



NEWS RELEASE

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July 29, 2004

From battlefield to classroom: Army-learned skills make Soldiers prime candidates to teach as civilians

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HEIDELBERG, Germany – The need for qualified teachers to fill the roles of instructor and mentor for American young people is always high, and the training skills Soldiers learn during their Army careers makes them prime candidates to teach when they transition back to civilian life. The “Troops to Teachers” program helps to make that happen, by putting former Soldiers at the head of classrooms across the U.S.



The purpose of TTT is to help eligible military personnel transition to a new career as public school teachers in “high-need” school districts.

A network of state TTT offices helps provide participants with counseling and assistance in becoming teachers after their Army careers, providing help with certification requirements, routes to state certification, and employment leads.

“When you retire from the military, many people need a lot of support transitioning to the ‘civilian’ way of life. TTT is one step and an aid for that transition,” said John L. Petoskey, a 21-year Air Force veteran who is now a high school teacher in Anchorage, Alaska.

After serving 28 years in the Army in various leadership positions, including 13 years with the 82nd Airborne Division, Daniel R. Pipher now teaches middle school in Boynton Beach, Fla. “I have worked with young people my whole career and I’m a veteran teacher in the military,” he said. “(With the TTT program), I win by having support outside my family for job assistance. The administration and school that hired me wins by gaining a mature, worldly, and bright military person.

“My military discipline, leadership and the fact that I have been training young people for just about my whole adult life gives me a distinct advantage over the younger and fresh-out-of-college teachers,” he said.

“So far there have been a lot of mountains to climb, but it is rewarding when you can help even one student achieve his goals and remember you with a visit or a special unexpected gift of appreciation,” said Pipher. “School districts need good people to be good teachers, just like the military needs good people to make a better military.”

The primary objective of TTT is to help recruit quality teachers for schools that serve low-income families throughout America, said Thomas E. Slaughter, Education Services Officer at the Patton Barracks Education Center here. “It helps relieve teacher shortages, especially in math, science, special education and other high-

needs subject areas, and assists military personnel in making successful transitions to second careers in teaching," he said.

"Troops to Teachers helped (me) with a better network of finding a full-time teaching position," said Pipher. "They assisted in my earning of my undergraduate degree. They offer stipends to help off set the cost of getting permanently certified."

"Pending availability of funds, assistance may be provided to eligible individuals up to \$5,000 to help pay for teacher certification costs or as bonuses of \$10,000 to teach in schools serving a high percentage of students from low-income families," said Slaughter. "Participants who accept these payments must agree to teach for three years in schools that serve students from low-income families, in accordance with the authorizing legislation."

Military personnel interested in a second career in education can visit their installation education centers for assistance. Information and resources for the TTT program is available on the TTT web site at www.ProudToServeAgain.com. Click on the program logo in this story to link to the TTT site.