



MOUNTAIN CLIMBER



Volume 2, Issue 3

FORT DRUM

August 2003

FORT DRUM ARMY EDUCATION CENTER



MGIB

UPDATE

ACES

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On The Education Services Officer's Desk

The Army Education Center at the McEwen Library and Education Complex

Hours of Operation

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday

0900-1600

Wednesday

1245-1600

(315) 772-6878



The Fort Drum Education Center Mountain Climber

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Every three years, the educational community from the five branches of service, the Army, the Air Force, the Navy, the Marines and the Coast Guard, meet to discuss innovations and updates in education. This multi-service education conference is called the DoD Worldwide Education Symposium. The third such conference was held this year in Orlando, Florida from 7 July through 11 July.

In attendance were Education Center staff from all of the services, college and university personnel, and service members affiliated with Education Centers in some capacity. The Worldwide had some very impressive speakers to include Mr. Charles Abell, Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, Mr. John Molino, Deputy under Secretary of Defense for Military Community and Family Policy, LG John LeMoyné, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, U.S. Army, and Sergeant Major of the Army, Jack L. Tilley.



The attendance was phenomenal, with over 1,000 in attendance. The conference sessions offered a wealth of information, with as many as 12 sessions of varying topics offered during one time frame. Information was provided on distance learning, financial aid, web-based education tools, marketing programs, Troops to Teachers, education services to deployed members, Department of Veterans Affairs Benefits, academic certificate programs, transferability of credit, and the changing testing environment, to name just a few of the topics presented. The Fort Drum Education Center was represented by five of the Education Center staff, the SUNY Consortium Director and one represen-

tative from Jefferson Community College. We synchronized our schedules so that we could maximize the information intake. As you will see from this issue of the Mountain Climber, there are many exciting new educational opportunities and programs on the horizon. Although, we could not possibly attend all of the sessions and collect all of the information offered, we did our best to hit the most important sessions. We sifted through the materials, and selected issues that we feel will be of the most importance to the Fort Drum community for this edition of the Mountain Climber. Please read on and enjoy. I hope that you learn as much from these articles as I did from the conference!

Carla K. Ortiz
Education Services Officer



Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP)

The education center provides a daytime on duty class called Basic Skills Education Program (BSEP) the course is fifteen-days in length or 45 contact hours. The BSEP program gives a soldier the opportunity to improve their basic reading and math skills. Good math and reading skills are the basic elements to a successful General Technical (GT) score on the Armed Forces Classification Test (AFCT). The average GT score increase is 11 points for soldiers who have completed BSEP. An increased GT score can enhance your job performance, qualify for reenlistment incentives, allow you to change your MOS, or qualify you for other special programs. Please talk to your supervisor about enrolling in BSEP.

BSEP GOALS:

- Improve performance in training and job proficiency.
- Raise GT scores for career advancement and reenlistment purposes.
- Hone mathematical skill in preparation for NCO schools.
- Increase potential for completing college, technical, vocational apprenticeship and other educational programs.

Classes are conducted 3 hours per day, 5 days a week, except on federal holidays or other dates as determined by the ESO. Since this is a Commander's program and is conducted during the duty day, the Unit Commander must approve a soldier's request to attend the class. The Education Center conducts two sessions a day, a morning session from 0900 to 1200 hours, or an afternoon session from 1300 to 1600 hours.

The soldier or unit must submit a memorandum from the Commander stating the class number/dates and which session (morning or afternoon) the soldier will be attending. The memorandum must be submitted at least one week prior to the class start date. Test results of the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) are required prior to enrollment in a BSEP class. A sample format of the memorandum and the BSEP course dates can be found under Education in the Public Folders of Microsoft Outlook. Family members are welcome to attend on a space available basis. For further information, call 772-6878.

The Army is currently working on and fielding a new automated basic skills program called Lifetime Learning. The vision is for this program to provide standardized content, automated delivery through CDROM or Web-based instruction, and be deployable. The Lifetime Learning software was

submitted to the Department of Defense Information Technology Security Certification and Accreditation Process and should be available on Fort Drum soon.

Les Barbour
Army Guidance Counselor



EArmyU Update

DA PERSCOM announced that the eArmyU enrollment hiatus has been lifted, effective 16 JUN 03. Fort Drum is awaiting word on possible additional allocations on or about 31 JUL 03.

In the 2nd quarter of FY03 Fort Drum was selected as one of only nine installations to participate in an independent program evaluation of eArmyU, and Fort Drum was the only installation to fill all 1,000 enrollment slots during that time. Currently over 10% of the enlisted population stationed at Fort Drum participate in eArmyU, pursuing Associate's, Bachelor's, and Master's degrees, as well as graduate and undergraduate Certificate programs. Over 30% of Drum's eArmyU soldiers either reenlisted or extended to participate in the program.

Often hailed as the "biggest leap in Army education since the GI Bill,"



DANTES Update

GED Testing

In January 2002, The GED Testing Service (GEDTS) introduced a new, completely revised GED examination. The 2002 series exam includes business communications; "how to" texts; more history, civics, and government; increased focus on environmental and health topics; content areas defined by type of text; Literary (75%) and Nonfiction (25%); and more emphasis on data analysis and statistics. The math test is in two parts with Part I permitting a calculator furnished by GEDTS.

Forty-seven states allow DANTES Test Centers to administer the GED Tests. Three non-participating states are: Alabama, Missouri, and North Carolina. Military personnel in these states must be referred to state GED test centers.

Eleven states are part of an "options program". Students who will not graduate because they are short credits may use the GED and graduate.

The official transcript of test results has text that explains what scores mean. Scores range from 200 minimum (= "zero") to 800 highest. A minimum of 410 on each section and average score 450 is considered passing. The test was normed on a bell curve, using 1300 graduating high school seniors. Students who score 2 or less (on a scale of 1 to 4) on a written essay will receive a grade of "incomplete" on the Language Arts section of the test. Students must score 450 on each section of the practice test, before the actual test can be administered.

Spanish and French GEDs are scheduled to start January 2004. The tests will be available in large print and audio versions to accommodate students with special needs.

In 2002, 1155 GEDs were taken at DANTES Test Sites with a 90.04% passing rate and 516.8 average score. Nationwide, 717,628 tests were taken, with 73.63% passing rate and 453.36 average score. DANTES passing rates and average scores were well above the national average.

CLEP CBT

As DANTES strives to move toward

computer-based testing, all CLEP exams currently available at DANTES Test Centers must be returned to DANTES by March 2004. Fourteen re-developed paper-based exam titles will be re-released in April 2004, for soldiers to take until computer-based testing is in place. **IMPACT TO SOLDIERS:** If you want credit for a CLEP test title, take it NOW!

Examination scoring will change to "right only" answers ("ok to guess"), versus the old formula scoring, where a fraction of a point was deducted for each incorrect response. Also recommended is a "uniform cut score of 50" for all exams, rather than different passing scores for each exam. Stay tuned for further information!

DANTES Certification Programs

DANTES now has three funded pilots in the Certification Programs area: 1) Liaison Council on Certification for the Surgical Technologist (LCC-ST); 2) CompTIA; and 3) Federal Communications Commission (FCC) tests offered through the National and Radio Telecommunications Engineers (NARTE).

Eligible military candidates for the LCC-ST should submit their application to the LCC and request a voucher for DANTES

reimbursement. Vouchers may be used at a Prometric (national) Test Center OR a DANTES Test Center.

The CompTIA program began in January 2003 and was very successful. DANTES will probably repeat the program in September-October 2003. Candidates must possess a minimum of six months' experience. Vouchers pay for the A+ Hardware and A+OS Technologies. Soldiers may go to the SmartForce website to go through the courses. (Study guides are *not* available).

Eligible candidates for the FCC may take up to three exams at DANTES test centers. Candidates receive FCC licenses for successfully passing each exam. There is no registration fee.

For more information about the *Funded Pilot Programs* above, and other *unfunded Certification Exams* given at DANTES Test Centers, go to the DANTES website at: <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>, "Certification Programs."

Marian Weisz
Army Guidance Counselor and
DANTES Test Control Officer



DVA Update

The Montgomery GI Bill and Public Law (PL) 107-107

PL 107-107, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2002 authorized a significant change to the MGIB that is currently being misinterpreted by many Army service and family members.

The language of the PL speaks to what the DVA has come to call *Transfer of Entitlement* or *TOE* under the Montgomery GI Bill. This language allows the Service Secretaries to determine for their services, which service members 1) reenlisting in service designated *critical military skills*, 2) *having served* a period of no less than 6 years and 3) *having reenlisted* for at least four additional years to transfer up to 18 months of their MGIB to a designated family member(s).

This portion of the PL was designed to assist the Secretaries in "enhancing recruitment and retention of members of the Armed Services in critical military skills" and allowed them "sole discretion" in determining and implementing the transfer.

Useful Websites in This Issue

Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support DANTES
www.dantes.doded.mil

Department of Veteran's Affairs DVA
www.gibill.va.gov

eArmyU
www.earmyu.com

Army Continuing Education System
www.armyeducation.army.mil

To date, only the Air Force has actively implemented TOE for a limited number of critical AFSCs.

The Army has tabled any action on TOE until after a new Secretary is installed.

When new information on TOE is received, Army Continuing Education System (ACES), PERSCOM will disseminate the policy to the field.

Joseph A. Agresti
Army Lead Guidance Counselor

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eArmyU equips eligible soldiers with a "Technology Package" to pursue college studies anytime and anywhere Internet access is available. eArmyU participants are provided with a laptop computer and Internet service, 100% tuition (up to the \$250 per semester hour cap and \$4500 yearly tuition ceiling), fees and books. The cost of the Technology Package is deducted from the student's \$4500 ceiling during the first year of eArmyU participation.

The eArmyU portal provides easy access to more than 160 online degree programs offered through 25 regionally accredited colleges and universities. The portal (www.eArmyU.com) includes access to virtual classrooms, materials, discussion groups, library resources, tutoring, and 24/7 technical support. In addition, academic and technical assistance is available locally at the Fort Drum Education Center through the eArmyU office and the Multi-Use Learning Facility.

eArmyU eligibility criteria include:

- **Active duty or AGR enlisted service member**
- **3 year Service Remaining Requirement**

- **High school diploma or GED**
- **Eligible for favorable personnel actions**
- **Have approval of Commander**
- **Service member must complete 12 semester hours within 24 months**

command for consideration in future enrollments.

Fran Lueders
Army Education Services Specialist, eArmyU

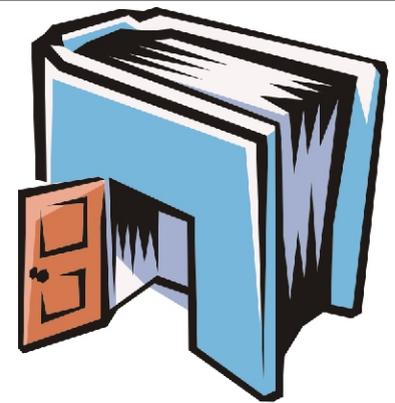
New additions to the eArmyU school lineup include Jefferson Community College, the University of Alabama, Pierce College, Southern Christian University, Atlantic Cape Community College, and Coastline Community College. Indiana University and the University of Maryland will join eArmyU in Term IV (OCT 03).

If you are interested in eArmyU, notify your enlisted chain of



SUNY COLLEGES IN THE NORTH COUNTRY

"Your doorway to higher education"



Classes begin soon...but there's still time to register.

College advisors are available on Fort Drum from Jefferson Community College, SUNY Empire State, SUNY Oswego, and SUNY Potsdam.

Soldiers requesting Army Tuition Assistance for these courses must see an Army Counselor prior to registering for these courses.

Don't wait till the last minute and risk being a class killer.
Call 773-9007 for an appointment.

Jefferson Community College Early Fall Classes at Fort Drum 8/18-10/08/03

BUS 112 815	Introduction to Business	SaSu	1300-1615	3cr
CRJ 101 815	Intro to Criminal Justice	SaSu	1300-1615	3cr
ACC 101 811	Accounting Princ 1	M/W	1800-2135	4cr
BIO 105 811	Environ. Biology	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
CIS 110 811	Intro. to Computers	M/W	1800-2135	3cr
ENG 100 811	Composition 1	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
ENG 101 811	Composition 2	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
ENG 102 811	Comp & Literature	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
HIS 150 811	Amer. Hist. to 1865	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
BUS 104 811	Personal Finance	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
CRJ 208 811	Issues in Crim. Just.	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
GEG 101 811	intro. to World Geography	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
MTH 125 811	intermediate Algebra	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
PSY 133 811	Intro. to Psychology	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
SOC 144 811	Intro. to Sociology	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
SOC 241 811	Marriage and Family	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
SPA 121 811	Elementary Spanish 1	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
HIS 111 801	Western Civilization 1	MTuWTh	1130-1245	3cr

Late Fall Classes at Fort Drum 10/20-12/22/03

CIS 110 815	Intro to Computing	SaSu	1300-1645	3cr
POL 120 815	World Affairs	SaSu	1300-1615	3cr
ACC 102 851	Accounting Princ. 1	M/W	1800-2135	4cr
ART 115 851	Art Appreciation 1	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
CIS 110 851	Intro. to Computers	M/W	1800-2135	3cr
ENG 100 851	Composition 1	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
ENG 101 851	Composition 2	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
ENG 220 851	Creative Writing	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
HIS 151 851	Amer. Hist. since 1865	M/W	1800-2100	3cr
BUS 160 851	Spreadsheet Applic.	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
ECO 100 851	Elem. of Economics	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
GEO 102 851	Planet Earth	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
MTH 155 851	College Algebra	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
PSY 238 851	Human Sexuality	T/Th	1800-2100	3cr
SOC 144 851	Intro. to Sociology	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
SOC 245 851	Criminology	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
SPA 122 851	Elementary Spanish 2	Tu/Th	1800-2100	3cr
HIS 112 805	Western Civilization 2	MTuWTh	1130-1245	3cr
PSY 133 805	Intro. to Psychology	MTuWTh	1130-1245	3cr

SUNY Empire State College Various Semester dates 9/4 -12/22/03

INT 328	The Domestic Dog	Th	1200-1400	4cr	FTD
HUM 305	Language & Culture	Th	1200-1400	4cr	FTD
MTH 102	Intermediate Algebra	Mo	1200-1400	4cr	FTD
CHS 325	Trends, Iss. & Controv. In H.S.	We	1800-2030	4cr	Watertown
INT 300	Ed. Planning & Lifelong Lrng.	Tu	1800-2030	4cr	Watertown
CUL 200/300	Topics in Writing	Mo	1800-2030	4cr	Watertown
HIS 240/340	Global Iss. & US For. Pol.	Th	1800-2000	4cr	Watertown

Study groups will meet every other week for a period of 8 weeks. Substantial independent study is required as well as participation in the study group sessions.
Call 773-6139 for course descriptions.

SUNY Potsdam

Various session dates 9/4/03-11/25/03

BUEC 303	Legal Environ. Of Business	Tu	1730-2130	3cr	JCC
BUEC 355	Organization Behavior	Th	1730-2130	3cr	JCC
COMM 430	Employ. Seeking and Comm.	Fr/Sa	1600-2100 0900-1700	3cr	JCC
GRED 503	Educational Law	We	1630-2030	3cr	JCC
GRED 517	Intg.Arts into Elem.Curr.	F/Sa	1600-2100 0900-1700	3cr	JCC
GRED 567	Elem. Soc. Studies: Cnt & Mthd	M	1630-2030	3cr	JCC
GRED 600	Phil. Foundations of Educ	Tu	1630-2030	3cr	JCC
GRED 605	Rdng./Study Skills in Cont. Areas	Th	1630-2030	3cr	Sherman
GRED 607	Found. of Education(B-6th)	Tu	1630-2030	3cr	JCC
GRED 630	Diagnostic Tech. In Reading	M	1630-2030	3cr	N. Elem
GRED 632	Clin. Prac: Diag. & Remed Rdng	Sa	0930-1200	3cr	JCC
GRED 633	Clin. Prac II: Field Based Prac.	Sa	1230-1430	3cr	JCC
GRED 660	Educational Research	Fr/Sa	1600-2100 0900-1700	3cr	JCC
GRED 669	Professional Portfolio	Self Paced		3cr	TBD
GRDG 605	Literacy Assess. & Eval.	M	1630-2030	3cr	N. Elem.
GRDG 615	Literacy: Family/Sch/Comm	Fr/Sa	1600-2100 0900-1700	3cr	JCC
SPED 505	Intro. To Special Education	We	1630-2030	3cr	N. Elem.
IT 614	Technology in Education	Fr/Sa	1600-2100 0900-1700	3cr	JCC

SUNY Oswego

Semester dates 9/2-12/19/03

FIN 325 86E	Corporate Finance	Tu	1800-2045	3cr	JCC
CPS 503 810	Psych. Foundation - Personality	Tu	1600-1830	3cr	JCC
CPS 509 800	Prof. Sem. for HS/CC	Mo	1600-2100	3cr	JCC
CPS 510 010	Couns. Theory & Process (Lab req)	We	1600-1900	3cr	JCC
CPS 512 010	Case Studies in Counseling	We	1630-1900	3cr	JCC
CPS 513 010	Field Exper in Alchl. Couns. I	We	1630-1900	3cr	JCC
CPS 515 010	Field Exper in Counseling	Tu	1900-2130	3cr	JCC
CPS 516 010	Field Exper in Alchl. Couns. II	Tu	1900-2130	3cr	JCC
CPS 560 800	Chem. Dependency & Treatment	Mo	1830-2100	3cr	JCC
CPS 574 800	Voc. Develop. & Decision Making	Th	1600-2000	3cr	JCC
CPS 585 810	Found. Of Psy. & Educ. Appraisal	Mo	1630-1900	3cr	JCC
PBJ 300 820	Native American Law	Sa	0900-1145	3cr	JCC
PBJ 201 DIS	Survey: American Non-Crim. Law				SLN
PBJ 350 DIS	Pro Seminar: Public Just-Writing				SLN
PBJ 360 DIS	Discrimination in Workplace				SLN
PBJ 397 DIS	Practicum in Public Justice				SLN
PBJ 400 DIS	Police Management				SLN

General Ed and PBJ Elective Requirements for Oswego may be satisfied via online courses. Call 773-9007 for Wednesday advisement appointments for all programs.

SUNY Plattsburgh

Semester Dates 8/25-12/12/03

NUR 304	Health Assessment	We	1630-2120	3cr	JCC
NUR 425	Comm. Health Nursing	Mo	1630-1900	3cr	JCC
NUR 448	Pharmacology	Tu	1630-1720	1cr	JCC
CAS 111	Intro. To Canada	We	1820-2130	3cr	JCC
SOC 309	Sociology: Aging & Death	Fr	1600-1845	3cr	JCC

Note: Plattsburgh courses are in support of the Telenursing program.
Please call 1-800-787-8773 for registration information and/or materials.