



The ROCKET

Fall/Winter Edition 2008

Chairperson Message

Many of you already know that LTG(R) Ed Honor died a few months ago. What a major loss not only to the ROCKS but to so many others whom he served and mentored! We are all better because of the rich legacy and high standards that he left for us to appreciate and emulate for years to come. He was particularly proud of the young officers that he selflessly spent so much time mentoring and generally encouraging. I'd like to personally thank, and extend the family's gratitude, to all those who provided outstanding support to Gen Honor's family and friends. My special thanks and sincere gratitude is extended to those who directly supported his Viewing and Interment.

As I reflect on the year 2008, I am so proud of what you have all accomplished during such a period of turmoil and stress on our nation as a whole. Those concerns are somewhat diminished as I consider the phenomenally historic nature of not only the election outcome, but the process itself. It would be very difficult to think of a time when so many Americans – *youth, first time voters, and the socially disenfranchised in particular* – were excited and engaged in our election process! Even the international community was fixated on the election and eager to know the outcome.

The challenges for 2009 are numerous and daunting, not only for the ROCKS, Inc., but for our entire nation. In the very near term, I will be providing my 2009 Vision to Chapters and Interests Groups and encourage your candid feedback. Several of my 2009 focus areas are: increasing and expansion of ROCKS, Inc. membership; leadership outreach to HBCUs; and making a software tool available to you which should enhance your ability to communicate not only in your Chapter/Interest Group, but also with a ROCKS, Inc., national database. It should serve as an enabler to help you become more efficient and effective in fulfilling administrative requirements.

Additionally, we are now in the period where we can truly "Make the Difference that Counts" by personally assisting young people in obtaining a 4-year Army ROTC scholarship. There is a tremendous pool of high school talent just waiting for you to help them and their parents/other family members understand why Army ROTC might be a great option for them. Please contact BG(R) Simms using the contact information in this

ROCKET, if you have any questions or need assistance. The March 2009 4-year ROTC scholarship application deadline is fast approaching!

We are very excited about the new *Cadet Corner* beginning with this edition. ROTC Cadets are now permitted to join the ROCKS, Inc., so it is clearly fitting that they, and their Cadre, have a voice in the ROCKET to share information and ideas that will allow us to enhance our leadership outreach activities in addition to serving as a conduit for early mentoring to these soon-to-be 2LTs. Many of you are already fully engaged in activities with ROTC units. We highly encourage Professors of Military Science, their Cadre, individual ROTC Cadets, and ROCKS, Inc., Chapters/Interest Groups to submit articles that you think would be of interest to the membership.

As many events, including the last two years of the election process have shown us, almost *anything* is possible if you believe in it, are willing to do the hard work necessary to accomplish your goals, and work as a team going in the same direction. Many of you have implemented incredibly creative and value-added programs with a very small dedicated core of members – *I COMMEND YOU*. I know that it will continue to be a challenge but please keep up the great work and share your achievements via the ROCKET and other communications avenues. The ROCKS Inc., National Board pledges our wholehearted support to do whatever we can do to facilitate your success, so please keep in touch and let us know how we can better support you!

BG Clara Adams-Ender USA (Ret)
Chairperson
National Board of the ROCKS, Inc.



National Board of the ROCKS, Incorporated

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Rocks, Inc., Mourn One of Its Founding Members



Lieutenant General Edward Honor, Sr. U.S. Army (Retired) died on September 3, 2008. General Edward Honor, son of the late Louis and Retha Honor, was born March 17, 1933 in Melville, Louisiana. He earned a bachelor's degree in Education from Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA; was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the

Transportation Corps and entered active duty in 1954. He attended Basic Courses at the Armor and Transportation Corps schools. He commanded at all levels during his 35-year career which culminated in an assignment as the Director, J-4, the Joint Staff, Washington, DC. His awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster. He retired from the Army in 1989.

After retirement, General Honor served as President of the National Defense Transportation Association (NDTA) for 13 years. During his tenure, the Association experienced a healthy growth pattern from 5,200 to 8,600 individual members and 67 to 221 corporate members. He retired from NDTA in 2002.

In 2007, he was honored with the United States Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM) by the designation of a special room in his name for his outstanding efforts in the establishment of the command.



General Honor was a beloved founding member of the ROCKS, Inc. He was uncommonly and unwaveringly committed to the ROCKS and worked diligently to advance the organization for decades. He was instrumental in the development of the founding documents that established the National Board; in personally assisting in the establishment of numerous chapters and interest groups; serving as Chairman of the National Board's Ways and Means Committee, Programs and Strategic Planning, and Chairman of the ROCKS National Conference Committee. He was named ROCK of the Year in 1990. General Honor had a deep passion for mentoring and is well known in the ROCKS, Inc., Transportation Corps, and throughout the Army for his efforts in mentoring young officers. A biography of his career entitled "Mentoring and Leading" was published by the US Army Transportation Center in 2003. General Honor was also a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Honorary Pall Bearers at his full military honors funeral at Arlington National Cemetery funeral were the Honorable Colin L. Powell, General Norman Schwartz, USAF, LTG N. Ross Thompson II, USA (Ret.), MG Isaac Smith, USA (Ret.), COL(P) Robert S. Ferrell, USA, COL Frank Francois, USA (Ret.), COL Emmett Sims, USA (Ret.), Mr. Edward James, and Mr. Marvin Whitehurst.



He is survived by his wife, Phyllis; his children; Edward Honor Jr., and Beverly Short, her husband, James V. Short; grandchildren: James V. Short II, Jennell Short and Jennifer Short; sisters: Willie Mae Gardiner and Dorothy Gabriel and her husband Harry; and a host of relatives and friends.



Stretch of Highway named for Three-Star General

*By Jasiri Whipper
The Post and Courier
w/Reprint permission*



Lt. Gen. Henry Doctor Jr. died last December.

The South Carolina Department of Transportation recently named a five-mile stretch of U.S. Highway 52 near Moncks Corner after retired Army Lt. Gen. Henry Doctor Jr.,

Doctor died in December at age 74 of kidney failure. Family members and friends recently celebrated his life and the dedication of the Lt. Gen. Henry Doctor Jr. Memorial Highway at Berkeley Middle School.

Doctor's daughter, Lori Williams of Centreville, Va., who was on hand to bring remarks at the program said, "the recognition was a great testimony to his life and legacy that he left for us."

Doctor was a native of the Oakley community near Moncks Corner. He was a 1954 graduate of South Carolina State College. The three-star general was the highest-ranking S.C. State military alumnus, according to the school officials.

After graduating, Doctor later would finish the Reserve Officer Training Corps program and was commissioned as a second lieutenant. He held a master's degree in counseling and psychological services from Georgia State University.

He retired as Inspector General of the U.S. Army at The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. After retirement, Doctor remained engaged as a mentor of soldiers and a supporter of the Department of Defense.

Doctor received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from S.C. State University and an honorary Doctor of Military Science degree from The Citadel. He was also a member of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity.

Doctor spent the better part of his career in Washington and lived in Centreville, Va., but came home frequently to help develop the plans for Military Magnet Academy in North Charleston, where he was a member of the Military Advisory Panel.

In an earlier interview, Elijah McCants of St. Stephen, his cousin by marriage, said Doctor was an intelligent man who

believed in strong work ethics. McCants said Doctor had a heart for people.

"When you spoke to him, he listened intently with a special smile," he said.

Granger Recognized as University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Distinguished Alumnus

*Submitted by LTC James Andrews,
XO to the Dep Dir, TMA*



MG Elder Granger (Center)

MG Elder Granger was recently recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus at the annual University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Distinguished Alumnus Award Ceremony in August. MG Granger is the deputy director for TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) and has a long history of setting high standards and leadership in the medical arena. Granger began his academic career at Arkansas State University, in Jonesboro, graduating in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in zoology and a minor in military science. This was the starting point of a career dedicated to medicine and service to the United States. Granger's undergraduate alma mater also awarded him the honor of distinguished alumnus for 2008. An award that was announced July 10.

In an effort to extend his services for Arkansas State University, Granger also participates in the Chancellor's Cabinet and is a founding member of the Beck PRIDE Center for America's Wounded Veterans National Advisory Council. Located within the College of Nursing and Health Professions, the center assists combat veterans with a centralized site for coordination of resources helping families achieve a successful post-war adjustment.

"Granger's dedication throughout his academic career is the same dedication we can see throughout his military career," said Dr. S. Ward Casscells, Assistant Secretary of Defense

for Health Affairs. "I am certain the University of Arkansas College for Medical Sciences decided to make him the distinguished alumnus because they can see he's a great doctor and leader." Casscells explained that Granger's service to TRICARE has been paramount in creating a successful team of health care professionals, providing the best possible medical treatment to families and members of TRICARE and setting the example for TRICARE employees to follow.

"If we can all look at who Gen. Granger is and pick one of his strengths to emulate, we will all improve ourselves greatly," said Casscells. "From starting his military career in internal medicine at Fitzsimons Army Medical Center in Aurora, Colo., to his achievements in Iraq, where dedicated service and saving lives earned him the Bronze Star, MG Granger has dedicated himself to saving lives and helping others," Casscells said. "It is the greatest honor to know he received the Distinguished Alumni Award for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and is a valued part of the TRICARE family."

ROTC Scholarship & R.C. Cartwright Scholarships

It's that time again time to get scholarship nominations in for that outstanding young lady or young man. There are ROTC 4-year scholarships waiting for qualified young people (see ROCKS website, www.rocksync.org, for details). Also available are General R.C. Cartwright scholarships for deserving ROTC cadet sophomores, juniors and seniors.

Suspense dates for ROTC 4-year scholarship applications into the ROCK is 24 Mar 09. R.C. Cartwright Scholarship applications are due NLT 18 Mar 09.

Contact POC: BG(R) Earl Simms
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The Military Diversity Event of the Year Stars and Stripes Military Dinner

Please come and join us in support of our Military during the Stars and Stripes Military Dinner. Top African American Admirals and Generals will be recognized for their outstanding contributions to our Nation. The event is part of the 23rd Annual Black Engineer of the Year Conference. The dinner will take place on Friday, February 20, 2009, 7 PM - 10 PM at the Hilton Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore Maryland. Point of contact for more information about the

event is BG (Ret.) Velma Richardson at velma.l.richardson@lmco.com. For more information about the Black Engineer of the Year event go to www.beya.org.

ROCKS Cadet Corner

As the ROCKS, Inc., has approved the membership of ROTC cadets, it is very fitting to include them in the ROCKET. The ROCKET's new "Cadet Corner" will highlight key accomplishments and activities in Army ROTC programs as well as feature cadets and their ROTC leadership. It will also convey what cadets view as important to them in addition to serving as a conduit to cadets and future mentors. This issue features the Howard University Army ROTC "Bisons" led by LTC Bobbie Williams, and also spotlights Cadet Jawaan Thomas. We encourage you to submit articles and information that you believe will be useful for developing cadets and supporting ROTC programs to strengthen our officers corps.

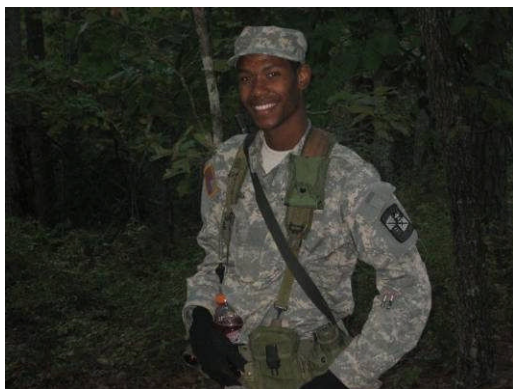
*Proudly submitted by C/CPT ROY MONTGOMERY,
Battalion S-5, Howard University*

The Howard University school year is only at its midpoint and Cadets of the Howard University Army ROTC "Bison Battalion" have already volunteered at a golf tournament, conducted 7 color guard events, hosted a JROTC drill competition, Alumni luncheon, and visited the Armed Forces Retirement Home for Veterans Day. Doubling in size, the Bison Battalion is on a glide path for success as they continue to give back during the 2008-2009 SY. Last year the Howard University "Bison" Battalion, a subchapter of the GW Chapter AUSA, paved the way for continued success. With less than 32 Cadets, they volunteered, contributed and participated in more events in the community than any ROTC unit in the nation. For the past two years the Fresno State "Bulldog" Battalion has won the most active company in the nation. In a surprising upset, the Howard University Bison prevailed as the winner during the 2008 Annual AUSA ROTC Luncheon. Since the summer of 2007, Bison Battalion Cadets have participated in so many events in support of the community that AUSA recognized their dedication and commitment. Events from SY 2007/2008 include: American Red Cross Blood Drive, more than 10 color guard events, delivering Christmas cards at the Armed Forces Retirement Home, and numerous other community and university events. The award was presented by MG Montague Winfield, Commander, US Army Cadet Command, and accepted by C/CSM Jasmyn Morgan, Vice President, ROTC Company 220193.

Ninety Years since its inception, the Bison Battalion is still going strong. This year the HU Army ROTC Battalion doubled its Cadet population despite an 18 month vacancy in

the Recruiting Operations Officer position. In the interest and well being of the organization, the Commander and Professor of Military Science (PMS) LTC Bobbie L. Williams Sr., rolled up his sleeves and single-handedly recruited 33 new prospective cadets. Adding additional responsibility is nothing new for Bison Faculty, Staff, and Cadet Leadership who live the ethic, "adapt, overcome and accomplish!"

Spotlight on Cadet Jawaan Thomas in his own words:



Why did you join ROTC and how has it benefitted you? What role does mentoring play in your development now and in the future?

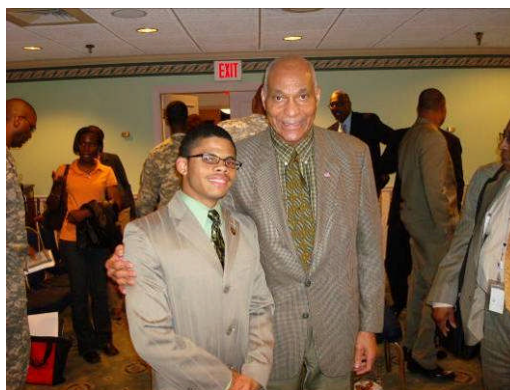
I was initially attracted to the Army ROTC program because of the benefits that came along in the package: unique experience, leadership skills, and tuition assistance. Beyond the basics, the amenities included becoming a proud member of the revered family known as the Bison Battalion. I have the opportunity to participate in an organization that is completely devoted to servicing the community, receiving a worthwhile education, and achieving maximum physical wellness. Meanwhile, we share the common goal of commissioning as officers into the greatest army in the world, which in turn renders me and my fellow comrades with an electrifying sense of unrestrained honor. I have benefitted because I have been granted the right to figuratively carve the insignia of the bison onto my heart and wear it with humble dignity.

Mentoring has a very significant role in my development as a cadet and a future physician in the medical corps. The cadre possesses a perpetual wealth of knowledge and experience that I draw upon constantly. I am comfortable with approaching them for advice on explaining military concepts, such as land navigation, or guiding me academically, such as with my struggles in organic chemistry. They take the time to counsel me on the core of my ethics, instilling the values that are necessary to be an exceptional officer. Also, the cadet staff makes themselves readily available to listen to my difficulties and helps me to make informed decisions.

Inadvertently, they provide stepping stones for a career path to excellence.

-Cadet Jawaan Thomas, Howard University "Bison" ROTC (Cadet Thomas hails from Newport News, VA)

Special Recognition for a Young Leader



John Craig-Lee with BG(R) George Price USA

John Craig-Lee is the oldest of three brothers. At the age of 7 years old, John Craig-Lee and his two brothers were abandoned by their parents who both had a drug problem. John at this very early age fought to keep his younger brothers together through various foster homes. In 1996 the boys were adopted by the Lee family which provided stability for the first time. In spite of the overwhelming challenges that John faced, he entered West Point in the Summer of 2008 and is presently doing well.

At a Washington DC Chapter of the ROCKS General Membership meeting, the President made John Craig-Lee an honorary ROCK member. Want to contact, encourage or support Cadet Craig-Lee? Cadet Craig-Lee can be reached at rev.deisel@yahoo.com



John Craig-Lee with BG Belinda Pinckney USA

ROCKS on the MOVE.....

Congratulations to officers who were recently selected for, or promoted to, Brigadier General! The list includes COL(P) Gracus Dunn; COL(P) Robert Ferrell, COL(P) LaWarren Patterson, COL(P) Les Smith, COL(P) Alton Berry, and COL(P) Michael Garrett. Recently promoted are BG Renwick, BG Leodis Jennings and BG Reynaldo Rivera. COL(P) Ferrell and COL(P) Smith are highlighted in this issue.



COL(P) ROBERT S. FERRELL

COL(P) Robert S. Ferrell was born in Anniston, Alabama on August 25, 1958. He enlisted in the Army in July 1977 and attained the rank of Sergeant before leaving active duty in 1981. He completed his undergraduate degree in Marketing while attending Hampton University and was

commissioned on August 15, 1983 as a Regular Army Officer in the Signal Corps. He holds a Master of Science Degree in Administration from Central Michigan University, and a Masters of Science Degree in Strategy from the Army War College.

His military education includes the Signal Officer Basic Course, Airborne School, Air Assault School, Pathfinder Course, Jump Master School, Ranger School, Special Forces Qualification Course, Marine Corps Communications Advance Course, Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College.

COL(P) Ferrell served as a Platoon Leader, Alpha Company, 122nd Signal Battalion, Camp Casey, Korea; Operations Officer, Signal Company, 7th Special Forces Group; Signal Officer, 2nd Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Commander, Alpha Company, 426th Signal Battalion, 35th Signal Brigade; Captains Assignment Officer, Signal Branch, US Total Army Personnel Command, Alexandria, Virginia; Aide-de-Camp to the Secretary of the Army, Pentagon; Assistant Division Signal Officer, 82nd Airborne Division; Battalion Executive Officer, 82nd Signal Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; Brigade S3, 7th Signal Brigade, 5th Signal Command, Mannheim, Germany; Aide-de-Camp to the Commanding General, V Corps, United States Army Europe and Seventh Army; Commander, 13th Signal Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas; Military Assistant to the Executive Secretary, Office of the Secretary of Defense, Pentagon; Military Assistant to the Director, Program

Management Office at the Coalition Provisional Authority in Baghdad; and Commander, 2nd Signal Brigade, 5th Signal Command, Mannheim, Germany; Chief, Programs Division for the Office of the Congressional Legislative Liaison; Senior Army Fellow on the Council on Foreign Relations; COL(P) Ferrell is currently enroute to serve as the Director, Future Combat System Strategic Communications.

COL(P) Ferrell's awards and decorations include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Legion of Merit, 1st Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, 6th Award; Army Commendation Medal, 6th Award; Army Achievement Medal, 2nd Award; Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal (with Bronze Star); Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korea Defense Service Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon (with "2" Device); Army Service Ribbon; Master Parachutist Badge; Malaysian and British Jump Wings; Air Assault and Pathfinder Badges; Special Forces and Ranger Tabs; Army Staff Identification Badge; and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge.

COL(P) Ferrell is married to the former Monique Doute' of ST Thomas, Virgin Islands. They have two sons Robert II, age 22, and Michael, age 19.

COL(P) LESLIE C. SMITH



COL(P) Leslie C. Smith is a native of Atlanta Georgia. He received an early commission from Georgia Southern University in 1983 as part of the Simultaneous Membership Program with the Georgia Army National Guard. He served from 1983-1985 as a Fire Support Team Chief in the 1-230th FA of the 48th Infantry Bde. In 1985, he graduated with a BBA in accounting and as a distinguished military graduate from GSU and was branched as a Chemical Officer.

From 1986 to 1989, COL(P) Smith was assigned to 3-52nd ADA Bn in Germany. While stationed there, he served as the Battalion Chemical Officer, Assistant S3, and headquarters platoon leader. From 1990 to 1993, he was assigned to the 82d Airborne Division in Ft Bragg, NC and served as the 82d Division Chemical Section Staff Officer, DIVARTY Chemical Officer and 21st Chemical Company Commander. While in the 82d ABN DIV, he deployed as part of OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD and STORM.

From 1993 to 1996, he was served in the Chemical Branch PERSCOM in Alexandria, VA. He initially served as the future readiness officer of the branch and then moved to the company grade assignment officer position. From 1997-1999, he was assigned to Taegu, South Korea to the 23d Chemical Battalion. He served as the Battalion S3 and XO and assisted the commander and staff with activating four Heavy Decontamination Chemical Companies and their follow on training, maintaining and stationing in theater.

From June 1999 to June 2001, he was assigned to the Joint Staff, J-5 where he served as the Chairman's representative to the Biological Weapons Convention Protocol. From June 2001 to 2003, he assumed command of the 83rd Chemical Battalion. The soldiers of the battalion participated in OPERATIONS NOBLE EAGLE (around the Pentagon), ENDURING FREEDOM (Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Qatar), and IRAQI FREEDOM (Kuwait, Iraq, and Jordan).

From July 2003 to July 2004, COL(P) Smith served in the Army Staff, Deputy Chief of Staff for Programs, G8 as the Deputy Division Chief and Chief NBC Branch for the Full Dimensional Protection Division. From July 2005 to 2007, he commanded the 3rd Chemical Brigade at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. The brigade consisted of two battalions that train Soldiers and officers on Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) operations, one battalion of Transportation Advanced Individual Training, three Basic Combat Training battalions, and one reception battalion. From August 2007 to June 2008, he served as the G3, 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE) responsible for the operations of two EOD groups, one CBRN Bde and multiple combat enablers for the command.

His military education includes the Chemical Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Airborne School, Jumpmaster School, and Command and General Staff College. He holds a Masters of Science in Administration from Central Michigan University and a Master of Science in National Strategy from the National Defense University. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (1OLC), the Legion of Merit, the Defense Services Meritorious Service Medal, the Army MSM (3OLC), ARCOM (1OLC), Senior Parachutist Badge, and the Joint and Army Staff Identification Badges.

Atlanta Chapter, Celebrates its 2nd Anniversary and Scholarship Award Ceremony

Atlanta Chapter was excited to award its second year academic scholarships in a ceremony that took place on 20 June 2008, at The Commons, Fort McPherson, GA, a day that also marked the celebration of the Chapter's 2d-year anniversary. It was a special occasion in the lives of the

Chapter members, Scholarship recipients, and National Chairman's Award recipients.



Guest Speaker MG Jerome Johnson, Deputy Chief of Staff, G4, FORSCOM

Colonel (Retired) Buck Buchanan, President, Atlanta Chapter, welcomed all invited guests and visitors on behalf of the Chapter. The guest speaker for the ceremony was Major General Jerome Johnson, Deputy Chief of Staff, G4, FORSCOM, who continues to earnestly support the Atlanta Chapter and has given so much to insure that the Chapter continues to flourish. MG Johnson delivered an inspiring message of patriotism, Army values, love of country and the true meaning of the American ideals to include life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Atlanta Chapter was extremely proud to award two \$1000.00 scholarships to two deserving Senior ROTC students currently enrolled at Tuskegee Institute and in pursuit of academic excellence: Cadet Katrina L. Fedd and Cadet Dominic Sewell.

Cadet Fedd is a Political Science major with a minor in English who maintains an overall 3.2 GPA. A resident of Donalsonville, GA, transferred to Tuskegee University from the Georgia Military College (Milledgeville) with high recommendations from her instructors and local community.



Cadet Katrina Fedd, Scholarship Recipient, Tuskegee Institute

Cadet Sewell is a Mathematics major who maintains an overall 3.55 GPA. A resident of Columbus, GA, he is ranked as the top MSII cadet of his class and battalion. Actively engaged in volunteer efforts for both his community and battalion, he dedicates numerous hours commanding the drill team and participating in Pershing Rifles activities resulting in the drill team receiving regional recognitions in 2007 and 2008. His Professor of Military Science accepted the scholarship on his behalf as Cadet Sewell was attending airborne school at the time of the ceremony.



LTC Augustine Clark, PMS, Tuskegee Institute, accepts the scholarship award on behalf of Cadet Dominic Sewell

During the last year, Atlanta Chapter continued to work hard to accomplish all of the milestones established as part of its strategic plan. Acknowledging the hard work and successes of those efforts continue to be both rewarding and worthy of recognition as the Chapter celebrated its second anniversary and ability to award scholarships. MG Johnson recognized four deserving Chapter members who were awarded the 2008 National Chairman's Award for their efforts and contributions to the successes of Atlanta Chapter: MAJ Catina Barnes, Vice-President (Administration); MAJ Angela Bowie, Treasurer; MAJ Dion Lyons, Legal Advisor; and CPT Jovan Perry, Chaplain.

WERETH 11

By Major Lawanda D Warthen, USA

GEN William "Kip" Ward, Commanding General of AFRICOM, was the keynote speaker at a ceremony to honor the Wereth 11, the African American Soldiers of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who were murdered by the German SS after they had surrendered in the first days of the Battle of the Bulge during World War II. Their spirits continue to live in the tiny village of Wereth, Belgium.

On Saturday, 20 September 2008, The ROCKS, Inc. European Officers chapter, U.S. active-duty, reserve, retired Soldiers, family members, and the local town people in Germany and Belgium participated in a wreath-laying

ceremony commemorating the men known as the Wereth 11. A color guard from the 5th Signal Command from Mannheim, Germany, led the procession from the house where they were captured to the site where they were executed.



GEN Ward with Wereth 11 Committee members

Over 63 years ago, the 333rd Field Artillery had spent 6 months in combat supporting the 2nd Infantry Division and 7th Corps, holding the front line against the German troops. At the onset of the Battle of the Bulge, the 333rd Field Artillery was located near St. Vith, Belgium. The 11 African American members of the Headquarters, 333rd Field Artillery became separated from the unit while trying to evade German armored and infantry units.



GEN Ward presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Mme Adda Rikken while members of the Wereth Committee watch

Looking for food and shelter, they found themselves in Wereth, Belgium, where they spotted a farmhouse. Mathius Langer, the owner, opened his home to the men. However, the Nazi SS, who had received a tip that Americans were seeking shelter at the Langer home, went to the house, took the men, and marched them down the hill to their deaths.

The Langer family later erected a small cross on the property with the names of the slain soldiers on it. However, that memorial and the town of Wereth remained basically unknown and were not listed in guides or maps of The Battle of the Bulge.

In 2001, the townspeople of Wereth began raising money to build an adequate memorial to honor these brave men. It was dedicated on May 23, 2004. In addition to the monument erected by the citizens of Wereth, there is also a plaque from the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

General Ward said, "We honor these 11 brave men who gave to their country no matter what the cost. We are here today to celebrate the lives of these heroic men whose spirits are felt here today." General Ward offered special thanks to the Rikken and Langer families for keeping the memory of the Soldiers alive.

COL Conrado B. Morgan Recognized by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Presented the Colonel Charles Young Leadership Award to Colonel Conrado B. Morgan for outstanding leadership and service to the members of the armed forces and to the fraternity at the 7th Grand Conclave in Birmingham, Alabama in July.

*Grand Basileus Warren G. Lee, Jr.,
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., COL
Conrado Morgan & Dr. Octavio
Miro, 6th District Representative*

17th Annual 5-Mile Run & 2 Mile Walk Washington, DC Chapter

By LTC Janice Graveley USA

The Washington DC Chapter of the ROCKS hosted its 17th annual 5 mile run and 2 mile walk on 13 September 2008. The event drew more than last year's number of participants with attendees ranging from infants in strollers to 79. This year, the categories were overall top male runners, overall top female runners, overall top male walkers, overall top female walkers, and seven different age categories. ROTC participation increased as well with the Georgetown ROTC team winning overall in a very competitive and close race. Other ROTC programs proudly represented were Howard, Morgan State, Bowie State, and Norfolk State Universities. The overall top male runner was Ben Emmanuel from Burke, Virginia (28:50). The overall top female runner was Kathryn Goode from Lansdowne, Virginia (33:57). The top male walker was William J. Stephens from Fairfax Station,

Virginia (31:53) and the top female walker was our National President BG (R) Clara L. Adams-Ender from Lake Ridge, Virginia (28:24). Much appreciation is extended to the event's corporate sponsor – Mitre.

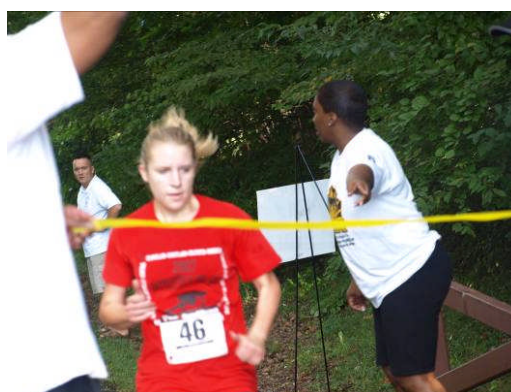
BG(R) Richardson, BG(R) Adams-Ender, and COL(P) Ferrell presented trophies to all the recipients.



Runners Prepare for the Race



1st Place Male Runner – Ben Emmanuel



1st Place Female Runner – Kathryn Goode

Electoral College Presentation at Washington, DC Chapter Membership Meeting

By LTC Janice Gravely USA

At the September Chapter Meeting, CPT Bridgette Bell provided an insightful presentation on the Electoral College and why every vote counts. She provided the following statistics:

In November 2004, 72 percent of the 197 million Americans eligible to vote were registered; only 64 percent actually voted.

80 percent of veterans eligible to vote in 2004 were registered, only 74 percent actually voted.

In the state of Ohio in 2004, the losing party lost by two percent or 100,000 votes. There were 270,000 unregistered African Americans.

13 percent of American adults (26.4 million) are veterans.

Currently, eight million unregistered Black voters accounts for 32 percent of eligible Black voting population nationwide.

She conducted a random experiment to demonstrate that even if you have a majority of the people, if the support is not in critical states, then the opposition could still win the Electoral College and the presidency.

Prior to this presentation, most attendees did not fully understand the Electoral College. Now they are informed and empowered.



CPT Bridgette Bell receives special award from BG(R) Velma Richardson, DC Chapter President

Do you have a story to share about what it means to be a ROCK? Please email your story to therocks@aol.com no later than **March 13, 2009**.

ROCKS Tournament in Full Swing at Belvoir Golf Club for ROTC Fundraiser

By Andrew Sharbel, Staff writer

From Belvoir Eagle - Thursday, July 03, 2008

Golfers from around the National Capital Region converged onto Fort Belvoir Golf Club's Gunston course Friday for an opportunity to win \$25,000 during the annual Washington, D.C. chapter of The ROCKS golf tournament.

Although nobody won the top prize, there were plenty of good shots throughout the tournament.

The winning team of Charles Hamilton, COL Chip Lilliewood, Ed Williams and Linda Knabb took home the first place trophy by shooting a 14 under 58. Williams chipped in from about 30 feet on the 18th hole to give his team a birdie for the hole.

"I just got lucky," Williams said later, grinning.

According to the Washington, D.C. chapter's Web site, The ROCKS, Inc. is a 501(c) 19 non-profit organization comprised of active duty, reserve, retired and former commissioned officers of the U.S. Armed Forces, widows and widowers of deceased members, and other uniformed services.

The ROCKS provide mentoring and professional career development to its members and leadership outreach to ROTC students and others in pre-commissioning programs, such as the service academies.

The organization funds the R.C. Cartwright Scholarship Fund, which provides aspiring Junior and Senior ROTC cadets with financial assistance for college while pursuing the required curriculum for officership in the U.S. Army.

A total of nine teams competed in the "Captain's Choice" tournament, with the top three teams receiving trophies. The winning team also received a \$50 gift certificate for the Fort Belvoir Golf Pro Shop.

The 18th hole, a par-3, was designated as the hole for the top prize. Golfers would need to hit a hole-in-one in order to win.

In addition to the 18th, all the other par-3 holes offered prizes for a hole-in-one, including a Sharp flat-panel LCD television on the 5th hole, a pair of roundtrip domestic airline tickets from Orbitz at the 7th hole and a set of Callaway Big Bertha Irons at the 17th hole.

Golfers were treated to a buffet lunch, which was followed by an awards ceremony and the presentation of the trophies.

Everyone went home with something, as polo shirts, \$25 gift certificates to the pro shop and Titleist golf balls were all raffled off.

BG(R) Von Richardson, president of the D.C. Chapter of The ROCKS, closed the day by thanking all of the participants.

"Proceeds from the tournament will be going towards supporting senior ROTC students so they can continue their college education," she said. "Thank you all and we appreciate all of you for coming out and playing."

33rd Annual West Hamilton Dinner Washington, DC Chapter

by LTC Janice Gravely USA

On 1 November 2008, the Washington DC Chapter of the ROCKS sponsored its 33rd Annual West Hamilton Dinner and Silent Auction to recognize some of their outstanding members and to host the annual auction, which raises funds for yearly scholarships.

Both events were a tremendous success. Three members received the volunteerism award. They were MAJ Jacqueline Lewis, Medical Service Corps - Chief of Social Work Services and Sexual Assault Care Coordinator at Ft. Meade Md, CPT Bridgett Bell, Adjutant General Corps - Company Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company United States Army Garrison, Fort Myers, and CPT Janet Vaughn, Medical Service Corps - Walter Reed Medical Center.

The DC Chapter ROCK of the year was COL Conrado Morgan. COL Morgan has been an active force in almost every ROCK event. He is also, the chairman for the mentorship committee, and the annual golf tournament. COL Morgan has a remarkable list of military assignments and military courses completed including his first assignment in 1985 to the United States Army Combat Development Command, Fort Hunter Liggett, California where he served as the Logistics Support Officer and Platoon Leader. In 1987, Colonel Morgan was assigned to the Deputy Commander of Installation, Second Infantry Division, Camp Casey Korea as the Supply Officer.

In March of 1989, he was assigned to Fort Bragg where he served as the Group S1/4, for the 18th Corps Finance Group. In 1990, He deployed to Southwest Asia for Operations Desert Shield/Storm. In Saudi Arabia, he served in various leadership positions. Upon his return to Ft Bragg, he was assigned as Deputy Group S4 and Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 507th Corps Support Group (Airborne) and led his unit into combat in

Somalia. After another tour at Ft Bragg, he moved to Sinai, Egypt to be the S4, 1st United States Army Support Battalion, Multinational Force and Observers. In 1995, he returned to Fort Bragg with an assignment with 2d Support Center (CMMC) as the Support Operations Officer. In 1996, he was assigned as the G3, Operations Officer for the Office of the Quartermaster General, Fort Lee and later as the Chief, Quartermaster Operations Center. He later served as the Commander, Logistics Support Element, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. His recent assignments include the Army Materiel Command, where he served as a Logistics Staff Office, Headquarters, Department of the Army. He is currently serving as the Director of Operations, J3, National Defense University (NDU).

Finally, Major General Retired Robert C. Gaskill received the professional achievement award. MG(Ret) Gaskill was commissioned as a second lieutenant and Distinguished Military Graduate from Howard University in 1952. He later received a M.B.A. from The George Washington University. He also completed the Executive Program in National and International Security at the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. MG(Ret) Gaskill is a graduate of multiple military schools including the Army Command and General Staff College, the Armed Forces Staff College, Naval Postgraduate School, and the Army War College.

After two years of Infantry duty, MG(Ret) Gaskill began his career in the Quartermaster Corps, serving at the Pentagon, Korea, Vietnam and Europe. He commanded the 5th Supply and Transport Battalion, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized) at Fort Carson, CO. He also, commanded Letterkenny Army Depot in Chambersburg, PA. In Germany, he commanded the 1st SPT Bde, Germany and served as the Deputy Commanding General of the 1st Support Command, which he helped to organize. MG Gaskill served on the faculties of the Quartermaster School, Fort Lee, VA and the Army War College, Carlisle, PA, where he later served as the Deputy Commandant. In 1978 MG Gaskill was assigned as the Deputy Director of the Defense Logistics Agency, Alexandria, Virginia. MG Gaskill supports the next generation of Army officers through active mentorship, sponsorship and financial support. MG(Ret) Gaskill visits the Howard University ROTC department regularly, and is always available for mentorship opportunities from professional development seminars to informal talks with the cadets. He regularly attends HU ROTC ceremonies, such as the fall and spring awards ceremonies; and December and May commissioning ceremonies.

MG(Ret) Gaskill's service and support to the Washington DC Chapter of the ROCKS Inc over the years has been outstanding. He is one of the stalwart General Officers that routinely attend the monthly General Membership meetings. He spends countless hours of his personal time coaching, and

mentoring young officers to become better people and citizens, making a lasting impression in their lives. MG(Ret) Gaskill is married to the former Erotida Maria Ponce. They have four adult children.

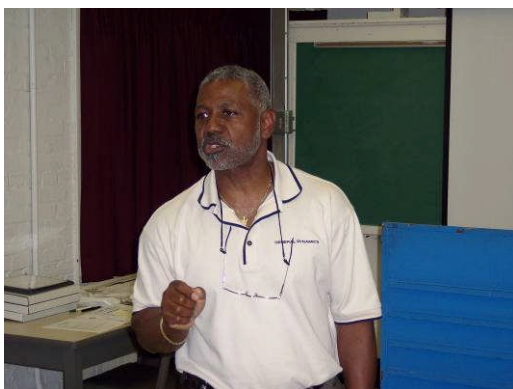
Everyone remained after the dinner for dancing and additional socializing. Next year's dinner is scheduled for 7 November 2009.

Military Transition Planning

Article by LTC (R.) Chuck Holden

In May the Hampton Roads Chapter (HRC) ROCKS, Inc. conducted its fourth Officer Professional Development (OPD) session following its general membership meeting. The subject of the OPD was "Planning and Preparing for Military Transition". OPD speakers were LTC(R) Chuck Holden, chapter Correspondence Secretary, and Ms Reba Gordon, Transition Services Manager at Fort Eustis, VA. The presentations by Chuck and Reba dovetailed well when considering the OPD topic. Chuck took a long term approach to planning and Reba took a closer in view of the planning and preparation process.

Chuck Holden started off the OPD by providing the audience a personal example of his own experiences with transition planning that included planning considerations and key elements of his planning approach.



LTC(R) Chuck Holden

Chuck Holden stated that he got serious about planning for his life and career as a Captain. He also stated that his approach to planning was accomplished from both a personal and professional perspective. He shared with the audience several important questions he asked himself during transition plan consideration as well as development. These questions were grouped in two categories related to approach to planning and plan development respectively.

Group 1: When do I begin military transition planning? What is the concept for my plan? What are the key

components of my plan? How do I measure success and when will I know when I have met specific milestones?

Group 2: Do I want to make the military a career? What is really important to me as a person and as an officer? What areas am I willing to take risks, and what areas am I not ready to take risks?

Chuck stated that, in his opinion, since planning for military transition is linked to both life planning and career planning, the planning process should begin as early as possible.

He also shared his concept and key components for planning that were shaped by his belief in discipline as the overarching factor. Chuck noted that his goals were both short and long term. His timeline for measurement of success was normally in five year increments. The purpose for the five year increments for measurements was to allow for plan adjustments due to unexpected or life altering events.

Chuck consistently focused on the fact that for his life and career, there must be a balance between planning for personal growth and planning for professional growth.

Ms. Reba Gordon began her presentation with the topic of a Second Career-What's Next? and the questions you must ask yourself. The questions are: What jobs are out there that I can do? Where and when will I do it? How much will it pay? Am I prepared mentally, financially and educationally?



Ms. Reba Gordon

Reba also talked to the factors affecting the current job market. She stated that organizations today are flatter with less mobility. She also noted that employers are looking for someone who understands the "**Bottom Line**", be a "Secretary" & fit on the team, technically proficient, hands on certified, computer literate and able to "hit the ground running"

Reba noted that employers hire you based on their needs, not yours. And they hire for two reasons, first to solve a problem and second to add value to the organization. Reba also

discussed the value added traits that employers look for which include: honesty and loyalty, hard worker, task driven, people who understand people and can solve problems, good oral and written communication skills, in addition to good leadership, followership and stress handling skills.

Reba keyed in on the need for early preparations for transitioning and the importance of networking. She noted that your resume is a marketing tool that sells you and helps to get you the interview. Although others have different perspectives on this issue, she strongly recommends that a person write their own resume instead of paying someone to write it for them..

Reba stressed the importance of dressing for success and preparing for and going through the interview. She stated the employers hire for attitude and train for skills. They want to know if you fit in as part of the team. Key points to consider when being interviewed. Remember that you are being interviewed "out vs. in"; prepare for the hard questions; ask the hard questions; be confident-you are your knowledge/presentation; be relaxed, but focused; and be comfortable negotiating salary and benefits.

The OPD was very informative and enlightening and garnered great positive interaction with the audience.

Photographs taken by Mr. Toney C. Mooney

Hampton Roads Chapter is Joined by AFCOMAP and NNOA for Joint Cookout

Submitted by LTC(R) Chuck Holden

The idea for the Joint Cookout began on July 12, 2003, when five mentoring organizations in Hampton Roads, Virginia joined together to conduct the first ever Joint Cookout at Eagle Park on Langley Air Force Base Virginia. The primary purpose of the event was to provide a professional networking forum and fun atmosphere where members of each of the organizations could interact with community leaders and fellow service members, and share pertinent information across Service lines.

The five Hampton Roads mentoring organizations participating in this joint cookout were the Air Force Cadet/Officer Mentor Action Program (AFCOMAP), National Naval Officers Association (NNOA), The ROCKS, and the Tuskegee Airmen, and the Urban League of Hampton Roads. The organizations are non-profit, equal opportunity organizations that share the same or similar missions such as development of our youth through mentorship and tuition assistance, training, networking, and community service.

The planning for this year's Joint Cookout entailed many meetings and long detailed planning sessions. During the spring of 2008, the Presidents of four of the organizations agreed in principal to the idea of planning for another joint event. Following several meetings of the joint committee, the last meeting concluding on August 21st, and all plans were in place to execute the event. On August 23, 2008, the cookout began at 3:00 p.m. at the Langley Eagle Park. Because of the excellent working relationship and coordination between the joint committee members, the cookout began on time and without a hitch.

The formal part of the event began with greetings and the purpose was given by the Joint Committee Chair, LTC(R) Chuck Holden. LTC Holden then introduced the Presidents or the designated representative of each organization. Each President/designated representative provided a short summary of their organization's mission, goals and upcoming events.

Following the speeches, the caterer, Mrs. Viola Valentine from Anointed Hands Catering in Newport News, VA., informed us that the buffet was open for business. The menu items served consisted of fish, fried chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, barbecue, collard greens, baked beans, hush puppies, barbeque, and peach cobbler for dessert.

The games began immediately following dinner and consisted of volleyball, horseshoes, dominoes, and cards. The many different activities meant there was a little something for everyone. A raffle for various prizes was also conducted. Needless to say everyone had a great time.

From the many positive comments received from attendees thus far, we can truly say that the joint cookout was indeed a success and has brought the Hampton roads organizations much closer together as they continue to accomplish their missions of mentoring, networking, and giving back to the community.

HRC ROCKS Battle of the Bay

Submitted By: Wendell Turner

The 2008 Battle of the Bay Sports Day was in Oct 2008. This annual event, sponsored by the Hampton Roads Chapter of ROCKS, is designed to encourage friendly competition, enhance chapter community outreach and to launch an annual mentorship campaign that targets cadets and cadre of Hampton University and Norfolk State University. This year's competition drew well over 100 participants to Hampton University on what proved to be a cool, damp, and breezy October morning. The weather served as an ideal backdrop for football and volleyball lots of spirited outdoor activity.

This year's event had three major components: A cookout funded by HU Rocks, a student raffle that featured donations for participating student dormitories or care packages from members and Senior Officers in the area and a mentorship drive that will involve HRC ROCKS volunteers signing up to mentor cadets by Military Science Class/Section for the rest of the 2008-2009 school year.



Cadets of NSU and Hampton, NSU PMS Nick Anthony and HRC ROCKS President Wendell Turner and LTC Harry Green pose for a pregame photo.

The event began just after sunrise with the chapter providing breakfast for all of the cadet athletes and volunteers who were present for warm up drills and site set up.

The flag football game commenced early due to the threat of rain. The game ended with Hampton University on top of Norfolk State by a score of 27 to 14. The next event was Volleyball. Again, Hampton University pulled out a victory but this one was a much closer. Based on the point tally for these events, the Battle of the Bay trophy was awarded to Hampton University.



MAJ Jones with Cookout Volunteers

The presentation was made by special guest and chapter member, MG Montague Winfield, CG of US Army Cadet Command at Fort Monroe. MG Winfield also provided brief remarks to thank the students, cadre and chapter for great sportsmanship and attendance.

Students, Guests and members were then treated to a cookout lunch. LTC(R) Chuck Holden manned and prepared all of the grilled foods. MAJ Dikila Jones pictures below led university volunteers and students in set up, serving and tear down of the chow-line and the raffle event.



MG Winfield presents HRC ROCKS Battle of the Bay Trophy to LTC Harry Green, PMS HU, while LTC Nick Anthony, PMS NSU looks on.

In the end all student walked away with a full stomach, smiles a raffle gift item and great memories. Newly assigned PMS Nick Anthony of Norfolk State said, "the event was a great success, It earned my thumbs up. I look forward to hosting this at Norfolk same next year."



LTC Nick Anthony offers a "thumbs up"

The ROCKS Collects Clothes for Needy

By Tim Linn, Leavenworth Times

Fri Dec 12, 2008

w/Reprint Permission

Winter is looming large in Leavenworth County.

And for families in need, sometimes there just aren't enough clothes to go around.

Maj. David Woods, a student at the Command and General Staff College and president of The ROCKS organization,

said he is helping an effort to provide warm clothes to those who might otherwise be left in the cold.

The ROCKS is accepting clothing donations that will be given to the Salvation Army and Goodwill in Leavenworth. Although the drive did not start until Monday, Woods said members of the group delivered six bags of clothes last weekend.

"It must have been probably well over \$300 worth of clothes and shoes," he said.

The group is accepting clothes for all ages until Dec. 18. Woods said he is looking to set up a drop-off point for the clothes at Gruber Gym on Fort Leavenworth, although for now anyone who wishes to donate should call 913-702-5135 or 913-682-2796. Donations can also be made directly to Salvation Army or Goodwill.

In addition to the holiday clothing drive, Woods said The ROCKS is planning another clothing drive beginning after the holidays that will last until March.

"There's a lot of kids that I see walking around wearing jackets that aren't really winter coats," Woods said. "So you're talking about illnesses, you're talking about fever and colds, pneumonia."

The ROCKS is a service organization on the fort started by a group of CGSC students in the 1960s as a way to get to know each other outside of the classroom. Woods said the chapter at the fort now has six members who visit veterans at the Eisenhower Veterans Affairs Medical Center and mentor area students at the Richard Allen Cultural Center, as well as initiate food and clothing drives.

The organization's moniker comes from a nickname for Brig. Gen. Roscoe C. Cartwright, a member of the club.

Woods said he has been active in the club for about 14 years, and has organized several clothing and food drives since arriving on the fort in August 2006.

According to Woods, helping out those in need has always been a goal for The ROCKS. He said the organization has provided Christmas and Thanksgiving food baskets to those in need in the past. Woods said he and the other members of the club are inspired to give their time because of the effect it has on others.

"You really won't know the impact of families that don't have food for winter or for the holidays, and when you go knock on their door, you give them a basket and a couple of things to get through the wintertime or the holiday season so they have food for themselves and their families," he said. "You can't even describe that feeling."

Chapter Happenings

Share your Chapter Highlights with other ROCKS Chapters in the Fall Edition of the ROCKET. **Email Articles and Photos to therocks@aol.com no later than March 13, 2009.**

First African American School Nurse Administrator of the Year for Virginia



Teresa A. Polk, a retired Army Nurse and currently supervisor of School Health Services for Prince William County Public Schools (PWCS), was named School Nurse Administrator of the Year by the Virginia Association of School Nurses, Inc. (VASN) for exemplifying the professional standards for school nursing set forth by the National Association of School Nurses and the American Nurse

Association. Polk was honored at the VASN annual conference in Richmond VA.

Polk is responsible for coordinating school health services that are provided by a staff of 72 nurses for an enrollment of approximately 73,000 students in 88 schools. When she joined Prince William County Public Schools in July 2001 as the first supervisor of the School Health Services Program, Polk initiated a formal school nurse program complete with a new nurse orientation and training. Mrs. Polk, credits much of her success to mentoring by BG (Ret) Clara Adams-Ender and members of the ROCKS Inc.

Home Computer Network Security

Submitted by MAJ Julius M Johnson

When using a home network with wireless capabilities, more than half of the homes are not secure and are open to anonymous connections. This means your home network is wide open to unwanted accessibility, malicious actions, and computer virus attacks from hackers. Some unwanted users may just be trying to gain free internet access from your network but there are others that seek personnel information to do unlawful actions against you like accessing bank accounts or using personnel information against you. In today's society we need to be mindful there are some dangers and compromises we need to avoid preventing our personnel information and access from falling into the wrong hands.

A wireless home network computer is system of connected computers and devices that can be linked to each other using wireless devices. Your network will use a combination of devices called switches, routers and hubs to provide the connectivity needed from the most simple to complex networks.

To secure your in-home network, you should change the default password on the wireless device. Enable WEP or WPA encryption for extra password security. Change the default SSID to prevent hackers that know your product from gaining entry into your network and enable Machine Access Code (MAC) filtering which also provides extra security. If unauthorized users gain access to your network, they can change the default service set identifier (SSID), disable the SSID broadcast so you can not see your SSID and they can change the passwords on your wireless equipment to lock you out and allow them to control your internet access while your wireless router is on.

To prevent unauthorized access to your network here are 10 tips you can use to keep unwanted users from accessing your home network.

10 Tips for Wireless Home Network Security

Many folks setting up wireless home networks rush through the job to get their Internet connectivity working as quickly as possible. That's totally understandable. It's also quite risky as numerous security problems can result. Today's Wi-Fi networking products don't always help the situation as configuring their security features can be time-consuming and non-intuitive. The recommendations below summarize the steps you should take to improve the security of your home wireless network.

1. Change Default Administrator Passwords (and Usernames)

At the core of most Wi-Fi home networks is an access point or router. To set up these pieces of equipment, manufacturers provide Web pages that allow owners to enter their network address and account information. These Web tools are protected with a login screen (username and password) so that only the rightful owner can do this. However, for any given piece of equipment, the logins provided are simple and very well-known to hackers on the Internet. Change these settings immediately.

2. Turn on (Compatible) WPA / WEP Encryption

All Wi-Fi equipment supports some form of *encryption*. Encryption technology scrambles messages sent over wireless networks so that they cannot be easily read by humans. Several encryption technologies exist for Wi-Fi today. Naturally you will want to pick the strongest form of encryption that works with your wireless network. However, the way these technologies work, all Wi-Fi devices on your network must share the identical encryption settings.

Therefore you may need to find a "lowest common denominator" setting.

3. Change the Default SSID

Access points and routers all use a network name called the SSID. Manufacturers normally ship their products with the same SSID set. For example, the SSID for Linksys devices is normally "linksys." True, knowing the SSID does not by itself allow your neighbors to break into your network, but it is a start. More importantly, when someone finds a default SSID, they see it is a poorly configured network and are much more likely to attack it. Change the default SSID immediately when configuring wireless security on your network.

4. Enable MAC Address Filtering

Each piece of Wi-Fi gear possesses a unique identifier called the *physical address* or *MAC address*. Access points and routers keep track of the MAC addresses of all devices that connect to them. Many such products offer the owner an option to key in the MAC addresses of their home equipment that restricts the network to only allow connections from those devices. Do this, but also know that the feature is not so powerful as it may seem. Hackers and their software programs can fake MAC addresses easily.

5. Disable SSID Broadcast

In Wi-Fi networking, the wireless access point or router typically broadcasts the network name (SSID) over the air at regular intervals. This feature was designed for businesses and mobile hotspots where Wi-Fi clients may roam in and out of range. In the home, this roaming feature is unnecessary, and it increases the likelihood someone will try to log in to your home network. Fortunately, most Wi-Fi access points allow the SSID broadcast feature to be disabled by the network administrator.

6. Do Not Auto-Connect to Open Wi-Fi Networks

Connecting to an open Wi-Fi network such as a free wireless hotspot or your neighbor's router exposes your computer to security risks. Although not normally enabled, most computers have a setting available allowing these connections to happen automatically without notifying you (the user). This setting should not be enabled except in temporary situations.

7. Assign Static IP Addresses to Devices

Most home networkers gravitate toward using *dynamic IP addresses*. DHCP technology is indeed easy to set up. Unfortunately, this convenience also works to the advantage of network attackers, who can easily obtain valid IP addresses from your network's DHCP pool. Turn off DHCP on the router or access point, set a fixed IP address range instead, then configure each connected device to match. Use a *private IP address range* (like 10.0.0.x) to prevent computers from being directly reached from the Internet.

8. Enable Firewalls On Each Computer and the Router

Modern network routers contain built-in firewall capability, but the option also exists to disable them. Ensure that your router's firewall is turned on. For extra protection, consider installing and running *personal firewall software* on each computer connected to the router.

9. Position the Router or Access Point Safely

Wi-Fi signals normally reach to the exterior of a home. A small amount of signal leakage outdoors is not a problem, but the further this signal reaches, the easier it is for others to detect and exploit. Wi-Fi signals often reach through neighboring homes and into streets, for example. When installing a wireless home network, the position of the access point or router determines its reach. Try to position these devices near the center of the home rather than near windows to minimize leakage.

10. Turn Off the Network During Extended Periods of Non-Use

The ultimate in wireless security measures, shutting down the network will most certainly prevent outside hackers from breaking in! While impractical to turn off and on the devices frequently, at least consider doing so during travel or extended periods offline. Computer disk drives have been known to suffer from power cycle wear-and-tear, but this is a secondary concern for broadband modems and routers.

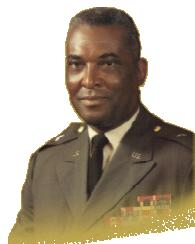
Suggested Reading:

Are Wireless Networks Secure? What Is a Passphrase? What Is the Signal Range of a Wi-Fi LAN?

SAVE THE DATE

The ROCKS, Inc. will hold it's **35th Annual Scholarship and Awards Spring Gala** on Saturday, 4 April 2009 at the Officer's Club, Fort Belvoir, Virginia. This is a combined ROCKS National and Wash DC Chapter event with the ROCKS DC Chapter as the host. Proceeds of this event supports the Washing, DC Chapter ROTC Scholarship Program and other activities in the organization. The reception is at 1800 hrs followed by a formal program that begins at 1830 hrs. Dress is formal with Black Tie or Dress Blues/Mess. POC is COL(R) Andre' Barnes, 703 845-2225 or bbarnes@ida.org

ROCKS, Inc. HISTORY JOURNAL



This is an advanced notice about the publication of a Historical Pictorial of the Legacy of the ROCKS. This history journal has been approved by the Board of Directors of the ROCKS and is scheduled for publication in the Spring of 2009. It is requested that anyone who may have pictures and or military stories about the ROCKS, that they are submitted to Sharene A. Cook of WSC Associates,

LLP, at P.O. Box 471212, Forestville, MD 20753. You can also Email them to scCook@wscassociates.com. Although individual submissions are welcome, ROCKS Chapter and Interest Groups are highly encouraged to provide input on Chapter historical events and pictures of past presidents and officers. All pictures and stories will be logged in, copied for use in the journal, and if requested returned to the senders. The journal is estimated to cost \$50.00 and its pictures will be in color and black and white. The journal will be a ROCKS fundraiser and we hope every ROCK member, their friends and interested organizations and groups will purchase one or more journals. The ROCKS' Historian, COL(R) Frank Francois, III is the project director and if there are any questions he can be contacted at goldenpin@aol.com.



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National Board of the ROCKS, Inc.
Membership Application

Branch/Specialty:_____ Rank:_____ Status: Active Duty Reserve Retired
Name:_____
Spouse:_____
Address:_____
City:_____
State:_____ Zip:_____
Phone:_____
Email:_____
Service: USA USN USMC USAF USCG Other:_____
Former est PCS:_____
Source of Commission: ROTC Service Academy OCS____ Direct____ Other____
Duty Station or Employer:_____
Business Address:_____
City:_____
State:_____ Zip:_____
Phone:_____ Fax:_____
College/University Attended:_____
Degree:_____ Year: _____
Graduate College/University Attended:_____
Degree:_____ Year: _____
Chapter Affiliation:_____

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Years	1	2	3
Cadet	\$20	X	X
04 & Above	\$50	\$96	\$142
03 & Below	\$30	\$58	\$86
Life Membership	Regular \$450	Gold \$650	Platinum \$850

Method of Payment:

☐ Check ☐ Money Order

To pay by credit card using PayPal: Please visit our website at www.rocksync.org and click on the Membership button. After completing and submitting the on-line form, be sure to click on the **PayPal** button to enter your credit card information in order to process your payment.

ALL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS AND FEES MUST BE SENT TO NATIONAL!!

Make all checks payable to "ROCKS, Inc." and mail to:

ROCKS, Inc.
c/o WSC Associates, LLP
P.O. Box 471212
Forestville, MD 20753

Note: Local membership fees are not included.
Deployed personnel are exempt from membership fees during the period of deployment.