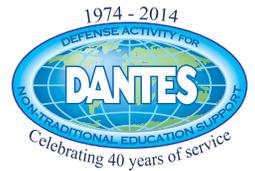


DANTES

INFORMATION BULLETIN



DECEMBER 2015
NUMBER 461

WORLDWIDE EDUCATION SUPPORT TO
THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

WWW.DANTES.DODED.MIL

DESAG: Two-way communication is key to success

DANTES continually promotes communication with the voluntary education community. To ensure communication with military members remains two-way, the DANTES Education Services Advisory Group (DESAG) has been resurrected. This group represents all Services and offers their specific perspective of voluntary education services and programs to DANTES; and, in turn, they pass information about these programs on to their education service teams supporting military members.

Initial meeting

The first DESAG meeting was held Oct. 28-29 at Pensacola, Fla., chaired by CMSgt Al Velez, DANTES Senior Enlisted Advisor, and Kiwanis Short, a DANTES Program Manager. Meeting content included:

- » DANTES Program Managers briefings
- » discussion of potential DESAG Charter changes
- » review of current DANTES Educational Publications and distribution

Continued on page 2

Mission and goals

The DESAG advises the DANTES Director on matters concerning the military Services' need for voluntary education services and programs.

Who is the DESAG?

The DESAG is an official forum for obtaining constructive input and responses from the military education community concerning DANTES voluntary education services, programs, publications, and program management processes. It also provides feedback on program execution and formulates suggestions and recommendations for the way ahead. Current representatives, along with the meeting chair and co-chair, are pictured on the right.



Chief Master Sgt. Al Velez (DANTES SEA); Jason Sibrel (Air Force); Master Sgt. Angelina Mclvor (Air Force Reserve); Ursula Miller (Army); Gordon Yowell (Coast Guard); Bart MacMillan (Marine Corps); Dr. Deborah Harris-Sims (Navy); Kiwanis Short (DANTES Program Manager).

What's Inside?	
Examinations	2
DANTES Personnel	3-4
DANTES European Advisor	5
TTT	6
Contacts	7



EXAMINATIONS NEWS

DANTES Fully Funded program underway!

Did you know that Service members can take CLEP and DSST exams free at any college or university that agrees to become a part of the DANTES Fully Funded program? What is the Fully Funded program? DANTES will provide funding for the initial (first time) administration of a CLEP or DSST exam title to test-takers for both the administration fee and the exam fee charged by the National Test Center (NTC). The Fully Funded program was implemented to facilitate the transition of DANTES test sites without NTCs to 100 percent Internet-based testing.

DANTES wants more institutions involved in the Fully Funded program. Testing personnel should notify DANTES of any on-campus institution that may be interested in becoming a part of the Fully Funded program. The testing agencies will then reach out to recruit the school. The administration fee was increased from \$20 to \$25 Oct. 1, 2015.

If you need more information on how to assist on-campus test centers in becoming a part of the Fully Funded program, contact the DANTES Exams Program at DSN 459-1919, 850-452-1919, or exams@navy.mil.

Students find success with DSST

By Dawn Draper-Jackson, DSST

DSST exams offer students an affordable pathway to graduation through prior learning assessment. In addition to saving money, they save the time it would take to complete a three credit college-level course. Each year, tens of thousands of students take a DSST exam and successfully “test out” of classes.

In 2015, DSST has seen very high pass rates for some of the most popular exam titles. A few examples are Here’s to Your Health, Principles of Supervision, and Introduction to Business; each has average pass rates of 80 percent or higher.

Over the past three months DSST has republished 12 titles. The improvements to the exams have been reflected in higher pass rates in subjects such as Technical Writing, Lifespan Developmental Psychology, and Environment and Humanity.

Proper test preparation is always a key factor in passing a DSST exam. There are many resources available for students in the “Test Preparation” section of the DSST website www.getcollegecredit.com, including links to practice tests, exam fact sheets, study guides, and blog articles.



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

Click **HERE** to view archived DIBs.

DESAG

Continued from page 1

- » development of a “Standard Publication Package” to ensure every education center receives the same resources

Educational publications review

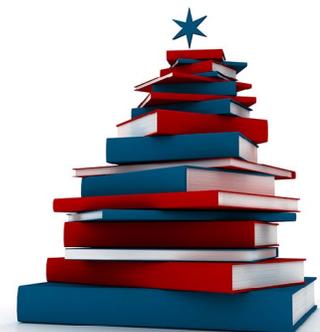
The DESAG spent over five hours reviewing 48 educational references and customer handouts. Many of the items are commercially published and others are no cost from the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Education. Before the meeting, a survey was sent out to the field to identify which publications are currently being used and determine if any new items were desired for educational counseling. The DESAG review resulted in a list recommending 15 hard copy and 11 online publications.

Once the list is finalized and approved, each military education center will have the opportunity to place a pre-order for the items. The pre-order process will be announced on the DANTES Pulse website (<http://dantespulse.dodlive.mil/online-catalog/>) along with emails sent out to military education offices.

The DESAG review and field input will help ensure military student readiness and success by providing the right Educational Publications to education offices in the field.

Next meeting

The next DESAG meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 2016.





Thinking of Attending College?

TA DECIDE is here to help.



DANTES PERSONNEL NEWS

So long, and thanks for all the fish*

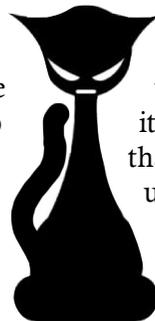
By Nancy Hamilton, DANTES Editor emeritus

Nothing lasts forever, including my stint as DANTES Editor. It's been a great six years, but I've left the soggy state of Florida for the dry Land of Enchantment (New Mexico, if you do not know) and it's time to move on to yet another chapter of my life.

DANTES has been my home-away-from-home since I retired from the Navy in 2001. I'm an editor, not a mathematician! But I figure that to be around 14 years. I started out as a data entry clerk in the Tuition Assistance program, then after about a year moved to the IT Department. Managing the IT Helpdesk and doing desktop computer support was fun, and similar to what I did in the Navy, but I was overjoyed when I was picked to fill the vacant Editor's position.

During my time as Editor I did my best to support the DANTES team and to get the most accurate and up-to-date voluntary education information out to the field – Service members, Veterans, education counselors, education institutions, any and every one that I could think of. Along the way I also worked on the DANTES website, updating the design and content, again to ensure the education message got to those that needed it. Now, we're in the Age of Social Media and I've tried my hand at all that new-fangled posting, tweeting, pinning, and what have you. I even learned what a hashtag is and how to wield it. All in the name of VolEd!

Having used tuition assistance, education counseling and other education benefits to finish my bachelor's degree while on active duty, I can attest to the fact that, if you buckle down and stick with it, you can reach



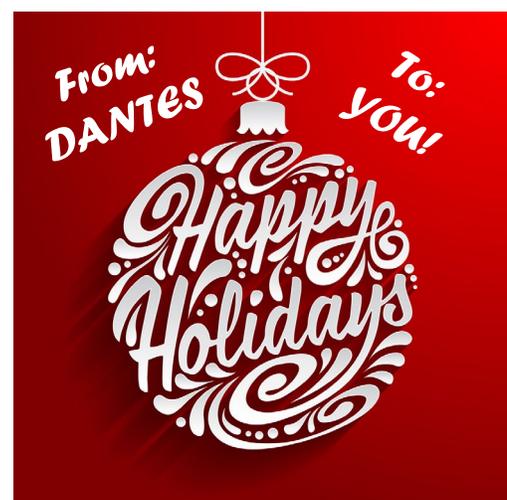
your education goals. It took me a VERY long time to finish my degree. Between work, family, work, moving every few years, family, and work, it took me almost 15 years. I mention it to show that it can be done – whether you are working on an undergraduate or graduate degree, or shooting for a certification, or advancing your knowledge, you just have to keep at it.

I'll get off my soap box now. Just wanted to thank everyone here at DANTES and out there in VolEd-land for the opportunity to have one of the best jobs ever. I'm sad to leave, but I leave you in the capable hands of Michelle Alexander – your new DANTES Editor. She'll do great things, I know, but go easy on her for a few months and at least let her get settled in.

One last thing – *get educated!*

Oh, and don't look away. And don't blink.

*Fourth book of the Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy trilogy by Douglas Adams



DANTES PERSONNEL NEWS (CON'T)

Fair winds and following seas to DANTES retirees



Barry Nelson served 25 years in the U.S. Navy. After his retirement, he began his federal civil service career in 1998 as an Education Counselor in San Diego, Calif. Two years later he became the Director of the Navy College Center in Pensacola, Fla. After that, Nelson became the Branch Head, Education Services Management Division at Center for Personal and Professional Development (CPPD) Voluntary Education (VOLED) Detachment, Pensacola. In 2007, he joined the DANTES team, first as the DANTES Examinations Program Manager then moving up to Department Head for the Education Programs Department. Nelson dedicated over 18 years of civil service, directly impacting Service members in achieving their education goals.

Darnel King began her 35 year federal civil service career through the Taper Worker Trainee Program in March 1981 working in the Comptroller Department at the Naval Supply Department, later renamed the Naval Supply Center. During this time she was mentored and trained in all aspects of Navy Budget and Accounting programs, holding various financial positions at the Naval Supply Center.

As a result of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), King was selected for the Budget Analyst position at DANTES in June 1995.

In 2001, she was selected as the Resources Management Department Head. Ever since, she has managed all financial aspects of DANTES, ensuring continued education support to the VolEd community.

Gains: Welcome aboard to all!

Donna Griffin-Jenkins, Financial Management Analyst

Griffin-Jenkins joined the DANTES team in November as a Financial Management Analyst. She began her civil service career in New Orleans at the Naval Support Center, then moved to the Naval Aviation Maintenance Training group, the Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Atlantic Center, the Navy Hospital, then the Center for Information Dominance. With over 18 years of civil service experience she is ready to jump into the DANTES finance world.

Brenda Hargrove, TTT Financial Technician

A Troops to Teachers (TTT) contractor since 2013, Hargrove was selected as a TTT Financial Technician. A native of Pensacola, Fla., she retired from the Army after 22 years of Service.

Sharon K. O'Donnell, Director's Administrative Assistant

O'Donnell started as the DANTES Director's Administrative Assistant Nov. 23. She retired from the Navy after 24 years of service and started her civil service career as the Management Assistant for the Director for Administration at the Naval Hospital, Pensacola.

Changes:

Michelle Alexander, DANTES Editor

Michelle Alexander accepted the Editor position and started Nov.

1. She was part of the DANTES Examinations Program and brings with her a solid background in DANTES programs and services.



DANTES EUROPEAN ADVISOR NEWS

Making education available to Service members, no matter where they are assigned

Service members stationed overseas often have more time to pursue their education goals than they do when they are home in the United States, simply because they are away from family and friends and often confined to a base or installation. DANTES, through contracts with three civilian institutions (Central Texas College, Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, and University of Maryland University College), provide a variety of educational opportunities to Service members in the contingency areas. However, it is the education center personnel on the ground who really make it happen. They are the ones that make sure educational opportunities are available, relevant, and are scheduled at times that accommodate Service member's schedules.

The DANTES European Representative recently visited several sites in the contingency areas and was quite impressed with the efforts expended by the team at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. Master Sgt. Michael Ward, Master Sgt. Katherine Roberts, and the entire team at the 379th EFSS/BTES Education Center have ensured lots of opportunities are available for the Service members to advance their career and educational goals.



Service members are definitely taking advantage of those opportunities. Master Sgt. Roberts (pictured left) demonstrated how personnel testing has increased over the past couple of months. First, she pulled a folder from older files that was only about half an inch thick with testing paperwork Service members must complete before testing. Then she pulled one from last August that was almost ten inches thick!

And it is not just personnel testing, but also education testing that is going strong. Service members can receive college credit for successfully passing a CLEP or DSST examination and apply those credits towards their degree requirements. In an effort to encourage CLEP and DSST testing, the education center staff conducted several events with catchy names such as



Maj. Nuila, Mr. Lackie, Tech. Sgt. Hayes, Master Sgt. Ward, Master Sgt. Roberts and Staff Sgt. Casas bring education opportunities to Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar, Service members.

the Education-a-Thon in August and the Fright Fest in October, and will promote the Jingle Fest in December. During these events, testing hours in the National Test Center are expanded for several days and walk-in testing is encouraged. The Education-a-Thon and Fright Fest events resulted in 185 exams taken by Service members and approximately 330 college credits were earned. College enrollments are also strong under the Al Udeid education center team leadership with almost 500 enrollments in courses taught face-to-face locally. Way to go 379th EFSS/BTES Education Center team!



The National Test Center at Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar

**Have a VoEd story to share?
Want to see a topic covered in the DIB?
Have a question about DANTES?
If so, email pubs@navy.mil.**

TROOPS TO TEACHERS NEWS

Teaching is a passion forged by Service

By M. Scott Fife, Idaho Troops to Teachers Representative

Brian Marinelli didn't know what he was going to do after he retired from the Air Force until he spent time as a volunteer in his daughter's classroom. After that experience, he knew he wanted to be a school teacher.



USAF Service member Brian Marinelli, Andersen AFB, Guam.

Brian retired as a Senior Master Sergeant after 23 years in the Air Force, and is now in his seventh year as an elementary school teacher in Boise, Idaho. He is currently teaching fifth- and sixth-grade gifted students. He teaches three different math courses, two science, and one language arts course each day.

While still in the Air Force he registered with Troops to Teachers (TTT), gaining advice, support getting his teacher certification, and assistance in finding his first teaching job.

In the Air Force he traveled the globe working in satellite communications. Now, he travels to a school building with the same desire and commitment to excellence as he had as a Service member. He loves being a school teacher and the Air Force helped prepare him. "I take to my classroom the same fire and commitment I had on the flight line in the Air Force. If you were dedicated to your work in the military — you will be dedicated as a school teacher also."

Dr. Gerald Bell, Marinelli's principal at Collister Elementary School in Boise, states, "Brian is an outstanding individual. He has great enthusiasm and passion for teaching and has a backbone for doing the right thing. He connects immediately with his students. He is a leader — confident, but with humility and ready to learn new skills."



Collister Elementary School teacher Brian Marinelli, Boise, Idaho.

Marinelli's first day of student teaching was snowy and cold. He brought a snow shovel with him from home and cleared the walkway to his classroom before school started. This got the attention of not only the custodians, but also the faculty and principal, who were all impressed with his commitment. He was later hired at that school — his first teaching job. Marinelli suggests that any Veteran considering teaching should volunteer to spend time in a classroom where a vet is teaching. TTT can assist in this.

Marinelli enjoyed his military career, and he now enjoys equally, if not even more, his second career as a school teacher. He encourages all Veterans with an interest in teaching to contact TTT to begin their next career to proudly serve again.



PROUD TO SERVE AGAIN

For general information on the TTT program:

» websites:

www.dantes.doded.mil/troops-to-teachers/troops-to-teachers.html

www.proudtoserveagain.com/

» email: ttt@navy.mil

» Toll free: (800) 231-6242

» DSN: 459-1942

» Fax: (850) 452-1960

What is TTT?

Troops to Teachers (TTT) is a DANTES-managed Department of Defense program that can help Veterans begin a new career as a public school teacher — giving them the opportunity to use their leadership skills, knowledge and experience to have a positive effect on our nation's youth.

All current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces whose last period of service is characterized as honorable may participate in the program for counseling and referral services. Those who meet certain education, military Service and registration requirements may also be eligible to apply for TTT financial assistance to assist with their transition to the classroom.

Service members have trained both junior and senior personnel throughout their careers. Now is the time to take those transferrable skills to America's classrooms!

DANTES Social Media

Join us for up-to-date information, conversations,
or just let us know how your education journey is going!

DANTES Twitter

www.twitter.com/DoD_DANTES

DANTES Pulse blog

www.dantespulse.dodlive.mil

DANTES Facebook

www.facebook.com/DANTES.DoD

DANTES Youtube

www.youtube.com/channel/UCAD8yGhGBeDAIPMW7Eu-sA



DANTES
6490 SAUFLEY FIELD ROAD
PENSACOLA, FL 32509-5243
<http://www.dantes.doded.mil>

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

Send all inquiries and letters to Code N01A at pubs@navy.mil.
Reproduction in whole or in part is permitted for any purpose of the United States Government, except that copyrighted materials cannot be reproduced without written permission from the copyright owner. The appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by DANTES of the linked websites, or the information, products or services contained therein.

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

Jeff Allen, Director
Michelle Alexander, Editor
pubs@navy.mil

DANTES Telephone Numbers DSN 459-xxxx; CML (850) 452-xxxx			
Office	#	Fax	E-mail
Counselor Support	1914	1965	counseling@navy.mil
DANTES DIB Editor	1904	1963	pubs@navy.mil
Director's Office	1901	1963	dantes@navy.mil
Distance Learning Programs	1915	1965	DantesDL@navy.mil
Distribution Center	1929	1962	dist@navy.mil
DoD MOU Program	1977	1965	voledconcerns@navy.mil
Education Programs Contract Mgmnt Admin	1917	1965	
Education Programs Dept. Admin	1917	1965	
European Advisor	011-49-611-143-544-1230 DSN: (314) 544-1230		usarmy.badenwur.usareur.mbx.dantes-euro@mail.mil
Examination Programs	1922	1964	exams@navy.mil
Higher Ed Programs Military Evaluations	1912	1964	DANTES_ace@navy.mil
Higher Ed Programs SOC	1913	1965	DANTES_SOC@navy.mil
Higher Ed Programs Compliance Oversight	1913	1965	DANTES_moucompliance@navy.mil
Reference Publications	1933	1970	refpubs@navy.mil
Senior Enlisted Advisor	1903	1963	ea@navy.mil
Training	1911	1965	danestraining@navy.mil
Troops to Teachers	1998	1960	ttt@navy.mil
Webmaster	1936	1965	dantes_webmaster@navy.mil