

**DANTES**  
DOD VOLED PROGRAMS

982nd Combat Camera Company (Airborne), Spc. Gary Silverman

## Military Skills Lead to Career Certifications

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### Benefits of Career and Technical Education while Serving

By Erin Roberts, Communications Division, DANTES

Did you know that there are in excess of 200 different jobs or potential career fields offered in the U.S. Air Force? There are more than 80 in the Health and Medicine specialty and more than 130 different jobs in the Computers & Computer Science specialty. The Army offers similar numbers with more than 150 career paths, as do the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard.

If a Service member fulfills just one enlistment of 4-6 years, he or she will have generally attended months of training in a respective career field, leadership skills and/or management skills. Most members will have a good working knowledge of general duties that are expected when transition-

ing to the civilian job market. Of course, some service members may realize the career they have been trained in just isn't what they want to do as a civilian and may be interested in another career field before separating or retiring.

What if the Defense Department aligned a member's valuable career and professional training and a member's military experience with a Defense education program that helped ensure members were more successful when transitioning into the civilian labor market and finding employment after military service.

Well, they have! It's called the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, offered by Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges.

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## What is CTE?

The Department of Defense (DoD) contracted with Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) to launch the new Career and Technical Education (CTE) program last year, aligning with the Defense Department's Voluntary Education (VolEd) strategic plan. The CTE program serves as a pathway to help Service members transition from a military career into the civilian labor market. It operates with a career focus in specific areas that reflect the needs of the military, offer bright employment outlooks for members after military service, and meet certain DoD-established criteria to ensure quality education opportunities for Service members.

Education benefits continue to be one of the top-ranked reasons that Service members enlist in the military. They know that post-secondary education greatly increases their earning potential when transitioning to civilian life. If members are going to spend 10-20 years, or even just 4-6 years, in a specific military career field, their training and military experience should count for something. The CTE program identifies credit-bearing certificate programs which leverage that military training and can be incorporated into an associate or bachelor's

degree. Plus, the program's certificate requirements must meet certain criteria that ensure a quality educational experience for the Service member. For specifics on the membership criteria, go to: <http://soc.aascu.org/career-and-technical-education/membership>

## CTE Resource List

SOC, DoD and the Military Services have partnered to develop the CTE Resource list that highlights educational credentials which can be completed during military service. Completion of a certificate program in one of the selected career clusters can help prepare Service members for a civilian career with high demand and positive growth potential.

### The current career clusters include:

- Business Management and Administration
- Health Sciences
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety, Corrections & Security
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics

The Resource list is located at: <http://www.soc.aascu.org/career-and-technical-education/soc-cte-member-institutions>. 



Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Steven King

## How does CTE benefit the Service member?

There are several benefits to the CTE program;

- Certificates offer a short-term pathway (15-30 credit hours) to gain a credential for civilian employment, while enhancing skill sets and knowledge in support of a military occupational specialty.
- Participating institutions agree to recognize and award credit for military training and occupational experiences, as appropriate to the certificate being awarded.
- Course requirements for certificate programs must fully integrate into other college-offered associate degree programs.
- Certificates are stackable, serving as a building block for an associate or bachelor's degree.
- Cost of tuition must not exceed military tuition assistance (TA).
- SOC's CTE certificates link to career pathways with bright employment outlooks.
- Institutions and certificate programs appearing on the CTE Resource list have been carefully selected, based on program requirements determined by the DoD Voluntary Education Chief.

## Who is eligible?

Service members on Active and Reserve Components, including the National Guard, are eligible to use the CTE Resource list as a decision tool in preparation for education and future transitioning from the military. Before enrolling, a military education counselor must provide approval and establish a degree plan with the member.

SOC's CTE certificates are also approved by the State Approving Agency (SAA) for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) education benefits. Members can use their GI Bill education benefits to fund a certificate program while enlisted in the military and opt to continue the program as a civilian after transitioning from military service.

## SOC CTE Program Background

The initial phase of the CTE program launched with 119 certificate programs from 33 institutions. This fall, the CTE program will announce another open application period as SOC seeks to increase the number of colleges and universities included on the CTE Resource list.

DoD continues to update and add high-demand occupational career fields to the program. The next round of program submissions will include the following career clusters:

- Homeland Security
- Health Services Management
- Applied Science and Technology
- Psychology

Certificates selected for inclusion on the CTE Resource list represent the needs of the Military Services and meet program requirements. Visit the SOC website at: <http://www.soc.aascu.org/> for more information.

For further CTE questions, contact the SOC Career and Technical Education Program Coordinator at 800-368-5622 or [fergusons@aascu.org](mailto:fergusons@aascu.org). 🎓



## Nellis AFB CLEP-A-THON Saves \$120.5K in TA!

By William C. Ide, Chief of Education & Training, and Erin Roberts, DANTES Communications Division

Nellis AFB's first CLEP-A-THON was a great success, surpassing all expectations! The CLEP-A-THON was held Sept. 19-23. During this week, 241 candidates were tested, resulting in a significant increase for the education center since the average number of tests administered at Nellis per month is 166 tests. In total, 511 semester credits were earned, giving several Airmen their last courses needed for their Community College of the Air Force degree.

As an added incentive, the education center also held a competition for the most passed exams during the CLEP-A-THON. To Nellis ed center personnel, the test takers are all superstars, but two in particular exceeded their expectations. The first place winner was Christopher Spicher, who passed five exams. Dalton Fisher finished second with four passed exams. Both Airmen received a Certificate of Excellence for their outstanding achievements.

A big shout out also goes to Ms. Nicole Ywakiem and Ms. Emma Raver of National University for conducting the CLEP-A-THON event. These two test examiners took care of walk-ins for 5 days straight from 8 am-3 pm. When all was said and done, they administered 241 CLEP and DSST tests. This total equates to approximately \$120.5k in Air Force military tuition assistance (TA) savings and about \$6k in potential revenue for National University. The word "awesome" is inadequate in describing this incredibly successful event.

Kudos and sincere thanks to the Nellis AFB team of education professionals and to the Airmen who took the time to pursue their education!



Christopher Spicher, CLEP Star 1st place winner



Dalton Fisher, CLEP Star 2nd place winner

We want to share your success stories.  
Email [dantes\\_outreach@navy.mil](mailto:dantes_outreach@navy.mil) for details.



## Hot News

### FREE CLEP eGuides at Checkout

As of Oct. '11, DANTES-funded candidates who register for a CLEP exam will receive the corresponding CLEP eGuide automatically and at no cost. CLEP eGuides, developed and published by the College Board, are the official study resource for CLEP exams. They include practice questions, exam content details, test-taking tips and information about earning credit through CLEP.

When a DANTES-funded candidate registers for a CLEP exam, the eGuide will be added to a candidate's cart automatically prior to completion of the checkout process. After completing the checkout, the candidate will receive an email with instructions for downloading the eGuide. All standard eGuide terms and conditions will apply.

DANTES-funded candidates can also order free eGuides separately, even if they have not yet registered for an exam. To order an eGuide without registering for an exam, a candidate should add only the eGuide to his or her cart and then proceed through the standard checkout process. As long as the candidate has self-identified as DANTES-funded, the cost of the eGuide will appear as \$0 and no payment will be required.

By providing eGuides to DANTES-funded candidates directly, the CLEP program is making it easier than ever for military candidates to familiar-

ize themselves with CLEP content and practice for CLEP exams. Service members can also obtain free CLEP eGuides from their base education offices.

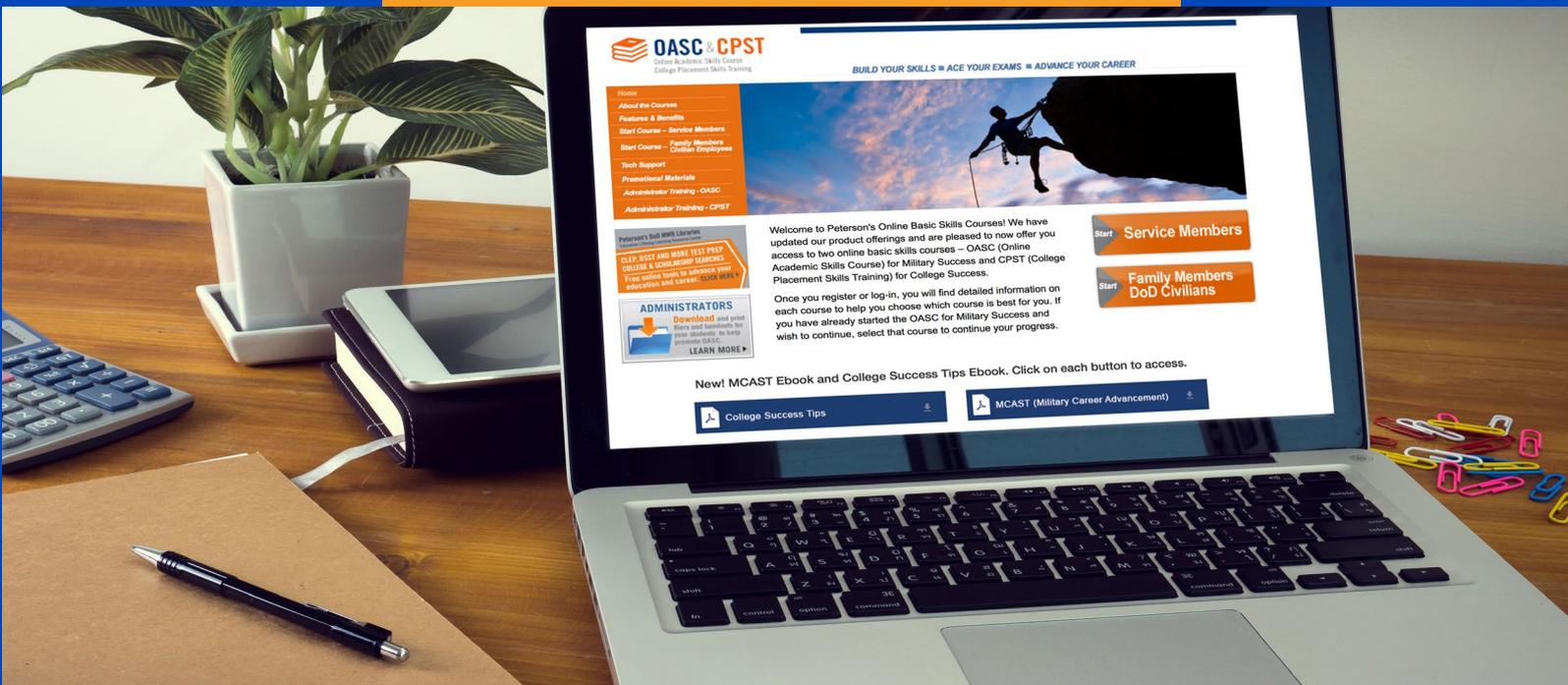
### Auto-cancellation of DANTES-funded CLEP Registration Tickets

As of Sept. 30, DANTES-funded registration tickets will be automatically cancelled after six months. This change means that DANTES-funded candidates who do not test within the six-month window will now be eligible to reregister for their exams using DANTES-funding. The candidate will receive an email indicating that the ticket has been cancelled and that he or she can reregister for the exam at another time.

### Troops to Teachers Program Update

The Troops to Teachers (TTT) Program assists transitioning Service members who choose to pursue a second career as K-12 public, charter or Bureau of Indian Affairs teachers by providing counseling, referral services and financial support to eligible participants.

Currently, the grant process that supports TTT state office operations is being reevaluated. The TTT National Office is available to assist with services aimed at providing participants with counseling, knowledge about state certification requirements and routes to state teacher certification. In addition, applications for participation in the TTT program are still being received and funding for stipends and bonuses remains available. Questions may be submitted using the "Ask a Question" link at: [www.proudtoserveagain.com](http://www.proudtoserveagain.com) or email [TTT@navy.mil](mailto:TTT@navy.mil). 



## 700 New DSST Testing Locations Offer FREE Top 10 DSST Exams

DSST exams are more accessible than ever before. The addition of 700 Prometric Test Center locations, both stateside and internationally, offer a broader range of fully-funded testing locations to make scheduling and taking a DSST exam more convenient for Service members. The top 10 most popular DSST exams are available at these new locations for DANTES-funded, eligible Service members to take free of charge at Prometric Test Centers worldwide.

The following exams are available at the 700 new locations:

- Principles of Supervision
- Computing and Information Technology
- Human Resource Management
- Organizational Behavior
- Ethics in America
- Health and Human Development
- Introduction to Business
- Introduction to World Religions
- Substance Abuse
- Business Ethics and Society

Eligible Service members can get started by visiting the DSST website @ [www.getcollegetcredit.com/institutions/search](http://www.getcollegetcredit.com/institutions/search). Click the green button labeled "Take a DSST Exam at a Prometric Test Center." It is important that Service members review the information on the scheduling page and check the DANTES Funding Guide to confirm eligibility.

### NOTE:

- Prometric Test Centers are not available to military re-testers or civilians at this time
- Prometric Test Centers are NOT the same as National Test Centers

Visit [www.getcollegetcredit.com](http://www.getcollegetcredit.com) or email [dsstcenter@prometric.com](mailto:dsstcenter@prometric.com) for more info. 🎓

## SUCCESS Ebooks Available under OASC/CPST

Help Service members learn about how to be successful in both their military career and in their education goals. The following booklets are now online Ebooks available to Service members at no cost.

Access them via the DANTES OASC/CPST site:

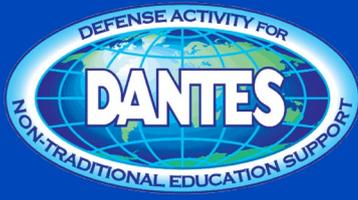
<http://www.nelnetsolutions.com/DantesNet/>

- DANTES Stock #2441 (Your Military Career Advancement Success Tips - MCAST)
- DANTES Stock #2448 (College Success Tips for Adult Learners - CST)

OASC/CPST academic skills training and the booklets are also available to family members and DoD civilians at no cost via:

<http://www.nelnetsolutions.com/DantesNet/>

NOTE: Education centers can order the hard copy (paper) booklets in FY17. Ordering will be announced by Dec. 31, 2016. 🎓



# DANTES

## DOD VOLED PROGRAMS

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

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### DANTES INFORMATION BULLETIN

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

#### DANTES Information Bulletin

The DANTES Information Bulletin is published monthly to inform education personnel about DANTES programs and to help promote more efficient customer service to Service members.

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