

## Revised DoD MOU released

The Department of Defense (DoD) released the DoD Voluntary Education Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Dec. 12, 2012. The quality of education received by our Service members is very important to the DoD. To ensure all Service members participating in off-duty, postsecondary education programs are provided quality education programs uniformly, the DoD established the MOU as part of the revised DoD Instruction (DoDI) 1322.25, Voluntary Education Programs dated March 15, 2011 (incorporating date of change 1, Dec. 6, 2012). The current memorandum includes several protections enumerated in Executive Order 13607, “Establishing Principles of Excellence for Educational Institutions Serving Service Members, Veterans, Spouses, and Other Family Members,” signed by President Obama April 27, 2012.

Effective March 1, 2013, the DoD is implementing the following policy: “For an institution to be eligible to participate in the DoD Tuition Assistance (TA) Program, they must have a signed DoD MOU and be on the “Participating Institutions” list, which is posted on the DoD MOU Web site [www.dodmou.com](http://www.dodmou.com).”

After March 1, 2013, schools without a signed DoD MOU will not be able to enroll Service members under the TA program until they have signed the MOU. Institutions with a currently signed DoD MOU can compare both versions and select to retain the original DoD MOU or sign the revised DoD MOU.

For a copy of the MOU, additional information, and the application to sign the DoD MOU, go to:

- » DoD Voluntary Education Web site <http://apps.mhf.dod.mil/voled>
- » DoD MOU Web site [www.dodmou.com](http://www.dodmou.com).

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## New counseling system: Kuder® Journey

Kuder Journey is now available to active duty military personnel and Service members in transition, making it a valuable resource during the military-to civilian transition process. Providing tailored career guidance to our military Service members is important to DANTES, which is why we are providing this intuitive career planning system designed to address each user’s individual situation. The career planning process starts with learning about oneself. Journey’s research-based interests, skills, and work values assessments kick-start exploration and ultimately encourage more career satisfaction.

No middle man, no tokens, no wait. The self-registration process is smooth and simple, allowing for immediate access to start achieving success. To help users make informed decisions about their future, Journey guides them through an easy step-by-step process, providing a reliable and effective career planning and development experience. The flexible process allows users to complete the steps in order or to select the step that will meet their immediate needs.

Active duty military personnel can access the free, lifetime, resource anywhere there is an Internet connection, 24/7/365. Counselors can register as an administrator to become familiar with the program too.

To get started, login to [www.dantes.kuder.com](http://www.dantes.kuder.com) and begin using Journey’s comprehensive, evidence-based approach to lifelong educational planning and career development.

While this program is provided to active duty Service members only, civilian and family members can purchase a lifetime user code for \$35.

- For more information, contact:
- » DANTES Counseling Support  
[counseling@navy.mil](mailto:counseling@navy.mil)
  - » Kuder Customer Support  
[support@kuder.com](mailto:support@kuder.com) or 877-999-6227.



## DANTES/College Board pilot program extended

With the closeout of CLEP paper and pencil exams, DANTES and the College Board have extended the fully funded pilot program to Oct. 1, 2013, greatly facilitating the transition to 100 percent Internet based testing (iBT). Under the pilot program, DANTES provides funding to test-takers for both the \$20 administered exam fee and the National Testing Center (NTC) administrative fee. In addition, the program provides a nearby community-based test center (on-campus NTC) in areas where paper-based testing was conducted, ensuring uninterrupted access to CLEP exams for DANTES-funded test takers.

One significant change to the current base-sponsored NTC process is that the college or university test center will no longer have to sign an MOU with the local base to open an NTC for military personnel. This change under the pilot program will expedite the NTC establishment process. However, those bases currently making progress toward starting a base-sponsored NTC with an MOU should expedite the process with the hosting school to activate their NTC by Oct. 1, 2013, 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.

## Annual Test Facilities Review

The end of 2012 means it is time for DANTES test sites to complete the DANTES Annual Test Facilities Review. Authorizing military Services are required to inspect DANTES test sites, stocking and non-stocking, once each calendar year and submit a DANTES Form 1560/11 to DANTES. Test site inspection procedures and inspector duties are covered in the DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH) Part I, pages I-10 and 11, available to Test Control Officers (TCOs) on the TCO Portal.

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

## The Official GED Practice Test™ requirement

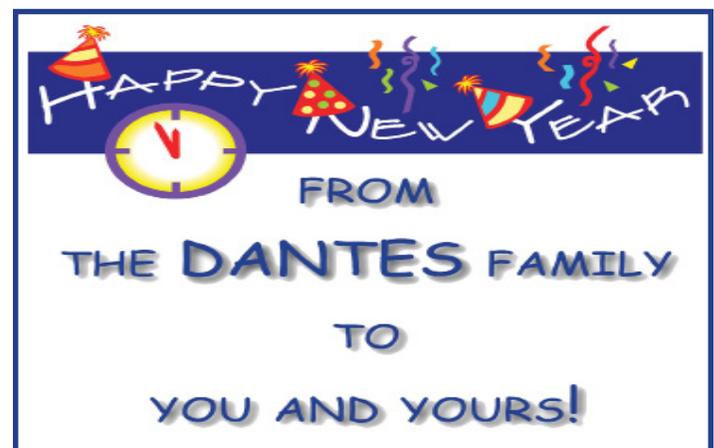
As a reminder to Test Control Officers (TCOs), Service members within your scope needing to take the GED® are required to achieve a passing score of 450 on each of the five parts of the GED Practice Test (available through the DANTES Distribution Center); the mandatory pretest requirement remains in effect. TCOs should reference the DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH) with regard to GED Reimbursement Responsibilities and advise the Service member to use DANTES Form 1560/47.

The completed reimbursement package must include the Official GED Score Report and the payment receipt for the Official GED Test. The package must also include a GED Practice Test Score Report. However, there is not a standard form available used to annotate practice results. Therefore, since TCOs administer and grade the Official GED Practice Tests, DANTES recommends that TCOs provide an official memorandum on appropriate letterhead, dated and signed by the TCO, detailing which exams were administered. The memo must provide examinee name, rank, and verification of passing 450 on each section and the overall score (do NOT include SSN).

For more information, email [exams@navy.mil](mailto:exams@navy.mil) with "GED Reimbursement Code 20C1" in the subject line.

## DEPH update available online

The second 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 national test dates calendar and forms used by TCOs.



## Maximize your military training for college credit – Part 2

By Michele Spires, Director, Military Programs, American Council on Education (ACE)

This is the second of three articles on getting the most out of your military training. Part 1, discussing ACE and how you can get started with an education plan, is in the December DIB. Part 3, discussing ACE Guides, will be in the February DIB.

### What about military transcripts?

Military transcripts are an important component to your education and training portfolio. These official transcripts:

- » provide a description of military schooling and work history in civilian language
- » serve as a counseling tool for academic and career counselors in advising soldiers and veterans
- » serve as an aid in preparing resumes and explaining military work experience to civilian employers

### AARTS and SMART

The Army/ACE Registry Transcript System (AARTS) and Sailor/Marine/ACE Registry Transcript (SMART) are documents that no soldier, sailor, or marine should be without. Similar to standard college transcripts, these documents list all courses and occupations completed by the Service member that ACE has evaluated, to include descriptions, learning outcomes, and the recommended number of college credits. The transcripts are endorsed by the respective Service and ACE and are recognized by many regionally accredited colleges and universities throughout the United States. Over 2,000 colleges and universities are part of ACE's College and University Partnership who have agreed to review transcripts that are submitted.

AARTS transcripts are available to members of the regular Army, Army National Guard, veterans, and the Army Reserve, as well as Warrant Officers. SMART transcripts are available to active-duty Navy and Reserve personnel and veterans.

Use AARTS and SMART to your advantage in receiving college credit for your completed training. Be sure to have your official copy sent to the college or university to which you are applying to have your military training reviewed for college credit.

For further assistance, or to request free personal and official copies, contact the following transcript operations centers:

- » AARTS — <http://aarts.army.mil//>
- » SMART— <https://smart.navy.mil>

### Coast Guard Institute

ACE conducts the course and occupation evaluations for the Coast Guard, but is not directly connected to their current transcript system. The Coast Guard Institute's (CGI) mission is to champion Team Coast Guard Career Learning by developing, implementing, managing, and supporting programs and policies that promote excellence in training and education. The Institute provides training and education services, information, and guidance for all Coast Guard members. Coast Guard Education Services Officers (ESOs) are assigned to most, if not all, units in the Coast Guard, and assist members in pursuing advancement, qualifications, and voluntary education by conducting an assessment of training. This assessment must be completed prior to requesting an official transcript, as it forms the basis for the transcript.

More information can be found at the CGI Web site [www.uscg.mil/hq/cgl/cgi/default.asp](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/cgl/cgi/default.asp).

### Community College of the Air Force

ACE does not evaluate any Air Force courses that are directly aligned with the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF), established April 1972 at Randolph AFB, Texas. The program model combined the technical education offered by Air Force schools, a core of general education from regionally accredited civilian institutions of higher education, and management education from Air Force or civilian sources. The CCAF is regionally accredited by the Commission on Colleges, which accredited the college in December 1980 and reaffirmed its accreditation in 1986; accreditation was reaffirmed again in 1997 by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and School.

Service members who started an Air Force course after April 1972 can obtain a CCAF transcript at [www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/transcripts.asp](http://www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/transcripts.asp).

### COMING SOON... the new Joint Services Transcript

An initiative is underway to combine military transcripts AARTS and SMART into a Joint Services Transcript (JST), planned to be effective in February 2013. The Coast Guard also plans to combine the CGI Transcript with the JST.

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## Maximize your military training

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### For veterans not qualifying

Veterans who do not qualify to receive an AARTS or SMART transcript should use the DD214 Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge form. Along with the DD214, copies of all available military records and supporting documentation (certificates of completion, diplomas, ACE CREDIT® earned through civilian training, etc.) should be presented to the reviewing higher education institution as verification of completed courses or occupations.

To obtain DD214 copies, together with other in-service training records, contact National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records, at [www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/).

For more ACE information on military transcripts, contact:

- » Military Programs  
American Council on Education  
One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 250  
Washington, DC 20036-1193
- » Toll-Free: 866-205-6267
- » Email: [militaryed@acenet.edu](mailto:militaryed@acenet.edu)
- » Web site: [www.acenet.edu/militaryprograms](http://www.acenet.edu/militaryprograms)

Is there a topic you want 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).

## SOC selects new DNS Assistant Director

DANTES congratulates Seth Kamen on his selection as the new Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Assistant Director for the Degree Network System (DNS). According to SOC management, "Seth will have the task of monitoring and overseeing the day to day operations of the DNS, including the annual update publications, graduate report, new degree integration, course circulations, and more." One of his duties will be to publish the Quarterly News and Information Bulletin of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Degree Network System. The 2012 fourth quarter publication can be located on the SOC Web site at [www.soc.aascu.org/pubfiles/dpmisc/DNS\\_Dispatch\\_2012-12.pdf](http://www.soc.aascu.org/pubfiles/dpmisc/DNS_Dispatch_2012-12.pdf).



Pictured above: Seth Kamen, SOC Assistant Director, DNS

## Future SOC and DNS plans

Selected Service representatives met last month to determine how the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) consortium and degree network systems (DNS) will work in the future.

First, they received training sessions from Andie Baridon, Associate Director of SOC, and Laurine Anderson, Sailor/Marine Online Academic Advisor (SMOLAA) and Joint Services Transcript Program Manager.

Next, the group brainstormed areas of improvement and the current and future needs of Service members and the Services. If you have any recommendations or needs, contact Kiwanis Short, DANTEs SOC Program Manager, at [dantes\\_soc@navy.mil](mailto:dantes_soc@navy.mil).



Pictured above: Service Education Chiefs and DANTEs staff.  
Standing (l-r): Gary Remington, U.S. Army; Daryl Patrick, U.S. Marine Corps; Tom Smith, U.S. Navy; Dolores Johnson, U.S. Air Force; and David Padley, U.S. Marine Corps.  
Seated (l-r): Teresa Daniels, DANTEs Education Technician; Victoria Street, DANTEs Contracting Officer's Representative; and Kiwanis Short, DANTEs SOC Program Manager.

### The devil is in the details

Whether buying a car, a condo, or an electric toothbrush—researching an investment is the most important step anyone can take to ensure satisfaction.

Choosing a pathway to higher education requires an equal amount of thoughtful consideration, due diligence, and comparative research to maximize one's return on investment. Maybe even more so!

Higher education, as with other purchases associated with equity, must be considered for its ability to retain or increase its value over time — providing perpetual benefits and residuals throughout one's lifetime. No matter what education institution, degree program, or learning method (distance or traditional) chosen, considerable time and financial commitment is demanded; and, in most cases, failure to read the "fine print" can be disastrous.

To avoid potential disaster, one very important question to ask is whether a chosen program will satisfy the requirements for work in a given field in a given state. Often, professional degree programs require additional certification and/or state licensure to legally work in the public sector: medical, legal, and psychological services, to name a few. However, some institutions providing these "professional degrees" are not recognized by State issuing authorities and do not meet the minimum criteria for eligibility.

For instance, a Service member invests in an online law degree, but then finds out it does not qualify the recipient to take the Bar Exam in his/her chosen state, preventing the recipient from practicing law. Thus, the member's dream to be an attorney has been subverted, delayed, or made impossible due to the cost of obtaining a qualifying degree.

To avoid poor investments in education, check carefully an institution's accreditation to ensure it meets or exceeds the educational standards required for a selected field of study. The safest bet is to trust only accrediting agencies approved by the United States Department of Education (DoE). Regionally accredited institutions and programs are more likely to yield credits and degrees transferable to other colleges and universities and recognized by State agencies.

To research accreditations, go to the DoE Web site at [www.ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx](http://www.ope.ed.gov/accreditation/Search.aspx).

### VA-ACME receives VA FLITE award for education efforts

Virginia Advisory Council On Military Education (VA-ACME) was presented the First Lady's Opportunity Seal of Approval by Virginia's first lady Maureen McDonnell at the annual Virginia First Lady's Initiatives Team Effort (FLITE) awards dinner October 25. The Certificate of Recognition was awarded for exemplary efforts in providing educational opportunities for all Service members and their families in the Commonwealth.

Governor McDonnell, in his Inaugural Address, called on Virginians to pursue the vision of "A Commonwealth of Opportunity" by seeking opportunities to get involved in the life of the Commonwealth. FLITE recognizes programs, activities, organizations, or individuals embodying the ideal of "getting involved and giving back." Its purpose is to bring attention to the great work being done by selfless people around the Commonwealth who are taking the opportunity to leave the Commonwealth a better place than they found it.

More information on the award and VA-ACME can be found at the Web site [www.vaacme.org](http://www.vaacme.org).



Pictured left (l-r):  
Maureen McDonnell,  
Virginia's first lady;  
and Michael Midura,  
VA ACME president



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](mailto:pubs@navy.mil).

## FROM THE DESK OF THE SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR



HMCM (FMF/SW) David Acuff  
Senior Enlisted Advisor

Happy 2013! Apparently the Mayan elders and New Age prophesiers from around the globe got it all wrong and the world *did not come to an end!!* So, since you're still around, have you made any resolutions for the new year? If you are like most of us, the start of a new year has you thinking about self-improvement: drop a few pounds; eat healthier; lead a more active lifestyle.

Getting fit and eating healthy are great goals and for many people this means another resolution to get in shape. Unfortunately, the "weight-loss resolution" may not make it past March, and the weight comes right back in April. Maybe it's time to consider a different kind of self-improvement resolution.

According to USA.Gov, the third most popular New Year's resolution of Americans is to "get a better education." Maybe it's time for you to consider this and make it a permanent form of self-improvement; one that can enhance your military career, and increase your income while also improving your future. How about funding this resolution through your hard-earned military education benefits? Exercising your mind is definitely beneficial, especially if moving ahead in your career or planning to leave or retire from military service are among your goals for 2013.

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

So, avoid the weight-loss yo-yo this year. Make a "new" new year's resolution - one that will last a lifetime - resolve to use your military education benefits and earn your degree! Go see your education counselor today and learn about the numerous opportunities available in pursuing your educational goals. Don't have a counselor??? Contact DANTES or myself and we will get you pointed in the right direction. Don't delay -as Nike says; "JUST DO IT!"

I wish you a Happy New Year and much success on finishing your degree in 2013! Until next time, keep up with DANTES on Facebook at [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.

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### Pensacola pair use military experience to complete degrees

Congratulations go out to two Saufley Field Pensacola, Fla., personnel: active duty Navy Chief Aries Prude and retired Navy Chief (and DANTES' own) Teresa Daniels. They recently earned their bachelor's of science degree in Workforce, Education and Development (WED) from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. This off campus degree program required a minimum of 121 semester hours.

Prude is currently assigned as a Military Exam Developer at Naval Education and Training Professional Development and Technology Center (NETPDTTC) and applied 73 hours of technical training, United Services Military Apprenticeship Program (USMAP), and CLEP/DSST exams towards his overall 121 semester hours of credit required.

Daniels, an Education Technician at DANTES, applied 55 hours of technical and occupational training towards her overall required semester hours.

These new graduates are prime examples of how Service members can gain a wide range of work experience and training with any career in the U.S. Military. Experience and training that can then be applied towards a degree or certification, enabling Service members and veterans to reach their academic goals in less time and for less money.

**"The 55 credit hours I was able to apply towards my degree saved me over \$12,000 in student loans!"**

**Teresa Daniels  
DANTES Education Technician**

# TESTING CALENDAR

Jan. 2013  
23-27 Praxis\*

Feb. 2013  
13 LSAT (all locations)

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/Sub%20Pages/Exams/Docs/exams\\_calendar.pdf](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/Sub%20Pages/Exams/Docs/exams_calendar.pdf)

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**DANTES telephone numbers are:**

**DSN 922-1111 (plus extension); CML (850) 452-1111 (plus extension)**

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Reserve Advisor	3127	1159	rca@navy.mil
DANTES Publications/ DIB	3120	1162	pubs@navy.mil
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European Advisor	011-49-6221-17-9654 DSN: 314-373-9654		dantes@eur.army.mil
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<b>Troops to Teachers</b>	<b>3141</b>	<b>1096</b>	<b>ttt@navy.mil</b>
<b>Education Support</b>	<b>3133</b>	<b>1162</b>	
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
<b>Education Programs</b>	<b>3245</b>	<b>1161</b>	
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