

Countdown to DoD Worldwide 2009!

Less than four months remain until the DoD Worldwide Education Symposium, and the excitement is building. Last month, 160 booth spaces in the exhibit hall sold out.

Exhibitors are primarily colleges and universities promoting their military-friendly programs. Several new exhibitors will be on hand this year to display everything from certification opportunities to innovative learning tools and

services. Military Service exhibits will be prominently highlighted in the center foyer dubbed Patriot Plaza.

A complete listing of exhibitors will be added to the WW09 Web site at <http://www.ww09Atlanta.com>.

This year, the symposium also will make good use of the exhibit hall by allowing complimentary access to local Service members.

On July 29, uniformed Service

members will be granted a free pass to explore the exhibits on display. A campaign to promote this “World’s Largest Military Education Fair” is under way at military installations within commuting distance of Atlanta.

Registration activity has seen a surge and the number of registered attendees now exceeds 1,000.

With four months to go, a sell out

Continued on page 3

Army Preparatory School celebrates six-month anniversary

By Capt. Heath A. Steele
TRADOC Public Affairs

This is not your typical classroom. Even the walls suggest a smart salute, broad squared shoulders, and if not quite six-pack abs, pretty close. It may not be typical, but it is effective.

February marks the six-month point for the Army Preparatory School (APS) at Fort Jackson, S.C., a pilot program that provides future Army recruits with the educational requirements necessary for Army service. Every APS student meets or exceeds every other requirement for enlistment, except having a high-school diploma or equivalent.

The school opened its doors in August 2008 with two recruits and has grown steadily each week. To date, 766 Soldiers have obtained their General Educational Development (GED) degree and moved on to Basic Combat Training.

“The Army has always been an institution where citizens find opportunities,” said Lt. Gen. Benjamin Freakley, commander of the U.S. Army Accessions



Command. “The Army Prep School is doing just that – giving young Americans the opportunity they wouldn’t get elsewhere.”

The school currently has the capacity to train 240 students each week. Since APS has a 98 percent graduation rate, with its current success, the Army expects that nearly 1,500 Soldiers will graduate from the course and move toward successful Army careers by the end of the fiscal year.

The average APS student’s score currently rests at 576 out of 800

possible points on the GED – higher than the 2007 national average of 531. The point difference could be a result of APS’ approach to instruction.

“About 10 percent of our students have attempted to pass the GED in the past year but failed,” said Capt. Brian Gaddis, APS company commander. “Most were unsuccessful due to the outside distractions they had back home. We take all those distractions away.”

Early results show many APS students continue that success after graduation and go on to excel in basic training among their unit’s non-APS graduates. For example, APS graduates scored higher in Basic Rifle Marksmanship, with 93 percent qualifying on their first attempt, compared to 70 percent unit-wide, Gaddis said.

Most APS graduates met the Army standard on their first Army Physical Fitness Test; the average APFT score for APS graduates was 245, compared to the unit average of 230, Gaddis added.

Continued on page 2



DANTES TRIVIA

This is the tenth in a series of trivia questions commemorating DANTES 35th anniversary, which will be celebrated July 29, 2009, at DoD's Worldwide Education Symposium in Atlanta. Be the first person to submit the correct answer to pubs@navy.mil for a chance to win a special prize and be recognized at the Symposium.

Question #10:

In what year did the Military Installation Voluntary Education Review (MIVER) project begin?

Click button to submit answer or e-mail it to pubs@navy.mil



Since there were no correct answers submitted for last month's trivia question (90 National Test Centers operating in the United States at the time the question was asked), the value of the first correct answer to this month's question is doubled.

Want the DIB sent directly to your e-mail?

If you would like to have the DANTES Information Bulletin (DIB) sent to your e-mail each month, click on the icon at right or send an e-mail request to pubs@navy.mil.



U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Class Joshua Bruns/Released

U.S. Navy Electrician's Mate Fireman Earl Jones, Electrician's Mate 2nd Class Kelly Geno and Machinist's Mate 2nd Class Thad Faulkner study aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71), while under way in the Gulf of Oman.

FAA training available at WW09

A DANTES Credentialing Program staff member will conduct training on the administration of FAA exams at the 2009 DoD Worldwide Education Symposium (WW09) in Atlanta.

Two sessions will be available from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on July 26 or 27, which leaves plenty of time to enjoy the many other special activities at WW09. Contact certprog@navy.mil for further information.

Army Preparatory School celebrates six-month anniversary

(continued from front)

"These Soldiers joined the Army to obtain their GED and have already seen positive results from joining the Army," said Capt. Michael Clark, basic training company commander of Company F, 2nd Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment. "I would gladly take a whole company of these Soldiers because I know they 100-percent want to be here."

APS' focus is not solely on the younger population. While the average age of the students is slightly older than 21, the range of students obtaining their GED is as old as 41 and as young as 17.

If the program continues to progress successfully, new programs and schoolhouses could open at other basic training installations around the country. In an era when less than 30 percent of the American population is qualified for military service, the Army is developing ways to prepare those who wish to serve their country.

"I am so thankful this program came around," said Pvt. Kyle Rucker, the first student to graduate from APS. "If it hadn't, I would still be working a dead-end job."

Seeing Soldiers like Rucker succeed is proof to Gaddis that the program is on the right track.

"This is not just great for the Army, this is great for the Soldiers," he said. "We're changing lives here."

Thirty five years
of DANTES



1974 — 2009



Looking back
to the year:

1991

In this year, the Military Installation Voluntary Education Review (MIVER) program was sponsored by DoD, the Army/Navy/Air Force and Marine Corps to assess the quality of VolEd programs at selected military installations.

DANTES is counting down to DoD Worldwide 2009

(continued from front)

of sleeping rooms at the host hotel, the Atlanta Marriott Marquis, is inevitable.

The overflow hotel, the Hyatt Regency Atlanta, has available rooms and is a convenient option to those who miss out at the Marquis.

The Hyatt provides a covered walkway across the street to the Marriott. The freshly renovated Marriott Marquis will be completely dedicated to WW09 during the week of July 27-31. Its 47-story atrium provides a lavish setting for the more than 100 sessions to be offered.

Persons attending are reminded that a “register now, pay later” option is available if they have not yet registered. For registration and lodging information go online to <http://www.ww09atlanta.com>.



Uncle Sam, shown during his appearance at WW06, wants to see you at WW09 in Atlanta.

DoD Worldwide Education Symposium 2009

Congratulations to March trivia winner

The Sergeant Major of the Army and the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff are the only members of the United States Armed Forces – below the rank of brigadier general/rear admiral – to be authorized a positional color (flag). Congratulations again to three-time winner, Larry Cousins, Education Technician, Navy College Office, Everett, Wash.

Team standings (as of March 11) are: Army 975; Navy 850; Marine Corps 690; Air Force 305; Schools 280; National Guard 205; Coast Guard 120; and Others 50.

The first correct response to reach dantesWW@navy.mil will earn the player's team 100 points toward the WW09 Team Spirit Award. A team is defined by the Service or organization indicated by that player's official e-mail address and current duty assignment. The first winning individual each month also will receive a limited-edition WW09 T-shirt. All correct responses received after the winner will earn 10 points for their team. Incorrect attempts will be awarded 5 points for playing.

April trivia question

When looking at the DoD's return investment for funding tuition assistance, a major consideration is the number of degrees completed – a pinnacle of “Educating America's Patriots.”

Question: According to the Fiscal Year 2008 DoD Vol Ed Fact Sheet, the Air Force led other Services in degrees completed with the exception of one category. What degree category did the Navy lead?

Don't be left out!

DoD Worldwide is less than four months away, and DANTES is counting down the top 10 reasons you should attend.



(#6) This could be the first WW attended by up-and-coming Vol Ed leaders – as well as the last one attended by scores of Vol Ed pioneers/legends you need to meet.

(#5) The Symposium will be filled with fun, team-building activities, as well as entertainment by military musicians, patriotic and cultural presentations, Service Team Spirit competitions and an evening session at the Georgia Aquarium.

Officials from Columbia Southern University, along with local business and city leaders celebrate the opening of the school's new 67,000 square foot facility in Orange Beach, Ala.



Columbia Southern University opens expansive, new facility in Alabama

Columbia Southern University (CSU) employees, public officials, local business leaders, students and alumni recently celebrated the grand opening of the school's new 67,000 square foot home in Orange Beach, Ala.

Students from around the world also participated by watching live streaming video.

The event opened with remarks from CSU President Robert Mayes, Orange Beach Mayor Tony Kennon and Alabama Gulf Coast Chamber of Commerce President Mark Berson.

"This is one of the most exciting days we've ever experienced at Columbia Southern University," said CSU President Robert Mayes. "We are proud to be joined by public officials, local business leaders and residents who have all come out to demonstrate their support during this milestone event."

With a record enrollment of more than 16,000 students and at least 25,000 expected by 2010, CSU quickly outgrew its previous 17,000 square foot building.

This year, CSU surpassed more than 200 employees, forcing

in-house faculty and staff to occupy additional facilities in Orange Beach and Gulf Shores.

The new building is large enough to house all CSU departments with additional room for growth.

Construction began in December 2007 on a 20-acre plot of land. The additional acreage provides future expansion opportunities without forcing CSU to relocate.

CSU will occupy the first two floors, and once the third floor is completed, 360 work stations and 65 offices will be available.

The facility features a training room, conference rooms, break rooms, fitness center, balconies, shipping and mailing area with a loading dock and more.

Additionally, a first floor conference room and classroom are available for public use on an as-available basis.

The classroom can seat approximately 250 people theater-style, and the conference room seats 50 people theater-style.

Columbia Southern University is listed in the DANTES Catalog of Nationally Accredited Distance Learning Programs.

Language-to-Go is gone

Due to tremendous response to the notice in last month's bulletin and the limited number of units available, no new requests for the language-to-go pilot program can be accepted.

Results of the pilot will be published in the fall. Questions or comments can be directed to DantesDL@navy.mil.

New DANTES-affiliated schools:

International Sports Sciences Association (ISSA)

1015 Mark Avenue
Carpinteria, Calif., 93103
805-745-8111/800-892-ISSA
Fax: 805-745-8119

Accreditation: DETC

Email: info@issaonline.edu

Web: <http://www.ISSAonline.edu>

*Certified Fitness Trainer

*Specialist in Sports

*Conditioning

*Specialist in Performance

*Nutrition

*Youth Fitness Trainer

*Specialist in Fitness for Older Adults

*Fitness Therapist

"The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet."

— Aristotle

DANTES Testing Programs

100th base-sponsored National Test Center now open

In January, the DANTES testing program reached a milestone when Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., became the 100th military installation to activate a base-sponsored National Test Center (NTC) – in this case, with Columbia College.

Currently, there are more than 100 Base-sponsored NTCs worldwide. If your base has yet to establish one, the process to do so is simple. Military education centers interested in establishing a base-sponsored National Test Center (NTC) need to coordinate with a local or on-base institution (college or university), the base commanding officer and DANTES.

There are many advantages of having a NTC on or near bases. Computer-based testing reduces administrative work associated with paper-based test administration. Moreover, DANTES funds the test and examination fee, and students receive instant score results.

Specific steps to get the NTC started are found on the DANTES Web site at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>. Select the “Academic Examination Programs” and “Education Staff Information” drop-down menus. Then click on “Base-Sponsored National Test Center (NTC) Establishment.” After you download this information, DANTES will provide a sample Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) upon request. DANTES will assist you with options and provide answers to any questions you might have. Send e-mail to exams@navy.mil.



Submitted photo
Marine Staff Sgt. John Arbogast (front left) and Army Spc. Jamie Phipps, were the first two Service members to use the new NTC at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Kudos to Robert Malikowski, TCO, Mona Russell, Columbia College test examiner, L. H. Stewart, ESO, and David King, director of Columbia, for teaming up to provide CLEP eCBT and iBT DSST opportunities for Service members.

Electronic test inventory is live and visible

A DANTES Test Site’s testing inventory that is stored in the DANTES Automated Test Inventory program (Web DATIP) is live, online information that is accessible to those with permission and access at all times.

If a Test Control Officer (TCO) receives a shipment of the new 2009 GED Batteries and does not enter them into the inventory, DANTES officials can see this.

The inventory process was established to maintain test security and accountability. It is important to keep it updated in a timely manner.

While TCOs submit an electronic Quarterly Examination Inventory via DATIP to certify that the exams listed are really there, the online inventory is visible at all times for security purposes.



Religions of the World exam is retiring

Excelsior College is retiring its essay-format “Religions of the World” exam (#509) effective September 30, 2009. There will be no immediate replacement for this non-stocking test.

The final (national) test date for the paper versions of this exam will be August 14 with ratings (grading) to occur in mid-September.

Testing Calendar

April 2009

5-11 – GRE Subject
17 – ECE Extended Response (Essay)
15-29 – Praxis*

May 2009

7, 12, 14 – ASE (CONUS)
12, 13, 14 – ASE (Overseas)
(ASE registration deadline: March 24)

June 2009

8 – LSAT (U.S., Puerto Rico, Canada, Europe and Africa)
19 – ECE Extended Response (Essay)
29 – LSAT (Australia, New Zealand and Asia)

July 2009

25-29 – Praxis*

Notes:

– Overseas test sites send orders six weeks before the test date. CONUS test sites send orders four weeks before the test date. Contractors ship tests to arrive just before the planned test date.

*Choose only one day to administer. Submit separate Prometric order forms for GRE Subject and Praxis.

http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/docs/examinations/exams_calendar.pdf

Coastline offering computer-based testing at NAS Pensacola

Coastline College officially began offering CLEP and DANTES e-testing at its Pensacola National Testing Center (NTC) on March 15.

The college, with physical campuses in Fountain Valley, Calif., now operates NTCs in four locations – NAS Fallon, Dyess AFB, Holloman AFB and NAS Pensacola.

By June, they plan to have NTCs in Gulfport, Miss., and onboard Naval Base Point Loma, Calif.

“Anytime we’re able to reduce the amount of time and money that a Service member needs to expend toward their education, we’re happy to do so,” said Ed McKenney, Coastline’s dean of Military Programs. “CLEP and DANTES testing provide a means for our military to acquire college credit for knowledge they’ve already attained through independent study, prior course work and, most importantly, their military training.”

Prior to the establishment of the e-test center, exams were paper-based and results could take weeks to return through the mail.

Service members, as well as civilians, may now take CLEP and DSST exams on one of 10 computers in the new computerized testing center and will instantly receive score reports.



Students will know exactly what college credits they can receive by successfully completing a test.

“One big advantage is that the tests are free for active duty and reservists and don’t require a Tuition Assistance Form,” said Joel Menges, Pensacola Site Administrator. “I love being able to provide this service. As the former test examiner here at Pensacola, I know receiving results back from testing agencies can seem to take forever. Having these results in your hands the same day you take the test is a real plus.”

Beginning this month, students can go online to schedule CLEP and DANTES tests at any of the centers at <http://military.coastline.edu>.

Students also may schedule a test directly with the center by calling

850-549-7599.

With more than 25,000 enrollments per year – and a Spouse Program that offers free textbooks and courses via the Internet and handhelds – Coastline continues to find innovative ways to help military students attain their educational goals.

Established in 1975 as a college “without walls” dedicated to distance learning, Coastline specifically began serving the military audience in the early 1980s.

As a California community college, Coastline offers a high-quality degree at one of the lowest tuition assistance rates available.

Coastline conferred associate degrees on nearly 1,500 Service members in 2008.

“It’s our sincere hope that Pensacola’s NTC will provide even more opportunity for Sailors in the (Gulf Coast) region,” said McKenney. “When we bring the Gulfport NTC online, as well, we hope to be able to eliminate any barriers Navy and Coasties might have. We want them to get that associate degree, so they can establish a solid first step toward their advanced degree and promotion.”

– Story submitted by
Coastline College

New AEF TCOs prepare to deploy

Recently, DANTES provided training for the next deployment cycle of Air Force Expeditionary Force (AEF) test control officers. They will leave in May 2009 to conduct DANTES-sponsored academic examination programs for forward deployed Airmen. Pictured in the front row, from left to right are: MSgt Vickie Caile, TSgt Jennifer Kidwell, TSgt Catalina Green and SMSgt Jamie Golden. In the back row are: SMSgt James Arei, MSgt Matt Halter, MSgt Bruce Pollock, MSgt Joe Thomas Jr. and TSgt Corey Faust.



DANTES accepting requests for new security equipment

DANTES is always looking for ways to increase test security and one of its test providers, Pearson VUE, has committed to a comprehensive set of test security enhancements.

Taking digital photos and collecting digital signatures during the test center admissions process provides more robust assurance of candidate identity and authenticity

of score reports.

DANTES/Pearson VUE test sites will have the ability to take digital photographs and capture digital signatures of candidates sitting for select professional, academic and IT exams.

DANTES has agreed to supply the security equipment to DANTES/Pearson VUE test sites that meet the

requirements listed in the link below.

Supply is limited, and requests are verified and completed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Order your security equipment online at <http://www.pearsonvue.com/military/dantes>.

For more information, or answers to questions, send an e-mail to dod@pearson.com.



Clinical pathology testing now available to Service members

The American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) recently signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with DANTES.

ASCP was founded in 1922 and is a professional society with 130,000 members working as pathologists, residents and physicians, pathologists' assistants, laboratory professionals and medical and laboratory students.

ASCP is based in Chicago with offices in Washington, D.C., and Indianapolis.

ASCP provides excellence in education, certification and advocacy on behalf of patients, pathologists and laboratory professionals.

ASCP offers professional certification for technicians and technologists who work in the following medical careers.

Technician Certification

- *Donor Phlebotomy Technician

- DPT (ASCP)
- *Histotechnician - HT (ASCP)
- *Medical Laboratory Technician - MLT (ASCP)
- *Phlebotomy Technician - PBT (ASCP)

Technologist Certification

- *Blood Banking - BB (ASCP)
- *Chemistry - C (ASCP)
- *Cytotechnologist - CT (ASCP)
- *Hematology - HTL (ASCP)
- *Medical Technologist - MT (ASCP)

Diplomate Certification

- *Diplomate in Laboratory Management - DLM (ASCP)

Specialist Certification

- *Blood Banking - SBB (ASCP)
- *Chemistry - SC (ASCP)
- *Cytotechnology - SCT (ASCP)
- *Hematology - SH (ASCP)
- *Laboratory Safety - SLS (ASCP)

- *Microbiology - SM (ASCP)
- *Pathologists' Assistant - PA (ASCP)

International ASCP Certification

- *International Medical Laboratory Technician - MLT (ASCP¹)
 - *International Phlebotomy Technician - PT (ASCP¹)
 - *International Medical Technologist - MT (ASCP¹)
 - *International Technologist in Molecular Pathology - MP (ASCP¹)
- ASCP is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

DANTES looks forward to working with ASCP, which offers its certification exams through Pearson VUE at computer-based testing locations. For additional information, contact the DANTES Credentialing Program at certprog@navy.mil or call 850-452-1111 ext. 3213 or DSN 922-1111 ext. 3213.

HOW TO PICK A COLLEGE

Getting the latest college news; snooping for the real story

Browsing through student newspapers and other online news services is a good way to get a relatively objective view of a college. So snoop around.

Is your number-one college pick cutting services or raising tuition?

Is your state's university opening a new dining hall, computer lab or football stadium any time soon?

Will the campus become a major construction zone for the first three years you are attending?

Most student newspapers are available online – and many provide archives of back issues, allowing you to gain a better sense of what has been happening on campus all year.

🔗 **Inside Higher Ed**

<http://www.insidehighered.com>

Higher education news, commentary, blogs and discussion areas, even a little bit of investigative reporting.

🔗 **USA Today Education Coverage**

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/education>

Read the latest national and international education news.

🔗 **College News Online**

<http://www.collegenews.com>

Includes a small, but interesting collection of headlines from student newspapers across the country.

🔗 **News Link**

<http://www.newslink.org/statcamp.html>

This is a great resource for news publications of any kind – including campus newspapers which are listed alphabetically by state.

🔗 **Education News**

<http://www.topix.net/education>

If you're still searching for that golden nugget, head over to Topix which gathers information from 50,000 sources and 360,000 user forums around the world.

🔗 **The New York Times' Education Coverage**

<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/education>

Serves up daily news about education issues and events, including higher education coverage. Don't miss the Education Life supplement and technology columns also available online.

🔗 **U-Wire**

<http://www.uwire.com>

Read stories and headlines from online student papers across the country.

🔗 **Los Angeles Times' Education Coverage**

<http://www.latimes.com/news/education>

Updated daily, this section fills you in on the latest education news to hit the LA area and beyond.

🔗 **The Washington Post's Educational Coverage**

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/education>

Read national news about trends in higher education, converse with college officials in online chats and find directories to college home pages.

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Army education counselors teach Soldiers how to learn

By Sgt. Matthew C. Cooley
15th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

Frances Judkins is an Army Education Services guidance counselor who does all she can to ensure Soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas, are aware of the educational opportunities available to them.

Judkins recently addressed a group from the 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) where she discussed Army Tuition Assistance, Go Army Ed, Functional Academic Skills Training, the Leadership Skills Program, Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System, the College Level Examination Program and the new GI Bill benefits.

Judkins explained how Soldiers could reach their goals through a variety of programs.

Army Tuition Assistance (TA) pays Soldiers' tuition – up to \$4,500 a fiscal year and \$250 per semester hour – for classes that lead to an associate, bachelor's or master's degree.

Soldiers may choose to take traditional classes in a classroom, or they can choose online learning through <http://www.goarmyed.com>.

Judkins pointed out that online classes can be pursued even while deployed overseas.

Army classes and experience also can be used to gain college credit through the Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System, which keeps

records of Occupational Specialties, military classes and the Council's recommended college credits.

Judkins cautioned that many schools require students take a certain number of semester hours or credits from them before they will do a military evaluation for credit.

Command Sgt. Maj. Nathaniel Bartee Sr., 15th Sustainment Brigade's Senior Non-Commissioned Officer, hopes his fellow Soldiers will take advantage of all the programs available to them.

"Every Soldier in this brigade should have at least an associate's degree," said Bartee.

He went on to say that Soldiers who want to pursue higher education would be given time to do so.

Judkins also discussed the Leadership Skills Program, which allows Soldiers to take short classes during the duty day for credit. The 37 classes available include 15 computer classes that also can lead to Microsoft certification.

The College Level Examination Program (CLEP) tests for credit in a

wide variety of subjects. Even if the student fails, the only penalty is waiting six months to retest, according to Judkins.

She also briefly explained some of the important points of the new GI Bill.

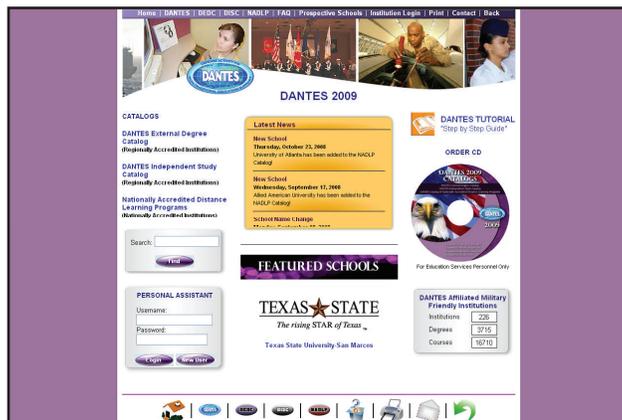
Information about the new GI Bill can be found at www.GIBill.gov. Judkins encouraged Soldiers to ask and research their educational opportunities.

"If you do not ask, you may not get," she said.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Matthew C. Cooley
Frances Judkins, Army education guidance counselor, speaks to a group of 15th Sustainment Brigade, 13th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Soldiers about their educational opportunities.

New Distance Learning Catalog Web site up and running



The new Distance Learning Catalog Web site is a great success. During the first three months, there were more than 14,500 hits.

DANTES has received excellent feedback from people who have viewed the site, and a couple of great suggestions already have been incorporated into the catalog.

We encourage those who have not yet visited the new site at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil> to do so and let us know what you think. To access the Distance Learning Catalogs, click on Distance Learning Programs and DANTES Catalogs.

There is a feedback button at the bottom of the page, and we want to hear from even more viewers.

Army vocational program focuses on high-demand careers

Last month, all active duty Soldiers – including National Guard and Reserve Soldiers on extended active duty and Wounded Warriors – became eligible to enroll in the Army Vocational/Technical (AVOTEC) Soldier Program.

The AVOTEC Program enables Soldiers to enroll in non-college degree courses that teach skills tailored for jobs in today's most in-demand career fields and take certification and licensure exams related to those professions. This program is open to all eligible Soldiers at any time during their active duty service.

AVOTEC is especially beneficial for Soldiers transitioning to civilian life. It is not, however, a program for veterans.

Interested Soldiers must enroll in courses prior to separating from the Army. Officers who participate in the program will not incur an additional service obligation.

AVOTEC-eligible programs:

*Must be selected from the schools listed at [*https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/education/VOTEC_Program.html](https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/education/VOTEC_Program.html)

*Must be “non-degree”

*Cannot exceed 18 months

*Must be paid by September 30, 2009 (all instruction, certification and license costs).

Congress approved \$19 million for this pilot program as part of the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009.

The GI Bill or other existing educational benefits may not be used for the AVOTEC program.

Soldiers are restricted to the maximum of \$4,500 per fiscal year in Tuition Assistance (TA).

The AVOTEC Program may be utilized in conjunction with traditional TA, but the total cost remains restricted to \$4,500.

For example, if a Soldier has

used \$1,000 for a traditional college program, the remaining \$3,500 may be used for the AVOTEC Program.

Community colleges, private, trade and technical schools approved by the Department of Education are eligible to submit programs for inclusion on the AVOTEC Web site.

Programs of instruction vary in length and subject. They can range from a few hours to several months, and focus on a wide array of career training, such as: computer certification, health care, leisure and hospitality, event planning, food service, construction, transportation, law enforcement, finance, real estate, geriatric and child care professions and mechanics.

Most programs are designed to prepare Soldiers for state or national license or certification.

Soldiers completing AVOTEC programs that do not include a certification test can apply for those certifications through AVOTEC

– providing they are still on active duty at the completion of the program.

This program is available through September 30 or until the funds are exhausted – whichever comes first.

Soldiers interested in enrolling in the program should visit the AVOTEC Web site at https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/education/VOTEC_Program.html and consult an education counselor as soon as possible. New schools and programs are added to the Web site weekly.

If you do not see a program that meets your needs or interest, you may refer a school to AVOTEC through the Web site.

Whether you want a second career as a chef, a builder or in computer science, there is a vocational or technical program out there for you.

Don't miss this opportunity to act on your career wishes and dreams and train for the job you have always wanted.



Do you have an education success story to share with other education professionals? If so, DANTES wants to hear from you.

We're looking for:

- ★ Awards
- ★ Amazing stories
- ★ Pictures
- ★ Meaningful quotes
- ★ New programs

E-mail stories and/or photos to katherine.belcher@navy.mil.



Creator of Holland's Self Directed Search dies at 89

John Holland, professor emeritus in the Department of Sociology in the Krieger School of Arts and Science at Johns Hopkins University – and a giant in the field of career counseling – recently passed away at the age of 89.

Holland developed a widely influential vocational classification system to help people understand and better fit themselves to specific careers.

Holland's concept was to base vocational guidance on a client's resemblance to six distinct personality prototypes known as RIASEC types (Realistic, Investigative, Artistic, Social, Enterprising and Conventional). These also are referred to as the Holland Codes.

He theorized that once people identified their combination of personality types, they would be more likely to find a better career fit and would thus be happier workers.

Holland's work lives on through his Self-Directed



John L. Holland, PhD.
Creator of Holland's
Self-Directed Search

Search (SDS) – which is paper-based and available through the DANTES Distribution Center.

SDS is an easy-to-use, self-administered, self-scored and self-interpreted interest inventory. The SDS Assessment Booklet, DANTES stock #1152, is used by examinees to determine their three-letter RIASEC Summary code. An examinee's three-letter Summary Code is used with The Occupation Finder, DANTES stock #1153, to identify occupations that match this code. The Occupations Finder lists over 1,300 occupations arranged according to Holland's RIASEC system.

Also available for individual use is "You and Your Career Booklet" (DANTES stock #1151) that helps examinees better understand their three-letter Summary Code using six easy-to-follow steps.

To find out more about the SDS instrument, order the "Professional User's Guide" (Stock #1155) and the "SDS Technical Guide" (Stock #1154) or send an e-mail to counseling@navy.mil.

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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. Funds for printing this publication have been approved by the Navy Publications and Printing policy committee.

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Distribution Center	452-1082	1140	dist@navy.mil

Scenes from the NCPDLP
Education Fair

More than a thousand participants turned out for Navy College Program Distance Learning Partnership (NCPDLP) education fair at Chevalier Hall onboard Naval Air Station Pensacola last month, including a host of NATTC students. The fair featured more than 40 booths with information on all levels of education from GED to PhD., local and online military-friendly schools, technical training, certification programs, education funding, SMART counseling and military officer programs.



Pensacola Junior College



Navy College Office



Navy Officer Programs



*Pensacola Junior College
 School of Massage Therapy*



Troops to Teachers



Troy University



University of West Florida