

DANTES



INFORMATION BULLETIN

WORLDWIDE EDUCATION SUPPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MARCH 2014 NUMBER 442

WWW.DANTES.DODED.MIL

1974 - 2014: Celebrating 40 years of service!

DANTES Web site gets a new look



DANTES

SERVICE MEMBERS

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

EDUCATION COUNSELORS



DANTES is proud to announce the launch of our NEW Web site. The DANTES Web experience has been completely transformed for improved functionality and navigation, to engage through images and interactive multimedia, and provide a quality “one stop” education-centric portal for our Service communities, partners, and stakeholders.

From the inspirational, informative videos that convey our mission, to the DANTES Digital Network news center that provides the latest information

regarding benefits and programs, visitors will continue to find the quality and value that “Define Your Future.”

The DANTES site has grouped information, resources, forms and links specific to the intended audience: Service members, educational institutions and education counselors. Navigating the DANTES Web site couldn’t be easier. With menus at the top of each page you don’t have to go far to find what information is contained within — just hover over each menu item to get a deeper look.

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Kuder® Journey Voucher Statistics

Service	Registrations	Kuder Career Interests Assessment (KCIA)	Kuder Skills Confidence Assessment (KSCA-A)	Kuder Values Assessment (KWVA)
Air Force	804	739	410	399
Army	5223	3887	2338	2946
Coast Guard	29	27	13	12
Marine Corps	3358	3103	1342	1363
Navy	999	784	355	335

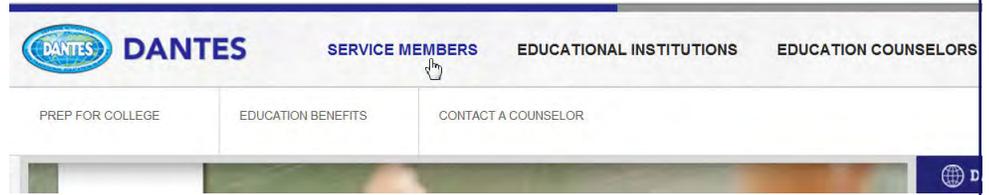
Kuder Journey statistics are based on the number of assessments taken from January 1 - March 3, 2014.

DANTES Web site

Continued from page 1

Within the Service members area, DANTES provides tailored Subject areas which incorporate key Interest Point (IP) links:

- Prep for College
- Education Benefits
- Contact a Counselor



Additionally, DANTES hopes to improve the quality of education and the overall education experience by

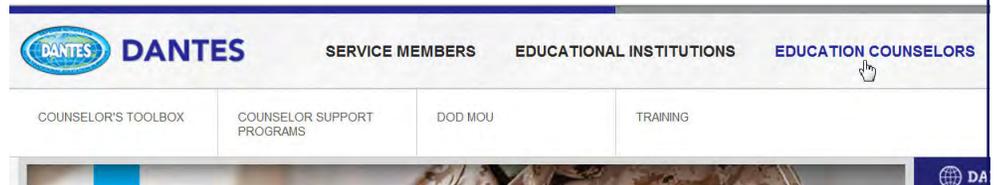
promoting collaborations, information exchanges and direct partnerships with education providers via IP links:

- Support Higher Education
- College Credit Alternatives
- Strategic Partners
- DoD MOU
- Counselor's Toolbox



Finally, the DANTES web will improve delivery of program support to Service Education Counselors—providing tailored IP links and tools to best assist our Service members in achieving their education goals:

- Counselor's Toolbox
- Counselor Support Programs
- DoD MOU
- Training



The DANTES Digital Network provides dynamic updates on programs and issues relevant to our community.



- Videos
- DANTES Pulse
- Press Releases
- Hot News
- DIBs
- Publications
- Facebook/Twitter feeds

As with all things new, there will be some growing pains, so please be patient. If you are looking for something specific, click on the magnifying glass icon at the top of each page or view the Site Map at the bottom of each page. If you still can't find what you want, contact information is located at www.dantes.doded.mil/contact/index.html.

We will continue to grow and improve the Web site, so check back often and keep updated with the DIB, Hot News, or our blog DANTES Pulse.

Oh - very important - here's the new URL:

www.dantes.doded.mil/index.html

Update your favorites and enjoy the new site.

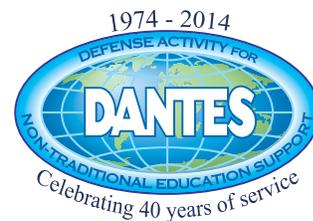
DANTES 40th Anniversary Special DIB Edition - March

12 months of celebrating and reminiscing as we look...

back to our beginnings,

at where we are today,

and forward to future success



Do you remember...

New Staff Member

Carol S. Osborn
Head, Education
Services and Programs

Phone:
AV: 922-1087
CML: (904) 452-1087



Mrs. Carol Osborn has joined DANTES as Head of the Education Services and Programs department.

Carol's previous professional experience includes nearly two and half years as the Navy's Voluntary Education Program Manager; three years as Assistant to the Principal Civilian Advisor on Education and Training for the Chief of Naval Education and Training; and ten years of education specialist experience with the Naval Education and Training Support Center, Atlantic; Army Continuing Education System; and the U.S. Air Force.

Carol holds a B.A. in English from Longwood College in Farmville, Virginia; an M.A. in Counseling Psychology from Ball State University of Muncie, Indiana; and an Ed.S. in Human Development Counseling from George Peabody of Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tennessee.

The educational and professional development opportunities of Service members is one of Carol's chief concerns. "Whether at the Hof border in Germany, guarding a missile site, or serving in a submarine, our military personnel must have access to educational opportunities," she says.

Carol is optimistic about the future of nontraditional education. "With the rapid development of innovative instructional delivery systems, the role of nontraditional education will continue to grow. It's a very exciting time to be involved!"

August 1989 DIB

From the DIB Archive...

The more things change, the more they stay the same, as the old saying goes. Nothing exemplifies this more than fiscal concerns, as this excerpt from the DANTES Senior Enlisted Advisor's Corner in the March 1988 DIB shows:

**Budget cuts! Gramm-Rudman-Hollings!
What's next? More budget cuts!**

The military education community knows that education programs will be affected. Nothing is immune from attack, not even the tuition assistance (TA) program. But ask the average Service member which programs are being cut, and the answer you will most likely hear is "TA." A cut in their TA hits them where it hurts the most, the pocketbook.

With a possible decrease in TA benefits, what options are available to help Service members? One option is to increase their use of non-traditional education programs, earning college credits through the "Military Evaluations Program," the "College Credit by Examination Program," or through the "Experiential Learning Assessment" process.

Another alternative is financial assistance. Service members can use their Veterans Administration (VA) benefits, if eligible, or other means such as a Pell Grant. Many financial assistance programs are available and counselors need to uncover these resources and disseminate the information. States, for instance, have many types of financial assistance programs for their residents.

Sound familiar? It should — we dealt with similar issues last year. But, strategies that worked in 1988 to help Service members continue their education during tight times still work today! DANTES has always been there, providing the right information at the right time. Find that information here in the DIB, at our Web site (www.dantes.doded.mil/index.html) or at the DANTES Pulse blog (<http://doddantespulse.blogspot.com>).

Education still pays

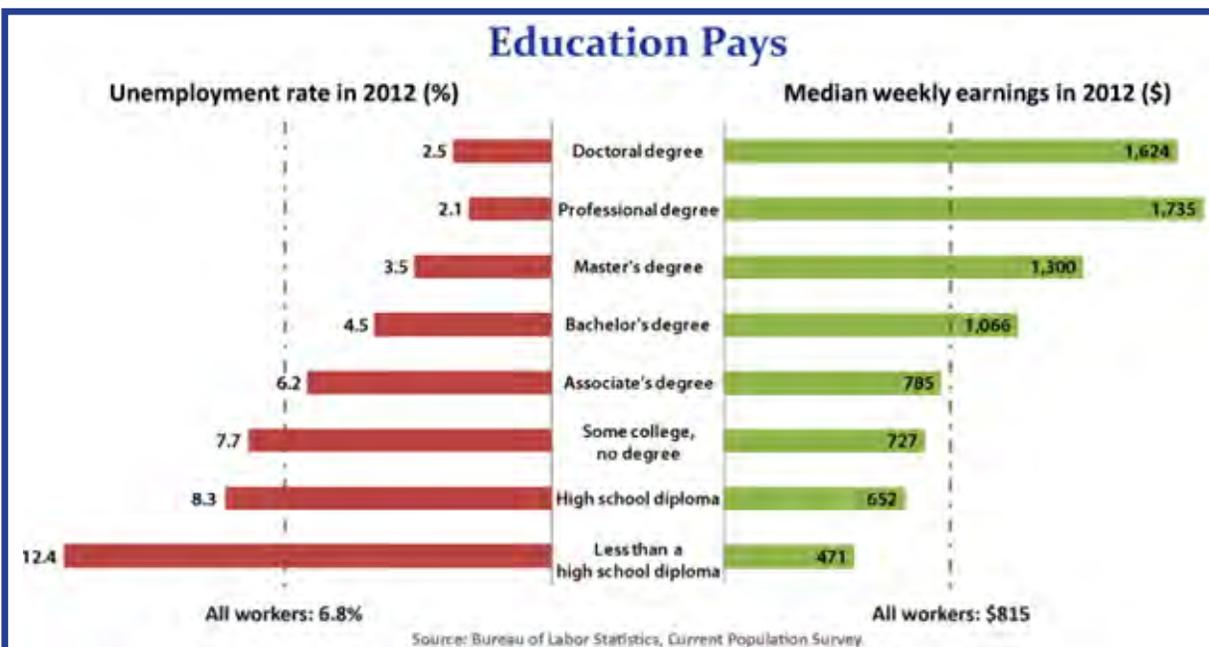
Many military education counselors use the famous “Education Pays” charts and graphs in their presentations and briefings to military members on the benefits of pursuing and completing their education. Highlighting the personal returns to investments in education may help potential students understand the benefits of going to school and reinforce their persistence in reaching their education and career goals. In a recent report, Education Pays 2013: The Benefits of Higher Education for the Individual and Society, the College Board summarizes findings from the most recent U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys that document the effects of education attainment. Key findings include:

- » individuals with higher levels of education earn more and are more likely than others to be employed
- » the financial returns associated with college credentials and the gaps in earnings by education level have increased over time
- » federal, state, and local governments enjoy increased tax revenues from college graduates and spend less time on income support programs for them, providing a direct financial return on investments in post-secondary education
- » college-educated adults are more likely to have health insurance and pension benefits from employers
- » adults with higher levels of education are more active citizens than others
- » college-educated mothers spend more time with children and alter the composition of that time to suit children’s developmental needs

- » college education leads to healthier lifestyles, reducing health care costs
- » college education increases the chances that adults will move up the socioeconomic ladder

The authors of the report point to a large body of research that substantiates these findings and indicate that the associations mentioned above are tied to increased education attainment, not just individual characteristics. For more information view the full report at <https://trends.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/education-pays-2013-full-report.pdf>.

While there are many resources education counselors can provide to clients in order to deliver an impactful briefing or conversation about the benefits of college, it is important to note that many military students are first generation college students. Many times, modeling the importance of education and the skills needed to complete a degree may need to come from education center personnel or pairing students with others that are either successful students or have recently completed their education goals. Finally, it is strongly recommended that whenever possible, partner with local guest speakers who can talk to potential students about the importance of college. Guest speakers, particularly those with the same backgrounds such as notable veterans within your local community or on base, can make a tremendous impact. Guest speakers can be an excellent addition, as they can share their real world experiences and challenges in pursuing education and transitioning their military career into successful civilian employment because of it.



EXAMINATIONS NEWS

Education centers: DANTEs needs your help!

With the closeout of CLEP and DSST paper and pencil exams in CONUS, the testing agencies and DANTEs have implemented a fully-funded program to facilitate the transition of DANTEs Test Sites without National Test Centers (NTCs) in CONUS to 100 percent internet-based testing (iBT). In addition, the fully-funded program ensures that a nearby community test center (on-campus NTC) is available for Service members to take a CLEP or DSST exam without paying the administrative fee.

To get more institutions involved in this program, DANTEs is asking base education centers without NTCs to notify the DANTEs Examinations Program of any on-campus institutions that may be interested in becoming a part of the fully-funded program. The testing agencies will then reach out to recruit those nearby schools to participate.

Under the fully-funded program, DANTEs pays both the examination fee and the administrative fee charged by the on-campus NTC for the first administration of a CLEP or DSST exam test title to a test-taker.

For information on how to assist on-campus test centers become part of the fully-funded program, contact the DANTEs Examinations Program at DSN 459-1111 ext. 3118, COM 850-452-1111 ext.3118, or email exams@navy.mil.

VA launches GI Bill Comparison Tool

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched an online GI Bill® Comparison Tool Feb. 4, 2014, making it easier for veterans, Service members and dependents to calculate their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and learn more about VA's approved colleges, universities and other education and training programs across the country.

The GI Bill Comparison Tool is one item in a series of resources VA is launching in response to President Obama's Executive Order 13607, which directs agencies to implement and promote "Principles of Excellence" for education institutions that interact with veterans, Service members and their families; and to ensure beneficiaries have the information they need to make educated choices about VA education benefits and approved programs.

The GI Bill Comparison Tool can be found at <http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/comparison>.

REMINDER: OCONUS DSST paper-based testing ends soon

Prometric will discontinue OCONUS paper-based DSST testing July 31, 2014. The decision to eliminate paper-based exams is based on a steady decline (44 percent over this past year) and the ongoing initiative to provide testing alternatives at fully funded National Testing Centers. Service members utilizing computer-based exams are able to access all 38 DSST exam titles and can see exam results upon completion.

Remember these important dates:

March 31, 2014	Last date to order DSST paper exams (stocking and non-stockng)
July 31, 2014	Last date to administer DSST paper exams
Aug. 7, 2014	All DSST paper exams must be postmarked for return to Prometric (administered and unused)
Sept. 30, 2014	Final date for Prometric to score completed exams (exams received after Sept. 30, 2014 will not be scored.)

Free webinar series

The Sloan-C is sponsoring a free webinar series titled "Veterans, Service Members & Military Family Members Webinar Series 2014." The series includes four webinars focused on increasing online student success and retention for veterans, Service members and military family members. They will cover federal regulations, resources and services, research, and best practices.

Each panel will share diverse perspectives and recommendations for providing greater educational opportunities and support for veterans, Service members, and military family members in achieving their academic and career goals.

Panelists include:

- » March 19 - Dr. Carol Berry, DANTEs Director, and Dawn Bilodeau, Chief for Department of Defense (DOD) Voluntary Education
- » April 16 - HMCM (FMF/SW) David Acuff, DANTEs Senior Enlisted Advisor

For details on webinar topics and to register, go to www.sloanconsortium.org/institute/webinars/increasing-online-student-success-for-veterans.

REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS NEWS

College financial assistance information you should know

Federal financial aid

There are three main types of U.S. federal student aid: grants, loans and work-study.

Grants do not have to be paid back, except for early withdrawal, which may require a partial repayment. The U.S. Department of Education offers a variety of federal grants to students attending four-year colleges or universities, community colleges, and career schools:

- » Pell grant
- » Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants program (FSEOG)
- » Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) grant
- » Iraq and Afghanistan Service grant

The work-study program provides work opportunities at the school to assist with paying for school.

Loans are at a low interest, but must be paid back.

There are scholarships, including money awarded to students based on academic or other achievements to help pay for education expenses. Scholarships generally do not have to be repaid. Check out free Department of Labor scholarship tools at www.careerinfonet.org/scholarshipsearch/.

For more information on various forms of federal financial aid available for college, go to www.studentaid.ed.gov/types. **WARNING!** Always be aware of scholarship scams. **NEVER PAY** to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or pay to apply for a grant or scholarship.

Military families financial aid

As a unique population, there may be specific financial aid available for the military member and family members. For more information on financial assistance for college, go to www.todaymilitary.com/military-benefits/education-support.

American Legion financial aid

The American Legion, an organization of wartime veterans, produce a free annual guide to financial aid for college, called “Need A Lift?” This guide is filled with information on scholarships, grants, fee waivers, student loans, and the organizations that offer them. (www.needalift.org/)

State financial aid

Individual states may offer other avenues of financial aid for school. Check out state agencies for further details at wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/Programs/EROD/org_list.cfm?category_cd=SGT.

College specific financial aid and private/non-profit organizations

Grants and scholarships are often called “gift aid” because they are free money—financial aid that doesn’t have to be repaid. Grants are often need-based, while scholarships are usually merit-based. For information about a specific college, visit their financial aid office or contact their online financial aid office.

Tax benefits for education

Service members currently in college may also be eligible for tax benefits. Two tax credits help offset the costs (tuition, fees, books, supplies) of college or career school by reducing the amount of income tax due:

- » American Opportunity Credit — claim up to \$2,500 per student per year for the first four years of school (www.irs.gov/publications/p970/ch02.html)
- » Lifetime Learning Credit — claim up to \$2,000 per student per year for any college or career school tuition and fees, books, supplies, and required equipment purchased from the school (www.irs.gov/publications/p970/ch03.html)

A tax deduction can be taken for interest paid on student loans. This benefit applies to all loans (not just federal student loans) used to pay for higher education expenses. The maximum deduction is \$2,500 a year. (www.irs.gov/publications/p970/ch04.html)

An IRA withdrawal can also be used to pay higher education expenses. The withdrawal will be taxed but won’t be subject to the early withdrawal penalty. (www.irs.gov/publications/p970/ch09.html)

Individuals should check their eligibility for these tax benefits with their tax preparer.

Plan for future college costs

Qualified Tuition Programs (QTP), also known as 529 Plans, are established by a state or school to allow future students to either prepay or save up to pay education-related expenses. Once in college or career school, the student can withdraw money from the account to pay education expenses, tax-free. (www.collegesavings.org/index.aspx)



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

TROOPS TO TEACHERS NEWS

Delaware TTT participant recognized for excellence

By Melissa Fantozzi, Mid-Atlantic Region Director

Kane Swaney was recently presented with a Certificate of Recognition from the Department of Defense and the National Troops to Teachers (TTT) office for his outstanding leadership in education by choosing to Proudly Serve Again as an exemplary educator. He was one of only 47 TTT participants from across the United States, including U.S. territories, distinguished as a “gold star” educator — teachers with success in the TTT program and the classroom, shining examples of what TTT does to support, guide and get the best of our military folks into the classrooms and schools, where they can continue to make a difference. This is quite an honor considering that, since 1994, TTT has helped over 10,000 separating Service members “proudly serve again” in our nation’s public schools. Swaney found his passion for teaching while serving as an instructor in the Air Force.

Swaney served in the Air Force as an Aircraft Maintenance Hydraulic System Specialist and System Craftsman on B-1b and C-5 aircraft. He says, “While serving at Dover AFB, Del., I worked Isochronal and flight line maintenance and was selected to be an Air Force instructor. Teaching opened my eyes to a passion I never knew existed and inspired me to become a teacher after retirement.” With help from the Troops to Teachers program, Swaney completed his Master’s degree in education and completed his teaching certification at the University of Delaware in the Alternative Route to Certification Program (ART-C).

Swaney currently teaches technology at Shue-Medill Middle School in Newark, Del. “I get the most enjoyment out of my profession when, at that particular moment a student understands a concept, their expressions change, a light bulb goes on. They understand what you are teaching them,” Swaney says. He adds that teaching at a school that allows him the freedom to teach the way he feels is best for that particular group of students is rewarding. “They do not tie my hands in the way I run my curriculum and classroom.”

In addition to being a classroom teacher, Swaney acts as the “school bank,” working with local credit unions teaching students about finances. As

the Technology Coordinator, he is proud to say that his students have won the Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 Delaware Stock Market game, placing first out of over 100 teams. Swaney was awarded a \$1000 grant from United Way of Delaware to enhance his classroom for student learning. He was also chosen by his school district to represent as the “Bank at School” representative where the Governor of Delaware, as well as Bank Commissioner, lauded his success in bringing student banking into the school.

Go to www.nj.gov/education/ttnj/showcase/ for more news about Delaware TTT participants. More information on the TTT program can be found at <http://proudtoserveagain.com/>.



Swaney shows off his “gold star” teaching skills at Shue-Medill Middle School in Newark, Del.



Tech. Sgt. Swaney at Dover AFB, Del.



Reference Pubs CORNER



FROM THE DESK OF THE SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR



HMCM (FMF/SW) David Acuff
Senior Enlisted Advisor

This month I want to write about the Military OneSource program that was developed to assist Service members and their dependents with a myriad of military related issues and to also promote education benefits and services.

I became interested in Military OneSource as my wife and my daughter (a new Navy spouse) began utilizing the services

and information provided on the site concerning education and career guidance. Military OneSource is a confidential Department of Defense-funded program providing comprehensive information on every aspect of military life at no cost to active duty, Guard and Reserve Component members, and their families. Information includes, but is not limited to, deployment, reunion, relationship, grief, parenting and child care, spouse employment, education and more.

Military OneSource has helpful resources, products, articles and tips on numerous topics related to military life. In addition to the Web site support, Military OneSource offers confidential call center and online support for consultations on a number of issues such as spouse education and career opportunities. This personalized support is available 24/7 no matter where you live or serve.

Of specific interest to my spouse and daughter is the access Military OneSource provided to Kuder® Journey. Kuder Journey is a no-cost benefit that is available to all active duty, Guard, and Reserve personnel and is available to dependents via the Military OneSource program site. Access for dependents to this service is available by following these steps:

1. Create a Military OneSource account (www.militaryonesource.mil/).
2. Create a Department of Defense Self-Service (DS) Logon account (<https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil>); this is required for access to Spouse Education and Career Opportunities (SECO).
3. Contact Military OneSource (800-342-9647) to speak to a counselor who will then connect with SECO to acquire a Kuder Journey access code.

4. Logon to Kuder Journey (www.kuder.com) and register using the code provided by SECO.



The Kuder Journey benefit is important to DANTES and serves as an intuitive career planning system providing career guidance individually tailored to military Service members and their dependents. The program is designed to address each user's individual education and career 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. The program offers assessments, tailored career guidance, and aids with an occupation search which narrows down a list of compatible occupation fields. From those occupations, the education required to pursue that career will be presented, along with information on financial aid, job search, and placement tools. Whether at the beginning, middle, or transition stage of a career, Service members can access this service at www.dantes.kuder.com and their dependents can access it through www.militaryonesource.mil/seco.

Please note that SECO uses DS Logon to verify eligibility for dependents. Need assistance? Spouses can visit My Access Center's Help Center <https://myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil> for more information on the DS Logon process and additional points of contact to help them set up an account. Spouses must be enrolled in Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) to obtain a DS Logon.

In closing, this column affords a unique opportunity to reach out to my fellow Service members concerning VolEd, DANTES, and other DoD programs like Military OneSource. If you have a success story with any of these programs that you would like to share, send it to me and maybe you'll see it published in this forum. 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.



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



Lt Col Eurydice Stanley
Reserve Component Advisor

Future in the crosshairs : Why Service members need education

Last month, I presented a breakout session titled, “Future in the Crosshairs: Why Service Members Need Education” at the Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) 2014 Professional Development Symposium. The

foundation of my brief was an analysis of the “Strategic Corporal” as defined and introduced by Gen. Charles C. Krulak, 31st Commandant of the Marine Corps ([www3.citadel.edu/sml/Seminar/AdditionalResources/Krulak, The Strategic Corporal.htm](http://www3.citadel.edu/sml/Seminar/AdditionalResources/Krulak,TheStrategicCorporal.htm)).

Additionally, the research of Dr. Kevin Stringer, author of “Educating the Strategic Corporal: A Paradigm Shift” (www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/report/call/call_11-20_ch08.htm), was reviewed.

The primary hypothesis of both writers is that leadership today is not solely an officer function, unlike the past. Decisions today are often made by “The Strategic Corporal,” a Service member empowered by his or her responsibilities to make decisions in the field that were previously made by officers due to the changing dynamics and asymmetrical nature of modern warfare. As evidenced in Somalia and many other military operations other than war (MOOTW), it was most oftentimes junior enlisted personnel that made the tough decisions and carried them out. According to Krulak, the Strategic Corporal often represents U.S. foreign policy, influencing tactical, operational and strategic decisions. Just as warfare has changed, so have the weapons — and education is definitely the weapon of choice for the Strategic Corporal of the 21st century.

Krulak encourages many different types of education to prepare tomorrow’s Strategic Corporal, while Stringer specifically emphasizes cultural training. As a former Equal Opportunity Officer, I know and support the importance of cultural awareness for Service members. However, as an education officer who has been steeped in the issue of transition for the past three years, I cannot over emphasize the importance of education resulting in a college degree or credential! This will not only make the Strategic Corporal more effective in his or her responsibilities, but also serve as a means of transition preparedness in the midst of Service drawdowns.

Gen. Omar Bradley, last surviving U.S. five-star commissioned officer and the first

general to be selected Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, provided a clear reason that Service members need education. He said, “In any career or profession, a man’s value is multiplied by his education. Schooling assures the good Soldier a better chance to get ahead. It helps a man win promotion, more pay, and advancement in their knowledge of their vocation. A better educated Soldier is a better Soldier...more useful to his country and more useful to himself.” The better educated Service members are, the more effective they can be while they serve.

From a transition perspective, in his article, “Why does a Service member need an advanced degree” (www.americansentinel.edu/blog/2011/01/10/why-service-member-needs-advanced-degree/), retired Lt. Col. Paul Capicik, Vice President of Military Programs for American Sentinel University, stressed the following important points:

- » many civilian positions require a college degree
- » on-the-job training and boot camp give you skills, but not study or leadership
- » career advancement today relies on who has the best credentials
- » a college degree is one of the best ways to learn theory and fundamentals
- » difference in salary over time

Ultimately, pursuit of voluntary education is a win-win for both the Service member and the Service.

As I made the case for civilian education, the importance of the Strategic Corporal leveraging DANTES products and services could not be emphasized enough. The Joint Services Transcript (JST) was discussed in depth, as it is the “frontline of defense” of the Strategic Corporal to ensure credit is received for military training assessed by the American Council on Education (ACE). Marine Corps, army, navy, and coast guard Service members can obtain a copy of their JST from <https://jst.doded.mil/>. Air Force personnel can obtain their transcripts from the Community College of the Air Force at www.au.af.mil/au/ccaf/transcripts.

“Strategic Corporal, Adjust Fire NOW!” If you have not been working toward a degree or credential, obtain a copy of your JST and meet with an education counselor ASAP. Not only will education make the Strategic Corporal a better Service member, it will provide a strong employment foundation when transferring to the civilian world. As always, I look forward to hearing from you at rca@navy.mil.

2014 CCME Symposium a great success – attendees gained vital insight on Voluntary Education programs and issues

Over 800 attendees came together in March for the annual Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) symposium to share ideas and information on military educational programs. Outstanding accomplishments were celebrated and new board members announced. More information can be found at www.ccmeonline.org/pr20140219.

DANTES attendees came away with a wealth of information and a renewed commitment to serving the military voluntary community.

Dr. Carol Berry, Director:

Dr. Mike Heberling, Baker College, spoke about the post WWII veterans, a hardy, accomplished and special population, as the following statistics illustrate:

- » over 16 million vets returned from WWII to their communities
- » of these, about 51 percent used some component of the GI Bill - for school, for purchasing a home, or for Voc/Rehab
- » 2.2 million chose higher education, changing the landscape of higher education in this country

No longer was college reserved only for the wealthy, because, thanks to the generous benefits offered, a college degree was now possible for the “every man.” Not all wanted college, more took advantage of the funding provided for training programs, some 5.6 million, according to Heberling. As a result, about half of all college students in 1947 were WWII vets. Not only did the GI Bill change the higher education landscape but also played a large role in creating a middle in the United States.

In a report to Congress at the time, a study was conducted to determine the ROI on the GI Bill investment; they found a 7 to 1 return. They found that GI Bill users were earning higher wages, spending more of those wages on the economy, had increased productivity and increased tax revenues for the country. A true win-win for everyone.

Today, Post 9/11 vets are taking advantage of their benefits as well as giving those benefits to family members, to the tune of over 33 billion spent to date. Curt Coy, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity Veterans Benefits Administration U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, reported that VA is undertaking several initiatives to improve Veteran performance in college. They have launched a college comparison tool to help vets make good choices regarding their school.

The tool is founded on Eight Keys of Success:

1. Culture of well being
2. Support from leaders
3. Early Alerts for issues
4. Coordination of services for vets
5. Collaboration with other support agencies
6. Uniform data reporting for better vet tracking
7. Professional development for staff helping vets
8. Sustainable practices for vets

Thanks to VA's new GI Bill Comparison Tool (<http://benefits.va.gov/gibill/comparison>), vets can now find information online about Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits and the schools and training programs available to education beneficiaries. Before this tool launched, estimating how much beneficiaries may receive under the Post-9/11 GI Bill benefit was challenging. The new comparison tool makes it easy to estimate Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits with just one click. Bookmark this one - it is going to remain a favorite for a long time!

Mike Stahl, Deputy Director:

During a keynote address by Curtis Coy, Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity, Veterans Benefit Administration, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, I learned about recent efforts by the Student Veterans of America (SVA). SVA is a non-profit coalition of student veterans groups on over 950 college campuses across the globe. These member chapters are the “boots on the ground” that help veterans reintegrate into campus life and succeed academically. Find a chapter at www.studentveterans.org.

Dr. Sandy Winborne, Mileval/ACE Program Manager:

The Joint Services Transcript (JST) Forum, a pre-conference session was attended by approximately 40 people. The areas covered in the Forum included the current status of the JST to include the enhancements planned for the current fiscal year and the results of the “JST Enhancement Survey,” that college and university personnel involved with transcripts provided input. The JST Forum was an energetic session that created opportunity for participants to ask questions, receive answers, and discuss specific issues. The Awesome Joint Services Transcript, a conference concurrent session also addressed some of the same areas as the JST Forum and attendees seemed engaged with the current status of the JST and also showed interest in the next enhancements.

Continued on page 11

2014 CCME Symposium insights

Continued from page 10

Lt. Col. Eurydice Stanley, Reserve Component Advisor:

The most interesting and thought-provoking of the many outstanding sessions I attended at CCME this year was “Contextual Mentoring of Student Veterans: A Communication Perspective.” Dr. Barton Buechner, a retired Navy Captain, spoke about his doctoral work with successfully transitioning student veterans, and how the combined effects of multiple mentors helped them rebuild more resilient social worlds through higher education.

Buechner built on the work of Waller (1947), who predicted that higher education has the potential to help returning veterans “reconnect with the communicative world of society” through personal development. He referenced recent findings from a longitudinal study of World War II veterans by Vaillant (2012) that proves this predictive observation over time, and introduced a theory of “Cosmopolitan Communication” and the “Coordinated Management of Meaning” by Pearce (2008) that helps us to better understand how this happens. One of his conclusions was that dealing with the “moral injury” of Service-related trauma and readjustment is better viewed as a social and communication issue, and not necessarily an individual mental health problem.

More on Buechner’s research can be found at www.vetransitions.org. I am sure that his findings will have great implications for the voluntary education community!

Kiwanis Short, SOC/3rd Party Assessment Program Manager:

The SOC Degree Network System (DNS) Project Directors presented a mini-workshop for DNS member institutions. The session covered DNS basics: terminology, function, and Student Agreements. Questions were fielded on the relationship between the DNS and GoArmyEd, how to join different Services or how to expand their footprint in their current Services, and how to complete a Student Agreement. For those unable to attend, two more DNS workshops are scheduled: San Antonio, Texas (April); and Washington, DC (July). The SOC Web Site lists additional webinars and resources covering a wide variety of topics (www.soc.aascu.org/).



COUNCIL OF COLLEGE AND MILITARY EDUCATORS



Dr. Mike Heberling, CCME 2013 President, presents Andie Baridon, of Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges with the CCME Lifetime Achievement Award.



Dr. Carol Berry, DANTES Director, and Lt. Col. Eurydice Stanley, DANTES Reserve Component Advisor, pose before their cover photos of the Military Advanced Education magazine.

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