

# DANTES

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

JANUARY 2015  
NUMBER 450

WORLDWIDE EDUCATION SUPPORT TO  
THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



## Farewell to two more DANTES team members



**G**ood luck and thank you to Myra McElrath, Education Programs and Contract Management procurement specialist, as she moves on to new opportunities at the NAS Pensacola Naval Hospital. McElrath joined DANTES in 1992, starting in the administration department assisting the contract specialist. As the years

passed she changed departments as DANTES restructured, but she always provided the same expert service, handling procurements for DANTES programs and services.

In addition to her DANTES duties, she was often the first to step up and help out, whether planning events or supporting her fellow team members. Victoria Street, DANTES Contracts, said it so well: “Myra was such a positive inspiration to all of us. We will sure miss her!!”

McElrath looked back at her time at DANTES and said, “DANTES is full of wonderfully talented & knowledgeable individuals and I have enjoyed being part of this team!”

DANTES will miss her “Diva-licious” attitude and enthusiasm, but wish her the best in her new endeavors.

Good luck, Myra!



**D**ANTES bids farewell to John Page, DANTES Education Programs and Contract Management Department Head, as he retires Jan. 9 after 29 years of Federal service. Join us in celebrating his Federal career and expressing our gratitude and appreciation for his service, dedication, and a job well-done.

Page began his Civil Service career in 1987 with the Naval Education and Training Support Center Pacific (NETSPAC) in San Diego, Calif., as the Contract Administrator for Navy College Program for Afloat College Education (NCPACE). In 1993, he moved to Naval Education Training Program and Management Activity (NETPMSA) in Pensacola, Fla., as an NCPACE contract specialist.

In 2007 he joined DANTES, performing Contracting Officer Representative duties for multiple education program contracts. Then, in 2010, he moved up to department head. His knowledge, experience and dedicated service had direct impact on Service members in achieving their education goals and his leadership and performance have been of tremendous value to DANTES. And, for those who may not know him personally, Page always displayed the utmost respect, support and kindness to his fellow DANTES team members.

Page summed it all up: “I will miss my DANTES family, and the challenge of making education opportunities available to our Service members. It was a great ride, but it’s time to move on to new challenges and maybe some rest!”

As John’s next adventure begins, friends and coworkers at DANTES and across the Navy wish him “fair winds and following seas.”



### What’s Inside?

Examinations	3
Troops to Teachers	4
From the SEA	5
Contacts	6

Continued on page 2

# Farewell to John Page

Continued from page 1

John, they say that none of us are irreplaceable, but you come really close to breaking that old saw. Enjoy this new phase in your life, you have certainly earned it. Summing it up in an old Irish saying - "May your days be many and your troubles be few. May all God's blessings descend upon you. May peace be within you may your heart be strong. May you find what you're seeking wherever you roam.

Dr. Carol Berry  
DANTES Director

"John, without doubt you are one of the best bosses I've ever worked for. And after 23 years in the Navy and 13 years with DANTES, that's saying something! Enjoy your well-deserved retirement."

Nancy Hamilton  
DANTES Editor

"John - Now you can travel to your heart's content! Thank you for the tremendous support you have provided the DANTES European Representative Office, and particularly the support and guidance for the contingency area programs, services, and contracts. You've enabled educational opportunities to be available for countless Service members in the contingency areas. Sincere and heartfelt appreciation to you!"

Steve Myers  
DANTES European Advisor



John Page's likeness was turned into a bobble-head, courtesy of his always supportive co-workers.

"As he is a great personal friend, I can honestly say there are no words for the greatness of John."

Barry Nelson,  
Education Programs  
Department Head and  
carpool buddy

"It was an honor working with someone so professional, hard-working, and caring. He will be incredibly missed at DANTES !!"

Victoria Street  
DANTES Contracts

"Thanks John for 29 years of Government Service to your country! Over the past 7 years, you have been instrumental in ensuring DANTES programs and services were available for Service members worldwide increasing their opportunity to participate in voluntary education. Your leadership, dedication and professionalism set the example for the command and your friendship will be greatly missed by the entire staff. You made a lasting impact that will continue to help Service members reach their voluntary education goals for years to come! We wish you fair winds and following seas as you transition on to the next phase of your life."

Mike Stahl  
DANTES Deputy Director

## EXAMINATIONS NEWS

### Attention TCOs: Service members MUST use the new DANTES reimbursement form

Beginning Oct. 1, 2014, DANTES funding of Praxis and GRE Subject exams changed to a reimbursable basis. Eligible Service members are now required to pay for these exams up front, then complete the new online DANTES Reimbursement Form and submit it, along with the official score report, to DANTES for payment.

However, many DANTES test sites are still distributing the obsolete reimbursement form. It is imperative that the new edition of the reimbursement form be utilized. Using the old form could be very detrimental for Service members: non-receipt of payment and personally identifiable information (PII) spillage are just two possible outcomes. For example, if members use an obsolete form for the GRE, they would ultimately end up mailing forms to the wrong address and without “return to the sender” in place to protect their PII.

The new form is available at [www.dantes.doded.mil/ content/exams\\_reimbursement\\_form.pdf](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/content/exams_reimbursement_form.pdf). Service members can print the form and complete it, or complete the form electronically.

Test Control Officers (TCOs) should regularly monitor the DANTES website, DANTES Examinations Program Handbook (DEPH), and DIBs for funding policy updates and testing support information for military and military-affiliated civilians. Email questions or concerns to [exams@navy.mil](mailto:exams@navy.mil) or visit [www.ets.org/praxis](http://www.ets.org/praxis) for information regarding registration and test dates at a National Test Center.

### Retired DSST exams

As of Jan. 1, 2015, Prometric no longer offers the following exams at on-campus or on-base National Test Centers:

- » Business Law II
- » Introduction to the Modern Middle East
- » Physical Geology
- » Principles of Financial Accounting
- » Western Europe Since 1945

If Service members have completed any of these exams, score results will be reported to all transcript services. For more information, email DANTES Exams at [exams@navy.mil](mailto:exams@navy.mil).

#### Institutions take note:

We request that your institution update all necessary student information sites, including websites, portals, test centers and printed materials to reflect the 30+ active exams only.

### Here comes 2015; are you ready to take the next step?

Service members — the future is now and there is no better time to take the next step toward your educational and career goals. DSST can help you get to where you want to go.

Make 2015 the year to start, continue or complete your educational goals with tests that can provide credits for prior learning. How to start? Here are some suggestions:

- » browse the DSST list of 30+ exam titles and set your sights on a test that interests you
- » try a free five-question practice test
- » take aim on special interest areas with a free 10-question practice test via the DSST app or a 50-question practice test for \$5 via [www.getcollegedebit.com/](http://www.getcollegedebit.com/).

As part of the education benefits offered to military members and Veterans, DANTES supports Service members by funding the cost of all DSST exams (first attempts only – students are required to pay for retests of any failed exams).

These exams can reduce the number of classes required for your degree, which translates into less time and less money!

Email DANTES Exams at [exams@navy.mil](mailto:exams@navy.mil) for additional DSST information and answers to your questions.



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

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

# TROOPS TO TEACHERS NEWS

## Brian Riordan: Model Marine becomes model teacher

Autobiography from former South Carolina Troops to Teachers representative counselor



**Brian Riordan, teacher and Reservist**

Photo courtesy of S.C. TTT

Brian Riordan is a current Marine Corps Reservist as well as fourth grade teacher at Wellford Academy of Science and Technology, located in Wellford, S.C., Spartanburg District 5.

“I had always wanted to be a teacher, but my road to the classroom was long and winding. Despite completing a teacher preparation program and earning a Master’s of Science in Education at St. Bonaventure University, I joined the USMC and became an infantry officer in 1997. During almost ten years of active duty service, complete with several overseas deployments, I learned valuable lessons in leadership that would eventually transfer into my classroom. When I left active duty in 2006, and entered the business world, I quickly realized that I missed the sense of purpose that accompanied my military service.”

“It was then that I was drawn back to the military through the USMC Reserves, and returned to teaching through the Troops to Teachers program. With the support of the Troops to Teachers staff, I was able to update my teaching credentials and obtain a South Carolina state certification. I have been teaching for six years and truly enjoy every day. Teaching, like serving in

the military, is all about people. My job is to make education fun and worthwhile for nine- and ten-year-olds. It is my mission to help my students understand that they can make choices in their lives, and the better their education, the better the choices they get to make. For me, serving America’s youth is more than a job, it’s a passion.”

Brian Riordan joined the Southeast Region Troops to Teachers staff while simultaneously teaching and working in the Reserves. He served as a local contact for Troops interested in Troops to Teachers in South Carolina, where he provided a valuable outreach to currently serving military, separated, or retired military service members.

Riordan has recently been deployed and everyone at Troops to Teachers wishes him a safe and speedy return. Thank you for your Service in and out of the classroom.



**Brian Riordan at a parent teacher conference**

Photo courtesy of S.C. TTT

For general information on the TTT program:

- » Web sites:  
[www.dantes.doded.mil/service-members/troops-to-teachers/index.html](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/service-members/troops-to-teachers/index.html)  
[www.proudtoserveagain.com/](http://www.proudtoserveagain.com/)
- » email: [ttt@navy.mil](mailto:ttt@navy.mil)
- » Toll free: (800) 231-6242
- » DSN: 459-1320
- » Fax: (850) 452-1096



## FROM THE DESK OF THE SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR



CMSgt Adalberto Velez  
Senior Enlisted Advisor

**H**appy New Year! This month I want to talk about my first DANTES trip: promoting DANTES at the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) located at Maxwell-Gunter AFB, Montgomery, Ala.

I made the trip in mid-November with four DANTES teammates: HMCN (FMF/SW) Dave Acuff,

the outgoing SEA; Dr. Sandy Winborne, Military Evaluations Program Manager; Kiwanis Short, SOC Program Manager; and Demetra King, Exams Program Manager. We were invited to present the many DANTES programs and services to education counselors attending CCAF.

We arrived early enough to visit the Air Force Enlisted Heritage Museum. I have visited this facility before, and I continue to be impressed with the history and information available. The craftsmanship of displays and multi-informational-mediums used to promote and safeguard the rich heritage and tradition of United States Air Force Enlisted Warriors was dramatic, impressive and, at the same time, just plain out awesome. I hope this institution will “weather-well” the changes of time and be available to inspire future generations. I highly recommend a visit if you are ever in the area.

After our tour of the museum, we moved on to the CCAF to provide briefings to a group of new education counselor. This was the perfect setting to inform them of the many DANTES programs, services and resources in place to help them when speaking to airmen about their education goals and how to reach them.

While at CCAF, Lt. Col. Michael J. Artelli, Commandant of the CCAF, provided CCAF’s mission brief to us. He was eager to share his appreciation of what we do here at DANTES, as well as show how extremely proud he is of the dedication and commitment of the CCAF staff.

While there, I was able to speak with a new group of Education Service Officers and learned about exciting programs that included Associate-to-Baccalaureate-Cooperative, General Education Mobile, and Professional Certifications. To quote a past, but great, motto: “Aim High!” I was very impressed with the sharp professionalism of the Service members I encountered. At this location, I truly found some of the very “best-of-the-best” among the enlisted force as

they prepare, train and equip leaders for today’s and tomorrow’s challenges. I was amazed at the services and programs that are afforded to them today and future generations of airmen.

In closing, this column affords a unique opportunity to reach out to my fellow Service members concerning VolEd and DANTES programs. If there is an opportunity to visit or speak to leadership or education counselors, or visit enlisted events at your military installation please let me know, I would appreciate the invite. Also, remember, if you have a success story with military VolEd that you would like to share, send it to me and maybe you’ll see it published in this forum. I will start more travel in February. I hope I’ll see you at your location.

Send me an email at [ea@navy.mil](mailto:ea@navy.mil). I would enjoy hearing from you.

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### What is NCES and what can it do for you?

**T**he National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) is the primary federal entity for collecting and analyzing data related to education in the U.S. and other nations and is located within the U.S. Department of Education and the Institute of Education Sciences. NCES fulfills a Congressional mandate to collect, collate, analyze, and report complete statistics on the condition of American education; conduct and publish reports; and review and report on education activities internationally.

Need statistics on institutions or student enrollments? Faculty? The number of degrees completed? Distance Learning? The most popular degrees? All of that and more can be found on their website <http://nces.ed.gov/>.

They also provide information on:

- » publications, products and reports
- » surveys, programs and resources
- » data, tools, training and tables
- » Fast Facts that provide users with concise information on a range of educational issues, from early childhood to adult learning
- » school searches

For a glimpse of just what you can glean from NCES statistics, read Joshua Kim’s article in the Inside Higher Ed blog titled “Higher Ed by the Numbers” (<https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/technology-and-learning/higher-ed-numbers>). He breaks down the 2013 Digest of Education Statistics to show the numbers and trends. Some very interesting statistics indeed.

## DANTES Social Media

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

**DANTES Twitter** [https://twitter.com/DoD\\_DANTES](https://twitter.com/DoD_DANTES)

**DANTES Pulse blog** <http://dantespulse.dodlive.mil>

**DANTES Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/DANTES.DoD>

**DANTES Youtube** <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAD8yGhGBeDAtIPMW7Eu-sA>

# TESTING CALENDAR

[http://www.dantes.doded.mil/\\_content/Exams\\_Calendar.pdf](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/_content/Exams_Calendar.pdf)

**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.

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

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Director's Office	3150	1159	<a href="mailto:dantes@navy.mil">dantes@navy.mil</a>
Enlisted Advisor	3127	1159	<a href="mailto:ea@navy.mil">ea@navy.mil</a>
Reserve Advisor			Vacant
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Website	3191	1159	<a href="mailto:dantes_webmaster@navy.mil">dantes_webmaster@navy.mil</a>
Outreach	3120	1162	<a href="mailto:dantes_outreach@navy.mil">dantes_outreach@navy.mil</a>
European Advisor	011-49-6302-67-5814 DSN: (314) 496-5814		<a href="mailto:usarmy.badenwur.usareur.mbx.dantes-euro@mail.mil">usarmy.badenwur.usareur.mbx.dantes-euro@mail.mil</a>
<b>Troops to Teachers</b>	<b>3141</b>	<b>1096</b>	<b><a href="mailto:ttt@navy.mil">ttt@navy.mil</a></b>
<b>Education Support</b>	<b>3133</b>	<b>1162</b>	
Distribution Center	452-1082	1140	<a href="mailto:dist@navy.mil">dist@navy.mil</a>
Reference Resources	3131	1588	<a href="mailto:refpubs@navy.mil">refpubs@navy.mil</a>
<b>Education Programs</b>	<b>3245</b>	<b>1161</b>	
Counseling	3132	1161	<a href="mailto:counseling@navy.mil">counseling@navy.mil</a>
Distance Learning	3129	1161	<a href="mailto:DantesDL@navy.mil">DantesDL@navy.mil</a>
DoD MOU	3175	1161	<a href="mailto:voledconcerns@navy.mil">voledconcerns@navy.mil</a>
Examinations	3122	1160	<a href="mailto:exams@navy.mil">exams@navy.mil</a>
Military Evaluations	3213	1005	<a href="mailto:DANTES_ace@navy.mil">DANTES_ace@navy.mil</a>
SOC	3121	1161	<a href="mailto:DANTES_SOC@navy.mil">DANTES_SOC@navy.mil</a>
Third-Party Review	3121	1161	<a href="mailto:DANTES_thirdparty@navy.mil">DANTES_thirdparty@navy.mil</a>
Training	3181	1161	<a href="mailto:dantestraining@navy.mil">dantestraining@navy.mil</a>