

THE ROCKET

Spring 2017



The Legacy of Excellence Continues



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Chairman's Message



Flowers are trying to peek thru in anticipation of the warmth of spring however the unexpected is always lurking so ole man winter surprised us with a last blast of snow. Notwithstanding the snow spring will ultimately make its way and mother nature will usher in the rejuvenation of life. Just like human nature we as an

organization feel rejuvenated and celebrate the fruits of labor of several outstanding individuals at our Spring Gala. More on that later. This last quarter has been extremely busy. We began by putting the final touches on our Strategic Plan. This plan will provide the organizations direction, goals and objectives out to the year 2022. We owe a great deal of credit to all of those who have participated in this process, especially Ms. Delores Johnson and her team.

We have also been working toward closing on a strategic organizational agreement with the ASSOCIATION of THE ARMY. Details continue to be worked on this initiative. What prompted this development has been a relationship of many of our members who also are members of AUSA such as yours truly. We were invited a couple of years ago to work w/ AUSA on the Army Museum effort. We received an extensive briefing of the initiative and provided input of how to tell the Army's story especially as it applied to the African American part. That evolved to discussing how we could work more closely together. As you recall we were provided a room at last year's AUSA Annual Conference. We took advantage of that opportunity to host and moderate a panel on the Army's Diversity program. So, the natural progression was to formalize our relationship since the one thing that was at the center of both organizations was to support the Army and its members. So, that brings us where we are today. As is the case in bringing two organization together the devil is in the details. We anticipate we will be able consummate this relationship soon. More to follow.

As all of you are aware in our off years we conduct a virtual training conference. This year was that year. We had chapters from around the Army join us virtually. We once again were privileged to have three of our senior Army's leaders speak to us LTG McConville Army G-1,

LTG Twitty CG 1st Army, and MG Hughes CG Cadet Cmd. The session was very informative with topics ranging from the Army's direction to insights on career development, talent management, Cadet development, support of ROTC Programs to insights on common carrier pitfalls and how to avoid them. Probably the best part of the session was the question and answer portion of the program. The entire session lasted for about three hours and was worth every moment. We very much appreciate the time these senior leaders took out of their very busy schedules to be with us. You can find an article on the program in this edition. Programs like this do not happen without a great deal of effort. I would like to recognize Col(R) Anita Dixon and her team for a great job. Give them a shout out when you get chance.

It is that time of the year to recognize the achievements of our outstanding members and those who support us. We are pleased to announce the Honorary ROCK of The Year is the Chief of Staff of the Army Gen Mark Miley. The ROCK OF THE YEAR are MG Chris Hughes and Col Gavin Lawrence. The Bobby Burke winner is Maj Andre Battiste Sr. We look forward to recognizing these well deserving winners at our annual Gala.

The Army will lose another great officer as LTG Robert Ferrell is retiring after years of dedicated service will be serving at the highest level. His achievements have been numerous. Some of the high lights include Command at all levels up to the Commanding General of CECOM ultimately becoming the Army's G-8 and CIO and has been instrumental in the Army moving into the new cyber era. From a ROCKS perspective, his leadership in initiating a mentoring program at Howard University for ROTC Cadets from regional colleges and Universities. This program included principle members of the Army staff interacting and mentoring the cadets in attendance. This program has been a smashing hit and we expect it to continue to be so in the future. All made possible by the vision and coordination of LTG Farrell. Never forgetting his roots, he always sought the opportunities to address ROCKS Chapters as he traveled around the Army. We know he will continue supporting the ROCKS as he moves into the next phase of his life. We wish he and his family God's continued blessing.

I unfortunately must address the loss of several of our stewards who have passed they include The Honorable John Shannon, MG(R) Eugene R. Cromartie and MG(R) John R. Hawkins. Each played an important role in the

viability of the ROCKS, may they rest in peace. I ask that each of you to offer a prayer for their families.

Before closing I would like to recognize this year's Rhodes Scholars. There were 32 selected from the United States 7 were African American and one of those seven were Cadet Christian E. Nattiel from the 2017 Class at West Point. Cadet Nattiel is dual major in mathematics and philosophy he also is a member of the handball team. At Oxford, Nattiel will study for a master's degrees in comparative social policy and public policy Our hats are tipped to all selected with a special tip of the hat to the seven.

I close by encouraging each of you to come out and help us recognize and celebrate this year's awardees. I look forward to seeing you at Ft. Belvoir on the 22nd of April. Sign up now.

Remember we still have service members in harm's way please join me in offering a pray for their safe return.



Earl Simms
BG USA (Ret.)
Chairman



MISSION

The mission of The ROCKS, Inc. is to strengthen the Officer and Senior Civilian Corps by serving as a world class organization that provides and promotes mentorship, coaching, scholarship, networking, leader diversity and professional development to maximize the use of talent and promote opportunities across the U.S. Armed Forces.

STRATEGIC VISION

To be the premier mentoring, professional development, and networking organization to strengthen the U.S. Armed Forces Officer and Senior Civilian Corps (GS12 and above).

Important Dates

Saturday, April 22, 2017
The ROCKS, Inc. Annual Spring Gala and Awards Ceremony



Friday, October 6, 2017
The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc.
Annual Golf Outing (Standby for more details)

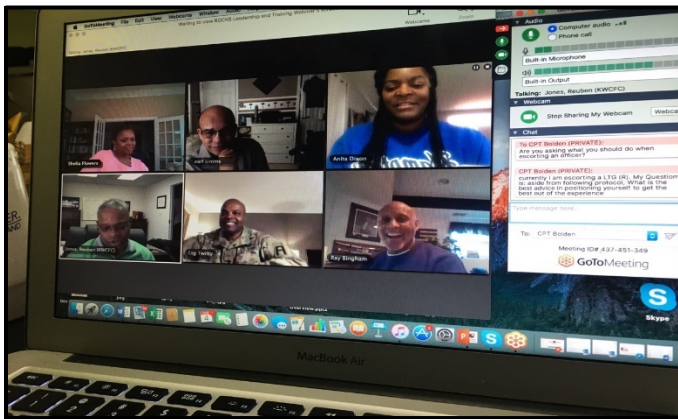


TOP STORIES

2017 ROCKS Virtual Leadership and Training Conference

Written by COL (R) Lillian Anita Dixon

Conducting ROCKS Business often requires innovative approaches in bringing our membership together. Four years ago, BG (R) Earl Simms, the Chairman of the National Board of the ROCKS Inc., decided it was important to conduct professional development training annually, opposed to biannually. But, to bring our membership together physically on an annual basis always provides challenges. BG Simms wanted to do business without crippling the Operational Budget of the organization and without making doing business a burden to our membership and guest speakers. He recognized by allowing too much time to elapse in bringing our organization together left us open for many serious gaps in regards to capturing and disseminating the latest information affecting our Army. It was decided that we would conduct a conference every year and technology has made it possible to do just that. Recognizing, the ability to physically bring everyone together to Washington DC was impractical, the National Board of the ROCKS Inc. decided to employ, what corporations have been doing for years, face to face meetings through a designated platform.



This year, the National Board of the ROCKS Inc. hit another homerun with it's second virtual Leadership and Training Conference. Our annual meeting was conducted on March 4, 2017, by bringing over 100 members together from all over the world, to include Kuwait and Japan. Returning as one of our guest speakers was the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, LTG James McConville, the Army's sponsor to the ROCKS Inc. and new to our webinar is LTG Steph Twitty, Commanding General, First Army and MG Christopher Hughes, Commanding General, Cadet Command.



If you missed this year's conference, you missed a great opportunity to learn some valuable information. The Deputy Chief of Staff described qualities of great units as those whereby everyone does the right thing. These units are highly trained, disciplined, physically and mentally fit, there is a positive command climate, a cohesive team and they manage risk. He also provided an in-depth discussion on career progression for both the officer and enlisted corps. LTG McConville closed with Talent Management and how the Army develops talent through an assessment throughout your career considering cognitive and non-cognitive behavior, performance, physical health and wellness and social/personality. Bottom line is the Army is identifying the right person, for the right job, at the right time.

LTG Stephen Twitty, CG, First Army, a long-time ROCKS member and mentor reiterated to ROCKS membership the importance in "knowing your craft". He also emphasized the importance of being the "total package" which included family time and attending important events for and with your family. He closed with his interpretation of officer ship. He stated: officers --- inspire, lead from the front, set standards and live by them, love soldiering and love their soldiers, don't lie to their soldiers, are willing to get their hands dirty, are servant leaders, hold themselves responsible to higher standards than anyone expects of them, adapt to changes, reward subordinates, never forgets where they came from, sets example of balance, give no favors in the Army and he reminded us all of the top reasons leaders get in trouble.

MG Chris Hughes discussed three areas of focus for the United States Army Cadet Command to help increase diversity in the Army Officer Corps. These areas of focus support Army ROTC's Diversity Triad, which was developed following an assessment of how Army ROTC used marketing efforts both locally and nationally to recruit diversity. When the assessment indicated a better way to grow diversity in our Army, Cadet Command shifted their focus to organizations and events where diversity comes together, as these events and organizations provide the greatest opportunity of ensuring minorities understand the options available to them in the U.S. Army. This shift of focus includes:

1) educating high school superintendents and school counsellors about Army ROTC, which builds stronger relationships with their local ROTC programs and improves PMSs' on-campus recruiting efforts;

2) educating national-level organizations about Army ROTC, especially those with diverse memberships that host STEM and robotic events or that focus on leadership and professional development, such as ROCKS Inc., the 100 Black Men of America, and many sororities and fraternities, such as the National Pan-Hellenic Council, commonly referred to as the Divine Nine; and

3) tapping into the pool of highly-qualified students applying for admittance into the Military Service Academies. Members of Congress have the privilege of nominating students for admittance to Service Academies annually. For those applicants who do not accept and/or receive an appointment into the Academies, Members of Congress may forward their packets to Cadet Command, where they are reviewed and may result in an offer of a 4-year scholarship to one of the 985 universities across the country where Army ROTC is offered.

Hats off to MG Hughes and Cadet Command for these great opportunities!

ROCKS member, LT Shayla Jennings, Assistant S4, 20th Engineer Brigade, Fort Bragg, NC stated, "It was great hearing the different points of view from our senior leadership and mentors on issues and concerns that younger officers are experiencing as well. It confirmed for me that mentorship is a vital asset to being a successful leader."



General Lloyd J. Austin Named Distinguished Graduate

Submitted by BG(Ret) Clara Adams-Ender

The West Point Association of Graduates recently named the 2017 recipients of the Distinguished Graduate Award. This year is the 25th year of celebration of the Association. The "annual award is bestowed upon those West Point graduates whose character, distinguished service and stature draw wholesome comparison to the qualities for which West Point strives, in keeping with its motto: 'Duty, Honor, Country.'" The award will be presented in a ceremony at West Point on May 23, 2017.

General Austin, a member of the Class of 1975, distinguished himself throughout his 41-year military career. General Mark Milley, current Chief of Staff of the Army, stated that "Lloyd Austin is a great officer and leader, but most importantly, he is a first-class person of humility and character." He is the only member of his class to have achieved 4-star rank.

The other 2017 Distinguished Graduate Award recipients are: Marshall N. Carter '62, third-generation West Point graduate, who was commissioned directly into the Marine Corps upon graduation; Daniel Kaufman '68, served in Vietnam and earned a Bronze Star medal and two Purple Hearts and went on to be a scholar and educator after earning a master's degree at Harvard and a doctorate at MIT; Martin Dempsey '74, whose 40-year military culminated in service as the 18th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Robert A. McDonald '75, who, after an Army stint in the Army, began a 33-year career with Procter and Gamble and was appointed as the eighth Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and Raymond Odierno '76, who culminated his career as the 38th Chief of Staff of the Army.

Additionally, a special ceremony to name a suite at West Point's historic Thayer Hotel in honor of General Lloyd Austin was held on Saturday, April 8, 2017.



A ROCKS Member Leads the National Guard's Joint Task Force in Support of the 58th Presidential Inauguration

Submitted by: Major Cadetta Bridges, DCNG



Brig. Gen. William J. Walker, serving in the capacity as Commander, provides guidance to Soldiers and Airmen of JTF-DC (U.S. Army National Guard photo)

Brig. Gen. William J. Walker, a life member of the ROCKS, Inc., was the commander of the Joint Task Force-District of Columbia (JTF-DC) during the 58th Presidential Inauguration from Dec. 1, 2016 to Jan 31, 2017. More than 7,900 National Guard (NG) Soldiers and Airmen, representing 44 states, three territories and the District of Columbia, served with the specially created JTF-DC in support of the 58th Presidential Inauguration. The JTF-DC responded to requests for assistance from local and federal agencies in the National Capital Region.

As a whole, NG Soldiers and Airmen augmented the U.S. Secret Service, U.S. Capitol and Metropolitan D.C. Police, and eight other civilian agencies, to provide a range of support, including security, traffic control, crowd management, logistics, and communication. "It was an honor and a privilege to serve in this capacity," said Walker. "It was a rewarding experience, and monumental opportunity to work with NG members from across the states and territories—and the District—on this mission that supports America's peaceful transfer of power."

The DC National Guard traces its origins to April 30, 1789, when local militia members joined the U. S. Army during the Revolutionary War. The veterans formed an honor detail to escort General George Washington from Mount Vernon, Virginia to his inauguration ceremony in New York City. Through the years, the DC National Guard, distinguished itself as the only Federal NG in the U. S., has evolved to become the NG of the Commander-in-Chief, and its greatest honor has been to protect and defend our nation and our nation's capital since 1802. In partnership with the DC Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency and Federal law enforcement agencies, the DC National Guard serves the Commander-in-Chief and the citizens of the District, recognizes civilian control over the military, and promotes democracy.



*Brig. Gen. William J. Walker, serving in the capacity as Commander, visits with Soldiers and Airmen of JTF-DC who were staying at FedEx Field in Landover, Md., Jan. 19, 2017. Coordinated by the JTF Logistics Directorate, FedEx Field housed 3,500 of the 7,900 National Guardsmen from 44 states, three territories that deployed to support JTF-DC
(National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Patrick P. Evenson, JTF-DC)*

The DCNG's participation in inaugurations in the nation's capitol began in 1861. Before the establishment of the U.S. Secret Service, Lt. Gen. Winfield Scott ordered the D.C. Militia to post sappers and cavalry along the inaugural parade route to provide cover, for President-elect Abraham Lincoln, from potential snipers. Since that time DCNG inauguration support has evolved to ceremonial marching, traffic control, crowd control, security, chemical-biological detection and response,

quick reaction forces, aerospace control alert and special airlift missions.

"The D.C. National Guard has supported forty Presidential Inaugurations since 1861 with a devotion to duty reflective of the finest traditions and customs of the U.S. military," Walker said. "I simply could not be happier or more proud of our Soldiers' and Airman's performance."

The DCNG began planning for the 58th Presidential Inauguration immediately after the end of the 57th Presidential Inauguration. This was done in conjunction with fulfilling its federal, overseas and homeland mission. In comparison to other National Guard support of the District missions, the inauguration is the organization's signature event.

Under the direction of the JTF-DC commander, the DCNG is the lead NG unit that coordinates and collaborates between Title 10 military, local and federal agencies. Additionally the JTF-DC is the lead element and primary requester for additional NG personnel and equipment from across the nation. They are also responsible for the credentialing, training, mission planning, deployment, staging, operational control and redeployment of NG forces during the inauguration.

To support the logistical execution of the event, the JTF-DC utilized FedEx Field to facilitate reception, staging and onward integration of more than 3,500 National Guard personnel. Muriel Bowser, mayor of the District of Columbia, Gen. Joseph Lengyel, Chief of the National Guard bureau as well as other political and government officials visited FedEx Field to witness the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department administer the oath of duty to National Guard Soldiers and Airmen. After taking the oath, they were appointed as special police, authorized to augment local law enforcement and support federal agencies.

The JTF-DC's efforts during the 72 hours leading up to, during, and after the inauguration contributed to a safe and secure event for attendees of the ceremony and parade. It took seven days to position personnel and equipment for the Inauguration. The redeployment was complete 16 hours after the end of the parade.

The week prior to the inauguration, while performing duties as the JTF-DC commander, Walker received notification that he would assume the duties as acting Commanding General (CG) of the District of Columbia National Guard at 12:01 p.m. on Jan. 20, 2017. As CG, Walker is responsible for the training, operational readiness, command and control and employment of the D.C. Army and Air National Guard units in support of federal and state active duty missions.

"It is an honor and a privilege to serve in this capacity," Walker said. "I look forward to working with the men and women of

the D.C. National Guard and serving our new commander-in-chief.”

Walker, a career military intelligence officer, becomes the acting CG after being the commander of the D.C. Army National Guard’s Land Component Command. Prior to this, he was the commander of the D.C. Army National Guard’s Mobilization Augmentation Command.

As the only federal National Guard in the U. S., the D.C. National Guard has been responsible for protecting the capital and defending the Nation since 1802. Over the years, the DCNG’s partnership with the D.C. Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency and federal law enforcement agencies has evolved, and is designated to serve the commander-in-chief and the citizens of the district, recognize civilian control of the military, and promote democracy.



D.C. Metropolitan Police Department administer the oath of duty to National Guard Soldiers and Airmen. After taking the oath, they were appointed as special police, authorized to augment local law enforcement and support federal agencies. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Elizabeth Scott, JTF-DC)



If your membership has expired, please take a moment to login at www.rocksync.org and renew your membership today. Thank you for your continued support of The ROCKS, Inc.

LTG (R) Julius W. Becton, Guest Speaker for AUSA 2017 Black History Program

Written by COL Sheila Howell-Flowers, USA

LTG (R) Becton, a charter member of the ROCKS, Inc. reflects on his experience serving in the US Army during the desegregation and integration of America’s Armed forces in the 1940’s, 50’s and 60’s during a recent black history program at the Association of the United States Army Headquarters (AUSA).

LTG Becton enlisted in a segregated Army at the young age of eighteen and was able to rise to the ranks of LTG over a career that spans for nearly forty years. He served with distinction in the Korean War, held combat commands in the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam and the legendary 1st Cavalry Division from 1975-1976. As a guest speaker, he did not disappoint.

As members of the AUSA and a large contingent of the ROCKS, Inc. members including fellow General Officers sat attentively listening to this modern-day war hero recount his extraordinary career, I couldn’t help but think of the grit and fortitude of the man that stood before us.



LTG(R) Becton shares his story with AUSA audience

At the black history program, General Becton shared the story of Pusan in 1950, during WWII, during the Korean War, when his infantry battalion received orders after being in country for less than 24 hours to move out to take part in Task Force Bradley. He recounted how he didn’t ask many questions, but

instead, prepared his unit to head east, towards Pohang. They traveled through fairly wooded hills where he couldn't help but wonder how some of the points along the way seemed rather ideal for an ambush. He told the audience of his efforts to keep from thinking about such a possibility as they drove through the area. "After all," he shared with the audience, higher headquarters previously reported no enemy activity spotted in the area. Fortunately, his unit was able to make it safely to the Yonil Air Field uneventfully- mission accomplished. To his dismay, he ultimately learned that the battalion following his unit had been ambushed in the same area they had just safely passed through and suffered casualties. He said "He knows it was God's grace that kept him - little did he know how close he had come to death."

In addition to reflecting on the soldiering side of his life, he touched the hearts of many as he spoke graciously about some personal aspects of his life. At 92 years young, General Becton still gleams with pride when he talked about his wife Louise of 69 years and their three adult children, who each have achieved their own success. He was accompanied by his youngest daughter, Col (R) Renee Strickland (USAF) who said her father never harbored any bitterness over the treatment he was subjected to serving in a segregated Army. She said he had a way of protecting his family from any experience that might have left him angry or bitter. Despite how he might have felt, he only exhibited true love and allegiance for his country, which he passed on to his family.

LTG Julius W. Becton is indeed a ROCKS living hero and his story is well worth the telling, hear and reading.



Mother, Daughter and Sister Dedicated to Service

Written By COL Jennifer K. Hicks McGowan



*Colonel Jennifer Hicks McGowan
with her daughter Cadet Sergeant
Emily McGowan.*

Booker T. Washington once said, "Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which he has overcome."

United States Army Military Academy at West Point Third Year Cadet Sergeant, Emily McGowan, proudly supported

the promotion ceremony of her mother, Colonel Jennifer Hicks McGowan at the Pentagon on October 7, 2016. Col. Jennifer

Hicks McGowan currently serves in the Headquarters Department of the Army G1, as the Deputy Director of Technology and Business Architecture Integration (TBAI). Jeanne M. Brooks, the Director of the TBAI served as the presiding official for the ceremony.



*Mr. Evangelist McGowan, spouse of Colonel Jennifer Hicks McGowan and
her twin sister LTC (Ret) Vanessa Hicks Callaway*

It has been said that family members of career military members are essentially serving right alongside of the military member and Cadet Sergeant Emily McGowan is no stranger to military service. She has traveled to numerous assignments in support of her mother's career as an active duty Adjutant General's Corps officer. McGowan has been a "military brat" since she was born at Fort Hood, Texas and spent her formative years growing up in Brandon, Mississippi, where she considers home. McGowan is a 2014 honor graduate of Brandon High School in Brandon, Mississippi and earned an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, Class of 2018. She is majoring in Systems Design and Management and minoring in Engineering. "Emily is a truly amazing young woman," Hicks Callaway stated. "Emily could have gone to any Division I college or university with a track or soccer scholarship but she chose service over self and accepted the appointment to West Point," she continued.

"I credit my success to God blessing me with a family that loves and supports me in everything I do or try to do," explained Cadet Sergeant McGowan. The Hicks McGowan family is a family of service. Lt. Col. (Ret) Vanessa F. Hicks Callaway, Col. Hicks McGowan's twin sister, served in the Army for 27 years prior to her retirement. Cadet Sergeant McGowan's brother, Evan McGowan, currently serves with the Boy Scouts of America, who has earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2014 with Troop 229 out of Brandon, Mississippi. Her father, Mr. Evangelist McGowan, serves as an Assistant Scout Leader. Cadet Sergeant McGowan had four uncles on her grandfather's side of the family who all served in the Army during a time in which African Americans were not afforded the fairness and equality.

Cadet McGowan commented on what motivates her to keep marching to her graduation date in May of 2018. "My favorite scripture to help me make it through each day at West Point can be found in 2 Samuel 22:33 'God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect.'"



*Cadet Sergeant Emily McGowan, Col Jennifer Hicks McGowan;
son: Evan McGowan (Eagle Scout), son: Ethan McGowan (sleeping)
and Mr. Evangelist McGowan (spouse)*



New York Army National Guard is Recruiting Female Leaders for Infantry and Cavalry Units

*By Col. Richard Goldenberg,
New York Army National Guard
March 10, 2017 (Reprinted w/Permission)*



LATHAM, N.Y. -- The New York Army National Guard is looking for female leaders, officers and noncommissioned officers, who are ready to become infantrymen.

In 206 the Army opened 138,000 positions to women in Infantry, Armor, Field Artillery and Special Forces branches that were previously men only. More than 300 women moved into those career fields.

The change means more positions in the 2nd Bn, 108th Infantry, 1st Bn, 69th Infantry, 2nd Squadron, 101st Cavalry and 1st Bn, 258th Field Artillery are now open to women.

Gender integration is already underway in the 1st Bn, 258th Field Artillery, where women cannon crew members and leaders are already assigned. "The Army's decision to open infantry and armor branch positions to females across the force removes the final barrier to complete gender integration," said Brig. Gen. Ray Shields, New York Army National Guard Commander, in a note to the force in December 2016.

This means more career paths in the combat arms-1,169 enlisted infantry and cavalry slots and 443 NCO and officer positions-- for a larger pool of Soldiers and leaders, Shields said. "Having female Soldiers in combat arms increases the pool of available recruits to fill our ranks in a time when an increasingly small population of Americans qualify to serve in the military. We need them!" said New York State Command Sgt. Maj. David Piwowarski.

Gender integration means higher readiness for units, not lesser, Piwowarski said.

"One of the first steps to readiness and being ready for war is having a unit that is completely full of qualified, fit and trained Soldiers, regardless of their gender," he emphasized.

But getting female Soldiers into New York's combat units means female leaders need to be there first. The Army directed that two female leaders must be assigned to any unit before it can enlist infantry or armor female Soldiers, Shields said.

"Many women in the New York Army National Guard (NYARNG) possess the requisites to succeed in infantry and cavalry units," said Lt. Col. Diane Armbruster, an Iraq War veteran and commander of the 101st Expeditionary Signal Battalion.

"Integrating them into combat positions is a positive step towards showcasing their talent and ability," said Armbruster, who has been selected to attend the Army War College's residence program. "This also gives women in NYARNG the ability to choose from all branches and to select what is right for them."

Reclassification means proving physical and mental toughness for female officers and NCOs, but recent results show that the right Soldier can and will excel, according to the Army. Initial Army data of fully integrated combat arms training at Fort Benning, Georgia - where infantry and armor courses are held - have shown no significant difference between male and female student performance.

"The female attrition rate is lower or the same as men," noted Lt. Gen. Hugh Van Roosen, the Army Deputy Personnel Officer in a December 2016 Army News Blog. "These are women who are physically fit and absolutely prepared for

this. "The Army's new Occupational Physical Assessment Test or OPAT, is part of this process.

The test features gender-neutral tasks-- the standing long jump, a dead lift, interval run and a seated power throw-- to measure strength needed for tasks like loading ammunition. Those who score in the highest physical category can join combat arms.

Armbruster stresses preparation for the challenges of the combat arms.

"First, I would say that the physical demands of infantry and cavalry are obviously harder for all genders," Armbruster said. "Ensure you understand the specific requirements for these combat assignments and that you are physically and mentally prepared to meet them."

One of the first lieutenants to volunteer for a combat arms leader assignment is 2nd Lt. Lasheri Mayes, a logistics officer from the 642nd Support Bn, who will attend Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course later in 2017. Mayes has developed her own plan to ensure success. This includes rigorous physical fitness training and professional development in her current assignment with Charlie Company, 2nd Bn, 108th Infantry to learn small unit infantry tactics.

Mayes also acknowledged the support of her chain of command and fellow Soldiers.

"It is great to come back in from a ruck march in the morning and see (27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team) Command Sgt. Maj. Ciampolillo asking me how far I went and telling me to push farther next time," Mayes said.

From ruck marches to running to weightlifting, spin bikes and yoga, Mayes has devoted herself to physical training to meet or exceed the demands of the infantry school. "I know that once I arrive at basic, people are going to be watching me, watching everything I do, and I want to be ready," Mayes said.

The invitation for leaders is open across the force, explained Piwowarski, even though some military jobs might seem more applicable to transfer into the infantry or cavalry field. "There are some similarities between an MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) like military police and the combat arms," Piwowarski said. "But I have been on combat foot patrols with medics and on mounted patrols with logisticians, including females, who can hold their own on a road march or behind a machinegun."

Armbruster says that her advice for future infantry or cavalry leaders is the same for all of her Soldiers. "Lead by example and adhere to the Army Values in everything you do," she said. "Be confident, not cocky. Show respect for all and seek guidance and advice from superiors as well as subordinates."

For women interested in reclassification to infantry or cavalry combat arms, it still comes down to leadership, Piwowarski explained. "Whatever gender you are, as a career infantryman, if you reclass, your squad or platoon depends on your leadership. Leaders go the extra mile in preparation for training and missions and they put in extra time in taking care of their Soldiers. Expect to work harder than those that you lead," he said.

"I was a little hesitant when I was first asked about the opportunity to reclass infantry," Mayes said. "But when I learned that having leaders first was the key to allow new recruits in, that pretty much did it for me. I figure I'm doing this as much for them as for myself," she said.

Soldiers interested in the infantry or cavalry career fields for reclassification should first contact their chain of command and then reach out to Capt. Katie McGovern, katie.a.mcgovern.mil@mail.mil, (518) 272-6493 for officer accessions or Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Colling, jeffrey.a.colling.mil@mail.mil, (518) 272-6361 for NCOs.



Hamptonians in the Land of the Rising Calm

Written by Mr. Claude Vann, III (Hampton Class of 1977)

Hamptonians: Our fellow Alumni are making our Army a better Army by sharing a little bit of the foundation of Hampton. I can visualize the discussion, and there is no doubt that Hampton University came up during the workshop. Let's face it Hampton has been the bedrock of our continued success.



Monique shares some tid bits of knowledge with the group.

Mrs. Monique Ferrell was on the peninsula observing SHARP (Sexual Harassment Assault Response and Prevention) training and best practices. Taking advantage of her presence, GEN Brooks invited her to talk with members from 2 mentorship forums - ROCKS, Inc. and TogetHER.

GEN Brooks recently kicked-off a mentorship program called TogetHER. This forum is focused on empowering women to strengthen peer-to-peer bonds, engrain professional ethics, and enhance professional and personal growth in an environment where everyone is comfortable discussing difficult yet common issue.



COL Racquel Gallman, Class of 1994 and SES Monique Ferrell, Class of 1985 spend some time catching up while in Korea.



General Vincent Brooks, Commanding General US Army Pacific takes a picture with personnel participating in a training session. GEN Brooks has great instincts because he flanked by two Hamptonians. Hooah!



Regional Health Command-Atlantic Conducts Change of Command

By: Craig Coleman/RHC-A Public Affairs

(Originally published in the March 16, 2017 Fort Belvoir Eagle)



Brig. Gen. R. Scott Dingle, the new commanding general of the Army's Regional Health Command-Atlantic, RHC-A, told his assembled treatment facility commanders and headquarters staff on Belvoir March 8 that the region will continue to build upon its successes in improving medical readiness, while improving the health of the Army family. Dingle made the remarks during a change of command ceremony after assuming command of the region from Brig. Gen. Ronald J. Place.

RHC-A provides health care to more than 500,000 beneficiaries on installations in 26 states. The command's primary missions are maintaining a fighting force that is medically ready to deploy; training a health-care force that is ready to deploy with those Soldiers; and protecting the health of the entire Army family.

Dingle told Lt. Gen. Nadja Y. West, Army surgeon general and the ceremony's presiding officer, he would continue to make readiness paramount. "We will establish a region-wide culture of excellence, built upon your priorities and vision," he said.

West highlighted the region's accomplishments under Place, noting that, due to a reorganization of the Army Medical Command, RHC-A doubled in size. The scope of the regional mission also grew.

"During his tenure as commander, (RHC-A) brought new focus on supporting our Army's mission by integrating medical, dental, public health, veterinary and warrior transition capabilities in the region," West said.

The surgeon general also praised the region for embracing technological advances in health care. Virtual health, providing

specialty health care to Soldiers in remote areas, has been a particular focus of RHC-A, allowing Army health care providers the ability to help beneficiaries far from their treatment facilities. Using virtual health, beneficiaries may need to travel less to get specialty care.

“(Brig. Gen. Place’s) team has set the standard in using virtual health technology,” West said.

West also praised the region’s addition of new graduate education programs, which health care providers use to further develop their skills, enabling them to provide top-quality care to Soldiers and family members.

West singled out Place as a superb leader, who combines first-rate skills as a physician, academic, administrator and executive, with empathy.

“He is decisive, but weighs his decisions very carefully. Not just doing the right thing, but ensuring it is done right in the most compassionate way possible. He cares,” she said.

In his farewell to the region, Place said that, upon arriving at Belvoir in December 2015, he was initially impressed with the expertise and diligence within the command. “And now, after seeing with my own eyes the near-miracles you perform on a daily basis, I am in awe,” he said.

“This command provides spectacular support to Soldiers and their families; past, present and future,” Place said.

Dingle comes to RHC-A from the Office of the Surgeon General and Army Medical Command, where he was deputy chief of staff for operations. Place will serve as a special assistant to the surgeon general.



FALLEN ROCK



*Major General Eugene R. Cromartie
(Oct. 3, 1936 through
Feb. 13, 2017)*

MG Eugene R. Cromartie was laid to rest on Saturday March 11, 2017.

Major General Cromartie was born in Wabasso, Florida on October 3, 1936. His parents were

Ulysses and Hanna Cromartie; he was the seventh of nine children. Eugene attended and graduated from Florida A&M University in Tallahassee Florida in 1957. While attending the university he was the Class president as well as the ROTC battalion commander and became a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. Also while attending FAMU he met and married the love of his life/college sweetheart, Joyce B. Mims. They have four sons whom all served the community in various careers. For all that have known him he has gone by his nick name Gene Cromartie.

Gene’s distinguished career in the US Army lasted 33 ½ years. He has held a number of different positions/assignments during his tenure with the military: Student of Infantry at Fort Benning, Georgia; Commander of the 59th Military Police Company in Bremerhaven, Germany; Executive Officer, later Commander for the Headquarters Detachment, 95th Military Police Battalion in Vietnam; Instructor, United States Army Military Police School at Fort Gordon, Georgia; Chief, Electives Branch, Office, Director of Graduate Studies and Research, United States Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; Commander of the 503rd Military Police Battalion at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Airborne Paratrooper and Provost Marshal of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Commander, First Region, United States Army Criminal Investigation Command; Deputy Provost Marshal, later Provost Marshal of the United States Army Europe and Seventh Army in Mannheim, Germany; Community Commander in Mannheim Germany; Commanding General United States Army Criminal Investigation Command at Falls Church, Virginia.

After retiring from the Military Gene became the Deputy Executive Director/Chief of Staff of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. He remained in this position for sixteen years, before retiring again. Throughout his various assignments and career paths, he has touched the lives of many through mentoring and friendship. His impact on society will never be matched, nor will it ever be forgotten.

National Board of The ROCKS, Inc. Mentorship Program

Written by Austin D. Bell III, VP, Mentorship



Notes from the Mentorship Corner

Feedback from Chapters/Interest Groups reveal there is a struggle with establishing formal mentorship relationships between mentors and mentees. In acknowledgement, we have authorized Chapters/Interest Groups to be innovative in your

approaches to foster mentorship relationships that may not perfectly emulate the formal mentorship model. This edition of mentorship notes provides a short tutorial on informal mentorship. As the tutorial posits, informal mentorship can be effective and indeed may be a viable alternative and more conducive to your respective environs in your quest to provide mentorship to your junior members. However, as the tutorial outlines at the end, there are definitive differences to informal versus formal mentorship relationships. In addition, because of the nature of informal mentorship relationships, you may have difficulty definitively documenting them if you have them occurring within your organizations. Even so, if you can establish opportunities for informal mentorships to occur and you can document their existence, you may be able to establish a program to shape these relationships so as to facilitate mentees getting maximum benefit from them.

Informal Mentorship Can Be Effective

Informal mentoring is initiated by either a mentor or mentee, may last a long time, and is more of an emotional commitment. It focuses exclusively on a **mentee's** goals. Most often, this kind of relationship begins when two people meet and discover they have common interests. Out of this discussion, a relationship develops and out of this relationship, one person begins to take on the role of listening and providing advice to the other. In essence, the mentoring relationship is born. The mentor can be one's boss, a teacher, a neighbor, a relative, a religious person, a colleague, etc. These relationships are often emotionally intense, which give them a depth and richness.

Perhaps the **Legend of Mentor** can best illustrate the challenge and opportunity before those who aspire to touch the life of another in this way:

The story of Mentor stems from the Greek writer Homer's "Odyssey". When Odysseus, King of Ithaca, leaves to fight the Trojan War, he entrusted the care of his household to Mentor, who served as teacher and overseer of Odysseus's son, Telemachus. After the war, Odysseus was condemned to wander vainly for ten years in his attempt to return home. In time, Telemachus, now grown, goes in search of his father.

Telemachus was accompanied on his quest by Athena, Goddess of War and Patroness of the Arts and Industry, who assumed the form of Mentor. Eventually, father and son are reunited and together they cast down the usurpers of Odysseus' throne and Telemachus' birthright.

In time, the word "Mentor" became synonymous with trusted advisor, friend and teacher. History offers many examples of helpful mentoring relationships, such as Socrates and Plato, Hayden and Beethoven, Freud and Jung. History and legend record the deeds of princes and kings but each of us has a birthright to be all we can be. **Mentors** are those special people in our lives who, through their deeds and work, help us to move toward fulfilling that potential.

It is not unusual for such relationships to last a lifetime. It is also the most common perception of what a mentoring relationship is like. In reality, this is just one mentoring model. A drawback to this model is that the emotional involvement can become confused or lead to expectations that are unrealistic due to a lack of training in mentoring, relying on the "best guess" approach. There is also a tendency for mentors to want to create clones of themselves rather than allowing the mentee to become who s/he can be.

Understanding Formal & Informal Mentoring

It's important to understand the difference between formal and informal mentoring. Why? Because different mentoring processes require different strategies and include different benchmarks and goals.

Formal mentoring programs include:

- Connection to a strategic business objective of the organization
- Established goals
- Measurable outcomes
- Open access for all who qualify
- Strategic pairing of mentors and mentees
- Mentoring engagements lasting 9-12 months
- Expert training and support
- Direct organizational benefits

Informal mentoring programs include:

- Unspecified goals
- Unknown outcomes
- Limited access to the program
- Self-selection of mentors and mentees
- Long-term mentoring
- No expert training or support
- Indirect organizational benefits

"Work hard. Dream big".- Unknown

Keeping (Y)our Finances Straight

*Written by COL Eric P. Flowers USA
VP, Finance*



An ageless saying holds that if you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there. This old maxim metaphorically characterizes the condition facing a budget-less organization. Subsequently, when a ROCKS Chapter fails to develop an annual budget, nothing, and everything rates as important- all at the same time. Such a scenario serves the best interests of no one and we need to avoid such a development at

all costs. Subsequently, as your new Vice-President for Finance, I humbly offer to provide whatever assistance I can to ANY chapter (or interest group) seeking to set itself up for success by crafting and implementing a feasible and realistic budget. I feel this is the least I can offer as part of my efforts to come close to equaling the dedication, commitment and professionalism consistently displayed during the past decade by my predecessor, COL (R) Lucretia McClenney.

Past ROCK-of-the-Year McClenney provided sound fiscal guidance to: The National Board; ROCKS chapters; and, members through her ten years of volunteering as the VP of Finance. I am humbled to follow her footsteps and proud to call her a friend and a confidant. I am extremely grateful to her, and Board Chairman Simms', for their confidence in me as a suitable backfill for this ROCKS legend.

With this honor, I pledge to each member to always promote a climate of full transparency and a sense of inclusiveness when it comes to the organization's fiscal matters. I'll set the standards for those at the chapter levels to replicate and follow. Although I do not have a financial background, I am willing to learn and apply all that I can and pass on what I learned to those in the organization.

To this end, I merge the concepts I referenced at the beginning of this piece to encourage everyone to take a strategic view of your respective budgets. At a glance, the budgets should reflect the chapter's priorities and communicate to observers what the chapter intends to do and how it will go about the business of doing it. If your chapter has not approved a budget for your respective operating year, I encourage you to right this ship and develop one as soon as possible- it will make running the organization easier. Additionally, it will provide focus and direction for members to embrace, develop, and sustain, a sense of meaningfulness because they know specifically where the organization is going.

As I expressed earlier, if there is anything I can do to help promote the pursuit of a healthy vision via a feasible budget, please contact me as soon as possible. I am here to help the chapters and members and will always do what I can to help fellow ROCKS...

Set the standard!!!



The First Civilian Professional Development Seminar of 2017

*Written by Mrs. Delores Johnson-Davis
VP, Civilian Affairs*



Civilian employees in Grades 12-15 were invited to participate in the first of the year Professional Development Seminar on March 2, 2017, Pentagon Conference Center. Fifty-eight employees from the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, and FEMA participated in the first ever quarterly seminar, "Creating My Path to Career Success". The Seminar was designed to facilitate achievement of individual career goals and link emerging leaders to mentors. Senior executives from the Army, Navy and Marine Corps shared their career experiences and insights about their own career paths with participants.

Ms. Donjette Gilmore, Department of the Navy, Mr. Warren Whitlock, Department of the Army, Ms. Jennifer Edgin, United States Marine Corps and Mr. Johnny Thomas, Department of the Army shared their perspectives on jobs, mentors and self-awareness. Participants appreciated the honest advice provided. The open-ended format created a friendly atmosphere to ask questions and get answers as well as address things not in the career textbook. Mr. Angel Maldonado-Ramirez and Ms. Lisa Rycroft, Department of Army staff, provided information on the Army's civilian career roadmap. Participants appreciated the need to take responsibility of their own career and of the multiple career opportunities available to them.

Finally, Dr. Vicki Brown, Acting Executive Director, Defense Civilian Personnel Advisory Services led the group through an interactive process on how to use career self-assessment tools to develop their own personalized career development plan. Future workshops will build on the individual's career plan to focus on Seminar 2: Self-Assessment Review (include discussion and Role Playing) (May/June 2017); Seminar 3: Fundamentals of Coaching, Mentoring and Networking (Sep 2017); Seminar 4: Celebrate your Success (Dec 2017). Evaluations revealed that participants really enjoyed the

seminar and asked for it to be longer. Also, participants' realized they should think more about their brand and take an honest self-assessment where they are now.



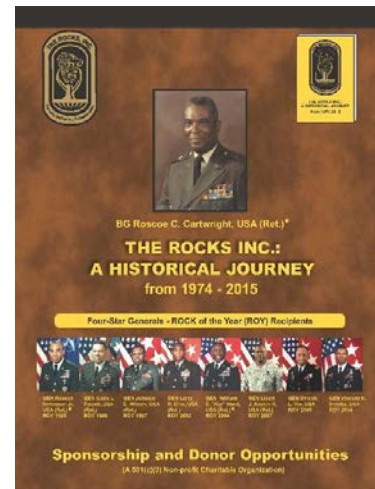
SES Panel shares their Experience



Civilian Professions Development Attends listen intently



Dr. Brown leads group engagement



We need your support!

The ROCK, Inc.: A Historical Journey from 1974-2015

The Journey Book Project that has been authorized by The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. to be published prior to the next Gala will showcase organization's progress from its inception in 1974 through 2015.

We have made significant progress in finalizing the written and pictorial portion of the book. Our next major effort is to obtain the necessary funds for publication of the book and we are well on the way.

We need **your personal pledge and each member's efforts** to encourage other members to pledge and make their payment in order to get the ROCKS Journey book published. Our goal is to raise \$60,000 to publish 1,000 books to sell to members, friends, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and other organizations. We encourage a one-time payment in the amount of \$120 or you may pledge to make a payment of \$10.00 per month for 12 consecutive months.

For those Rocks members that have made their Journey Book Project pledge and made their payment, we thank you and ask that you encourage other ROCK members to pledge. Your pledge to help get the Journey Book published will benefit your chapter as the proceeds from the sales of the books will kept by the chapters to be used for their approved programs. We are a IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization and your contribution to this project is tax deductible. Thanks.

Best regards,
Colonel (Ret.) Frank Francois, III, Historian
The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc.
Chair of the ROCKS Historical Journey Book Project

CADET CORNER



West Point Cadet Christian Nattiel, the U.S. Military Academy's first African American Rhodes Scholar, and retired Army Major Pat Locke, the first female African American USMA graduate, present a bust to Vice President Mike Pence during the Lieutenant Henry O. Flipper Dinner at the academy in West Point, N.Y., Feb. 9, 2017 as LTG Robert Caslen, West Point Superintendent and 2016 Honorary ROCK of the Year looks on. The dinner is held annually to commemorate the life of Flipper, West Point's first African-American graduate. Army photo by Carmine Cocchi.

The ROCKS, Inc. extend sincere congratulations to Cadet Christian E. Nattiel on his selection as a 2017 United States Rhodes Scholarship winner. Cadet Nattiel is a senior at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Cadet Nattiel is the first African American Cadet from the United States Military Academy at West Point to earn a Rhodes scholarship.

Cadet Nattiel is double-majoring in mathematical sciences and philosophy. He is interested in narratives of struggle, social justice, and self-determination. Christian served as the president of the Cultural Affairs Seminar, which champions diversity and inspires cadets through mentorship and tutoring. He was awarded the Superintendent's Award for Achievement, the Distinguished Cadet Award, and the Black Engineer of the Year Award for Military Leadership. Christian is a member of the men's handball team. At the University of Oxford in England, he will pursue an M.Sc. in Comparative Social Policy, followed by the Master of Public Policy.



Army JROTC Presidential Battalion Celebrates Its 18th Annual Military Ball

*Written by Col. Don Edwards, Jr. and
Lt. Col. Chailendreia Dickens (USA Ret)*



Lt. Col. Chailendreia Dickens, USA RET (Senior Army Instructor) along with Cadets of the Woodrow Wilson Army JROTC Presidential Battalion and their guests on the dance floor

More than 200 guests attended the Woodrow Wilson High School (WWHS) Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (AJROTC) Presidential Battalion 18th annual military ball on March 3 in Portsmouth, Virginia. The annual military ball is a big event since the cadet leadership plans and executes the event from start to finish, coordinating all the administrative and logistics requirements. The AJROTC program was led by retired Lt. Col. Chailendreia Dickens, Senior Army Instructor, and retired First Sgt. Ronald Caldwell and Master Sergeant Stanley Hill, who are both Army Instructors.

"This event was very professional and executed just as well as some of the active duty military balls that I have attended in my 26-year Army career," said Col. Don Edwards, Jr., Hampton Roads Chapter Vice President of Operations and this year's guest speaker.

The cadets have an opportunity to invite their parents, relatives, and friends as their guests. This enlightening event provided a small view into the lives of the cadets and their demonstrated leadership growth and teamwork to the guests.

After proceeding through the traditional Receiving Line, where the cadets and their guests were greeted by Lt. Col. Dickens, Col. Edwards, Mr. Timothy Johnson, the WWHS Principal, Cadet LTC Donnie Smith (Battalion Commander), and Cadet CSM Cedric Donaldson (Command Sergeants Major). The cadets and their guests entertained as select cadets sang the

National Anthem, and recited the Cadet Creed and the Soldier's Creed.

At the conclusion of dinner, Col. Edwards provided remarks centered on the event theme, "Coming Together is the beginning; Keeping Together is progress; Working Together is success." As Col. Edwards focused in on the team concept, he noted, "I believe our character is developed and fine-tuned, let me restate that, I believe the OPPORTUNITY for our character to be developed and fine-tuned comes through teamwork." In addition to highlighting the importance of "sacrifice and selfless service" as key ingredients of teamwork in the pursuit of mission accomplishment, Col. Edwards reminded the audience about "the personal satisfaction that is achieved or felt when we help others and the team succeeds."



COL Don Edwards, Jr. addressing the Woodrow Wilson High School Army JROTC Presidential Battalion and their guests



Woodrow Wilson High School Army JROTC Cadre (ISG Ronald Caldwell (USA RET), MSG Stanley Hill (USA RET), LTC Chailendrea Dickens (USA RET), and COL Don Edwards, Jr (Guest Speaker)

As a final thought, Col. Edwards challenged the cadets, "...at home, school, within JROTC, in life, do your part to be the best team member that you can be. You may not be able to control anyone else, but you can control you. You were created for a reason....joined JROTC for a reason. Be professional and be respectful. Look for opportunities to sharpen your skills and

your character...to positively assist others along the way. Have an optimistic outlook and when the time arises for you to be part of a team, remember to Come Together, Keep Together, and Work Together!"

After cadet recognition and appreciation remarks by both Principal Johnson and Lt. Col. Dickens, they focused on how well the cadets have progressed and demonstrated excellent leadership growth throughout the school year.



Black Engineer of the Year Awards

By: Cadets Tieasha Mills & Nia Farmer

Howard University ROTC Bisons attended the Black Engineer of the Year Awards (BEYA). During the BEYA conference the Bison Bn participated in mentoring high school students, career fairs and leadership seminars. Bison Bn Cadets were accompanied by Bowie State cadets in the mentoring of Wash. D.C area high school students.

The leadership seminar was led by LTC Joel Thomas, Professor of Military Science (PMS) at Bowie State University. He gave the students a mini-lecture on Army Leadership and what it means to be an everyday leader. One of the biggest takeaways the students received from the session was the idea of personal growth and ones ability to help others grow. As Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Cadets, the event allowed the Bison Bn to provide mentorship to the next generation of citizens.

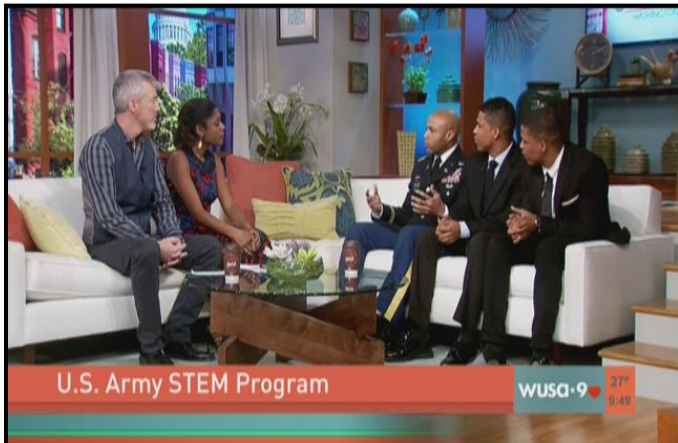


Cadet Baldwin (left) receives Army ROTC Scholarship from MAJ Smith (right).

During the leadership luncheon session, MAJ Archie Smith, PMS at Howard University awarded a scholarship to Cadet Joshua Baldwin MS II from Howard University. Cadet Burley remarked, "My time with the students gave me a glimpse into the range of talent that these future leaders have to offer." The seminar provided an opportunity for Senior ROTC cadets and

the PMSs to equip the next generation of leaders (with information) to solve the problems of tomorrow.

During the BEYA event MAJ Smith had the opportunity to speak with high school students. During the conference, MAJ Smith also had the opportunity to speak with WUSA9. Bowie State University students, Cadets Eric Berry and Jackie Berry joined Major Smith in discussing the US Army STEM scholarship program.



MAJ Smith (3rd from left) sits with WUSA9 to discuss STEM Scholarships with the Army



Third National ROCKS Inc. Golf Outing

Friday, October 6, 2017
Sign in 7AM - Shot Gun Start 9:00AM

Fort Belvoir Golf Club
8450 Beulah St #2920
Fort Belvoir, VA 22060



Players and Sponsors Sign Up Online
WWW.ROCKSINC.ORG

For Additional Information or to Volunteer
Contact COL (Retired) Lucretia McClenney
lucretiamc@gmail.com or (703) 915-6446

The ROCKS Inc. is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes. The organization has positioned itself as an essential leader in mentoring and coaching to members of the Army Officer Corps, ROTC and Academy Cadets, and DA Civilians.

The ROCKS Inc. is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization

ROCKS' CHAPTER **ACTIVITIES**

Morning Calm Chapter of ROCKS Inc.: Leading the Way in Leader and Professional Development, Mentorship and Networking in South Korea

Written by LTC Vernon L. Jones, Jr.

The Morning Calm Chapter of ROCKS, Inc. in South Korea, began its current rebuilding journey in the latter part of 2016. There were a few challenges to actively maintaining the chapter with a transient population and chapter members and participants are geographically disperse throughout South Korea. However, the Morning Calm Chapter is postured to present leader forums and connect large groups on a continuous basis.

The U.S. Forces in Korea are divided into five designated area boundaries; Area I at United States Army Garrison (USAG) Red Cloud and 2nd Infantry Division Headquarters; Area II is at USAG Yongsan, Area III is at USAG Humphreys; Area IV is at USAG Daegu, and Area V is at Osan Air Base. The chapter headquarters is in Area II, where the chapter president ensures coordination and collaboration between the areas and provides guidance and assistance when necessary. Each area has an area coordinator, or vice-president, responsible for establishing, maintaining, and coordinating meetings in their respective areas. This chapter has senior leadership support with lieutenant colonels and above, who actively engage in providing guidance and support, which enables the organization to produce enhanced and thought provoking sessions.

The Morning Calm Chapter focuses on the use of leader development sessions to support the ROCKS Inc.'s mission of providing and promoting mentorship, leader development and diversity, networking, and professional development. Each quarter, the chapter conducts a peninsula wide session, where participants assemble in one location to attend a joint event. In addition, each area conducts monthly sessions. Some past sessions have included topics such as: "Building and Maintaining Bridges of Communication", "Introduction to ROCKS and the Importance of Mentorship", "What is this balance everyone is talking about and how do I get it?", "Why Officers Fail", and "Trust and Betrayal in the Workplace". A few of our guests from outside the peninsula have included Lt. Gen. Gwendolyn Bingham, Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, Maj. Gen. James Simpson, Commander of Army Contracting Command, and SES

Monique Ferrell, Director of the U.S. Army Sexual Harassment/Assault Response & Prevention Program.

The Chapter strives to ensure ROCKS members and participants understand the importance of Chapter sessions, which are key to the continued growth and effectiveness of the individual and this organization. As such, each area produces a storyboard after their session which summarizes key points made during the area meeting. The storyboards are sent to the Chapter President and subsequently distributed to all ROCKS participants on the peninsula via a consolidated email distribution list.



ROCKS Inc, Morning Calm Chapter storyboard, "What is this balance everyone is talking about and how do I get it?"

In spite of the constant changes and high OPTEMPO in South Korea, the ROCKS, Inc, Morning Calm Chapter, continues to grow in participation and attendance. Through its mentorship and leader development efforts, the chapter programs are nested with Army Strategic Planning Guidance to develop adaptive leaders and serve as a vehicle for service members to exercise their commitment to the military profession.

Fort Leavenworth recognized Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a luncheon on January 25, 2017 at the Frontier Conference Center. Command and General Staff Officer Course student Maj. William Branch delivered the keynote address to 140 people, and his remarks spoke about the journey that citizens undertake as human beings and countrymen.

"As I reflected on the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., I saw a man grounded in purpose," said Branch. "I saw a humble man who recognized the power of his gifts and abilities to address a great ethical dilemma of the time. Most importantly, I saw a man whose passion and wisdom surpassed his experience to produce one of the greatest examples of moral courage we know today. But like so many others, his story illustrates that we all maintain the capacity to perpetuate positive change in the world."

Branch emphasized that purpose drives and commits shared interests in a focused direction. Before people can set off in the right direction as a society or individually, there must be some headway.

"Our true identity is the negotiation of our societal identity and our personal identity," said Branch. "We have to come to understand what each of us brings to our community, respecting and expecting that everyone brings something."



ROCKS Inc, Morning Calm Chapter conducting Leader and Professional Development sessions across South Korea

Branch credits growing up in northwest Detroit, Michigan for giving him a very unique perspective on life. Growing up, he witnessed the denigration of urban neighborhoods and the hopelessness that followed, which ultimately led many people to turn towards destructive behaviors as coping mechanisms. Branch said, "We were coping with poverty, with the lack of resources, but most of all with the lack of understanding of our circumstance." However, Dr. King's purpose and hope in life among others was to help provide those resources and a better understanding of the systems and circumstances that worked against African Americans. He left us with this quote by Dr.

Martin Luther King Jr. saying “And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. “I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be.”



Maj. William Branch accepts certificate of appreciation during the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. luncheon at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas Jan.2.



General Brooks Visits Aloha ROCKS Chapter

Written by MAJ Brandon Grooms

On December 22, 2016 General Vincent Brooks, Commander of United States Forces Korea, held a Leadership Professional Development (LPD) session with nearly sixty Soldiers and civilians at the 25th Infantry Division main post conference room. During the LPD, GEN Brooks shared his thoughts on leadership and talked about the future of the Army. The LPD ended with audience members asking candid questions to GEN Brooks who followed up with straightforward answers ranging from officer evaluation report (OER) performance and potential to national security concerns. GEN Brooks described the audiences' roles as leaders in three points highlighted below:

1) Your example counts:

- GEN Brooks explained that your example ALWAYS matters and ineffective leaders “say” however, they do not do.
- To be an effective leader you must live the standard in how you fill your duties every single day.

- As leaders think about the standard and describe it to others, they must also make themselves match that standard.



GEN Brooks shares leadership thoughts with the Aloha ROCKS chapter

2) Be a Team Player:

- The art of team comes from how you lead.
- The art of team play encompasses how you lead and the example you set. When others succeed, you succeed more.
- Master the Art of Teamwork in how you are viewed by your subordinates and peers.

3) Leading a diverse force:

- Be the one selected, not the one not selected.
- Be prepared to assume any position and continue to serve.
- Never accept average; carry the extra load.
- When preparation meets opportunity, success occurs. Visualize yourself as one consistently working to be prepared.



The Aloha ROCKS chapter poses for a group photo with GEN Vincent Brooks following the LPD

Buffalo Soldier Chapter hosts MG Smith and BG Hamilton for LPD on readiness

Written by Capt. Alvin Cavalier



Brig. Gen. Charles Hamilton speaks to Buffalo Soldier Chapter members during a leader development session Jan. 30..

Nearly 50 Soldiers and civilians attended the Buffalo Soldiers Chapter's Leader Professional Development dinner with Maj. Gen. Leslie Smith, Deputy, The Inspector General for the Office of the Secretary of the Army; and Brig. Gen. Charles Hamilton, Commander of Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support on January 30, 2017. Maj. Gen. Smith and Brig. Gen. Hamilton shared their experiences both good and bad, their insights on how to find success, and explained how get out of our comfort zones. Their overarching theme and message centered on maintaining readiness -- physically, mentally and emotionally. Readiness is the number one priority for the Army.

Throughout the session, both leaders challenged members of the Buffalo Soldier Chapter to get out of their comfort zones and find comfort in being uncomfortable. Establishing trust, building relationships, effective communication, looking the part, and knowing your job underpinned both leaders' messages of maintaining readiness. Hamilton told the packed room, "You cannot ask yourself will I be ready, you have to be ready yesterday, the Army is depending on you." before departing.



Buffalo Soldier Chapter members pose with Maj. Gen. Leslie Smith and Brig. Gen. Charles Hamilton Jan. 30.



Brigadier General Stephen L. Michael Deputy Commanding General-Operations 25th Infantry Division Fort Polk, Louisiana 7 February 2017

*Written by LTC Darren T. Spears
Task Force Two XO OCT, JRTC, OPSGRP
Fort Polk, Louisiana*



Maj. Gen. Leslie Smith speaks to Buffalo Soldier Chapter members during leader development session Jan. 30

On February 7, 2017 members of the Gator ROCKS Chapter, Inc. hosted an OPD with BG Stephen L. Michael, DCG-O, 25th Infantry Division. BG Michael has been in the Army for 28 years and has commanded Infantry units from platoon to brigade level. He most recently served as Deputy Director for the Pakistan Afghanistan and Transregional Threats Coordination Cell on the Joint Staff, J5 at the Pentagon. The audience consisted of over 25 Officers from 3IBCT, 10 Mountain Division, JRTC - Operations Group, and the Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital. The OPD provided attendees with an overview of BG Michael's key tenants to

success. 1) Viewing the Army as a Profession, 2) Leadership is Love, and 3) Trust of your subordinates should be given and not earned.



BG Michael addressing the audience as he speaks about Leadership is Love.

BG Michael's briefing begin with discussing the significance of viewing the Army as a profession first of all and taking each job that you have seriously and putting forth the necessary effort to perform to the best of your ability each day you put on the Army uniform. Secondly, BG Michael stated, 'Leadership is Love.' The Army is about people and if you do not know your people you will not know or understand how to lead them through the most difficult times. He also stated it is imperative to treat everyone with dignity and respect because unlike other branches of the military, the Army's failure or success fall on people and not on high dollar pieces of equipment. BG Michael's third point focused on trust. Many times leaders feel that subordinates must earn their leadership's trust. He recommend that we look at it as though you have already gained their trust and all they need to do is execute within your given intent. One only loses that trust until they perform and action to do so, but they should already have your trust as a member of your organization.

BG Michael concluded the OPD answering a series of questions from the floor. The first question asked by Chaplain (CPT) Carl Brown O. Brown eluded to how can commanders best use their Chaplains to be an exceptional asset in their command. BG Michael said, "Chaplains are impartial and have access to Soldiers." Soldiers can go to Chaplains with anything but it is imperative that commanders understand the critical role of his or her Chaplain. BG Michael said a great commander will use his Chaplain to get a good pulse on the organization to have him and the Command Sergeant Major a better idea as to what is the actual climate of the organization. Most cases commanders are not articulated truth and may a false sense of reality as to what is really going on in his organization.



BG Michael and members of the Gator ROCKS Chapter pose for a picture following the OPD.



BG Michael addressing he audience as he speaks about the Army as a profession.



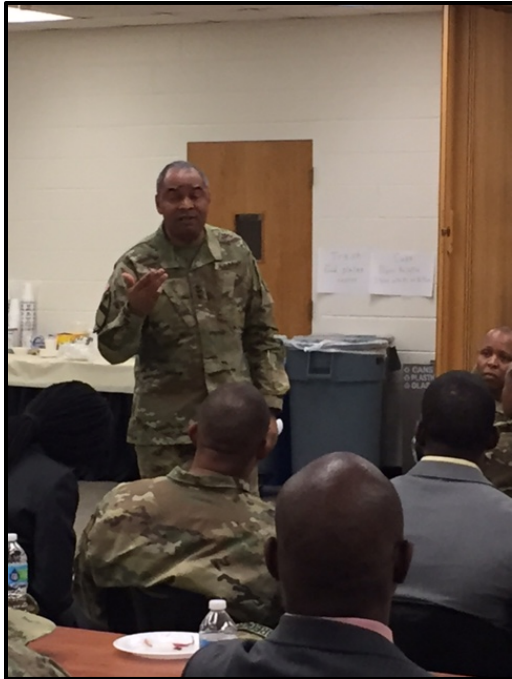
The DC Chapter Starts 2017 with a Bang!

Written by COL Sheila Howell-Flowers, USA

During 2017's first quarter, the DC Chapter focused its efforts in three key areas: Mentorship; Entrepreneurship, and; Leadership.

In January, the Chapter welcomed the National Chairman, BG (R) Earl Simms, to its monthly meeting to share his vision of The ROCKS' way ahead. During his discussion with attendees, he primarily spoke of upcoming National Board initiatives for 2017. His overarching message stressed the importance of each chapter owning the innate responsibility of committing to having a strong mentorship program. The ROCKS, Inc. is a premiere, international, mentoring organization and is one of only a handful the Army recognizes as an associated infinity group. Since mentorship is one of the organization's core competencies, BG Simms encouraged the DC chapter to

become very familiar with the National Board's *Mentorship Program Policy and Procedures Manual* as well as the *Organizational Handbook*. BG Simms also announced The ROCKS', current efforts to forge an unprecedented partnership with AUSA (Association of the US Army) and will use this platform to help increase the message of increased transparency and diversity in the Army. He reminded all of the attendees, that- as officers and leaders- we are on "stage" at all times, and we must ensure that we uphold the standards of those who laid the foundation of our great organization. His words of wisdom perfectly set the stage for the following month's guest speaker.



LTG Andre Pigee speaks to the DC ROCKS

In February, Mr. Tommy Marks, Director of the Office of the Army Small Business Programs, spoke to the ROCKS about understanding and coordinating with the Army's Small Business Programs. He provided a general overview of his office's mission via a presentation entitled, "What the Army buys and How to market to the Army." Some of the programs falling under his umbrella are: Veteran-Ownership; Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned; HUBZone; Small Disadvantaged, Woman-Owned; Small Business Innovation Research; Small Business Technology Transfer; Mentor-Protégé, and; Indian Incentive. Mr. Marks highlighted various leaders and procurement officers currently doing business as in the areas of mission and installation command. His ability to shed informative light on things from a macro level perspective mentally prepared chapter members for the quarter's keynote presentation.

In March, the Chapter proudly honored LTG Aundre F. Pigee, U.S. Army, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4, to discuss "Leadership

Principles" with the Body. In his presentation, he encouraged members to embrace the notion that "Leadership is a team sport," which includes the impact from parents, teachers, coaches and mentors. To him, natural leaders were genuine, authentic, and empowered teammates to elevate performance through shared values and purpose. On the journey to leadership you must be yourself! He suggested three key ingredients of a great officer- character, competence and commitment.

The Army's G-4 told us that today's officers must be leaders of the highest character; that character really does count and we must embody the notion of being Soldiers 24 hours a day, in and out of uniform. He stressed the importance of being competent – working hard and knowing one's job, and lastly, being committed to your subordinates, senior leaders and to the mission. In short, he challenged the group to continue to work hard, to set priorities, to have balance and to remember the golden rule, "Treat others as you would like to be treated."

Overall, the DC Chapter started the year off well by gaining exposure to diverse topics that will aid in molding of the Army's (and the positive ROCKS) future leaders. The words, ideas and concepts conveyed to the Chapter are destined to have enduring impact on the members and their respective contributions to the Army and to the nation. 2017 has started off with a bang!



Hampton Roads Chapter Christmas Caroling to Disabled Veterans

Written by Lt. Col. (Ret) Toney C. Mooney

The Hampton Roads Chapter (HRC) visited the Hampton Veterans Affairs Medical Center (HVAMC) Saturday, December 10, 2016. The chapter was joined by National Naval Officer Association and the Department of Veterans Services members.

Maj. (Ret) Hubert Becton, a HRC founding member, coordinated this community outreach event. The group sang a medley of popular holiday tunes such as "Joy to the World" and "Away in a Manger". The carolers traveled the halls of the massive HVAMC, providing a spirit of holiday cheer to the disabled veterans, and medical staff. The event lasted an hour and ended in one of the day rooms. Two HRC members, Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Juan Crockett, command chaplain of U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command's Initial Military Training; and Maj. Dovia Williams, a Soldier at U.S. Army TRADOC Army Capabilities Integration Center, each sang a solo with the carolers providing backup. The caroling ended with singing "We wish you a Merry Christmas". This annual

event provides an opportunity for the HRC to connect with the veterans.



Pictured from left, Tommy Johnson (HRC Rocks, and NNOA); Aubrey Conner (DVS); Denealia Cunningham (NNOA); Dovia Williams (HRC), Julius Coats (HRC), Celestine Batts (HJRC Family Member), Hubert Becton (HRC), Frank Batts (President, HRC), Juan Crockett (HRC), and LaShanda Standifer (DVS). Not pictured are Karen Evans-Miller, and Toney C. Mooney



Several disabled veterans, and staff member of the Hampton Veterans Affairs Medical Center enjoy the music of the Carolers



TEAMWORK

"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."

- Andrew Carnegie

ROCKS ON THE MOVE

A Soldier's Promotion From Private To General

Submitted by General Clara Adams-Ender

Nearly 250 well-wishers gathered to witness Colonel Fletcher V. Washington's promotion to Brigadier General at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Springfield, Virginia on March 3, 2017. The well-wishers included his spouse, Rhonda; his son, Fletcher II; his seven brothers and sisters, his church family, his Army family, and many others came to celebrate the success of this outstanding soldier.

Lt. Gen. Gwendolyn Bingham, the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, presided over the ceremony and spoke eloquently about Brigadier Gen. Washington's rise from private to general officer. She highlighted that he is a team player, who was willing to do the tough jobs to progress as well as he always demonstrated selfless service and loyalty. Lt. Gen. Bingham also recognized his family for the valuable roles they played in supporting him in his many assignments and deployments.

Brigadier Gen. Washington began his career by enlisting in the U.S. Army National Guard. He then graduated Cum Laude, was a Distinguished Military Graduate from Norfolk State University and was commissioned into the Regular Army Transportation Corps. He holds two masters degrees from Florida Tech University and the National Defense University. He has held command and staff positions at all levels in logistics and force management. Most recently, he served as Chief of Staff of HQDA G-3/5/7 Force Management in the Pentagon. His current assignment is the Deputy Commanding General, 80th Training Command, Richmond, VA.

Brigadier General Washington's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, seven Meritorious Service Medals, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Parachutist Badge, the Army Staff Identification Badge and numerous other campaign medals and ribbons.

The promotion ceremony for Brigadier Gen. Fletcher V. Washington will be long remembered as he presented all guests with a ceremonial coin.

Life is short. Live passionately.

-Unknown

ROCKS Life Member Promoted to Colonel

Submitted by COL Dorene Hurt, USA, Retired



Lt. Gen. Ferrell, Col. McLendon, & Parents CW5 (R) Ron & Eve McLendon

On March 3rd 2017 Lt. Gen. Robert S. Ferrell, the Army Chief Information Officer/G6, officiated Lt. Col Michael G. McLendon's promotion ceremony to the rank of Colonel. The ceremony took place at the National Defense University's (NDU) Lincoln Hall located at Fort McNair, Washington, D.C. with support from NDU faculty members, classmates, family, friends, and several members of the ROCKS INC. Lt. Gen. Ferrell and Col. McLendon are both Bobby Burke Leadership Award recipients and Life-Time members of the ROCKS INC.

Col. McLendon is currently a Senior Service College student at the National Defense University, College of International Security Affairs, and Counterterrorism Fellowship Program. He is a native of Wurzburg, Germany and is a U.S. Army Special Forces Officer. He received a Regular Army commission in 1995 through the Reserve Officer Training Corps as a Military Intelligence Officer. Col. McLendon has served in a variety of duties at both the tactical and operational levels and has deployed on several overseas operations. Additionally, he has conducted several Joint Chiefs of Staff multinational level exercises in support of the Global War on Terror within both the Central and Africa Command areas of operation. Col. McLendon's most recent assignments include Army Special Forces Branch Chief, Officer Personnel Management Division-Human Resources Command, Ft. Knox, KY, Battalion Commander, Indianapolis, IN Army Recruiting Battalion, and Special Operations Central Command J37, Chief of Joint Readiness Exercise and Training Division, MacDill, Air Force Base, FL. He is a graduate of the Mubarak Al Abdullah Joint Command and Staff College, Kuwait City, Kuwait, holds a M.A. in Human Resources and Development from Webster University, and a B.S. in Criminal Justice from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

In a true act of selfless service, Col. McLendon took the opportunity during his promotion ceremony to preside over and promote a fellow NDU student colleague and international exchange student from Tanzania, Africa. Col. Moses Mlula, who is spending a year away from his country and family to attend school at NDU, is an Army Surgeon, Commanding Officer of a Military Hospital, and Base Commander in Mbeya, Tanzania. Col. Mlula was promoted to the rank of Col. through the orders of Tanzania People's Defence Force.



Lt. Gen. Ferrell re-affirms Oath of Office to Col. McLendon during promotion ceremony



Col. McLendon's parents give honors and present new rank with shoulder boards during ceremony



Col. McLendon honors and presents Col. Moses Mlula new rank during his promotion

Caggins Selected for Harvard Fellowship

Submitted by COL Dorene Hurt, USA, Retired



Lieutenant Colonel (Promotable) Myles B. Caggins III, a Defense Department spokesman, was selected for the 1-year National Security Fellowship at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. He was inspired to attend Harvard by alums Gen. Vincent Brooks, Rock of the Year 2014; and retired Maj. Gen. Dana J.H. Pittard, Rock of the Year 2012.

During his 20-year Army career he has served in a variety of leadership and key staff positions in stateside and overseas duty locations. Caggins recently served as Director for Strategic Communications and National Security Council spokesman for Asia, Defense Affairs, Guantanamo, Human Rights, Multilateral Affairs, and Nonproliferation at the White House. He has also served as a Pentagon spokesman for Guantanamo, Detainee Policy, Personnel Policy, and Western Hemisphere Affairs.

He has deployed to Iraq with the 4th Infantry Division and 1st Armored Division.

Caggins was previously a national recruiting spokesman for the U.S. Army and was featured in a televised, radio, and print advertisements. He is a frequent guest speaker and mentor at numerous K-12 schools, colleges, and community organizations.

Caggins is a Rocks Life Member. He earned the Bobby Burke Award in 2005 and is a charter member of the European Officers Chapter (1997) and Central Virginia Chapter (2005) of Rocks, Inc.

Caggins holds a bachelor's in history from Hampton University (1996) and a master's in public relations from Georgetown University (2008)



MG Charles C. Rogers Chapter Stalwart Inducted into Alumni Achievement Hall of Fame

Written by COL (ret) Charles Allen

Dr. James Gordon, long-time ROCKS member and stalwart of the Carlisle Barracks Chapter received another recognition of his years of distinguished service. Central State University and the National Alumni Association inducted Dr. Gordon into the

Alumni Achievement Hall of Fame on March 7, 2017. The award citation notes "Dr. Gordon made history at the USAWC [US Army War College] as the first African American to be Tenured Faculty, to hold Course Director positions in the Department of Distance Education and the Department of Military Strategy Planning and Operations. Additionally, he was the first African American at the College to be promoted to Professor."



Mr. Edwin H. Lloyd, President of the National Alumni Association, presents Central State University Alumni Achievement Hall of Fame award to Dr. James Gordon.



Profile from Warrant Officers' History: Chief Warrant Officer Five

James J. Williams

By CW4 (Ret.) Farrell J. Chiles



Chief Warrant Officer Five James J. Williams, a native of Cleveland Ohio, was born August 30, 1964. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves September 19, 1988 as a private first class in the Adjutant General Corps. He is an IMA reservist currently assigned to the Pentagon serving as the Joint Logistics Operations Center Action Officer for the Joint Chiefs of Staff. A Fast Track

Program selectee, Williams completed Basic Training and Advance Administration training at Fort Jackson in May 1989. He was mobilized to support Operation Desert Storm from January to April 1991 at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey. Following his mobilization, Williams remained an enlisted service member achieving the rank of sergeant in 1993.

On August 7, 1998, Williams completed Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker, Alabama and was appointed

to the rank of WO1 before reporting to his new assignment with the U.S. Joint Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia. He continued serving in the AG Corps as a 420A. In December 2001, Mr. Williams was mobilized to JFCOM for a 730-day assignment in support of OEF/OIF. He served as the Computer Network Defense Action Officer in the J-6 Directorate. Post 9/11, he served as the J-3 Reserve Affairs Officer.

On October 30, 2008 with more than 20 years of service, he accepted a new position in the Drilling Individual Mobilization Augmentation program assigned to the U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) at Camp Smith, Hawaii. He later served a 36-month deployment to PACOM's Joint Cyber Center Pacific supporting cyberspace operations covering Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines. Following that assignment, Mr. Williams completed a 179-day tour supporting HQDA-Office of the Inspector General in Arlington, Virginia.

EDUCATION

An advocate of higher education, Williams holds a Bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems and a Master's degree in Public Administration. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Public Management and Leadership from Walden University. His dissertation topic: *Rising Above the Frey: A Phenomenological Study of African American Males' Career Ascension To Senior Field Grade Warrant Officer Status In The Army*. Williams completed all military education including the Warrant Officer Intermediate Level Education and the Warrant Officer Senior Service Education.

AWARDS, DECORATIONS, AND RECOGNITION

CW5 Williams' military decoration and awards include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (OLC), Joint Service Achievement Medal (OLC), Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (9th OLC), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award (OLC).

CIVILIAN OCCUPATION

As a Citizen-Soldier, Williams is dual careered in the private sector and academia. He is a Senior Cyber Information Assurance Analyst with Northrop Grumman Corporation and an Associate Adjunct Instructor at the University of Phoenix. In the School of Business, he facilitates undergraduate courses including, *Innovative Leadership*, *Business Communications*, and *Managing Change in the Workplace*.

PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS

Williams is the Publisher/CEO of Rising Eagle Publishing, LLC, an independent, veteran-owned publishing company in

Mitchellville, Maryland. An award-winning author of his debut book, *CHASING THE EAGLE: From Dreaming to Achieving Success & Freedom*, and best-selling co-author of his second book, *MISSION UNSTOPPABLE: Extraordinary Stories of Failure's Blessings*, CW5 Williams shares his personal story of success and achievement that has equally inspired students, corporate executives, and military leaders.

Chief Warrant Officer Five Williams is husband to the former Greta Bolden of Washington, D.C. They are also proud parents to their son, James II.



The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

Across the nation, Americans are uniting to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. The Vietnam War Commemoration is a national commemoration authorized by Congress and established under the Secretary of Defense. It was launched by the President Barack Obama in May 2012 and extends through Veterans Day 2025.

The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that today there are 7 million living Vietnam veterans and 9 million families of those who served on active duty from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location. The Vietnam War Commemoration is enlisting Commemorative Partners – local, state and national organizations, businesses, corporations, governmental agencies and sports franchises – to conduct events and activities that thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families in their hometowns.

The ROCKS, Inc. is one of more than 10,600 Commemorative Partners who are helping to thank and honor our Vietnam veterans and their families. We need your help to honor the Vietnam veterans and their families in your communities by considering recognizing them during your planned events such as luncheons, formal gatherings or monthly meetings. Let's recognize a group of veterans who came home to less than a hero's welcome.

Free materials, such as the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin, which has quickly become "a lasting memento of the nation's thanks," and other certificates and lapel pins honoring family members are available from the Vietnam War Commemoration for distribution by partners at any commemorative event.

COL Lucretia McClenney(USA RET) serves as the ROCKS, Inc. point of contact and will assist with your request of these materials. Please provide requests no later than 90 days of your event and earlier is even better to ensure timely processing and

delivery. Please send written requests to lucretia.m.mcclenney.civ@mail.mil and include details of the event (date, event, location, the number of Vietnam veterans to be recognized). For more information, please call COL (Ret) McClenney at 703-915-6446 or visit www.vietnamwar50th.com.

Getting Life Insurance Before Leaving the Military

Military.com | Week of February 27, 2017

It's recommended that you secure civilian life insurance well before you leave the military. There are two main reasons for this. First, military out-processing and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability process may turn up medical surprises. These may make it expensive or impossible for you to obtain civilian insurance. Second, if you are retiring, you'll need to choose whether to purchase the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP.) You can't make a smart SBP decision if you don't know how much civilian life insurance will cost. For more details and tips, visit [this Paycheck Chronicles article](#).

Are You Eligible for Disability Compensation?

Those who have separated from active military service with any discharge except dishonorable, as well as those still serving in the Reserves/National Guard, are eligible for VA disability compensation. If you want to claim an injury or medical condition, it must have happened to you during the time you were active. You can also claim active military service aggravated a pre-service injury or medical condition. You will need to give the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) evidence of the injury or medical condition that occurred/happened during the time you were in active service. For more information, read the [VA Vantage Point Blog](#) and visit the [VA Compensation webpage](#). You can also visit the [Military.com disability benefits section](#).

QUOTES ON MENTORSHIP

"True education does not consist merely in the acquiring of a few facts of science, history, literature, or art, but in the development of character."— David O. McKay

"Leaders..should influence others..in such a way that it builds people up, encourages and edifies them so they can duplicate this attitude in others."— Bob Goshen

"True Mentors, don't make their mentees a clone of themselves"— Bernard Kelvin Clive



- ✦ Volunteer to serve on the Leadership Outreach and Cadet Enhancement Team
- ✦ Attend chapter meetings
- ✦ Be accessible and become a mentor
- ✦ Volunteer to address chapters (General and Senior Officers are especially needed)
- ✦ Serve as a resource for referrals on branch peculiar and other professional development issues
- ✦ Encourage mentoring/coaching for all officers and set the example
- ✦ Volunteer to lead and/or participate in Committees
- ✦ Donate to our scholarship funds and sponsor a cadet to attend various events
- ✦ Volunteer to provide your expertise and guidance in assisting officer transitioning from military service
- ✦ Volunteer to provide your expertise and guidance in assisting current and transitioning civilian members
- ✦ Become a Corporate sponsor

What is Volunteerism?



- Volunteerism, in its conceptual form, includes the individual or collective efforts of **willing individuals**, known as volunteers, to **act in ways which work toward the betterment of oneself, other individuals, communities, society and/or the world.**
- **Volunteering** means "**commitment** "to pledge yourselves to a **noble cause** and for good to **others!**

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF THE ROCKS, INC.

2017 ELECTIONS

The election of officers will take place virtually on Saturday, **22 April 2017** prior to the Annual Spring Gala & Awards Ceremony. Details of the electronic vote has been provided to the Chapter Presidents.

The following individuals have been nominated for the National Board open positions.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nominees</u>	<u>Term</u>
VP Comm. & Publications	COL Karen M. Wrancher, USA	3 yrs – 2017-2020
VP Finance	COL Eric Flowers, USA	2 yrs – 2017-2019
VP for National Guard and Reserve Components	COL Aaron Dean, USARNG	3 yrs – 2017-2020
VP Membership Development	COL Angie Hemingway, USA	3 yrs – 2017-2020
VP Mentorship	COL Austin Bell, USA, Ret.	3 yrs – 2017-2020

New Board Position:

VP for Transitioning Members and Veteran Affairs (<i>Position recommendation in 2017 Bylaws Draft</i>)	COL Anita Dixon, USA, Ret.	3 yrs – 2017-2020
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**Chapter representatives appointed by chapters (Total of 5).*

NOTES:

- Board Members and Chapters Virtual Voting: **Signed slate due 21 April 2017**
- Chapter Presidents vote for their chapters
- Each Board member has one vote.



SUPPORT THE ROCKS, INC. THE NEXT TIME YOU TRAVEL

The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. has partnered with Imagine, Inc. as a way to raise funds to support the operations of the organization. We are seeking your support as you begin your summer traveling.

Book your next hotel at www.StayFaster.com with the Promo Code **ROCKS**, the organization will receive **7% back** from every booking. Also, when a member from a local chapter books a reservation using the code, The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. will send a percentage of the 7% to the local chapter. *(Be sure to add or update your chapter affiliation in the online membership directory).*

Steps:

1. Go to <https://www.stayfaster.com/>
2. Click the square box in the top right corner with three lines and select "Create an Account".
 - a. Enter Promo Code for your chapter (shown below)
 - b. First and last name
 - c. Email address
 - d. Password (must be 8-20 characters)
3. Once account is established, go back Login page. Login and fill in profile data.
4. Now go back to web link "Stay Faster- The Fastest Way to Book Your Next Hotel"
5. Follow instructions by providing requested info, then hundreds of hotels to select from will appear. Select your hotel and Book your reservation.
6. A confirmation notice from "Front Desk" will be sent to the email address you provided.
7. The more you book through this site will increase the "royalty" to your Chapter.
8. Safe travels and remember this is a fundraiser. Encourage friends and family to use it as well using your chapter's promo code.



Chapter Promo Code	Location	Chapter Name
ROCKS01	Weisbaden, Germany	European Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc.
ROCKS02	Fort Benning, GA	Follow Me
ROCKS03	Fort Bliss, TX	Fort Bliss Chapter
ROCKS04	Fort Bragg, NC	All American Chapter
ROCKS05	Fort Gordon, GA	Fort Gordon
ROCKS06	Fort Hood, TX	Phantom Warrior ROCKS
ROCKS07	Fort Jackson, SC	James Webster Smith Chapter
ROCKS08	Fort Leavenworth, KS	Buffalo Soldier Chapter
ROCKS09	Fort Lee, VA	Central Virginia Chapter
ROCKS10	Fort Stewart, GA	Mame Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc.
ROCKS11	Hampton Roads, VA	Hampton Roads Chapter
ROCKS12	San Antonio, TX	SAM Houston Chapter
ROCKS13	South Korea	Morning Calm Chapter
ROCKS14	Washington, DC	DC ROCKS
ROCKS15	West Point, NY	The Henry O. Flipper Chapter
ROCKS16	Oahu, HI	Aloha Chapter of the ROCKS
ROCKS17	Fort Campbell, KY	Fort Campbell, KY
ROCKS18	Fort Leonard Wood, MO	Harry S. Truman Chapter
ROCKS19	Fort Knox, KY	Gold Vault ROCKS
ROCKS20	Fort Carson, CO	Iron Horse ROCKS
ROCKS21	Atlanta, GA	Atlanta Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc.
ROCKS22	Carlisle Barracks, PA	MG Charles Rogers Chapter (AWC)
ROCKS23	Forsyth, GA	Patriot ROCKS

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CPT Sabrina Adams USA
WO2 Darryl Banks ANG(Army)
1LT Travis Beamon USA
CPT Jimmy Bodies USA
COL David Bolduc USA
CPT Roderick Bonner USA
CPT Cadetta Breaker USA
LTC Derrick Britton ANG(AF)
MAJ James Brown, Jr. USAR
1LT Jamie Cheniault USA
1LT Jessie Clack USA
LTC Kendall Clarke USA
CPT Reginald Collins ANG(Army)
LTC Paul Copeland USA, Ret.
MAJ Bernard Cornell USA
LTC Paul Davis USA
COL Manu Davis USA
2LT Montrey DeLoatch USA
MAJ Mashandra Elam USA
1LT Shannon Eoute USA
CPT Taron Epps USA

2LT Verniccia Ford USAR
MAJ Maurice Green USA
1LT Ashford Harrigan USA
CPT Jessica Jacinto USA
2LT Malik Jenkins-Bey ANG(Army)
WO1 Ingrid Keller ANG(Army)
CPT Amie Kemppainen ANG(Army)
MAJ L. Rene Key USA
MAJ Edwin Kolen USA
1LT Gbolahan Lawal ANG(Army)
Cadet Mercedes Madlock USA
LTC Harold Miller USA
MAJ Joidie Moore-Barbin USA
LTC Jarrett Moses USA
CPT Jeremy Preston USAR
CPT Rasheed Rhodes ANG(Army)
MAJ Emmett Richardson Jr.
ANG(Army)
LTC Moses Robinson II USA
CPT Timothy Rodgers USA, Ret.
Ms. FeLisa Rorie USA

LTC Leonard Rusher ANG(Army),
Ret.
CPT Mark Saunders USA
MAJ Archie Smith USA
LTC Jermaine Sutton USA
MAJ Meshelle Taylor USA
WO2 Thais Taylor ANG(Army)
2LT Chassidy Thompson USAR
CPT Marcia Thompson USA
MAJ Moses Thompson USAR
MAJ Vashaun Wrice USA

Joined 1/18/2017-4/14/2017

National Dues are now due on 1 September of each year:

- \$20 for cadets
- \$33 for O3 and below/GS-12
- \$58 for O4/GS-13 and above

These fees are prorated based on when NEW members join the organization. As a reminder, a member must be financial with National before receiving recognition as financial at the local level.

IF YOUR ACTIONS INSPIRE OTHERS
TO DREAM MORE, LEARN MORE,
DO MORE AND BECOME MORE,
YOU ARE A LEADER.

JOHN QUINCY ADAMS

THE ROCKS, INC.

ACTIVE CHAPTERS

All American Chapter

Fort Bragg, NC
LTC Hise Gibson USA
hogibson@gmail.com

Aloha Chapter of the ROCKS

Oahu, HI
MAJ Brandon Grooms USA
aloharockschapter@gmail.com

Buffalo Soldier Chapter

Fort Leavenworth, KS
COL Norma Bradford USA
norma.bradford@yahoo.com

Central Virginia Chapter

Fort Lee, VA
CPT Michael Bennett, USA
cvcrocksinc@gmail.com

European Chapter of the ROCKS

Weisbaden, Germany
COL Rodney Honeycutt, USA
Rodney.h.honeycut.mil@mail.mil

Fort Bliss, TX

MAJ Rebekah Jones
Rebekah.j.jones@gmail.com

Gator ROCKS

Fort Polk, LA
1LT Ariel Hall USA
arielseymone@yahoo.com

Gold Vault ROCKS

Fort Knox, KY
MAJ Tilisha Lockley
goldvaultchapter@gmail.com

Hampton Roads, VA

MG Frank Batts USA
frank.e.batts@nasa.gov;
tcmooney@cox.net

Harry S. Truman Chapter

Fort Leonardwood, MO
LTC Shawn Sumter, USA
shawn.sumter@gmail.com

Iron Horse ROCKS

Fort Carson, CO
MAJ Janet Vaughn USA
janet.vaughn5@gmail.com

Morning Calm, Korea

Area I - LTC Vaughan Byrum
vaughan.m.byrum.mil@mail.mil

Area II - LTC Vernon Jones, Jr.
vernon.l.jones.mil@mail.mil

Area III - MAJ Vashaun (Tony)
Wrice
vashaun.a.wrice.mil@mail.mil

Area IV - MAJ Demechel Robinson
demechel.q.robinson.mil@mail.mil

MG Charles C. Rogers Chapter-AWC

Carlisle Barracks, PA
LTC(P) Kareem "Monty" Montague
Kmontague73@gmail.com

Patriot ROCKS-GA National Guard

Forsyth, GA
LTC B. David Hunter USA
bob.david.hunter.mil@mail.mil

Phantom Warrior ROCKS

Fort Hood, TX
LTC Aricai Berry USA, Ret.
amalbert1@aol.com

SAM Houston Chapter

San Antonio, TX
COL Richard "Flip" Wilson USA
flip2easy@earthlink.net

Screaming Eagles

Fort Campbell, KY
MAJ John D. Smith, USA
john.d.smith320.mil@mail.mil

The Henry O. Flipper Chapter

West Point, NY
LTC Winston Williams, USA
winston.williams@usma.edu

Washington, DC ROCKS

COL Sheila Howell-Flowers USA
washdcrocks@gmail.com

ROCKET SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

As you help us coach, promote mentorship, networking, leader diversity, and professional development to a world-wide readership please adhere to the following:

- ✓ Submit articles in **MS Word Document Format Only**
(Do not include photos within body of text: please add photos to the end of the article)
- ✓ Article Header should be in Times New Roman Font; Font Size=14 and Bolded)
- ✓ Author/contributor credit reflected in following format:
Written by _____ (Font=Times New Roman Italics; Font Size = 10)
- Page Margins = 1" Left, Right, Top and Bottom
- The text should be Font=Times New Roman; Font Size=10. No special formatting. Use left justification. Maximum number of words=600 words
- Maximum number of photos per article = 3 (Include at the end of the article)
- Include photo captions under photo (Font=Times New Roman; Font Size=8)
- PDF document will NOT be accepted.
- Links to web articles will NOT be accepted.
- Articles should be written in 3rd party tense.
- If would like an article from another publication to appear in the ROCKET, you must obtain written permission from the author and forward it to nationalrocket@gmail.com along with the article in MS Word format.

The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc.

Membership Application

Mail or Fax or Apply Online at www.rocksync.org

Post Office 47435, Forestville, Maryland 20753

Phone: 301-856-9319 / Fax: 301-856-5220

Email: rocksnationalboard@gmail.com



PLEASE SELECT ONE: ☐ NEW MEMBER ☐ RENEWAL SPONSORED BY _____

Rank: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____ Last Name: _____

Birthday: _____ (mm/dd/yyyy)-year optional Chapter Affiliation (if applicable): _____

Spouse Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Cell: _____

Email Address: _____

Branch/Specialty: _____ Current Position: _____

College/University Attended: _____ Degree/Year: _____

Graduate School Attended: _____ Masters/Year: _____

National ROCKS Membership Dues (**PRORATED FOR APRIL 2017**)

04, GS13 & Above (incl. SES)

☐ 1 Year - \$58 / Apr=\$24.15

03 & Below, GS12

☐ 1 Year - \$33 / Apr=\$13.75

☐ **Cadet Member** – 1 Year = \$20 / Apr=\$8.35

☐ **National Life Member** = \$650

Payment Enclosed: \$ _____

Method of Payment: ☐ Check/Money Order ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX (OR pay online at www.rocksync.org)

Credit Card Number															

Expiration Date				CV # (from the back of the card)

Make all checks payable to “National ROCKS, Inc.” and mail to:
ROCKS, Inc.

c/o WSC Associates, LLP

Post Office Box 47435

Forestville, Maryland 20753

NOTES

- Local membership fees are not included.
- Life members are still required to pay local chapter dues.
- Current members** who are deployed personnel may send an email to rocksnationalboard@gmail.com to be exempt from membership fees during the period of deployment.