

Do your New Year's resolutions involve education?

By CMSgt Adalberto Velez, DANTES Senior Enlisted Advisor



Happy New Year! At this time of year, many New Year's resolutions are made about exercising more and going on diets. But did you know exercising your mind is just as important as exercising your body? Develop yourself and make goals with a dedicated focus on off-duty education and your career. Let me provide a refresher that can get you on your way. DANTES resources include college and career web information, student financial aid, Montgomery and Post 9/11 GI Bills and Veteran's information, graduate programs, and college accreditation information.

Troops to Teachers (TTT) is a program funded by the Department of Defense, managed and operated by DANTES, that assists Service members and Veterans to begin new careers as teachers in public and charter schools. This program provides stipends and bonuses up to \$10K.

The DANTES Learning Readiness Self-Assessment (DLRSA) helps Service members determine their

readiness to take Distance Learning (DL) courses.

Anyone can take this. This program provides students the opportunity to assess skills and identify weaknesses to determine readiness for DL. Make sure to take a copy of the results to your local Education Center.

The Online Academic Skills Course (OASC) and College Placement Skills Training (CPST) assist Service members wanting to improve their reading comprehension, vocabulary, and math skills to pass exams and/or continue their education. Obtain access to these programs via the Service member section of the DANTES website.

Kuder Journey is a valuable resource to use during the military-to-civilian transition process as well as when looking for a post-military career field. After completing an assessment, you will receive tailored career guidance and occupation search aids. These can then be used to narrow down a long list of occupational fields to those right for you.

Academic exams such as high school equivalency, College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and DSST, undergraduate/graduate admission exams and teacher certification are all covered by the Examination program. Save yourself both time and money by taking DSST and CLEP tests to help reduce the number of classes you may need to complete your degree. Remember, a test is only fully funded the first time you take it, so be sure to study!

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DANTES YEAR IN REVIEW 2015

Each year, DANTES-procured programs and services reach around the world to help Service members pursue their education goals. We continuously improve what we offer and how we offer it through fostering collaborative leadership within the voluntary education (VolEd) community, building strategic partnerships, and developing programs that are superior education solutions. A snapshot of FY15 program and organizational highlights is provided below.

New college comparison tool

Adding to the portfolio of programs DANTES procures for the VolEd community, TA DECIDE was launched in FY15 as a new information tool to support Service members decision-making when selecting a school or choosing an academic program. This new tool helps Service members compare more than 2,700 schools that are eligible for tuition assistance benefits.

SOC program reboot

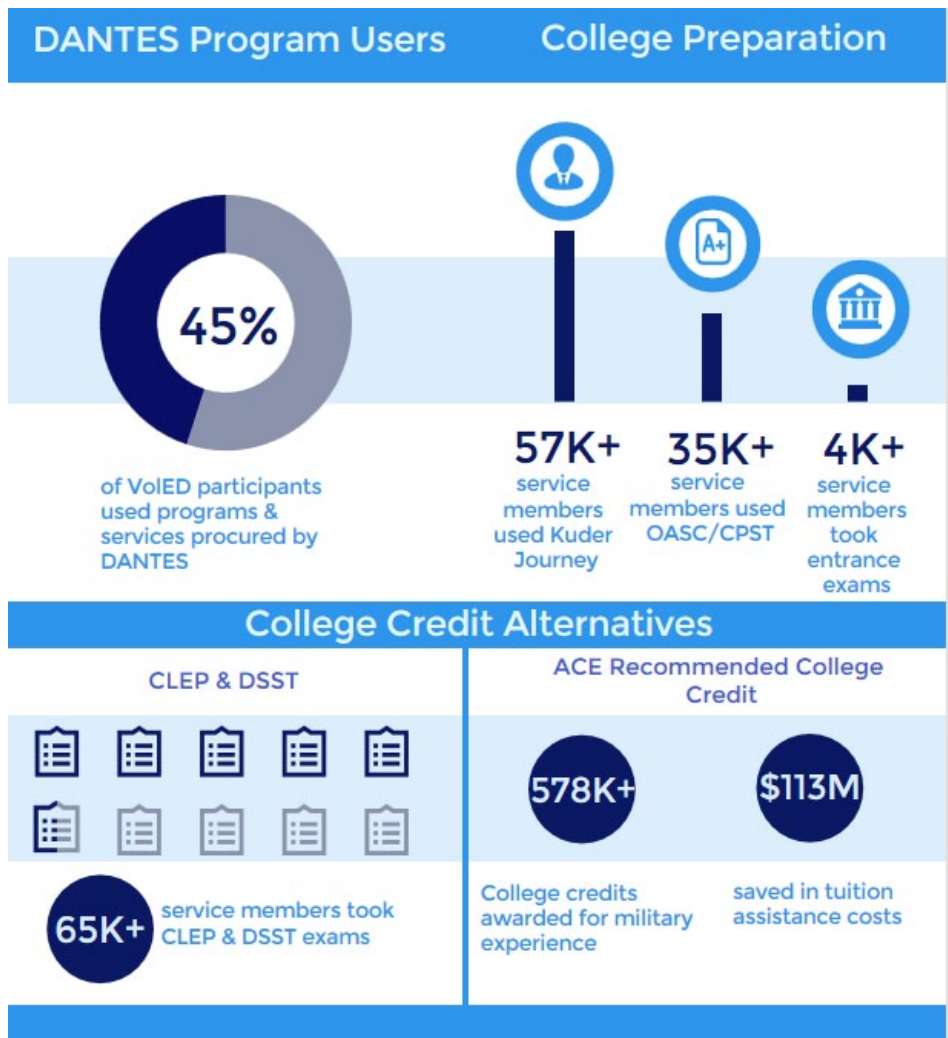
For more than 42 years, the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) program has provided educational opportunities to Service members experiencing trouble completing college degrees due to their frequent moves. FY15 began the first in a series of changes to align the program with current and emerging Service member needs. The most significant change included consolidating the Degree Network System (DNS) by removing service distinctions giving Service members full access to all DNS programs irrespective of their branch of service.

Joint virtual training

Since the ability to travel for training has become increasingly difficult due to Defense budgetary constraints, DANTES needed a new way to deliver training to the VolEd community. In FY15, DANTES conducted joint Service hybrid and virtual training sessions as pilots to test the concept of hybrid and virtual professional development opportunities for education service and academic institution personnel.

TTT partnerships & transition success

The Troops-to-Teachers (TTT) program launched a new strategic communications plan designed to increase program awareness and participation among transitioning military members and Veterans.



Across the country, state and regional TTT program offices created new pathways for Veterans to be hired as teachers by partnering with state, county, and independent school districts and national organizations.

Changing of the guard

FY15 was a record year for personnel changes for our small organization. We had eight retirements, six promotions, and gained several new faces to our team. Most notable was the retirement of Dr. Carol Berry, former Director of DANTES, who had more than 36 years of dedicated service to the VolEd community. The new DANTES Director, Jeff Allen, brings to our organization over 32 years of voluntary education experience, knowledge, and leadership that will be key in delivering education programs in an ever changing environment.

EXAMINATIONS NEWS

DAIMS release II now available!

The DANTES Academic Information Management System (DAIMS) is now available to currently appointed DANTES Test Control Officers (TCOs), Alternate Test Control Officers (ATCOs), Test Examiners and Interim Test Control Officers (ITCOs). DAIMS replaced the TCO Portal and provides users access to test site information, Service member data, exam forms and documents. Beginning in February 2016, TCOs will be able to obtain volume and pass rate reports for their test site and branch of service, and have access to the TCO training course.

To access DAIMS, currently appointed TCOs, ATCOs, ITCOs and Test Examiners must register in DAIMS using their Common Access Card (CAC) at <https://daims.doded.mil>. Do not register with a User Name and Password. Once registered, DANTES will activate the account and send an email to the user stating that the account is active. At that time, the user can begin to utilize DAIMS.

For information on how to assist on-campus test centers to become a part of the Fully Funded program, contact the DANTES Exams Program at 850-452-1919, 459-1919 (DSN), or exams@navy.mil.

Prometric at CCME

By Dawn Draper-Jackson, DSST

Prometric is honored to be a participant in the 2016 Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) Symposium. Stop by and say hello to us at our DSST booth where we will have information on our exam offerings as well as instructions on becoming a DANTES Fully Funded test center.

Prometric is also happy to partner with DANTES and CLEP in an engaging discussion on the benefits of Credit by Exam. Join us Feb. 17, 2016. Check your symposium agenda for the exact time and place.

We look forward to seeing you in San Antonio, Texas, Feb. 15-18!

DSST wishes you and yours a very happy and prosperous New Year. We look forward to a great 2016.

Have a question or
a VolEd story to share?
Send it to pubs@navy.mil.

DANTES PARTNERSHIPS NEWS

SOC completes phase one of DNS membership review

Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) has completed the first phase of its comprehensive Degree Network System (DNS) membership review and has notified institutions on the status of their DNS membership. Decision for removal was made based on enrollment trends of military students (as reported by the military services), educational needs of the services, and in accordance with the newly developed membership eligibility criteria. These criteria were developed in partnership with the Department of Defense Voluntary Education leadership last fall, and can be viewed at www.soc.aascu.org/socdns/DNSMember.html.

The second phase of the review process, currently underway, is looking at the Guaranteed Transferability (GT) networks and examining the fit of individual degrees within each network. The reformed DNS will focus solely on guaranteed two-way course transferability among member institutions. Current degrees in the system with no or little transferability will be removed. SOC uses metrics such as percentage of GT in degree, delivery methods, and tuition assistance enrollments to determine what degree programs currently in the DNS will remain, based on the educational needs of Service members.

SOC resources and support will remain available for all former member institutions as they work to honor previously issued Student Agreements. A checklist to help guide former member institutions in removing all SOC DNS membership references from institutional websites and publications is available on the SOC website. For additional questions, contact Jeanine Menolascino, SOC DNS Operations Coordinator, at menolascinoj@aascu.org or (202) 667-0079.



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DANTES PERSONNEL NEWS

Welcome aboard to all!

Jonathan Weiss, Management Analyst



A native of Florida, Weiss joined the DANTES team on Nov. 30 as a Management Analyst. He retired from the Navy after 22 years of service as a Chief Administrator. He earned his associate's degree in Business Administration and then his bachelors degree in Management Studies. Upon retiring from the military, he worked at the Navy Education

and Training Security Assistance Field Activity, Pensacola, where he was the Total Workforce Management System, Agency Program Coordinator and Defense Travel Systems guru. He will be a great asset to DANTES and we welcome him to the team!

Erin Roberts, Public Affairs Officer



Erin Roberts joined the DANTES team Dec. 14 as the Public Affairs Officer. Roberts joined the Air Force in 1990. During this time, she worked as a television reporter, video editor, news/spot producer and news anchor. She also worked as a radio disc jockey and overnight television board operator. Most notably, she served as television skills broadcast

instructor at the Defense Information School, Fort Meade, Md., and as a news reporter for the Pentagon Channel, where she interviewed Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff(s) General Peter Pace, Admiral Michael Mullen, former First Lady Laura Bush and former U.S. President George W. Bush. Roberts retired from the Air Force after 21 years where she started her civil service career at the Pentagon as Chief of Air Force Television (AFTV), a multimedia production facility. With all that experience, along with a master's degree in Management and Communications, she is well equipped to help get the word out on DANTES Programs and services. Roberts' motto is "Travel, seek adventure and enjoy life to the fullest, while helping others in need and spreading kindness and cheer."

Kim Day, Troops to Teachers Department Head



Kim Day joined the Troops to Teachers (TTT) team on Dec. 14. Prior to joining DANTES, Kim Day served as the Science Branch Chief at the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA), where she was responsible for the science programs in all Defense Department K-12 schools, serving more than 74,000 military-connected students worldwide.

During her 27 years with DoDEA, she worked primarily overseas to manage the educational support functions of four districts (Guam, Japan, Korea, and Okinawa), 45 schools, and 24,000 students affiliated with 18 military installations throughout the Pacific.

With a national vision for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, she was selected to serve on a special assignment in the Department of Defense (DoD) STEM Development Office for the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering (ASD(R&E)). While at the DoD STEM Development Office, she managed the K-12 National Defense Education Program (NDEP) and led the effort to promote DoD-specific STEM programs and activities. During this time, she worked to build community partnerships by connecting scientists and engineers from DoD and military laboratories with local school districts across the country to engage students and teachers in STEM activities.

In addition, Day was counsel to the National Academy of Engineering as it developed the STEM Integration in K-12 Education report and co-authored the Army Corps of Engineers STEM ED handbook and curriculum. She has served as a science technical reviewer for NASA, the office of Naval Research (ONR), and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA).

Day is known for her enthusiasm and passion for science education. She enjoys traveling, reading, and hiking with her dog Milo.



TROOPS TO TEACHERS NEWS

TTT Retires One of Our own

By Kimberly Hiebert, TTT Representative

Troops to Teachers (TTT), Oklahoma State Director, Shelby Douglas Satterfield, passed away unexpectedly this past November. Having served in the United States Navy, Satterfield continually gave to his family and country by serving as an Oklahoma State Representative and Troops to Teachers Oklahoma Director.



Troops to Teachers Oklahoma State Director, Shelby Satterfield.

Satterfield was president of his high school class of 1963 and attended Oklahoma State University. He joined the Navy in 1966, serving as an aviation electrician. In 1990, he was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives for District 68 for eight years. In 1998, Satterfield joined Troops to Teachers as the Oklahoma State Director. For the remaining 17 years, he assisted separating military members to transition successfully to careers as educators. "If you've ever met Shelby, you'd remember him. He had this smile and laugh that demanded you to like him. You couldn't help it," said Kimberly Hiebert, Troops to Teachers Associate Director for Native American Affairs. "Shelby will be greatly missed!"

Thad Satterfield, Shelby's son, said that his father found another calling in the TTT program: "He loved education, he loved veterans, and he believed that public education needed the best leaders. Consequently, helping veterans certify as teachers to take those leadership skills into the classroom, became a mission he would want to be remembered for."

Oklahoma House Speaker Jeff Hickman said in a statement: "Rep. Satterfield lived a life of service, first as a member of the Navy during the Vietnam War, then for eight years in the Oklahoma House of Representatives before finally continuing his public service at the Department of Education for the past 14 years, helping veterans obtain teaching certificates upon leaving the military with TTT. "The House of Representatives is an extended family and we are saddened by the passing of Rep. Satterfield."

Former Troop Retires

By Melissa Fantozzi, Mid-Atlantic Regional Director, TTT

Working with children and making a difference was the inspiration for Al Jackson's dream to



Former Troops to Teacher Al Jackson.

enter the teaching profession. As a middle school science teacher at Wilbur Watts Intermediate School in Burlington City, N.J., Jackson has been able to fulfill that dream, with the help of Troops to Teachers.

Retiring from the U.S Air Force in 2000, after 24 years, Jackson knew he wanted to practice all of the skills he learned in the military: strong work ethic and commitment

to giving back to the community, in his next career. He knew he enjoyed working with children and felt there needed to be more male minority teachers at the elementary level, and he enjoyed science, so that is what he pursued.

Jackson decided to pursue an alternative pathway to teaching certification within the state of New Jersey in the field of elementary education and middle school science. Jackson taught science for the last 14 years. During his teaching years, he has been involved in a wealth of school and community activities and serves proudly as a member of the New Jersey Science Teachers Association.

School principal Robert Shappell states, "Mr. Jackson is a passionate educator, a school leader, and a true professional. Whether it is teaching his class, advising student council, coaching the science bowl team, or volunteering for the Youth Achievers Committee. He puts his heart and soul into ensuring children have every opportunity to learn and grow as students, and as people. He is a mentor, a scholar, and a gentleman"

Jackson is no stranger to recognition. He proudly accepted the district's intermediate school teacher of the year award in 2006 and was a nominee for the highly competitive county Teacher of the Year award in 2007.

As a proud husband and father, Jackson is happy with his career choice and being able to bring science to the minds of many children. He states, "I am blessed to have a career where I continue to learn and grow while teaching our youth, our future leaders. They invite me into their lives each school year, then we challenge and influence each other and experience learning together."

DANTES Social Media

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or just let us know how your education journey is going!

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