

Number 371

Education Support to the DOD—Worldwide

October 2007



Students in a Funeral Home Directing Class learn how to fold a flag.

## Online associate degree in funeral service available

A unique new online associate degree program in Occupational Studies in Funeral Service is now available worldwide to the U.S. military and their families. The accredited degree is offered by **American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Service** (AAMI), the fifth oldest funeral service school in the U.S. Founded in 1926, AAMI has been continuously operating for over 80 years from its campus in New York City. It is approved by the State of New York and fully accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE), the national accrediting organization for funeral service schools.

The associate degree requires the completion of 33 courses totaling 69 semester credit hours. A student is able to take 31 courses and 65 total credits online. The remaining two courses are the clinical requirements in Restorative Art and Embalming, along with the Comprehensive Review course; they must be taken during a two-week CAPSTONE program where a student is required to travel to New York City. The final requirement for graduation is that each student must take the National Board Exam (NBE), a requirement of ABFSE.

All online courses are offered in each of the four semesters (which are 6-12 weeks in length), enabling a

student to move through the program as rapidly as he/she wishes. Since the online program began in January 2006, students have taken an average of seven credits per semester. The average time to graduation is approximately 18-24 months depending upon whether, and how

**Continued on Page 4**



Students working in the Restorative Art Lab with clay.

## Testing Calendar

### October 2007

- 1 LSAT  
5 Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)

### November 2007

- 5-10 GRE Subject  
8, 13, 15 ASE (CONUS) \*\*  
13-15 ASE (Overseas) \*\*  
17-21 Praxis \*

#### 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.

\*\* Deadline for ordering ASE exams was 23 September.

#### Online calendar:

[http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes\\_web/library/docs/examinations/06-07cal.pdf](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/docs/examinations/06-07cal.pdf)



Pictured above: Kati Niemi, Assistant Director, Procurement and Document Solutions, (center) visits with DANTES Test Control Officers Lt. Shipman (L) and Lt. Grant (R) during the recent annual GED conference.

## Future changes for GED Testing Services

GED Testing Service (GEDTS) announced the new GED exam version will be available January 1, 2011. The new exam is scheduled to be normed against high school students this academic year. As with past exam revisions, GED exam scores prior to January 1, 2011 may not be combined with the new exam version. The GED exam was last revised and released in 2002. The 2002 exam scores may not be combined with scores before January 1, 2002. Additionally, GEDTS is studying the viability of offering the exam online beginning in 2011.

## Want the DIB via e-mail?

If you would like the DANTES Information Bulletin (DIB) e-mailed to you every month, e-mail Publications at [pubs@navy.mil](mailto:pubs@navy.mil).



The DIB is also available on the DANTES homepage at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>.

## Helpful Web sites for counselors

When was the last time you visited the Counselor Support Programs link on the DANTES homepage? (<http://www.dantes.doded.mil> - click on the lefthand side under Counselor Support Programs.)

The newest addition is the **FY2008 DEPH Guidance Materials Handbook**. While you are there, also check out the updated information at: **Financial Aid for Spouses of Service Members** and **Guidance Materials and Interest Inventories**.

Other important links include: **Reference Publications** and the **Directory of Education Centers**.

## GMAT/GRE general reimbursements

DANTES reimburses the GMAT or GRE General fee for eligible military personnel only. To be eligible for reimbursement of the GMAT or GRE General testing fee, the military examinee must, at the time of testing, possess a current "Armed Forces of the United States" identification card and meet the following requirements:

- Have never taken a DANTES-funded GMAT paper-based or GMAT CAT or GRE General Examination.
- Is applying to or enrolled in a graduate school requiring the GMAT or GRE General.
- Is fulfilling a legitimate Service requirement.
- Agrees to apply for reimbursement within 90 days of the scheduled test date.

The examinee is responsible for scheduling the GMAT or GRE General, paying all fees associated with registration, and if eligible, completing the reimbursement form and applying for reimbursement not later than 90 days after the scheduled test date.

Reimbursement forms are available to Test Control Officers (TCO) and Alternate Test Control Officers (ATCO) through Chapters 7 and 8, the DANTES Examination Program Handbook (DEPH). The DEPH is available online or in CD format. A TCO or ATCO must sign the form to validate the examinee's eligibility. The appropriate mailing addresses are on the forms. The GRE reimbursement request is mailed to Prometric, while the GMAT reimbursement requests should be sent to DANTES.

## Troy: Building a relationship with the Georgia National Guard

In August of 2003, Troy University entered into a partnership with the Georgia Army National Guard to provide educational services statewide to their traditional drilling soldiers. Since that time period, the Southeast Region has been working to develop a successful strategy for providing post-secondary education opportunities to Guardsmen and their family members, placing particular emphasis on those who live and serve in the remote or rural communities within the State of Georgia. Working in complete cooperation with the Georgia Army National Guard Education Services Officer and Unit Commanders, Troy's Marketing Department has been tasked to conduct classes and briefings, during drills, on Troy University degree programs, and federally-funded education benefits and entitlements, as part of the unit's overall in-service training program.

The core goal of this partnership is to meet the educational needs of Georgia's Soldiers by offering them a wide range of degree programs, at the associate, bachelor's, and master's levels, which they may participate in at Troy sites throughout the state, or online through Troy's eCampus program.

"For 50 years, Troy University has been helping members of our military meet their academic goals. This is the first time that we have partnered with a state to reach out to the men and women serving in our National Guard. We think that it's an idea whose time has come," said David White, the program's co-founder and director, Southeast Region Troy University.

For more information, visit  
<http://ser.troy.edu/contentpage.cfm?whatpage=National%20Guard>  
or e-mail [megilbert@troy.edu](mailto:megilbert@troy.edu).

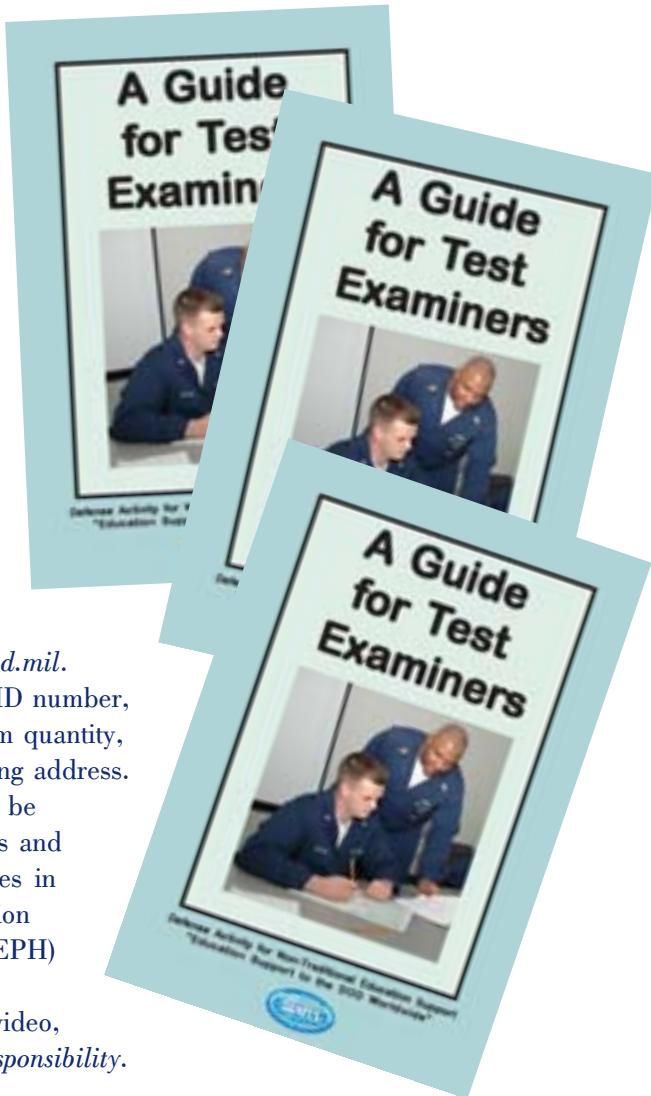


## "A Guide for Test Examiners" now available

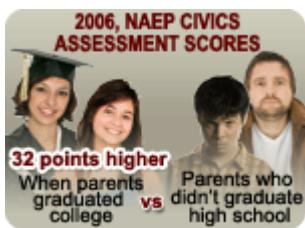
The DANTEs Distribution Center has the newly printed "A Guide for Test Examiners," DANTEs Stock Number 1229. This Guide is designed to familiarize examiners with the DANTEs-sponsored exams, testing environment, examiner's duties, contractor addresses, inventories and inspections.

To order, e-mail the DANTEs Distribution Center, [dist@voled.doded.mil](mailto:dist@voled.doded.mil). Include your DANTEs ID number, item Stock Number, item quantity, and your current shipping address.

Examiners must also be familiar with the policies and administrative procedures in the DANTEs Examination Program Handbook (DEPH) and have viewed the DANTEs test security video, *Test Security Is Your Responsibility*.



## Snapshot: Education statistics



**Eighth-grade students whose parents graduated from college scored 32 points higher than students whose parents did not graduate from high school, according to the 2006 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Civics Assessment. Source: NCES**

## Funeral service degree

**Continued from Page 1**

much, transfer credit is received by the student.

The online courses have the same requirements and content as those offered on campus, and 80 percent of the courses are offered by the faculty teaching the same courses on campus.

Basic admission requirements are an applicant must be a high school graduate or hold a state approved equivalent diploma.

All access to AAMI courses and student services are Web-based, so a student does not need any special hardware or software to enroll. All that is needed is access to a computer with a modem, a printer, an e-mail account and access to the Web. Textbooks are ordered online through Akademos, an online bookstore.

Online students range in age from 19 to 63 and the average age is 34. Approximately 50 percent of the students are female and 35 percent come from a funeral family or define themselves as related to someone in the funeral industry.

For the person who wants to earn an accredited funeral service degree, who wishes to attend part-time, and who does not have access to a campus, AAMI's online program is ideal.

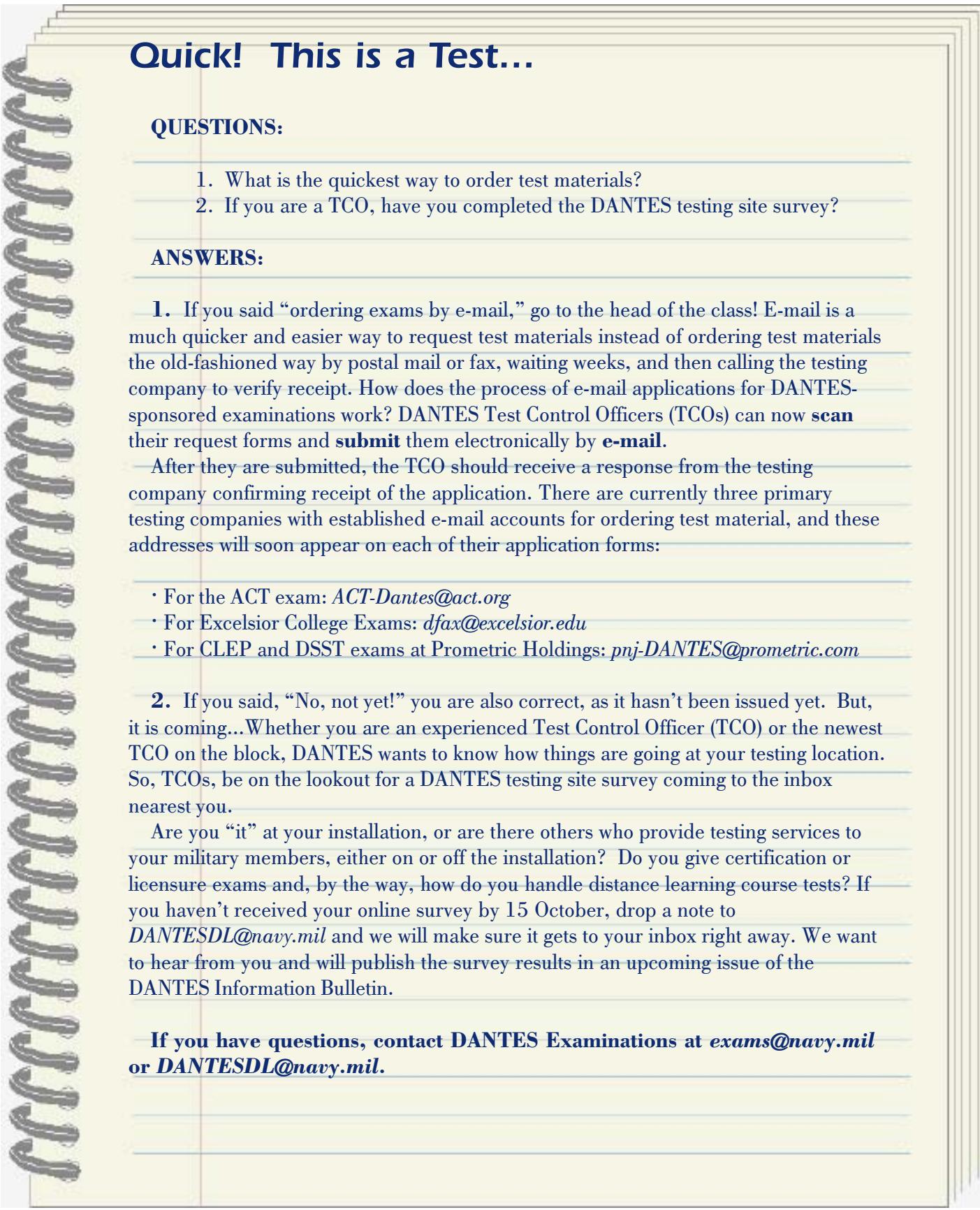
For more information, review the DANTEs Distance Learning Catalog online at

<http://www.dantescatalogs.com/NADLP/NADLP.asp?RecID=63>.

AAMI contact information:

<http://www.funeraleducation.org>,

Regina Smith, Academic Dean, toll free (866) 932-2264, e-mail [rsmith@funeraleducation.org](mailto:rsmith@funeraleducation.org).



## Quick! This is a Test...

### QUESTIONS:

1. What is the quickest way to order test materials?
2. If you are a TCO, have you completed the DANTES testing site survey?

### ANSWERS:

**1.** If you said “ordering exams by e-mail,” go to the head of the class! E-mail is a much quicker and easier way to request test materials instead of ordering test materials the old-fashioned way by postal mail or fax, waiting weeks, and then calling the testing company to verify receipt. How does the process of e-mail applications for DANTES-sponsored examinations work? DANTES Test Control Officers (TCOs) can now **scan** their request forms and **submit** them electronically by **e-mail**.

After they are submitted, the TCO should receive a response from the testing company confirming receipt of the application. There are currently three primary testing companies with established e-mail accounts for ordering test material, and these addresses will soon appear on each of their application forms:

- For the ACT exam: *ACT-Dantes@act.org*
- For Excelsior College Exams: *dfax@excelsior.edu*
- For CLEP and DSST exams at Prometric Holdings: *pnj-DANTES@prometric.com*

**2.** If you said, “No, not yet!” you are also correct, as it hasn’t been issued yet. But, it is coming...Whether you are an experienced Test Control Officer (TCO) or the newest TCO on the block, DANTES wants to know how things are going at your testing location. So, TCOs, be on the lookout for a DANTES testing site survey coming to the inbox nearest you.

Are you “it” at your installation, or are there others who provide testing services to your military members, either on or off the installation? Do you give certification or licensure exams and, by the way, how do you handle distance learning course tests? If you haven’t received your online survey by 15 October, drop a note to *DANTESDL@navy.mil* and we will make sure it gets to your inbox right away. We want to hear from you and will publish the survey results in an upcoming issue of the DANTES Information Bulletin.

**If you have questions, contact DANTES Examinations at *exams@navy.mil* or *DANTESDL@navy.mil*.**

# Pharmacy Technicians Certification Board moves to Pearson VUE

The Pharmacy Technicians Certification Board (PTCB) recently began offering their certification examination exclusively in computer-adaptive-testing format through Pearson VUE. PTCB offers their Pharmacy



Technicians Certification Examination (PTCE) during four testing windows throughout the year.

The final testing window for 2007 falls between November 26 – December 28. Candidates have 2.5 hours to complete the examination.

To register to take the PTCE, refer to the following link:

<http://www.pearsonvu.com/ptcb>. Pearson VUE test facilities that are established at military base education centers can administer the PTCE. For additional information on PTCE, contact the DANTEs Certification office at (850) 452-1111 x3213 or DSN 922-1111 x3213.

## "Need A Lift" available

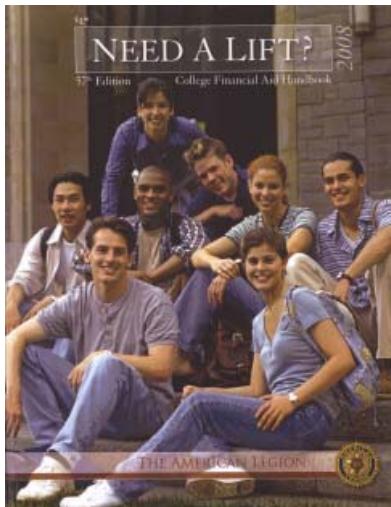
The 2008 American Legion 57<sup>th</sup> Edition of *Need A Lift* publication was automatically distributed in September by the DANTEs Distribution Center.

While the bulk of this financial aid handbook lists loans, scholarships, grants and the organizations that provide them, it also includes reference materials that can assist students in determining which school is best for them, finding career information, and even possibly employment after school.

Are you unsure if you are on the automatic distribution list or how many copies you will receive? E-mail your questions to [dist@voled.doded.mil](mailto:dist@voled.doded.mil).

**Note:** This publication may also be downloaded or the content material searched online for free at:

<http://www.needalift.org>.



## Five factors for online success

Earning an online degree takes hard work and dedication. The following five factors will help you excel in the world of online education:

1. Time
2. Communication skills
3. Self-discipline
4. Support
5. The right school

(military.com)



## New military spouse program

Coastline Community College (Fountain Valley, Calif.) extended its commitment to the military family by launching its one-of-a-kind Military Spouse Program. This unique program offers an affordable tuition rate of only \$59 per unit, and textbooks are provided free of charge to military spouses. Additionally, the program features accelerated eight-week online courses, five associate degree options to choose from, and a mere 12 semester hours needed to meet residency requirements.

Coastline has a long history of educational innovation. It was originally founded in 1975 as a college "without walls," dedicated to distance learning. Drawing upon its vast experience producing Emmy-award winning telecourse content and its extensive selection of Internet and CD-ROM courses, Coastline specifically began serving the military audience in the very early 80s. Now, Coastline even offers courses in cutting edge technologies like handheld devices (PDAs) and Smart Phones. Coastline graduated over 1,500 military graduates in 2007.

For more information, visit the Web site at <http://military.coastline.edu> and click on the Military Spouse Program link.

## DANTES External Degree Catalog news

New schools affiliated with DANTES:

New Mexico State University  
College of Extended Learning  
MSC 3WEC  
P. O. Box 30001  
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001  
(505) 646-4692  
Toll Free: 800-821-1574  
Fax: (505) 646-2044  
E-mail: [distance@nmsu.edu](mailto:distance@nmsu.edu)  
Internet: <http://extended.nmsu.edu>

Bachelor Degree in:

Sociology  
Business Administration (General Business)  
Criminal Justice  
Human and Community Services  
Information and Communication Technology  
Hotel, Restaurant and Tourism Management

Master Degree in:

Agricultural and Extension Education  
Education  
Teaching  
Criminal Justice  
Industrial Engineering  
Nursing (Psychiatric-Mental Health)  
Doctor of Education in Educational Administration  
(Educational Leadership)  
Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction  
Certificate in Online Teaching and Learning (OTL)  
Information Technology Coordinator Endorsement  
School Counseling Licensure  
Special Education Alternative Licensure



## Duquesne University offers new bachelor's degree concentrations and program for NCO instructors

Duquesne University's School of Leadership and Professional Advancement will offer three additional concentrations within their accelerated online bachelor's

degree program beginning this fall. Security administration, training and development, and public and media relations are now available. Students choose two concentrations to comprise their major. Other concentrations include computer technology, criminal justice and forensic science and organizational leadership.

Duquesne University also has developed a new program for Army NCO instructors. The program allows NCOES certified instructors advanced standing toward a bachelor's degree. According to Mary Jane Snyder, director of military education, "We recognize the academic rigor of the NCOES certification and have worked to incorporate it into upper-level courses within our bachelor's degree. The response from the instructors has been very positive."

Duquesne, founded in 1878 and regionally accredited, is a member of SOC and offers special military tuition rates. For details on all undergraduate and graduate programs within Duquesne's military education program, visit <http://www.leadership.duq.edu/mil> or contact Mary Jane Snyder at (412) 352-2354.

## DANTES Catalog of Nationally Accredited Distance Learning Programs news

New schools affiliated with DANTES:

American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Service  
619 W 54<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10019  
(212) 757-1190  
Toll Free: 866-932-2264  
Fax: (212) 765-5923  
E-mail: [amlanza@funeraleducation.org](mailto:amlanza@funeraleducation.org)  
Internet: <http://www.funeraleducation.org>  
Specialized Accreditation: American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE-CA)  
Associate Degree in Occupational Studies (A.O.S.) in Funeral Service

# Helping military students transfer credits, degrees

Working with Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC), DETC (Distance Education and Training Council) announces a practical way for DETC degree-awarding institutions to assist their students who are in the military transfer their credits and degrees to other institutions.

For students graduating from DETC institutions, this has meant that some colleges have refused to even evaluate their academic transcripts only because the credits were not issued by a regionally accredited institution.

DETC is happy to announce that for students at DETC institutions who serve in the military, there is a practical way to ensure success in getting their transcripts evaluated (and their credits, hopefully, accepted):

**Suggest that the student or graduate transfer to one of the 1,800 colleges and universities that are members of the SOC Consortium.**

In other words, your students who are in the military now have a choice of several hundred regionally accredited institutions to transfer to, since each of these institutions has pledged they will not refuse to evaluate credits in transfer just because they are from a DETC institution.

Members of the SOC Consortium are bound by the membership criteria of SOC to treat military members fairly when it comes to credit transfer decisions.

SOC institutions follow the general principles of good practice outlined in the *Joint Statement on the Transfer and Award of Credit*. This statement says, among other

things, that credits must not be denied based solely on the source of accreditation of the sending institution. Each SOC institution may be required by SOC to submit documentary evidence that it generally accepts credits in transfer from other accredited institutions.

## Recommended advisory language

In communicating with your students who are in the military, on your Web site, and in your catalogs and promotional literature about this opportunity for fair consideration of credits to be transferred, DETC has worked with the SOC staff in developing the following recommended language. Using this copy will help ensure that there will be fewer misunderstandings by students and receiving colleges. Changing the wording is not advised. (See box.)

## When credits get denied

If you learn of *any* cases where your students who are serving in the military were denied acceptance of their credits in transfer from your institution to a SOC Consortium

## A Note on Credit Transfer Opportunities for Members of the U.S. Military

As a member of the United States Armed Forces and a student or graduate of \_\_\_\_\_, you may at some point elect to transfer or enroll for a degree at another college or university.

It is very important to understand that each college or university has the right to accept or reject academic credits earned at another institution, if the credits fail to meet its academic requirements. No reputable institution can guarantee that all or any of your credits will automatically transfer.

For military students, their family members, and veterans, Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges (SOC) strongly encourages all of its Consortium member institutions to have institutional policies and practices that are fair, equitable, and effective in recognizing special and often limiting conditions faced by military personnel.

To that end, SOC Consortium member institutions ensure that academic transcripts will be reviewed based upon such principles as the courses taken, the grades received, and the level, content, and applicability of the courses to their degree program requirements, and not solely upon the source of accreditation of the sending program or institution. Additionally, each SOC Consortium institution is committed to assisting Service members, their families, and veterans in minimizing loss of credit and avoiding duplication of coursework, while simultaneously maintaining the integrity of its academic programs.

All SOC colleges and universities are military friendly and have policies and practices that provide flexibility of programs and procedures in admissions, credit transfer, and recognition of other applicable learning, including that gained in the military.

Member college, and the reason offered was that the credits were not from a regionally accredited college, please notify DETC and we will take this up with SOC. Contact Rachel Scheer at [Rachel@detc.org](mailto:Rachel@detc.org) to alert us to any issues involving credit denial by a SOC member college.

(Reprinted with permission from DETC Bulletin Number 18, Aug. 30, 2007.)

# eKnowledge, NFL players extend donation

A group of National Football League players and eKnowledge Corporation is continuing their multi-million dollar sponsorship of \$200 SAT and ACT test preparation programs to all active-duty, Reserve, and retired military members and their families. Those who request the donated materials need only pay shipping and handling costs of packaging, processing, and shipping.

Some of the patriotic NFL players who have pledged to support the eKnowledge donation program for 2007 include: **Jon Bradley (Detroit Lions), Scott Young (Philadelphia Eagles), Garrick Jones (Calgary Stampeders), Corey Williams (Green Bay Packers), Jason Radar (Miami Dolphins), and Ahmaad Galloway.**

Now in its third year, this generous eKnowledge/NFL player sponsorship effort has donated more than 60,000 free SAT/ACT test preparation programs to Service members and their families worldwide. In

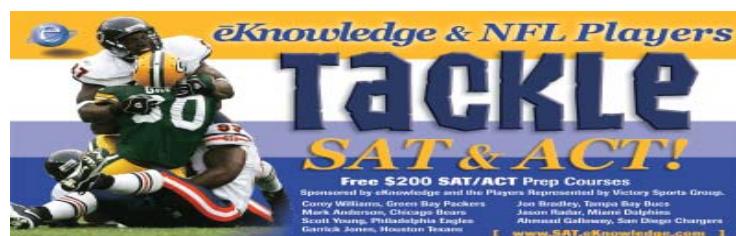
response to the donation, eKnowledge and the NFL players have received tens of thousands of thank-you letters from Service members and dependents who have received the highly valuable, free test preparation programs. One note was even postmarked from Africa, where a Service member was stationed.

"As a military parent residing in Kenya," Air Force Maj. Douglas McClain wrote, "I truly appreciate the opportunity

to obtain these products for my daughter who attends the international school here. "This program will guarantee that she has current material to prepare for the SAT and ACT."

Service members and families interested in receiving free eKnowledge products under the sponsorship program can complete an online request form at

<http://sat.eknowledge.com/military> or by visiting <http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil> and link to "Donation: VSG/NFL Players". Requests can also be made by calling eKnowledge at (951) 256-4076 or via e-mail at [support@eknowledge.com](mailto:support@eknowledge.com).



**DANTES**  
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**PENSACOLA, FL 32509-5243**  
**<http://www.dantes.doded.mil>**

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Victoria Street, Editor  
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**DANTES telephone numbers are:**  
**DSN 922-1111 (plus extension); CML (850) 452-1111 (plus extension)**

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Director's Office	<b>3150</b>	<b>1159</b>	dantes@navy.mil
Enlisted Advisor	3153	1159	ea@navy.mil
Reserve Advisor	3127	1159	rca@navy.mil
Web Site		1322	dantes_webmaster@navy.mil
European Advisor	011-49-6202-80-6008		dantes@eur.army.mil
Troops to Teachers	<b>3141</b>	<b>1096</b>	tti@navy.mil
Education Support Dept.	<b>3133</b>	<b>1162</b>	
Military Evaluations/SOC/MIVER	3164	1162	ace-soc@navy.mil
WW Symposium/ACME	3126	1162	training@navy.mil
Training	3131	1588	training@navy.mil
Counseling	3132	1162	counseling@navy.mil
Reference Publications	3134	1588	refpubs@navy.mil
DANTES Publications/DIB	3135	1162	pubs@navy.mil
Education Programs Dept.	<b>3124</b>	<b>1161</b>	
Examinations	3122	1160	exams@navy.mil
Distance Learning	3129	1161	DantesDL@navy.mil
Tuition Assistance	3130	1161	tahelp@navy.mil
Certification	3194	1005	certprog@navy.mil
Distribution Center	<b>452-1082</b>	<b>1140</b>	dist@voled.doded.mil