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*Captain's Call*

DANTES Modifies VOLED Testing Rule

In an effort to ensure that service members adequately prepare for college credit examinations, the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES) will only provide funding for initial testing for exams taken after May 20, 2010. If a retest is required, it will be at the expense of the service member.



The mission of DANTES is to support the off-duty, voluntary education programs of the Department of Defense (DoD) and conduct special projects and development activities in support of education-related functions of the DoD. DANTES programs include providing various examinations, such as high school equivalency, college admissions and college credit, and an extensive number of certification and licensing exams. Funding for retesting had previously been provided by DANTES.

Effective immediately, DANTES will only fund a service member's initial examination fee for each College Level Entrance Examination Program (CLEP) exam, DANTES Subject Standardized Tests (DSST) and Excelsior College Examinations (ECE). Retests will continue to be funded through DANTES for service members who took a test prior to May 20 and take the retest before Dec. 11, 2010.

If a Sailor fails a CLEP, DSST or ECE exam, he or she has to wait 180 calendar days to retake the exam. Ensuring test readiness and subsequent qualification for college credits immediately after taking the exam gives a Sailor a head start on his or her voluntary education goals.

The policy concurs with the latest tuition assistance management control that requires new-accession Sailors to be at their first permanent duty station one year before using Tuition Assistance (TA). Although DANTES-funded exams are not under the same one-year restriction as TA, Sailors can use this time to prepare for the DANTES-funded exams.

Additional guidance on the DANTES retesting policy and specific details on retesting procedures and transcript information can be found in a Naval Administrative message to be released in the near future.

For more information about DANTES, visit <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>.