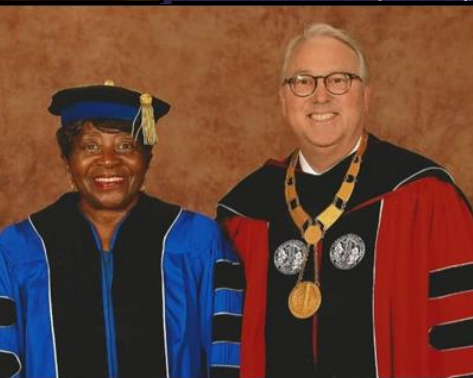
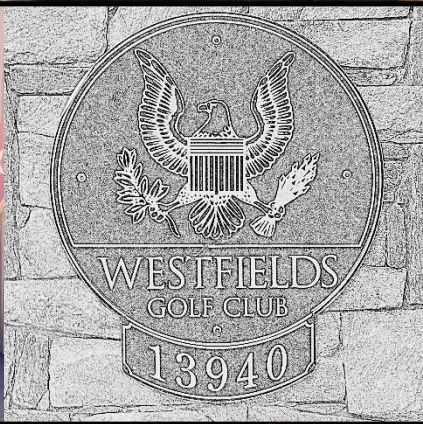


The ROCKET

Fall 2015





The National Board of the ROCKS, Incorporated

Elected Board Members

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Associate National Board Members (Appointed)

Transitioning Mbrs/Executive Affairs – COL L. Anita Dixon

National Board Volunteers

MAJ Natasha S Clarke
 CPT Jessica Main
 MAJ Mishenda Siggall
 COL (R) Debra A Thedford
 MAJ Linda C. Wade

CURRENT 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).



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ROCKET STAFF

Editor: COL Dorene Hurt USA (Ret.)
Assistant Editor: COL Karen M. Wrancher USA
Design & Layout: WSC Associates, LLP

Chairman's Message



It seems that it was only yesterday that I pinned my last message to you. My conclusion is that we all have been very busy and by that I mean a good busy.

Our Army is a reflection of that as it goes through leadership changes at the top. A number of items are under consideration as we shrink the force.

One such topic that is intriguing is the topic of talent management. More to follow as this topic matures.

This marks the fortieth anniversary of the conclusion of the war in Vietnam. The ROCKS Inc. has become a Commemorative Partner with the commission appointed by President Obama to observe this Anniversary an appropriately recognize those who served and were never appropriately recognized. One of our own serves with the commission, COL(R) Lucretia McClenney, is making a difference in the lives of some forgotten soldiers. I was fortunate to celebrate the 90th birthday of one such hero who served in three Wars, WWII, Korea and Vietnam and, oh by the way, is COL(R) Porcher Taylor who is a ROCK.

Members of the board have also been part of a committee that is working with AUSA and the Army Museum Committee responsible for the design and building of the Army's Museum to ensure African Americans are appropriately recognized. A distinguished ROCK, LTG(R) Larry Jordan chairs this Committee. To ensure we are appropriately represented will require everyone's assistance. The major challenge currently facing the Museum is to identify artifacts that helps tell our story. Just as we are reaching out to you, we are looking to private collectors' interested in locating artifacts reflecting African Americans role in the Army. Anyone who may have or know of anyone who has such artifacts and would be willing to put them on loan to the Museum can contact The ROCKS. We will facilitate the connection with the curator.

The Board was invited to participate in an Army Diversity Outreach Summit. We were among 23 organizations to participate in the Conference. Besides gaining great insights as to what is going on in the Army we engaged with other affinity groups and shared insights, something that was mutually beneficial. We look forward to gaining more insights on such things as grant writing etc. I envision that we will continue to be an invitee to these forums.

We were recently invited to participate with the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) in a networking forum held at the Air & Space Museum. The event was set in three Halls with each having a theme. Hall 1 was populated by Top Military Friendly Employers. The focus there was on for profit companies, Government Executive opportunities, and

Non Profit Executives. Hall 2 focused on opportunities in the Aerospace industry. Hall 3 was designated as Entrepreneurship Hall with a focus on how to start ones own business. There were lectures in each of the halls that provided overviews/insights of that respective area.

Each area had companies /organizations associated with that respective area. This provided an opportunity to speak one on one with company/institution representative so that opportunity availability could be determined. They also accepted resumes. Over 50 ROCKS members registered online for this event. All in all it was a great event for anyone seeking future opportunities.

I strongly endorse those of you who are transitioning out of the military to attend MOAA events like these where companies that are committed to providing opportunities for Veterans are present. It is also great for individuals who are already out but may be looking for new or different opportunities. Check out the MOAA website and stay tuned for information on future events. I would like to give a shout out to loyal ROCKS LTC (Ret) Suzanne Walker and COL (Ret) Terri Coles from MOAA who facilitated our evolving relationship.

We absolutely are delighted to offer congratulations to the following newly minted flag officers to include Mrs. Delores Johnson Davis, Ms. Deidre L Windsor, BG Richard Dix, BG Charles Hamilton and BG Michel Russell. We are very proud of each of you and stand ready to support you in any way that we can. We also seek your mentoring support of the many officers and senior civilians as you travel around our Army.

I close by asking each of you pause and offer a prayer for our soldiers and especially those that are still in harms' way.

Remember.....Concern, Dedication, Professionalism

BG Earl M. Simms, USA (Ret.)
Chairman

Mark Your Calendars

The ROCKS, Inc.

2016 Biennial Leadership & Training Conference
April 21-23, 2016

42nd Annual Spring Gala & Awards Ceremony
April 23, 2016

We hope you will make plans to attend.
Registration begins January 2016.

TOP STORIES

AMC connects with Historically Black College and University and Minority Serving Institutions

Submitted by Paula Taylor, Director for Academia and Industry Outreach, AMC

In search of future employees, the Army Materiel Command goes to great effort to ensure every qualified, capable and interested individual has an opportunity to serve the nation. AMC's outreach program with Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Minority-serving Institutions is one of those critical pathways that help build a diverse and highly-skilled workforce for the future of the command and the Army.

Introducing Army civilian service as a potential career plants a seed that calls on more than skills and education. It awakens the desire to serve and demonstrates the various opportunities to make a difference for a grateful nation. At the same time, AMC's program connects students from these institutions to offices and laboratories across the country.

The Army has long recognized the need to encourage students to pursue fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, aware that those who graduate from HBCU/MIs come away with more than an education. They also embody a sense of identity and heritage that stems from a long line of historical people, including Martin Luther King, Jr., Barbara Jordan and Thurgood Marshall.

AMC has vast opportunities for a wide spectrum of talent. With more than 63,000 dedicated military and civilian employees in all 50 states, AMC has a 95 percent civilian workforce representing a variety of career fields. The Army embraces the unique benefits and fresh perspective the graduates of HBCU/MIs add to its culture of innovation.

The HBCUs/MIs Outreach Program is an enterprise-wide initiative that aligns institutions with AMC organizations across the country. Opportunities for mentorship, educational partnership agreements and cooperative agreements exist at every command location. Last year, the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command, a major subordinate command of AMC, invested \$43.5 million in research and development contracts, grants and cooperative agreements, and funded \$306,000 in scholarships. RDECOM engaged in education and partnership agreements with 16 HBCU/MIs.

AMC organizations are poised to provide the same support to HBCU/MIs throughout its portfolio of capabilities including munitions, aviation and missile systems, computers and electronics, and ground combat systems. As a result of AMC's continued partnerships with HBCU/MIs, African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Native Pacific Islanders, Native Alaskans, and Asian Americans students gain an exciting

pathway to Army employment that will support the world's greatest fighting force for generations to come.



Paula Taylor, director for Academia and Industry Outreach, meets with Anthony Lee, a recent graduate of Tuskegee University, a Historically Black University. Lee is a U.S. Army Communications-Electronic Command employee on a one-year developmental assignment at AMC headquarters. (U.S. Army Photo)



Students take part in the U.S. Army's Research and Engineering Apprenticeship Programs, a summer science, technology, engineering and mathematics program that places talented high school students from groups historically under-represented and under-served in STEM, in research apprenticeships at area colleges and universities. (U.S. Army Photo)

More African-American Officers Needed in Combat Arms

*By Maj. Gen. Dorian Anderson, U.S. Army Retired;
Maj. Gen. Byron S. Bagby, U.S. Army Retired; and
Brig. Gen. Earl Simms, U.S. Army Retired*

The downward trend of African-American officers in the branches that have the best track record of producing our Army's most senior leaders is alarming, bewildering and disappointing. We revel in the success of Generals Colin L. Powell, Lloyd J. Austin III and Vincent K. Brooks. How do we build and sustain the bench behind them?

The bench is bare. Black battalion and brigade commanders are scarce in our fighting divisions—the typical gateway jobs to be competitive for general officer promotion. Our Army works best when we draw talent from a larger pool. We must increase African-American representation in the Army, especially in the combat arms branches of Infantry, Armor and Field Artillery.



*Capt. Rodney Freeman with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) provides security during a patrol in Afghanistan's Parwan Province.
(Credit: U.S. Army/Cpl. George Huley)*

The initial solution is found in the African-American community. Our ideas are designed to turn energy into action, resulting in an increased number of black male combat arms officers. This is not a discussion about standards. The current standards are fair and achievable by all. (Note: Presently, many combat arms officer positions are closed to women.)

Unfortunately, this is not a new phenomenon; it has been a discussion topic for more than 20 years. We call it a phenomenon because Army readiness—which is the bottom line in measuring the impact of trends in the Army—has not suffered because of a lack of African-American men in the combat arms officer ranks. The Army has fought and won in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere for the last 14 years.

In Tom Vanden Brook's 2014 *USA Today* article, "Army Commanders: White Men Lead a Diverse Force," he states, "Command of the Army's main combat units—its pipeline to top leadership—is virtually devoid of black officers, according to interviews, documents and data obtained by *USA TODAY*." He goes on to quote Col. Irving Smith, Director of Sociology at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point: "In order to maintain their trust and confidence, the people of America need to know that the Army is not only effective but representative of them."

During a question-and-answer session at the 2014 AUSA Annual Meeting and Exposition, when asked about the low percentage of senior black leaders in combat arms, then-Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Raymond T. Odierno remarked: "That has been something I have been looking at for a while. I think we

have been working on that. That is a long-term problem. You have to look at that at the commissioning source.

"We have worked hard at both the United States Military Academy and ROTC in how we can improve interest in the combat arms. We have made some small progress, but we have a lot more progress to make."

Clearly, this is a concern of our Army's most senior leaders.



*ROTC cadets from seven universities attend a conference at Howard University in Washington, D.C., to hear from senior Army leaders.
(Credit: U.S. Army/Eboni Myart)*

What's Being Done?

Odierno and Secretary of the Army John M. McHugh signaled commitment for a more diverse officer corps in their 2014 *Action Plan to Address Disparate Trends in Officer Talent Management*.

The plan includes steps to recruit, monitor and mentor black officers. It appears, however, that the energy from the department level has yet to impact the outcomes, resulting in fewer African-American males being accessed into the combat arms. It is easy to lay this diversity problem at the feet of E-ring leaders, field commanders and Pentagon personnel gurus. The Army cannot solve these disparate trends itself. Organizations outside the Army should join the fight to identify, recruit and retain African-American officers in the combat arms branches. The African-American community needs to become much more involved in encouraging young men to seek commissions in the combat arms.

Groups like The ROCKS Inc., a mentorship organization for Army officers and civilian leaders, can complement the Army's efforts. Generations of black officers and their spouses have found a professional and social network with The ROCKS. Its membership includes battle-proven pioneers such as retired Gen. Larry R. Ellis and 2007 AUSA George Catlett Marshall Medal Awardee, retired Lt. Gen. Julius W. Becton. The ROCKS is nurturing future generals from the ground up and has positioned itself as an essential leader in providing developmental guidance to Army Officers and ROTC Cadets. Powell cites the group as a key contributor to his success. In *My American Journey*, he recounts his experience during a Pentagon assignment in the early 1970s. "The spirit of The

ROCKS appealed to me. They looked out for me along the way and, in turn, I have tried to spot young black military talent and help these officers realize their potential. Blacks have probably looked after each other better in the military than in almost any other American institution, and I think we offer a model to the rest of the black community.”

The ROCKS sponsors a number of mentoring programs at military installations and colleges. These programs serve the interests of members, associates, sponsors, future officers and civic outreach. The organization is well-positioned to affect how we identify, recruit and retain African-American males in the combat arms. The ROCKS also has reached out to ROTC programs at twenty-seven traditional historically black colleges and universities, where thirty-two percent of black officers are commissioned.



*Then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond T. Odierno takes questions from soldiers during a 2012 leadership and training conference sponsored by The ROCKS Inc., an organization that mentors African-American officers.
(Credit: U.S. Army/J.D. Leipold)*

Strategic Approach Needed

It is time to develop a strategic approach to the problem, continue the dialogue and most importantly, do something about it.

The strategic approach includes focusing on three levels. First, identify qualified candidates early on to provide a robust pool of potential candidates. Next, retain the quality combat arms officers already in the ranks. Finally, focus on the senior leaders, who are the ones providing most of the mentoring, to ensure the cycle continues.

- *Identify qualified candidates.* We bust the myths about Army life—danger and discrimination—and inform family, faith, and civic and community leaders with information to encourage young men to seek military careers. We must promote the pride in leading America’s soldiers.

- *Recruit.* Educate the black community about the U.S. Military Academy and ROTC scholarship programs. Develop advertising and marketing programs to attract African-American males to the combat arms. Our polished, high-

performing black male officers should be sent to communities to share their stories of success with K-12 youth. This duty should be supported by local commands and included in officer performance reviews.

- *Retain.* Once they are accessed into the combat arms, systemically monitor and track soldiers’ performance at Headquarters, Department of the Army, and local commands. Use the Army Career Tracker, LinkedIn and RallyPoint to maintain mentorship communication and career progression. Encourage participation in professional organizations like The ROCKS, Toastmasters and civic leadership programs. Keep them involved. Encourage these soldiers to give back and be part of nurturing the group following them.



*Lt. Col. Hope Williamson, right, addresses officers at a ROCKS chapter luncheon on Fort Campbell, Ky.
(Credit: U.S. Army/Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes)*

Coach all senior leaders to ensure they assign the best-qualified leaders to the best company command and key development jobs; use metrics to enforce. Prioritize as equally important as sexual assault and equal opportunity.

The pool of candidates to feed the pipeline for Army officers will only swell if the Army and African-American community collaboratively reach black male youth, nurture current officers and repeat the cycle.

The Army and communities must take action to grow the population of African-American males in the combat arms. Solutions exist; let’s implement them.

* * * *

Maj. Gen. Dorian Anderson, USA Ret., served 30 years as an infantry officer, culminating as commanding general of U.S. Army Human Resources Command from 2002–05. He is a lifetime member of The ROCKS.

Maj. Gen. Byron S. Bagby, USA Ret., has held field artillery leadership positions up to command of division artillery, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). He also served as deputy commanding general (operations) of the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry).

Brig. Gen. Earl Simms, USA Ret., served 33 years in the Army and has held leadership and command positions at all levels, culminating as commanding general of the U.S. Army Soldier Support Institute..

- See more at:

<http://www.armymagazine.org/2015/08/17/more-african-american-officers-needed-in-combat-arms/#sthash.2v5gMNsw.dpuf>

AMC Ignites a Passion For Federal Service

*Submitted by Gen. Dennis L. Via
AMC Commanding General*

The U.S. Army Materiel Command is taking steps to bridge the gap between students and federal jobs through a new command-wide initiative, “AMC 1,000.” “AMC 1,000” seeks to ignite a passion for federal service by providing 1,000 internships or outreach opportunities across the command each year for the next five years. These internships will introduce college and high school students to the enormous number of opportunities available to them in the U.S. Army and at AMC. In 2015, AMC exceeded this goal with over 1,200 opportunities.



More than 50 summer hires interning with Army Materiel Command introduce themselves to AMC Commander Gen. Dennis L. Via during a July 30 professional development session at the command's headquarters. The summer hires are part of the AMC 1,000 Intern Initiative which aims to provide 1,000 internship and outreach opportunities annually throughout the command for the next five years. (U.S. Army Photo)

With a 63,000-strong global workforce, this initiative is extremely important to AMC, because the command needs a diverse mix of employees to equip the Army of today as well as 2025 and beyond. With career fields from logistics, to science and technology, to contracting, human resources and more, AMC needs the next generation of talent to meet its current and future mission requirements.

Thirteen percent of the Army's workforce is currently retirement eligible, and that percentage is expected to more

than double in five years. Today, AMC has a window of opportunity to address that trend by encouraging federal service with the Army. Potential interns often lack information about federal service opportunities and the application process. To bridge that gap and strengthen relationships with career counselors at universities, colleges, trade/vocational schools and other academic institutions, AMC is hosting Academia Day throughout the command's Centers of Excellence across the United States.



Gen. Dennis L. Via, commanding general, U.S. Army Materiel Command, speaks to college career counselors Oct. 23 at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, about AMC's 1,000 Intern Initiative to bridge the gap between students and federal service. The Academia Day event was designed to provide career counselors information and tools needed on the internships available to share with their students. (U.S. Army Photo)

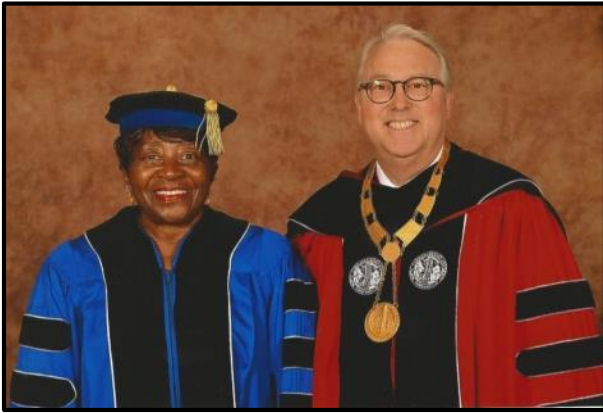
The first Academia Day was held in March in Huntsville, Alabama, and brought together more than 40 post-secondary institutions for a daylong event to provide internship information and give counselors the tools and information to assist their students in finding and applying for federal jobs. The second Academia Day was held in October in Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, with over 80 post-secondary institutions represented.

AMC is leveraging existing intern hiring authorities and outreach opportunities to recruit and develop successive generations of Army Civilians, focusing on two primary intern programs: the Student Intern Program and the Recent Grads Program. The Student Intern Program provides current high school and college students with paid opportunities to work in agencies and explore federal careers while completing their education.

The Recent Grads Program promotes federal careers to individuals who, within the past two years, earned an associate, bachelor, masters, professional, doctorate, vocational or technical degree or certificate from qualifying educational institutions, except for veterans precluded from doing so due to their military service obligation, who have up to six years after degree completion to apply. AMC is dedicated to building and growing the next generation of Army Civilian leaders and the Intern Initiative is leading the way.

BG (Ret) Clara Adams-ENDER Awarded 15th Honorary Degree in May 2015

Honorary doctorate degrees are awarded to those persons who have earned equivalent education and experience in their career including broad and significant contributions to our society. It carries all the rights, prestige and privileges of the earned doctorate.



Gen Adams-ENDER & Chancellor Woodson pose before receiving her 15th honorary doctorate degree from NC State University

ROCKS Participate in 2015 Army Diversity Outreach Summit

Submitted by COL (Ret) Dorene Hurt



Diversity Conference host, Mr. Larry Stubblefield, COL (Ret) Dorene Hurt, BG (Ret) Clara Adams-ENDER, and ROCKS Chairman, (Ret) Earl Simms pose for a picture during a conference break

The ROCKS, Inc. National Board was invited to participate in the 2015 Army Diversity Outreach Summit which was held in the Pentagon Conference Center on September 23, 2015. Six ROCKS members were among 23 organizations to attend the Conference. Besides gaining great insights about the missions and focus of the attending affinity groups, the ROCKS expect to continue to participate in future forums. Mr. Larry Stubblefield, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Diversity and Leadership, and a long term supporter of The ROCKS, Inc., served as the conference host. The robust agenda stressed the importance of strengthening relationships,

increasing understanding and exploring mutually supportive strategies. Throughout the session, it became clearly evident that MG Marcia Anderson's view about the importance of diversity rings true "An organization is going to be successful only if you utilize everyone's talent to the fullest by being inclusive because you want the organization to be the best it can be."



ROCKS National Board Chairman, BG(Ret)Earl Simms, Chair Emeritus, BG(Ret) Clara Adams-ENDER, MAJ Mishenda Siggal and COL (Ret) Dorene Hurt pose for a picture during a conference break

World War II Veteran of Normandy Omaha Beach Landing Receives Medals

*Submitted by Dawn L. Bonsell,
DLA Distribution Public Affairs*



DLA Distribution commander Army Brig. Gen. Richard Dix, on right, and Deputy Commanding General, National Guard Army Brig. Gen. John King, left, present veteran Army Sgt. Earnest Felton Jett, Sr., with medals and badges for his service in World War II. (Photo by Dawn Bonsell, DLA Distribution Public Affairs)

In a small church nestled in a quiet Atlanta, Ga. suburb, DLA Distribution commander Army Brig. Gen. Richard Dix and Deputy Commanding General, National Guard Army Brig. Gen. John King, presented a World War II veteran, Army Sgt. Earnest Felton Jett, Sr. with over a dozen medals and badges including the French A Ses Libérateurs Medal, Normandy, D-Day Comm, Belgium Comm, American Campaign, Transportation Medal, Driving Badge, Qualification Badge

with bars, Infantry Badge, Belgium Fouraguerre, and French Fouraguerre.

Jett was born 91 years ago in Chamblee, Ga., and entered the United States Army on March 11, 1943, at Fort Benning, Ga. Jett held the rank of T5 in the 4043rd Quartermaster Truck Company, 66th Infantry Division of the United States Army in World War II. He served in Europe three years, most of the time within a mile of the front lines. Jett's military occupation specialty was a deuce and quarter truck driver. He drove through storms and unfriendly terrain from France to within miles of Berlin, and transported German prisoners of war from the border of Czechoslovakia back to France. He was injured during the war when a hot piece of shrapnel hit his leg while transporting troops of the 101st airborne.

As Jett, wearing his military-issued Army uniform, spoke to the crowded church of relatives, friends and honored guests, he recalled, "I was a shoeshine boy for the United States Naval Air Station when I was 13 years old. I shined the shoes of naval officers. I looked up to them, respected them, and that's what made me want to join the service."

Ironically, Jett had that same influence on another young man who watched him march in uniform through Lynwood Park, Ga. during a parade. The young man not only became a member of the US Army, he is now DLA Distribution commander Army Brig. Gen. Richard Dix, who grew up in another quiet Atlanta suburb near the church where he recognized Jett. "I never forgot where home was," said Dix, "I'm a proud son and it's an honor to be here tonight to recognize one of the men who trail blazed the way for those of us who came behind him."

According to Dix, "The 66th Infantry Division of the US Army, nicknamed the Black Panthers, served in Normandy, France, during 1944. In fact, Mr. Jett was on Omaha Beach in Normandy on D-Day. Of the more than 2.5 million blacks who registered for the draft in World War II, about 909,000 served in the Army including Mr. Jett. In 1944, there were over 700,000 blacks in the Army; this represented the greatest proportion of blacks to total Army strength in World War II. So at its peak, only 8.7 percent of the Army--instead of the planned 10 percent -- was black. In June 1945, blacks accounted for less than 3 percent of all men assigned to combat duty in the Army. About 78 percent of all black males--and only 40 percent of all white males--in the Army were placed in the service branches (including quartermaster, engineer, and transportation corps). Approximately 167,000 blacks served in the Navy during the war, about 4 percent of total Navy strength; and over 17,000 blacks enlisted in the Marine Corps, which was 2.5 percent of all marines."

"Despite the multitude of problems with which the Army was faced in the use of black troops in World War II," historian Ulysses Lee would later write in the Army's official account of the war, "at the war's end a greater variety of experience existed than had ever before been available within the American Military Establishment."

And on one mild Georgia evening, a crowd gathered to recognize one of the fine men who served our country during World War II. As WWII veterans are passing away at the rate of approximately 492 a day, according to US Veterans Administration figures, the nation needs to recognize them for their service, thank them, and honor them for the sacrifices they have made for the country.

New Cumberland Community Supported During Federal Day of Service

Submitted by Jessica Roman, DLA Distribution Public Affairs

On Oct. 16, more than 230 federal workers throughout Pennsylvania's Capital Region volunteered their time at local nonprofits as part of the third annual Federal Day of Service. Defense Logistics Agency Distribution's commander, Army Brig. Gen. Richard Dix, along with local military and family members volunteered their time at the West Shore Senior Center, distributing food and other necessities to those less fortunate.



DLA Distribution commander Army Brig. Gen. Richard Dix (back row, third from left) stands with other volunteers at the West Shore Senior Center during the 2015 Federal Day of Service on Oct. 16.

United Way of the Capital Region matched volunteers with projects such as painting, landscaping, sorting donations, stocking food pantry shelves and general clean-up. One group spent the day hosting an apple festival for residents at a local nursing home.

Defense Distribution Center Susquehanna volunteers included Dix, DLA Distribution headquarters employees, DLA Distribution Susquehanna employees, and several members of the Army Rigger's unit assigned to the distribution center. Several of the volunteers plan to continue assisting at the senior center in the months to come.

The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. Inaugural Golf Outing

The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. held its Inaugural Golf Outing on Friday, October 23, 2015. Here are several photos from the event.



Golf outing volunteers (L to R): Mr. Dan Daddario, BG(R) Earl Simms, COL(R) Lucretia McClenney, COL(R) Dorene Hurt & MG(R) George Alexander



Volunteers in Action



Making money on Mulligans!!



National Anthem honors to our Nation



ROCKS Chairman Greets Golfers



.....And they are off!!!!



Wounded Warrior with companion off to the links!



Mr. Tommy Walker & his team looking great!!

MORE CANDID SHOTS OF THE EVENT



L to R: Mr. Ken Gant, Mr. Rex Allen, BG(R) Clara Adams-Ender, Mr. Charles Davis & Mrs. Geri Allen





**PLANS FOR THE 2ND ANNUAL
GOLF OUTING HAVE BEGUN.
OCTOBER 2016
STAY TUNED!!!**



Request for Nominations ROCK of the Year & Honorary ROCK of the Year



BG Simms, Chairman of the ROCKS, Inc. presents the 2014 ROCK of the Year award to GEN Vincent Brooks

We are now accepting nominations for ROCK and Honorary ROCK of the Year. The deadline for nominations is **Monday, January 4, 2016 (no exceptions)**. Nominations must be submitted by a previous ROCK of the Year awardee or an active ROCKS Chapter.

The ROCK of the Year Award nominee is a member of the ROCKS who has made great contributions to the ROCKS, the Armed Services and the communities in which he or she served.

The Honorary ROCK of the Year is presented to an individual who has supported ROCKS members in their careers and advanced the goals of The ROCKS, Inc. to strengthen the military officer corps.

Narratives for nominations should be no more than 1 ½ pages. Nomination packets must be submitted to The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc., Attention: ROCK of the Year Committee, c/o WSC Associates, PO Box 47435, Forestville, MD 20753 or by email to therocks@aol.com.

Packets must arrive at ROCKS National Headquarters by **Monday, January 4, 2016**.

Should you have any questions, please contact the ROCKS office at 301-856-9319 or therocks@aol.com.

Arthur Gregg
LTG USA (Ret)
Chair, 2016 ROCK of the Year Committee

Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings. William Arthur Ward

Request for Nominations Colonel Robert B. Burke Award



BG Simms, Chairman of The ROCKS, Inc. presents the 2014 Colonel Robert B. Burke Award to LTC Clyde Prichard-Brown

The Colonel Robert B. Burke Award Committee is seeking nominees for the 2016 Colonel Robert B. Burke Award. Nominations must be submitted by a previous Robert B. Burke awardee or an active ROCKS Chapter.

The award is bestowed upon members of The ROCKS, Incorporated whose contributions and achievement to the organization exemplifies the traits and characters embodied in the service of the late Colonel (Retired) Robert "Bobby" B. Burke. Colonel Burke served for 22 years before retiring at the rank of Colonel. He was a bright, affable person with an ever-present smile on his face, and he had an infectious personality that made people want to be in his company. If a problem needed solving, Colonel Burke always seemed to have a solution. Whenever someone needed help, be it concerning a job, friendly advice, or whatever, he was always there to lend a hand. He served as the catalyst, initiator, ultimate support pillar, and the inspiration to make the right things happen for the greater good.

Chapter nominations must be submitted no later than **Monday, January 4, 2016 (no exceptions)**. Nomination packets must be submitted to The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc., Attention: Colonel Robert B. Burke Award Committee, c/o WSC Associates, PO Box 47435, Forestville, MD 20753 or by email to therocks@aol.com.

Natasha S. Clarke
MAJ, USA
Chair, 2016 Robert B. Burke Committee



Notes from the Mentorship Corner

By Austin D. Bell III, VP, Mentorship,

Mentoring versus Coaching

Mentoring and coaching as concepts erroneously are often used interchangeably. However, they are not the same because each serves a different purpose and follow different paths to professional officer/DA Civilian development. A failure to understand the differences between mentoring and coaching can lead to disappointed results, particular as related to carrying out effective mentorship. Since mentorship is one of the cornerstone principles upon which ROCKS, Inc. was founded and due to the codifying of this principle in the ROCKS, Inc. Mentorship Program, it's important to delineate the differences between the two concepts, so as to ensure mentors adhere to the mentorship characteristics during mentoring sessions with mentees.

It should be noted that though mentoring and coaching are distinct, they do share common elements which can lead to confusion. From a broad perspective, it's the difference in emphasis and outcomes that creates the distinction between the two. **Mentoring** is designed to promote professional development by linking a mentee to a mentor who will focus on overall development of that mentee. **Mentoring is transformational** and involves much more than simply acquiring a specific skill or knowledge. **Mentoring** is about a relationship and involves both the professional and the personal. **Mentoring** is closely akin to counseling but in its fullest application is much more. **Coaching** is designed to provide an individual with a content expert who works with that individual in assuring that he/she learns a particular skill or piece of knowledge. **Coaching is about skills and knowledge acquisition.**

Although it may involve the personal, the primary focus is professional. In many ways, **coaching** is akin to teaching.

To further illustrate the differences between mentoring and coaching please review the chart below. Please refer all questions and queries pertaining to the ROCKS, Inc. Mentorship Program to the VP, Mentorship.

Difference Between Mentoring And Coaching

Mentoring

- Mentors provide guidance focused on professional or personal growth
- Mentors assigned have greater experience than mentees
- Mentors interact on a personal level with mentees
- Mentors leverage experience to guide mentees
- Mentees provide personal commitment to career choices/intent to improve
- Mentorship experience is voluntary & initiated by either mentor or mentee

Coaching

- Coaches guide learning or improvement skills
- Coaches have special knowledge not resident within individuals assigned
- Coaches interact with individuals during practice or performance events
- Coaches observe performance and provide guidance to individuals
- Individuals' behaviors identified for improvement to achieve higher performance levels
- Coaching may be required or voluntary and initiated during training or performance events

News from (Y)our Membership Development Team

By COL Eric P. Flowers, USA



Please ponder this- *we all have to do all that we have to do...*

For some that means providing some type of service, for others it means providing some type of care or public good. For leaders, it means constantly seeking and taking advantage of opportunities to lead. The ROCKS always has been, and always will be, a vehicle to accommodate this fact of life. As time passes, we frequently realize, the opportunities basically remain the same; what changes (with certainty) are the people who stand at the thresholds of those leadership opportunities and what they do (or fail to do) when so confronted.

In our profession, the most seasoned and consequential leaders are found at the upper levels of our rank structure. Regardless the setting, the Lieutenant Colonels and Colonels are our Service's driving forces. This should hold true for the ROCKS as well. This assertion does not mean that those in the other ranks should refrain from seeking out and assuming prominent leadership roles in our chapters. Such initiative is refreshing, reassuring and inspirational. Notwithstanding the benefits from such situations, the earlier statement simply advocates the notion that a healthy dose of consistent, senior field grade leadership is both desired and necessary for the effective and continued evolution of our organization. Bottom line is that we want and need our colonels.

We want/need our colonels to be present... to lead... to coach... to be visible. The nature of the ROCKS-colonel relationship should be akin to Elton John's "Circle of Life" lyrics that assert, "You should never take more than you give." For the idealists, this line is a figurative suggestion that- in ROCKS- the membership development process for 2LTs to MAJs is best defined as receiving; whereas, for LTCs and COLs, it transforms itself into an existence of giving. Staying with the song's implications, the membership development process for LTCs and COLs should be fueled and sustained by

an insatiable impetus to be in the mix when it comes to ROCKS' activities and functions; from the mundane to the elaborate. Our colonels need to be there when it comes to (at a minimum): planning out the program year; constructing after action reports; drafting committee reports, and; executing effective and meaningful meetings. From this short list, it should be easy to surmise that a colonel's work is never done. As a matter of fact, one could justifiably contend that when an officer reaches that LTC/COL level, the work (in ROCKS) is really just starting to begin.

Subsequently, as we fashion ourselves to be premier leaders in our profession, the membership development philosophy expressed earlier should be visibly evident among our membership. Given this baseline, are you upholding your end of the bargain (or what is implicitly expected of you)? Please give it some thought between now and the next ROCKS activity going on in your area and take actions according to your conscience, and personal convictions on: teamwork; commitment, and; leadership. And in the interim, always remember to...

Be the Standard!



ROCKS, Inc. Unified 2015 Veterans Day Special Acts

Veterans Day 2015. Calling ALL ROCKS TO SERVE! As has been our custom during the last few years, we want to have a unified ROCKS, Inc. effort, by all Chapters & Interest Groups or individual ROCKS to extend your service individually or collectively in support of veterans on Wednesday, November 11th. PLEASE OUTREACH TO OUR VETS. No selfless act is too small and all are appreciated. Please submit captioned photos and a brief narrative of your activities for publishing in the December 2015 ROCKET. Let's make a difference that counts in a Vets life. Thanks for your support!!

CADET CORNER

Spartan Battalion Represent BOLC #15-10 Graduation

Submitted by LTC Derrick Gilbert

While on TDY at FT Lee, I had the honor of attending the Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC) graduation Thursday, 8 Oct 15. All three LTs in the pictures are graduates of the Spartan Battalion from Norfolk State University who have follow on active duty assignments.



From left to right in pics: LT Perry, LT Peralta, and LT Burton.

Bison Battalion is Honored at AUSA Luncheon

*Submitted by Cadet Jacob Bennett, MSIV
Cadet Battalion Commander*



Cadet Bennett receives Community Service Award on behalf of Howard University's Bison Battalion during the AUSA Luncheon

ON Oct 13, 2015 I had the opportunity to attend the AUSA Luncheon here in Washington D.C. I had a great experience during my time at the luncheon because I was able to meet a lot of important officers and make new friends in the Army from all across the country. When I first arrived at the luncheon, I was surprised to see so many cadets and officers not only from across the nation but also across the country.

Being at the luncheon made me realize how strong the bond is in the Army because within the short amount of time I was there, I was able to receive many business cards and contact information from General officers, Colonels, and even some cadets.



Bison Battalion cadets and General Brooks just after his speech on Learning, Listening and Leading.

During the luncheon, I was fortunate enough to hear a speech from General Vincent K. Brooks, who is the first African American West Point cadet Brigade Commander. During his speech, what resonated with me most was how he told us that in order to be successful we have to follow the three L's which are Listen, Lead and Learn. This sat with me the most because General Brooks has faced some adversity throughout his career and he is also a successful black Army officer which is what I strive to emulate. So it is my desire to apply those three L's to every facet of my career as an Army officer.

A highlight of the luncheon was when I was able to speak with the legendary coach of the 1971 TC Williams High School football team, Herman Boone. This great man was depicted by Denzel Washington in the movie *"Remember the Titans"* where he led the first integrated football team in Alexandria, Virginia to an undefeated season and state title. He was also able to mentor young men from different backgrounds to set aside their ethnic differences to achieve a common goal...victory. I drew a parallel to the purpose of our ROTC program in developing cadets from different walks of life into leaders of tomorrow to lead in a complex environment during a time of uncertainty.

Although the afternoon was filled with highlights, one of the most gratifying moments of the day was when the Bison Battalion was publicly recognized for our efforts in supporting the local community and I received the Outstanding Community Service Award on behalf of the cadre and cadets of the Bison Battalion. This was the biggest highlight of the day for me because it signified all of the work our program does throughout the year and we were recognized for it in front of many distinguished officers and also in front of our fellow cadets from other programs. I feel as though the acknowledgement placed a positive spotlight on the program

and reaffirmed that the Bison Battalion stands for serving others through truth in service.



Coach Herman Boone poses with Cadets Thompson, Williams, Young and Bennett (L-R)

This was my first time attending the AUSA luncheon and I truly enjoyed the events of the day and being able to meet so many new people in order to set myself up for a successful future was a remarkable experience.



LTC Crede Lyons, Professor of Military Science at Howard University, LTG Ferrell, Army CIO and Bison Battalion Cadets share a table at the AUSA Luncheon.

Bison Battalion Cadets Attend AUSA Luncheon

*Submitted by Cadet Stanford Carter, MSIV
Cadet S3 Plans Officer*

As graduation and commissioning continues to inch closer, the need for professional organizations becomes more and more relevant. Especially those like the Association of the United States Army that provide numerous professional developmental opportunities at a variety of events throughout the school year. It is always great to be able to attend such events like the AUSA ROTC luncheon, which was held as part of the annual meeting and expo on October 12, 2015 at the Marquis Marriott in downtown Washington D.C.



From left to right: Major General (Ret) Bob Gaskill, Dr. Bernard Mair, Howard University Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Major General (Ret) George Alexander, M.D. join LTC Crede Lyons, Howard University PMS and CPT Glen Brown, Asst PMS (center), following them receiving major awards from the ROCKS Wash. DC Chapter at the Annual West Hamilton dinner on 24 Oct.

For me it was great to be in the same room with many of the high ranking Army Officers that were present, as well as high ranking professionals from the civilian sector. Having been accessed Army National Guard, I truly appreciated the opportunity the venue provided to speak with as many professionals as I did and obtain contact information for possible follow-up conversations and assistance in both my Army and professional civilian careers.

It was also gratifying to witness some of the great things that cadets from across the country are doing at their home station schools both academically and within ROTC. It's always good to see my competition so that I can take stock in seeing how I stack up.

The most rewarding part of attending the luncheon was when I had the privilege to witness the Bison Battalion receive the Community Service Award. This award speaks to the Character and Selfless Service of the Cadre and Cadets of the Howard University ROTC Battalion. None of the community service that is performed by the Battalion will be able to help us in our professional careers. The service doesn't count towards accessions points and we won't get paid for our voluntary service to the community. As a member of our outstanding organization, it brings me pride and honor to be a part of something greater than myself.

We simply volunteer our time to the community because it's the right thing to do. Overall I enjoyed the event and I am glad I attended. As General Brooks highlighted in his speech and General Combs echoed, this event helped to remind me to Listen and Learn so that I can become one of the influential figures that Leads the Army and civilian sector into the future.

ROCKS ON THE MOVE

Russell Pins on Star at Fort Lee

Submitted by COL (RET) Dorene Hurt



Gen Via administering the Oath of Office to BG Michel Russell, Sr. during the Aug 4, 2015 Promotion ceremony at Ft Lee, Va.

In front of a standing room only audience which was peppered by numerous ROCKS there to support him, COL Michel Russell, Sr. was promoted to Brigadier General by Army Materiel Commander, General Dennis Via in Ft. Lee's Wylie Hall.

Exactly two months earlier on June 4th, Russell assumed Command as Chief of Transportation from BG John P. Sullivan in a ceremony hosted by Major General Stephen R. Lyons, the then-Commanding General United States Army Combined Arms Support Command and Fort Lee.

Highlights of his career, which were printed in its entirety in the Summer Rocket include: enlisting in the U. S. Army Reserves in 1983 as a field artilleryman; graduating in 1987 from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York; being commissioned as a 2LT from Fordham University ROTC as a Distinguished Military Graduate; being detailed to the Ordnance Corps in 1991; multiple positions in Task Force XXI Test Team in the 2nd Armored Division, the 4th Infantry Division, and OPTEC; Support Operations Officer and Executive Officer, 47th Forward Support Battalion, 2BCT, 1st Armored Division during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) I; Battalion Commander of the same unit during OIF VIII; and Brigade Commander, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, Bagram, Afghanistan during OEF XI-XII.

BG Russell is a graduate of the Combined Arms Services Staff School, the Marine Corps Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

BG Russell is married to Sieglinde. They are the proud parents of two sons, Michel Jr. and Nicholas.



Promotion reception in Wylie Hall on Fort Lee with GEN Via, BG Russell, wife Sieglinde, mother, Nancy and father, Michel

Wrancher Promoted, Serves as Combined Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve Command Inspector General

Submitted by COL(R) Dorene Hurt



LTG David E. Quantock, The Inspector General (TIG) of the US Army, grandsons, Xalen and Adonis look on as COL Wrancher's son, Xavier places the right Colonel shoulder board."

Directly following the US Army Inspector General School graduation ceremony on 31 July 2015 Karen M. Wrancher was promoted to the rank of Colonel by LTG David E. Quantock, The Inspector General of the Army. In front of classmates, her sisters, her son, grandsons, family and friends traveling from as far as North Carolina, South Carolina and even Florida she was promoted Colonel.

LTG David E. Quantock made a few comments on then LTC Wrancher's service through the years: entering the Army as a PFC and serving as paralegal in the 82nd Airborne Division. She was commissioned through OCS and served as Rigger Platoon Leader in the 82nd Airborne Division. Over the years she has served at different command levels; Company Command in the 1st Infantry Division and battalion command in the 1st Armored Division.

COL Michael Black, the legal advisor to LTG Quantock and the officer, COL Wrancher worked for as a Private First Class in the 82nd Airborne Division Legal Assistance Office presented her with her beret. The 49th Quartermaster General, MG(R) Hawthorne "Peet" L. Proctor administered her oath of office.

After completing her deployment training COL Wrancher was sworn in by LTG Sean B. MacFarland, the Commanding General of III Corps and Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve to serve as his Command Inspector General at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.



LTG Sean MacFarland, Commanding General of III Corps and Combined Joint Task Force Operation Inherent Resolve swears in COL Wrancher as his Command Inspector General.

As the Command IG she provides support for 3,600 Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Civilians, Contractors and Coalition Partners in a joint environment. In addition the IG section, her Team conducts assistance inquiries, IG investigations or investigative inquiries as directed, and provides teaching and training to leaders at all echelons to enhance the command's readiness and war fighting capability. COL Wrancher serves as an extension of the eye, ears and conscience of the Commanding General to provide him with an impartial assessment of programs and service within the CJTF-OIR (CJTF-OIR) area of operations in order to enhance mission readiness.

There's something which impels us to show our inner souls. The more courageous we are, the more we succeed in explaining what we know. -- Maya Angelou

2009 BOBBY BURKE AWARDEE & LOYAL ROCK PINS ON EAGLES

Submitted by COL Dorene Hurt, USA (Ret)



COL Carrington his mother LUELLA CARRINGTON & his wife Davina pin on his eagles

Before a standing room only crowd of friends, family, and colleagues, Rocks Lifemember and 2009 Bobby Burke awardee LTC Cedric Carrington was promoted to the rank of Colonel on 18 Sept. at MacDill AFB, FL. The promotion ceremony was officiated by fellow ROCK Brigadier General Charles Hamilton.

Colonel Carrington assumed the USSOCOM J35 Plans Branch Chief position after successfully commanding 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, at Ft Bragg, NC. Hailing from Tampa, Florida, Carrington attended Florida A&M University where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science and was commissioned as a distinguished military graduate Infantry Officer before entering active duty at Ft Benning, GA.

Carrington's initial tactical assignment was with 1st Bn, 503rd Infantry (Air Assault), 2nd Infantry Division, Korea from May 95- May 96 where he served as a Heavy Weapons Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer. From May 96 - March 98 he served as a Rifle Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer in the 3rd US Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) at Ft Myer, VA. In March 98 he was selected to serve as Aide-de-Camp to the Installation Commanding General and First Army East Deputy Commander at Ft Meade, MD. Carrington next served at Fort Bragg, NC, in the 82nd Airborne Division. In September 1999, he served as the Division's Assault Command Post OIC and in September 2000, Carrington was reassigned to 1st Brigade, (504th Parachute Infantry Regiment (PIR)) where he served as the Brigade Training Officer. In August 2001, Carrington assumed command of Alpha Company, 1st Bn, 504th PIR and deployed to Afghanistan in support of OEF. In May 2003, upon redeploying from OEF, Carrington was reassigned to Human Resources Command (HRC) in Alexandria, VA and served as a Selection Board Recorder in the DA Secretariat. In June

2004, he was selected to serve as Aide-de-Camp to the HRC Commanding General.

In 2006, he was re-assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division, where he served as the Operations Officer for 3rd Squadron, 73d Cavalry Regiment and deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). From December 08 - September 10, Carrington was assigned to the 75th Ranger Regiment as the Senior Liaison Officer to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) and deployed to Afghanistan (OEF). In September 2010, Carrington assumed command of 1st Bn, 508th PIR and deployed to Afghanistan (OEF).



COL CARRINGTON with his wife, mother, brothers and a host of proud family and friends after the promotion ceremony.

Carrington's operational and training deployments include multiple deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq the Joint Readiness and the National Training Centers. Carrington attended Command and Staff College at Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA, where he earned a Master's Degree. He is a graduate of the Infantry Officer Basic, Advanced and Pre-Command Courses, Airborne School, Jumpmaster Course, Ranger Course, and Combined Arms Services Staff School (CAS3). He is authorized to wear the Expert and Combat Infantryman's Badges, the Ranger Tab, the Master Parachutist Badge, and the Irish, British, Chilean and Netherlands Parachute Badges. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Commendation Medal, Iraq and Afghanistan Campaign Medals, and Korea Defense Service Medal.

Carrington is a life member of several organizations to include the National Infantry Association; The ROCKs, Inc; 508th and 555th (Triple Nickel) Airborne Associations; Knights of Peter Claver; Hillsborough High School Alumni Association (Bronze Terrier); FAMU Army ROTC Alumni Association; FAMU Marching 100 Association, and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.. Most recently, Carrington was inducted into the 508th PIR's Hall of Fame as a Distinguished Member of the Regiment for his performance in combat as battalion commander. He is married to the former Davina McDowney (retired Lieutenant Colonel) of Colonial Beach, VA.

CHAPTER UPDATES

MG Darrell K. Williams Provides the Blackjack Standards to the All American ROCKS Chapter

Written by CPT Vivian Leavens

Who better to receive professional development from an officer who has stood the test of time? We are always told in order to get to where you want to go talk to the people who are where you want to be. MG Darrell Williams affording the All American Chapter of the ROCKS the rare opportunity to get that desired advice by conducting a Leader Development Program session on 23 July 2015 on Fort Bragg, NC. MG Williams is the Commanding General of the 1st Sustainment Command (Theater) at Fort Bragg, NC.



“Do your job! Do your job! and Do your job!” is a quote that surmises MG Williams’ message. While the officer population seeks to find the tools to get a strong evaluation, get selected for CGSC, get promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, the bottom line is to do your job and do it well. MG Williams advised to not worry about the career progression piece. This may be a new concept for some officers to accept as the culture is to absolutely worry about the performance, your evaluation, and how others see you. Though MG Williams’ advice may be foreign, the words of the All American ROCKS chapter advisor, MG (Ret) Anderson echo, “Strive for excellence. In everything you do, excellence should be the standard.” Strive for excellence and the evaluation that makes you competitive amongst your peers will follow. MG

Williams continued by explaining to the audience to be indispensable to your organization. That is the level of excellence that is required of officers who want to succeed in this profession.

MG Williams also shared invaluable advice about taking care of Soldiers and families. He stated, “Take care of soldiers and families and the mission will happen. If you don’t focus on taking care of Soldiers, your unit will be eaten up by SHARP complaints, accident investigations, and suicidal ideations. Your real task is to take care of people and I guarantee the mission will happen.”



“There’s a misconception surrounding mentorship. Mentorship from afar is key, in other words good officers are mentoring by their example.” The most poignant statement made on the topic was “Are you mentor-able?” MG Williams asked the group, rhetorical of course, “Are you going to receive 3 hours of mentorship, then go to the club and get in trouble?” You are an officer and a leader 24/7. There is no off duty. Live the Army Values and don’t place yourself in a position to have your character called into question. This applies to situations when you were at the proverbial, “wrong place at the wrong time.” MG Williams wants to know, “Why were you there in the first place?” The audience in the Fort Bragg Conference Center heard that warning loud and clear.

MG Williams dropped so many jewels of wisdom on the All American ROCKS chapter to count. Establish a consistent relationship with your boss, establish rapport, ask for counseling, gain a reputation for doing your job, know your career path for your specialty, and most important maintain proper family and career balance. The audience listened as MG Williams warned us of the cautionary tale, “uncertain circumstances may not turn in your favor. For your sake of your family, always have a Plan B.”

The All-American chapter is forever grateful for MG Williams’ words of wisdom and guidance. The question is will the officers take the advice and wisdom from MG Williams, an officer who is where we want to be!

***I work very hard, and I play very hard. I'm grateful for life.
And I live it - I believe life loves the liver of it. I live it. --
Maya Angelo***

Hampton Roads Mentoring Organizations Joint Cookout

Submitted by LTC (Ret) Charles "Chuck" Holden



The Hampton Roads area Mentoring Organizations hosted their 9th Annual Joint Cookout at Bethel Park in Hampton, Virginia on 22 August 2015 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Participating organizations included the Urban League of Hampton Roads (ULHR), Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. - Tidewater Chapter, Hampton Roads Chapter of the Rocks, Inc., National Naval Officers Association (NNOA), Department of Veterans Affairs (DVS), Montford Point Marines Association, Transforming Lives & Restoring Hope, Inc, and My Help / My Hope Inc.. These organizations share the same or similar missions of developing young cadets/leaders through mentorship, training, and networking.

The format for the Joint Cookout was changed from a catered event to a potluck. Approximately 100 people attended this year's Joint Cookout which was the largest attendance in the nine years of the event history.



The above photo shows some attendees socializing and others in the meal serving line

The Joint Cookout event was started by Hampton Roads Chapter (HRC) ROCKS Inc. nine years ago primarily as a family event and to promote networking between members of the Army, Air Force, and Navy. The intent of the networking opportunity was to foster a better understanding of the Services and to determine how best to leverage mentoring opportunities in the greater HRC. The Joint Cookout continues to be a family event for mentoring organizations but has grown into a broader professional forum where the rich heritage of these organizations as well as military and community mentoring contributions are shared. Over the years the Joint Cookout has grown from three to eight organizations who share common or similar mentoring and networking goals. Responsibility for planning and

coordinating the Joint Cookout rotates annually between organizations.



The above photo shows Rocks member, US Air Force COL (Ret.) Debra J. Carroll, serving Rocks member, Navy LCDR (Ret.) Tommy Johnson

The HRC Rocks chaired the planning and coordination for this year's Joint Cookout. Organization representatives on the planning committee included Urban League of Hampton Roads (ULHR): COL (Ret.) Michele Hammond; Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. - Tidewater Chapter: Mr. Bill Burrell; Hampton Roads Chapter of the Rocks, Inc.: LTC (Ret.) Chuck Holden; National Naval Officers Association (NNOA): LT Julius Fears; Department of Veterans Affairs (DVS): Ms. LaShanda Standifer; Montford Point Marines Association: Mr. Curt Clarke; Transforming Lives & Restoring Hope, Inc: Ms Stephanie Credle; and My Help / My Hope Inc.: Ms Catherine Staton. The Joint Cookout began promptly at 2 pm at Pavilion 5 at 123 Saunders Road, Hampton, VA.

LTC (Ret.) Chuck Holden provided the welcome, purpose of the event and sequence of activities for the afternoon followed by the invocation by Pastor (Ret.) Bill Burrell from the Tidewater Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Organization presidents or their designated representatives provided a brief summary of the organization's mission, objectives, programs and activities. The information provided by the organizations was well received by all in attendance.

Following organization speeches, there was no delay in forming the food line. The Joint Cookout Dinner consisted of pulled port, fried and jerk chicken, hamburgers, green beans, several varieties of pasta and green salads, casseroles, baked beans, banana pudding, peach cobbler, assorted cakes to include pineapple upside down cake, and assorted drinks.

After dinner, LTC (Ret.) Chuck Holden conducted the raffle that included several gift cards to local restaurants. The raffle was followed by continued socializing and attendee visits to organization display tents to get additional information. Some of the attendees got busy competing with table top games and Horse Shoes, and Corn Hole which lasted until closing time.

This year's event was very successful. The approximately 100 people who attended had a great time networking and socializing. Next year's event is expected to be bigger and better.

than this year's event. Several other mentoring organizations has requested to participate into the Joint Cookout next year.



The above photo shows ROCKS member, COL Donald Edwards, speaking with Ms. LaShanda Standifer from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Article photographs by LTC (Ret.) Charles "Chuck" Holden

LTG Robert Ferrell & MAJ Thiel Present OPDs on "The Importance of ROCKS/Success" and "Networking"

Submitted by CPT Michelle Cutts

On August 20, 2015, the Aloha Chapter conducted an Officer Professional Development event lead by General Brooks' Aide-de-Camp, MAJ Josh Thiel on Networking. "It was a great honor to speak and brainstorm the concept of "networking" with ROCKS because I value diversity – diversity is a core strength of the Nation, the Army, Combined Arms and Joint Concepts," stated MAJ Thiel. His presentation used a Joint Special Operations experience in Afghanistan as a vignette to identify the best networking TTPs, opportunities, and framework to chart your network tied to capabilities and resources. We also discussed networking based on three key concepts or themes – Leadership in Networking, Network for Mission, and Network Sustainment.



Clockwise: MAJ Thiel (standing), CPT Cutts, LTC Smith, MAJ Smith, CPT Fong, CPT Wheeler, CW3 Tumlin, MAJ Byron, MAJ Kerns

On September 15, 2015, we had the pleasure of meeting with the LTG Ferrell, the Army G6/Chief Information Officer

(CIO) during his attendance to Signal Week. He spoke about the importance of the ROCKS, Inc and how he wouldn't be where he is currently if it wasn't for the mentorship he gained throughout his career. "ROCKS, Inc. is all about relationships, the ones you make in and out of uniform." He then spoke on "defining our own success," what that means for each individual, develop your goals in categories such as: 1. Education, 2. Job, 3. Finances, 4. Family, 5. Health, and 6. Faith. Each category should have a goal that you want to accomplish every 5-10 years. LTG Ferrell stated that his goal was that when people think of Signal they thought of him, and that was definitely accomplished.



(From left to right) Front row: CPT Harrell, LTC Lamb, LTC Walker, LTG Ferrell, CPT Cutts, CW4 Oliver, BG Brito, CPT Termil; Back row: CPT Poe, 1LT Johnson, MAJ McKenzie, COL Lightfoot, COL Roberson, COL Bray, COL Lawrence, LTC Miller

Washington DC Chapter Mentorship Committee host its first Mentorship Workshop

Submitted by LTC William Sellers



Group photo in attendance at the Mentorship Training Workshop

On April 11 2015, the Washington DC Chapter hosted its first mentorship training workshop for mentors and their mentees. The workshop's goal was to introduce participants to the Army Career Tracker (ACT), located on AKO and the ROCKS mentorship model located in the National ROCKS Mentorship

SOP. The workshop was open to both ROCKS members and non-members alike. LTC William Sellers, mentorship committee chairperson, led the training workshop with support from COL Jennifer Wesley and COL Eric Flowers. The guest speaker for this event was LTG (Ret) Gregg who graciously interacted with the guests sharing his experiences as a junior officer growing up in the ranks.

There was an ice breaker before the training workshop started which gave everyone a chance to introduce themselves and discuss their current assignments. During the ice breaker, 3x5 cards were passed around and each officer had to write three things down about themselves. The cards would then be passed to another officer who read the three bullets on the card to the audience. This was a great way to introduce each officer and learn interesting things about each other that they didn't already know.



LTG (R) Gregg speaking to Mentorship Training audience

COL Jennifer Wesley introduced LTG (R) Arthur Gregg as the guest speaker for the event. LTG (R) Gregg gave a detailed layout of his career path and the people who mentored him along the way. He shared numerous opportunities for achievement in each assignment and communication strategies with his mentors, raters and senior raters. In his message, he talked about how mentor and mentee relationships are formed, which is actually an informal relationship. After his message, he concluded with a question and answer session.



Audience at Mentorship Training Workshop

LTC William Sellers provided the audience with an overview of The ROCKS' mentoring program, inclusive of its goals and

objectives. Following the presentation, each mentor broke out into groups with their mentees and completed individual action plans and discussed their follow-on plans for the next 120-180 days. The Mentorship committee will do a follow up 120-180 days after the event to see how things are progressing and will continue to develop effective methodologies to promote meaningful mentoring activities in the chapter.

Hampton Roads Chapter Supports Hampton-Norfolk State "Battle of the Bay"

Written by LTC (Ret) John E. James Jr.

On September 26, 2015, the Hampton Roads Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc. conducted one of its premier mentorship outreach efforts for Senior ROTC cadets by supporting an annual competition between the ROTC departments of Norfolk State and Hampton Universities known as the "Battle of the Bay". The event was held on the campus of Norfolk State University and preceded the actual game between the two university football teams.



MG (Ret) Wallace Arnold motivates the cadets before the big game!

Before the "Battle of the Bay" football classic between these rival schools, the respective ROTC departments engaged in various activities. Normally the events are conducted on the football fields but since the weather forecast predicted rain all day the events took place in Echols Gymnasium. The marquee event was a basketball game between the schools' cadets. Prior to the game, the cadets participated in multiple events and mingled with one another and took advantage of networking opportunities by talking with ROCKS volunteers who came out to support the cause and interact with cadets.

The Hampton Roads Chapter advisor MG (Ret) Wallace Arnold participated in the opening ceremony by providing a motivational message to all the cadets. After the conclusion of the events, the Hampton Roads Chapter President MG (Ret) Frank Batts presented the "ROCKS Trophy" to The Norfolk State ROTC Program who has won the Battle of The Bay for

three straight years. The chapter helped sponsor lunch for all the cadets and cadre before the actual football game.



Hampton University Pirates during the competition!



Hampton Roads Chapter President MG (Ret) Frank Batts presents the "ROCKS Trophy" to the Norfolk State ROTC Program.

Dr. Jimmy Martin Leads a Professional Discussion on "What is Victory?"

Submitted by 1LT Chelsea Young



Left: CPT Alvin Cavalier; Dr. James Martin, Citadel Graduate and Clemson Department Chair of Civil Engineering, CPT Tanisha Currie

"What is victory?" On July 14, 2015, the All-American ROCKS Officers were truly captivated by the first three words spoken by guest speaker, Dr. James "Jimmy" Martin. The All-American ROCKS organization hosted Dr. Martin, a Citadel Graduate, Clemson's Glenn Department of Civil Engineering Chair, International Motivational Speaker, and Humanitarian at the familiar Sports USA facility on Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Together, everyone discovered that victory is truly life's battlefield which all begins with a personal choice. For some, victory means having the capacity to serve others or leaving a family legacy. For others, victory simply means having the freedom to fly the American flag.

Dr. Martin empowered the audience to learn that victory is ultimately measured by an individual's "total body of work" to include one's harvest among their families, careers, hobbies, and more. Moreover, Dr. Martin pointed out that in relation to the military community, a victorious leader should look, sound, walk, and talk like someone who has the mental strength to carry burdens for other people, take ownership over (both negative and positive) personal thoughts and in-turn illustrate the authority to effectively redirect negative energy. Lastly, a victorious leader is a person who is comfortable with being in uncomfortable circumstances and thrives. With vivid details, Dr. Martin continues to enable the Officers to connect with this notion of leadership by recognizing some of the past and current victorious pioneers such as former President of South Africa, Nelson Mandela. Dr. Martin illustrated how Nelson Mandela understood and

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**The ROCKS, Inc.
43rd Annual Spring Gala & Awards
Ceremony
Saturday, April 23, 2015**

**Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel
900 South Orme Street
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implemented the keys to healing and specialized in finding passion through giving. As Dr. Martin gracefully brought the discussion to a close and everyone began to return back to their place of duty, he left every Officer with the thought of action and self-reflection. Officers who attended this Officer Professional Development (OPD) with unknown expectations left the Sports USA facility with their heads held high; eager and daring to tackle their “impossible list”.

The All-American ROCKS Organization of Fort Bragg, North Carolina led by LTC Landis Maddox (President), CPT Alvin Cavalier (Vice-President), and CPT Tanisha Currie (VP of Administration) left a lasting impression on Officer Development with the invite of Dr. James Martin. The All-American ROCKS Chapter seeks to provide leadership enhancing opportunities for those who desire to learn and grow professionally and personally. In addition, Fort Bragg’s All-American ROCKS has been aggressive within the North Carolina surrounding community through outreach initiatives such as the Homeless Veteran Stand-down that is held yearly with the Veteran’s Association, a proud partner to The Great Oaks Boys Community Center whose mission is mentorship and scholastic excellence, staying physically fit for cause, and many other positive building of character and community projects. Lastly, the All-American ROCKS Organization of Fort Bragg, NC is always recruiting for great Officer talent to join the team.

For more information on the All-American ROCKS Organization of Fort Bragg, NC please feel to email CPT Alvin Cavalier at alvin.t.cavalier.mil@mail.mil.

I am BG West A. Hamilton; Who are you?

Submitted by COL Shelia Howell-Flowers

If you love education and sharing knowledge with others, you might be West A. Hamilton. If you enjoy helping people get to the next level in life, you might be West A. Hamilton. If you love serving your community and country, you might be West A. Hamilton. But if you love throwing down on some fried chicken, fried fish, potato salad, collard greens, black-eyed peas, macaroni and cheese, sweet potato pie and above all chitterlings, then you are West A. Hamilton.

For over forty years the Washington DC Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc. has hosted its Annual BG West A. Hamilton “Soul Food” Dinner and Silent Auction and this year was no different. On October 24, 2015, over 150 attendees came together to dine on some good ol’ soul food in honor of BG West A. Hamilton at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Springfield, VA. The following six DC Chapter members were recognized for outstanding volunteerism: LTC Kim McGhee; COL (R) Andre Barnes; CPT LaKeshia Pride; COL (R) Tommy Osborne; COL (R) Kenneth Younger, and; LTC (R) Ernest Jones. Additionally, COL Eric Hoggard, V. P. Operations, and COL Shelia Howell-Flowers, President, presented the DC

Chapter ROCK of the Year Award to LTC (R) Shawn Hawkins, the DC Chapter Jr. ROCK of the Year to CPT Glen Brown, the Bobby Burke Award to LTC Crede Lyons, and the Lifetime Achievement of Service Award to COL (R) Conrado Morgan. It was a “star lit” evening with seven General Officers in attendance: LTG (R) “Kip” Ward; LTG (R) Julius Becton; MG (R) George Alexander; MG (R) Byron Bagby, MG (R) Robert Gaskill, BG (R) Earl Simms, and BG Charles Hamilton. Several SES’ and the Army’s Senior Warrant Officer, CW5 David Williams, also attended.



DC ROCKS Chapter President, COL Sheila Howell-Flowers, presents the DC ROCKS Chapter Lifetime Achievement of Service Award to COL(R) Conrado Morgan

Like the earlier mentioned attendees, BG West Hamilton was a very active member of the ROCKS, Inc., and was a trailblazer for the advancement of African Americans in the Army. Simply put, he cared about the advancement of other people. He was a DC native and lover of education. After several years of teaching, he decided to enlist in the DC National Guard in February 1905. He quickly moved up the ranks and later went on to get commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in July 1913.

During his forty-four year career, he served as Professor of Military Science at Prairie View A & M, as well as Morgan State College. During WWI, he took assignments in both the United States and Europe. He later went on to command the 428th Infantry Regiment and the Citizen Military Training Corps at Fort Howard, Maryland. During WWII, he commanded the 366th Infantry Regiment at Fort Devens, Massachusetts.

Because of his many contributions to the advancement of African American Soldiers and his overall dedication to learning in the DC area, he earned his place in the hearts of those who came after him. In 1983, during the dedication of the West A. Hamilton Museum at the DC National Armory, he was promoted to the honorary rank of Brigadier General. The Annual West A. Hamilton Dinner is a treasured tradition that enables us to raise money for our scholarship fund and remind us of the spirit BG West A. Hamilton embodied and a

night to recognize those that share his love for selfless service to community and country.



COL Howell-Flowers presents the DC ROCKS Chapter ROCK of the Year Award to LTC(R) Shawn Hawkins



COL Howell-Flowers presents the DC ROCKS Chapter Jr. ROCKS of the Year Award to CPT Glen Brown



COL Howell-Flowers presents the DC ROCKS Chapter Colonel Robert B. Burke Award to LTC Crede Lyons

West Hamilton Dinner Photo Gallery



COL Kim McGhee served as the Mistress of Ceremonies



MG(R) Byron Bagby, COL(R) Monique Bagby, COL(R) Dorene Hurt & MG(R) George Alexander



COL & Mrs. Eric Hoggard



*COL Deborah Ellis, Mrs. Shaene Cook, MAJ Natasha Clarke,
CPT Janet Vaughn & LTC(R) Margaret Thomas*



CANDID SHOTS OF WHD GUESTS





**BG McCOLLUM speaks at
DC ROCKS Chapter Meeting**



Bodies in Motion

Submitted by COL Sheila Howell-Flowers

They came... they chanted... they ran!

For the twenty-second consecutive year, the Washington, D.C. chapter hosted its 5 mile run / 2 mile walk athletic event to raise monies for its scholarship fund. Community participants, chapter members and cadets from various ROTC programs from the DC / Maryland / Virginia areas descended on picturesque Burke Lake Park in Fairfax Station, Virginia for a day of competitive sport on the 19th of September.

The Chapter's event included 186 runners and walkers from the surrounding community and Army ROTC cadets from: Howard University, Morgan State, University of Maryland, Norfolk State, Bowie, James Madison, and George Mason. The participants ran/walked along the USA Track and Field Certified Course through scenic Burke Lake Park on an ideal September day for running.

After a morning of competitive interaction, the Chapter's leadership took advantage of the opportunity to gather the cadets and share a few words of appreciation and encouragement. The cadets took a knee under a clump of trees to hear words of inspiration from some of the chapter's distinguished retirees. LTG (R) Arthur Gregg, MG (R) Robert Gaskill and BG(R) Earl Simms (ROCKS, Inc. National Chairperson) thanked the cadets for their participation in the event, as well as their commitment to their respective ROTC programs. They encouraged them to strive for professionalism and excellence in all they do and shared their convictions that, as embodied in each of the cadets present, whether they go Active or Reserve, the Army's future was in good hands.

Overall, it was a great day for the chapter. The event not only provided a great networking opportunity between old and new friends and neighbors, it also met the financial goal established by the event's planners. In the words of a community member, this was the best ROCKS 5 miler that they had ever participated in throughout the years. These affirming words set the stage for an event next year that will surpass the success of this year's run/walk event!

As this event came to a successful end, the chapter was able to take comfort in knowing that the organization provided an opportunity for community members to train, under race conditions, in preparation for the area's fall race/marathon season, where many residents will compete in such events as the Army Ten Miller and the Marine Corps Marathon. The chapter can also take pride in its ability to create a venue where ROCKS members could interact with community members as well as embrace rising leaders of our Army.

The Chapter's hard working committee members and cadre of volunteers pulled off a grand event and has set the stage for follow-on activities that will ultimately make for a phenomenal year!



ROCKS Member Meets Maj Gen Trowell-Harris, USAF



Left to Right: Maj Gen Trowell-Harris, EdD (USAF Ret.), myself - CPT Sabrena C. Wells (USA) and COL Foster, PhD (USA, Ret.).

Maj Gen Irene Trowell-Harris was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the New York Air National Guard in April 1963. She enrolled in the Aerospace School of Medicine, Flight Nurse Branch, San Antonio, Texas and graduated as a flight nurse in February 1964. Her position required specialized training in the care of military personnel, their families and diplomats during national and international flights. She remained on flying status for 11 years, traveling all over the world.

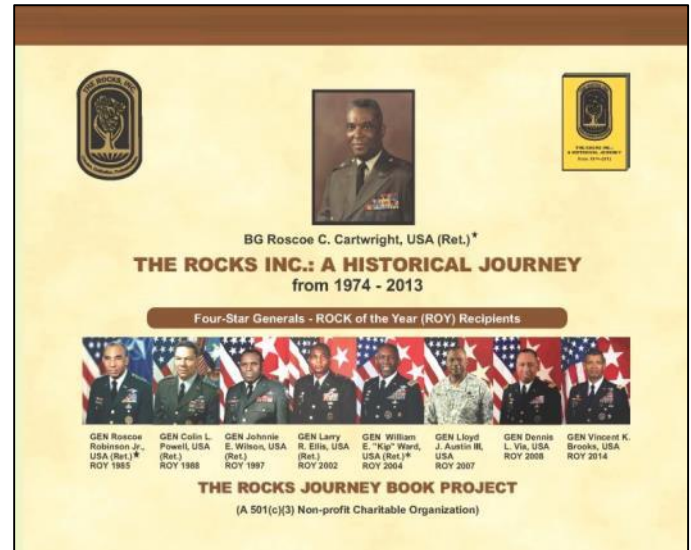
With numerous accomplishments to her credit; she is a recipient of the Air Force Distinguished Service and Legion of Merit awards. Dr. Trowell-Harris was the first African-American female in the 357-year history of the National Guard to be promoted to general officer. She is also the first to have a mentoring award named in her honor and to have a Tuskegee Airmen, Inc., Chapter named in her honor.

During my attendance at the 26th Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI) Research Congress in San Juan Puerto Rico I met Maj Gen Irene Trowell-Harris (USAF Retired).

STTI is a nursing honor society whose current president is from South Africa, in addition to research they address global health issues and nursing education.

Maj Gen Trowell-Harris' stellar career in the Air National Guard allowed for a perfect combination of her love for airplanes and her commitment to nursing. She served under several administrations in the Pentagon during her 38 years in service to the USAF/Air National Guard. <http://www.tai-ny.org/>.

CPT Sabrena C. Wells is a Clinical Staff Nurse at WRNNMC in the Medical ICU.



To All ROCKS' Members Your Support is Needed for The ROCKS Journey Book Project

We are in a "full court press" based upon the suggestion made by BG Von Richardson's request, made at the 2014 ROCKS Forum, that all (1,200) ROCK members pledge and contribute to making the Journey Book a success. The National Board accepted BG Richardson's recommendation and personalized emails and letters have gone out to all ROCK members and we ask that the below notice will be placed on all ROCKS website.

We need **your personal pledge and direct support** to help to get **all ROCK members** to pledge and make their payments in order to get the ROCKS Journey book published. The pledge can be made and paid in a one-time payment or by making a payment of \$10.00 per month for 12 consecutive months. One time payments can be made by check or credit card and partial payments, for your convenience, may be made by credit card. I and several other ROCK members have made their pledge and payment in a one-time payment of \$120.00. Now we need your direct help to get all ROCK members to do the same.

For those Rocks members that have made their Journey Book Project pledge and made their payment, thanks and please encourage other ROCK members to pledge. All chapters will benefit 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.

Your National Board Members Hard at Work

On October 23, 2015 during the Inaugural National ROCKS Golf Outing, while golfers were enjoying a great golf course, your National ROCKS Board Members volunteered their time to fold, stuff, seal and stamp letters requesting scholarship donations for the BG Cartwright and LTG Honor scholarship programs.

*Board Members pictured below (L to R):
COL(R) Anita Dixon, COL(R) Dorene Hurt
BG(R) Clara Adams-Ender and BG(R) Earl Simms.*



Profile from Warrant Officers' History: Chief Warrant Officer Five (Ret) James A. Jackson

Written by CW4 Farrell J. Chiles, USA, Ret.



Chief Warrant Officer Five James A. Jackson was inducted into the Ordnance Hall of Fame on 14 May 2014.

James A. Jackson was born in Greenback, Tennessee on January 21, 1946. His parents were William H. Jackson Jr. and Lelia T. Jackson. His siblings included four brothers – Matthew, Wilburn, Joseph, and Melvin, and three sisters – Annette, Erma, and Mary.

In June 1964, he voluntarily enlisted in the United States Army and completed Basic Training at Fort Gordon, Georgia. He was then assigned to the 504th Signal Company in Mannheim, Germany where he served as a Field Radio Repairman. In October 1980, Sergeant First Class Jackson received a direct appointment to Warrant Officer One as an Electronics Communication Technician and was assigned to the 327th Signal Battalion, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

From 2000 to 2003, Jackson was assigned to the United States Army Ordnance Munitions and Electronics Maintenance School (OMEMS), Redstone Arsenal, Alabama where he served in positions as the Chief of Administration and Operations Division and Chief, Warrant Officer Training Division. Jackson supervised the training of the Ordnance Corps annual course load for the Warrant Officer Basic Course for Ammunition Technicians, Electronic Systems Maintenance Technicians and Electronic Missile Maintenance Technicians and served as the Warrant Officer Senior training Advisor to the Director of Instruction and the brigade commander and staff.

Mr. Jackson's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit; Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal (5th award); Army Commendation Medal (7th award); Army Achievement Medal; Army Good Conduct Medal (5th award); National Defense Service Medal (3rd award); Southwest Asia Service Medal with Bronze Star (2nd award); Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Korean Defense Service Medal; Non Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (3rd award); Army Service Medal; Overseas Service Ribbon (10th award); Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal; Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia); and Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait).

Chief Warrant Officer Five Jackson culminated his career with his assignment to the 5th Signal Command's G4 Support Operations Division to support highly sensitive missions directed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and US Army Europe.

CW5 James Jackson retired on 1 March 2008 after serving over 43 years of continuous federal active service. He was the longest serving 918E Communications and Electronics Maintenance Technician in the history of the Army. He considers his most significant achievement was serving as the Chief of the Warrant Officer Training Division from January 2002 until January 2004 at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama.

Reflecting on his military career, Mr. Jackson said, “I entered the Army on 8 June 1964 and attended Basic Radio Repair School. It opened up a new world. It was the basis for the steps I would take to achieve what I am today. Today, I am a retired CW5 Senior Electronics Maintenance Technician, after serving 43 years, eight months, and 23 days of honorable military service”. Mr. Jackson is quoted as saying, “My motto is look like a Soldier, act like a Soldier, and perform like a Soldier. What you put in life is what you get out of it”.

CW5 Jackson currently resides in Whites Creek, Tennessee with his wife Joanne P. Jackson. They have two adult daughters – Denise Jackson Hill and Careasa Jackson Greer.

Mr. Jackson’s past time is restoring old automobiles. He has a 1970 Mustang; a 1953 Ford F100 truck; and a 1937 Chevrolet.

THE NATIONAL BOARD OF THE ROCKS, INC. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INFORMATION

Professors of Military Science,

Thank each of you individually and collectively for all you do for your respective ROTC Programs, your college/university campuses and, more importantly, America’s sons and daughters who benefit from your leadership and experience.

We ask you to encourage your top cadets to compete for one of our two awards/scholarships, LTG Edward Honor Leadership Award and the BG Roscoe Cartwright Award. The details for the submission of the application packets are contained in the attachments. Your personal letter of recommendation is a very important factor in our decision. Ask that you provide your personal touch to this document. Each application packet will include the following:

The completed application

A paper on any topic related to leadership or mentorship (one-page paper for the BG Cartwright Award, and two-page paper for the LTG Honor Award)

A one-page letter of recommendation from their Professor Military of Science

A photograph in ASU or ACU

NOTE: all four documents will be submitted in **ONE PDF file** and emailed to therocks@aol.com not later than **30 January 2016**.

If you have any questions, please call 571.332.3454.

Reuben Jones
Major General, US Army (Retired)
VP ROCKS (ROTC Programs)

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*LTG Arthur Gregg, USA (Ret) & LTG Julius Becton, USA (Ret)
are regular attendees at the ROCKS Annual
Leadership & Training Conference*

**The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc.
Annual Leadership & Training Conference
April 21-23, 2016**

**Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel
900 South Orme Street
Arlington, Virginia 22204**

REGISTRATION BEGINS JANUARY 2016

Federal Benefits

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors (2014 Online Edition) can be found at:
http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp.

The 2014 Editions are no longer being printed and can only be found Online.

This comprehensive sixteen (16) Chapter Online Edition provides information including Health Care Benefits, Service-connected Disabilities, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment, VA Pensions, Education and Training, Home Loan Guaranty, VA Life Insurance, Burial and Memorial

Benefits, Reserve and National Guard, Special Groups of Veterans, Transition Assistance, Dependents and Survivors Health Care, Dependents and Survivors Benefits, Appeals of VA Claims Decisions, Military Medals and Records, Benefits Provided by Other Federal Agencies, VA Facilities, as well as an Introduction and Acronyms.

You are strongly encouraged to go online and read this (2014) Online Edition of Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors. It is a wonderful resource and good information.

The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. Scholarship Programs

ROCKS Members,

We owe you a debt of gratitude for your generosity in supporting a number of The ROCKS Inc. programs. This is especially true of the RC Cartwright Foundation and the LTG Honor Leadership Fund. These programs recognize outstanding college students and young leaders from freshman to senior who excel in the classroom and ROTC programs. The future leaders of our Army and nation will come from this cohort. We are proud to report through your generosity since 2011 we have awarded more than \$170,000 in tuition assistance scholarships to 67 young men and women from 18 colleges and universities. (visit www.rocksync.org for the complete list of schools).

So we may continue this great work we once again seek your support for these two scholarships. Our goal this year is \$25,000. As you plan your 2015 tax exempt donation, please consider donating \$20 or more to the R.C. Cartwright Scholarship Foundation and/or the LTG Edward Honor Leadership Fund. Again, thank you for your continued support.



Additional Scholarship Information

From: NCBW-PWCC Andrews

Participants in the SMART Scholarship for Service Program will receive full tuition and education related fees (does not

include items such as meal plans, housing, or parking), a stipend paid at a rate of \$25,000 - \$38,000 depending on degree pursuing, access to summer research internships, mentoring, and other allowances and benefits including employment placement upon graduation.

Students pursuing degrees related to the following are encouraged to apply:

- Mechanical Engineering
- Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering
- Nuclear Engineering
- Oceanography
- Operations Research
- Physics
- Electrical Engineering
- Geosciences
- Industrial and Systems Engineering
- Information Sciences

Materials Science and Engineering (technical tracks only)

- Mathematics
- Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering
- Biosciences
- Chemical Engineering
- Chemistry (technical tracks only)
- Civil Engineering
- Cognitive, Neural, and Behavioral Sciences
- Computer and Computational Sciences

Eligibility Requirements:

All awardees must be; a U.S. citizen at time of application, 18 years of age or older as of August 1, 2016, able to participate in summer internships at DoD laboratories, willing to accept post-graduate employment with the DoD, a student in good standing with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale at the time of award and, pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree in one of the disciplines listed on the About SMART page.

Undergraduate applicants must be currently enrolled in a regionally accredited U.S. college or university and have a high school diploma/GED. Graduate applicants can be either currently enrolled in a regionally accredited U.S. college or university or awaiting notification of admission to such. If awaiting admission, you must be accepted for entrance in the fall 2016 term.

Application Deadline: December 1, 2015

How to Apply:

To Find Out More Information And Apply

<http://click.icptrack.com/icp/relay.php?r=81246613&msgid=372017&act=3491&c=1165043&destination=http%3A%2F%2Ftm.cf%2FL9>> to this highly competitive opportunity.

SUPPORT THE ROCKS, INC. 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).*

Get started with four easy steps.

1. Search for Your Next Hotel on www.StayFaster.com

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Choose any special rates you qualify for as well hotel quality and amenities.

3. Choose Your Room Type

Do you prefer queen or king sized beds? See every room type available.

4. [Create Your FREE Account](#), and Enter **ROCKS** as Your Promo Code

Hotel Information	Personal Information
Courtyard Arlington Crystal City/Reagan National Airport	Promo: ROCKS
Address: 2899 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202	*Email: you@yoursite.com
Check-in Date: Thu, Feb 26, 2015	Title:
Check-out Date: Fri, Feb 27, 2015	*First:
Guests: 2	

Enter your basic information with ROCKS as your promo code, continue booking, and confirm.

That's it! You're set.

Enjoy your stay and happy traveling.



Support our programs today!

Give online today at www.rocksync.org

**R.C. Cartwright Scholarship Fund
LTG Edward Honor Leadership Fund
The ROCKS Journey Book
ROCKS Operating Fund
2016 Leadership & Training Forum**



**Visit www.rocksync.org
Click on “Donations”**

**We appreciate your
continued support!**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CPT Rickey Blair USA
COL Carlene Blanding USA
LTC Zara Broadenax USA
COL Ulysses Brown Jr USA (Ret)
CPT Ronnie Bush USA
1LT Maxine Coleman USA
WO3 Aurelie Cook USA
COL Raymond Dingle USA
LTC Byron Dobson USA
CPT Sophia Estrada USA
MAJ Barry Farmer USA
COL Jeffrey Fletcher USA
LTC Alice Goodson USA (Ret)
WO4 Craig Hancock USA

COL Michael Harris USA (Ret)
LTC Joyce Hastie Craig USA (Ret)
COL Barbara Joyce USA (Ret)
CAPT Julian Kirk USA
CPT Tiffany Lewis USAR
LTC Roderick Life USAR
CDT Chase Mora USA
MAJ Jacob Naylor USA
2LT Mamie Nickelberry USA
MAJ Keith Pratt USA
COL Carl Ramsey USAR
WO4 Stephen Redmon USA (Ret)
MAJ Alethia Reynolds USA
2LT Brittney Saunders USA

2LT Elizabeth Schreck USA
LTC Bernard Snow USA
CPT Richard Spikes USA
COL Lawrence Stewart USA
CPT India Stover USA
MAJ Stassa Thomas ANG(Army)
CPT LeShawn Torrance USA
CPT Laurence Webb USA
MAJ John Williams USA
LTC Vernon Williams USA
CPT Kendall Williams USA
MAJ Agnita Williams USA
CPT LaShonda Wise USA
CPT Bill Zarwolo USA

Joined 07/24/2015-11/05/2015

The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. Online Membership Directory

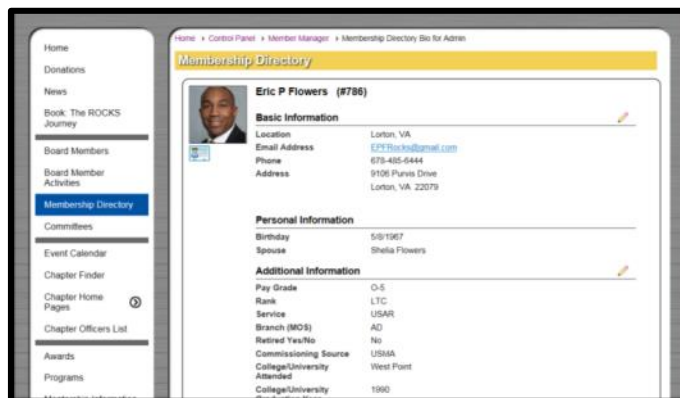
Do you need contact information for a ROCKS member? Do you want to find out if there are ROCKS in your area?

As a member of The ROCKS, Inc. you have access to the online membership directory. Just login at www.rocksync.org and click on "Membership Directory" and conduct a search.

If you have forgotten your login information, go to the website and click on "Forgot Password," follow the instructions, and a temporary password will be sent to the email that is on file.

Has your email, address, or phone number changed? Have you been promoted? Have you retired?

Please take a moment to log in and review your membership profile and update any discrepancies. It is important that we have accurate information on file in order to keep you "in the know." You may even add a photo ☺



THE ROCKS, INC. CHAPTERS

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