

Texas TTT partners with Houston ISD to fill critical teacher shortages, benefitting Veterans and students alike

By Dr. Christene Nemetsky, Texas TTT Program Coordinator

Troops to Teachers (TTT) in Texas and the Houston Independent School District (ISD), the largest school district in Texas and the 7th largest in the nation, are enjoying a partnership benefitting both Veterans and Texas school children.

In an attempt to fill critical shortages in the district, Houston ISD responded to a call from Troops to Teachers in Texas to form a partnership giving way to thousands of TTT members seeking to transition into a teaching career following military Service. The partnership is informal in nature — school districts are contacted yearly and asked to submit their vacancies to the TTT office. TTT then posts the vacancies under the job opportunities tab of the TTT website and sends an email to all eligible members giving them notice of the teaching opportunities in their area.

The Career and Technical Education (CTE) certification area in particular is experiencing a serious shortage of teachers in Texas. CTE encompasses several different skill areas, some that do not require a bachelor's degree. Within trades and industries, certifications are available in areas such as welding, automotive technicians, diesel mechanics, culinary arts and many more. In fact, there are 153 skills in Houston ISD that Service members could qualify to teach using their military experience. Since many military occupational specialties correlate with the CTE skills, it became apparent to both TTT and Houston ISD that a partnership was indeed a win for both.

Recently, talent recruitment managers from Houston ISD traveled to Fort Hood, Texas, to participate jointly with Texas TTT at a quarterly pre-retirement orientation. The orientations normally host around 300 soon-to-be-retiring Fort Hood soldiers. It was a prime opportunity for Texas TTT representatives to explain what the Troops to Teachers program is and how it can help support transition, and for Houston ISD's lead recruitment manager for CTE, Victoria Real, to talk about job opportunities in the Houston area.

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Pictured above (l-r): Victoria Real and Raquel Torres, Talent Specialists for Houston ISD Career and Technical Education, recruiting teachers at a recent Fort Hood pre-retirement orientation.

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TROOPS TO TEACHERS NEWS (CON'T)

Rae Anne Dotter, TTT participant, receives second national Teacher of the Year honor

By Kimberly Hiebert, Troops to Teachers Mountain Pacific Office

Announced June 23 in Washington, D.C., Colorado Troops to Teachers (TTT) participant Rae Anne Dotter was selected as the 2015 National Challenger Center for Space Science Education Teacher of the Year. Dotter, who teaches science at Cotopaxi Junior Senior High, is now a two-time recipient of this national level award, having also received it in 2012.

The award honors teachers who inspire students and help them excel in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) subjects, as well as implement their classroom plans with the Challenger Center. Nominations are taken from the 40 Challenger Learning Centers throughout the United States, England, South Korea, and Canada.

“The teachers who receive this annual award have committed their lives to educating today’s youth. We are grateful that Ms. Dotter has identified the Challenger Learning Center of Colorado as a resource and tool to help further engage her students in STEM subjects, and inspire them to reach for the stars,” said Dr. Lance Bush, President and CEO, Challenger Center in Washington, D.C.



Rae Anne Dotter receives her first National Challenger Center for Space Science Education Teacher of the Year award from Jay Stutz, lead Flight Director, in this 2012 photo.

After graduating from the U.S. Air Force Academy (USAFA), Dotter commanded tanker and communications missions with Desert Storm; obtained her Master’s degree in Chemistry and was honored as Outstanding Academy Educator at the USAFA.; and was recalled to the tanker force after 9/11. In the next five years, Dotter served five tours, including Operation Enduring Freedom and

Iraqi Freedom, and retired in 2005 after 20 years of Service.

Just prior to retirement, Dotter contacted Troops to Teachers. She became interested in teaching after her experience teaching for the USAFA. Being proactive, Dotter started her teacher education program while still serving so that she would be fully licensed shortly after she retired, making the transition into a teaching profession seamless. TTT provided support during her program, job placement assistance, and post placement support, Dotter beams saying, “The support of Troops to Teachers was invaluable to my successful transition from active Service,” where she is proud to serve again.

Approaching her ninth year in teaching with the same school district, Dotter has taught many different science courses, along with Spanish. Her students recognize her, saying, “Mrs. Dotter inspired me to pursue Chemistry as a minor; In our Physics class, we studied electrical theory which helped me with my decision to enroll in Lineman school.” Principal Crabtree attests, “Students who don’t excel in other classes are stimulated to learn from her dynamic methods that I feel come from her background as an Air Force pilot. She constantly finds ways to bring science to every student. Her effervescent teaching style is contagious and makes the learning environments better for our students and teachers.”

The TTT Mountain Pacific office is located at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs. Challenger Learning Center of Colorado is also located in Colorado Springs.

Texas TTT/Houston ISD

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Information provided gave Service members tools and resources they could use in the pursuit of a teaching certification, and also led to a reduction in Houston ISD teacher shortages. A win for Service members and a win for Houston students.

To find out about teaching opportunities in the Houston area, contact Victoria Real at vreal@houstonisd.org. For more information on Troops to Teachers in Texas, contact Dr. Christene Nemetsky at christene.nemetsky@esc13.txed.net.



COUNSELING NEWS



DoD VolEd installation access tips and resource links

The Department of Defense (DoD) installation access policy for education institutions can be found in DoD Instruction 1322.25, “Voluntary Education Programs” (see Enclosure 3, sections 3 and 4). Additionally, the Military Departments may enforce Service-specific requirements.

All requests for DoD installation access by an educational institution are referred to the responsible education advisor (government official), who must:

- » provide a timely response to all properly submitted DoD installation access requests
- » fully consider each request received for appropriate and adequate access; DoD installation access is not guaranteed and requires careful consideration of the visit purpose, capability to host, and status of DoD Voluntary Education Partnership MOU
- » maintain copies of all correspondence and records pertaining to DoD installation access requests and decisions for a minimum of two years
- » monitor educational institutions granted access to DoD installations, ensuring compliance with DoD Instruction 1322.25 during the visit
- » obtain a record of students counseled (academic counseling or support services only) provided upon departure of the institutional representative
- » promptly report non-compliance activities to osd.pentagon.ousd-p-r.mbx.vol-edu-compliance@mail.mil and the applicable Service official

Educational institutions may request access to any DoD installation for permissible activities. In order to obtain access an educational institution must:

- » submit a written request to the responsible education advisor
- » have a signed DoD VolEd Partnership MOU
- » be in compliance with state requirements and laws

Educational institutions requesting DoD installation access solely to provide academic counseling or support services to students must have a minimum of 20 military-connected students enrolled at that installation and must adhere to certain reporting requirements following the visit.

Participation in DoD installation activities, including commercial sponsorship/advertising agreements, may be permissible when vetted through the responsible education advisor.

Agreements should not conflict with the DoD Voluntary Education Partnership MOU and educational institutions entering into such agreements are not automatically granted DoD installation access. The educational institution must submit a request to the responsible education advisor.

For a detailed list of DoD Installation Access Tips, go to www.dodmou.com/Documents/Resources/Documents/Installation%20Access_General%20Notice%20Tips_16Jul2015.pdf. Additional resource links:

- » DoD Instruction 1322.25 www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/132225p.pdf
- » DoD Voluntary Education Partnership MOU FAQs www.dodmou.com/Home/Faq

New DANTES phone numbers

The DANTES offices in Pensacola, Fla., converted to a new phone system last month and now have new office and fax numbers. Check out the back page for new contact numbers.

The current main number, 850-452-1111, will remain operational, connecting to a DANTES team member for callers needing additional assistance.

EXAMINATIONS NEWS

Prior learning assessment benefits military members

By Dawn Draper-Jackson, DSST

The adoption of Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) is on the rise in both two- and four-year programs. In the simplest terms, PLA is learning gained outside of a traditional academic environment. PLA allows military members to receive college-level credit for demonstrating knowledge of specific subject areas. Students benefit by saving time and money with this approach.

A 2010 Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) study showed that 56 percent of PLA students earned a post-secondary degree, compared to only 21 percent of non-PLA students. The same study also established that PLA students had higher grade point averages (GPAs) than non-PLA students.

There are four “flavors” of PLA:

1. Portfolio. The student’s knowledge is evaluated through an organized presentation of education, work samples, and skills.
2. Final exam. The student’s knowledge is evaluated through taking the equivalent of the final exam for the course.
3. Certificates and transfers. The student’s knowledge is evaluated through professional certification or other life experiences. Examples would be the military Joint Services Transcript (JST) or a certification from a prior career experience.
4. Standardized exam. The student’s knowledge is evaluated through an exam that holds a credit recommendation by the American Council on Education (ACE).

The DSST exam suite, available at www.getcollegedcredit.com, is a great example of the standardized exam method of PLA. DSST is delivered and accepted by over 1,900 National Test Centers, located on bases and at colleges and universities, and allows qualifying Service members to get credit for college without utilizing their Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits. Education counselors should take this opportunity to remind Service members that DANTEs pays for their first exam attempt only.

Service members should always check with their base education counselor first, as well as their chosen academic institution, to find out how to take advantage of the different PLA options available to them.

DANTEs Exams Program retires the DANTEs TCO Portal

The new DANTEs Academic Information Management System (DAIMS) will soon replace the DANTEs Test Control Officer (TCO) Portal. Like the portal, DANTEs Testing Personnel will use DAIMS to manage paper-based DANTEs Test Site operations and provide resources specific to DANTEs-sponsored academic exams, including funding eligibility information for all programs. The new system features enhanced, up-to-date volume reporting for a variety of academic programs and an electronic data share capability with DANTEs’ military partners.

The initial June 2015 rollout was for internal use only by HQ DANTEs staff. TCOs will not have access to DAIMS until Sept. 7, 2015.

DANTEs Testing Personnel should have downloaded all items under DOCUMENTS which are crucial to test site management and paper-based test administration. These documents include:

- CLEP Examination Guides
 - » all 2015 CLEP titles
- DEPH Online
 - » Part I and Part II (all chapters)
- Exam Program Forms
 - » Ordering Forms (all items)
 - » Online Forms and Exhibits (all items)

The items above shall not be placed on the Internet or any public facing social media site. For local access, the CLEP Exam Guides can be placed on a military installation intranet..

If the deadline to download these documents from the TCO portal was missed, notify the Exams Program staff who will provide support as needed. For information or assistance, email exams@navy.mil.

In addition, DANTEs Testing Personnel may call the testing agencies directly to verify prior testing history (not scores) for Service members.



To receive email notification when the DIB is posted to the website, send an email to pubs@navy.mil.

Click [HERE](#) to view archived DIBs.

Real world proof of the value of voluntary education programs

In March 2013, DANTES became responsible for contracted education programs and services in the contingency areas. For a ten month period, while new contracts were solicited and awarded, DANTES administered the contracts that the Army had previously put into effect. The new contracts went into effect Feb. 1, 2014, awarded to: Central Texas College (CTC) to provide vocational-technical college instruction and education support services; University of Maryland University College (UMUC) to provide liberal arts undergraduate college instruction and graduate programs in counseling, information science and public administration; and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU) to provide undergraduate aviation instruction and graduate aeronautical science programs.

The value of these education programs and services was recently demonstrated when militants conducted a series of coordinated attacks against numerous military sites and police stations at one of the contingency area sites. Just the week before the attacks, sixteen students completed an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) course onsite. Completion of this course prepares Service members to be certified by passing the National Registry of EMTs examination. However, in addition to being prepared to test their skills through the National Registry examination, these students were almost immediately tested on their skills in the real world.

These newly trained students were called upon to assist in the mass casualty event created by the deadly attack in that region. All of the students participated in assisting the reaction team and supporting medical staff to transport wounded personnel. The students were praised by the medical staff for their phenomenal

performance and on how efficient they were under pressure. Their outstanding performance was attributed to the course they had just completed and leadership onsite talked about how education and training provided on location makes a fundamental difference in how Service members do their jobs.

Education programs and services are provided at military locations in Bahrain, Djibouti, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Sinai, and the United Arab Emirates. Service members in Afghanistan and Iraq can take distance learning courses through the contracted schools, taking advantage of the contracted tuition rates. National Test Centers are also operating in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. During academic school year 2013-2014, there were 7,355 college enrollments at these locations and 136 degrees completed. During the first three terms of the current academic year, there have been 4,568 college enrollments and 43 degrees completed. There have also been over 60,000 hours of education support services provided since DANTES became responsible for the contracted programs and services.



Pictured above: Camp Buehring, Kuwait, had its first graduation recognition ceremony June 27. With 13 graduates walking across the stage, the students represented education levels associate through master's degrees.

**Photo courtesy of
SPC Gregory Summers, 3rd ABCT, 4th ID**



**Dr. Filipe Gonzalez, CTC instructor,
teaching the EMT course in Sinai.**

Photo courtesy of CTC

The EMT program is just one of the many programs offered on location in the contingency areas by CTC, ERAU, and UMUC. The situation described above is just one of many examples of how Service members apply the knowledge and skills acquired through these programs and services to everyday situations, both on and off the job. By helping to bring education programs and services to Service members wherever they stationed, DANTES helps Service members to be truly at their best.

DANTES PARTNERSHIPS NEWS

2015 SOC DNS Credit Evaluation Supplement released

The Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) released the 2015 SOC Degree Network System (DNS) Credit Evaluation Supplement in July. This maps subject area terms contained in Service school and occupational exhibits in the ACE Military Guide, ACE recommended credit for national testing programs, and Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) courses to SOC DNS Course Categories. It is designed for use with the SOC DNS-2 and DNS-4 Handbooks.



The mapping shown in the SOC DNS Credit Evaluation Supplement serves as suggested academic placement guidelines for optimizing credit application towards Service members' DNS degree programs. This mapping is also displayed on the summary page of the Joint Services Transcript (JST), that can be accessed at <https://jst.doded.mil>.

Visit the SOC Web site (www.soc.aascu.org) to learn more about SOC DNS and to view the SOC DNS Credit Evaluation Supplement.

REFERENCE PUBLICATIONS NEWS

Peterson's offers offline version of popular online CPST course

Peterson's latest online skills course, College Placement Skills Training (CPST), is now available in an offline CD version. Like the previously released Online Academic Skills Course (OASC) CD, this allows Service members to take the course without an Internet connection. Once they have connectivity, Service members can then upload their progress and an administrator can review the results.

Administrators:

Once Service members have uploaded the results from their offline course, administrators can view the results through the CPST administrator dashboard. The offline users are identified in the group creation process with an indicator on the 'Select a Student' page. Once added to a group, the offline user's data can be viewed with the same reporting features as online Service members. Also, offline and online Service members can be added to the same group for reporting.

Installation:

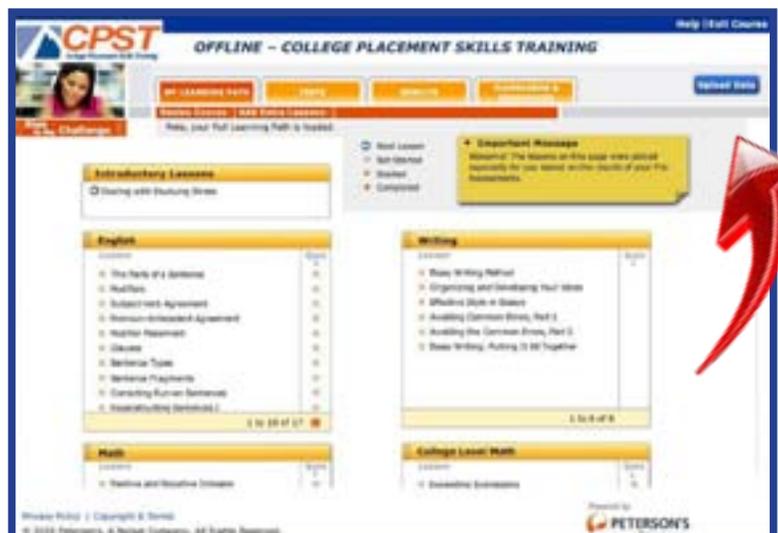
The CPST CD contains all files needed to install the offline course on a computer, Windows-based or Mac. Once the CD is inserted into a Windows-based computer, the auto-installer software will walk the user through the installation process. The Mac installation process is similar, but users will need to open the CPST CD icon on their desktop and double click the setup.mpkg file. Once installed, the CD is no longer needed on that computer to take the course and can be used to load the course onto other computers.

Registration and user experience:

Service members complete registration forms the first time they open the offline course; registration data is used to identify the results once they are uploaded. Note that each installation of the course on a computer is designed to be used by a single Service member. Multiple Service members cannot take the offline course on a single computer.

The offline version of CPST contains the same content and features as the online version. This includes pre-assessments, customized learning paths, practice tests, and flashcards. The only difference is that the software is on the Service member's computer and an 'Upload' button (shown below) is located on the top right of page for uploading results.

CDs were distributed to military education centers in July. For more information, contact refpubs@navy.mil.



FROM THE DESK OF THE SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR



CMSgt Adalberto Velez
Senior Enlisted Advisor

Did you know that you can skip some courses and receive credit for them through college credit examinations? Credit-by-examinations are widely accepted by colleges and universities, and, by passing these examinations, individuals can possibly earn one-third or more of the credits required for a degree.

These examinations are available in different subject areas and are similar to final examinations given by colleges and universities. Credit earned by examination is a relatively fast way to receive college credit.

One of DANTES' main objectives is to make college more affordable and less time consuming for active duty members and veterans. To accomplish this goal DANTES funds one administration per exam title of the College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and DSST, to help military students save money, time, and achieve their college goals. The American Council on Education (ACE) recommends college credit for both of these credit-by-examination programs.

CLEP is a widely accepted credit-by-examination program that recognizes your comprehensive subject knowledge acquired through course work, independent study, military service schools, and professional development. Over 2,900 colleges and universities award credit for satisfactory scores on CLEP exams.

DSST exams also help students save time and money, and are available in many different subjects. Students who have gained knowledge through military training,

work experience, or independent study can receive potential college credit for passing one or more of these tests. DSST exams allow military personnel to further their educational goals while in the Service – whether they are deployed or located on a military base. Service members should keep their academic strengths in mind when selecting an exam and prepare themselves as best as possible prior to taking a test.

As you can see, there are definite advantages to passing DSST and CLEP exams. However, it is important that you adequately prepare yourself to take these tests as there is no free retesting on the same test title. Also, ensure any exam taken is applicable to the degree you are pursuing.



In closing, this column affords a unique opportunity to reach out to my fellow Service members concerning VolEd and DANTES programs. If there is an opportunity to visit or speak to NCOs, SNCOs, or at events at your military installation, please let me know, I would appreciate an invite. If you have a success story with military VolEd that you would like to share, send it to me and maybe you'll see it published in this forum. Until next time, keep up with DANTES on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DANTES.DoD or contact me at ea@navy.mil. I would enjoy hearing from you.

OTHER VOLED NEWS AND BLOGS

NCPACE provides educational opportunities at-sea

www.navy.mil/submit/display.asp?story_id=90164

Dr. Chief: Senior enlisted leader inspires, leads in education

www.dvidshub.net/news/169479/dr-chief-senior-enlisted-leader-inspires-leads-education#.Valkk_IViko

Higher learning important for Service members

www.dvidshub.net/image/2061678/higher-learning-important-service-members#.VallPfIViko

Career Intermission Pilot Program offers Soldiers a break

[www.army.mil/article/152125/Career Intermission Pilot Program offers Soldiers a break/](http://www.army.mil/article/152125/Career_Intermission_Pilot_Program_offers_Soldiers_a_break/)

Yellow Ribbon program information available for 2015 - 2016 academic year

www.benefits.va.gov/GIBILL/yellow_ribbon.asp

Army Reserve leader tells Soldier's story during Yellow Ribbon event

www.dvidshub.net/news/169887/army-reserve-leader-tells-soldiers-story-during-yellow-ribbon-event#.ValmavIVikp

NEW DANTES PHONE NUMBERS (JULY 27, 2015)

DANTES Telephone Numbers DSN 459-xxxx; CML (850) 452-xxxx			
<u>Office</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Fax</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Counselor Support	1914	1965	counseling@navy.mil
DANTES DIB Editor	1901	1963	pubs@navy.mil
Director's Office	1901	1963	dantes@navy.mil
Distance Learning Programs	1915	1965	DantesDL@navy.mil
Distribution Center	1929	1962	dist@navy.mil
DoD MOU Program	1977	1965	voledconcerns@navy.mil
Education Programs Contract Mgmt Admin	1917	1965	
Education Programs Dept. Admin	1916	1965	
European Advisor	011-49-611-143-544-1230 DSN: (314) 544-1230		usarmy.badenwur.usareur.mbx. dantes-euro@mail.mil
Examination Programs	1922	1964	exams@navy.mil
Higher Ed Programs Military Evaluations	1912	1964	DANTES_ace@navy.mil
Higher Ed Programs SOC	1913	1965	DANTES_SOC@navy.mil
Higher Ed Programs Compliance Oversight	1913	1965	DANTES_thirdparty@navy.mil
Reference Publications	1933	1970	refpubs@navy.mil
Senior Enlisted Advisor	1903	1963	ea@navy.mil
Training	1911	1965	dantestraining@navy.mil
Troops to Teachers	1998	1960	ttt@navy.mil
Webmaster	1936	1966	dantes_webmaster@navy.mil

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DANTES Social Media

Join us for up-to-date information, conversations,
or just let us know how your education journey is going!

DANTES Twitter

www.twitter.com/DoD_DANTES

DANTES Pulse blog

www.dantespulse.dodlive.mil

DANTES Facebook

www.facebook.com/DANTES.DoD

DANTES Youtube

www.youtube.com/channel/UCAD8yGhGBeDAIPMW7Eu-sA

DANTES

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PENSACOLA, FL 32509-5243

<http://www.dantes.doded.mil>

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.

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