

Leaders walk the talk

LTC Eurydice Stanley, DANTES Reserve Component Advisor

The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines a mentor as a trusted counselor or guide, tutor or coach. Service members often seek out professional mentors, but what about the need for someone to act as a guide for educational goals? Education professionals are more than willing to fill that position – but Service members have to seek out their assistance!

When discussing the importance of educational mentorship, I could think of no better person to interview than Barry Black, Ph.D., the current U.S. Senate Chaplain. He retired after serving 27 years as a rear admiral and the Navy Chief of Chaplains, and remains my most significant educational mentor. As I struggled to maintain balance between home, work and my doctorate while serving on active duty, Dr. Black would provide sage words of advice to help me refocus. “Just write five pages every day, Eurydice,” he would say, “...before you know it, you’ll be finished.” Almost 600 pages later, he was right!

Dr. Black’s systematic approach to life and survival can be found in his latest book, “The Blessing of Adversity,” where he wrote “What success have you forfeited because you lacked constancy of purpose? Think of the thousands each year who pursue academic degrees but give up when it gets difficult and fail to complete the program. Or think of the millions who begin a diet but falter before they achieve their goals. Those who learn to celebrate their troubles will produce constancy from their hardships and overcome their tough times.”

continued on page 11

What’s Inside?	
TA Alt Outreach Strategy	2
TA Alt Info pull-out Examinations	3-4 5-6
Higher Education Training	7 8
Reference Publications	9
SEA / RCA	10-11
Testing Calendar/Contacts	12



DANTES TA alternatives outreach strategy



In response to the recent suspension/reinstatement of some Service Tuition Assistance (TA) programs, DANTES has produced a new Web page highlighting a number of TA Alternatives to help Service members weather this fiscal storm. While budget cuts and the impact swirl in the news, Service members want help finding alternative funding sources, alternate sources of college credit, who to talk to, and answers to the question “What can I do to keep my education goals on track?” That help is available at DANTES. Along with the Web site (www.dantes.doded.mil) and social media sites Twitter and Facebook, DANTES has created a blog - DANTES Pulse - to provide instant, up-to-date information and conversations.

We here at DANTES are determined to use any and all methods to get the word out to Service members, education personnel and schools - including this month’s DIB. In addition to informative articles, there is a printable TA Alternatives Information handout with resources, Web sites, and information. We are here to help YOU!

CLEP exams: an alternate source of college credit

The recent announcement of Army, Marines, and Air Force, suspending their tuition assistance (TA) programs has caused a great concern for military students looking to earn their degree. However, there are other ways for Service members to earn and complete their degrees. One such way is CLEP.

continued on page 2

CLEP exams

continued from page 1

The College Board's College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) has been the most widely trusted credit-by-examination program for over 40 years, accepted by 2,900 colleges and universities and administered in more than 1,700 test centers. This rigorous program allows students of a wide range of ages and backgrounds to demonstrate their mastery of college-level material in introductory subjects and earn college credit. Students can earn credit for what they already know by getting qualifying scores on any of the 33 examinations.

Because the exams are funded by the United States government through DANTEs, hundreds, even thousands, of dollars could be saved toward a degree. By taking CLEP exams, motivated students earn credit for what they already know and accelerating their academic careers.

CLEP exams are funded by DANTEs for:

- » military personnel (active duty, reserve, National Guard): Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, U.S. Coast Guard, Army Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, Navy Reserve, Coast Guard Reserve, Army and Air National Guard
- » spouses and civilian employees: Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Army National Guard, Army Reserve, Coast Guard (active and reserve)
- » Department of Defense Acquisition personnel (eligible only for these exams): Principles of Macroeconomics, Principles of Microeconomics and Principles of Marketing

For more information on CLEP, visit <http://clep.collegeboard.org/military>.

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

DSST: continued funding and here to support you!

Despite recent news about impacts to tuition assistance, DSST exams are fully funded. DANTEs-authorized up-front funding of DSST exam fees for eligible military members continues to be an efficient means of earning college credit. Join the ranks of the thousands of military personnel who have

VRAP and DSST - helping veterans go back to school

A struggling economy and high unemployment rate have led many U.S. veterans to return to the classroom and pursue a college degree. And although younger vets, especially those who enlisted after 9/11, have access to a variety of tuition assistance programs and benefits, many middle-aged veterans have seen their federal education benefits expire. Until recently, these older veteran students had limited options for funding their education endeavors. Those who couldn't afford college simply didn't return to school. Fortunately for them, a new Veterans Affairs (VA) tuition-support program is changing all this. The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) targets older, unemployed veterans age 35-60 by providing them with a \$1,473 monthly stipend (for up to 12 months) to pay the cost of community college or technical school. Only those students pursuing degrees that can lead to a high demand occupation as determined by the Department of Labor are eligible for the program.

As of March 12, 2013, 105,000 veterans have applied. To take advantage of programs like VRAP is a good strategy. Now even those struggling with the increasing cost of attending college years after serving their country can find the support they need to earn a degree. More information on VRAP can be found at the VA Web site <http://benefits.va.gov/vow/education.htm>.

And don't forget — veterans can also spend less money on their education by earning college credits through the DSST program. With DSST, veterans can choose from 38 different subjects and earn up to three credits in each via a one-time \$80 exam (plus a sitting fee). When coupled with VRAP and other similar programs, it is hoped that the men and women who fought for our country won't also have to fight to get the education they deserve. More information on DSST can be found at www.dantes.doded.mil/Programs/Exams_DSST.html.

experienced the convenience of DSST exams and check out the exam list today at http://getcollegecredit.com/test_takers/.

As you may already know, DSST exams allow military personnel to further their educational goals while in the Service – whether they are deployed or located on a military base.

TA ALTERNATIVES INFORMATION

**COLLEGE
CREDIT**

There are many different methods of earning credit that don't require Tuition Assistance (TA). Here are just a few:

Credit-by-exam

College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and DSST exams can reduce the number of college courses needed for a degree program and/or promotion. What's more, DANTES funds the first administration of any of these exam test titles for military personnel. For more information, go to:

CLEP: www.dantes.doded.mil/Programs/Exams_CLEP.html

DSST: www.dantes.doded.mil/Programs/Exams_DSST.html

Peterson's DoD MWR Library Education Lifelong Learning Resource Center

A one-stop resource to bring expert solutions to Service members AND their families to help plan, prepare and achieve their education and career goals. Information includes: CLEP & DSST prep; military, academic, career and certification test prep; educational searches; and eBooks. www.nelnetsolutions.com/dod/

Service member transcripts

The newly launched, FREE Joint Services Transcript (JST) replaces the Coast Guard Institute Transcript, the Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS) and the Sailor/Marine American Council on Education Registry Transcript (SMART). <https://jst.doded.mil>

Air Force members will continue to receive their transcripts through the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) at www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/transcripts.asp.

Servicemembers Opportunity College (SOC) Degree Network System (DNS)

SOC functions in cooperation with 15 higher education associations, the DoD, and military Services to expand Service member voluntary postsecondary education opportunities. DNS delivers specific programs to Service members and their families. www.dantes.doded.mil/Partnerships/SOC.html

Defense Language Institute (DLI)

The DLI offers foreign language tests, guides and FAQs to Service members. www.dliflc.edu

Language and Culture Guide

Foreign language and regional expertise are considered critical competencies essential to DoD's mission. This guide to foreign language programs was developed by DANTES to provide education center personnel and Service members with an easy-to-use resource. www.dantes.doded.mil/Resources/ForeignLangGuide.html

**WHO CAN I
TALK TO?**

Need an education counselor? How about a list of education centers? School officials? It can be overwhelming, but here are some suggestions:

Education centers

Your first stop should be your local education center or your Service's virtual education center. If you need help locating one, you can search for an education center at www.dantes.doded.mil/Resources/EdCenters.aspx.

School officials

Your next stop should be your college counselor or academic advisor. Some questions you might want to ask:

- » Does the college authorize credits for military training and experience for specific college programs?
- » Does the college offer any special scholarships/grants for military and/or directly from the college (e.g. alumni, special program scholarships, etc.)
- » Are there ways to rent a course book or any free online course books utilized at this college?
- » Are there ways to test out of a course (EOC test) and still receive the college credits?

DANTES

And, of course, you can always contact DANTES for more information or for answers to your questions. A list of contacts can be found at www.dantes.doded.mil/Homepage/Contact_Us.html.

TA ALTERNATIVES INFORMATION



Whether you are already taking college courses or are just getting started, preparation is critical to reaching your education goals. Find some help here:

Kuder® Journey

Kuder Journey provides tailored career guidance to active duty, Guard, and Reserve personnel and Service members in transition. It is an intuitive career planning system designed to address each user's individual situation. www.dantes.doded.mil/Programs/CounselorSupport.html

Online Academic Skills Course (OASC)

If you want to review your math and writing skills in order to improve job skills, pass exams, advance in your career or continue your education, the OASC allows free access to an online study course designed to check skill levels. As an active duty Service member, you can access OASC via your respective Service portals (AKO, NKO, AF-Portal, Coast Guard) or access the Web site www.nelnetsolutions.com/dantes/.

DANTES Distance Learning Readiness Self-Assessment (DANTES DLRSA)

The DLRSA helps potential distance learning students self-assess their readiness for distance learning coursework. www.dantes.doded.mil/Programs/DL_About.html#DLRSA

Tutor.com

A free online tutor service available for all Navy and Army military members and their family members requiring tutoring in specific subject areas. www.tutor.com/military

Study guides

Web sites offering study guides for CLEP and DSST exams: <http://clep.collegeboard.org/study-resources> and <http://getcollegecredit.com>. Also the DANTES Web site at www.dantes.doded.mil/Programs/Exams.html.

College admissions: ACT/SAT

DANTES funds one administration at a DANTES Test Site, for eligible Service members, on either the ACT Assessment or the SAT for a Service or education requirement.

www.dantes.doded.mil/Programs/Exams_ACT.html

www.dantes.doded.mil/Programs/Exams_SAT.html



There are many resources to use in your search for non-TA education funding:

Chapter 33, Post 9/11 GI Bill	www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/post_911_gibill/index.html
Chapter 30, Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB-AD)	www.gibill.va.gov/benefits/montgomery_gibill/active_duty.html
FAFSA on the WEB Worksheet 2013-2014	www.edpubs.gov/document/en1165p.pdf
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	www.fafsa.ed.gov/
Federal Student Aid at a Glance - Dept of Education	www.edpubs.gov/document/en1158p.pdf
Federal Student Aid – Dept of Education	studentaid.ed.gov
Federal Student Financial Aid Quick Resource Guide	www.dantes.doded.mil/Resources/Docs/Federal_Student_Aid_Resources.pdf
Additional lists of resources on DANTES Web site	www.dantes.doded.mil/TA_Alt/Coll_Funding.html

FAQs for GMAT and GRE general reimbursements

DANTES reimburses the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) and Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) general fee for eligible military personnel. To be eligible, the military examinee must, at the time of testing, possess a current “Geneva Conventions Identification Card” and must:

- » have never taken a DANTES-funded GMAT or GRE General examination
- » be applying to or enrolled in a graduate school requiring the GMAT or GRE General, or
- » be fulfilling a legitimate Service requirement

Service members must also agree to apply for reimbursement within 90 days of the scheduled test date. Listed below are Frequently Asked Questions and common submission errors.

Q – How long does it take for a GMAT reimbursement to post?

A – GMAT reimbursements are mailed to DANTES, Code 20A, 6490 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, FL 32509 and processed within one to two business days after receipt. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, Reserve and National Guard members are paid via EFT. These payments are typically reflected in their military pay account within two weeks. Coast Guard members are paid via check, typically received within six weeks. Information and status checks can be conducted by calling 1-850-452-1111 ext. 3245.

Q – How long does it take for a GRE reimbursement to post?

A – GRE reimbursements are mailed to Prometric, 1260 Energy Lane, St. Paul, MN 55108 and are processed within five business days. Allow two monthly credit card billing cycles after the form is received for the credit to appear. Information and status checks can be conducted by contacting Prometric at 1-877-471-9860. After the first series of voice prompts, press 2 for a customer service specialist.

Q – I am filing a GRE reimbursement request and the credit card the exam was ordered with has been lost or compromised. What options do I have for payment?

A- On the GRE reimbursement request form where the credit card information is located, leave that section blank or write in “send paper check”.

Q – It is beyond the 90-day window for submission. Is there a waiver?

A – Prometric will process GRE general reimbursement requests up to 120 days from the date of exam. If they receive a request after that date, they automatically forward the request to DANTES for processing.

Q – Can GMAT or GRE requests be electronically filed or emailed?

A – No. They must be mailed.

Common submission errors that delay processing of reimbursements

1. Incorrect form and mailing locations are being used. A GRE general reimbursement requires credit card information and is submitted to Prometric in St. Paul, Minn. A GMAT reimbursement does not require credit card information and is submitted to DANTES in Pensacola, Fla.
2. Pearson VUE personnel are NOT AUTHORIZED to certify a GMAT/GRE general reimbursement request. Both Prometric and DANTES personnel verify the certifying signature prior to processing requests.
3. Incomplete or illegible information on the form delays processing. All blocks must be correctly and legibly completed, including the member’s complete social security number, in order to receive reimbursement. If you are not comfortable mailing a document with your SSN, include a note stating you wish to be contacted for that information and ensure your phone and/or email address is accurate.
4. Service members must mail in a copy of their OFFICIAL score report. Receipt of the unofficial score report delays processing of reimbursement.
5. DO NOT USE OBSOLETE FORMS. The most current forms, updated July 2012, are located on the DANTES Web site:
 - » GMAT - www.dantes.doded.mil/Programs/Exams_GMAT.html
 - » GRE - www.dantes.doded.mil/Programs/Exams_GRE.html

Direct additional inquiries to (850) 452-1111 ext. 3245.

DANTES/College Board pilot program continues through FY13

With the closeout of CLEP paper and pencil exams, the College Board and DANTES have extended the fully funded pilot program until Oct. 1, 2013. Under the pilot program, DANTES will provide funding to test-takers for both the \$20 per exam administered fee and the administrative fee charged by the community-based National Testing Center (NTC).

The pilot program greatly facilitates the transition to 100 percent iBT testing. In addition, the program ensures that a nearby community-based test center (on-campus NTC) is open in those areas where paper-based testing was conducted so that there is uninterrupted access to CLEP exams for DANTES-funded test takers.

One significant change to the current base-sponsored/on-base NTC process is that the college or university test center will no longer have to sign an MOU with the local base. This change under the pilot program will expedite the NTC establishment process. Those bases currently making progress toward getting a base-sponsored NTC should expedite the process in completing their MOU with the hosting school to activate their NTC, or wait for the testing agency to recruit a nearby school for the NTC without an MOU under the pilot program.

For additional information, contact the DANTES Exams Program Manager at 850-452-1111 ext. 3118.

GED® news: announcing the DANTES-sponsored voucher

Effective March 1, 2013, the DANTES-sponsored voucher is available for eligible Service members to use at official General Educational Development (GED) test centers to take the computer-based GED.

Use the following guidelines to order a DANTES-sponsored voucher.

Email Code 20C1, at exams@navy.mil with the following information:

- » examinee name
- » pay grade
- » verification of a passing score of 450 on each of the five parts of The Official GED Practice Test
- » specify exam(s) required (GED battery or specific part, i.e. math)
- » Test Control Officer (TCO) name and DANTES Test Site ID number

The DANTES-sponsored voucher is applicable for computer-based GED testing only and may not be used as payment for a paper-based administration.

For CONUS, the DANTES GED Reimbursement Form (1560/47) is available for after-the-fact reimbursement of the paper-based GED testing until Dec. 31, 2013. The 2002 series paper-based GED will then be retired to accommodate the GED Testing Service initiative release of the new 2014 GED test.

TCOs should reference the DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH), Chapter 1, with regard to TCO responsibilities and advise the Service member appropriately regarding examinee responsibilities.

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

FY13 DEPH 3rd QTR update available

The 3rd Quarter update of the FY13 DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH, Parts I and II), is now available online to DANTES testing personnel with access to the Test Control Officer (TCO) Portal. Users can view, search and download the DEPH, as well as the calendar of national test dates for FY13 and other forms used by TCOs.



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

Is there a topic you would like to see in the DIB?

Do you have a question about DANTES?

If so, let us know at pubs@navy.mil.

Why is the SOC DNS important?

In last month's DIB, we explored the requirements and purpose of Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC). This month, we explain what the SOC Degree Network System (DNS) is, why it is important, and how it works.

The SOC DNS is a subset of the SOC Consortium. Made up of SOCAD (SOC Army Degrees), SOCNAV (SOC Navy Degrees), SOCMAR (SOC Marine Corps Degrees), and SOCCOAST (SOC Coast Guard Degrees), colleges and universities selected by the Services help military members and their adult family members complete associate and bachelor's degrees by adopting policies that in some aspects exceed those of the larger SOC Consortium. These expanded policies ensure mobile military personnel and their families the ability to complete degrees without suffering a loss of credit or time due to obligations incurred through their Service.

DNS core member institutions guarantee transfer of courses in SOC DNS Course Categories, which function as a common course numbering system amongst DNS institutions. Under this partnership, courses will transfer between institutions without prior approval. Another group of DNS institutions, called Affiliate members, offer distinctive and highly-specialized degree programs that meet an identified educational need of a particular military Service, often associated with a specific MOS or rating, or serving a targeted military population. These degrees are not part of DNS guaranteed transferability.

Each college in the DNS is required to produce a Student Agreement for every military member enrolled in approved degree programs. A Student Agreement is a binding contract between the student and the college

that protects the student from changes in the college's degree programs during the pursuit of the degree. The Student Agreement is both a degree plan and an official evaluation of the student's prior learning, including courses taken from other institutions, military training school courses, military occupational experience (MOS or rating), and nationally-recognized examination programs.

The following resources are available at the SOC Web site:

- » complete list of Service-specific DNS institutions and their membership types
- » PDF versions of the DNS-2 and -4 Handbooks, which provide specific information about DNS
- » SOC Degree Network System Credit Evaluation Supplement which matches subject area terms contained in Service school and occupational exhibits in the American Council on Education (ACE) Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services, ACE-recommended credit for national testing programs, Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) courses, and DANTES Independent Study Catalog Course Codes/Subject Areas to SOC DNS Course Categories
- » various brochures and materials containing information about DNS
- » an interactive DNS Tools section that is an advising resource for college representatives, military counselors, and students
- » training materials and information for civilian, military educators, and others working the field

To learn more about SOC DNS, visit www.soc.aascu.org.

JST presented and launched during CCME 2013

The new Joint Services Transcript (JST) was announced and launched during the Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) conference held in February. The JST provides transcription services for the Navy, Marine Corps and Army (the Coast Guard will be included at a later date). The feedback received on the JST at CCME indicates that this initiative is a welcomed alteration for institutions that receive military transcripts.

The initial concurrent session at CCME, titled "Using Joint Services Transcript (JST) to Help Build a Bridge to Success," was

attended by over 100 conference participants. Presenters included the American Council on Education (ACE), the JST Program Manager, and the DANTES Military Evaluations Program Manager, who described the new JST Web site, <https://jst.doded.mil> and provided contact information for each participating branch of Service. Attendees also participated in a JST survey.

The second JST concurrent session, "Enhancing the Joint Services Transcript (JST) to Help Build a Bridge to Success," provided an opportunity for attendees to discuss their concerns, ideas for improvements for

continued on page 8

TRAINING NEWS

We need you!

As we continue to transition from analog to digital delivery of DANTES products and services, we need YOU, our readers — education professionals, institutions, and Service personnel — to provide your observations, improvement recommendations and feedback that are vital for our organization to bring superior products and customer service to your communities. We have embarked on a journey to discover new methods and technologies that are defining the information exchange marketplace; specifically, how those of you, who have a vested interest in Service member education, prefer to learn about, receive, and leverage the information that impacts your ability to create action and satisfy needs.



Ultimately, we endeavor to increase Service member education engagement throughout all Services; and it is through your recommendations, as well as those from our contract partners, that we can continue to design and tailor our product to surpass value expectations.

Contact us at dantes_outreach@navy.mil or 850-452-1111 ext. 3181 with your observations/recommendations/comments/feedback!

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/UCAD8yGhGBeDAtIPMW7Eu-sA>

DANTES Twitter

https://twitter.com/DoD_DANTES

DANTES Pinterest

<https://pinterest.com/DoDDANTES/>

Mystery Quote:

“To the uneducated, an A is just three sticks.”

If you know who said this, let us know at pubs@navy.mil. The first correct responder will get his or her name published in the next DIB.

Donnasue Tankson, Education Technician
MCAS Cherry Point, NC. was the first to identify the author of last month's quote as Butler Yeats.

Great job!

JST

continued from page 7

future versions of the JST, and overall feedback of this ONE official military transcript concept. The survey was also distributed at the end of the second session.

The survey distributed and collected at CCME is still available to all willing participants online at www.jointservicetranscript.com. The information participants provide will help make the JST even better. We thank you in advance for your participation.

For technical assistance on the JST, contact:

Web: <https://jst.doded.mil>

Fax: 850-452-1909

Email: jst@doded.mil

(someone will respond within 24 hours, first work day if holiday or weekend)

DoD DSS offers security courses

The DoD Defense Security Service (DSS) Center for Development of Security Excellence (CDSE) offers security education, training and certification. Courses offered by CDSE are available to U.S. government employees and military members. Some courses are also available to employees of companies that have government contracts.

There is no charge for any CDSE course; however, some courses require purchase of textbooks.

The American Council on Education's College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT) has evaluated and recommended college credit for 13 CDSE courses.

Additional information about CDSE including course descriptions and registration can be found at www.cdse.edu/index.html.

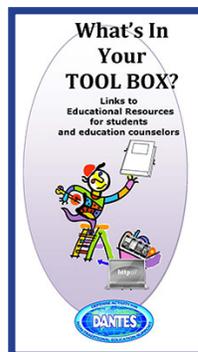
What's in your tool box?

Have you ever wanted to find information on education quickly without a lengthy time-consuming Web search?

DANTES has done the research for you and put together a comprehensive list of online sites on higher education topics, available at www.dantes.doded.mil/Resources/EdLink.html#Toolbox or go to the DANTES home page www.dantes.doded.mil, click on the left hand side "Education Links" under Resources, then click on "Education Counselor's Tool Box - Online Resources".

The Education Counselor's Tool Box is divided into four separate listings for ease of use:

1. Specific education information for the military and their family members.
2. Education organizations.
3. Where to find online publications or information and various publishers of education materials listed by education topics (i.e. college admissions, financial aid, etc.).
4. Various online resources on the topic of education.



The lists are available as an Excel spreadsheet and as .PDF files.

However, the Excel spreadsheet contains informative comments on many of the URLs listed and the .PDF format does not.

We hope this will assist the education counselor in finding information quicker and easier. If you have a favorite site that you use for information that is not on this list, send it to refpubs@navy.mil to make it available to other counselors.

VA Web site a fount of information

If you are looking for information on the GI Bill, veteran's benefits, help finding a school or financial aid, or Veterans Affairs (VA) programs and regulations, the VA Resources Web pages have it all.

Go to the Student Handouts, Brochures, and Regulations page (www.gibill.va.gov/resources/student_handouts/index.html) to find:

- » pamphlets & factsheets (Post-9/11 GI Bill information & pamphlets for other benefits)
- » education forms
- » other VA forms

The Education Resources page (www.gibill.va.gov/resources/education_resources/index.html) has links to Education Programs and Choosing a School, among other useful information such as:

- » "Factors to Consider When Choosing a School" (www.gibill.va.gov/documents/factsheets/Choosing_a_School.pdf). Finding the right school can be daunting. This guide helps students make an informed decision; discusses optimizing military experience and offers other key points to consider.

This is just the tip of the information iceberg. What are you waiting for? Go check it out!

April in U.S. history:

2, 1513: Spanish explorer Ponce De Leon sighted Florida and claimed it for Spain

4, 1968: Civil Rights leader Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King shot and killed by a sniper

6, 1917: Congress approved U.S. to enter into WWI

9, 1865: Civil War ended as General Lee surrendered to General Grant in Appomattox

9, 1866: Civil Rights Bill of 1866 passed by Congress

11, 1968: Civil Rights Act of 1968 signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson

11, 1970: Apollo 13 began 5 day ordeal after an oxygen tank exploded, cutting moon mission short; Astronaut John L. Swigert uttered famous words: "Houston, we've had a problem here"

12, 1861: Civil War began as Confederate troops opened fire on Fort Sumter, S.C.

12, 1945: President Franklin D. Roosevelt died suddenly at Warm Springs, Georgia

13, 1743: Thomas Jefferson, 3rd U.S. President, born

14, 1865: President Abraham Lincoln shot and mortally wounded at Ford's Theater

18, 1906: San Francisco Earthquake struck at 5:13 a.m.

19, 1995: A massive car-bomb explosion destroyed entire side of a nine story federal building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 persons, including 19 children

23, 1791: James Buchanan, 15th U.S. President, born

24, 1800: The Library of Congress established

27, 1822: Ulysses S. Grant, 18th U.S. President, born

28, 1758: James Monroe, 5th U.S. President, born

30, 1789: George Washington became the first U.S. President



HMCM (FMF/SW) David Acuff
Senior Enlisted Advisor

How to avoid college debt and maximize educational benefits during the sequestration!

Last month's debate concerning sequestration and Tuition Assistance (TA) should serve as a wake-up call to Service members. The realization that TA benefits can be taken away, reduced or altered is a "call-to-action" regarding voluntary education planning. Military

members should take advantage of their Service's current TA programs before accessing their GI Bill benefits or using additional funding sources (e.g., grants and scholarships).

NOTE: Prior to accessing 9/11 GI Bill benefits, members should weigh the advantages and disadvantages of utilizing these benefits while serving on active duty. Members are encouraged to contact their local education centers for additional information.

Adding to the news concerning TA and sequestration is the trend of ballooning college debt some Service members accrue. This is disturbing news in light of numerous education advantages military members receive as part of their benefits of Service. Notice that I didn't say "free" as these are a part of military benefits and are provided with no financial cost or obligation to Service members.

In light of all the above, I want to highlight some of the benefits that can be used to pursue your education goals without using TA or incurring additional costs.

Credit by exam

Save yourself both time and money by taking DSST and College Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests to help reduce the number of classes you may need for your degree program. You can earn college credit for what you already know by earning qualifying scores on introductory-level college subject examinations. Just remember the first time you take a test, it is fully funded; if you fail the test you will have to pay for any re-tests of that subject.

OASC

How about brushing-up on your general education knowledge and skills by enrolling in the Online Academic Skills Course (OASC) for Military Success?

Participation in this program is a great way to help refresh or increase your knowledge in preparation for college classes, CLEPs and DSSTs. This program includes everything you need to improve math, reading comprehension, and vocabulary skills. Best of all, the program is yet another no-cost benefit for Service members and their dependents! OASC is available at www.nelnetsolutions.com/dantes/.

JST

Take advantage of this time to look through your Joint Services Transcript (JST) to see what American Council on Education (ACE) recommended college credit you may qualify for from your previous military training and experience. The JST is available online for personal use or may be officially sent to accredited colleges and universities at the student's request. The JST is available at no charge to the Service member from the JST Web site <https://jst.doded.mil>.

NOTE: The Air Force will continue to make its records available through the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) and the Air Force Virtual Education Center; subsequently, Air Force records are not reflected on the JST.

Kuder® Journey

Finally, while the Services wait to see the outcome of the sequestration and TA issues, how about taking a career interest inventory? The Kuder Journey provides reliable tools to assess your interests and suggest education and career options. Go ahead and give it a try at www.dantes.kuder.com/. It's another no-cost benefit for Service members!

During this time of budget-cuts and sequestration, I urge you to "stay the course" and "navigate" through these difficult times by using the benefits I've discussed. Remember, take advantage of the counseling support offered at your base education office or virtual education center.

Until next time, keep up with DANTES on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DANTES.DoD.

Have a story to share?
Send VoEd-related stories and/or
photos to pubs@navy.mil.



Lt Col Eurydice Stanley
Reserve Component Advisor

Leaders walk the talk

continued from page 1

Dr. Black has served as the 62nd chaplain of the U.S. Senate since 2003. He is one of my heroes because he is an exceptional person and has earned more degrees than a thermometer! While serving on active duty, Dr. Black attended Eastern Baptist Seminary, Salve Regina University, Norfolk State, Savannah State, Princeton, Harvard and United States International University. In addition to earning Master of Arts degrees in divinity, counseling, and management, he has received a doctorate degree in ministry and a doctor of philosophy degree in psychology. He is an exceptional example of a leader who walks his educational talk.

Not only has Dr. Black been an exceptional personal mentor, but he views giving back to others seriously and is a strong proponent for lifelong learning. He values education and encourages its pursuit, emphasizing during our interview that, "...age is no limit and no excuse – military personnel must prepare for their next life after service." He was 53 years old when he retired from the Navy and accepted his current position with the Senate. He has served for 10 years in an open-ended appointment and has no plans to retire any time soon.

Ever the consummate Pastor, his responses to my questions were Biblically based:

LTC: How did education help you prepare for your current job?

Dr. Black: There is an undeniable proposition of sowing and reaping as recounted in Galatians 6:7. When you invest in your mind, you plant. From a theological perspective, you sow. Anything that you plant will add to the accomplishments of the organization. I earned a doctorate in psychology because I wanted to be a more effective counselor. I realized based on my Pastoral Counseling responsibilities that I needed to be smarter on the subject. Similarly, I needed more management knowledge, so I got a master's in management."

LTC: Should Service members pursue education or employment?

Dr. Black: Proverbs 6:6-10 recommends that we be wise as ants. They are diligent in their work and need no guidance, carrying one grain at a time, breaking up opportunity in small pieces. You need to break any opportunity that presents

itself into small pieces. Take one class to see how you will do in a certain area and then take the next. I did all of my academics in my spare time except for my master's in management. I multi-tasked - don't feel like as though you can't do more than one thing at the time. Grain by grain, your mission will be accomplished."

LTC: How important is mentorship?

Dr. Black: Two are stronger than one. Everyone needs allies. David had Jonathan, Jesus had His Disciples. When you see someone being effective doing the work that you want to do, you should seek out that individual. Many times we have blind sides and blind spots, but mentors can open those blind areas. One of the best ways to speak to a mentor is to take a leader to lunch. I learned more about preaching during an hour and a half with Charles Stanley than I did in years of seminary. Seek out those more knowledgeable than you, but also give back. Luke 6 says give and it shall be given unto you. If you plant in others, harvest time will come."

Educational mentorship cannot be emphasized enough. I currently mentor 1st Lt. Kashayla Unis, a former cadet who graduated from my alma mater, Florida A & M University, in 2011. She was a National Honor Society student, completed both Airborne and Air Assault schools while in college, was a member of the Ranger Challenge team and maintained physical training scores off the standard scale. Like her push-ups, I reminded Unis that she needed to "knock-out" her master's degree. It took a year of "reminding/mentoring" her of the importance of obtaining her master's degree while she was still used to the rigors of college, but she finally enrolled last year and is pursuing a master's degree in intelligence studies.

Unis called me in November to tell me that she was deploying to Kuwait in February. She assured me that she will continue to take classes while deployed. She knows I'm going to check to make sure!

If you want to reach the next level in any area, be willing to reach out to successful mentors who have personally achieved your desired goals. I hope Dr. Black is as inspirational to you as he has been to me. He is a leader who shows by example that once you set your mind to a goal, you can achieve it. The question remains – are you willing to sow into your future today by utilizing DANTE'S' resources (www.dantes.dod.mil), to reap tomorrow's harvest? Please contact me at rca@navy.mil and follow me on Twitter at HOW2EDU.

TESTING CALENDAR

April 2013

10-14 Praxis*
20-26 GRE Subject*

June 2013

10 LSAT (50 United States, Canada and the Caribbean)
11 LSAT (Europe, Middle East, Africa and South America)
24 LSAT (Asia, Australia and New Zealand)

No testing scheduled

Notes:

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

*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

DANTES

6490 SAUFLEY FIELD ROAD
PENSACOLA, FL 32509-5243

<http://www.dantes.doded.mil>

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

Send all inquiries and letters to Code 01F at the above address. Reproduction in whole or in part is permitted for any purpose of the United States Government, except that copyrighted materials cannot be reproduced without written permission from the copyright owner. The appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by DANTES of the linked Web sites, or the information, products or services contained therein.

The Secretary of the Navy has determined this publication necessary in the transaction of business required by law of the Department of the Navy.

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	3153	1159	ea@navy.mil
Reserve Advisor	3127	1159	rca@navy.mil
DANTES Publications / DIB	3120	1162	pubs@navy.mil
Web Site	3120	1162	dantes_webmaster@navy.mil
European Advisor	011-49-6221-57-3252 DSN: 314-370-3252		dantes@eur.army.mil
Troops to Teachers	3141	1096	ttt@navy.mil
Education Support	3133	1162	
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	1161	DantesDL@navy.mil
DoD MOU	3175	1161	voledconcerns@navy.mil
Examinations	3245	1160	exams@navy.mil
Military Evaluations	3213	1005	DANTES_ace@navy.mil
SOC	3121	1161	DANTES_SOC@navy.mil
Third-Party Review	3121	1161	DANTES_thirdparty@navy.mil
Training	3181	1161	dantestraining@navy.mil