

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

WORLDWIDE EDUCATION SUPPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DECEMBER 2013 NUMBER 439

WWW.DANTES.DODED.MIL

## Welcome aboard to two new DANTES team members

### A new Deputy Director at last!

DANTES welcomed its new deputy director, Michael J. Stahl, on December 2. He brings with him over 30 years experience in Naval Aviation and education programs.

Stahl attended the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating in 1982 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ocean Engineering and was designated a Naval Aviator in April 1985. He deployed aboard USS John F. Kennedy (CV 67), USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), USS Independence (CV 62), USS Kitty Hawk (CV 63) and USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70). He also served as Assistant Operations Officer for Carrier Air Wing 5 and Operations Officer for the Theodore Roosevelt Carrier Strike Group.

Military shore duty assignments included tours as a Fleet Replacement Squadron (FRS) instructor with VAQ-129, Operational Test Director and Electronic Warfare Branch Head with VX-5, Assistant Chief Operational Test Director with VX-9, Joint Staff Action Officer for the Command, Control Communications, and Computer Systems Directorate, Air Warfare Division Director, Chief of Staff and Deputy



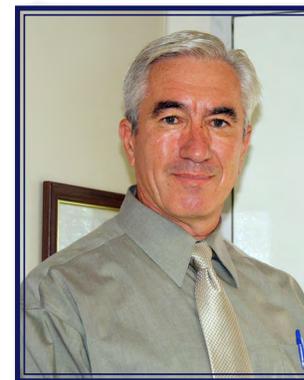
Continued on page 2

### New DANTES contract officer

DANTES welcomes another new employee - James Coppenger, hired to fill the newly created CENTCOM Contracting Officer position.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management, Coppenger began his Government career as a Contract Specialist with Air Force Systems Command where he negotiated contracts for anti-armor weapon systems. After serving as Contract Administrator for Naval Aviation Training Programs at TRAWING SIX, he accepted a position as Contract Negotiator with a large joint U.S. Army/USMC Security Assistance program in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where he provided in-theater contracting support during the military build-up in the first Gulf war.

Coppenger then transferred to the NAVAIR Pacific Repair Activity in the Republic of Singapore where he was Lead Contracting Officer for aviation depot maintenance programs. After returning to Pensacola, Fla., as an Auditor with the Naval Audit Service examining Navy-wide aviation programs, he once again transferred to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where he



Continued on page 2

### What's Inside?

Counseling	4
Examinations	5-6
DANTES Partnerships	7
Troops to Teachers	8
SEA	9
RCA	10-11
Testing Calendar/Contacts	12



### Kuder® Journey Voucher Statistics

Service	Registrations	Kuder Career Interests Assessment (KCIA)	Kuder Skills Confidence Assessment (KSCA-A)	Kuder Work Values Assessment (KWVA)
Air Force	2474	1988	1162	1009
Army	16109	9299	4968	4517
Coast Guard	125	107	61	51
Marine Corps	9970	8867	3694	3638
Navy	4236	3039	1618	1435

Kuder Journey statistics are based on the number of assessments taken from January 1 - December 2, 2013.

## Deputy Director

Continued from page 1

Commander for Commander Operational Test and Evaluation Force and Development, Planning and Analysis Division Director and Chief of Staff for the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC). He obtained a Master of Science degree in national resource strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Following retirement in May 2012 he entered Federal Civil Service as an Education Program Analyst for NETC in Pensacola, Fla. There he served as Executive Director of the Chief of Naval Personnel's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Task Force, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Manager, co-lead of the Navy Enlisted Supply Chain Planning and Execution Business Improvement Team Execution Cross Functional Team, lead action officer for Flag/Senior Executive Service Planning Board for Training, Officer Leadership Program Manager, and Language, Regional Expertise, and Cultural Expertise and Navy Credentials Program coordinator.

Welcome aboard!

## CENTCOM

Continued from page 1

served as Acquisition Branch Head and Government Lease Official supporting U.S. Army training of host country forces. During this tour in Saudi Arabia, he received the Purple Heart Commendation for injuries sustained from hostile attack of the command's Headquarters.

Returning to Pensacola, he was a Procurement Analyst for the Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) Enterprise training and education contracts. For the past 14 years, Coppenger served as Head of the Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center (NETPDTC) Acquisition and Logistics Management Division where he was responsible for the award and execution of education and training contract programs. In this capacity, he served as Ordering Officer for the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE) program where he procured post-secondary education services for deployed personnel.

Welcome aboard to DANTES!

## Dec. in U.S. history:

**5, 1933:** The 18th Amendment (Prohibition Amendment) to the U.S. Constitution repealed

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

**6, 1865:** The 13th Constitutional Amendment abolishing slavery ratified

**7, 1941:** U.S. Naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, attacked by nearly 200 Japanese aircraft in a raid that lasted just over one hour and left nearly 3,000 Americans dead

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

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

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

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

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



## ATTENTION!

The DANTES Web site will soon have a completely new look, with a new way to find the information you need. Keep your eyes peeled for more details!

The home URL will be the same:  
<http://www.dantes.doded.mil>



## Kuder Journey™ pilot program expires soon - register now!

Counselors (education, family support, and transition centers) assisting active duty, Guard, and Reserve personnel with their education and transition goals - your assistance is needed with promoting Kuder Journey to your local Service members.

The DANTES-sponsored Kuder Journey 1-year pilot program expires Dec. 31, 2013. The remaining Journey accounts must be activated by that date, so encourage your local Service members now to self-register for their free, lifetime account. They don't have to complete the assessments at this time, but the registration must be activated prior to Jan. 1, 2014.

Service members, to get started, go to [www.dantes.kuder.com](http://www.dantes.kuder.com) and register as a new user (remember to

always select Adult job seeker or career changer, I'm a veteran or active member of the military). Tutorials are also available: User Registration, Overview, How to Take the Assessments, and Job Search Tool (optional).

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

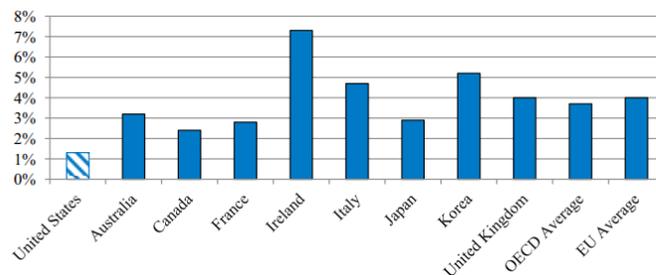
For more information and program updates, visit the DANTES Counselor Support Web page [www.dantes.doded.mil/Programs/CounselorSupport.html](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/Programs/CounselorSupport.html) or contact DANTES Counseling Support at [counseling@navy.mil](mailto:counseling@navy.mil) or 850-452-1111 ext. 3133.

## States get flexible with adult degree completion programs

Decrease the cost of a college degree, increase access to quality education, decrease the amount of time to complete a degree, and increase education attainment in high-wage, high need job fields are resounding themes across the higher education community. The United States currently ranks 14th in higher education attainment among developed countries with 42 percent of the working-age (25 to 64) population having attained a postsecondary degree. According to Help Wanted, a report by the Georgetown University Center on Education and Workforce, by 2018, 63 percent of America's workers are projected to require some postsecondary education or training. Amidst tough economic times, federal and state lawmakers are calling on institutions of higher learning to assist in educating the 21st century workforce in the most cost efficient, yet effective manner to raise the amount of workers with advanced education. In response to this call to action, some states have made huge strides in developing statewide adult degree completion networks that provide adult learners new opportunities to complete their education goals. What's special about these programs are that they provide lower cost degree completion options that are less rigid than traditional degree programs. Most of these initiatives provide individualized assistance that helps students overcome the barriers to completing their degree. Many of these state initiatives have included programs that are tailored to meet the needs of active duty military and veteran students.

Since education centers have a mobile clientele base, it is important for education counselors to know what resources are available in their state and

Average 10-year Growth in Postsecondary Education Attainment  
Ages 25 to 64 Years Old  
2000-2012



EU: European Union  
OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Source: *Education at a Glance 2012*, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

perhaps the Service member's next duty station as well. The following are some examples of statewide adult education initiatives:

### New York

State University of New York (SUNY) Works is a system-wide cooperative education program across 64 campuses in the state of New York. In collaboration with business/industry and regional economic councils, this network of schools and employers offers credit-bearing co-ops and internships. This program is well suited for Service members and veterans who are in the process of transitioning because it allows students to earn college credit and gain relevant civilian work experience. [www.suny.edu/educationpipeline/sunyworks/index.cfm](http://www.suny.edu/educationpipeline/sunyworks/index.cfm)

### Maryland

Maryland is developing and adopting new guidelines that make it easier for military members and veterans to

Continued on page 4

# States get flexible

Continued from page 3

transfer college credits into the state university system. The state has several initiatives that are being developed under the Complete College Maryland Near-Completers Grant Program. An example is the One Step Away program which provides additional funds to institutions to identify, contact, re-enroll, and graduate previous college students.

## Kentucky

Project Graduate is designed for students with more than 80 credit hours of college coursework. This adult degree completion program offers special incentives such as a free application, priority enrollment, individual advising, and tuition assistance for adult students interested in completing their degree. This program launched in 2007 and already has well over 900 graduates. [www.knowhow2goky.org/pg/](http://www.knowhow2goky.org/pg/)

## Texas

Grad TX and the Texas Adult Degree Completion Portal support a statewide program that encourages and assists adults to return to college and finish their bachelor's degree. Designed with the unique challenges of the adult learner in mind, Grad TX offers flexible, accelerated bachelor degree options through a network of 13 Texas universities that are chosen for their education program quality, affordability, and strong student support services. This program is specifically for students who have completed college coursework, but whose credits may not be applicable to traditional degree programs. <http://gradtx.org>

College Credit for Heroes (CCH) is a partnership program between the Texas Workforce Commission and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to ensure that active duty military, retirees, and veterans in Texas receive the credit they earned for their Service, helping them obtain their degrees and certifications more quickly with a goal of expediting their entry into the workforce. To qualify for the program, participants must be active duty military members, reservists, or veterans who currently reside in the state of Texas, intend to relocate to Texas within the next 120 days, or are Texas residents. [www.collegecreditforheroes.org/](http://www.collegecreditforheroes.org/)

Texas Veterans Portal serves as a one-stop shop for veterans to have access to relevant information and benefits available to them in the state of Texas. This site provides information on the Hazelwood Act and other education benefits available to Texas veterans. <http://veterans.portal.texas.gov/en/Pages/default.aspx>

## Minnesota

Rapid Completion Program is an evolving initiative by Minnesota State Colleges and Universities designed to increase re-enrollment, degree progress, and degree completion among former students who did not complete a degree. Participating schools are expanding their services and capacity to offer prior learning assessments and academic programs that help returning students complete their education. When the program is launched, it aims to assist more than 9,600 former adult students and over 1,000 veterans complete a college degree. <http://adultcollegecompletion.org/content/rapid-completion-program>

Veterans Education Transfer System (VETS) was created by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities as an online application that helps past, present and future Service members determine how their military training can count for credit at Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. The system matches military occupational specialty codes with programs offered by participating institutions and estimates the number of credits that could be awarded for that military occupation towards a degree at a Minnesota college or university. [www.mnscu.edu/collegesearch/index.php/vets/search](http://www.mnscu.edu/collegesearch/index.php/vets/search)

Distance Minnesota is another partnership in the state that is focused on increasing college access and completion. This online higher education consortium is comprised of three technical colleges and a university that offer over 36,000 credits of online coursework in certificate, diploma, associate degree, and baccalaureate degree completion options. These programs serve more than 12,000 enrollees per year and focus on critical, hard to fill workforce areas such as education, healthcare, science, and technology. <https://distanceminnesota.org>

## Florida

Complete Florida is a new adult degree completion network of public and private Florida colleges and universities that offer accelerated programs to prepare students for current and future high demand jobs. This initiative was established by Florida lawmakers with an aim to recruit, recover, and retain the state's adult learners and assist them with completing an associate or bachelor's degree aligned to high-wage, high-skill workforce needs. Current and former Service members will be given priority in this program. For more information, look for the December 2013 issue of Military Advanced Education. The program is projected to begin accepting students in early 2014.

## Test preparation available to Service members

How can Service members prepare to take an exam to earn college-level credits? The first step must be to visit an education counselor or academic advisor to identify specific College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and DSST exams that could apply college credit towards their degree plan of study.

Credit-by-exams measure an academic skill at the college level, and colleges and universities can award the credits in lieu of taking a college course. Exam preparation is very important to the success of military students by increasing their chances to earn credits for previously learned knowledge. Service members that do not pass an exam are responsible for the cost of retesting on that exam. Therefore, being prepared is vital if they wish to obtain 3-12 semester hours without going into a classroom or paying for equivalent college courses.

For students that want to review math and writing skills in order to excel in their job, pass exams, advance their career or continue their education, the Online Academic Skills Course (OASC) allows free access to an online study course designed to check skill levels. Active duty Service members can access OASC via their Service portals (AKO, NKO, AF-Portal, Coast Guard) or they may access the Web site from any computer at [www.nelnetsolutions.com/dantes](http://www.nelnetsolutions.com/dantes). This site provides study guides, printable sample tests, resources, articles, and related links for various examinations. In addition to OASC, Service members, DoD civilians, and family members can access the College Placement Skills Training (CPST), a companion tool and resource to OASC, for those students who want to build their reading comprehension, vocabulary, and math skills to pass exams, excel in their jobs, advance careers or continue education. Both OASC and CPST are self-paced, accessible 24/7, and FREE!

Other options to consider for self-paced preparation include these Web sites that offer free study guides for CLEP and DSST exams:

- » <http://clep.collegeboard.org/study-resources>
- » [www.getcollegecredit.com](http://www.getcollegecredit.com)

Before purchasing study materials, it is strongly recommended that students check with their on-base Education Center and local library, as these locations have access to a variety of free study materials in various media formats. Students and their academic advisors can also visit the DANTES Web site at [www.dantes.dod.mil](http://www.dantes.dod.mil) to find out more information on one-stop resources for Service members and their

families to help them plan, prepare and achieve their education goals.

Test takers can also get help at a local college or university Testing Office to take advantage of the credit-by-exam program, which can help expedite their degree completion. Test Control Officers (TCOs) can log onto the DANTES TCO Portal and download study guides and fact sheets for exams such as CLEP and DSST. The only official test preparation that DANTES sponsors is the Official GED Practice Test.

The best available resource for Service members is their education counselor or academic advisor. This should always be the first stop for education advice and guidance. Whether the question is how to use credit-by-exams, how to prepare for an exam, or advisement on taking a college level course, they are the subject matter experts regarding planning, preparing and achieving Service members' education goals.

To learn more about the DANTES-sponsored Examinations program and how to locate your education center for assistance with your educational goals, visit the DANTES Web page [www.dantes.doded.mil](http://www.dantes.doded.mil) and select the Examinations and Resources links on the left side.

## Reminder to return FY13 ACT exams

Test Control Officers (TCOs) are reminded that October was the last month to administer the FY13 ACT Test Form 68E. Test booklets should have been postmarked for return to the testing agency prior to Oct. 31, 2013. If your site experienced delays with administration or the mail due to the government shutdown or furlough, take immediate action to return obsolete (68E) materials to the testing agency. See the DANTES Examinations Program Handbook (DEPH) II-2-11 for the correct address to return test booklets.

Per ACT, it is also the TCO's responsibility to ensure obsolete and unused answer folders are destroyed properly per Service destruction guidelines.

Use the 2013-2014 DANTES Order Form for Materials to order FY14 ACT Test Form 69C. ACT will not ship the new test form (69C) until the requesting test center's entire inventory of FY13 ACT test booklets is received and reconciled. DANTES stocking test sites will need to amend their inventory to reflect the return of testing materials. Send questions about the ACT to [exams@navy.mil](mailto:exams@navy.mil).

# EXAMINATIONS NEWS (CON'T)

## DSST program updates

### OCONUS DSST paper-based testing ends July 31, 2014

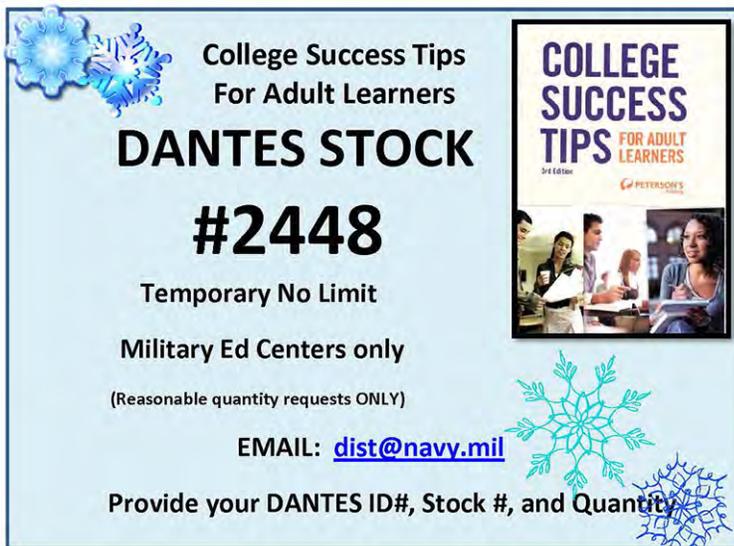
Prometric will discontinue paper-based DSST testing for OCONUS, effective July 31, 2014. The decision to eliminate paper-based exams is based on a steady decline (44 percent over the past year) and the ongoing initiative to provide testing alternatives at fully funded National Testing Centers. Service members utilizing computer-based exams can access all 38 DSST exam titles and see exam results upon completion. The Principles of Public Speaking exam is also delivered in a much more efficient manner, and scoring time has been cut in half. Prometric will continue to encourage academic institutions to assist with this effort.

### Base-sponsored National Testing Centers

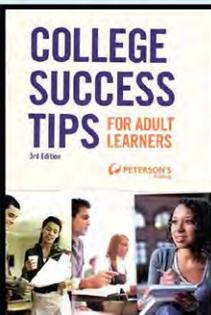
A growing number of military installations overseas are entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with National Test Centers to provide DSST testing through their on-base education centers. Currently this option is available at several overseas installations. Testing is free to eligible military and for a select group of civilian personnel. DANTEs funds both the test fee and the administration fee at base-sponsored test centers. Interested personnel should check their education center to see if this option is available. For more information, contact the DANTEs Examinations Program at [exams@navy.mil](mailto:exams@navy.mil).

### Key 2014 OCONUS transition dates

March 31	Last date to order DSST paper exams (stocking and non-stocking)
July 31	Last date to administer DSST paper exams
August 7	All DSST paper exams must be postmarked for return to Prometric (administered and unused)
September 30	Final date for Prometric to score completed exams (exams received after Sept. 30 will not be scored.)



College Success Tips  
For Adult Learners  
**DANTES STOCK**  
**#2448**  
Temporary No Limit  
Military Ed Centers only  
(Reasonable quantity requests ONLY)  
EMAIL: [dist@navy.mil](mailto:dist@navy.mil)  
Provide your DANTEs ID#, Stock #, and Quantity



## 2013-2014 CLEP Examination Guide available

The 2013-2014 edition of the CLEP Examination Guide is available to DANTEs Test Sites on the TCO Portal for DANTEs Test Control Officers (TCOs) and Alternate Test Control Officers (ATCOs) who have established a username and password account in the TCO Portal.

Copyright provisions allow for local reproduction and/or installation on an installation network by technical support personnel. If installed on the installation's network, access must be limited to on-base personnel only.

Encourage prospective examinees to review the examination guide for the respective test before taking the actual CLEP General or Subject test. The examination guide contains sections relating to Knowledge and Skills Required, Sample Test Questions, and Study Resources.

## SAT announcement

The registration form that was included in the SAT exam booklet is now a separate tri-fold registration form. Test Control Officers (TCOs) should ensure receipt of the separate registration forms and "Important SAT Registration Information for DANTEs Candidates" addendum with Registration Guides and/or exam booklets. The "Test Taker Information Bulletin" can be found at [getcollegecredit.com](http://getcollegecredit.com) under the "Test Taker" tab.

If the forms are not received before the scheduled testing date, TCOs should contact Prometric at [www.getcollegecredit.com](http://www.getcollegecredit.com) or DANTEs at [exams@navy.mil](mailto:exams@navy.mil).

# DANTES PARTNERSHIPS NEWS

## Introducing the FY14 Third Party Education Assessment team

The Third Party Education Assessment (3PEA) Program, managed by DANTES and administered by Management and Training Consultants, Inc. (MTCI) of Manassas, Va., is now in its third year. The 3PEA program assesses voluntary education opportunities at military installations and educational institutions to ensure that Service members receive quality voluntary education that is responsive to their unique needs.



**The FY14 3PEA team (l-r): David Truncellito, Ph.D., Program Administrator; John McCall, Program Assistant; and Deborah Marconda, Program Assistant.**

The 3PEA Program Administrator is David Truncellito, Ph.D. He was a university professor for 11 years, teaching face-to-face, distance-learning, and hybrid courses in analytical philosophy and writing. He has served as the Program Administrator since the program began in September 2011.

John McCall, 3PEA Program Assistant, has also been a member of the team from the beginning. A U.S. Navy veteran, McCall has extensive project management experience and serves as an adjunct faculty member at American University in Washington, D.C.

The newest member of the 3PEA staff is Program Assistant Deborah Marconda. She has served as an installation site director for an educational institution, has taught face-to-face and online courses, and most recently served as the Marine Corps (SOCMAR) project director for the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Degree Network System.

In addition to the full-time staff members, the 3PEA program hires individuals with experience in voluntary education, assessment, and university administration to serve as members of each assessment team.

## JST enhancements scheduled

The Joint Services Transcript (JST) is receiving wide-range acceptance around the country at universities and colleges. Feedback on the JST suggests that various enhancements will improve the ease in understanding the document. Some enhancements are scheduled to occur in FY14.

The JST Operations Division established a Master Change Request list to clearly state each scheduled enhancement. The enhancements are prioritized (High, Medium, and Low) according to system compliance, data contributions by Services, and other requirements. Below find a list of enhancements and scheduled completion dates:

- » a version number on the transcript: 2nd Quarter FY14
- » separate the academic information page from the certification and licensure page: 3rd Quarter FY14.
- » begin and end dates for duty and primary military occupational codes: 4th Quarter FY14

These JST enhancements are only a few of many and the process of adding additional ones increases the Master Change Request list weekly.

DANTES anticipates offering a JST feedback questionnaire in 3rd Quarter FY14. Look for the announcement in a future DIB.

For information on the JST at DANTES, email [ace@doded.mil](mailto: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](mailto:pubs@navy.mil).**

# TROOPS TO TEACHERS NEWS

## Troops to Teachers – Engaged leaders

### Lewis & Clark Region

The Troops to Teachers (TTT) program took center stage at the Montana State University (MSU) “The Year of Engaged Leadership” event in September 2013. The Year of Engaged Leadership committee selects campus programs that highlight leadership, stewardship, and community.

In conjunction with the Lewis and Clark Troops to Teachers (LCTTT) annual regional conference, LCTTT and the College of Education, Health and Human Development sponsored two TTT alumni, retired Senior Master Sgt. Eric Combs and retired Lt. Col. Jim Tweet, as key presenters. The event focused primarily on the leadership skills and abilities that transition well from the military into public school classrooms.

Currently, Combs serves as an assistant principal in Ohio. In 2006, Combs was Ohio Teacher of the Year, and a finalist for Ohio Assistant Principal of the Year for 2013. “Only the educated are truly free,” said Combs, whose speech was both humorous and inspirational as he spoke on learning in a military environment and then applying it to a classroom atmosphere that students enjoy.

Tweet, a math teacher in Belgrade, Mont., as well as a graduate of MSU and the Northern Plains Transition to Teaching (NPTT) program, emphasized the importance of establishing individual relationships with students. Tweet, who served 20 years in the Air Force and flew during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars operating radar-jamming and laser-guided bombing systems, said “One way I connect with my students is to assign individual call signs at the beginning of the school year.”

In addition, Candy Lubansky, Superintendent of Belgrade Public Schools, provided a non-military perspective of having a TTT client in one of her classrooms. Lubansky said veterans in the classroom



**Key presenters at the September 2013 MSU The Year of Engaged Leadership event. Pictured l to r: Candy Lubansky, Belgrade Public Schools Superintendent; Jim Tweet, Belgrade math teacher; Eric Combs, Ohio assistant principal; and Le Gaub, LCTTT Program Manager.**

are well trained, have strong teamwork and technical skills, and a strong sense of self. She added that she wished she could have more TTT clients in her classrooms. Lubansky has committed to giving every teacher applicant who is military an interview.

“Each speaker exemplifies what engaged leadership looks like in our public schools,” said Le Gaub, Program Manager for Lewis and Clark TTT.

In addition to the Year of Engaged Leadership event, TTT addressed students enrolled in educational psychology and child development, multi-cultural education, Bridger alternative school, and the ROTC leadership lab. Combs spoke to students, education faculty, school administrators, military personnel and veterans. He also met with university leaders and participated in the LCTTT annual conference.

## Florida governor honors Troops to Teachers veterans

**By Ed Barker, Naval Education and Training Command Public Affairs**

As part of the Florida government’s Cabinet Meeting Nov. 19, Gov. Rick Scott honored five educators certified through the Troops to Teachers (TTT) Program with the Governor’s Shine Award, presented to Floridians for exemplary service to their country and contributions to Florida’s students through education.

William McAleer, Chief of the TTT Program for the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support in Pensacola Fla. said that teaching is an outstanding fit for many veterans, adding, “Every Service member was training their

replacement while on active duty. They bring real-life experiences into the classroom and add perspective to subjects. Florida is one of the leaders hiring veterans through the TTT Program and in the past three years has helped 393 veterans obtain positions in Florida’s schools. It’s gratifying to see that Governor Scott is recognizing the Service, hard work and contributions that veterans bring to education.”

For the full story, go to [www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story\\_id=77789](http://www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=77789).

## FROM THE DESK OF THE SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR



HMCN (FMF/SW) David Acuff  
Senior Enlisted Advisor

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

Don't know how to get started?

First, schedule a visit with an Education Services Officer (ESO) either personally or virtually. Also, why not pass the gift of a college education along and take a buddy or the person you're mentoring with you?

Next, if you are unsure about what interests you or what you're best suited for, how about taking a Career Interest Inventory? The Kuder® Journey provides reliable tools to assess your interests and suggest education and career options. Please note that the current Kuder Journey accounts are free for Service members but will expire this month if not activated by Dec. 31, 2013. Service members don't even have to complete the assessments at this time; just activate the free, lifetime account. Activation takes less than 30 minutes. DANTES encourages all Service members to take advantage of this free career guidance system. Go ahead and give it a try at [www.dantes.kuder.com](http://www.dantes.kuder.com).

Third, if your vocation of interest requires a college degree or a vocational credential then seek advice to determine which school programs may be best suited for you. You'll also want to request your Joint Service Transcript (JST) reflecting American Council of 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 at <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.

Fourth, visit the DANTES Web site ([www.dantes.doded.mil/Programs/Exams.html](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/Programs/Exams.html)) to identify exams you can take (DSST/CLEP) to reduce required credit transfer for school. These tests are provided free to Service members the first time they are taken and can

significantly reduce the amount of college credit needed to achieve an education goal.

Finally, register for tuition assistance with your Service's virtual education Web site. Keep in mind that you must have an approved college plan and that you should choose a school that maximizes DSST/CLEP exams and recommended ACE military credits to achieve your education goal.

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

I wish you a Blessed Holiday Season and much success on finishing your degree in 2014! Until next time, keep up with DANTES on Face Book ([www.facebook.com/DANTES.DoD](http://www.facebook.com/DANTES.DoD)) or contact me at [ea@navy.mil](mailto:ea@navy.mil) I would enjoy hearing from you.



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

Click **HERE** to view archived DIBs.

## FROM THE DESK OF THE RESERVE COMPONENT ADVISOR



Lt Col Eurydice Stanley  
Reserve Component Advisor

### VCTP – the present of a lifetime!

Have you been wondering how you would fund your information technology (IT) or project management (PMP) certification? This holiday season, I found a gift that could make a complete difference in your future! Allow me to introduce the Veterans Career Transition Program (VCTP), part of the Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF) at Syracuse University. VCTP provides FREE online programs for veterans transitioning from the military to corporate careers.

It provides training to prepare for 29 certifications, to include programs such as Six Sigma Green Belt and CompTIA network certification, with access to courses for up to one full year. Also, participants become official Syracuse University students and receive non-credit certificates upon program completion!

The IVMF acts as a bridge between veterans and military families and the industry/government/non-government programs positioned to create employment and vocational training opportunities. The institute provides resources and support services to veterans and their families to identify and pursue employment opportunities, leveraging skills and experiences gained in military Service, and new skills and knowledge gained post-Service. The IVMF assists with strategies to recruit, assimilate, retain and advance veterans and military families in employment.

To be eligible for VCTP, you must be a post 9/11 veteran, or Service member within one year of transition from military service to the civilian workforce. This eligibility includes Guard and Reserve members who have civilian careers. Also, VCTP has become the gift that keeps on giving, because the program is now open to spouses of eligible veterans and active duty military.

Apply by Dec. 9, 2013, at [www.vets.syr.edu/vctp](http://www.vets.syr.edu/vctp). The first teaching cohort for 2014 begins Jan. 20, 2014, and the next one will be in April (date yet to be determined). The VCTP has been highly successful. Since its launch in 2011, they have experienced 30 percent growth quarterly, and they hope to train 1,000 Service members annually.

Dan Cohen serves as the VCTP Program Manager. He deployed to Iraq and served in Germany as an Army Officer. He was commissioned in 2001 from the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) Army ROTC program and was a Field Artillery Lieutenant 11 days before the world was turned upside down on 9/11. Cohen can't say enough about the VCTP, stating, "Translating skills acquired while in the military to a language that is meaningful to employers outside is one of the most discussed challenges of veterans seeking post-service careers. This program helps veterans (and now military spouses) by providing training, and in many cases industry-recognized certification, to validate skills the Service member learned while in the military or to start down a completely new path on the outside."

The program is paid for in entirety by a grant from JPMorgan Chase & Co. for veterans who have served at least one day after 9/11. The program is

Continued on page 11



VCTP offers certifications in three tracks:

#### Professional Skills

- Career Skills for Global Enterprises
- Microsoft Office Fundamentals

#### Tech

- Comptia A+
- Comptia Network+
- Comptia Server+
- Comptia Security+
- CSTE
- CSQA
- CTFL
- CTAL
- Oracle Database 11G
- ITIL
- Six Sigma Green Belt
- MCTS\MCITP
- CCENT
- CCNA
- CCDA
- CCBA
- SSCP
- CISSP
- CAPM
- PMP

#### Independent Study

Independent learners are provided six months of access to a bank of 25 courses to design their own professional skills or industry certifications program.

**Application Deadline  
for January 2014 Cohort:  
Dec. 9, 2013  
Apply at:  
[www.vets.syr.edu/vctp](http://www.vets.syr.edu/vctp)**

## VCTP – the present of a lifetime!

Continued from page 10

available to all ranks. According to Cohen, “We’ve had everyone from E-1s with other than honorable discharge to O-6s. We’ve had all branches represented. We’ve had GEDs through dual master’s degrees. We’ve had Seals to Infantrymen to truck drivers – everyone takes something different from the program, but it benefits them all.”

There are three tracks provided in VCTP: Tech Track, Professional Skills Track, and Independent Study Track.

Tech Track focuses on preparing transitioning Service members for careers in operations or information technology (IT). One of the most popular VCTP training courses is the PMP course, which validates knowledge of project management principles. Of all the courses offered in the last VCTP class, 40 percent of the students pursued PMP. Training is asynchronous, presented for six weeks at 20 hours per week or more based on the needs of the learner, and requires 7,500 hours of experience in project management. To receive the PMP certification, participants must sit for an exam, paid for by VCTP. Additionally, VCTP provides practice exams which feature a rotating pool of questions to ensure student preparation.

The Professional Skills Track is another offering from VCTP. It provides skills to effectively prepare for and execute job searches, including company research and resume and cover letter writing. As described by Cohen, “We have something called the Professional Skills Track for people who need help understanding

industry careers, mock-interviews, resume writing, understanding the corporate environment, etc. We put them through coursework supplied by SkillPath. They will meet with an advisor, who will red-ink their resume and send it back and provide mock interviews via Skype and Google Plus.”

For those who would rather pursue the coursework at your own pace, there is the Independent Study Track which provides six months of access to a variety of classes and a bank of 25 courses to design your own program. This program allows participants to start immediately and is best suited for individual learners. Industry certification is available through this track for those who complete the entire learning path.

Take full advantage of the VCTP training and be on the lookout for new programs from IVMF! VCTP has been highly successful for participants. A Marine Sergeant said, “I was fortunate to have in-depth evaluations of my resume by advisors, which led to compliments by several employers that I interviewed with. I also was able to reach out to advisors for direction and guidance in my job search and interviewing process. It was extremely helpful and I feel it really helped push me ahead of other candidates. I ended up receiving three job offers shortly after I finished the Veterans Technology Program.” Are you next?

I look forward to hearing from you at [rca@navy.mil](mailto:rca@navy.mil).

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## CCME 2014 symposium keynote speaker announced

Jessica Lynch will provide the keynote for the Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) 2014 Professional Development Symposium Feb. 10-13 at the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center. She will speak on Tuesday, Feb. 11, about overcoming difficult circumstances and going on to successfully accomplish one’s goals.

Lynch is a former U.S. Army private first class who was injured and captured by Iraqi soldiers after her unit was ambushed on March 23, 2003. After nine days in captivity she was rescued by U.S. special operations forces. It was the first successful POW rescue since World War II and the first ever of a female soldier.

“We are honored to have Ms. Lynch serve as our keynote speaker this year,” said Dr. Mike Heberling, CCME President. “By sharing not only her military experiences with us, but her educational ones as well, our attendees will have the

opportunity to see the importance of what CCME does day in and day out. Ensuring that former soldiers like Ms. Lynch achieve their educational goals while earning the best education possible is crucial for the soldiers and for our country as a whole.”

To register to attend this year’s symposium or for more information, go to [www.ccmeonline.org/annualsymposium](http://www.ccmeonline.org/annualsymposium). Early bird pricing for members and nonmembers is available for a limited time.

Additionally, CCME is now accepting applications for sponsors and exhibitors for this year’s symposium. With over 1,000 guests expected to attend in Savannah, this is the perfect opportunity for companies to make connections with individuals who feel passionately about supporting and making a difference in the lives of military students serving around the world. For more information about these opportunities, email [ccme@epponline.com](mailto:ccme@epponline.com).

# 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](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/Programs/Docs/exams_calendar.pdf)

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