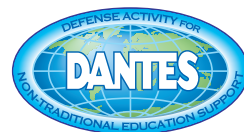


DANTES INFORMATION BULLETIN

JANUARY 2012
NUMBER 420

WORLDWIDE EDUCATION SUPPORT TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

WWW.DANTES.DODED.MIL



Responding to a critical call - 'Handwriting on the Wall'

Thanks to your response to November's article, we've taken the "Handwriting is on the Wall" message on the road! We've found that many Service members are still unaware of the changes that may soon impact the Department of Defense (DoD) due to budget cuts and drawdowns that are already well underway. DANTES is poised to assist through educational research that will expand what has been for many a very narrow approach to transition preparation, emphasizing the importance of education and credentialing in the conversation. Like the eventuality of death and taxes, transition from the Service (either through drawdown or retirement) is guaranteed. Your help is needed to ensure the message permeates the Services...we want to ensure that our Service members are headed on a path to better prepare for their future!

To date, the DANTES "Handwriting is on the Wall" brief has been presented to: Service members at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI); the 8th Biennial DEOMI Research Symposium; Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) Education Service Officer (ESO) training; the Florida National Guard; Career Counselors for the Army Reserve and Army National Guard; and senior leadership at the Army National Guard Readiness Center. Response to the brief has been very favorable and, most importantly, personnel are no longer looking at the transition issue in a myopic manner – they are now able to grasp the larger picture and consider the broader implications regarding the tie between education only strengthening their service and, just as importantly, supporting future civilian employment pursuits.

In an attempt to reach as many personnel as possible through numerous channels, "Handwriting" training sessions have been accepted at the Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) Symposium and the DoD Worldwide Education Symposium in July; articles are being submitted to numerous avenues; and presentations will continue to be given to units across the country and senior service schools such as the Army War College. In addition, we are developing quarterly train-the-trainer sessions to export the "Handwriting" brief along with an in-depth overview of the services DANTES offers that will assist Service members' educational pursuits. A three-day beta test will be given for local veteran service organizations and colleges in February. If the information proves prudent and effective, we will offer future training quarterly for ESOs and personnel who assist in the transition process.

Our "Handwriting" training will mirror previous DANTES Regional Workshops, but will focus specifically on education transition preparation. Aside from



Lt Col Eurydice Stanley
Reserve Component Advisor



Pictured left:
Lt. Col. Stanley
with the
"Handwriting"
research
findings during
the concurrent
poster session
Dec. 6, 2011.

What's Inside?

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"Like" us on
Facebook!

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DSST Web site gets a face lift

Prometric is pleased to announce the revamp of its DSST Web site, www.getcollegetcredit.com. The new easy-to-navigate, comprehensive Web site provides clear information about the DSST program, a secure dedicated Test Center resource page, and specific sections for test takers, credit-awarding institutions, and test centers to help them have a successful testing and test administration experience.

"The main goal of the new Web site is to help the visitor navigate through the site faster and to be able to find the information they need in several areas of the Web site, not just one," said Giannina Rachetta, DSST's Marketing Communications Manager at Prometric. "Another major effort was to create a Test Administrator Resource Center that allows us to share

more information with test centers that previously was sent via e-mail or post mail only. Now, each test center administrator can log in to a single page to access past and current program announcements, update proctor information, submit a testing irregularity report, and much more," she added.

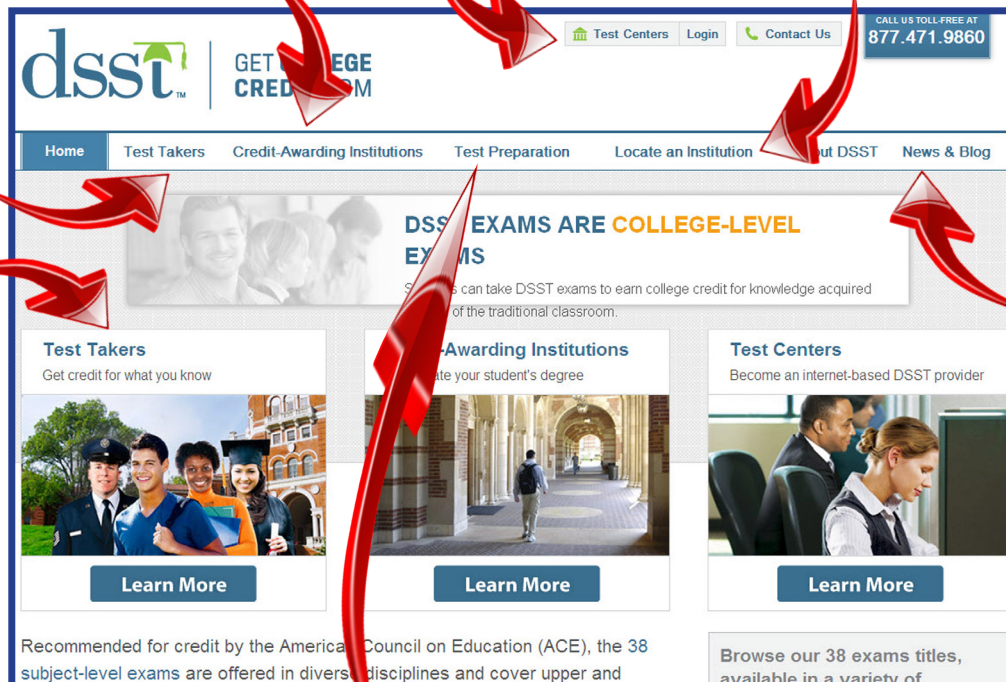
Prometric has been communicating with test centers over the past several weeks about the new password-protected Resource Center and has assigned usernames and passwords to the majority of users. Existing DSST test center administrators who have not been given a username and password can request one via the Sign Up option in the Login area of the new site. Users can change their profile settings and password via the buttons at the top of the Resource Center page.

An updated navigation tab at the top of the page helps the user navigate to the most visited pages.

The previous students and adult learners section is now the Test Takers page, which provides information for all test takers, including active-duty military members and veterans. Links to download military-specific forms (i.e. transcript forms) are readily available in this section.

Test Center Login, where administrators can access resources and view/change profile settings.

The 'Locate an Institution' page features an updated search engine to find testing centers and accepting institutions and includes a search option to find DANTES-funded military test sites.



The blog and news section of the old site has been condensed into a 'News & Blog' page which now includes an RSS subscription option to provide alerts when a new article or announcement is posted.

The old 'Test Preparation' and resources pages merged to provide a single place where test takers can find all the materials recommended by DSST to help prepare for their examination. The list of all 38 DSST exams by categories has been updated and includes a brief description and full Content Outline Fact Sheet for each exam.

EXAMINATIONS NEWS (CON'T)

DSST Web site

[continued from page 2](#)

While the main URL (www.getcollegecredit.com) has not changed, there are a few Web pages within the site that have changed URLs. Prometric reminds all institutions and organizations that usually link to DSST Web pages to update their links accordingly.

The new, dynamic DSST Web site will continue to improve going forward and Prometric welcomes any feedback at dsst@prometric.com.

DANTES Annual Test Facilities Review

As 2011 has come to a close, all DANTES test sites are reminded to complete the DANTES Annual Test Facilities Review, if not already done. The authorizing military Service is required to inspect the test site once each calendar year. All DANTES Test Sites, stocking and non-stock, must be inspected and a DANTES 1560/11 submitted to DANTES. Test site inspection procedures and inspector duties are covered in the DEPH Part I, pages I-10 and I-11, available to Test Control Officers (TCOs) on the TCO Portal.

FY12 DEPH 2nd Quarter update available Jan. 1

The 2nd Quarter update of the FY12 DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH, Parts I and II), will be available online Jan. 1, 2012, to DANTES testing personnel with access to the Test Control Officer (TCO) Portal at <https://dantestco-portal.prometric.com/Login/Login.aspx>. Users can view, search and download the DEPH, as well as the calendar of national test dates for FY12 and other forms used by TCOs.

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

DISTANCE LEARNING NEWS

90-day DoD MOU extension

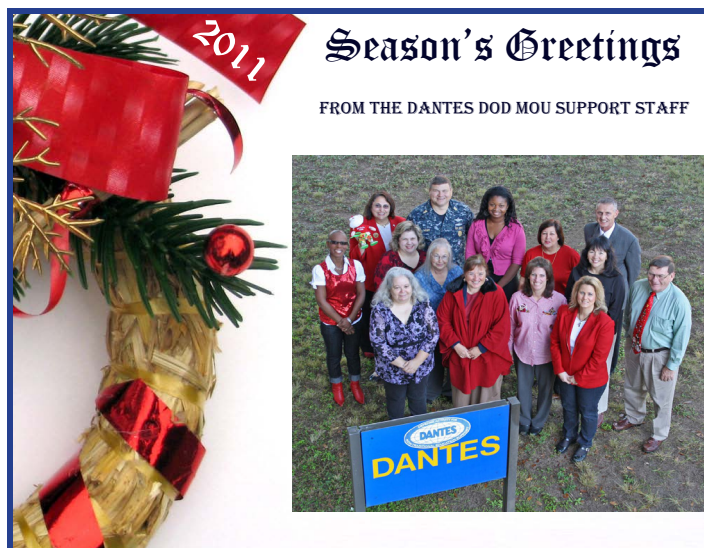
According to Dr. Jo Ann Rooney, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, "The Department of Defense (DoD) has decided to extend the Tuition Assistance Program Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) deadline 90 days from Dec. 31, 2011, until March 30, 2012. The extension will permit the Department to work with key stakeholders to address outstanding concerns and complete the process of implementing the MOU. This will ensure our Service members are afforded the widest variety of informed choices for their continued education.

DoD policy requires all institutions participating in the Military Tuition Assistance program to have a memorandum of understanding with the DoD. Only the implementation date of the policy has changed from Dec. 31, 2011, to March 30, 2012. Signed MOUs will remain in effect and institutions that have signed or are in the process of signing the DoD MOU will not be required to re-sign or make changes to their application.

If your institution does not yet have an MOU with DoD, please go to the DoD MOU web, www.dodmou.com, for additional information.

Thank you very much for your continued dedication to the education of our military members."

Institutions are encouraged to continue submitting their DoD MOU applications for processing. If you have any questions concerning the MOU, review the Sample MOU and MOU Clarifications page posted at www.dodmou.com or e-mail VOLEDCONCERNS@navy.mil.



"Worldwide 2012" raises bar again with exhibit numbers

Organizations interested in exhibiting at this year's DoD Worldwide Education Symposium have until April 2 to apply. With roughly three months until the deadline, the number of exhibits now exceeds the 2009 number with over 200 spaces committed.

Interest in exhibiting was so strong in 2009 that organizers predicted only the largest conference hotels could accommodate Worldwide in 2012 without moving the symposium to a convention center, and they were right. The Las Vegas MGM Grand's 92,000 square foot Marquee Ballroom will house a record number of exhibits in one expansive hall. Attendees will be exposed to hundreds of colleges,

universities, technical innovators and service organizations interested in "Educating the Force."

Attendees may also be assured that quantity does not take away from quality. All exhibitors must meet pre-determined criteria. Each exhibitor's accreditation is verified according to U.S. Dept. of Education or screened through the Better Business Bureau if the agency is a vendor rather than a school.

First, there was a new record set for proposals gathered. Now, Worldwide will feature more exhibitors than ever before. Surely, these signs indicate that the 2012 Symposium, set for July 23-27, is an opportunity education professionals cannot afford to miss.

Critical call

[continued from page 1](#)

in-depth training from DANTES staff members, the training will include briefings from local agencies such as Navy COOL, SMART, ACE, Navy Apprenticeship, and much more.

DANTES Director Dr. Berry and I presented a research poster session entitled "Helping Service members Succeed: The Critical Need for Education and Credentialing" at the DEOMI 8th Biennial EO, Diversity and Culture Research Symposium in December. We utilized data obtained from DEOMI students based on pre- and post-"Handwriting Brief" surveys. We were able to support our hypothesis that, with information regarding the current state of affairs, Service members would be more likely to start formulating plans to support their educational pursuits. Unfortunately, it was very clear from our findings that there are still many Service members who are unaware that they have educational resources available like ACE credits, credit by exam, and other educational benefits to help them.

Our final outreach endeavor will be Internet-based training, poised for 2012. To request a "Handwriting" brief, contact me via e-mail at rca@navy.mil. Thank you for your continued support, and let's ensure that our Service members see "The Handwriting on the Wall" for themselves!

Ed Centers - do you have a VolEd-related story to share? If so, DANTES wants to hear from you!

Send submissions to pubs@navy.mil.

If sending photos, please include names and a description of the event.

Meet the speaker. . . A monthly preview of speakers



Michele S. Jones

A member of the Senior Executive Service appointed as the Special Assistant and Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness) and the Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (P&R), Jones provides leadership and advice on strategic approaches and opportunities to support veterans, Wounded Warrior III and Injured Programs

as well as other Personnel and Readiness and veterans initiatives.

She is currently on special detail to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management in support of the President's Veteran's Employment Initiative and the First Lady's Military Families Initiative.

Prior to retiring after 25 years of service, Jones held the highest noncommissioned officer position of any woman in the Army as the 9th Command Sgt. Maj. of the Army Reserve and was the first female Command Sgt. Maj. of any of the Army's Components, Active or Reserve.

She has been featured worldwide in newspapers, magazines and television, and was named 1 of 35 Essence Magazine "World's Most Remarkable Women."

SOC'S Burning Issues Summit: a two-part discussion on student success and military friendliness

Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) invites college and military educators and leadership to participate in a pre-CCME conference event on Monday, Feb. 13, 2012, at 1:30-3:30 p.m. Please check the Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) conference registration area for the assigned meeting room at the Renaissance Orlando Seaworld.

The first part of the summit will be a presentation and continued discussion of last year's Burning Issues Summit focusing on Tracking Military Students: Effective Student Success and Outcome Measures.

Last year, attendees of the summit identified a need for consistent, relevant, and meaningful definitions and measures of student outcomes and student success. As a result, a working group of higher education and military education strategic thinkers and data analysts have recommended a framework for tracking military student success on a variety of indexes, allowing for comparisons across the voluntary education community. The group will present their recommendations, including:

1. An inclusive definition of military student
2. Guidelines on identifying a cohort for data analysis
3. The identification of a common set of definitions and metrics to measure persistence (progress to degree completion) and retention
4. Variables to cross-analyze the data

The second discussion will continue the dialogue on attributes, policies, and practices that define the term "Military- or Veteran-Friendly" as an institutional descriptor. Several commercial businesses and marketing firms have developed guides and rankings of "military-friendly" colleges and universities from their vantage points, but does the voluntary education community agree? While many institutions claim to be "veteran-friendly," how can educators help Service members and veterans distinguish between marketing hype and military student inclusion? Institutions and military personnel are invited to share their thoughts about the attributes and best practices that truly define a "military-friendly" institution of higher learning.

Burning Issues Summit Agenda:

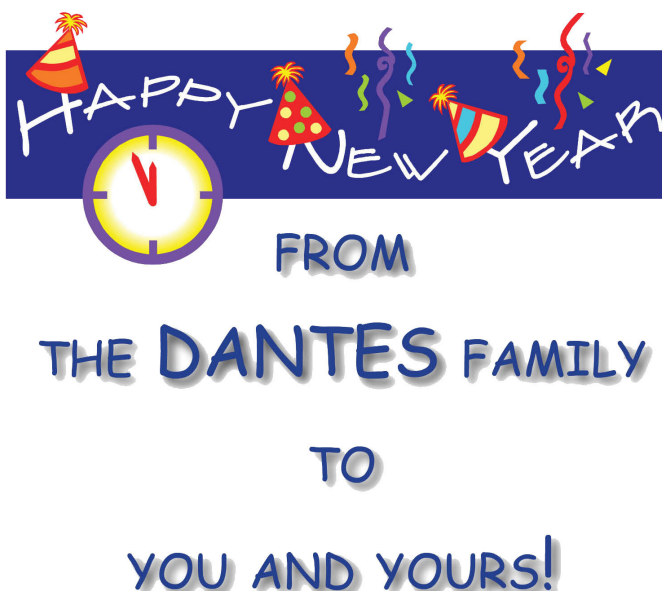
- » 1330-1400: Preliminary Findings of Working Group
- » 1400-1430: Audience Feedback and Suggestions Relating to Metrics and Definitions
- » 1430-1500: Introduction to Military Friendliness Project
- » 1500-1530: Roundtable discussion: What is Military Friendliness?

For more information on the Burning Issues Summit, contact Seth Kamen at 800-368-5622 or kamens@aascu.org. For information on the CCME Conference, go to www.ccmeonline.org/.



To have the
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click on the icon or send
an e-mail to
pubs@navy.mil.

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



FROM THE DESK OF THE SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR



HMCM (FMF/SW) David Acuff
Senior Enlisted Advisor

Last month, in her “From the Desk of the RCA” column, Lt. Col. Stanley addressed pressing issues impacting Army Soldiers. I’d like to add my thoughts for the other Services. The handwriting is on the wall ... are you reading the signs?

One sign comes from Representative Buck McKeon, chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, who recently

said that his panel estimated the initial \$489 billion in defense cuts approved by Congress would cost 100,000 active duty military jobs. (David Alexander | Reuters – Dec. 13, 2011) To help mitigate the effects of a military drawdown, the Department of Defense has re-vamped its Transition Assistance Program (TAP) and designed it to help smooth the transition of military personnel (and family members) leaving active duty.

Recently, Secretary of the Army, the Honorable John M. McHugh, released the Army Transition Policy. It states that “The Department of the Army (DA) has an obligation to better prepare our transitioning Soldiers, family members, and DA civilians for opportunities beyond their service to the Army.” The policy emphasizes the importance of leadership to be involved at every level and many critical transition-related issues, but I would like to highlight four that specifically impact the education arena.

The importance of promoting lifelong learning

Last October, one of the many changes to the Post 9/11 GI Bill included the opportunity to pursue non-college, non-degree courses to learn a skill. This shortens training time for personnel who are not interested in a college degree, but are interested in pursuing a vocation. Keep in mind that military experience does not necessarily ensure a job, as reflected in the latest unemployment rates for veterans (ranging from 9 percent for veterans overall, but for Iraq and Afghanistan-era veterans ages 18-24, the figure is a staggering 26-30 percent according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce). That number may soon rise. Be prepared - the time is now to utilize Tuition Assistance (TA) benefits or the GI Bill to get your degree or pursue vocational training! Time will not be on your side if you wait until you are no longer in service. Keep in mind the benefits afforded to you as a Service member,

a significant one being base educational programs designed with the full-time military adult learner in mind.

Credentialing

Although DANTES is moving out of the credentialing arena, it is still a very important component of a Service member’s tool-kit. Essentially, you are simply verifying what you already do in the Service! Visit the Army or Navy COOL Web sites (www.cool.army.mil, www.cool.navy.mil) or the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) Credentialing Programs Flight at www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/certifications.asp.



Now, more than ever, it’s time to get credentialed. Those sailors selected for separation under the FY12 Quota-based Enlisted Retention Board (ERB) now have the opportunity to be waived from the one-year remaining in-service requirement. NAVADMIN 332/11 provides detailed guidance on this valuable opportunity for ERB affected Sailors.

Active duty Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard personnel have the added benefit of the United Service Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP). This is a formal military training program that provides active duty Service members the opportunity to improve their job skills and to complete civilian apprenticeship requirements while on active duty. The U.S. Department of Labor (DoL) provides the nationally recognized “Certificate of Completion” and there is no cost to Service members. For more information about USMAP, visit <https://usmap.cnet.navy.mil>.

Education counseling

Are you unsure about what field of work you want to pursue when you leave service? Visit an Education Center and request a DISCOVER assessment. The assessment will help you determine your vocational preferences, recommend a degree that will compliment

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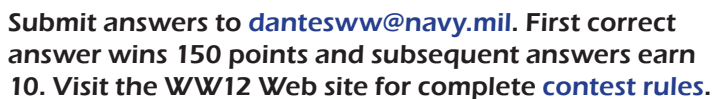
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Alternate sources of college credit

Until next time, keep up with DANTES on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DANTES.DoD or contact me at ea@navy.mil. I would enjoy hearing from you.

Great job!

Starting in the 1960's, University of Maryland University College, later joined by the Department of Defense, hosted annual and biennial meetings that gathered professionals dedicated to military voluntary education. These meetings are considered the forerunner to what are now the DoD-hosted triennial symposia, organized by DANTES and held since 1994.



Send our heroes a care package!

During the Feb. 13-16 Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) symposium, CCME will partner with Operation Gratitude to conduct "CCME Cares 2012." The mission of "CCME Cares 2012" is to show gratitude to deployed Service members by assembling care packages during the symposium, with a goal of providing 1000 care packages, each to include postcards and letters along with items that the troops have said they would like to have. Since its inception in 2003, Operation Gratitude has shipped more than 750,000 care packages to American Military members.

CCME is looking for donations, big and small – every single dollar is important! A \$200 donation will result in a listing in the symposium program. A \$500 donation will result in a listing in the program as

well as on the postcards used in the letter-writing project. A \$1000 donation will result in all of the above as well as a listing as a "Friend of Operation Gratitude" on the organization Web site. The event will kick off on Feb. 13 in the Exhibit Hall of the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld during the President's Reception, with packing continuing throughout Feb. 14 and ending on Feb. 15.

To donate, or for more information, contact:

- » donations - ccme@epponline.com, 410-997-0763
- » media coverage - Jeff Cropsey at PublicAffairs@ccmeonline.org, 816-914-3859
- » CCME - www.ccmeonline.org
- » Operation Gratitude - www.OperationGratitude.com or Dana Chotiner at dana@OperationGratitude.com.

VA-ACME scholarships available

The Virginia Advisory Council on Military Education (VA-ACME) is seeking applications for several \$1,000 scholarships, to be awarded at its VA-ACME Conference on March 29, 2012, at the Hilton Oceanfront in Virginia Beach, Va. In March 2011, VA-ACME awarded a total of \$10,000 in scholarships.

Active duty, drilling reservist, National Guard members, veterans, permanently disabled military members, and their spouses and children, are eligible. Spouses and children of Service members missing or killed in action are also included.

There are five different scholarship categories and awardees will be notified in February 2012 by phone and by e-mail. All payments will be made directly to the student. Applicants must reside or work in Virginia. Applications must be postmarked by Jan. 17.

Details and application form: www.vaacme.org/scholarships.

Questions: (757) 748-0712 or williegosadas@cox.net.



Jan. in U.S. history:

1, New Year's Day: The most celebrated holiday world-wide
1, 1776: George Washington unveiled the Grand Union Flag, the first national flag in America

1, 1863: The Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves in the South

3, 1959: Alaska admitted as the 49th U.S. state

4, 1790: President George Washington delivered the first State of the Union address

5, 1925: Nellie Tayloe Ross of Wyoming became the first female U.S. governor

7, 1800: Millard Fillmore, 13th U.S. President, born

9, 1913: Richard M. Nixon, 37th U.S. President, born

13, 1990: Douglas Wilder of Virginia became first African-American U.S. governor

15, 1929: Civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., born

16, 1991: The first war against Iraq began

17, 1706: Benjamin Franklin, the "Elder Statesman of the American Revolution," born
19, 1809: Author Edgar Allen Poe born

21, 1954: USS Nautilus, the world's first nuclear powered submarine, launched

23, 1849: Elizabeth Blackwell became first U.S. female doctor

24, 1848: California gold rush began at Sutter's sawmill

28, 1915: The U.S. Coast Guard created

28, 1986: U.S. Space Shuttle Challenger exploded 74 seconds into its flight

29, 1843: William McKinley, 25th U.S. President, born

30, 1882: Franklin Delano Roosevelt, 32nd U.S. President, born

Long time Navy educator Cynthia Pica retired

On Sept. 13, 2011, Capt. Chuck Hollingsworth, Center for Personal and Professional Development's commanding officer, presented the Meritorious Civilian Award to Cynthia Pica in recognition of her outstanding support to the Navy's voluntary education program for more than 30 years. Though Pica retired Dec. 31, 2011, her accomplishments will live on in the hearts and minds of the many sailors she touched with her strong support of the many programs available to help sailors and civilians earn a college degree.

"Cynthia's work to further higher education opportunities for sailors has been nothing short of stellar," said Hollingsworth. "Although she will be greatly missed, we wish her the very best of luck and success in retirement. She's earned it."

Pica started her education career working for the Department of the Army as a counselor at the NATO/JFC headquarters in Naples, Italy, back in 1972. She remembers giving more than 100 GED tests to sailors in the fleet when they came into Naples for a port stop. Today, very few sailors enter the Navy without a GED, marking a significant change in the educational level of the military forces.

Joining the Navy's voluntary education program in 1981, she worked first at Sigonella Naval Air Station in Sicily, Italy, and then moved on to the Naples Navy College Office. She later became a regional director for the Navy's programs in the Northeastern United States, Europe and the Middle East in 2001. Throughout the

years, her region gradually extended to include: Norfolk Naval Station, Va., one of the largest Navy sites in the world; an active program in Bahrain and Isa Air Base in the Middle East; and a program in Djibouti, Africa.

Pica said she feels the streamlining of the Navy's military tuition system via the establishment of the Virtual Education Center (VEC) in Dam Neck, Va., has been a positive step in tune with the times and changing modes of operation. She also feels creation of the VEC gives counselors more time for their key task, which is to counsel sailors and assist them in making the "best" choices about their education programs.

As Pica moves on to retirement, she plans to follow the future of the Navy's voluntary education program from afar and that, on return trips to Italy, she will stop in to say hi to the Naples Navy College Office gang. As Pica would say, all things come "full circle," and nowhere is that more true than in the Navy's voluntary education program.



Other VolEd news in the world...

Post-9/11 GI Bill assists service members, families

www.marines.mil/unit/mcbjapan/Pages/2011/111202-gibill.aspx

Transition benefits: many are available to all sailors

www.navy.mil/search/display.asp?story_id=64453

National Guard Soldier, educator earns prestigious teaching certification at White House

www.ng.mil/news/archives/2011/12/121411-National.aspx

DANTES Web site Hot News

12/20/11: [FY11 VEMIS Fact Sheet and Education Levels documents now available](#)

12/06/11: [CBT for OASC Administrators](#)

11/17/11: [New TTT Registration page URL](#)

11/17/11: [DANTES DLRSA links added to Web site](#)

11/07/11: [DANTES Releases DL Readiness Self-assessment tool](#)

TESTING CALENDAR

January 2012

14 - 18 Praxis*

February 2012

13 LSAT (all locations)

April 2012

22 - 28 GRE Subject*

28 Apr - 2 May Praxis*

Notes:

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

*Choose only one day to administer. Submit separate Prometric order forms for GRE Subject and Praxis.

http://www.dantes.doded.mil/Sub%20Pages/Exams/Docs/exams_calendar.pdf

DANTES

6490 SAUFLEY FIELD ROAD
PENSACOLA, FL 32509-5243

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The DANTES Information Bulletin is published online monthly to inform education personnel about DANTES programs.

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| Web Site | 3120 | 1162 | dantes_webmaster@navy.mil |
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| Pacific Advisor | 808-449-8862 DSN: 315-8862 | | dantes.pacific@hickam.af.mil |
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| 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 |
| Education Programs | 3245 | 1161 | |
| Counseling | 3132 | 1161 | counseling@navy.mil |
| Distance Learning | 3129 or 3121 | 1161 | DantesDL@navy.mil |
| Examinations | 3245 | 1160 | exams@navy.mil |
| Military Evaluations | 3213 | 1005 | |
| SOC | 3121 | 1161 | ace-soc@navy.mil |
| Training | 3181 | 1161 | dantestesting@navy.mil |