, Dawn Bilodeau, Chief of Voluntary Education Programs and DoD Liaison to the CCME Board, presented an overview and an update on military voluntary education programs. Within her presentation, she discussed key attributes of military students that attended college last year using the military Tuition Assistance program. Most notable was that active duty military students:

- » tended to be part-time students, as they are employed full time by the military
- » took an average of three courses per year and spending roughly \$1,600 per person, despite the availability of \$4,500 in tuition assistance benefits
- » mostly completed their education after leaving the military
- » took an average of approximately seven years to earn an associate degree on active duty
- » attended multiple academic institutions, often not graduating from the school where they took their first course
- » blended how they attended school between traditional classroom and distance learning, with 83 percent taking online courses
- » didn't immediately seek employment upon earning a degree because they were still on active duty
- » had breaks in pursuing their education due to life events such as deployments and transferring duty stations

What does all this mean?

Active duty military students are similar to civilian non-traditional adult students, but face additional challenges that cause them to take longer to complete their education goals.

A Reserve military student profile was unavailable to due to the variance in student circumstances.

DANTES helps military members reach their goals by offering programs that ensure Service members are prepared for college, save time and money while completing degree requirements, and assist with transitioning into teaching careers. Page four contains a graphic showing the many ways that DANTES supported military voluntary education in FY14.

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OTHER VOLED NEWS AND BLOGS

CFPB secures \$480 million in debt relief for current and former Corinthian students

Today, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) and the U.S. Department of Education announced more than \$480 million in forgiveness for borrowers who took out Corinthian College's high-cost private student loans. ECMC Group, the new owner of a number of Corinthian schools, will not operate a private student loan program for seven years and agreed to a series of new consumer protections.

The CFPB estimates that there is approximately \$1.2 trillion in outstanding student loan debt, with more than 7 million Americans in default on more than \$100 billion in balances. Students and their families can find help on how to pay for college and tackle their student debt on the CFPB's website www.consumerfinance.gov/students/.

www.consumerfinance.gov/newsroom/cfpb-secures-480-million-in-debt-relief-for-current-and-former-corinthian-students/

DETC announces change of name to Distance Education Accrediting Commission

The Distance Education and Training Council (DETC) announced today that it has changed its name to Distance Education Accrediting Commission (DEAC) to reflect its broader strategic initiatives for quality assurance in the field of distance education and its expertise in driving the innovations needed to shape the future of education.

The change of name communicates a clear and consistent message about DEAC's primary function in accreditation and its value to a stakeholder base that includes institutions, students, employers, non-traditional education providers, regulators, and trendsetters in distance education.

www.distance-educator.com/detc-announces-change-of-name-to-distance-education-accrediting-commission/

3 things academic leaders believe about on-line education

The Babson Survey Research Group released its annual online-education survey Feb. 5. The Babson surveyors, Jeffrey Seaman and I. Elaine Allen, have been tracking online higher education since 2002, soliciting responses from chief academic officers at thousands of institutions.

www.chronicle.com/blogs/wiredcampus/3-things-academic-leaders-believe-about-online-education/55727

FY14 military education snapshot



Enabling Service Members to Define Their Future

(Compiled from
FY14 Data)

College Preparation



43,700+
students improved their academic skills



80,000+ students took Career Assessments



6,700+ students took GED & college entrance exams



13,000+ students prepared for online coursework

Education Attainment

\$24M+

saved in TA from exams taken for college credit

\$116M+

saved in TA from college credit recommendations for military training & experience

37,000+

student degree plan agreements issued



**college credit
alternatives save
TIME & MONEY**

Transition to Teaching



1,000+ veteran job placements

\$

\$590K paid for teacher certifications



\$4.3M awarded for teaching in high needs schools



420+

Ed & Family
centers supported



2,200+

Schools signed
DoD MOUs



2000%

Web traffic
increase



26

Promo videos
created

DANTES Social Media

Join us for up-to-date information, conversations, or just let us know how your education journey is going!

DANTES Twitter https://twitter.com/DoD_DANTES

DANTES Pulse blog <http://dantespulse.dodlive.mil>

DANTES Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DANTES.DoD>

DANTES Youtube <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAD8yGhGBeDAIPMW7Eu-sA>

TESTING CALENDAR

http://www.dantes.doded.mil/_content/Exams_Calendar.pdf

DANTES
6490 SAUFLEY FIELD ROAD
PENSACOLA, FL 32509-5243
<http://www.dantes.doded.mil>

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Carol A. Berry, Ed.D., Director
 Nancy L. Hamilton, Editor
pubs@navy.mil

DANTES telephone numbers are:

DSN 459-1111 (plus extension); CML (850) 452-1111 (plus extension)

Office	Ext.	Fax	E-mail
Director's Office	3150	1159	dantes@navy.mil
Enlisted Advisor	3127	1159	ea@navy.mil
Reserve Advisor			Vacant
DANTES Publications / DIB	3120	1162	pubs@navy.mil
Website	3191	1159	dantes_webmaster@navy.mil
Outreach	3120	1162	dantes_outreach@navy.mil
European Advisor	011-49-6302-67-5814 DSN: (314) 496-5814		usarmy.badenwur.usareur.mbx.dantes-euro@mail.mil
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