

**DANTES**  
DOD VOLED PROGRAMS

## DoD Announces Pilot Tutor Program for Service Members

By Kiwanis Short, DANTES Program Manager

### In this issue:

>	Tutoring Services	1
>	Counselor's Corner	3
>	Troops to Teachers News	4
>	FY16 Priorities & Initiatives	5
>	Exams Update	7
>	Contacts	8

Help is here! The Department of Defense (DoD) Voluntary Education Program has launched a pilot program with Tutor.com to provide Service members with FREE online tutoring services. The goal of the pilot program is to assist Service members with reaching their professional development and educational goals by providing on-demand, 24/7, tutoring support.

If a Service member is struggling with a college course or simply needs help with a homework assignment, this funded tool is the place to turn. The program provides online, expert tutoring services to Service members at no cost to the member. Services are available anytime and from any-

where by going to the Tutor.com website, [www.tutor.com/military](http://www.tutor.com/military).

### Expert Assistance

The program provides one-to-one tutoring with a live expert. Experienced tutors are able to help with more than 40 college subjects. If a member needs help solving an algebra equation, understanding a physics problem or writing a research paper, tutors are available to provide personalized help on-demand. This program employs more than 3,100 expert tutors who are qualified and ready to help.

Continued on page 2

## Safe and Secure

Don't worry about safety! Tutors are carefully screened, background-checked experts providing safe and secure assistance. Tutors and students communicate in a secure, online classroom using text chat and by drawing on an interactive whiteboard. There are no webcams or telephones used and no personal information is shared between the tutor and student.

## Ease of Access

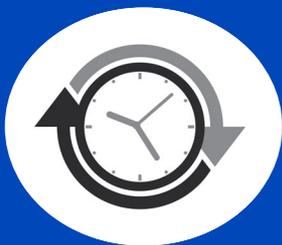
No matter what shift a Service member works, tutoring services are available around-the-clock, 361 days a year except January 1, July 4, U.S. Thanksgiving Day and December 25. Students can access the online service using any Internet-enabled device, including smart phones and tablets. If a member has a question, tutors are available on-demand. Students can also schedule future tutoring sessions or drop off papers for offline tutor review.

## Education Tool

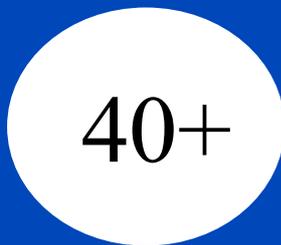
The Department of Defense wants Service members to be successful in pursuing their education and professional development. A robust arsenal of learning resources exists to help Service members pursue their education. This program is being offered to further explore the addition of tutor services as another quality education tool.

"Ninety six percent of students who use Tutor.com report that they get better grades, feel more confident and complete their coursework and assignments on time," said Sandi White, Tutor.com's General Manager of Institutional Business.

Eliminate the frustration and procrastination that schoolwork can bring. Service members can access the help they need by exploring DoD's pilot program. Go to [www.tutor.com/military](http://www.tutor.com/military) to learn more. 🎓



**Help 24/7**



**All Core Subjects, All Skill Levels**



**Expert Tutors You Can Trust**



**Safe, Learning Environment**



## What Does Research Say About the Benefits of Tutoring Services?

### Higher Grades & Persistence Rates

Students who frequently used tutoring services (more than 10 times) had higher grade point averages and 10% higher persistence rates than students who infrequently used the service.

- Cooper (2010) Journal of College Reading and Learning »

### Improvement for Developmental-Level Students

Students in developmental college courses who used tutoring services had significant academic gains in reading, writing, and math classes.

- Fullmer (2012) Journal of College Reading and Learning »

### Improved Student Success

Students who used tutoring services had a higher percentage of As and Bs, lower course withdrawal rates, and higher persistence rates.

-Vick, Robles-Pina, Martirosyan, & Kite (2015) Community College Enterprise »

## What do Military Students Think About DoD-sponsored Tutoring?

Of students who used the program this fiscal year:

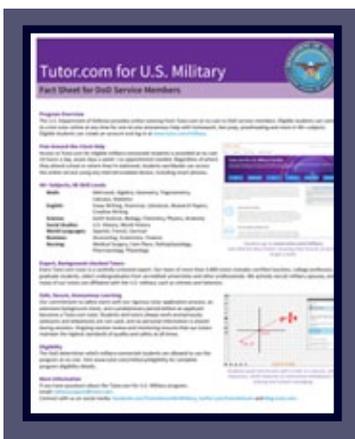
- » 99% said that they were glad the service was being offered
- » 96% indicated that the tutoring service was helping them become more confident in their school work
- » 95% noted that the service was helping them to complete their homework assignments
- » 97% revealed that the tutoring service helped to improve their grades
- » 98% mentioned that they would recommend the tutoring service to a friend

## Counselor Tools & Resources

Tutoring services can have positive impacts on student academic performance. Below are some tools available for counselors to use as they ensure Service members are aware of this program.

### Download and Display the Official Fact Sheet

An official program fact sheet is available for download and print to display in your education center or provide to students as a handout. Click on the picture to get to website.



### Follow and Share on Social Media

Social media is a great way to share information quickly. Each week DANTES Communications Division will be providing content on Facebook and Twitter that you can use to share on your official education center accounts. Use this tool to spread awareness of DoD VoEd programs. You can go to Twitter; [https://twitter.com/DANTES\\_DoD](https://twitter.com/DANTES_DoD) or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/DANTES.DoD>.



## 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 help 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! 🎓



## A Successful Transition: A new teacher shares his story

West Virginia Army National Guard Sergeant Michael S. McKenzie now teaches health.

Like many youth, Michael S. McKenzie faced challenges in his younger days, but his middle school health teacher and coach never gave up on him.

“I was a high school drop-out who was lost in drugs and alcohol,” said McKenzie, a sergeant in the West Virginia Army National Guard. He recently secured a position teaching Health with the West Virginia Mountaineer Challenge Academy in Kingwood, W.Va. with the help of the Troops to Teachers North Atlantic Region Office. Those early lessons have stayed with McKenzie and now enhance his effectiveness as a teacher at the academy.

The Mountaineer Challenge Academy is part of the National Youth Challenge Program which began in 1993, when the National Guard was directed to develop a plan to “add value to America” by providing values, skills, education and self-discipline to young people, incorporating the structure and esprit de corps found in the military model. The academy gives academically challenged 16 to 18 year olds a second chance at obtaining their basic education.

The program uses eight core components in a quasi-military environment during a 22-week residential and one-year post-residential follow-up program.

McKenzie credits the West Virginia Army National Guard with giving him the opportunity to go to college. He enlisted in 2008, deployed to Kuwait for a year in 2011, and was deployed in West Virginia’s Randolph County during Hurricane Sandy, which he described as the highlight of his military career.

“We worked 20-hour days to help our community after the hurricane,” he said. “Most of the community was without power for two weeks, so it was very rewarding to give back during a time of need.” McKenzie majored in Health and Physical Education at West Virginia University, completing his undergraduate degree in 2014. He is scheduled to start a master’s program in Education Leadership this semester.

“Coach Carr is currently the principal at my old middle school,” said McKenzie. “I guess you could

say I am following in his footsteps as a health teacher, and eventually, as a principal. I chose health and physical education because I love to work out and love learning how the body works. There is a huge child obesity epidemic today and I want kids to know what happens when you put something into your body (good and bad) so they can make educated decisions.”

When asked what he liked most about working at the academy, McKenzie enthusiastically said, “I absolutely love it! We take approximately 150 adolescents, who probably were not going to earn their high school diploma, and work with them so they can accomplish that goal and become contributing members of society. McKenzie’s story clearly shows that sometimes lessons learned from a rocky start in life can provide a valuable perspective in the classroom.

Take the first step toward helping the next generation of Americans succeed, register for the Troops to Teachers program today, [www.proudtoserveagain.com](http://www.proudtoserveagain.com). 🎓



# DANTES FY16 Priorities & Initiatives

## **New 2016 Priorities**

DANTES exists to ensure that Service members have the program support necessary to identify and pursue their postsecondary education goals. Each year, with policy and program direction from the Inter-Service Voluntary Education Board (IVEB), we plan and execute activities that are committed to Service member academic and career transition success. This is done through exploring innovative ways to deliver education solutions and improving contract and program management processes. For FY16, our priorities center on initiatives that test new program concepts and support the voluntary education (VolEd) community.

## **Test Control Officer Training**

In order to become an official Test Control or Alternate Test Control Officer (TCO or ATCO), personnel must complete online training. The Examinations Team is currently redesigning this training to align with new program policies and reduce the amount of time it takes to complete the course. Also, the annual TCO refresher training video is being updated and enhanced.

## **DANTES Education Services Advisory Group (DESAG)**

In October 2015, the DESAG met for the first time to get acquainted with DANTES program staff, vet the group charter, and to develop recommendations for the Publications program. The committee will meet quarterly to advise DANTES on program improvements and to voice the needs within the military VolEd community.

## **Virtual Training Series**

Last year, DANTES conducted several joint service pilot training opportunities to test delivery platforms for live, virtual training. This year, DANTES will be establishing a virtual training series to assist education service providers in understanding how to leverage Defense education programs to support military student-success.



### Tutor.com Pilot

The program provides tutoring services with education experts able to help with more than 40 subjects, to include English, Algebra, Statistics, Physics, Accounting, and world languages, plus writing projects like research papers and creative essays.

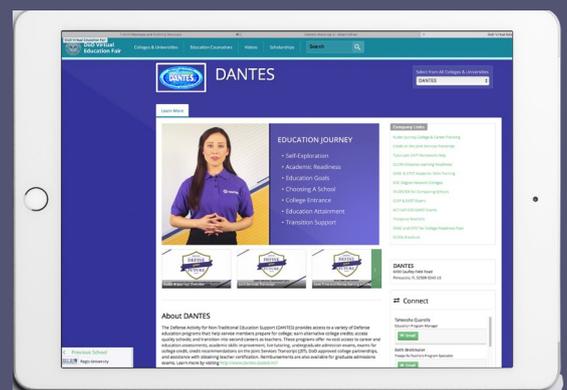


### Improve DANTES Strategic Communications

DANTES is currently in the process of improving its ability to deliver key messages about Defense education programs to Service members and the VoEd community. A Communications Division within the organization will be providing tools that can be used at the local level to help promote military student awareness of programs that support positive student outcomes.

### DoD Virtual Education Fair Pilots

On Nov. 19, DANTES hosted the first Department of Defense (DoD) Virtual Education Fair as a pilot to test the feasibility of using virtual events to increase Service members' awareness of and connection to VoEd opportunities. The first pilot included seven government agencies and 43 academic institutions. The second pilot event is currently being planned for late Spring of this year.





## Paper-Based Reimbursement Forms Are No Longer Accepted as of March 1, 2016

All paper-based DANTES Exams Reimbursement Requests (DANTES Form 1560/50) received by mail after March 1, 2016 will be returned to the Service member with instructions referring them to the “Electronic Reimbursement Form”. Service members should select GMAT, GRE or Praxis and click on the “Electronic Reimbursement Form”; access the Exams Reimbursement Center, and review the Service member reimbursement responsibilities. A valid Uniformed Services CAC is required to access the Reimbursement Center and to provide proper certification for Reimbursement requests. Education Center personnel should advise Service members to read all instructions before completing the online form and ensure that they are prepared to upload the required official score report and payment receipts. DAIMS will verify reimbursement eligibility and route the request electronically to the Exams team for processing. The form is available online through the DANTES website at [www.dantes.doded.mil/examinations](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/examinations).

In order to avoid payment delay, Service members should begin using the DANTES Electronic Reimbursement form immediately.

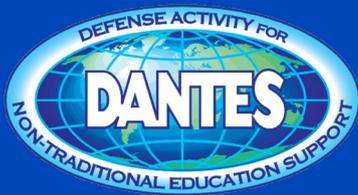
## DANTES Academic Information Management Systems (DAIMS) Replaces TCO Portal

The DANTES Academic Information Management System (DAIMS) is live and available for use by currently appointed DANTES Test Control Officers (TCOs). DAIMS replaces the TCO portal in order to allow TCOs to have access to both test site information, Service member data, and exam forms and documents. Alternate TCOs, Test Examiners and Interim TCOs currently do not have access to DAIMS, but will be notified via email when access is available.

To access DAIMS, currently appointed TCOs must register in DAIMS using their CAC Card, at <https://daims.doded.mil>. Once registered, DANTES will activate your account and you will receive an email stating that your account is active. Once your account is active, you can begin to utilize DAIMS.

Included in this phase is the Exam Reimbursement module, which provides Service members direct access to the system to submit for reimbursement. TCO verification on the reimbursement form is no longer required. DAIMS will verify reimbursement eligibility and will route the request electronically to the Exams team for processing. 🎓

## Questions may be directed to DANTES Exams at [exams@navy.mil](mailto:exams@navy.mil)



# DANTES

## DOD VOLED PROGRAMS

**DANTES**  
Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education  
Support

📍 6490 Saufley Field Road, Pensacola, FL 32509  
☎ (850) 452-1901  
✉ [DANTES@navy.mil](mailto:DANTES@navy.mil)

**DANTES OCONUS**  
European Advisor (Contingency Operation Support)

☎ 011-49-611-143-544-1230/1210  
✉ [usarmy.badenwur.usareur.mbx.dantes-euro@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.badenwur.usareur.mbx.dantes-euro@mail.mil)

**W** [www.DANTES.DoDed.mil](http://www.DANTES.DoDed.mil)

**B** [DANTESpulse.DoDlive.mil](http://DANTESpulse.DoDlive.mil)



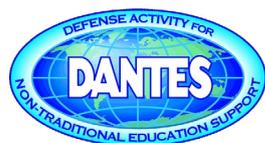
[FB/DANTES.DoD](https://www.facebook.com/DANTES.DoD)



[@DANTES\\_DoD](https://twitter.com/DANTES_DoD)



[Youtube.com/DoDDANTES](https://www.youtube.com/DoDDANTES)



## DANTES INFORMATION BULLETIN

**Jeff Allen, Director**  
**Michelle Alexander, Editor**

### DANTES Information Bulletin

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](mailto: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.