



# THE DNS DISPATCH

The Quarterly News and Information Bulletin of the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Degree Network System

December 2012



**Seth Kamen**  
SOC Assistant Director,  
Degree Network System

## Welcome

With the winter season upon us, the DNS Staff is checking our list, determining who has been naughty and who has been nice, and making resolutions about the next year!

- We have completed our annual update, and we thank you for your time and patience as we worked through our process. We are continuously looking to improve our business processes, and welcome any feedback you might have.
- The performance review, during which we review an institutions' compliance and adherence to SOC and DNS policies and deliverables, has been moved from December to March. This schedule adjustment will allow the Project Directors to use more up-to-date and accurate information when making decisions on next steps.
- We have a variety of staff changes and job opportunities; more information is available within this edition of the Dispatch.
- We are working on various presentations for CCME, including break out sessions on our MOS/ Rating and Occupational programs, and the GoArmyEd program. Check our Web site and facebook page for additional information, to be posted closer to the conference in late February.

Wishing you a wonderful holiday season!

Seth Kamen

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## DNS NEWS: What's Going On In Our World

### DNS Staff Changes:

#### **New SOC Assistant Director, Degree Network System**

Seth Kamen, formally the SOCCOAST Project Director, has been named the new SOC Assistant Director for the Degree Network System. In this capacity, Seth will have the task of monitoring and overseeing the day to day operations of the DNS, including the annual update, publications, graduate report, new degree integration, course circulations, and more. His e-mail and phone number remain the same.

A candidate search is currently being conducted for a new SOCCOAST Project Director.

#### **DNS Coordinator**

Noel Blanchet, the DNS Coordinator and DNS Dispatch editor, is moving on from her position at SOC in December. She has enjoyed her time with the organization and working with all of the DNS POCs. The hiring process for this position will be underway soon and all POCs will receive an announcement when the position is officially open for applications.

#### **DNS Articulation Coordinator**

The DNS Articulation Coordinator position is currently open and accepting applications until December 14th. For additional information, please contact Seth Kamen at [kamens@aascu.org](mailto:kamens@aascu.org) before the deadline.

### DNS Publications & T-Tables:

The *Fall 2012 SOC DNS-2 and -4 Handbooks* are now posted on SOC's Web site, [www.soc.aascu.org](http://www.soc.aascu.org). Printed *Handbooks* and CD-ROMs will be mailed to college and military representatives in December. The *2012-2013 Degree Network System Credit Evaluation Supplement* will also be included in the Fall 2012 *Handbook* CD-ROM.

We have also updated our online Transferability Tables with the results of the annual *Handbook* update. You can access this updated information through our DNS Tools Area at <http://www.soc.aascu.org/dnstools/>.

The *2012 Credit Evaluation Supplement* is also posted on our site, at [http://www.soc.aascu.org/pubfiles/dphandbk/DNS\\_Credit\\_Supp\\_2012-2013.pdf](http://www.soc.aascu.org/pubfiles/dphandbk/DNS_Credit_Supp_2012-2013.pdf).

### **FY2012 Statistics:**

From Student Agreement Data: 44,469 Student Agreements were submitted in FY2012, which indicated more than 778,000 hours of non-traditional credit being awarded.

From the Graduate Survey: SOC DNS institutions reported a total of 9,788 two-year graduates and 8,145 four-year graduates for SOCAD, SOCNV, SOCMAR, and SOCCOAST. They also reported a total of 4,836 family member graduates and 795 other DNS graduates, which includes civilians and other military Services.

# FEEDBACK: DNS WORKSHOP October 2012

**Judith Loomer**  
SOCAD Project Director

Our recent DC-based DNS Workshop was rated a success by all attendees. Over 40 people attended, representing 22 institutions—including folks from as far away as New Jersey, Texas, Kansas, and California! Given the current budget climate across all sectors of higher education, we were impressed that DNS representatives chose to use available travel funds to attend the workshop. We are equally pleased that many “local” college staff members were able to take time from busy counseling schedules to take part in this valuable professional development opportunity. Participants also included representatives from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Army National Guard—many thanks to them for coming to the Workshop and sharing their perspectives on current directions in military voluntary education.

The DNS Workshop theme of “Challenges Ahead” proved to be well timed. Much of what we heard on the day prior to the DNS Workshop—during the SOC Consortium Workshop—fell into what our Director, Kathy Snead, termed the “great unknowns.” Changes are everywhere; from the forthcoming DoD MOU, the

new Joint Services Transcript (JST), the implementation of executive orders and legislative initiatives, potential changes in Tuition Assistance levels, and to the new emphasis on services for transitioning servicemembers—all of us are in a “wait and see” mode. And we also know that colleges are examining how they fulfill commitment to servicemembers and veterans. All in all, we are in challenging, but exciting times.

The DNS Workshop continued these themes. Starting with a session for those new to the DNS, the rest of the day was devoted to the future. How will student information systems provide the data we increasingly are being asked to provide to leadership, the Services, and the government? How will changes in defining learning outcomes required by the regional accrediting associations affect articulation systems? How is military voluntary education likely to change in the next 3–5 years and how can colleges work with the Services to continue meeting the education needs of servicemembers? The DNS Workshop provided a forum to discuss these, and other, challenges. In fact, a session that

asked attendees to identify what they saw as the most immediate challenges facing colleges produced some of the most thoughtful responses to “challenges ahead” and we hope to summarize these comments within the next month in an informal report that we will share with all of you.

Bottom line: many questions, few answers. SOC is monitoring events across the higher education and military landscape. We know that our job is to gather information and share it—but only after we have been able to confirm and verify that information. Our commitment to you is to get the word out to you as soon as we can. We’ll continue to ask the tough questions and leverage our contacts to bring you reliable information in as timely a fashion as possible.

We hope that our next DC-based workshop will be one that can focus on “next steps.” Nothing is yet scheduled, but we’re looking at dates within the next 12 months. We hope you’ll be able to fence some travel funds to join us.

## CATCHPHRASE OF THE QUARTER

### New Acronym for Your Lexicon: JST

The military Services are in the process of building a uniform transcript for military training and experiences known as the Joint Services Transcript (JST). Modeled after the existing SMART Transcript (Sailor/Marine ACE Registry Transcript), the JST will serve as a single source for Army (January 2013), Coast Guard (FY 2013), Navy and Marine Corps transcription for military training courses and military occupational specialty experiences for servicemembers. Service-specific information, such as branch of service, occupations (MOS,

MCE, Rating), and contact points, will be maintained through a Department of Defense URL location and coordinated through a centralized operations center. Final details of the transcript format and operational procedures are currently under development; the JST model is expected to roll out in January 2013. A broad-based communication plan will notify all stakeholders of the transcript conversation as the process nears completion. SOC will update the membership in greater detail as information becomes available.

## Calendar

### December:

**Mid:** Fall 2012 *Handbooks* sent to DNS institutions in print and CD-ROM format

**Mid:** Course category circulation due (Core members only)

### January:

**Late:** Project directors start performance review process

### February:

**Late:** SOC and DNS presentations at the CCME conference

# SPECIAL FEATURE: Dantes Information Bulletin Excerpt

The following excerpt is taken from the November 2012 issue of *The DANTES Information Bulletin*. Access the full *Bulletin* at: <http://www.dantes.doded.mil/Sub Pages/Publications/Docs/DIB.pdf>

## **DANTES offers new counseling system: Kuder® Journey**

Kuder Journey is coming soon and will be available to active duty military personnel and Service members in transition, making it a valuable resource during the military-to civilian transition process. Providing tailored career guidance to our military Service members is important to DANTES, which is why we are providing this intuitive career planning system designed to address each user's individual situation. Check the DANTES Web site [www.dantes.doded.mil](http://www.dantes.doded.mil) for more information.

The system can be accessed anywhere there is an Internet connection, 24/7/365. Login to [www.dantes.kuder.com](http://www.dantes.kuder.com) to begin using Journey's comprehensive, evidence-based approach to lifelong educational planning and career development. For new users, the registration process is smooth and simple, allowing for immediate access to start achieving success.

Journey includes a variety of comprehensive and user-friendly tools to help any adult through career and degree planning and the job search process. It enables users to explore new career directions, consider education and training, and seek current opportunities.

To help users make informed decisions about their future, Journey guides them through an easy step-by-step process, providing a reliable and effective career planning and development experience. The flexible process allows users to complete the steps in order or to select the step that will meet their immediate needs.

### **Step 1: Assessments**

The career planning process starts with learning about oneself. Journey's research-based interests, skills, and work values assessments kick-start exploration and ultimately encourage more career satisfaction.

### **Step 2: Occupations**

If users are looking to transfer skills to another job, find a job related to a specific college major, military occupational specialty, or simply start the search from scratch, Journey allows them to search and narrow down a list of occupations that are right for them.

### **Step 3: Education & financial aid**

Users can align careers of interest with related educational or training requirements to determine a future path and learn about financial aid options, including the GI Bill.

### **Step 4: Job search tools**

Planning and preparation are critical before taking that major step towards the next career. Journey provides the tools to create a résumé, write a cover letter, collect references, update interviewing skills, and more!

### **Step 5: Jobs**

Once a person has effectively learned about their options and prepared for opportunities, the next step is finding a job. Journey offers a number of ways to research employers, find local companies, and locate available jobs.

### **Additional services provided:**

Tools tailored for the military: Veterans or active members of the military can utilize the main features and tools of Journey as well as their own tailored options. For those wishing to pursue new education, the system provides access to information about the GI Bill. If individuals are looking to transition into civilian employment, resources are provided that enable users to find government employment opportunities; military financial aid; military-friendly employers; and certified counselors who can aid in the transition back into the community.

Enter ASVAB scores: Individuals can input scores from their Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) score report. Journey uses these scores

to provide occupations for users to consider. Additionally, Journey combines ASVAB scores with other completed assessments to suggest and narrow a list of occupations.

Learn about the GI Bill of Rights: This tool connects users directly to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and GI Bill Web site. Users can access information about the GI Bill of Rights and available educational benefits.

Find military-friendly employers: Users can find employers looking for those with military experience. The site also provides users with resources to help them take advantage of the benefits of Service – government benefits, scholarships, discounts, mentors, inspiring stories, and more.

Find civilian jobs: Use the Military to Civilian Occupation Translator to find the closest matches between military and civilian occupations.

DANTES encourages all Service members to take advantage of this free career guidance system. For more information, contact: your local education center, DANTES Counseling Support at [counseling@navy.mil](mailto:counseling@navy.mil) or Kuder Customer Support at [support@kuder.com](mailto:support@kuder.com) or 877-999-6227.



**SPOTLIGHT:**  
**CCME Symposium 2013**

The Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) registration for both the Conference and hotel are now open. The 2013 CCME Symposium will take place in beautiful San Diego, CA from February 25-28.

# SERVICE SPECIFIC NEWS

## **SOCAD**

**Judith Loomer,**  
**SOCAD Project Director**



It's that time of year - time to compile a holiday wish list!

- Wishing for a smooth transition from AARTS to JST
- Wishing for lots of signed DoD MOUs
- Wishing to see scores of SOCAD Student Agreements arriving in the (regular) mail
- Wishing to see many of you at CCME this winter

And I should take time to count my blessings:

- Thanks to those of you who have managed the transition from LOI to Non-LOI, or Non-LOI to LOI
- Thanks to many of you who have made sense of the transition from fully-developed degree plans/Student Agreements to "paper" or "traditional" SOCAD Student Agreements
- Thanks to those of you who attended SOCAD or DNS Workshops this year - the workshops were terrific and my hosting colleges wonderful!

## **SOCNAV**

**Joyce Larson,**  
**SOCNAV Project Director**



On October 2, 2012, Navy announced in Naval Administrative Message, NAVADMIN 305/12, the restoration of tuition assistance (TA) funding for clock hour programs. TA funding will only be approved for clock hour programs accredited by an organization recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and approved by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Each Sailor may only use TA to fund one vocational/technical program during a career that awards credit in clock hours. TA Funding will pay up to \$16.67 per clock hour for up to 240 clock hours per fiscal year. The combination of credit hour and clock hour courses may not exceed the maximum allowable TA caps for the year.

Captain J.P. Newcomer, Commanding Officer of the Center for Personal and Professional Development, in CENPERSPRODEVNOTE 1560 of 15 Oct. 12, titled *Navy Educational Services Priorities and Guidance*, provided guidance for the Navy Voluntary Education Community. Highlights of the document include an emphasis on counseling, processing tuition assistance, orientation services for the Navy College Program for Afloat College Education, education plans, academic testing and language testing. It emphasized the relationship of the Navy College Office Directors working with the host Commands to ensure appropriate identification and support for on-base academic institutions with Memoranda of Understanding. The notice also provided new guidance regarding the protection of personally identifiable information (PII) – no Social Security Numbers should be included on any FAX documents. As a reminder, SOCNAV Student Agreements should never be sent via e-mail and should no longer be sent via FAX. Until further notice, use of the Navy system for NCPDLP schools or mailing completed agreements are the preferred methods.

### **Workshop at Trident Technical College, Charleston, SC**

Since the last newsletter, I had the opportunity to present information about SOC and SOCNAV to six of the state's technical colleges at Trident Technical College in Charleston, South Carolina. The discussion was lively and brought to light some new emphases on general education credits by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (the regional accreditor for South Carolina). Also attending was Karen Stanbery, Director of the Navy College Office at Naval Weapons Station Goose Creek, who was able to add her local Navy perspective. Many thanks to Pamela Droste, Trident Technical College Registrar, and her staff for hosting this training and orientation meeting.

### **Workshops in Okinawa and Yokosuka, Japan**

Debbie Marconda, the SOCMAR PD, and I traveled to Okinawa and Yokosuka between typhoons to present SOC Consortium and SOC DNS information in three workshops for Navy College and

Marine Corps Education Center staff and local Pacific Air Force (PACAF) Contract academic institutions' staff. There was a large turnover in both the education centers and at the academic institutions and the distance and time difference make it more challenging to stay current on SOC information. We were better able to understand the needs of the area and established important links to increase the flow of information and materials. We hope to use webinars to keep our more distant sites up-to-date.

As we begin FY13, let's see if we can reach the goals of 100,000 SOCNAV graduates!

## **SOCMAR**

**Deborah Marconda,**  
**SOCMAR Project Director**



As many people know, the Marine Corps recently hired a new Marine Corps Education Chief. Mr. Shawn Conlon and his team are hard at work defining the role of education within the Corps. Over the next year, Mr. Conlon, Mr. Daryl Patrick, and Ms. Cassandra Coney will continue to work on enhancing Marine Corps education policy.

Presently, the Marine Corps continues to focus on its Marine Corps Career College Program or MCCCCP. The MCCCCP program is in the degree plan development stage. The focus is on providing Marines with simple degree road maps that indicate where training credit will be applied within a particular degree, how much credit is authorized, and at what rank a student can expect to receive the credit. Participation in the program is presently limited to current SOCMAR institutions. With the guidance of staff at the Personal and Professional Development Branch, several underserved Military Occupational Specialties have been identified. Long-time SOCMAR institutions were approached to act as a test group for the program. These institutions are working with SOC and the PPD staff to develop degree road maps at the certificate, Associate, and Baccalaureate levels. Upon successful completion of the first phase of the program, other SOCMAR institutions will be approached and

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# COMMON QUESTIONS FOR SOC

**Q:** What is a SOC Degree Network System (DNS) OPEN Student Agreement?

**A:** A SOC DNS Student Agreement must be issued by a school for any servicemember or military family member enrolled in a degree program that is part of the DNS. Degree programs are chosen by the respective Services based on a needs assessment done by an Education Service Officer or Navy College official. However, while many of the DNS college degree programs meet the needs of service members and their families, some students prefer to pursue a degree path not currently within the DNS. When an institution creates a SOC Student Agreement for a non-SOC degree program, we refer to that type of DNS Student Agreement as an OPEN Agreement. Please indicate OPEN in the Network field on the Student Agreement if you are issuing these Student Agreements. To determine which degrees your institution is required to submit a Student Agreement for, please visit Chapter 5 of the *SOC DNS-2* or *SOC DNS-4 Handbook*.

**Q:** Must a school complete OPEN SOC DNS Student Agreements?

**A:** Another question often asked is whether a CORE member institution must complete OPEN Student Agreements. According to Chapter 4 of the *DNS-2* or *DNS-4 Handbook*, page 4-2, a College that is part of the DNS and is a CORE member institution, is encouraged to create and submit OPEN Agreements for any degree program the institution offers. However, please note that AFFILIATE member institutions are discouraged from producing SOC DNS Student Agreements for degree programs other than those degrees listed within the Degree Network System. To determine if your institution is a CORE or AFFILIATE member, please see Chapter 5 of the *SOC DNS-2* or *SOC DNS-4 Handbook*.

**Deborah Marconda,**  
**SOCMAR Project Director**

**Q:** Are veterans eligible to enroll in SOC DNS degrees?

**A:** Individuals who have separated or retired from the military are eligible to pursue degrees that are part of the SOC DNS, however, they are not eligible to participate in the SOC DNS pre-approved guaranteed transferability or receive Student Agreements. Since veterans are not dealing with the same barriers as active duty members, it is not crucial for them to establish a home college, use the guaranteed transferability program, or have the additional safeguards of a Student Agreement.

**Mary Bird,**  
**SOC Academic Counseling Coordinator**

## SERVICE SPECIFIC NEWS (continued from page 4)

asked to participate in providing degree road maps that will help a Marine to achieve her educational goals in the most expeditious manner.

SOCMAR institutions that are interested in participating in the MCCCCP endeavor but have not yet been approached, may find it helpful to begin looking at their SOCMAR degree offerings and begin matching the degree programs with current Marine Corps Military Occupation Specialties. Non-SOCMAR institutional representatives who believe they have a degree program that will help Marines meet their educational goals should contact the SOCMAR representative at [marcondad@aascu.org](mailto:marcondad@aascu.org) for more information.

### **SOCCOAST** **SOCCOAST Project Director** **currently vacant**

The Coast Guard is in the process of transiting towards the utilization of the JST. Dates have not been identified for the completion of this project. Additional information will be provided as available. In the meantime, the CG Institute Transcript continues to be an accurate, official document provided for all Guardsman.

SOCCOAST welcomes Grand Canyon University as a member of SOCCOAST-4; with a degree in Public Safety and Emergency Management. The degree is in the Auxiliary Network and offered in an online format.

**For further information,**  
**please visit the SOC Web site:**  
[www.soc.aascu.org](http://www.soc.aascu.org)

**For comments,**  
**please contact:**

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