

It's graduation time!

European, Mideast military installations host graduations

Each year, scores of colleges and universities hold commencement ceremonies to honor graduates. Those individuals started out with a goal of someday earning a college degree – whether it be an associate, bachelor's, master's or doctorate.

Each person began with that first class or exam and the desire to complete their education within a few years. For those in the military, or a spouse of a military member, the path to earning a degree can be long and challenging.

Frequent moves, new schools, new locations – sometimes in a foreign country – and balancing a career with the demands of college life are just a few of the challenges that adult students face.

It is through hard work and with support from family and friends that this goal is finally realized.

When the big day arrives, graduates – dressed appropriately in black gowns and mortarboard – proudly walk to the music of Sir Edward Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance."

Family, friends, school faculty and personnel, education officers and members of the military community watch with anticipation to see his or her special individual walk down the aisle and cross the stage to receive their diplomas.

The graduates' smiles show satisfaction and pride in their hard work and accomplishments.

Traditional graduation ceremonies are impressive, even if held on a military installation overseas.

The universities and colleges in the European and the Mideast military communities rival any stateside ceremony.

The only difference is that the ceremonies are held in Heidelberg, Mannheim and Ramstein Germany; Rota, Spain; Vicenza, Naples, Sigonella and Camp Darby, Italy; and Lakenheath, England.

These ceremonies are a celebration to Service members, spouses and civilian military members graduating overseas.

This year, more than 2,000 students earned associate, bachelor's, master's or doctoral degrees from the five colleges and universities that provide classes to those serving at military locations in Europe and the Mideast. The class of 2008 represented students from Lajes Field (Azores) to Afghanistan.

University of Maryland

University College European Division 2008 had a graduating class that received 550 associate, 570 bachelor's and 120 master's degrees awarded by UMUC



Decorated in traditional Hawaiian lei by her family and friends, Michel Noelani Cremeans was all smiles after her graduation from UMUC in Heidelberg, Germany.

DANTES TRIVIA

The DIB has begun its yearlong celebration of DANTES' 35th anniversary, which will take place on July 29, 2009. This month marks the start of the DANTES Trivia Contest that will feature a new question each month, leading up to DoD's Worldwide Education Symposium July 27-31, 2009, in Atlanta. The first correct answer received each month will receive one point. The person with the most points at the start of the Symposium will be recognized and receive a special prize that week.



Question #1:
Who was the first DANTES director?

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

Testing Calendar

July 2008

26-30 Praxis *

August 2008

15 ECE Extended Response
(Essay) Exams

Notes:

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

*Select only one test date from the published period for DANTES testing and specify that date on the order form.

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

Prometric's Credit by Exam program is new and improved

For more than 30 years, the DSST exams have provided military personnel with a head start on a post-military career path. And thanks to their availability on the Internet, the DSST exams are more widely available to Service members in a broader geographic scope than ever before.

This year, DSST has undergone a makeover. Check out the new Web site at <http://getcollegecredit.com>, where you will find improved navigation and new features such as pod casts, testimonials and new and improved collateral. Many of the most popular DSST exams soon will have refreshed content.

The DSST exams are offered in 37 subject areas within the areas of social sciences, math, applied technology, business, physical sciences and humanities. Most people already have some familiarity with a DSST exam subject – through previous education and/or career posts with the military.

Through the on-campus facilities and more than 75 national testing centers on base, and at more than 560 military installations, increased access to the DSST exams makes it easier than ever for Service members to gain valuable educational credentials while on active duty, regardless of their post-military plans.

For more information on DSST exams, call 877-471-9860 toll free or send e-mail to getcollegecredit@prometric.com.

CA ACME Steering Group meets in Lemoore

The California Advisory Council on Military Education (ACME) Steering Group recently met at West Hills College at Lemoore, Calif., to draft by-laws, discuss goals for the new organization and contemplate an organization plan that takes into account the size of the state.

The group also reviewed surveys completed by other ACMEs on “lessons learned” and pitfalls to avoid for the new organization. The responses clearly indicated communication is a key part of a successful ACME.

The group extended its appreciation to those ACMEs who took the time to complete the survey. It also recognized the guidance and outstanding recommendations provided by the Colorado ACME during the past year.

West Hills College was commended for providing top-notch support and a special luncheon prepared by the college's outstanding Culinary Department.

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 to pubs@navy.mil.



European, Mideast military installations host graduations

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Above: Sgt. Maj. Alester Johnson receives his doctoral degree from the University of Oklahoma at a ceremony in Heidelberg, Germany.

At right: Susan C. Aldridge, president of UMUC Europe worldwide, confers a degree upon a graduate at the Heidelberg ceremony.



or its partner Bowie State University.

University of Oklahoma awarded over 200 master's degrees and Sergeant Major Alester Johnson received his Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Leadership.

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University celebrated its 163 graduates in June at Ramstein, Germany.

Central Texas College's graduation honored 130 students receiving an associate degree with seven ceremonies in various locations.

University of Phoenix held graduation for 130 students at the Heidelberg Convention Center, which overlooks the Neckar River.

'Quick guide' to GI Bill benefits updated

What education benefits are available when you leave the military?

The updated Department of Veteran Affairs Quick Series, "The Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty" (DANTES Stock #2406) is now available for education centers to order.

This handy, pocket-size reference guide provides a general description of the educational benefits available under the Montgomery GI Bill. The 28 laminated pages have easy to use tabs, colorful graphics, charts and lists with important Web sites and phone numbers.

The pocket guide covers qualifications, payments, work-study benefits, types of training, vocational

rehabilitation benefits, tuition assistance "top up" and how to apply for benefits.

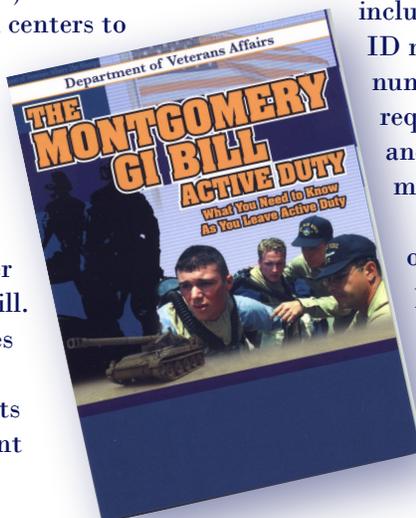
To order this free publication, e-mail the DANTES Distribution Center at dist@voled.doded.mil.

E-mail order requests should include a DANTES

ID number, the stock number requested, requestor's address and the quantity of material requested.

The maximum order for this publication is 250 per year. For more information about this publication – or any of DANTES other publications

– contact the Reference Publications manager via e-mail at refpubs@navy.mil. All DANTES reference publications can be viewed at: <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>.



Thirty five years
of DANTES



1974 — 2009



Looking back
to the year:

1976

In November, DANTES announced the availability of the American College Testing (ACT) program's assessment and proficiency exams for stocking and administering at all authorized DANTES testing sections. This meant Service members who needed to take the ACT no longer had to wait for one of the national testing dates.

TTT graduate named Florida Educator of the Year

Peter Serendensky, a sixth-grader at Bonita Springs Middle School in Lee County, Fla., may know why Joseph Cofield was chosen by a national teachers organization as their Florida Educator of the Year.

It's his grades.

Since signing up for Cofield's college preparatory class at the school in February, Serendensky said his grades have gone from Fs to Cs and continue to climb. He got an A in Cofield's class and said he has stepped up his effort to get straight As.

"He's a really good teacher," Serendensky said. "He always tries to explain it fully. He's always trying to persuade you to do good and try to get a college scholarship."

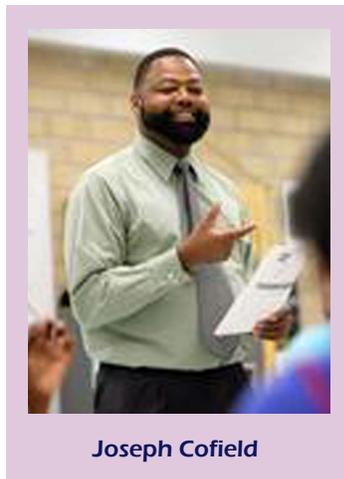
Serendensky said Cofield's class, which prepares the many low-income students at the school for scholarships offered by the Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, helps him improve his grades by getting community volunteers to help him meet grade-level standards and stay there.

"If I'm having trouble in a subject, I have tutors to help me and it doesn't cost any money and that's good, because I'm not the richest person in the world," Serendensky said. "But stuff isn't always going

to be handed to you. You have to go and try to get it."

Cofield said he believes he was chosen to receive the Professional Educators Network of Florida State Educator of the Year award not only because of his hard work in the classroom, but because of his work with the community outside the school.

"I think everything revolved around the improvement of the students and making everyone a better student. I work just as hard in the classroom as I do out of the classroom, and it just goes back to the students," Cofield said Thursday after he arrived home at about 9:30 p.m. "That's why I'm getting back so late, because I was with the students. I love that. If you want the good results in the classroom, you have to go beyond the 40 minutes they have in



Joseph Cofield

the class."

Cofield has been teaching for nine years. He retired from the Army as an E8 after more than 20 years, and upon leaving the Service, participated in the Troops to Teachers program.

Bonita Middle Principal Joe Williams said Cofield's military experience shines – especially when he teaches social studies.

"He brings the military experience in and he can kind of relate that to

the classroom lesson that's being applied," Williams said.

Outside the classroom, Cofield started a Florida Future Educators of America program at the school and helped form an annual Walk for Education to raise scholarship money for burgeoning teachers.

He's also involved in several community organizations and dedicates much of his time to helping students.

Williams said Cofield also has been trying to start a school-based Leo Club, which is associated with the Lions Club.

"He's very active within the community," Williams said.

For his college preparatory class, Cofield helped secure some 30 scholarships.

Many of the scholarships are administered through the College Reach Out Program, which awards students who maintain good grades and stay out of trouble with funding for four years of higher education.

It has a 99 percent success rate in Lee County, according to the foundation.

In addition to the award, Cofield also received \$2,500.

"I found that to be very exciting, the way teachers get beat up these days," Cofield said of the award. "With that budget crunch, I think teachers need to be out in the front at every moment, because you know teachers in general do a great job everyday."

– Story courtesy of Matt Clark, staff writer, Naples Daily News

"If you want the good results in the classroom, you have to go beyond the 40 minutes they have in the class."

– JOSEPH COFIELD

New program aims to improve test site security

New admissions requirements are being implemented as part of Pearson VUE's comprehensive plan to strengthen test center security and address a growing threat to certification value.

These enhancements consist of capturing digital photos and signatures and are just one component of a comprehensive strategy that includes data forensics, score report validation and more. The goal is to deter test item theft, proxy testing and other forms of exam fraud.

This summer, Pearson VUE will enable a new security feature for IT exams that will give test centers the ability to have a Service member's photo printed on his or her score report.

This new feature will ensure that the candidate presenting the certification credential in the marketplace is the same person that took the test. Exam sponsors will choose whether this capability should be used for their tests.

Pearson VUE test centers on military bases are not mandated to implement the new equipment for IT exams, but those choosing to do so will be giving Service members the assurance that their certification credentials will not be abused.

If your command decides to implement the new technology and your test site has met the minimum system requirements, all you need to do to meet the new security standards is buy a kit containing two digital cameras, a Pearson VUE-branded camera stand and a digital signature pad. For more information, contact Sue Jackson at (952) 681-3962 or send an e-mail to DoD@pearson.com.

Online education discount offered

A new grant-in-aid program from Penn State World Campus is designed to make the university's accredited online education more affordable for active duty military professionals.

Beginning in the Fall 2008 semester, all members of the U.S. Armed Forces, including Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserve personnel, who are serving on active duty (except for training and education) are qualified for the World Campus grant-in-aid. This pilot grant-in-aid will be initially set at \$299 per credit hour.

Craig Weidemann, vice president of Penn State Outreach, said more states are offering tuition reduction to Service members.

"Providing tuition reductions and grant-in-aid for soldiers and veterans is a trend in higher education, and distance education should be no exception," Weidemann said. "We want to make sure the men and women who are in the military have access to quality educational opportunities no matter where they are serving."

According to a recent article in *Advanced Military Education*, the number of states offering discounts to veterans has tripled since 2002, and more states are working to pass legislation for additional benefits for veterans. These benefits can range from free/fixed tuition to discounts.

— Submitted by Penn State World Campus

Watch for common answer sheet errors

The two most common errors students make when completing the new Green CLEP and Brown DSST answer sheets are:

1. *An incorrectly bubbled Social Security Number (SSN)*

Regardless of the digits printed in the spaces for the SSN on an answer sheet, only the marked ovals are scanned.

If the SSN is incorrect the examinee's score is not accepted by military transcripts systems, such as CCAF, SMART, CGI and AARTS.

2. *Using an incorrect resource to locate a school's Designated*

Institution (DI) Code

The CLEP and DSST answer sheets each provide instructions to

students for locating the applicable DI Codes. For example, the DSST DI Codes can be found online at the Web site for Prometric at <http://www.getcollegecredit.com>.

The CLEP DI Codes can be found on The College Board's Web site at: <http://www.collegeboard.com/clep>.

It is the responsibility of DANTES TCOs and/or ATCOs to ensure information on the answer sheet is accurate before including their signature and mailing to the testing agency.

Providing students with complete, thorough instructions prior to administering an exam will help

eliminate minor errors, which can delay the scoring process or cause score reporting problems.



Fast Fact:

More than 39,000 Service members completed some type of degree program in fiscal year 2007.



	High School	Associate	Bachelor's	Master's
OFFICERS				
Army	0	46	500	477
Navy	0	89	170	188
Air Force	0	0	0	977
Marine Corps	0	34	63	69
Totals	0	169	733	1,711
ENLISTED				
Army	0	1,611	1,731	248
Navy	2	2,522	1,858	336
Air Force	22	20,851	4,042	312
Marine Corps	29	647	2,120	59
Totals	53	25,631	9,751	955

The four hottest degree programs

In today's highly competitive job market, the more you know, the more you're worth. Learn how to increase your value by earning one of this year's hottest degrees.

These degrees are considered the most sought after and best fit for many Service members and military veterans.

According to the Department of Labor's 2008-09 Occupational Outlook Handbook, these degrees can help get you started in the career fields considered among the best employment prospects through 2016.

Network and Computer Systems Mgmt.: bachelor's to master's degree \$38,000 to \$145,000

Health Care Administration: associate through master's degrees, \$45,000 to \$128,000

Human Resource Mgmt.: bachelor's to master's degree/certification \$51,000 to \$145,000

Law Enforcement: high school diploma through master's degree, \$27,000 to \$104,000

There are several degree programs (online and on-campus) available. In fact, you can use the Military.com school finder to help connect you to an degree program that suits your educational and professional goals.

Countdown to Worldwide begins

The 2009 DoD Worldwide Education Symposium is just a year away, so mark your calendars for July 27-31, 2009, at the Marriott Atlanta Marquis in Atlanta.

To mark the milestone, DANTES is kicking off the WW'09 Trivia Contest. For the next 12 months, a trivia question relating to the Symposium will appear in the DIB and on the WW'09 Web site at <http://www.ww09Atlanta.com>.

The first correct answer that is e-mailed to the Symposium inbox at dantesWW@navy.mil will earn 100

team points toward the "Team Spirit Award," presented at the conclusion of the Symposium, which will take place July 30, 2009, at the Georgia Aquarium.

In addition to earning points for your team, the monthly winner also will be awarded a limited edition WW'09 T-shirt that can be worn to Atlanta next summer.

Check out the WW'09 Web site, which is filled with information on what promises to be an inspiring week of professional growth for voluntary education supporters.

WORLDWIDE TRIVIA QUESTION

The theme for WW'09 is "Educating America's Patriots." The first trivia question relates to the bravest of patriots – Medal of Honor recipients.

QUESTION: The youngest Marine ever to receive the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during the Battle of Iwo Jima died last month at the age of 80. Through what action did this 16 year-old Marine assure he'd be bound specifically for Iwo Jima?



Click here to submit answer or e-mail it to dantesWW@navymil

New award offers money to military voluntary education students

Military students enrolled in voluntary education programs are eligible to compete for a \$1,200 student spotlight award.

NAIMES, the National Association of Institutions for Military Education Services, is sponsoring the award, which asks contestants to explain how higher education has influenced their understanding of global/diverse communications or awareness.

Additionally, contestants should discuss how they've been able to implement that understanding into their daily work environment. Contestants may address the theme from a macro or micro perspective and link their thoughts to a daily practical application in their career.

Entries can be in various formats, including but not limited too, essay,

prose, art and video.

The latter two must be submitted electronically or on DVD, and essays should be no longer than four double-spaced pages.

Submissions will be evaluated on academic quality, ability to address theme, creativity and presentation.

The top three finishers will receive a commemorative plaque and travel funds – not to exceed \$500 – so they can be on hand to accept their awards at the annual Council of College and Military Educators symposium at a date and time TBA.

More information, including eligibility, deadlines and the submission process is available online at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>.

Click on the "Hot News!" section on the home page and look for the NAIMES Student Spotlight Award.

Veterans offered tuition scholarship

Pace University is set to offer a 50 percent tuition scholarship to U.S. veterans who served in Iraq and/or Afghanistan from 2001 to the present.

The program applies to virtually all undergraduate/graduate degree programs offered full or part-time in classrooms and online.

The only exceptions are law, doctoral and EMBA degrees. In those programs, Afghanistan and Iraq veterans will receive special consideration. The law school has funding that includes both endowed and need-based grants for those who meet the criteria.

The scholarship begins this fall and is open to all veterans who meet Pace's admissions requirements.

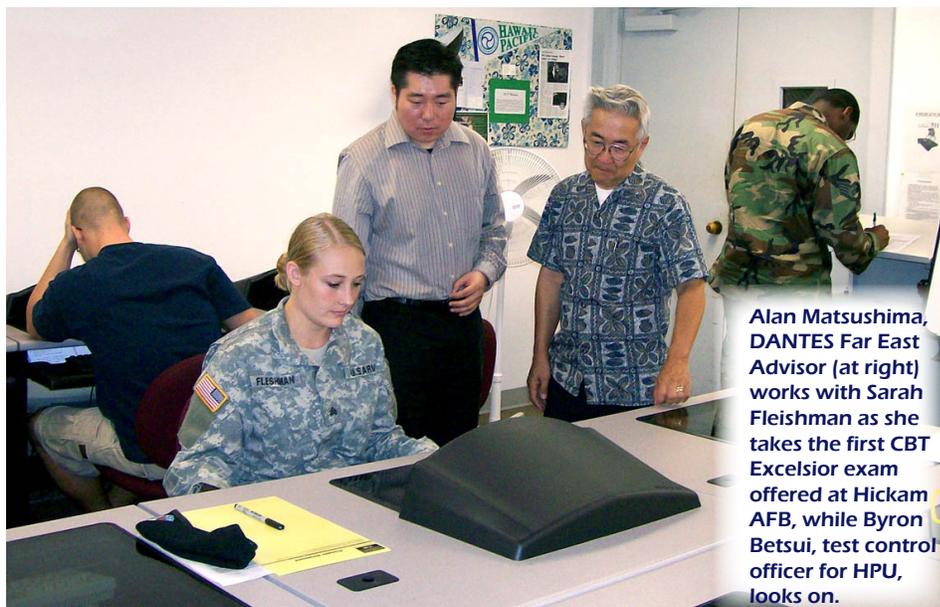
Veterans must provide a copy of their DD-214 with one of the following designations:

- ✓ Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (before 2005)
- ✓ Operation Afghanistan Campaign Medal (2005-present)
- ✓ Operation Iraqi Freedom Medal

In addition to the 50 percent tuition scholarship, veterans are eligible to receive need-based financial aid from Pace, as well as the benefits offered by the GI Bill, provided that all tuition-specific aid does not exceed tuition and the total aid package does not exceed the cost of attendance.

More information is available on the Hot News! section of the DANTES Web site home page at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>.

Veterans can get full details and apply for the scholarship by filling out an application for graduate or undergraduate admission available on the University's Web site.



Alan Matsushima, DANTES Far East Advisor (at right) works with Sarah Fleishman as she takes the first CBT Excelsior exam offered at Hickam AFB, while Byron Betsui, test control officer for HPU, looks on.

DANTES offering Excelsior pilot program on Hawaii bases

Hawaii Pacific University has teamed up with Pearson VUE, which administers the Excelsior College Examination Series, to provide computer-based exams to eligible Service members on base.

Hawaii Pacific University (HPU), the on-base National Test Center with five locations on military bases in Hawaii, was chosen as the DANTES pilot sites for this project because they provide access to computers and the security required to administer Excelsior exams.

"Pearson VUE is pleased to transition Excelsior College Examinations from paper-based to computer-based through HPU's

Pearson VUE test center. Eligible Service members located on bases in Hawaii can now receive the benefits of immediate exam results through computer-based delivery," said Sue Jackson, director of government sales for Pearson VUE. "Providing increased access and convenience to Service members is an important way we can facilitate additional education opportunities for military personnel worldwide."

A full list of admissions, certification and licensure exams available through Pearson VUE at all HPU locations can be viewed at <http://www.pearsonvue.com/military/exams>.



MIKE ALEXANDER

came to work for DANTES as a student aide in March 1982 and is approaching his 27th year of employment. He works as a materials handler, providing support to the worldwide distribution of DANTES publications and products.



Test compromise: Ensure it doesn't happen at your test center

Innovative technology provides us with many new gadgets, but it also can provide examinees with devices they can use to gain an unfair advantage.

Testing agencies that provide exams to DANTES test sites expect each site to be the first line of defense against those examinees who are motivated to cheat.

Our purpose is to make you aware



of a potential test security threat.

Many people enjoy the latest technological advances in digital photography, which provides clear, sharp photos instantly.

Some of these cameras are no larger than a small note pad and fit easily into a shirt pocket.

Others are being made so small that they often go unnoticed.

An examinee could easily use this technology while testing and leave with pictures of an entire test book.

Ten DSST exams have been refreshed

Prometric has completed beta testing of 10 DSST exams. They will be production ready soon and available for distribution to DANTES-Sponsored Test Sites.

For these 10 titles, the scores will range from 200-500. The ACE recommended minimum passing score is 400. The cut score for all "SY" (DSST iBT) exams also will change to 400. The 10 new form numbers and test titles are:

- SI424/SO424 – Fundamentals of College Algebra
- SI450/SO450 – Principles of Statistics
- SI474/SO474 – Ethics In America
- SI495/SO495 – Substance Abuse
- SI496/SO496 – Introduction To World Religions
- SI498/SO498 – Criminal Justice

- SI508/SO508 – Here's To Your Health
- SI536/SO536 – Introduction To Computing
- SI550/SO550 – Personal Finance
- SI551/SO551 – Management Information Systems

Shipments of the new tests were to be sent out during the second and third week of June; however, Prometric advised DANTES of a revision to the timeline for their availability.

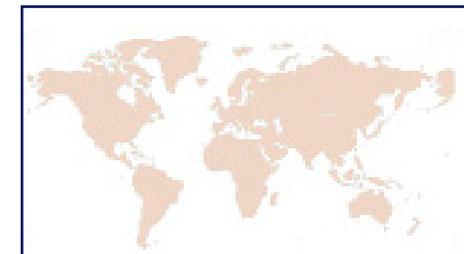
For stocking test sites, please continue using the DSST exams currently has on hand. Test sites that participated in the Beta testing may continue using the Beta exams, or if already returned, may request replacement exams.

The remaining 27 DSST exams also will be refreshed and rolled out later this year and into 2009.

DANTES test sites now offering software engineering exams

The Software Engineering Institute (SEI) in Pittsburgh, a research and development center at Carnegie Mellon University, recently formed a memorandum of understanding with DANTES to allow their certification

examinations to be administered at DANTES Test Sites through on-base education centers. The two exams offered by SEI are Personal Software Process and Computer Security Incident Handler. SEI also offers various courses to enhance understanding of



UNESCO portal on higher education institutions

The U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has established a Portal on Higher Education Institutions that offers access to online information on higher education institutions recognized or otherwise sanctioned by competent authorities in the following participating countries: Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Egypt, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, Norway, United Kingdom and the United States of America.

It can be found online at <http://www.unesco.org/education/portal/hed-institutions>.

The next stage of the project will expand the number of countries covered.

Although this is an excellent new resource for helping to assess the legitimacy of non-U.S. institutions, as always, users are strongly encouraged to obtain multiple sources of information before making important decisions regarding choice of an institution or course of study.

the competencies measured by their exams.

For more information on SEI, go to <http://www.dantes.doded.mil> and look under the Certification Programs tab, call 850-452-1111 ext. 3194 or send e-mail to certprog@navy.mil.

Revised DANTES 2008 Distance Learning Catalogs on CD-ROM

DANTES has revised the 2008 Distance Learning Catalogs that are available on CD-ROM.

The revised CD is effective May 1, 2008, and replaces the 2008 CD that was previously shipped.

Please discard the obsolete CD. The revised CDs have been distributed.

The CDs are available to education services personnel.

To order extra copies, send an e-mail request to dantesDL@navy.mil that includes name, title, Service,

installation, mailing address, DANTES ID number and the number requested.

There is a limit of five CDs; however, if more are needed, accommodations can be made.

The catalogs also can be accessed on the DANTES' Web site at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>.

Keep in mind, these catalogs are updated online as changes occur.

For questions, call DSN 922-1111 ext. 3129, COM (850) 452-1111 ext. 3129, or e-mail the DANTES



Distance Learning Program at dantesDL@navy.mil.

Healthcareer exams now available at DANTES test sites

The National Healthcareer Association (NHA) recently signed a memorandum of understanding with DANTES to allow its exams to be administered in paper format at base education centers with DANTES Test Sites.

NHA was established in 1989 with the vision of implementing national competency standards to promote quality patient care in alignment with benchmarks developed by the NHA.

The NHA provides national credentials and an information support network to allied healthcare professionals, educators and the healthcare industry.

NHA offers examinations in the following areas:

Clinical Healthcare Professional Certifications

- 🔧 Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA)*
- 🔧 Certified Phlebotomy Technician (CPT)
- 🔧 Certified Medical Laboratory Assistant (CMLA)
- 🔧 Certified EKG Technician



- (CET)
- 🔧 Certified Patient Care Technician (CPCT/CPCA/CNT)*
- 🔧 Certified Mental Health Technician (CMHT)
- 🔧 Certified Operating Room/

- Surgical Technician (CORST)
- 🔧 Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPhT)

Administrative Healthcare Professional Certifications

- 💰 Certified Billing and Coding Specialist (CBCS)
- 💰 Certified Medical Administrative Assistant (CMAA)
- 💰 Certified Medical Transcriptionist (CMT)
- 💰 Certified Billing and Coding Specialist/Certified Medical Administrative Assistant (CBCS/CMAA) Combo

Healthcare Instructor Certification

- 📄 Certified Healthcare Instructor (CHI) Fast Track
- 📄 Certified Healthcare Instructor (CHI) Full Track

* Exam includes Phlebotomy and EKG

To learn more about NHA and their exams, go to the DANTES Web site at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil> or send e-mail to certprog@navy.mil.

Wanted: A few good faculty members

While many colleges and universities accept the American Council on Education (ACE) Military Programs recommended credit for military courses and occupations, some may not be aware of how those recommendations are formulated.

ACE Military Programs evaluators are drawn from postsecondary institutions, professional and disciplinary societies, education associations and regional accrediting associations.

College-level course teachers receptive to recommending academic credit for learning in an extra-institutional setting, are encouraged to participate.

The Evaluation Process Courses are evaluated by teams of at least three subject matter specialists (college and university professors, deans and other academicians).

Through discussion and the application of evaluation procedures and guidelines, team members reach a consensus on the amount and category of credit.

Evaluation materials include the course syllabus, training materials, tests, textbooks, technical manuals and examinations.

Additional information is gained from discussions with instructors and program administrators, classroom observations and examination of instructional equipment and laboratory facilities.

Evaluators have two major tasks for each course: preparation of the courses description and formulation of a credit recommendation.

The credit recommendation consists of the category of credit, the number of semester hours recommended and the appropriate subject area.

Evaluators phrase the course description (which appears in the guide exhibits under the headings learning outcomes or objectives and instruction) in terms meaningful to civilian educators.

The course description supplements the credit recommendations by summarizing the nature of a given course.

Evaluators are selected of from a pool of faculty members. Evaluation teams are selected by the Program Evaluations Content Review Committee, which meets weekly to determine the appropriate content and academic areas from which the slate of potential evaluators for each review team should be drawn.

Members of the committee reflect a diversity of backgrounds in academe as well as professional experience.

After the evaluation team has been formed, the associate director of military evaluations confers with them, reviewing the procedures and responsibilities with which they are charged in conducting the review.

Serving on ACE Review Teams ensures that what individuals learn is more than when, where and how the individual learned it.

Serving on a team helps ensure a formalized process that colleges and universities can trust and allows team members to network and learn from colleagues across the country while validating and supporting students' non-traditional learning.

ACE pays an honorarium and reimburses all travel expenses related to the review.

To be considered, complete the online evaluator application that can be found at <https://militaryguides.acenet.edu/EvaluatorForm.htm>.



ConAP Project Director retiring

For 19 years, Benjamin C. "Ben" Buckley has served as the Concurrent Admissions Program (ConAP) Project Director as part of the Service members Opportunity Colleges (SOC) staff. He will retire on July 31.

After a distinguished career in the United States Army as an infantry officer, Buckley joined SOC in 1989 and has served as its only ConAP Project Director.



Ben Buckley

ConAP was merely a concept when he began his tenure. Now, it is a nationwide partnership program embracing the Army Recruiting Command, SOC and more than 1,900 colleges and universities.

The program strives to increase enlistment of college-capable Soldiers and the number of veterans attending college.

As of April 2008, more than 146,000 new Soldiers received college admission agreements or had their ConAP Intent to Enroll Forms acknowledged by a college official.

Buckley also served as the Higher Education representative on the 2006 DoD Worldwide Education Symposium planning committee.

He is an avid U.S. and Roman military history buff, and he also leads tours of American Civil War battlefields for various groups. In retirement, he wants to provide tours for wounded American warriors while they recuperate in hospitals in the Washington metropolitan area.

In addition to spending more time with his grandchildren, Buckley also wants to continue working with the annual Vietnam 11th Pathfinder Company Reunion at Fort Benning, Ga.

Carl Vinson sailors utilize NCPACE while in the shipyard

Sailors aboard USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) are earning more than their qualifications and warfare designations while the ship is in the yard being overhauled.

They're also earning credits toward college degrees through the Navy College Program for Afloat Education (NCPACE).

With a wide variety of college classes from which to choose, many crew members are taking the initiative to fulfill their educational goals by enrolling in courses held aboard the ship.

"The NCPACE program is a great opportunity for Carl Vinson Sailors," said Personnel Specialist 1st Class (SS/SW) Daniel Leggett, of the command's Educational Services Office. "Having access to college classes on board helped me go back to school and get my master's degree."

Having an NCPACE program in the shipyard is unique. Carl Vinson is one of the first Navy ships to offer classes while undergoing its 40-month extended overhaul period, according to program coordinators.

"We have a lot of things going on in the shipyard, but the command still emphasizes education," said Leggett.

Recently, the benefits of college education have transformed into incentives for advancement.

Beginning with the September 2008 rating exam schedule, Sailors who have earned an associate degree will receive two bonus points. Sailors who have completed their bachelor's degree will earn four points.

Additional degrees can yield crew members up to the maximum allowance of 12 points



Navy photo by Mass Communication Seaman Recruit David Shen

Sailors from the USS Carl Vinson are joined by Northrop Grumman employees on the ship's flight deck for a ceremony to commemorate the stepping of the ship's mast. The ceremony was held in March at the shipyard in Newport News, Va. The Carl Vinson is one of the first ships to offer NCPACE classes while in dry dock.

toward their advancement exams.

NCPACE, which is part of the Navy College Program, provides academic skills and undergraduate and graduate college courses.

All courses are offered by colleges and universities accredited by an agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education, allowing Sailors an opportunity to meet their educational goals in virtually any setting.

All courses, including academic skills instructions, are provided to Sailors at no cost. However, Sailors must pay the costs associated with textbooks and other educational materials.

All undergraduate courses are offered by educational institutions affiliated with Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges degree program for the Navy (SOCNAV), allowing Sailors the opportunity to transfer credits and complete degrees

"We have a lot of things going on in the shipyard, but the command still emphasizes education."

— Daniel Leggett,
Personnel Specialist
1st Class

with various schools around the country.

"Being able to take college classes at my duty station and without paying any tuition is great," said Yeoman 1st Class (SW) Katherine Ward, the NCPACE coordinator for Carl Vinson's ESO. "It really is a good deal. All you have to do is get your books, show up for class and study. When you get your degree, you can reap your rewards with extra points for advancement."

— Story by Seaman Philip Schrickel,
Mass Communication Specialist,
USS Carl Vinson

American Council on Education welcomes new employees

The American Council on Education (ACE) appointed Evelyn Howard as a new assistant director of military programs, effective May 1, 2008.

Howard joined the ACE team after more than 10 years in student services and executive management with Troy University. She also served 22 years in the United States Army. She will direct all aspects of course and occupation reviews to include recruiting, selecting and providing training for faculty evaluators and field coordinators; supervising the evaluation process; evaluating the work of outside field coordinators and other staff; reviewing results of evaluations; directing and overseeing input to the database and submitting reports.



Evelyn Howard

She also will conduct quarterly quality assurance checks on the transcripts and facilitate the advisory committees and appropriate working groups.

As the Washington Area Director for Troy University, her responsibilities encompassed all aspects of operations for the various sites – on military installations and the regional office located in Arlington, Va. Her expertise is learner-centric, focusing on the students and their individual needs.

She brings a wealth of experience to her role with Troy University in teaching and developing curricula.

Michele Spires is now a full-time assistant director of military programs.

She has extensive experience in military and adult curriculum development, including distance learning and virtual program service structures.

She excels in strategic development, project planning, implementation,

outreach initiatives and policy creation.

She is an active leadership voice in the evaluation of post-secondary learning acquired through formal military/corporate training and military occupational experiences.

This includes leading academic teams for site evaluation and evaluator recruitment and training.

Spires also works directly with the Severely Injured project in terms of program and resource management, member services, referrals and strategic outreach.

Spires frequently speaks on the evaluation of educational experiences that occur outside of the traditional classroom, non-traditional academic transcripts and transfer of academic credit for the mobile student.



Michelle Spires

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