

INFORMATION BULLETIN

WORLDWIDE EDUCATION SUPPORT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

DECEMBER 2014 NUMBER 449

WWW.DANTES.DODED.MIL

1974 - 2014: Celebrating 40 years of service!

Fair Winds and Following Seas to DANTES retirees

DANTES bids farewell to three long-time DANTES team members this month. Join us in celebrating their Federal careers and expressing our gratitude and appreciation for their service, dedication, and jobs well-done. We wish them good luck on the start of their next adventures.



Rhonda Watkins

Education Technician (31+ years)

Rhonda R. Watkins is a native of Pensacola, Fla., beginning and ending her Federal career right here on home ground. She graduated from Pensacola High School (“GO TIGERS”) and then Troy University (“GO TROJANS”).

Watkins began her Federal career on Sept. 26, 1983, as a Clerk-Typist in Building 1 at Naval Air Station Pensacola, in what was then the Consolidated Civilian Personnel Office (CCPO).

After that, she worked for six years with the Internal Revenue Service (Jacksonville, Fla. and St. Louis, Mo.) as a Contact

Continued on page 2



Joseph Whittington

Distribution Center Manager (41+ years)

Joe Whittington joined the Navy after graduating high school and served one tour, aboard the USS Lexington in Pensacola, Fla. After his discharge in 1975, he began his federal civil service career at the Naval Education and Training Information Systems Activity (NETISA). During this time he attended Pensacola Junior College (PJC) on the GI Bill studying Graphic Arts.

In 1978, Whittington was promoted to Bindery Machine Operator Helper at the Navy Publications and Printing Service aboard NAS Pensacola, Fla.

Continued on page 2



Dr. Sandy Winborne

MilEval Program Manager (28+ years)

Dr. Sandy Winborne began her 28-year Federal service career in 1986, working as a Navy Family Relations Counselor in Family Service. After a year, she moved on to other counseling positions before resuming her Federal service career in 1989, working as a Clinical Assistant Counselor at the NAS Pensacola Regional Medical Hospital.

In 1991, she joined the DANTES team, first as a Testing Operations Specialist, then moving up to Credentialing Program Manager in 1993, managing certifications and licensures. Winborne

Continued on page 2

What's Inside?

Examinations	3	DANTES 40th Ed Gala	6
Troops to Teachers	4	External	7
Desk of SEA	5	Contacts	8



Rhonda Watkins

Continued from page 1

Representative, working on the front lines, in the Accounts section on problem resolution referral lines; and as a Personnel Staffing Specialist, conducting the day-to-day operations relating to recruitment, career management, personnel records and reporting, and retirement computations and counseling.

In 1991, she joined the U.S. Customs Service (Washington, D.C.) as an Enforcement Programs Specialist, performing analytical studies of operational or program activities to resolve deficiencies and recommend workable solutions.

Watkins returned home to Pensacola in 1994, where she joined DANTEs as an Education Technician, working in the Distribution Center.

In 2004, she moved to the Education Programs Department, working in the Credentialing program until 2011. She then joined the Department of Defense Memorandum of Understanding (DoD MOU) team, where she provided support to that program until her retirement.

Her many years of service with DANTEs directly assisted Service members in achieving their education goals.

“Indeed I have been very fortunate to have had a career that allowed me to support our selfless Service members around the globe. I have always felt that I was born to serve, and it gives me great joy to know that my labor has been a benefit to others. I am looking forward to this transition into retirement where I plan to live a life a joyous, peaceful, and passionate life. Abundant blessings and favor to you all.”

Joseph Whittington

Continued from page 1

He completed the Graphic Arts Technology program at PJC, earning an associate degree, and advanced to journeyman-level Bindery Machine Operator, operating industrial paper processing equipment.

Seeking a change, he applied for and was accepted into the Naval Aviation Depot's (NADEP) Aircraft Apprenticeship Program in 1987. After completing the four year formal apprenticeship, Whittington worked as a journeyman Aircraft Mechanic, building helicopter transmissions. Due to base closure and realignment actions, he returned to printing in 1994, this time for the Corps of Engineers at the Defense Printing Service Branch Office Mobile, Ala. After two years, due to technological changes in the printing trade, this position was abolished.

But this meant that, in 1996, Whittington joined the DANTEs team. He moved from Office Assistant to Material Handler and then, in 2010, was promoted to his current position as Supply Management Officer. He managed receipt, warehousing and the distribution of all DANTEs educational materials; managed DANTEs mail, warehouse equipment and auto fleet; and served as safety and fire safety manager for the distribution center.

“In summary, my federal career will have been 41 years, 8 months, and 19 days. It occupied three predominant blocks of time: 11 years in government printing, 7 years in aviation rework, and 18 years supporting voluntary education. I thank God for the journey and all the wonderful people along the path.”

Dr. Sandra Winborne

Continued from page 1

worked closely with the Services, certification associations, and the academic community to forge agreements with nationally-recognized certification associations to provide guidance, support, and certification programs information to Service members. Her expertise led to multiple additional duties, such as Chair for the Professional Certification and Licensure Advisory Council (PCLAC) for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (DVA), advising on issues relating to credentialing bodies suitability to be authorized under the VA's MGIB Program, and member of the Professional Certification Advisory Board (PCAB). Winborne worked with the Army on their GI to Jobs Working Group initiative, which evolved into the launching of the Army COOL website. She also provided assistance to the Navy prior to their Navy COOL start-up. She brokered the agreement between DANTEs and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to make their CBT exams available to military personnel at no cost at nearly 30 locations stateside and overseas. Winborne also put together the agreement between DANTEs and the DoD Workforce Information Assurance Program and created a DoD Voucher Database for all IA personnel required to possess certification(s) under Directive 8570. Winborne is a subject matter expert, and presented at national and international conferences, seminars, and workshops on several credentialing or educational topics.

During this time, she also managed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement process with national professional credentialing associations.

Continued on page 3

EXAMINATIONS NEWS

GED Testing Service news for DANTES candidates

GED Testing Service (GEDTS) announced that, effective Oct. 27, 2014, all CONUS and OCONUS DANTES and Federal Board of Prison (FBOP) test-takers who pass the GED test will receive a GED credential issued by the District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.).

GEDTS is partnering with the District of Columbia to offer high school equivalency credentials to GED test graduates. Since launching the 2014 GED program, the state of Mississippi had agreed to issue GED credentials for DANTES test-takers. This arrangement was temporary, and now there is a permanent credentialing solution in place for these test-takers. NOTE: All credentials issued by the state of Mississippi are still valid.

This change also includes USAFI-era veterans who are seeking or have sought a duplicate diploma from the new JST/USAFI online ordering system. Test Control Officers (TCOs) are reminded that although DANTES-funding is only available for eligible military personnel, military family members and logistically supported civilians are authorized to register under DANTES to receive the District of Columbia's GED credential.

TCOs are strongly encouraged to refer to the DANTES Examinations Program Handbook (DEPH) Chapter 1 for additional information and to share GEDTS News with their Education Centers.

DSST offers fast track to reaching educational goals

Everyone can appreciate having a little extra time. By taking DSST exams, eligible military members and spouses have the capability to earn their degrees in less time, not to mention for less money. The exams take less than 90 minutes each to complete—substantially less time than sitting in a classroom all semester to take an equivalent course.

Learners not sure if they have the right knowledge level to pass the test can take a \$5-\$10 practice exam online, or try their hand at a free quiz by downloading the new DSST app, available in the Apple and Google Play stores.

All DSST exams are offered online and scored in real time (except for The Principles of Public Speaking exam, which has a 4-week lead time for score reporting). Candidates know immediately if they passed their exam, and are freed up to address other educational requirements.

For more information, contact the DANTES Examinations Program at exams@navy.mil or visit www.getcollegecredit.com.

We want your story!

**Ed Centers -
do you have a VolEd-related story to share?**

If so, send submissions to pubs@navy.mil.

Dr. Sandra Winborne

Continued from page 2

January 2012 brought another move, this time to the Military Evaluations Program Manager position. She was responsible for the Services' reviews that are authorized and conducted under the American Council on Education (ACE) contract. Additionally, Winborne directly impacted the Military Evaluations and Joint Services Transcript (JST) Programs by increasing assimilation of Service member data, course completions, credentialing, and military experiences on the JST.

Winborne earned bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees in education.

High cost of higher education

Do a search of the news, whether paper or online, and you will find article after article about the high cost of higher education.

But, not all of the news is dire. Military and Veteran students have many resources at hand to help with those costs, like tuition assistance and the Post 9/11 GI bill. Plus, there are options that can cut down on both the cost and the time it takes to earn a degree.

Also, colleges and universities are making great strides in helping military students succeed and graduate. Many have opened veteran support offices and have created programs to track and assist military students, ensuring they don't "get lost in the cracks."

The good news is that a college degree is not beyond the reach of military members. Do research, take advantage of available resources, and get started!

Read more at the DANTESpulse blog www.dantespulse.dodlive.mil/high-cost-of-higher-education/.

TROOPS TO TEACHERS NEWS

Peter Chapla: A journey through Troops to Teachers

By Vanessa Barron and Beth Breitmaier, Troops to Teachers North Atlantic Region

United States Marine Corps veteran Peter Chapla's promotion to Assistant Superintendent is both an achievement and a challenge. Over 20 percent of students in the Williamsport Area School District in Pennsylvania receive special education services, and a significant portion come from low-income households.

Chapla, however, is more than ready to answer the call of duty. As an accomplished teacher and administrator, he attributes his successful career to his military experience—and to the assistance of the Troops to Teachers (TTT) program.

Chapla's military career served as the ideal foundation for his transition to the field of education. After graduating from Penn State with a bachelor's degree in history, he followed in his father's footsteps and became a Marine. Chapla served as platoon leader and commander on various deployments over his 12 years of service. In 1995, he was honorably discharged after serving as an Instructor Advisor for a Marine Corps Reserve unit in Buffalo.



Newly appointed Williamsport Area School District Assistant Superintendent Peter Chapla on his first day at work.

"..veterans in the school setting offer students stability and predictability."

Peter Chapla
TTT participant

After obtaining his Pennsylvania social studies certification and Master of Secondary Education degree from the University of Scranton, Chapla taught at Western Wayne High School for five years. He then served as Principal at both Western Wayne Middle School and Valley View High School before being appointed to his current position in August.

Now, 18 years after his own transition to teaching began, Chapla is convinced that the secret to successful schools is simple: Hire more military veteran teachers

with the support of TTT.

It is no surprise to Chapla that the veterans teaching in his new district are exceptional. In particular, he praises TTT participants' adaptability and excellent interpersonal skills. "The Troops to Teachers program puts talented, bright people and, most importantly, flexibility into the teaching ranks. Team building, developing a sense of unity of effort and taking care of our own is what each Troops to Teachers candidate brings to the public schools. "

Chapla is perhaps proudest of veterans' abilities to serve as role models and mentors to at-risk students.

"Whether it is a student experiencing stress and fear of a dysfunctional family, mental health issues, substance abuse, poverty or unemployment, veterans in the school setting offer students stability and predictability."

Peter Chapla's mission to transform education is just beginning. With TTT's support, he hopes thousands more veterans will answer the call to serve again as teachers.

"The Troops to Teachers program puts talented, bright people and, most importantly, flexibility into the teaching ranks."

Peter Chapla
TTT participant



For general information on the TTT program:

- » Web sites:
 - www.dantes.doded.mil/service-members/troops-to-teachers/index.html
 - www.proudtoserveagain.com/
- » email: ttt@navy.mil
- » Toll free: (800) 231-6242
- » DSN: 459-1320
- » Fax: (850) 452-1096

FROM THE DESK OF THE SENIOR ENLISTED ADVISOR



CMSgt Adalberto Velez
Senior Enlisted Advisor

I am excited to be the new DANTES Senior Enlisted Advisor. I have big shoes to fill in replacing Master Chief Acuff as he rides off to start a new journey in life. Master Chief, thanks for all that you have done for the DANTES mission and our nation. I would like to start by giving a little bit of history on my journey and personal background with Voluntary Education (VoEd).

Before I joined the United States Air Force (USAF), I attended junior college. Due to financial obligations, I entered the USAF. My number one goal was to get an education. At basic training, I knew I was going to be in for some years, so I declined the Montgomery GI Bill. I was educated by a family member on Tuition Assistance and was going to utilize this awesome program. I started to receive credit hours towards the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) at basic training, and continued to earn credits as I successfully completed the training for my first occupation. When I arrived at my first duty station, I completed the occupation Career Development Course. I was earning credit hours without sitting in a civilian college. Thus far, my education had been earned through military experience. Now, I decided it was time to sit in the classroom.

I wanted to get a degree because my parents did not pursue theirs, and I wanted them to be proud of me. Also, I wanted to be ready for the civilian sector when it was time to transition. Lastly, I could tell you that I started taking college classes again for a more noble reason, but actually, I took them to help balance out my career for promotion. As I found out, you can balance an education, a family, and your career, with planning and their support. I finally received an associate degree through CCAF.

I decided to pursue a bachelor's degree at Wayland Baptist University in San Antonio, Texas. I learned to sit in a classroom at an off-base campus and meet other personnel that had no dealings with the military. The degree helped me with my promotion to Senior Master Sergeant (E8) and to gain a new occupation — Education and Training Specialist. As education continued to be my number one priority, my new occupation and my education goal lined up.

Now, it was time to pursue a master's degree. I am a huge fan of distance learning (DL), after completing a course prior to enrolling for the master's program. DL allows for some flexibility, but is not for everyone. If you wonder if you are a good candidate for DL, check out the DANTES DL Readiness Self-Assessment (www.dantescatalogs.com/DIDemo/dlDemoIntro.aspx). I enrolled at Baker College and received a Master of Business Administration in Healthcare Management and Finance. I can say I've experienced both DL and traditional classroom learning.

Earning a master's degree was just one item that was instrumental in my promotion to Chief Master Sergeant (E9). Plus, with all that had happened, I was nominated and selected for an incredible AF career opportunity: the Air Force's Education and Training Career Field Manager at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

This, I hope, demonstrates that anyone can take college classes, no matter what their circumstances or their methods. A not-so-traditional means to education, like DL, can help accomplish your educational goals just like a brick-and-mortar classroom. Before you sign up, be sure to visit your base education center for counseling and to help set your sights on your goal. I owe my own success to counselors that guided me.

I invite anyone with a VoEd success story to send it to me so I can share it and inspire other readers to perhaps create their own success stories. Send me an email at ea@navy.mil and say "Hi." I would enjoy hearing from you. Thank you for all that you will continue to do.



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.

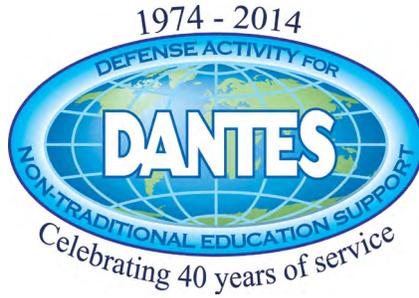


DANTES celebrates 40 years of service and excellence

In July 1974, the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense sent a memo to the Assistant Secretaries of the Military Departments announcing the establishment of the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES). DANTES was tasked with providing exams and course catalog programs and with managing contracts to support the American Council on Education (ACE) and the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC). Today, DANTES is still responsible for providing a range of voluntary education programs and products that meet the needs of the military: credit-by-exam; credit-by-experience; college prep; distance learning; Troops to Teachers (TTT); and the behind-the-scenes personnel that keep it all running.

Over the years, many professionals have worked at DANTES, bringing with them decades of experience in the voluntary education program. Today, DANTES has 44 government employees, two military advisors, and 17 contractors. Experts dedicated to providing the best possible programs and services to our military, with a very simple motto to help keep the focus on what is important: "It's all about the Service member!"

On Dec. 2, DANTES held a 40th Anniversary Celebration & Education Gala at the Naval Aviation Technical Training Center on NAS Pensacola, Fla. DANTES personnel met with sailors and Marines just beginning their careers in "A" school, and staff members, many of whom have already begun their



college educations. It was a wonderful opportunity for DANTES staff members to "meet and greet" their future customers and to spread the word about DANTES programs and the importance of continuing their education.

To read the whole DANTES story, go to the DANTESPulse blog at www.dantespulse.dodlive.mil/dantes-celebrates-forty-years-of-service-and-excellence.



Pictured above: A sweet message of 40 years dedicated to voluntary education.



Pictured above: Dr. Carol Berry, DANTES Director; Airman Kim, NATTC student; and Capt. John Jones, Naval Education Training Command Chief of Staff, cut the cake for eager (and hungry) sailors.



Pictured above: The hard working and dedicated DANTES crew.



DANTES celebrates 40 years of service and excellence

Continued from page 6



Pictured right: Terri Monroe (right) explains to students how their Joint Services Transcript lists credit recommendations earned for their training and experience.



Pictured above: James Coppenger, CENTCOM contracts; Barry Nelson, Education Programs Department Head; John Page, Contract Management Department Head; and Kathy Westlake, Distance Learning/DoD MOU, get ready for NATTC students and staff.



Pictured left: Students get information at the Examinations Program table, such as how they can use CLEP and DSST exams to earn credits to reduce the amount of time and money spent on a degree.



Pictured below: Candice Rice provides information on the Kuder Journey career planning system and DoD MOU.



Pictured above: Debbie Grafton, Resource Management; Candice Rice, DoD MOU/Kuder/Counseling; and Nancy Maley, DoD MOU, provide Kuder Journey and DoD MOU information.

Scholarships for military spouses

The National Military Family Association is accepting applications for Military Spouse Scholarships. The program's goal is to help military spouses prepare for meaningful employment and to better contribute to their family's financial wellbeing. To date, the National Military Family Association has distributed more than \$2.4 million in military spouse scholarships.

The scholarships are available to all military spouses (active duty, reserve, guard, retired, survivors) with a valid military ID. Scholarships range from \$500 to \$2500. The end date for

application submissions is Jan. 31, 2015, and recipients will be announced in March 2015. Funds will be available in May 2015 and must be used within one year.

Scholarships cover various educational pursuits, to include: GED/ESL; vocational/technical/trade school programs; certification programs; undergraduate and graduate degrees; and licensing exams and fees, among others.

For more information on the scholarships, or to apply, go to www.militaryfamily.org/our-programs/military-spouse-scholarships/.

DANTES Social Media

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

DANTES Twitter https://twitter.com/DoD_DANTES

DANTES Pulse blog <http://dantespulse.dodlive.mil>

DANTES Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DANTES.DoD>

DANTES Youtube <http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAD8yGhGBeDAtIPMW7Eu-sA>

TESTING CALENDAR

http://www.dantes.doded.mil/_content/Exams_Calendar.pdf

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