

INFORMATION BULLETIN

WORLDWIDE EDUCATION SUPPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

JANUARY 2014 NUMBER 440

WWW.DANTES.DODED.MIL

1974 - 2014: Celebrating 40 years of service!

Celebrating 40 years of excellent service!

As we ring in the New Year, DANTES will celebrate a very special anniversary — our 40th year of service to our military personnel. In May of 1974, a memorandum from the Deputy Secretary of Defense to senior military leadership disestablished the United States Armed Forces Institute (USAFI) and commissioned the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES). Later that year, it was established as an echelon three, Navy command, with the Navy as our executive agent. DANTES was created to provide educational programs and products to the military. Over the years, DANTES has provided these vital educational services to millions of military personnel, impacting their lives and those of their families.

When USAFI was dissolved, there were two support functions that were deemed critical and served as the beginning of the programs DANTES would eventually come to manage. These two programs were the cornerstone in what has become a comprehensive menu of programs and resources that have enabled the Services to offer very successful and efficient voluntary education programs. Those original support functions were the credit-by-examination programs and the development of self-study opportunities offered to Service members from civilian schools and colleges.

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New DANTES Web site to launch soon

DANTES is proud to announce the launch of our NEW Web site. The DANTES Web experience has been completely transformed for improved functionality and navigation, to engage through images and interactive multimedia, and provide a quality “one stop” education-centric portal for our Service communities, partners, and stakeholders.



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Kuder® Journey Voucher Statistics

Service	Registrations	Kuder Career Interests Assessment (KCIA)	Kuder Skills Confidence Assessment (KSCA-A)	Kuder Work Values Assessment (KWVA)
Air Force	2917	2217	1558	1114
Army	18413	11627	6599	5066
Coast Guard	281	155	93	65
Marine Corps	11518	9730	4573	3900
Navy	4867	4192	2175	1595

Kuder Journey statistics are based on the number of assessments taken from January 1 - December 23, 2013.

Celebrating 40 years

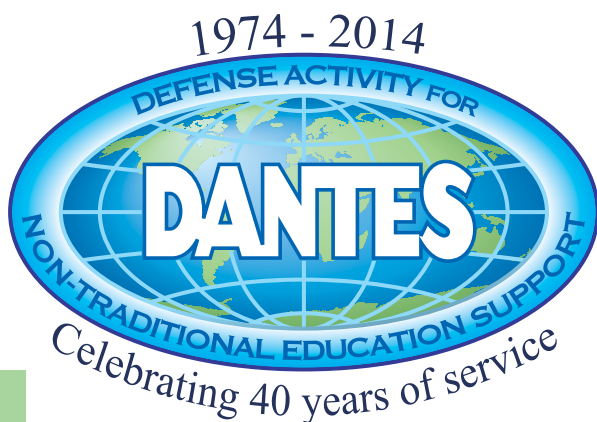
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DANTES has come a long way from these humble beginnings, starting with only four employees (Dr. William Gager, Dr. J.D. Smith, Dr. Duane Guicken and Martha Brownlee) and two programs, growing to over 20 programs and services with 63 staff members (civil service and contractors). In addition to our headquarters in Pensacola, we have an office based in Germany, providing quality educational support to the Services' education professionals around the world.

While programs and services are the grist, the real engine behind them is the staff. DANTES is blessed to have a great team of professionals who are experts in their fields, without whom the programs would not be as robust. As we reflect on our history and on the future, it is appropriate to thank all who went before us, serving in various positions here, for their hard work and dedication. We have a very simple motto that helps us to focus on what is important: "It's about the Service member!" We are also grateful for the support we have gotten over the years from the VOLED Service Chiefs, OUSD and our Executive Agent, the Navy, without which DANTES would not exist.

Over the next year, we will be celebrating our forty years of service by providing you, our constituents, with more of what you have come to expect from DANTES, with a few surprises thrown in. First up is the launch of our new stakeholder-centric Web site. Three years ago, we simplified the Web site, with the goal of making it easier for you to find the information you needed when you wanted it. Now we are ready to take that site and kick it into high gear — to better deliver our message and program information to you.

Join us as we take a walk down memory lane and look to the future - share your stories about your experiences with DANTES, our products and services, or your memories of staff present and past. Send your musings to Nancy Hamilton, the DIB editor, at pubs@navy.mil. We'll publish some in the DIB, on the Web site and on our blog - DANTES Pulse.



New DANTES Web site

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From the inspirational, informative videos that convey our mission, to the DANTES Digital Network news center, visitors will continue to find the quality and value required to "Define [their] Future."

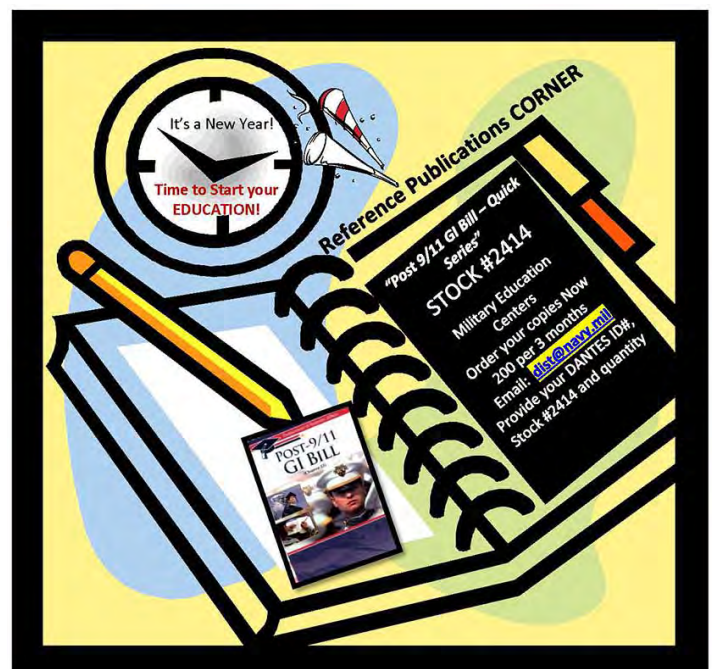
The DANTES site has grouped information, resources, forms and links specific to the intended audience: Service members, educational institutions, education counselors and DoD leadership. Navigating the DANTES Web site couldn't be easier; with menus at the top of each page, you don't have to go far to find what information is contained within — just "hover" over each menu item to get a deeper look.

Within each audience area, DANTES provides tailored subject areas which incorporate key Interest Point (IP) links, such as Transferable Credits, Prep for College, Education Benefits, and Contact a Counselor

Additionally, DANTES hopes to improve the quality of education and the overall education experience by promoting collaborations, information exchanges and direct partnerships with education providers via tailored IP links such as: Become a Military-Friendly Institution, Transferable Credits, Recommended Affiliations, DoD MOU and 3rd Party Assessments.

Finally, the DANTES site will improve delivery of program support to Service Education Counselors—providing tailored IP links and tools to best assist Service members in achieving their education goals:

Keep an eye out for the new site - the home URL (www.dantes.doded.mil) will not change. The actual launch date wasn't set as of the DIB publishing date — but it will be soon!



Kuder® Journey program extended through 2015

What better way to kick off the New Year? The Kuder Journey program has been extended through 2015 for all active duty, Guard, and Reserve personnel. Service members at the beginning, middle, or transition stage of their military career can self-register for a free, lifetime account and complete the interests, skills, and work values assessments. To kick-start career and college exploration, visit: www.dantes.kuder.com.

Counselors (education, family support, and transition centers) assisting active duty, Guard, and Reserve personnel with their education and transition goals are encouraged to request a Kuder Journey Counselor Training Account to become familiar with the program in preparation for counseling sessions, education briefs, and transition classes.

Retirees, family members, and civilians can purchase a lifetime Journey access code for \$35 by contacting Kuder Customer Support at support@kuder.com or 877-999-6227.

A big THANK YOU to all that participated in last year's DANTES-sponsored Kuder Journey pilot program. The transition from the pilot program to the new Kuder Journey subscription should be seamless since no changes were made to the registration process or the actual program components. If difficulties are encountered, email counseling@navy.mil for assistance.

For program updates or assistance, go to (www.dantes.doded.mil/Programs/CounselorSupport.html) or contact DANTES Counseling Support at counseling@navy.mil or 850-452-1111 ext. 3133.

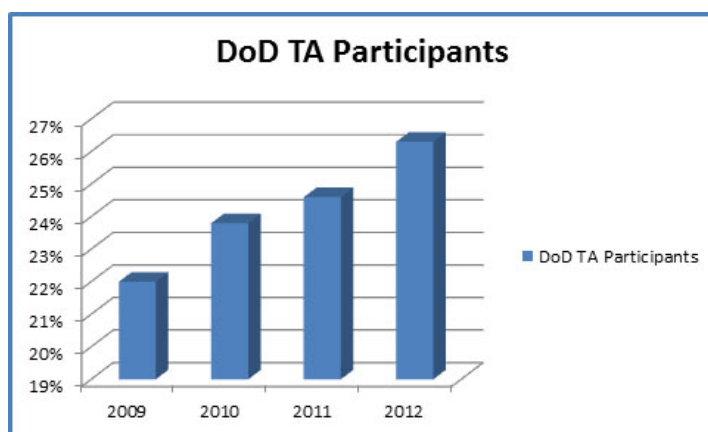
Why aren't more military members going to school?

It is common knowledge that "education pays". Generally, higher levels of education usually translate into higher total lifetime earnings and lower rates of unemployment. If that is true, then why don't more military members pursue post-secondary education while on active duty? In FY 2012, only 26.3 percent of active duty military personnel participated in military tuition assistance. While this is an increase from 2009 participation rates, it is only a small increase.

For over the past 80 years, researchers have studied adult participation in adult education programs. Many reasons that adults choose to pursue higher levels of education generally relate to occupational, social, leisure, and personal/psychological goals. Of particular interest is why adults do not participate in adult education activities. Researchers have generally agreed on four main categories of barriers to pursuing adult education: situational, dispositional, institutional, and informational.

Situational Barriers

These are the barriers that are beyond an individual's control. One of the major deterrents in this category is the cost of going to school. However, for active duty military members, this barrier has been met with the availability of tuition assistance, other voluntary education programs that reduce the individual cost of a degree (i.e. credit-by-examination, ACE recommended college credit, etc.), eligibility for federal financial aid, and access to VA education benefits. Another major barrier in this category is the unequal opportunity to pursue education due to time.



Data is based on information from the DoD Voluntary Education Information Management System for FY09 to FY12. *Does not include Coast Guard personnel.

In a previous study of TA participants, researchers found that those who used TA were more likely to be in technical or administrative occupations that had predictable work schedules and were less likely to participate in lengthy deployments, sea duty, and field training exercises or rotations. Some may be impacted by personal life events that make balancing a full-time military Service commitment and being a part-time student difficult (i.e. family obligations, divorce, etc.).

Dispositional Barriers

Dispositional barriers are connected to an individual's beliefs and attitudes towards education. For example, those who have little confidence in their academic ability may have reservations due to low performance in high school or the extended lapse in time since high

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Military members going to school

Continued from page 3

school graduation. Some simply might have disliked school or have high levels of test anxiety. Still, others may have incongruent goals and expectations about higher education and may perceive that a college degree is not necessary for achieving their particular goals. There may be others who have not considered developing goals for their eventual transition into the civilian workforce. Researchers also cited low levels of individual motivation and low personal priority for education as barriers to pursuing adult education.

Institutional Barriers

For those in the military, these are the barriers that exclude or discourage participation in adult education caused by institutional culture or policies. For example, a Service member may be interested in attending a type of education program or institution not eligible for TA funding. For some, the pursuit of education is not encouraged or supported by their command (i.e. not being able to visit base sponsored education center during work hours, rigid or atypical work schedules). For others, the recent amendments to TA policies might have delayed or reduced TA eligibility. The reality that most military members may be facing is that future tuition assistance dollars may be severely limited due to continued fiscal constraints felt by all federal agencies.

Informational Barriers

These barriers are linked closely to the personal awareness of education opportunities. It is no surprise that researchers have found that relevant and accurate information is critical in connecting motivated learners to appropriate education opportunities. The lack of information about education opportunities while on activity was found to be a significant deterrent that

caused education opportunities to not only remain undiscovered, but also compound the perceived intensity of the other barriers.

These barriers do not exist in a vacuum but are interrelated and impact military members differently. Military education personnel need to tailor their education outreach and counseling activities to ensure that they are addressing and meeting Service member's needs. This includes designing education marketing and counseling activities that:

- » Increase awareness of education opportunities (i.e. briefings, education fairs, social media campaigns, command visits, virtual or mobile office hours, etc.);
- » Increase motivation to pursue education activities (i.e. provide current labor market information, earnings and unemployment statistics, etc.);
- » Assist in setting clearly defined short- and long-term active duty and civilian workforce goals (i.e. use the Kuder Journey as a starting point to identify and assess possible civilian career paths)
- » Address issues of self-efficacy by increasing academic readiness (i.e. encourage the use of Peterson's Online Academic Skills and College Placement Skills Training);
- » Work with command career counselors, ESOs, and base/unit level leadership to increase their understanding of benefits to an educated force;
- » Encourage the formation of support/study groups and the use of base library or education center computers;
- » Establish a strong relationship with base Family Service Support Centers and Chaplains for referrals to assist in dealing individuals with personal problems.

Other VoEd news in the world...

Tuition Assistance Availability Temporarily Expanded

www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=78326

Bataan sailors participate in college programs

www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=78191

Tuition assistance funds gone; outlook unclear

www.marinecorpstimes.com/article/20131209/NEWS/312090008/

Education Department targets for-profit colleges

<http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424052702303293604579254861650304686>

Tuition assistance changes to take effect for 2014

www.myguidon.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=16708&Itemid=39

Five Cool Features for Counselors in the New Financial Aid Toolkit

www.ed.gov/blog/2013/12/five-cool-features-for-counselors-in-the-new-financial-aid-toolkit/



EXAMINATIONS NEWS

Announcing GED Ready™: the official practice test

As a reminder to Test Control Officers (TCOs), the 2002 series GED has officially been retired and the GED Testing Service release of the computer-based (CBT) 2014 GED test is underway.

The DANTES-sponsored voucher remains available for eligible Service members to use at authorized Pearson VUE Testing Centers.

However, effective Jan. 1, 2014, Service members needing to take the GED are no longer required to complete the GED Practice Test. Although the pretest requirement is no longer mandatory, TCOs are encouraged to continue to ensure that Service members are prepared to complete the GED and should refer them to test preparation resources prior to requesting the DANTES-sponsored voucher on their behalf.

Free practice test vs. GED Ready:

Free Practice Test	GED Ready The Official Practice Test
Quarter-length of the GED test. Preview and practice with the content and technology that will be part of the 2014 GED test.	Half-length of the GED test. Preview and practice with the content and technology that will be part of the 2014 GED test.
No scoring provided. Review the “answer explanation” on each question to confirm the correct answer and see explanations for why the other options were incorrect.	Instant scoring gives students a number score when they complete the test .
Use the Companion Guide to understand which standards-based skill is being assessed in each question.	Gives students an enhanced score report with details about the standards-based skills he or she needs to work on to score higher.
No study plans provided.	Provides a targeted study plan for students with recommendations from leading preparation book and online course providers..
Is not intended to determine readiness for the GED® test.	Is the only practice test built to tell a student if they are likely to pass the real thing .

DANTES Annual Test Facilities Review

All DANTES Test Sites are reminded to complete the DANTES Annual Test Facilities Review by December 31 each calendar year.

All DANTES Test Sites, stocking and non-stockings, must be inspected annually by the authorizing military Service and a DANTES 1560/11 submitted to DANTES, Code 20A by email (exams@navy.mil).

Test site inspection procedures and inspector duties are covered in the DANTES Examinations Program Handbook (DEPH) Part I, pages I-10 and 11, available to Test Control Officers (TCOs) on the TCO Portal.

Start by visiting www.gedtestingservice.com/testers/sample-questions for a set of free sample test questions. A quarter-length free practice test is available at www.gedtestingservice.com/educators/freepracticetest. The GED Ready online practice test is available for purchase at www.gedmarketplace.com. Although the content of the 2014 GED has changed, TCOs may choose to retain and use the 2002 Series Official GED **Practice** Tests materials or destroy them locally. TCOs should reference the DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH), Chapter 1, for a complete review of the GED chapter.

For more information, email exams@navy.mil with “DANTES-sponsored Voucher Code 20C1” in the subject line.

FY13 pass rates available on the DANTES Web site

The FY13 pass rates for DSST and CLEP exams are now available on the DANTES Web site at www.dantes.doded.mil/Programs/Exams.html. Knowing how military examinees score on CLEP and DSST exams allows education counselors to target areas for improvement and identifies exams that may not be the best options for military students. During FY13, pass rates have increased from 50 to 61 percent, that is an 11-point improvement in the pass rates among all of the Services.

Military students score highest in the subjects of Principles of Supervision and Analyzing and Interpreting Literature, and more military students take CLEP exams as compared to DSST exams, with the Air Force being the largest group of test takers.

EXAMINATIONS

NEWS (CON'T)

New DSST exam launches in 2014

It is hard to think of any aspect of our daily lives that is not impacted by potential threats to cyberspace. Organizations spend billions of dollars each year to protect sensitive data and resources, yet hardly a day passes without news of a cyber-attack with resulting loss of business or personal data. Prometric is pleased to announce the launch of a new upper-level DSST exam in early 2014 - Fundamentals of Cybersecurity. Students can earn 3 ACE recommended semester hours of upper-level college credit if they take this exam and pass it.

Fundamentals of Cybersecurity, includes content related to major topics in Cybersecurity including Application and Systems Security, Implementing Authentication and Authorization Technologies, Compliance, security pertaining to networks and physical environments and vulnerability management.

The upper-level exam will be available in early 2014 and more information will be made available once the exam is launched.

New VoEd Chief

Dawn Bilodeau is currently serving as the Chief for Department of Defense (DoD) Voluntary Education, responsible for oversight and administration of adult, non-traditional, voluntary, continuing, and post-secondary, higher education programs for the DoD worldwide; the quality oversight and review of all military education programs; and the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES).

She chairs several boards to include the Inter-Service Voluntary Education Board, the Third Party Education Assessment Board, and the Overseas Voluntary Education Board and serves as Executive Chair of the Planning Committee for the triennial DoD World Wide Education Symposium. She represents DoD Voluntary Education as liaison with the Department of Education, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the College Board, the American Council on Education, the Servicemembers Opportunity College, the National Association of Institutions Military Education Services, the National Commission on Lifelong Learning, the Council of College and Military Educators, the American Association for Adult Continuing Education, the American Counselors Association, state and regional Advisory Councils on Military Education, and other state and federal departments and agencies.

Bilodeau is a career civil servant with over 14 years of experience in the area of military voluntary education. From 1999-2013, she supported Headquarters Army Continuing Education System in various roles culminating in her position as the Deputy Director and Chief of Budget and Finance with duty assignments in Virginia, District of Columbia, Kosovo/Macedonia, and Kentucky. Her honors include the Army Meritorious and Superior Civilian Service Awards, Army G1 Civilian of the Quarter, the CCME John Brian Service and Leadership Award, the U.S. Bank Government Outstanding Achievement Award for Innovation and the NATO Medal. Bilodeau has a master's degree in educational administration and supervision from Arizona State University and a bachelor's degree from Bates College.



DANTES Social Media

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

DANTES Pulse blog <http://doddantespulse.blogspot.com/>

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

DANTES Youtube <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAD8yGhGBeDAfIPMW7Eu-sA>

DANTES Twitter https://twitter.com/DoD_DANTES

Calling all writers and camera-bugs!

Ed Centers - do you have a VoEd-related story to share with other education professionals? If so, send submissions to pubs@navy.mil.

What's available for the deployed sailor

Pursuing education can be challenging when serving in the Navy and even more so when on sea duty. The Center for Personal and Professional Development's (CPPD) voluntary education program is a conduit for equipping sailors with strong analytical skills, the ability to make informed decisions, and avenues to pursue life-long educational and credentialing goals. The Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE) is a major component of the voluntary education program and is designed to provide Navy personnel at eligible sea duty commands access to quality learning opportunities through a variety of instructional methods. The objective of NCPACE is to provide shipboard personnel with educational opportunities comparable to those available to their counterparts serving on shore duty.

NCPACE offers academic skills and college level courses (undergraduate and graduate) from regionally accredited institutions. The institutions offering undergraduate courses are affiliated with Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Navy (SOCNAV), allowing sailors to transfer credits and complete degrees with their home institutions.

Under the instructor-led (IL) program, qualified NCPACE instructors deploy with the ships and offer courses at the associate, bachelor and graduate levels in a classroom environment.

One advantage for commands participating in the IL program is that sailors can take advantage of academic

skills courses right at the command. Academic skills classes are available in English, reading and math. These classes benefit Sailors who want to retake their ASVAB, those having difficulties passing their advancement exam and may require a little help, and those preparing to start college.

Under the Distance Learning (DL) program, courses are available via CD-ROM, PDA and MP4 and do not require Internet access. Courses lead to degrees at the associate, bachelor and graduate levels.

Best of all, the tuition cost for sailors taking classes while deployed is zero, they only have to pay for books. Courses are paid for by the NCPACE program, so sailors can save their tuition assistance and GI Bill benefits for future classes.

NCPACE is a valuable program for Service members at eligible sea-going commands. It provides educational opportunities to meet the needs of deployable units, and it provides deployed sailors equal access to further their education.

Education is the key to the Navy's future. Education enables sailors to apply themselves to new situations and challenges, improves knowledge in support of their rating, and provides a more effective, productive and flexible workforce.

Additional information on NCPACE and other voluntary education programs can be found on the Navy College Program Web site at www.navycollege.navy.mil.

ACE Military Course and Occupations Evaluation

As stated on the American Council on Education (ACE) Web site www.acenet.edu/news-room/Pages/Military-Reviews.aspx, the purpose of the installation site visit is to review and evaluate military training (courses) and experiences (occupations). The evaluation team analyzes materials, identifies learning outcomes, and recommends postsecondary credit based on its findings.

ACE military reviews bridge the gap between professional military education and postsecondary curricula and provide parallels for the transfer of a Service member's acquired learning to current college curricula. This facilitates access to academic degrees.

For military training organizations, benefits include:

- » validation of quality of training
- » alignment and consistency in documenting training across the Services
- » demonstration of commitment to Service members
- » reduction of DoD tuition assistance funds
- » providing installations and training schoolhouses with details, processes, and procedures of ACE reviews

An informative handbook covering procedures for on-site reviews can be found at www.acenet.edu/news-room/Pages/Military-Course-and-Occupations-Evaluations.aspx. Send inquiries to ace@doded.mil or call 850-452-1111 ext. 3213.

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

**Is there a topic you would like to see
covered in the DIB?
Do you have a question about DANTES?
If so, let us know at pubs@navy.mil.**

TROOPS TO TEACHERS NEWS

Florida Governor Scott honors five Troops to Teachers veterans who chose to “Proudly Serve Again”

Florida Governor Rick Scott recognized five educators who formerly served in various branches of the military with the Governor’s Shine Award for their Service to our country and their contributions to Florida’s students. Governor Scott said, “It is an honor to thank these teachers who went from serving their country to serving Florida students in the classroom. A great education system is key to creating a highly-skilled workforce and driving our economy forward. These teachers have gone above and beyond the call of duty by preparing our students today for the jobs of tomorrow, and I thank them for their continued Service to Florida families.”

The Shine Award is presented to Floridians who have positively impacted children through education. All are members of the Troops to Teachers program.

Kenneth McAllister, U.S. Air Force, Clay High School

McAllister has been a special education and social studies teacher in the Clay County School District for 17 years. He believes that each student is unique and he strives to bring out their unlimited learning and creative abilities in the classroom.

David Silverman, U.S. Marine Corps & Florida Army National Guard, Center for Adult & Community Education

Silverman began his teaching career seven years ago as an 8th grade Algebra teacher. He taught adult education classes at night for six years before becoming an adult education teacher full time this year.

Glenn Meyer, U.S. Air Force, Navy Point Elementary School

Meyer’s last 11 years of Service were in education and training commitments. He now teaches 5th grade at Navy Point Elementary School in Pensacola.

Katherine Stefansson, U.S. Navy, Bellview Middle School

Stefansson currently teaches 8th grade American history at Bellview Middle School in Pensacola. Her favorite part of teaching is helping students learn how to make connections between what they learn in class and how it can affect their daily lives.

Jacqueline Williams, U.S. Navy, Randolph Academies of Technology

Williams has been serving the students of Duval County for more than seven years. She currently teaches American government, economics and AP psychology at A. Philip Randolph High School Academies of Technology in Jacksonville.

These teachers have gone above and beyond the call of duty by preparing our students today for the jobs of tomorrow, and I thank them for their continued Service to Florida families.
Florida Governor Rick Scott



FL Gov. Rick Scott, center, gathers with state officials and recipients of the Shine Awards. Local educators honored include Kenneth McAllister, third from left; Jacqueline Williams, fifth from left; Glenn Meyer, second from right; Katherine Stefansson, third from right; and David Silverman, fifth from right.



FROM THE DESK OF THE SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR



HMCM (FMF/SW) David Acuff
Senior Enlisted Advisor

Happy New Year! It's a new year and for many this is the time in our lives traditionally given to new and fresh starts. Have you made any resolutions for the New Year? If you are like many of us, the start of a new year has you thinking about self-improvement: drop a few pounds; eat healthier; lead a more active lifestyle. Getting fit and eating healthy are great goals, but what about getting your mind in shape? According to www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/New-Years-Resolutions.shtml, the third most popular New Year's resolution of Americans is to "get a better education." Maybe it's time for you to consider this and make it a permanent form of self-improvement; one that can enhance your military career, and increase your income while also improving your future. How about funding this resolution through your hard-earned military education benefits? Exercising your mind is definitely beneficial, especially if moving ahead in your career or planning to leave or retire from military Service are among your goals for 2014.

Don't know where to start? How about first taking a journey? A Kuder® Journey. Kuder Journey is a no-cost benefit that is available to all active duty, Guard, and Reserve personnel. This benefit provides tailored career guidance to Service members and is important to DANTES, which is why we are providing this intuitive career planning system designed to address each user's individual situation and complement the new DoD Transition Assistance Program. The career planning process starts with learning about oneself. Journey's research-based interests, skills, and work values assessments kick-start exploration and, ultimately, encourage more career satisfaction. The program offers assessments, tailored career guidance, and aids with an occupation search which narrows down a list of compatible occupation fields. From those occupations, the education required to pursue that career will be presented, along with information on financial aid, job search, and placement tools. Whether at the beginning, middle, or transition stage of your military career, Service members can access this free, lifetime resource anywhere there is an Internet connection, 24/7/365. Visit www.dantes.kuder.com and start your journey today.

Like any other resolution, planning a career change or getting a degree takes time, effort, commitment, and planning. But, unlike other resolutions, once you get started, earning your degree will seem easier as you progress toward your goal. And, unlike getting in physical shape, a college degree doesn't require a lifetime commitment — college degrees don't expire. The hardest part sometimes is just getting started. That's where setting goals and DANTES can help. Goal setting doesn't have to be difficult. In fact, personal goal setting is no different than mission or objective planning in the military. All you need is to see your base education counselor to get a set of clear objectives that are well defined, measurable, realistic, and time driven.

So, this year make a "New" New Year's Resolution — one that will last a lifetime. Resolve to use your military education benefits and earn your degree! 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 — as Nike says: "JUSTDOIT!"

I wish you a Happy New Year and much success finishing your degree in 2014! Until next time, keep up with DANTES on Facebook (www.facebook.com/DANTES.DoD) or contact me at ea@navy.mil. I would enjoy hearing from you.



To receive
email notification
when the DIB
is posted to the
Web site, send
an email to
pubs@navy.mil.

Click **HERE** to view archived DIBs.

FROM THE DESK OF THE RESERVE COMPONENT ADVISOR



Lt Col Eurydice Stanley
Reserve Component Advisor

Education can lead to your dream job!

Welcome to 2014! As we say goodbye to 2013, let this first month of the year be a time of reflection and preparation for the transition that inevitably impacts every Service member – life after the military.

Taking the time now to make plans, establish goals and identify dreams for the future can make

a significant difference not only for the rest of the year, but for the rest of your life.

As you map out your goals for 2014, ensure that education is part of your plan. Case-in-point, Angel Canales is currently a producer for ABC News, a division of the Walt Disney Company. In March 2012, Disney launched the program, “Heroes Work Here” (www.disneycareers.com/en/working-here/heroes-work-here/). Disney initially sought to hire 1,000 veterans by 2015, but has already welcomed more than 2,500 Service members to date and their numbers continue to climb. Canales was hired to his dream job due to his military experience and his education – an education that he would not have had he not made an assessment of what he wanted in the future and pursued his goals.

Canales joined the Service in 1999 from San Juan, Puerto Rico, because he wanted direction in his life and the opportunity to see the world. He decided to join the Navy because he liked the ocean, and the Navy was the perfect place to be surrounded by it. While serving as an Aviation Boatswains Mate, he deployed to Spain, Croatia, Greece and Turkey. The military had a significant impact on him, and he credits his discipline to his military training.

When he determined that his Naval career path was not his ultimate goal in life, he sought the means to get to his ideal position. Canales was significantly influenced by friends attending great schools and obtaining exciting careers. Like them, he knew he had to go to school to be successful in life...he knew education would play a significant role in his future. While attending Sarah Lawrence College and Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, both in New York, he received credit for his military training and experience, which reduced the number of courses needed to obtain his degrees.

Service members are encouraged to follow suit by requesting a copy of their Joint Services Transcript (JST). The JST captures military training, education and occupational experiences and identifies the ACE-recommended college credits for those experiences. Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard Service members can obtain their JST from <https://jst.doded.mil/>. Air Force personnel can obtain their transcripts from the Community College of the Air Force at www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/transcripts.

Keep in mind that ACE credits are recommendations; the prospective education institution will make the final determination regarding how many credits are awarded and where they might apply in your degree program. The more credits the institution applies to your degree requirements, the fewer classes you will have to take and the burden of tuition assistance is reduced for the military. In 2012, there was a cost avoidance of more than \$150 million dollars in tuition assistance due to the more than 725,000 military training credits that were applied to Service member’s degree plans.

Canales did not have the GI Bill and obtained loans to pay for his degree. He warns, “Education is very expensive these days, so make sure you have a plan.” As reported in “The Next Front? Student Loan Servicing and the Cost to Our Men and Women in Uniform,” according to the National Center for Education Statistics, the average graduating Service member debt in 2008 was \$25,566 (http://files.consumerfinance.gov/f/201210_cfpb_servicemember-student-loan-servicing.pdf)! There is no reason for Service member educational debt. Service members are encouraged to make a plan with their education service counselors to leverage DANTES products and services (www.dantes.doded.mil) to reduce or even eliminate the cost of pursuing a degree or credential.

If Canales could speak to Service members, he would say, “Go to college, but only do it if they are certain about the career path and have a plan once they get that degree. Education has been key and instrumental in my career. Knowing what kind of work I wanted to be doing helped me guide my own program in school. Make sure you’re passionate about the career - immerse yourself in the field to make sure you pick the program that’s best for you.” He is quick to credit education for his position. In 2014, will you do the same?

I look forward to hearing from you at RCA@navy.mil.

Department of VA update

Here are two new employment resources:

Updated Veterans Hiring guide

This Veterans Affairs (VA) guide provides a central location for tools and business incentives that can help employers find job-seeking veterans or assist with ongoing efforts with veteran hiring programs. It also includes key resources for employers seeking to attract military spouses. The VA worked closely with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to reach employers and model strong public/private partnerships, and gathered input from the Departments of Defense, Labor and Education. This guide is a great refresh of a 2012 hiring guide developed and published by the White House Business Council, but includes many more resources (especially VA's) for private sector employers interested in hiring Veterans. [www.vetsuccess.va.gov/public/assets/2013-11-13 Veterans Hiring Guide FINAL 2.pdf](http://www.vetsuccess.va.gov/public/assets/2013-11-13_Veterans_Hiring_Guide_FINAL_2.pdf)

DoL PSA videos

The Department of Labor (DoL) has released Public Service Announcement (PSA) videos that provide transitioning Service members and veterans information about available education, training, and employment opportunities as well as encouraging employers to hire veterans. The PSAs, which feature Marine and Navy veteran Montel Williams and Marine veteran R. Lee Ermey, run approximately 30 seconds each and can be great resources for organizations to use in their social media outlets. www.dol.gov/vets/psa/?utm_campaign=VeteransDay&utm_source=PressRelease&utm_medium=email&utm_term=VETS&utm_content=psa20130108

Golf tournament honors Night Stalker Heroes

The Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) is hosting a golf tournament Feb. 10, 2014, in conjunction with their 2014 Professional Development Symposium. The tournament will honor the fallen soldiers of the 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (Airborne) "Night Stalkers" of Hunter Army Airfield, the Army's premier night fighting aviation force, and the only Special Operations Aviation force. All proceeds raised will go to the Night Stalker Hero Memorial Fund of Savannah Foundation, Inc. (NSHMoSF).

The tournament kicks off at 8 a.m. with a shotgun start at The Club at Savannah Harbor. To learn more about the golf tournament, or to sponsor a hole, visit www.ccmeonline.org.

Financial aid toolkit

A new resource for organizations that prepare students and families financially for college

Federal Student Aid (FSA) recently launched the Financial Aid Toolkit (www.FinancialAidToolkit.ed.gov). The toolkit consolidates FSA resources into a searchable online database intended for use by organizations and individuals who interact with, support, or counsel students and families on making financial preparations for postsecondary education. While the toolkit's target audience is high school counselors and college access professionals, financial aid administrators may also find toolkit resources useful for their student outreach efforts.

Resources available in the toolkit include outreach resources, suggested messages for social media, information on embedding videos and infographics in your website, sample articles for organization newsletters and sample emails, and FSA publications. The site is divided into four sections:

Search Tools and Resources

A key feature of the toolkit is the search function. Resources can be found and sorted by:

- » audience
- » topic
- » time of year for best use
- » type of resource

<http://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/resources.jsp>

Learn About Financial Aid

Tips and resources to help counselors, college access professionals, and other mentors obtain a basic understanding of financial aid and the federal aid application process. This section includes updates on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and basic information about loan repayment.

<http://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/learn.jsp>

Conduct Outreach

Key outreach topics and resources that are of interest to school counselors and mentors. Topics include hosting a financial-aid night, reaching certain target audiences (e.g., parents, military), using social media, and more.

<http://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/outreach.jsp>

Get Training

Information about such professional development opportunities as classroom training, webinars, and resources for self-instruction. This section includes information about the National Training for Counselors and Mentors (NT4CM) initiative.

<http://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/training.jsp>

TESTING CALENDAR

No testing scheduled

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/Programs/Docs/exams_calendar.pdf

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