

Environment impacts future of DANTES Exam programs

By now, many are familiar with the phrase “Advancements in technology are changing the face of...” In this case, it refers to “DANTES-sponsored testing programs.”

Because of the rapidly changing technological environment, the expectation for all DANTES-sponsored exams to move to a computer-based (CBT) or Internet-based (IBT) platform has become the reality. It is no surprise that this change produced a number of significant modifications within the DANTES Exams Program, and each change presented its own unique challenge. Some of the challenges may be realized due to the impact to DANTES Test Sites and testing personnel and additional challenges may be recognized based on the future status of the DANTES Exams Program. As policies change, they are reflected within the DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH).

So, what IS the future of DANTES-sponsored exams? CBT or IBT methods are no longer recognized as being too distant in the future to be considered as a reliable means for providing testing services. As the “shift happens,” DANTES Exams Program policies adapt to be consistent with new standards and the DEPH will continue to evolve. However, with regard to the administration of DANTES-sponsored exams, DANTES Test Sites should expect continued decrease

in volume as the trend for CBT or IBT continues to grow and increase. DANTES Test Sites may also expect continued growth in the area of after-the-fact reimbursements and pay-upon-redemption voucher

programs, as well as an increase in site disestablishment due to reduction in installation personnel and base realignments/closures.

With this, the role of the DANTES Test Control Officer (TCO) and related personnel continues to change with the testing programs and may seem as if the gradual decline is leading to extinction. Although the focus

may have shifted, the TCO continues to be a vital link for providing guidance to the Service member. Considering all of the changes, the need for a TCO training course that can keep pace with the evolution of the testing programs still exists.

Recently, Prometric completed a cross country relocation of their facilities and services. Due to the move, the DEPH Part I and II related chapters and forms and the corresponding Web-based DANTES TCO Academic Course require major revisions. Keep in mind that the DEPH will inevitably no longer provide instructions for paper-based test administration. Program specifics, exam descriptions, funding eligibility, retest policy, score reporting, and other

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Kuder® Journey Account Statistics				
Service	Registrations	Kuder Career Interests Assessment (KCIA)	Kuder Skills Confidence Assessment (KSCA-A)	Kuder Work Values Assessment (KWVA)
Air Force	1166	904	506	477
Army	8107	4574	2285	2113
Coast Guard	88	66	33	32
Marine Corps	6515	5501	2108	2140
Navy	2476	1699	823	784

Kuder Journey statistics are based on the number of assessments taken from January 1 - September 3, 2013.

DANTES Exam programs

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essential support information will remain intact for DANTES testing personnel and education support. The DANTES Exam Programs motto will continue to be “when in doubt, always check your DEPH out.” Expeditious updates to the DEPH have been and will continue to be accomplished. However, the current TCO training course remains under construction in an effort to scale-down the content of the course and keep the information relevant for the DANTES audience.

GED and CLEP exams have already experienced the transition, and DSST exams are on the fast track to follow suit. Regardless of the delivery method, these continue to be DANTES-funded programs. Looking toward the future, DANTES is committed to keeping pace with ongoing academic testing changes in order to continue providing DANTES-funded testing opportunities for Service members.

ACT assessment reminder

DANTES-sponsored Test Site administrators, before placing an order for new ACT test materials, look in your safe. If you have Form 68E of the ACT test booklets and 2011-2012 answer folders, they will expire Oct. 31, 2013 and cannot be used after that date. To order the new form, see page II-2-6 of the FY13 DANTES Examination Programs Handbook (DEPH) ACT Chapter 2.

Remember, you must also return unused 2012-2013 ACT answer folders with the test booklets or account for them in writing if they cannot be returned. New test materials will not be sent until ACT reconciles your inventory.

Use the FY13 ACT test form for the new testing year beginning Nov. 1, 2013. ACT has not released the new ACT test form number, but the new form will be available as part of Exhibit 1 of the FY14 DEPH. The new form will be valid until Oct. 31, 2014. Materials are not sent automatically. They must be ordered by the TCO/ATCO and are reusable only at stocking test sites.

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.

Back to school - DSST helps you manage your time & interests

Question: What do business, humanities, math, physical science, social sciences and technology all have in common? Answer: Taking and passing a DSST exam in any of these subject areas can earn you college credit at over 1,900 institutions.

“Typical” colleges generally offer students a wide selection of subject areas in which they can choose to major or minor. Some choose business, some engineering, some English, some architecture or art — all depending on where their interests lie. Similarly, DSST offers learners a wide selection of exams in many subject areas which can be taken in place of a formal college course to earn the same credits. Uncertainty about what subject areas fall within any one given exam can be put to rest by leafing through the preparation materials for that subject, available for free on the DSST Web site www.getcollegecredit.com.

Reviewing the domain areas and content of an exam can assist a student in making an educated decision about which exam (or exams) to take. A full listing of exams can also be found on the DSST Web site. The exam subjects have been specifically designed to mimic many prerequisite or introductory courses available at typical colleges, which is why the credits for a passing exam are so widely accepted. Recommended for credit by the American Council on Education (ACE), the wide selection of exams are offered in diverse disciplines and cover upper- and lower-level baccalaureate credit courses. Thousands of colleges and universities recognize and recommend DSST exams for credit to students of all kinds, from adult learners to returning veterans!

For more information, contact DANTES Examinations Program at exams@navy.mil.

Important DSST dates to remember in September

Sept. 6, 2013	All DSST paper exams, including Principles of Public Speaking, must be postmarked for return to Prometric (administered and unused).
Sept. 30, 2013	Final date for Prometric to score completed exams. Exams received after Sept. 30, 2013 will not be scored.
Sept. 30, 2013	End of Paper-based DSST Exams in CONUS!

It's FAFSA time again!

Don't forget to submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to see if you qualify for financial aid during the 2013-2014 school year.

The Federal deadline to submit the application is midnight Central Time, June 30, 2014. Any corrections or updates must be submitted by midnight Central Time, Sept. 20, 2014.

State and college deadlines vary, so contact your school for their FAFSA deadline. To review a complete list of state deadlines, visit www.fafsa.ed.gov/deadlines.htm#.

Begin your free Kuder® Journey today!

DANTES currently has 50,000 Kuder Journey accounts that will expire if not activated by Dec. 31, 2013. This is a free program paid for by DANTES that usually costs around \$35 per account. KUDER Journey is available to active duty military personnel and Service members in transition. It is a valuable resource during the military-to-civilian transition process as well as finding a post military career. It provides tailored career guidance to Service members by a simple 20 minute assessment and aids with an occupations search which allows them narrow down a list of occupation fields that are right for them. From those occupations it will list the education needed to pursue that career as well as information on financial aid and job search and placement tools.

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. To date, Service members have activated about 14,000 of the 75,000 DANTES purchased. It is important to note that these accounts have until Dec. 31, 2013 to be activated. At that point, any unactivated accounts will be lost.

Getting started

DANTES encourages all Service members to take advantage of this free career guidance system. Information and training can be found at www.dantes.doded.mil/Programs/CounselorSupport.html.

To register, go to www.dantes.kuder.com.

Points of contact:

- » your local education center
- » DANTES Counseling Support at counseling@navy.mil
 - » Kuder Customer Support at support@kuder.com or 877-999-6227

Mark ED URL as a favorite

The Department of Education's (ED) office of Federal Student Aid is responsible for managing the student financial assistance programs authorized under Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965. These programs provide grants, loans, and work-study funds to students attending college or career school.

Be prepared before you apply for financial aid. Visit the Federal Student Aid site to learn more about college preparation, the different types of federal aid available, the application process, and how to repay loans. Make www.studentaid.ed.gov/ a favorite URL and use it!



DANTES Director Carol Berry (left) and DANTES Senior Enlisted Advisor (SEA) David Acuff (right) welcome NETC Force Master Chief Jon Port (center) during his inaugural visit to DANTES Aug. 20. Read the SEA's article on [page seven](#) for details on Force Port..



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.

Click [HERE](#) to view archived DIBs.

ACE responds to online questions

The American Council on Education (ACE) Military Program Division manages Military Ed, an email system created to assist military members and veterans with their questions concerning courses that they completed at military schools for which they seek ACE recommended credit. Here are samples of inquiries that arrive daily in the Military Ed email box.

Question: ... I would have assumed that this course would have produced some type of credit for the purposes of possible college evaluation. Is there a reason why this course has not been evaluated by ACE?

ACE response: ACE only evaluates courses and MOSs at the request of the Services. We do not solicit courses for review. If your courses have not been reviewed, I can only suggest you contact the military schoolhouse and ask if and when they plan to submit the courses for review. Older courses may never be reviewed as materials necessary for evaluation are no longer available.

Question: I was reviewing my transcripts and my Recruiting School and Human Resources Certification time was not evaluated. It gave me a code of three at the bottom of my transcript. I was wondering why.

ACE response: The course was not evaluated during the time you attended.

Question: While searching the Army Warrant Officer MOS I noticed 948B is not listed although 948D is. 948B is a highly technical MOS and I believe deserves to be in the program.

ACE response: ACE reviews courses and MOSs at the request of the Service. If the Service does not submit it, it doesn't get reviewed. The Army suspended MOS reviews several years ago due to the high OPTEMPO and is in the process of reinstating them but I do not know when your MOS will be scheduled.

Question: This is my Advanced Leaders Course 1059. This school was two months long. Please evaluate.

ACE response: ACE does not review courses for individuals. We only review courses at the request of the Service. If it hasn't been reviewed, I can only suggest you contact the military schoolhouse and ask if and when they plan to submit the course for review. A pilot (number 494-74D30-C45) Phase 2 version of this course was reviewed in 2010. The schoolhouse has not submitted anything new.

Question: I have requested military transcript but it reflects my rank as E-5. I separated the military as an E-6. How do I correct this?

ACE response: ACE cannot update your military transcript. To make corrections or update your JST, go to the JST Web site <https://jst.doded.mil/correction.html>. Click on the corrections (or instructions) link for your Service. Here are other useful links:

- » JST Operations jst@doded.mil
- » ACE Military Guide (to cross reference with your JST) www.acenet.edu/militaryguide

ACE makes every effort to rapidly respond to inquiries, explaining the evaluation process and restrictions, as well as providing contact information when additional help or explanation is required.

If you have questions concerning the Military Evaluations Program (MEP), call 850-452-1111 ext. 3213 or email dantes_ace@navy.mil.

FY14 3PA schedule

The purpose of the Third Party Assessment (3PA) is to assess the quality of off-duty postsecondary educational programs and services used by Service members, regardless of location or duty assignment, and to assist in the improvement of these education programs and services. These periodic assessments ensure the education programs provided to Service members funded by a tuition assistance program are of the same high quality and meet the same academic criteria of quality higher education.

Direct questions about the program can be sent to DANTES_thirdparty@navy.mil.

Scheduled 3PA Installation Visits		
Marine Corps	Camp Pendleton, Calif.	Nov. 18, 2013
Navy	Naval Submarine Base, Kings Bay, Ga.	Mar. 10, 2014
Air Force	Seymour Johnson, N.C.	May 5, 2014
Army	Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo.	Aug. 11, 2014

SOC survey extended

Last month DANTES asked for input from the entire military education community on the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) Program, the SOC Degree Network System, and SOC codes. The survey has been extended to Sept. 25, 2013. To complete the survey, go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/HSZXCSB.

Send us your ideas and suggestions on how this program can best serve our Service members!

New student loan bill - 2013

On Aug. 9, 2013, President Obama signed into law a new Student Loan Bill. Due to the interest rates doubling to 6.8 percent on new subsidized Stafford loans July 1 of this year, there was a need for a compromise in the form of this new Student Loan Bill. This is a good deal for all students through the 2015 academic year.

The bill ensures that interest rates on federal student loans taken out this fall will not double to 6.8 percent. Also, this bill will retroactively lower the interest rates. For the undergraduate, it will ensure a 3.9 percent interest rate on their loans, and for graduate students to borrow at a 5.4 percent interest rate, and parents of prospective college students at a rate of 6.4 percent. The interest rates will be tied to the market, as Republicans wanted, but Democrats insisted on adding caps so that the rates will not exceed certain levels. Interest rates will not be higher than 8.25 percent for undergraduates, graduate students at 9.5 percent, and parents' rates would max at 10.5 percent.

About 11 million students this year are expected to have lower interest rates, saving the average undergraduate \$1,500 on interest charges for this year's loans. The Congressional Budget Office estimated the bill would reduce the deficit by \$715 million over the next decade. "Even though we've been able to stabilize the interest rates on student loans, our job's not done," President Obama said. "The cost of college remains extraordinarily high."

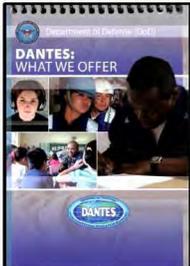


Sept. in U.S. history:

- 2, 1945:** President Harry Truman declared V-J Day.
- 3, 1783:** Treaty of Paris signed, formally ending the American Revolutionary War.
- 5:** DIB Editor born
- 5, 1774:** First Continental Congress assembled in Philadelphia with 56 delegates.
- 9, 1776:** The Continental Congress changed the name of the new American nation from the United Colonies to the U.S.
- 11, 2001:** The worst terrorist attack in U.S. history occurred as four passenger jets were hijacked then crashed, killing nearly 3,000 persons.
- 13, 1814:** Francis Scott Key observed the Battle of Fort Henry, inspiring him to write the verses which became the U.S. National Anthem in 1931.
- 15, 1857:** William Howard Taft, 27th U.S. President, born.
- 16, 1620:** The Mayflower left England, bound for America.
- 17, 1787:** U.S. Constitution ratified.
- 18, 1947:** The U.S. Air Force was established as a separate military service.
- 24, 1957:** President Dwight Eisenhower ordered the National Guard to enforce racial integration of schools in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- 24, 1936:** Puppeteer Jim Henson, creator of the Muppets, born.
- 27, 1964:** The Warren Commission Report was issued stating a lone gunman was responsible for the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.
- 29, 1789:** Congress created the U.S. Army, consisting of 1,000 enlisted men and officers.

Reference Publications CORNER

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Back to School



Naval aviator finds ideal second career

By Edwardeen M. Jones, Director, Michigan Troops To Teachers

Troops to Teachers (TTT) participant George Pavey is enjoying his second career as a public high school teacher. Pavey, a retired Marine Corps officer and naval aviator, now teaches at the West Michigan Aviation Academy located at the Gerald Ford International Airport in Grand Rapids, Mich.



This public charter school has a heavy emphasis on aviation. Students learn about flying, aerospace engineering, and the business side of aviation. They have the opportunity to do integrated flight simulation, build remote controlled airplanes, and plan flights using maps and charts. This summer, students attended a military camp to fly glider planes and nine of the juniors even soloed. The school has its own airplane and started flight operations this summer with student

incentive flights and flight training expected in the fall.

Students are impressed having a former military fighter pilot as their teacher. "I appreciate having a very disciplined teacher who can also have fun," a student remarked. Another student commented, "I enjoy the wealth of real life experiences Mr. Pavey brings to the classroom."

Pavey has high expectations for his students. They know he is in their corner and wants them to succeed. He runs a tight classroom with an emphasis on rules and discipline. "I tell them they are just like my Marines and my own children," Pavey commented.

Pavey is grateful to have participated in the TTT program which led him to his passion of teaching. For information on the TTT program, go to www.dantes.doded.mil/Programs/TTT.html.



With help from TTT, George Pavey moved from a career as a naval aviator to a dream job as a public high school teacher.

CCME accepting 2014 scholarship applications

The Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) is pleased to offer \$1000 scholarships each year to U.S. Service members (active duty/veterans) and spouses of Service members who are working towards the completion of higher education degrees.

In honor of the late Loretta Cornett Huff, former long-term Navy and Marine Corps Education Officer, CCME has initiated a new scholarship for spouses of active, reserve, guard and veteran personnel working towards the completion of higher education degrees.

All applicants must submit the CCME Scholarship Application, transcripts, and two recommendation forms (www.ccmeonline.org/sites/default/files/scholarship/CCMERecommendationForm2013.pdf). Application deadline is Oct. 1, 2013. For full details visit www.ccmeonline.org/scholarships.

Winners will be recognized at the 2014 CCME Professional Development Symposium in Savannah, Ga., February 10-13. Go to www.ccmeonline.org/ for more information on the symposium.

Other Marines now apply for TA online

VolEd www.dvidshub.net/news/111119/marines-now-apply-tuition-assistance-online#.UhTwpJLVDNE

news Soldier completes higher education goal

in the www.dvidshub.net/news/111943/soldier-completes-higher-education-goal#.UhTx1JLVDNE

world... Factors to consider when choosing a school

www.gibill.va.gov/documents/factsheets/Choosing_a_School.pdf

NBCC announces 2014 military scholarships

<http://www.nbccf.org/military/>

FROM THE DESK OF THE SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR



HMCM (FMF/SW) David Acuff
Senior Enlisted Advisor

Recently, Naval Education and Training Command (NETC) Force Master Chief Jon Port visited with DANTES leadership and spoke with staff concerning his new job and the importance that DANTES programs can play in the personal and professional development of Sailors.

Force Master Chief (AW/AC) Jon Port was selected to master chief in 2003 and joined

the Navy's Command Master Chief (CMC) ranks in 2004. As a CMC he served with Helicopter Mine Countermeasures Squadron (HM) 15 in Corpus Christi, Texas, and led the squadron through multiple Middle East deployments as well as four major natural disaster recovery operations. He reported to George H.W. Bush (CVN 77) as the CMC, commissioning the ship Jan. 10, 2009. He later served as the Senior Enlisted Advisor (SEA) to the NETC Chief Operating Officer, and CMC to NETC's Learning & Development Division in Norfolk, Va. Port comes to NETC from Navy Personnel Command/Bureau of Naval Personnel, Millington, Tenn.

As NETC's Force Master Chief, he explained that his number one priority is making sure that all Sailors receive quality training to fill the needs of the fleet, his mantra being "Training Sailors seven days a week, 24 hours a day." He further stated, "At NETC it's our mission to maintain, train, and provide a mission-ready maritime force capable of winning wars, deterring aggression, and maintaining the freedom of the seas. NETC allows our Navy to maintain a robust and competent maritime force to guarantee security, stability and trust around the globe."

Force Port is no stranger to voluntary education (VolEd) and has earned a master's degree in business administration, a bachelor's degree in political science, and is a designated Master Linguist.

As we toured DANTES, I took a moment to ask Force Port some questions concerning VolEd and the programs that DANTES offers.

Q: What impact do you feel DANTES programs and VolEd have on Service members?

A: DANTES and VolEd programs provide Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen the opportunity to improve their educational standing not only for their time in the Service, but most especially for their post Service time.

The old adage is "knowledge is power" and that is absolutely true. There are plenty of businesses and companies more than willing to hire former Service members but without a formal education to go with the experience, they'll be paid at a much less appropriate salary than if they had the formal education to go with their experience. So the education which DANTES and VolEd offer Service members will ensure they are not only better prepared for their time both in the Service and beyond, but that they will be paid for their experience and education and have a much more fruitful future.

Q: How has DANTES helped you with your personal education goals?

A: Well, being a "customer" myself, DANTES and VolEd provided me the opportunity as a young E-5 to complete my bachelor's degree and I completed it totally using my ACE-recommended credits, CLEPs and a GRE. So I always say I tested my way to my bachelor's degree. Although that is not totally accurate considering I was in a formal "A" school at the Defense Language Institute for over a year and then stayed onboard for an additional six months of Russian language training all providing me college credits, then went on to testing my way for the rest. I also used the counseling tools provided to choose my master's program to complete an MBA with some tuition assistance (TA) and the rest through student loans. But I look back on the experience of self-improvement and can easily say if not for DANTES and VolEd, I would definitely not have completed my education and likely not be where I am today in my career, let alone have the outlook for the future that I do. I am forever thankful for this program and DANTES and will always be an advocate and spokesman for them.

Force Master Chief Port and NETC are both enthusiastic advocates and devoted supporters of DoD VolEd and DANTES, and believe in supporting Service member professional and personal development. For more information, go to:

- » NETC and Force Master Chief Jon Port www.netc.navy.mil
- » ACE college credit recommendations www.dantes.doded.mil/Partnerships/MilEval.html
- » Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) www.dantes.doded.mil/Partnerships/SOC.html

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



Lt Col Eurydice Stanley
Reserve Component Advisor

Is vocational rehabilitation the answer?

I recently attended a very informative Veterans Affairs (VA) claims brief hosted by American Veterans (AMVETS). The brief was presented by Susan Frishkorn, an AMVET national service officer and retired Navy E-6. She is passionate about ensuring that Service members submit disability claims before

leaving Service. “It is every veteran’s right to be rated the highest percentage allowable by law by the VA and have all the benefits accorded with each rating,” said Frishkorn.

But why does a disability rating matter in the education realm? Ratings matter because with at least a 10 percent Service-connected disability, Service members are eligible to apply for vocational rehabilitation, which can lead to education and employment for unemployed veterans. The program is called the Vocation Rehabilitation and Employment (VR&E) Program. According to the VA Web site, www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/, the program is authorized by Congress under Title 38, USC, Chapter 31 and Code of Federal Regulations, Part 21. It is also referred to as the Chapter 31 program.

According to the VA, this program “... assists veterans with Service-connected disabilities to prepare for, find, and keep suitable jobs. For veterans with Service-connected disabilities so severe that they cannot immediately consider work, this program offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible.” Service-connected disabilities are defined by the VA as “a disabling condition that has resulted from or was aggravated by an injury or illness while the veteran was serving on active duty in the military.”

Services that may be provided by the VR&E Program:

- » comprehensive rehabilitation evaluation to determine abilities, skills, and interests for employment
- » vocational counseling and rehabilitation planning for employment services
- » employment services such as job-training, job-seeking skills, resume development, and other work readiness assistance
- » assistance finding and keeping a job, including the use of special employer incentives and job accommodations

- » on the job training (OJT), apprenticeships, and non-paid work experiences
- » post-secondary training at a college, vocational, technical or business school
- » supportive rehabilitation services including case management, counseling, and medical referrals
- » independent living services for veterans unable to work due to the severity of their disabilities

“We are not an education program, we are primarily an employment program,” said Rebecca Baisden, VA Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. “If education is necessary to get a veteran employed, we will provide it. We look at their disability and what their impairment to employment might be.”

For example, a nurse with Service-related back and knee problems and can’t work in the nursing field may be retrained by the VA. “Everyone is a unique individual. We look at what the veteran’s limitation to employment is and how it affects him/her from obtaining/maintaining employment,” said Baisden.

The Post 9/11 GI Bill is automatic if veterans served at least 36 months after Sept. 11, 2001, and tuition assistance (TA) is available up to \$4,500 per year for Service members, but vocational rehabilitation is not guaranteed. “Each veteran deserves to be educated on the VA process,” said Frishkorn. “I highly recommend that Service members go to a veterans service officer for assistance.”

There are countless opportunities available to Service members. The challenge is to present the education side to each opportunity to ensure that they do not overlook a potential opportunity to follow their dreams of being trained or educated in a field of interest that will provide quality of life for themselves and their families.

“Everyone that I sit across from at my desk at the end of their careers is both fragile and incredibly strong,” said Frishkorn. “They don’t want to complain, but they have issues that they have kept to themselves for years. They need to speak to their doctors while they are still on active duty and get their conditions treated and documented.”

Service members should keep this information in mind. Our primary hope is that TA will be utilized to obtain a degree while serving, but if someone is at the end of their career with a VA rating in hand, this information may be critical. A new career may be an application away. As always, I look forward to hearing from you at rca@navy.mil.

TESTING CALENDAR

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

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