

# Navy resumes paper testing ashore, not on ships

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The U.S. Navy said all paper-based education testing resumed at shore facilities this month, and it is making changes to ensure tests are safeguarded in the future.

The Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support paper testing program was frozen worldwide in March after tests were lost at some facilities and aboard some ships.

The program gives sailors access to a variety of higher education opportunities, including college exams and law school entrance testing.

Shipboard testing, however, will not resume until security is increased and policy changes are made, the Navy said.

To ensure security, "the Navy will make significant changes to both policy and guidelines," the May 8 administrative bulletin said.

The policy changes will clarify the responsibilities of education services officers and DANTES test control officers and lay out consequences if "security of the exams is compromised," according to the Navy.

Sailors can again take the DANTES standardized subject tests, college level proficiency tests, law school admission tests, Excelsior college exams and Praxis testing.

Petty Officer 1st Class Ian Welch of Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, said he had planned to take the Excelsior exam to speed up his bachelor's degree but had to put off testing due to the suspension.

"I didn't schedule any classes last term to study for and take the exams. I just missed the part about taking the exams," he said.

Welch said now that the testing has resumed, he can take the exam before beginning classes next term.

The SAT and General Education Development testing resumed at the end of April.

In March, the Navy suspended all paper testing and launched an investigation when it discovered the lost tests.

The Navy administered 10,673 paper-based tests to 6,662 sailors in 2007 and the stop in testing probably affected thousands, according to the chief of naval personnel.

Sailors can use Army or Air Force education centers for testing.

Also, testing for college credit can be done at national testing centers on civilian college campuses.