

The **ROCKET**

Summer 2022 Edition



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Message from the Chairman



BG Lawrence Gillespie, USA, Retired

As we move into the summer months, the ROCKS have a lot to be proud of. Since the beginning of 2022 the Chapters have performed at a significant level, raising memberships, developing outstanding LPD's with the leadership of the Army at various levels and notably embellishing the name of the ROCKS. This has led to an increased awareness of the benefits that this organization brings to the Army. In addition, we have been asked to look at the Army's Hispanic officer community for membership inclusion into the ROCKS. We are gathering the information on this aspect now.

The services have also recently announced headline moves for senior African American generals. General Darryl Williams, the former West Point Superintendent was assigned as Commander U.S. Army Europe/Africa and confirmed to his new rank as a four star General. LTG Gary Brito was also confirmed for promotion as a four star and as the next Commanding General Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC). The Senate also confirmed LTG. Ron Clark to the Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense.

The U.S. Marine Corps also made history by promoting the LTG Michael Langley to the rank of four star General. General Langley is the first African American to reach the rank of four star in the Marine Corps.

A hardy ROCKS congratulations to all our newly promoted generals and please allow me the privilege of saying that within our membership, we have the capacity and talent to have others move up the chain to Colonel and beyond. The promotion environment in the Army is open to those who can produce and excel in command and key staff positions. The ROCKS core capabilities are in the area of mentoring. We, as an organization need to maintain and improve this strategic competency. Those cadets coming through the ROTC programs, the Lieutenants, Captains, Majors and others need our mentoring support and we need to insure that we are there for them. The Army is changing into a more technical organization and our up-and-coming members require our support in clearing away the "cobwebs" of this change to insure the viability of their careers and solidify their upward movement. Thank you.

BG(Ret) Lawrence E. Gillespie
Chairman

BG(Ret) Lawrence Gillespie
Chairman, ROCKS, Inc.



You Can Support The ROCKS, Inc.

- 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



**NATIONAL BOARD OF
THE ROCKS INC.
CFC# 60959**

The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc.



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Advisor: LTC(R) Kimberlee Short



New Members

W • E • L • C • O • M • E

06/28/21 – 04/29/2022

CPT Harrison Barber USA
MAJ Brandon Benson USA
CPT Shimar Brown USA
1LT Sean Burno USA
2LT Monica Conley USAR
CPT Eric Dancy Jr USAR
LTC Carlos Davis USAR
MAJ Clarence Dossie USA
LTC Joel Elston USA

1LT Damar Fletcher USA
MAJ Gregory Ford USA
CPT Donmanique Hardy USA
BG Richard Harrison USA
1LT Karona Hutchinson USA
CPT Shandricka Jackson USA
2LT Allen Jemison USA
CPT Anthony King USA
1LT Maya Layne USA

MAJ Nikkia Lee USAR
CPT Lawrence McElrath USA
MAJ Mayko Moses USA
CPT Alaimoana Paunga USA
LCDR Kimberly Smith USPHS
MAJ Reuben Washington USAF
2LT Renita Williams USA
LTC John Williams USA
MAJ Christina Worth USA

Get Ready for our 4th Annual ROCKS, Inc. Founders Day Celebration in 2022!

Background: The ROCKS, Inc. National Board unanimously voted to establish an annual ROCKS **Founders Day in 2019**. This October will mark our Fourth Founders Day! ROCKS Founders include: *the original Blue Geese from Fort Leavenworth; Charter members who were present when the ROCKS Charter was signed and the first members of the ROCKS, Inc.* The purpose of this annual celebration is to recognize and honor the original members of our organization; highlight our ROCKS history; and recommit ourselves to our core values and goals.

The ROCKS first formal meeting was October 9, 1974. However, we're encouraging Founder's Day commemorating events throughout the month of October 2022 based on varying obligations of your members and Chapters. Given the COVID -19 Pandemic, and not knowing what the situation will be this fall, the ROCKS National Board is encouraging all Chapters to begin planning your virtual or in person Founders Day events in accordance with the CDC guidance and state, city and/or county guidelines with safety being the paramount consideration. Whether in person or virtual, our Founders Day goals remains the same:

- take time during Oct, to review our history (previously provided and on our National website),
- discuss what it means to be a ROCK including ways to remain relevant and purposeful,
- invite others to join you, and conduct other reflective activities as you deem appropriate and
- celebrate our 1974 ROCKS, Inc. founding plus our FOUNDERS.

The National Board encourages all Chapter Presidents and your Executive Boards to find creative ways to celebrate the founding of our organization. No matter what the situation might be this Fall, even if it prevents group gatherings, social media and other technology provides the opportunity for us to still celebrate our ROCKS, Inc. founding plus our FOUNDERS. Please reach out to your Chapter's Founders to honor them as well.

You may contact Jatea Leftwich (ROCKS HQ) for a list of ROCKS Founding and Originating members at rocksnationalboard@gmail.com. Contact COL (Ret) Dorene Hurt at: 703-609-0992 or dhurtserves@gmail.com with your questions or comments.

Lastly, to help memorialize the event, please take and submit captioned photos with brief remarks about your celebration for inclusion in the Winter ROCKET. **Good Luck!!**

TOP STORIES

6888th Congressional Gold Medal Celebration

By BG Clara L. Adams-Ender, ret.

On June 15, 2022, an overflow crowd of well-wishers gathered at the Military Women's Memorial to celebrate the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion. The House of Representatives voted unanimously to award the medal on February 28, 2022. President Biden signed the bill, Public Law 117-97, on March 14, 2022. The 6888th is the only women's military unit to receive the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest civilian honor.

The emcees for the Celebration were COL Edna Cummings, ret. and MSG Elizabeth Helm-Frazier, ret. who were also co-producers for the documentary about the 6888th entitled "No Mail, Low Morale." These two women worked tirelessly and with determination to make the Gold Medal a reality for this unit. Moreover, the 6888th completed their work and was never officially recognized.



Emcees COL Edna Cummings, ret. and MSG Elizabeth Helm-Frazier, ret.

There were many celebrities who attended, several of whom participated in the program. Senator Jerry Moran of Kansas, first raised the awareness about the 6888th and, as a result, the Army awarded the Battalion the Meritorious

Unit Commendation. He spoke to the audience via videotape and expressed his pride and congratulations. Other speakers were Dennis R. McDonough, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, who declared that "there is no more sacred obligation nor noble undertaking than to uphold our promises to our Veterans, whether they came home decades ago or days ago." Dr. Elwood Robinson, Chancellor, Winston Salem State University, told a story of his delight in hosting a 6888th member when she was 99 years old. She insisted on walking across the stage to receive her degree over 70 years after she earned it. BG Hope Rampy, Army Adjutant, Commanding General, Physical Disability Agency and Executive Director, Military Postal Service Agency, emphasized how much delivering the mail still means to the troops today. Dr. Toni Draper, Chairman of the Board and Publisher of The Afro American Newspaper, congratulated the unit for their contributions and for providing newsworthy information for her paper.

The highlight of the Celebration was the appearance of Blair Underwood, famed actor of stage, screen and television. He is also the Executive Producer of "The 6888th ", the Musical. His production team shared the opening tune with us. He fully expects that the musical will tour the country after a stint on Broadway. Mr. Underwood also introduced his 90-year old father, a retired Army colonel.



Actor and Producer Blair Underwood talks about his musical "6888th"

COL Cummings announced the establishment of the Six Triple Eight Scholarship through the U.S. Army Women's Foundation. The event was

sponsored by several organizations, one of which was THE ROCKS, INC. It was a great celebration that was long overdue for an outstanding Battalion of dedicated women who were devoted to military service and duty.



Secretary of Veterans Affairs addresses the Celebration



Recruiting Diversity in America's Army

By Cierra C. Clark, TRADOC Communication Directorate

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, VA – Lt. Gen. Maria R. Gervais, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, deputy commanding general, was the guest speaker at a Hampton Roads Chapter of ROCKS Inc. luncheon held April 13 at the Fort Eustis Club. The purpose of the event was to discuss the importance of Recruiting Diversity in America's Army.

In honor of Gen. Roscoe Cartwright, ROCKS Inc. was developed in 1974 at Fort Leavenworth previously under a different name but with the same mission; to strengthen the officer, cadet, and senior civilian corps of the military by promoting and providing mentorship, leadership, scholarship, fellowship, counseling, good citizenship, community service, and professional networking.

"Our greatest legacy is when we mentor and steward those who will come take our place, this is why I love ROCKS mission," Gervais said.



LTC (Ret) Joe Harris, HRC President, Presents LTG Gervais, DCG TRADOC, a HRC Coin as a Token of Appreciation

The local Hampton Roads Chapter of the ROCKS Inc. was officially formed in 2001, with a similar goal, “to develop and mentor the future leaders of America with a specific focus in the Hampton Roads Area and the local Historically Black Colleges and Universities,” said Joe Harris, HRC ROCKS president.

The lunch was the chapter’s first in-person event held in over two years, and Harris welcomed Gervais to the stage, where she opened with “this is what I really like about being in this job; being with the people.”

This event provided an opportunity for Gervais to share the Army’s recruiting mission with the local chapter, which helps them to align their chapter’s mission with the Army’s.

“It’s really important that leaders get out and inform organizations, like ROCKS, on what our Army and TRADOC is doing, where our focus is, and where we need help,” she said.

Once the presentation came to an end, ROCKS was left with the tools to allow them to form the best course of action on how they will help support the accessions mission throughout the year.

“It’s great when leaders at that level share their guidance on topics such as diversity and recruiting as well as how ROCKS can help the Army achieve its mission,” Harris said.

“We can be another tool in her tool kit,” he said. “She can reach out to ROCKS and know we are here to support.”

Gervais encouraged all “leaders to take opportunities like this and share what is going on in the Army, so that organizations like ROCKS can help inform future Army leaders.”



ROCKS Lifemember, ROCK of the Year and Former National Board Member One of Five inducted into C5ISR Hall of Fame

By Megan Clark, CECOM Public Affairs June 30, 2022



Excerpts Source:

https://www.army.mil/article/258021/five_inducted_into_c5ISR_hall_of_fame
Submitted by COL (Ret) Dorene Hurt

ABERDEEN PROVING GROUND, Md. – Five extraordinary contributors to the Army’s C5ISR readiness were honored during the [C5ISR Hall of Fame](#) Class of 2022 induction ceremony at the Myer Auditorium here, June 22.

C5ISR stands for Command, Control, Computers, Communications, Cyber, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance. This year’s inductees were retired Lt. Gen. Steven Boutelle, retired Lt. Gen. Robert Ferrell, the late Maj. Gen. Harold “Harry” Greene, Gary Martin and Charles Christianson. Maj. Gen. Robert Edmonson II, APG senior commander and commanding general of the U.S. Army Communications-Electronics Command, welcomed the inductees and

their guests, saying it was a “privilege and an honor” to be on stage with them. “These individuals and their important work are prime examples of the collaboration, expertise and courageous leadership required to develop, field and sustain cutting-edge C5ISR technologies that ensure our Soldiers have an informed advantage on the battlefield,” Edmonson said. Edmonson said that people are the Army’s first priority and that it is “our people who foster innovation, growth and excellence.” The five leaders inducted into the Hall of Fame “worked diligently and steadfastly to ensure Soldiers have the necessary tools to defend our freedom.”

LTG (Ret) Ferrell served as the Army Chief Information Officer/G-6 from December 2013 until his retirement in March 2017, culminating his 39 years as an Army communicator. As the CIO, he oversaw the Army’s \$10 billion information technology investments, managed enterprise IT architecture, established and enforced IT policies and directed delivery of operational Command, Control, Communications, Computers IT capabilities to support warfighters and business users. As the G-6, he advised the Chief of Staff of the Army on the network, communications, signal operations, information security, force structure and equipping.



Host MG Edmonson presenting LTG (Ret) Robert Ferrell C5ISR Memento during the 22 June 2022 Induction Ceremony

Ferrell was the first African-American to serve as the Army CIO/G-6. Immediately prior to that assignment, Ferrell served as the CECOM commanding general and APG senior commander. He received the Silver Order of Mercury Award in 2014 from

the Aberdeen Signal Corps Regimental Association, the Signal Corps Association's highest award. In 2018 he was inducted into the Army ROTC Hall of Fame. Ferrell said he was "humbled" to be part of the 2022 Hall of Fame class with his peers. "I'm filled with a lot of different emotions," Ferrell said. "Thank you for coming to recognize all of us."



From Left to Right: CPT Harold Greene, Jr., Dr. Sue Myers, (representing her late husband MG Harry Greene), LTG (Ret) Steven

About the C5ISR Hall of Fame

The C5ISR Hall of Fame was established to recognize and memorialize former members of the C5ISR community, which includes both Soldiers and civilians from [Army Contracting Command – Aberdeen Proving Ground](#); the [Network Cross-Functional Team](#); CECOM; DEVCOM; C5ISR Center, PEO C3T; and PEO IEW&S who have made a significant and enduring contribution to the community and the Army. The organizations listed above share a common heritage and a mission of providing C5ISR systems to Soldiers. The program's intent is to preserve the history of the C5ISR Community, and give all members a sense of heritage, honor, pride and belonging. The C5ISR Hall of Fame, starting in 2020, expanded upon and replaced the CECOM Hall of Fame which inducted its inaugural class in 2016.

**A leader is one who
knows the way,
goes the way, and
shows the way.**

—JOHN MAXWELL

Developing Future Leaders of America

*By Nina Borgeson, TRADOC
Communication Directorate*

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS, Va – Gen. Paul E. Funk II, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, commanding general, was the guest speaker at the Hampton Roads Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc. luncheon held May 3 at the Fort Eustis Club.

The ROCKS Inc., named in honor of its late founder, Gen. Roscoe C. Cartwright, was established in 1974 at Fort Leavenworth. The organization is comprised primarily of military veterans seeking to strengthen the officer corps through providing young officers with mentorship, leadership development, scholarships, and networking opportunities.



GEN Funk, Takes Questions from the Audience at the HRC May 3rd General Membership Meeting

The Hampton Roads Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc., established in 2001, focuses on local Historically Black Colleges and Universities to provide support and professional development to ROTC cadets, encouraging them to look into the opportunities the United States Armed Forces has to offer.

The luncheon provided a chance for Funk to discuss the Army's priorities with the local ROCKS chapter in order to better understand how the two organizations might work together toward a common goal: developing diverse future Leaders.

"It's important we have these kinds of discussions with local organizations so

we can ensure we're supporting each other the best way we can," he stated. "Organizations like yours [ROCKS] that provide mentorship and outreach are a key part of the Army team."

Funk stressed the importance of educating the younger generation on the many paths the U.S. Army can offer, including careers in cyber operations, intelligence, infantry, armor, aviation, and the medical field.

"Companies are looking for leadership skills, and the Army will provide that experience," he stated.

He said regardless of the path chosen, the Army provides valuable skills that Soldiers take with them throughout their military and civilian careers.



LTC (Ret) Joe Harris, HRC President, Presents GEN Funk, CG TRADOC, a HRC Coin as a Token of Appreciation

Organizations such as ROCKS, Inc. are a valuable asset in continuing to achieve the Army's goal of maintaining a diverse force through the mentorship they provide to young officers and cadets. Having a supportive group of Active Duty, Reserve, and retired officers to mentor them can help encourage junior officers to continue working towards an even more diverse Army.

"Our people are our greatest strength, and we have the privilege of leading America's most precious treasures. Together, we can leave the jersey in a better place than we found it," Funk said.

BG Andy Gainey welcomed to the French 3rd Armored Division

By MG(r) Byron S. Bagby



BG Gainey, welcomed to the 3rd Division (FR)

On Monday, July 18, 2022, ROCKS member Brigadier General Andrew C. Gainey was welcomed as he assumes the duties as Deputy Commanding General-Operations of the 3rd French Division. The ceremony was hosted by Major General Hubert Cottureau, Commander of the 3rd Division.

General Gainey's appointment is part of the Military Personnel Exchange Program (MPEP) between the two countries. The partnership operationalizes the "Strategic Vision Statement", which was co-signed in 2015 by the Chief of Staff of the United States Army and the Chief of the French Army.



BG Andrew Gainey, inspecting the formation

The MPEP, a reciprocal General Officer military exchange with the French Army, is designed to strengthen bonds of friendship, understanding, and interoperability between the countries and their respective military

organizations. The MPEP program directly supports the Secretary of the Army's strategic priority, "Allies and Partners."

General Gainey's last two assignments was as Deputy Commanding General (Maneuver) 1st Infantry Division and as Executive Officer to the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. Typically, MPEP assignments will be from two to three years in length. The French 3rd Division is based in Marseille, France.



Be in the know



10 Facts About African-American Military Service

Website: [Legion.org](https://www.legion.org)

- 2.15 million: Black military veterans nationwide
- 30.2: Percent of active-duty enlisted women in 2016 who were African-American
- 17.1: Percent of active-duty enlisted men in 2016 who were African-American
- 20,000+: Black Marine Corps recruits who received training at Montford Point camp in North Carolina during World War II
- 21: African-Americans who received the Medal of Honor for actions during the Vietnam War
- 7,243: Deaths of active-duty Black servicemembers in Vietnam
- 3,075: Deaths of active-duty Black servicemembers in the Korean War
- 901,896: African-Americans who served during World War II
- 24: Percent of the 500,000 U.S. military personnel deployed to the Middle East during the Persian Gulf War who were African-American
- 350,000+: Black soldiers who served in American Expeditionary Forces units on the Western Front in World War I.

ROCKS TO REMEMBER

The Passing of the First Black Secretary of the Army – Clifford L. Alexander



Clifford L. Alexander Jr. has died at 88. He broke several racial boundaries with statesmanlike calm and was the first African American Secretary of the Army.

Alexander, the Harlem-raised, Ivy League-educated lawyer, also was a crusading chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in the late 1960s. He was the first Black student-body president at Harvard University and the first Black partner at the elite Washington law firm Arnold & Porter.

For more information:

<https://www.fox5ny.com/news/clifford-d-alexander-jr-first-black-army-secretary-dies>



CHAPTER ARTICLES

“Overcoming Obstacles” with

LTG John R. Evans, Jr.

By MAJ Elizabeth Marlin

The San Antonio “Alamo” Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc. hosted a Leader Professional Development (LPD) session with LTG John R. Evans, Jr. on March 23, 2022 titled, “Overcoming Obstacles.”

As a result of the downgrade to HPCON A, the Alamo ROCKS were able to host its first-ever hybrid LPD in person and via Zoom, and welcomed ROCKS members, Soldiers, and Civilians across Joint Base San Antonio to attend. Mr. Joe Bray, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, and cadets from Sam Houston JROTC also attended in person, which provided a diverse audience.

During the LPD, the chapter addressed challenges cadets through the most senior leaders in attendance faced or will face in their careers. LTG Evans discussed the Army’s three corrosives and how the Army is still struggling in areas of Sexual Assault/Sexual Harassment, Extremism/Racism, and Suicide.



*The Alamo Chapter “Overcoming Obstacles”
LPD with LTG Evans, March 23, 2022 at Fort
Sam Houston, TX*

LTG Evans emphasized relying on your support network and your family as the backbone to overcoming obstacles. He shared his personal emphasis on

balance and explained his approach, “If you work on being an effective and efficient leader, there is very little that you cannot get done between 0630 in the morning at 6 o’clock at night, so if you are burning the midnight oil all the time you probably ought to take a look at your processes because you are probably not empowering people enough, you’re probably not powering down enough, and you are probably doing things that aren’t helpful.” Now that is not always the case, he caveated discussing how large-scale combat operations following the attacks of September 11th caused a necessary uptick in our operational tempo, but that in many cases leaders we forgotten to scale back. He shared that in setting the example for balance as a 160th Special Operations Aviation Battalion Commander he let his team know that he would be leaving on or about 1730 at night unless an aircraft is down in combat, or a Soldier is hurt.

He explained that if that happens then it is all hands-on deck and we work the problem, but short of that he is going to leave the office. He explained that if you need something after that time you can email it and I will go home and have dinner with my family, then I’ll come back and work it. In taking that approach and making it a known expectation he was never called back into work.

He emphasized “If you set the tone for people and you tell them what the expectation is, they will find a way to be efficient with their work and they will be able to meet your expectations.” You must preserve yourself and your family. You have to seek balance- physically, emotionally, spiritually, and socially. Leaders have to set the example at your level.


GEN(R) Kip Ward followed-up with the necessity of understanding what is a priority versus what is important. You must attend the things that are important to include family events like your daughter’s 4-year-old dance recital.

In eliminating communication issues and forging leadership through the generational gaps, the chapter discussed allowing the junior leaders the opportunity to brief and ensuring you are getting out of your office and meeting your teams in their spaces.

**San Antonio “Alamo” Chapter
presents:**

“Overcoming Obstacles”

Keynote Speaker:



Lt. Gen. John R. Evans, Jr.
Commanding General of U.S. Army North
(Fifth Army)

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

5:30pm CDT – Virtual Networking Social
6:00pm CDT – Virtual LPD
7:00pm CDT – Virtual General Meeting

Register here at:
<https://calendly.com/alamorocksinc/march22lpd-overcoming-obstacles>
For additional information call (210)645-5116
Email ftsamhoustonrocks@gmail.com or visit [fb/alamorocks](https://www.facebook.com/alamorocks).

*The Alamo Chapter “Overcoming Obstacles”
LDP flyer*

LTG Evans discussed how he incorporated monthly “Fifth Army Friday” into the US Army North’s battle rhythm as a venue for unit team-building physical training and an opportunity for him to have lunch with a selected group of peers, as a way to bring people together. Consider incorporating team building opportunities into our work schedules.

Lastly, those in attendance shared some of their personal obstacles and senior leaders in attendance shared how they overcame similar situations. In closing, LTG Evans highlighted the value of the ROCKS and how its diverse group, from its most senior leaders to cadets, come together to communicate, extend trust, and developing shared understanding for the betterment of the entire team, and encouraged each person to invite someone new to join the team.

The “Alamo” ROCKS is truly grateful to have LTG Evans as a member and

thanks him for hosting the chapter's first ever hybrid LPD.

For more information on the San Antonio "Alamo" Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc. activities, check out the Chapter's Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/alamorocks>

LTG John R. Evans, Jr. is currently the Commander of US Army North (Fifth Army) and Senior Army Commander of Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis.



The San Antonio ROCK Inc. Celebrates its 25th Anniversary

*By LaDonna Tolbert, Chapter
Historian*



The San Antonio ROCKS Inc celebrated 25 wonderful years of service on 30 April 2022 at the US Army Medical Museum at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The ceremony began with the presentation of colors by the JROTC Cadets from Sam Houston High School and the playing of the National Anthem by Fort Sam's own 323D Army Band.

The Chapter was Incorporated by the State of Texas on December 31, 1996 as "The San Antonio ROCKS, Incorporated". BG Bettye Simmons, Chief Army Nurse Corps facilitated approval to operate on post. The Charter Members were: COL Marjorie Jackson, COL Jesse Newborn, LTC Dorene Hurt, CPT Glenda Henry-

Locke, MAJ Linda Carmen, and CPT Karen Wagner



Ms Crystal Pleseant and COL (R) Dorene Hurt present CDT Francisco Vega with the first Hurt-Pleasant Students with Great Potential Scholarship

On January 25, 1997 the local ROCKS Chapter was established as an official ROCKS Chapter on the Fort Sam Houston installation in San Antonio, Texas. Unfortunately, for reasons unknown to the current membership, the San Antonio ROCKS Chapter was deactivated in 2001.

In April 2012, a local interest group composed of COL Keith Johnson, COL (Ret) Jesse Newborn, COL (Ret) Rayford Shaw, LTC (Ret) Jerry Cheatom, LTC Derrick Flowers, CPT Valerie Watkins, and 1LT Faren Campbell was formed. This group aggressively took on the task of getting a ROCKS chapter reestablished in the San Antonio area. Through the interest group's collective efforts the Chapter was formally revived and re-chartered as the San Antonio ROCKS Chapter on September 19, 2012.

The chapter was honored to host several distinguished guests. If you are familiar with the organization's history, the name BG Roscoe Cartwright should resonate with the very mention of The ROCKS Inc. His grandson Roscoe Cartwright III was in attendance and eloquently expressed his gratitude for the organization and what it has meant to him and his family. He unfortunately never meet his grandfather, however was able to watch his legacy throughout the years through the many accomplishments of The ROCKS.

We were also privileged to have the charter members attend the ceremony. One notable guest was Mrs. Kim Wagner-Hudson, the sister of LTC Karen J. Wagner. LTC Karen J. Wagner was one of the 125 people killed during the 9/11 attacks on the Pentagon. Kim gave a heart warmed remembrance of her sister and spoke about LTC Wagner's love for the Army and her military career.

Gen (R) Vincent Brooks gave our ceremony address with passion and energy. He overviewed the importance of service, mentorship and legacy. He formally recognized the San Antonio ROCKS Inc 2022 Scholarship recipients Mikayla Grafton, Ariel Agunobi, and Lashundra White. Our chapter awards college scholarships to deserving cadets who display high caliber leadership attributes and extraordinary character.



San Antonio ROCKS charter and recharter members Past and Present San Antonio ROCKS Inc Members during w/ Chapter General officers, Chapter President commemorative brick dedication at US Army Medical Museum and Roscoe Cartwright III

The San Antonio ROCKS established a new scholarship, the Hurt-Pleasant Students with Great Potential, in honor of the life long mentor-mentee relationship between our founding member COL (R) Dorene Hurt and Ms. Crystal Pleasant. The first awardee of this scholarship is CDT Francisco Vega of Sam Houston High School. This scholarship is enabled by the generous endowment established by COL (R) Dorene Hurt.



Gen(R) Vincent Brooks, LTC Michelle Jefferson, Mrs. Kim Wagner-Hudson and BG Shan Bagby

Our silver jubilee celebration closed with a commemorative brick dedication at the US Army Medical Museum.



The Fort Bliss Chapter Bids Farewell to Colonel Jabari Miller and Welcomes New Commanders to the Installation

By Major Darell Coffey



Photo of COL Miller after receiving his Legion of Merit Award presented by Major General Sean C. Bernabe, Commanding General of the 1st Armored Division before his Change of Command Ceremony. (Photo Credit: 1st Armored Division PAO)

On June 28, 2022, Colonel (COL) Jabari Miller completed his Change of Command ceremony as Brigade Commander of the 3rd Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), 1st Armored Division (1AD) on Fort Bliss, Texas. During his time, COL Miller took charge of his unit in the middle of a pandemic and successfully deployed

his brigade to South Korea under the 2nd Infantry Division. For the Fort Bliss Chapter, Colonel Miller led several Leadership Professional Development (LPD) sessions and embodied the spirit of the Iron Soldier Division by positively impacting every member under his leadership. Chapter President, Major (MAJ) Michelle Cutts, and fellow members wished COL Miller and his family good luck on their next assignment as they join the 2nd Infantry Division, United States Forces Korea Family!



Photo of LTC Carper McMillan, Battalion Commander of the U. S. Army Field Support Battalion-Bliss, 407th Army Field Support Brigade, Army Sustainment Command.

Several of the Fort Bliss Senior leaders took command recently including COL Micah Hutchins, (Brigade Commander, Division Sustainment Brigade (DSB), 1AD), COL Dwight D. Domengeaux (Brigade Commander, 2nd ABCT, 1AD), Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Mishenda Siggall (Battalion Commander, 1-361st Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), 5th Armored Brigade, 1st Army Division, LTC Gregory Howard (Battalion Commander, 919th Contracting Battalion at Mission Installation Contracting Command Fort Bliss, Army Material Command), and LTC McFerrin McDonald (47th BSB, 2nd ABCT, 1AD) to name few. On Friday, July 8, 2022, LTC Carper "Haywood" McMillan will relinquish Battalion Command of the U. S. Army Field Support Battalion-Bliss, 407th Army Field Support Brigade, Army

Sustainment Command. The Fort Bliss Chapter will bid farewell to LTC McMillan and his family for all their support to the Fort Bliss and El Paso, TX families!



MAJ Michelle Cutts participated in the 1st Armored Division's Torch Week in 2021, visiting the Bulldog Brigade (3ABCT, 1AD) and touring an M1A2 Abrams Tank with other families from the brigade.

The Fort Bliss Chapter also bids farewell to current President, MAJ Michelle Cutts as she and her family prepare for their next assignment in Washington, D.C. Under her leadership, the Fort Bliss Chapter was recognized on the installation as a living Network of Officers, Warrant Officers, and Civilians that provide Mentorship as leaders navigate their careers and achieve excellence. MAJ Cutts established connections with both the University of Texas, El Paso, and the University of New Mexico State ROTC programs. One of the future outreach goals of the chapter will be to connect with the local JROTC Programs to support drill competitions and any other events needing support. During her time on Fort Bliss, not only did she support the ROCKS, Inc., she also supported all means of mentorship. In October 2020, MAJ Cutts along with six other Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Soldiers, she established 'Sisters in Arms' which focused on building networks, establishing professional relationships, and advocating for women of all ranks across the installation. These efforts grew into formalizing a chapter of the Female

Morale and Mentoring Program (FMMP) with the assistance of COL Pritchard-Brown and her executive board from CASCOM. MAJ Cutts was the vice-chair of chartering this chapter alongside LTC Jennifer White as the Chair.

The Fort Bliss Chapter welcomes the new Chapter President, MAJ Darell Coffey, and incoming leadership this summer. The main goal for the chapter will involve rebuilding the organization and building a presence on Fort Bliss and in El Paso after COVID-19 limited the chapter's capabilities over the past two years.



The All American Chapter of the ROCKS –Sound the Alarm Community Service



The All- American ROCKS member and Town of Hope Mills Fire Chief Chuck Hodges.

On May 21st, 2022, Members of The All-American Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. partnered with the Hope Mills Red Cross and participated in the National Sound the Alarm event. Every day, seven people die in home fires, most often in homes without working smoke alarms. That's why the American Red Cross launched our [Home Fire Campaign](#) in 2014 to save lives. Sound the Alarm is a critical part of the campaign. Through our home visits, we've installed more than 2.2 million free smoke alarms and

prepared more than 2.5 million people for home fires.



Hope Mills Fire Chief and a 30-year Red Cross volunteer team leader.

During this event, members of the All-American Chapter of the ROCKS served the community by providing information on fire safety and installed fire alarms into several homes within the Hope Mills, NC community.



The All- American ROCKS members L to R: Cherise Monroe, Santwon Walker, Kristopher Grayson, Kashona Grate.



Hampton Roads Chapter 2022 Scholarship Award Ceremony

By LTC (Ret) Toney C. Mooney; Photos by LTC (Ret) Claude Vann

The Hampton Roads Chapter (HRC) held its Eighteenth Annual Scholarship Award Ceremony on April 30, 2022, at

the Newport News Police Department Conference Room, Newport News, Virginia. One outstanding Junior ROTC Cadets, and eight outstanding Senior ROTC Cadets from the Hampton Roads Virginia area, were recognized. The theme for the event was, "Youth Blazing a New Trail".

The evening started with an "ice breaker" social enabling the HRC members, scholarship awardees and their family, and guest to socialize before the formal part of the ceremony. Delicious Hors D'oeuvre were provided by Elegant Occasions By Krista, LLC.

The ceremony, the first in-person ceremony since 2019 due to the COVID pandemic, began with the presentation of the colors by the Bethel High School, JROTC Color Guard, from Hampton, Virginia under the leadership of SFC Keith Brown. Following the presentation of the colors was the singing of our National Anthem performed by COL (Ret) Julius Coats, an HRC Advisor. The Invocation was provided by the Chapter Chaplain, Chaplain (LTC (Ret)) Juan Crockett.



Bethel High School Color Guard Presenting the Colors

COL (Ret) David Glover, Master of Ceremony, and Chapter Scholarship Committee Chairman welcomed everyone to the event. This year's awardees are Chayla Burris, Hampton University; Candyce Croom, Norfolk State University; Samantha Hamilton, Hampton University; Ciara Hanson, Hampton University; Carrington Harrod, Hampton University; Jada Haskins, Hampton University; Darien Lipscomb, Norfolk State University; Cadet Martin McClung III, Hampton University; and Cadet Bryan Papillion, Nansemond River High School,

Suffolk, Va., who plans to attend Norfolk State University this coming fall semester.

Cadets Burris, Hamilton, and Haskins were not present for the ceremony due to final exams and/or work.



LTC (Ret) Harris, from left, Cadet Candyce Croom, Cadet Darien Lipscomb, Cadet Ciara Hanson, Cadet Martin McClung III, Cadet Carrington Harrod, Cadet Bryan Papillion, and MG (Ret) Bagby.

LTC (Ret) Joe Harris, Chapter President, recognized the Bethel HS Color Guard by presenting each member with an engraved HRC Ink Pen, and SFC Brown with a HRC Rocks Commemorative Coin. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to the Color Guard later at Bethel High School. COL (Ret) Coats introduced the guest speaker, MG (Ret) Byron S. Bagby, Senior Vice President for Government Programs of GP Industrial Contractors. MG (Ret) Bagby provided an encouraging message to the awardees with the following key points:

- Be Yourself
- Listen to Your Non-Commissioned Officer
- Learn to be Resourceful
- Master the Art of Communications, and
- Have a Positive Attitude

LTC (Ret) Harris and MG (Ret) Bagby presented each awardee with a HRC Scholarship Certificate and an enlarged \$1000 check. The actual scholarship award will be sent to the cadet's university prior to fall semester enrollment.

LTC (Ret) Harris thanked MG (Ret) Bagby for his outstanding presentation and presented him with an engraved

HRC Rocks Pen-set as a token of appreciation.

The Hampton Roads Chapter has awarded Scholarships to 85 Junior and Senior ROTC Cadets over the past 20 years.

Members of this year's HRC Scholarship Committee are COL (Ret) David Glover, Chairman; MG (Ret) Frank Batts; MAJ (Ret) Hubert Becton; COL (Ret) John Brown; COL (Ret) Julius Coats; LTC (Ret) Joe Harris; LTC (Ret) Chuck Holden; LTC (Ret) John James, and LTC (Ret) Toney Mooney.



Front Row: COL (Ret) David Glover (squatting); Second Row: Chaplain (LTC (Ret) Juan Crockett, LTC (Ret) Joe Harris, Cadet Candyce Croom, Cadet Darien Lipscomb, Cadet Ciara Hanson, Cadet Martin McClung III, Cadet Carrington Harrod, Cadet Bryan Papillion, MG (Ret) Byron Bagby, LTC (Ret) Chuck Holden, LTC (Ret) John James, and MG (Ret) Wallace Arnold; Back Row: COL (Ret) Julius Coats, MAJ (Ret) Hubert Becton, MG (Ret) Frank Batts, and LTC (Ret) Toney Mooney



The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. will kick off its scholarship application season next month. Stay tuned!

ROCKS' MEMBER ARTICLES



Bobby Burke Awardee & ROCKS National Board Volunteer Assumes Battalion Command at Ft. Bliss

By COL (Ret) Dorene Hurt

On a Fort Bliss, Texas morning that was so hot that it halted the ability of all 3 soldiers who were live streaming the Change of Command to continue, LTC Mishenda Siggall took Command of the 1/361st "Red Hawk" Brigade Support Battalion on 16 June 2022.



Newly minted Bn Commander, LTC Siggall Provides remarks during the CoC ceremony

Friends and family from far and wide made their way to Fort Bliss to support this pivotal and exciting moment in LTC Siggall's career, including her parents Diane and David Lambert from Brandon, Florida, her son Keyontae from Northren Virginia and brother Antwan. Other special guests and supporters included fellow ROCK and Recruiting Bn Commander, LTC Natasha Clark who came from Massachusetts.

LTC Siggall is a dedicated ROCKS member who continues to set the standard in whatever she does. In addition to being handpicked to serve as an Adjunct member of the ROCKS National Board, LTC Siggall served in leadership positions and was active in multiple ROCKS.



LTC Siggall in formation with her troops at the conclusion of the 16 June 2022 change of command ceremony at Fort Bliss, Texas

Chapters including the Morning Calm, Washington DC and Aloha Chapters. She served as the President of the Aloha Chapter. The ROCKS wish LTC Siggall the best as she embarks on what promises to be an exciting and life changing experience in command!



2022 ROCK of the Year Heading to the Army War College

By COL (Ret) Dorene Hurt



Congratulations to LTC Tamisha Norris!

LTC Norris is an unwavering and committed ROCK who's heading to Senior Service College at Carlisle. A

Bobby Burke and ROCK of the Year Awardee & ROCKS National Board Volunteer, she holds the distinction of serving in six different ROCKS Chapters, several of them twice.

Prior to her current assignment at Fort Leavenworth and support of the Buffalo Soldier Chapter, she served as the President of the San Antonio "Alamo" Chapter. While there, she served and led with distinction prior to, and during the COVID pandemic. She is one of very few LTCs who have been selected as Rock of the Year, which is a testament to her level of contributions to the ROCKS throughout her career.



Paying It Forward

By COL Christina A. Bembenek

Before joining the ROCKS, I struggled to talk about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in any meaningful way. I was just starting to get comfortable discussing the unique challenges women face in the military when George Floyd was murdered. I was not sure how to advocate for other minorities, or even if that work would be desired or beneficial. Then I started to hear leaders who I knew and respected speak out: General C.Q. Brown, Sergeant Major of the Army Michael Grinston, Lieutenant General (Retired) Vincent Brooks, Major General (Retired) Bob Harding. I realized that whether I was comfortable or not, I have a responsibility as a leader to actively speak about and champion the importance of DEI in every organization and to challenge those who claim that DEI is harming our military in a professional and pointed way. Many senior officers who do not look like me have been my champions, and I must pay it forward.

In the last year, the *National Review* has published two articles from current and former military members who argue that a commitment to DEI will harm our military might: "The Problem with a

'Woke' Military," written by an active duty servicemember under the pseudonym Robert. M. Berg and, "Woke Warriors: How DEI Threatens the DoD" by Representative Mike Gallagher, who served seven years in the U.S. Marine Corps. Both argue that a focus on DEI distracts from war-fighting, causing us to fall behind our adversaries, and precludes the military from being a strict meritocracy.

I also believe that war-fighting and combat readiness should be the top priority for our military leaders. However, I disagree with the claim that a focus on DEI distracts from this mission; rather I believe it is necessary to recruit and retain a force that will dominate in the types of conflict we will face in the future. Our adversaries, particularly Russia and China, have expertly incorporated cyber warfare and information operations into their playbooks because they have identified our weaknesses, which include recruiting and retaining technologically-savvy soldiers and a growing national social divide. Every day our adversaries work to deepen that divide by exploiting topics in social media like racism, policing, and political party affiliation while tricking our own domestic media outlets into re-broadcasting at a louder level.

The next conflict will be based on activities that create distrust and confusion within our society and among our allies, but these actions will be carried out below the threshold of actual war. We will need smart soldiers from diverse backgrounds who understand cultural nuances and think differently about a problem set to win this kind of war. Mr. Berg argues that soldiers' "past experiences lend you little aid." In fact, we need to recruit soldiers who are already skilled in computer coding, have specific language skills, and understand how a foreign actor might try to infiltrate our social media spaces. Representative Gallagher details the Chinese "Wolf Warriors" information operations which denigrate American society. Who better to identify a Chinese information operation than a

Chinese-American soldier who speaks the language? Who better to identify a Russian cyber threat than a kid who grew up hacking computer systems in his free time? Mr. Berg dismisses the way SOCOM has focused on DEI, but fails to recognize the reason they have done so: SOCOM leaders like GEN(R) Joseph Votel recognized long ago that special operators needed language and cultural skills that are resident in our minority American citizens. These operators are combat multipliers in every theater.

Strengthening our force through DEI is not about meeting a magical number of different minorities or having the right color palette; it is a national security imperative as outlined in Mathew Syed's excellent book *Rebel Ideas: The Power of Diverse Thinking*. He highlights examples from CIA leaders on how the lack of diversity in the agency and the intelligence community, which was predominantly composed of white men in 2001, led to a collective blindness that contributed to their failure to identify Al Qaeda's attack on 9/11. Carmen Medina, a former deputy director at CIA, stated in an interview, "if you really consider differences of opinion and dissenting views and different experiential bases, what you get is a richer and more accurate view of the world." Conforming to the "military team mind-set" as Mr. Berg suggests is the exact opposite of the creativity and independent free-thinkers we need in our Army to succeed against our adversaries. Diversity is the critical ingredient which drives our collective intelligence and ability to understand the enemy.

Both *National Review* authors stress that the military must be a meritocracy – American lives depend on it. I also agree with this premise, but where we diverge is believing that it ever has been, or is currently, a pure meritocracy. When you are accustomed to privilege, equality feels like oppression, so it is not surprising that these authors feel like a renewed emphasis on recruiting and retaining persons of color and women is stacking

the deck against them. In reality, implicit bias continues to plague our promotion system. Even though I myself am a minority in the military, until the summer of 2020, I also believed the Army only promoted based on merit; after all, I had worked hard to reach my current rank. This is despite the fact that when I was commissioned in 2000, women were barred from combat arms branches and Ranger school, and prohibited from serving below brigade level in a combat arms unit, whether we had the ability to succeed or not.

It was only in the last few years that I realized working extra hard and being the best may still not be enough if you are the wrong gender or color. I distinctly remember talking to my friend LTC Tony Keller, the Operations officer (G3) for the 82nd Airborne Division, about the protests surrounding the murder of George Floyd. TK is African-American. It occurred to me that he might be the first black officer to hold that key staff position; turns out, he wasn't the first, he was the second. Lloyd Austin was the first. In the 104 years since the division's inception and 72 years since the desegregation of the Armed Forces by President Truman, there had only been two black men who served in that position. It is difficult to believe that no others merited that assignment which often paves the way to the general officer ranks.

We are losing phenomenal soldiers each year because implicit bias continues to lead senior officers, who are overwhelmingly white men, to choose other officers who look and think like them. They are not doing this intentionally or because they are racist. They are choosing those who are in their social circles and who have followed the same path that made them successful. An excellent read on implicit bias and how it affects our decision-making is Jennifer Eberhardt's *Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice that Shapes What We See, Think, and Do*. Recognizing our own biases – we all have them – is critical to growing and developing as human

beings. It is only by acknowledging the biases we bring to the table that we can control them when making decisions about who has merit and who does not.

Successful teams are high trust, unified teams, but we cannot have unity if we don't value the unique capabilities and perspectives that each soldier brings to the fight. The fact is that many minority soldiers often feel isolated and "other," regardless of their rank. Listen to General C.Q. Brown discuss how even with a set of wings sewn onto his flight suit, he was still asked if he was a pilot. Read the excellent piece in the *Army Magazine* by LTC Octavia Scott, a phenomenal Army officer who still asks herself if she was chosen to command because she deserves it or because she is black. Inclusion in our ranks is an intentional act; it requires each of us to understand that the experience diverse soldiers bring to the fight is valuable and to show that through our actions. Contrary to Mr. Berg's and Representative Gallagher's assertion that military and political leaders are trying to enforce equity regardless of merit, true leaders are working to improve our force by building strong teams where each person is respected and valued for how their individual skills and experience contribute to the team. LTC Scott says it best: "leaders must start the race with a focus on inclusion, but run the race solely on merit."

Today when I talk about my leadership philosophy with my team, it includes asking "How do I pay it forward?" I tell them about my own personal journey to get to this question, and how I strive to answer it each and every day. Active membership in the ROCKS is a key part of that answer, and I am grateful to be included within your ranks.



BOARD MEMBER ARTICLES

Message from Our National Board Chaplain



By Dr. B. Gregory Edison

Chaplain (COL) Edison graduated from Prairie View A & M University with a Bachelor's in Business Administration and Finance. He later earned a Master of Divinity from Phillips Theological Seminary, a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College, and a Doctor of Ministry from Oblate School of Theology. He is endorsed by the National Baptist Convention USA, Incorporated.

Chaplain (COL) Edison is currently the TRADOC Command Chaplain, Fort Eustis, Virginia. The Regimental Memorial Chapel was blessed to have him preach on Easter Sunday to an audience of 132. CH Edison brought forth a powerful Word of God entitled: "Why Are You Running to An Empty Tomb?" The scripture reading came from John 20:1-10.

He indicated to the congregation that "universally people celebrate Easter, and universally we celebrate a risen Jesus" with a genuine smile and confirmation that "a smile will always be on my face." A writer once said, "Let

your smile change the world, but don't let the world change your smile."



CH Edison brought smiles to our faces as he exegeted the scriptures that the Holy Spirit led. He examined the main three characters of this passage. He encouraged us to turn to our neighbors and say, "oooh, we got a Baptist preacher, then turn to your other neighbor and say, "Why are you running to an empty tomb?" This joyful spirit placed the congregation in an energy-filled room of laughter and seasoned it with the Word of God. His message was well-received. The Regimental Memorial Chapel would like to thank CH Edison for delivering a heartfelt and spiritual-led sermon that impacted the community online and in person.



The more you
praise and
celebrate
your life, the
more there
is in life to
celebrate.

Oprah Winfrey

Time to Start Building (Y)our Budgets!

By Eric P. Flowers, VP Finance



Hello Chapters,

As you read the following coaching/mentoring piece, please accept my challenge that (y)our fiscal planning and budgeting for the 2023 calendar year begins now! Following the guidance below enables Chapter leadership teams to handle their business in a business-like manner.

As a general rule of thumb, Chapters serve their best interests by following these seven (7) steps (and targeted dates).

STEP ONE [4 AUG]: Establish the Chapter's priorities for the upcoming year;

STEP TWO [3 SEP]: Name the supporting activities/programs/events the Chapter will execute to achieve the priorities in STEP ONE;

STEP THREE [3 OCT]: Formulate revenue & expense projections for each activity, program or event via budget preparation work sheets;

STEP FOUR [18 OCT]: Organize the separate worksheets' content into a consolidated spreadsheet capturing all revenue & expenses projections;

STEP FIVE [23 OCT]: Review spreadsheet for adherence to Chapter President's explicit and implicit intent(s);

STEP SIX [2 NOV]: Consolidate worksheets and present to the Body for consideration and approval [2 DEC], and;

STEP SEVEN [1 JAN]: Execute the approved budget!

A clever way to remember the preceding steps is to always be mindful of the acronym ENFORCE. The letters in ENFORCE are the first letters of each step in our budget building process. In reviewing and subscribing to this practice, it is important to recognize a very important, yet implicit, requirement to successfully adhere to the ENFORCE process.

Priorities must exist. Chapter leadership teams must conceive and articulate coherent plans of action. These plans give meaning (and justification) for dollars raised and spent. Ideally, every dollar raised and spent should be logically tied to a Chapter priority (or goal) that is meaningful and supportive of who we are as ROCKS. A well-developed budget facilitates our ability to accomplish such a task. Your budgets enable proper fiscal accountability and management and also show respect to the membership. If a Chapter collects dues, the leadership team owes it to the members to show them (via a practical budget) where/how/why their money is to be spent. This is a responsibility that must not be shirked, nor taken for granted. It is a moral obligation that those in leadership assume when they agree to lead from the front.

Subsequently, please use this article as a teaching tool to enable responsible and responsive fiscal management in a deliberate attempt to...Set the standard!!!

Eric Flowers,
VP, Finance

"Used correctly, a budget doesn't restrict you; it empowers you."
- TERE STOUFFER

ROCKS ON THE RISE

2014 ROCK of the Year Pins on third star, assigned as the Army's G4

By COL (Ret) Dorene Hurt

A true ROCKS Warrior was promoted to Lieutenant General by Gen James C. McConville, the Army Chief of Staff at Joint Base Myers Henderson Hall on 6 April 2022. Family, friends, and fellow ROCKS came from far and wide to witness this much deserved and well earned promotion. General Hamilton's Army journey has been unlikely and extraordinary to say the least.



Gen McConville and Lt Gen Hamilton pose for photo after pinning

He enlisted in the U.S. Army from Houston, Texas. Upon completion of basic and individual training, he was assigned to Fort Hood, Texas. In 1988, he graduated from Officer Candidate School as the Distinguished Military Graduate and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Virginia State University and Masters' Degrees in Public Administration from Central Michigan University and Military Studies from the Marine Corps University.

Throughout his life and career, General Hamilton has demonstrated a keen understanding of the value and importance of education; being prepared for opportunities, even unexpected ones; and the necessity and responsibility to actively mentor ROTC

Cadets and other officers. His commitment to mentoring and assisting other officers, especially his fellow ROCKS is legendary. He can be counted on to seek out opportunities to spend time with his fellow ROCKS wherever he traveled and a ROCKS Chapter was there. The fruits of his mentoring are reflective in numerous ROCKS who are professionally progressing through the ranks and blazing trails of their own. He has also benefitted from the example that other African American Generals and ROCKS like Lt Gen Julius W. Becton, Jr. set. Lt Gen Becton was so confident that Lt Gen Hamilton would continue to advance in rank that he gave then BG Hamilton, his three star rank after his promotion to Brigadier General in May 2016. Lt Gen Hamilton treasures the gesture and proudly wears Lt Gen Becton's gift, which reflected enormous pride but also the confidence that Lt Gen Hamilton would continue to advance, serve with distinction and take care of soldiers and their families.



Lt Gen Hamilton with his family from left to right: Lt Gen Hamilton, Mrs. Regina Hamilton, her father, Chief Master Sergeant (Ret) Eugene Johnson, daughter Celine Hamilton and son, CPT Reggie Hamilton.

In addition to his advanced degrees, he also graduated from a Senior Service College Fellowship through the Secretary of Defense Corporate Fellows Program. Lieutenant General Hamilton assumed his current duties as the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-4 for the United States Army on 6 April 2022, the day he was promoted to LtGen. Prior to that assignment, he served as the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, G-43/5/7. His previous assignments include duties as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, G-3 for United States Army Materiel

Command, Commander of the 8th Theater Sustainment Command, the Chief Logistics Officer for United States Forces Korea and the Commander of Defense Logistics Agency Troop Support, Philadelphia, Penn. He also worked as the Executive Officer to the Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics at the Pentagon, as an Assignment Officer in the Logistics Branch in the Office of the Army Chief of Staff and as the Executive Officer to the Vice Director, Defense Logistics Agency.

As for the gifted leader and warrior that he is, on three separate occasions Lt General Hamilton held commands in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In 2004, he was Commander, Defense Logistics Agency Contingency Support Team-Afghanistan, and in 2010-11, he was Commander, United States Forces-Afghanistan Support South/Southwest. During his most recent tour, in 2013-2014, he was the commander of the 101st Sustainment Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.



Lt Gen Hamilton's son CPT Reggie Hamilton and daughter Ms. Celine Hamilton place his three star shoulder boards on his uniform.

Lieutenant General Hamilton's awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (2nd Awd), Bronze Star Medal (2nd Awd), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (3rd Awd), Meritorious Service Medal (9th Awd), Joint Service Commendation Medal (2nd Award), Army Commendation Medal (3rd Awd), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (7th Awd), Good Conduct Medal (2nd Awd) and OEF Campaign Awards. He has also been awarded the Combat Action Badge,

Parachutist Badge, Parachute Rigger Badge, Air Assault Badge, Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Given his multiple combat tours, Lt Gen Hamilton's favorite quote will come as no surprise. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote and said "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."



Left: Then Maj. Gen. Charles R. Hamilton, 8th Theater Sustainment Command Commanding General and former Lifeliners Six, visits 101st Airborne Division Sustainment Brigade "Lifeliners", 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Mar. 29, 2019

The ROCKS, Inc. extend a hearty Congratulations and best wishes to Lt Gen Hamilton and his family. We are so proud of you and the positive example that you have consistently demonstrated for many years. Your example shows Cadets, officers, senior civilians and others what's possible for them to achieve!



ROCKET DEADLINE

Fall Edition 2022

Monday, October 31, 2022

Email all articles and photos with captions to nationalrocket@gmail.com prior to the deadline.

ROCKET SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- Submit articles in **Microsoft Word Document Format Only!!!**
- Article Header Font = **Times New Roman**; Font Size = 14; **Bold.**
- Author/contributor credit reflected in following format: By *[Insert Author's name]*; Font = *Times New Roman Italics*; Font Size = 10]
- Page Margins = 1" Left, Right, Top and Bottom
- The text should be **Times New Roman** Font; Font Size=10. No special formatting. Use left justification.
- Maximum number of photos per article = 3 (Place at the end of the article)
- Include photo captions under photo (Times New Roman Font; Font Size=8)
- PDF documents and links to web articles will **NOT** be accepted.
- Articles should be written from third-person.
- 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.

**YOU SHOULD KNOW THEIR STORY.... BECAUSE IT IS OUR STORY,
THE ROCKS INCORPORATED.... *THIS IS THE JOURNEY***



BG(R) Roscoe "ROCK" Cartwright

These men comprised the "Blue Geese".
They are "The Journey".
More details to come later in 2022



Burke



Brooks



Cade



Chambers



Collins



Francois



Hazelwood



Mann



Miller



Wyatt

Shown above:

*COL Robert B. Burke
MG Harry W. Brooks Jr.
BG Alfred J. Cade
LTG Andrew P. Chambers
COL Harold Collins*

*COL Frank Francois III
COL John E. Hazelwood
LTC John E. Mann Sr.
COL Clarence A. Miller
COL James E. Wyatt*

DELETE AFTER CONVERTING