



# ***The ROCKET***

## **Spring/Summer Edition 2008**

### **Chairperson Message**

What happens when talented and committed professionals join together focused on a daunting goal? It can result in the many accomplishments described in this edition of the Rocket. The largest edition to date, including submissions from nine Chapters, this Rocket reflects your extremely hard work at the grass roots level and pure talent displayed by your involvement in numerous events. Special recognition must be extended to LTG(R) Honor, COL Bingham, and their team for their incredible effort in planning, coordinating, and executing the best Rocks National Conference yet! Attendees were informed and enlightened by presentations from a wide variety of senior level speakers, including General Casey, the Chief of Staff of the Army, but also by the great interaction that occurred amongst attendees during breaks, less formal discussions, and especially during the fantastic Lessons Learned/Mentoring Panel hosted by MG(R) Johnson.

In addition to highlighting the demands of war, accomplishments in the Middle East, and several key Army initiatives, Gen Casey also stressed the importance of maintaining a more balanced Army that is more diversified. As a senior leader with vast experience and responsibilities, he acknowledged that there is definitely work to be done in this area and expressed his commitment to improvement. My sincere thanks go out to all who made the Rocks National Conference a grand success, especially the officers and cadets who attended, the Rocks Chapter representatives and the scores of you on various committees. We look forward to your participation during the next National Conference which will be held in the spring of 2010.

The Rocks National Conference was followed by the annual Rocks Spring Formal hosted by the Rocks Washington DC Chapter. An event which recognizes significant contributions by selected Washington DC Rocks Chapter members, it included the awarding of scholarships to several extremely bright and well deserving ROTC cadets. Following the DC Chapter awards, I had the honor of representing the Rocks Board by recognizing two phenomenal achievers and sustained contributors to the Rocks as Rocks of the Year - MGs Bostick and Via. Special recognition for his commitment to Rocks ideals and support was also recognized by designating LTG Caldwell as an Honorary Rock of the

Year. Details about these extraordinary officers are in this issue.

Beyond the great National Conference and deserving recognition by so many during the spring gala, I want to thank you for continuing to do what I call the "heavy lifting" in your Chapters and Interest Groups. It is your day to day individual and collective efforts where the rubber meets the road that truly sustain this organization and make it possible for us to continue serving in a way that "Makes the Difference that Counts." It is particularly gratifying to see that you are doing this in an environment with so many other pressing demands, deployments, and personnel turnover in your Chapters and Interest Groups. I commend you for your efforts and offer the resources of the National Board to assist you as needed. I'd also like to encourage you to communicate with you're your fellow Rocks Chapters to ascertain their best practices. It is clear from hearing the Chapter reports during the National Conference, that sharing many of the creative initiatives and basic Chapter administration techniques was of great benefit to attendees. I encourage you to use each other as a resource to leverage the power of your efforts amongst you.

Special congratulations are extended to the Central Virginia Rocks Chapter as they've achieved a major milestone in being inaugurated as a Rocks Chapter during their Charter Ceremony. A tremendous amount of work was accomplished to make this happen, so I want to salute and personally thank you for your efforts. I am confident that you will selflessly serve not only the military community in that area, but the community at large, including HBCUs that will benefit from your mentoring and support.

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

## National Board of the ROCKS, Incorporated

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Chairperson  | BG Clara L. Adams-Ender, USA (Ret)   |
| Vice Chairperson & Washington, DC Chapter President  | BG Velma L. Richardson, USA (Ret)    |
| Vice President, Communications and Publications      | COL Dorene Hurt, USA                 |
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| Secretary  | Vacant                               |
| General Counsel                                      | LTC Patricia A. Harris, USA          |

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### CHAPTERS AND INTEREST GROUPS

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| Carlisle Barracks, PA                  | LTC Andre Wiley            | andre.lamont.wiley@us.army.mil     |
| European Officers, Germany             | COL Rodney McCants         | rodney.mccants@us.army.mil         |
| Fort Benning, GA                       | CPT Tiffiney Dimery        | tiffiney.dimery@benning.army.mil   |
| Fort Bragg, NC (All American)          | LTC Rafeal Boyd            | rafeal.boyd@us.army.mil            |
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Please provide Chapter Information and POC updated information to [THEROCKS@aol.com](mailto:THEROCKS@aol.com)

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*Article from Fort Belvoir Eagle. Reprinted with permission.*

## **Chief of Staff Stresses Balance**

*By Paul Bello, Staff Writer*

According to Gen. George Casey, Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, there are two questions he gets asked the most. "How are you doing and where are you going?" Casey told a group of military personnel last week at Fort Belvoir's Officers' Club-site of this year's Rocks, Inc., National Training and Leadership Conference. "At times, I can barely get a breath in between my answers."

For Casey, a 35-year veteran of the military, there's no better Army in the world than the U.S. Army. However, with such an emphasis on forging ahead to other missions, he believes the branch is overstretched and in need of re-tooling.

"We've become consumed by the demands we face in places like Iraq and Afghanistan that we're deploying too much, too fast," Casey warned colleagues attending the three-day conference. "We're moving at such a frenetic pace, I think it's time to slow things down. When considering the health and well-being of our Soldiers, as well as their families, we need to have a balance."

As Casey explained, standard deployment of 15 months is too long a period for anyone to be away from their loved ones. At the same token, the 12-month stay-at-home policy is too short a time for Soldiers to embrace the finer things in life, Casey added.

While much has been accomplished in the Middle East, such as the establishment of a new government in Iraq and the ability for civilians to vote in a free democratic process, Casey remains hopeful that those on the front-lines will, one day, have more time for family, friends, community and themselves.

"We have to look at the mindset of a Soldier," Casey remarked. "Going from one mission to the next on short notice or without a sufficient break can take its toll. The Army is making strides in this area, but we're not quite there yet. I would personally like us to look into this more closely. The long-term advantages are reason enough."

As his speech continued, it became clear it's not the only thing that drives Casey in his career. When it comes to diversity, he said the Army is not where it should be. Based on recent numbers, the branch is lagging in attracting new recruits to the Armed Forces. According to him, future success begins with America's youth and it's something that can't be overstated enough.

"They're the leaders of tomorrow. Plain and simple," Casey said. "That's why it's important to have young men and women interested in what we do. We need people from all over the country, with as many cultural backgrounds as possible. That's what will sustain us as an Army and as a nation."



*BG Clara Adams-Ender USA (Ret), ROCKS, Inc. National Chairman with GEN George Casey, Chief of Staff of the US Army*

Casey suggested an expansion of JROTC programs across the board, in addition to increased funding for educational opportunities beyond high school. The latter was just answered, as Congress recently approved an increase to what a Soldier can earn through his or her GI Bill. Though he didn't know the exact amount appropriated by officials, Casey said it's just one of many military benefits.

"I don't think enough is done to accentuate the many positives we have in the Armed Forces. In the case of the Army, there are many more benefits now than 10 or 20 years ago," he said. "Housing has greatly improved. Childcare services have greatly improved and much more is done in aiding military couples. Opportunities like this should be brought to the forefront."

Just as troops can never back off in conflict, Casey also mentioned the many world-class training centers that have been established around the globe, in addition to the strides made by U.S. forces in transitioning to modular operations.

Retired Brig. Gen. Clara Adams-Ender, who served as installation commander at Fort Belvoir from 1991-1993, chaired the conference and was thankful for Casey's remarks.

"He certainly hit his main points and reminded us of the lessons learned from the war in Iraq," she said. "In moving forward, I believe we're the best nation to be a leader. And to be a great leader, we need to continue to talk about peace."

**National Conference Photo Gallery**



*Registration Desk*



*LTG Julius Becton USA (Ret) signs his new book*



*Fort Meade High School ROTC Students*



*COL Michael Hayden, USAF (Ret) MOAA*



*GEN George Casey*



*MG Robert Gaskill USA (Ret) speaks to a participant*



*MG Robert Gaskill USA (Ret), MG Arthur Gregg USA (Ret)  
And GEN George Casey*



*GEN George Casey with Fort Meade ROTC Cadets*



*Conference attendees enjoy lunch with BG Clara Adams-Ender USA (Ret) (in yellow jacket)*



*Lunch Time*



*Enjoying conversations during lunch*



*GEN George Casey & LTG Julius Becton USA (Ret)*



*BG Clara Adams-Ender USA (Ret) speaks with conference attendee*



*Army Recruiters*



*BG Velma Richardson USA (Ret) listens intently with the crowd*



*Fort Meade ROTC Cadets listens to the speaker*

## The Washington, DC Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. Mentorship Social

*Written by MAJ Jacqueline Lewis*

The Washington, D.C. Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. held its mentorship social on April 4, during The ROCKS, Inc. 6th Bi-Annual National Leadership and Training Conference held on April 3 - 5, 2008 at Fort Belvoir Officers' Club. MG Ronald L. Johnson, Chairman of the chapter's Mentorship Committee, served as host. There was a great mix of officers, retired officers and civilian personnel in attendance.

In addition to MG Johnson, the Professional Mentorship panel included: COL Conrado B. Morgan, Moderator, LTC Jan Gravely, and LTC David Wilson. The audience and panel were involved in an interactive two-hour discussion.



*MG Ronald Johnson, LTC Jan Gravely and LTC David Wilson*

MG Johnson explained that a mentor is someone you can relate to and who does not mince words. LTC Gravely fondly recalled how BG Velma L. Richardson, USA(Ret) became her mentor. When LTC Gravely was in command, BG Richardson gave her the guidance to succeed by asking her what she was doing and telling her to make sure that she cover all the bases. When asked if there were any mentorship success stories, MG Johnson mentioned that one of his high school teachers approached him about attending West Point. The teacher challenged him by telling him "I guess you can't handle it." He said that challenge made him go to West Point and be successful. Overall, this was a very successful mentorship social and one that will go down in the history book of The Washington, D.C. Chapter. BG Richardson ended the discussion by thanking all who attended the mentorship social.



## ROCKS 2008 Spring Gala and Awards Banquet

The Washington DC Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. held its 2008 Spring Gala and Awards Banquet on April 5, at the Fort Belvoir Officer's Club. It was an awesome experience and an evening enjoyed by all. From the Spring Gala committee that worked so diligently and laboriously for weeks, to the honorees, and to the many guests – the event was a great success.

The Gala for 2008 drew a vast number of attendees across the country. There were company grade, field grade, and general officers, active duty and retirees, government civilians, ROTC Cadets, as well as representatives from industry within the National Capital Region. The 220 plus attendees included over 20 General Officers as well as Senior Executive Service members. They all enjoyed the celebratory atmosphere, food, and camaraderie shared at the event.



*BG (R) Richardson makes her welcoming remarks to the Gala guest while the Master of Ceremonies (COL Conrado Morgan) listens.*

BG (R) Velma Richardson, President of The ROCKS Washington DC Chapter, welcomed guests and cited the theme of the Gala – "Building a Bench of Current and Future Leaders." In her welcome, she made special note of the attendance of 4 "Wounded in Action" Soldiers from the Warrior Transition Unit, DeWitt Health Care Network, and Fort Belvoir, who were sponsored by members of the Washington DC Chapter, to attend the Gala. Later in the program, the President introduced a special guest, a notable ROCK in his own right, GEN William "Kip" Ward, Commanding General United States Army Africa Command. He provided comments reference his new command and stressed our duty to help those coming behind us. GEN Ward is no stranger to The ROCKS organization both in CONUS and abroad. He has been a staunch supporter of ROCKS Chapters wherever he is stationed or visits. A "soldier's soldier," he is a testament

to “Concern, Dedication, and Professionalism.” Out of 26 African American General Officers currently on active duty, GEN Ward is the only four star African American General serving in the US Army.



*SSG Smith attends to the POW/MIA table as part of the ceremony during the Gala Program*

COL Conrado Morgan and MAJ Jacqueline Lewis presided as Master and Mistress of Ceremonies. The conduct of one of the main events of the evening was a very solemn rendition in reverence and recognition of our fallen and missing comrades in arms as well as those who are presently serving in harms way. SSG Justin Smith, Medical Company, DeWitt Army Medical Hospital, Fort Belvoir, assisted in this ceremony and captivated the audience as he attended to the table set aside in honor of the POW/MIAs. In addition to assisting in this remembrance, everyone shifted focus to the present when SSG Smith approached the wounded soldiers and rendered them a salute signifying our gratitude for their service to our nation. This act by SSG Smith caused a standing ovation from the attendees.

During the dinner, the DC Chapter presented a slide show depicting the theme for this year's event. This slide show, put together by ROCKS members, highlighted the journey of African-Americans throughout American military history starting with: Crispus Attucks and Salem Poor in the American Revolution; Sgt Maj John Wilson and Sgts William Carney and Henry Steward of the African-American 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry Regiment during the Civil War; COL Charles Young, a graduate of West Point, who commanded a Squadron of the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (Buffalo Soldiers), during the Spanish American War; the 369<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (Harlem Hell Fighters) who fought in

World War I; BG Benjamin O. Davis, Sr, who became the First Black General in 1940; the service of the 6888<sup>th</sup> Battalion of the Women's Army Corps, the Tuskegee Airmen and the famed 555<sup>th</sup> Parachute Infantry Company whose service was rendered during World War II. These

were just a few of the many highlighted individuals and units that helped form the “bench” in the past for our



*BG (R) Richardson presents GEN Ward a set ROCKS Cuff Links at the conclusion of his remarks to the Gala guest*

leaders of today. The slide show also highlighted Service men and women like LT jg Jeanine McIntosh, who became the first female African-American aviator in the Coast Guard; and 1LT Vernice Amour, the first female African-American combat pilot in the Marine Corps; company grade leaders like CPT Lashanda Caver, Commander 403<sup>rd</sup> Cargo Transportation Company, serving in Iraq and CPT Tangela Robinson, Commander, HHC, 507<sup>th</sup> Corps Support Group, Fort Bragg. These individuals represent our future and the very reason why those of our past and those of the present, are “Building a Bench for Current and Future Leaders.”



*BG (R) Richardson presents scholarship of \$1000 to Washington DC Chapter - General R.C. Cartwright ROTC Scholarship Awards to Cadet Anna L. Hicks, Howard University, Cadet Rasia King, Morgan State University and Cadet Jawaan Thomas, Howard University*

The focus then shifted to recognizing the ROTC scholarship recipients and the contributions of those presently serving in our great Army and supporting the tenants and efforts of the ROCKS organization. After comments by GEN Ward,

BG(R) Richardson presented two sets of awards. The first set of awards was on behalf of the Washington DC Chapter. She presented three monetary scholarship of \$1000 to Washington DC Chapter - General R.C. Cartwright ROTC Scholarship Awards to Cadet Anna

L. Hicks, Howard University, Cadet Rasia King, Morgan State University and Cadet Jawaan Thomas, Howard University. The last award she presented was the Washington DC Chapter Lifetime Leadership Award to COL(R) Harry W. Townsend for his many years of service to the ROCKS organization, starting as one of the Charter/Originating members.



*BG (R) Adams-Ender makes her welcoming remarks to the Gala guest before making the ROCKS National level award presentations*

The program shifted to recognizing the ROCKS National Board awardees. After some brief remarks, ROCK's National Chairman, BG (R) Clara Adams-Ender, awarded several Chairmen's awards to ROCKS members from several chapters throughout the United States. The awardees from the Atlanta Chapter were MAJ Catina Barnes USA; MAJ Angea Bowie USA, MAJ Dion Lyons USA, and CPT Javon Perry USA. The awardee from the Carlisle Barracks Chapter was Dr. James Gordon. The awardee's from the James Webster Smith, Fort Jackson, SC were LTC(R) Elgin Allmond, LT Jeanette B. Bellinger, USA, COL Lillian A. Dixon USA, MAJ Lorie A. Fanning USA, CWO Kathryn E. Foreman USA, CPT Luella Frost USA, MAJ Matthew A. Green USA, CWO Harvey R. Jackson, USA, LTC Renee Nelson, USA, CPT Sasha Reynolds, USA and LT Steven T. Trice USA. From the Hampton Roads Chapter, the awardee's were COL Karen Evans USA, MAJ Dikila Jones USA, Mr. Toney Mooney, LTC Carolyn Nix USA, Colonel Shurman Vines USA, and CPT Dovia Williams USA. The last of the Chairman's Awards were to awardees from the Washington, DC Chapter. They were LTC (R) James Collins USA, COL Conrado Morgan, USA and CPT Eduardo Moten USA.



*BG (R) Adams-Ender presents ROCKS Chairman's Awards to COL Conrado Morgan, CPT Eduardo Moten and LTC (R) James Collins of the Washington DC Chapter*

BG (R) Clara Adams-Ender also awarded monetary scholarships to ROTC cadets. ROCKS efforts help to ensure greater opportunities for our servicemen and women, as well as their families, giving them the opportunity to broaden their horizons. The following ROTC Cadets were awarded either \$1000 or \$1500 National Board - General R.C. Cartwright ROTC Scholarship Awards Curtis Dotson, Senior, Norfolk State University; Jeremy Lewis, Senior, Fort Valley State University; Caleb Asomugha, Junior, Morgan State University; Leonna McCants, Junior, Hampton University; Eric Turner, Junior, Tuskegee University; Michael Whitted, Junior, Prairie View University; Llewintina King, Sophomore, Howard University; Nina Martin, Sophomore, Hampton University; Cristin Sanders, Sophomore, Morgan State University; and Antoinette West, Sophomore, Prairie View State University. BG (R) Adams-Ender also presented this year's COL Robert B. Burke award to LTC Rafeal Boyd for his exemplary leadership and support to the Fort Bragg Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc.

For service provide in the spirit of The ROCKS organization's ideals, values and principles, MG Thomas P. Bostick, USA and MG Dennis L. Via, USA were selected as the 2008 ROCKS of the Year recipients. The Honorary ROCK of the Year award was bestowed upon LTG William B. Caldwell, USA for his extraordinary contributions to ROCKS initiatives.

Cadets from Howard University ROTC Program supported the Gala by serving as the Honor Guard for the event. Other ROTC students attended the Gala from several ROTC Programs in the National Capital Region. With parting words from BG(R) Velma Richardson and a touching benediction from one of the ROCKS own, COL (R) Ken Younger, the formal part of the program ended but it was just the beginning of the socializing and picture

taking that ensued afterwards. It was truly a great event a befitting way to recognize the several awardees.



*BG (R) Adams-Ender poses with the National - General R.C. Cartwright ROTC Scholarship Awardees: Llewingtona King, Cristin Sanders, Caleb C. Asomugha, Curtis B. Dotson, Jr.*



*BG (R) Adams-Ender presents the Honorary ROCK of the Year Award to LTG William B. Caldwell IV.*

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL 2008 NATIONAL  
AWARD  
RECEIPIENTS!!**



*BG (R) Adams-Ender presents the ROCK of the Year Award to MG Dennis L. Via.*



*BG (R) Adams-Ender presents the ROCK of the Year Award to MG Thomas P. Bostick.*



*GEN Ward "coins" each of the ROTC Scholarship Awardees*

## The ROCKS, Inc. Bestows Honor on LTG William B. Caldwell

*Submitted by Fort Leavenworth Chapter  
Jeff Crawley/Staff Writer*

The ROCKS Inc., a service association, hosted its National Leadership and Training Conference April 3-5 at Fort Belvoir, Va.

More than 200 people from a dozen ROCKS chapters attended the conference, with the theme of "Building a Bench of Current and Future Army Leaders."

"I took away from the conference that leadership and mentoring are vital to the success of our military and the development of our community," said Maj. David Woods, president of the ROCKS Buffalo Soldier Chapter at Fort Leavenworth.

Activities included an awards ceremony, where Rock and Honorary Rock of the Year members were recognized for lifelong leadership. Combined Arms Center and Fort Leavenworth Commander Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV was named 2008 Honorary Rock of the Year.



*Left to Right: MAJ David Woods, LTG William Caldwell &  
COL Robert Ferrell*

"Thank you for choosing me," Caldwell said. "This is truly a great honor and I am very humbled to accept it on behalf of all of the fantastic Soldiers I have had the privilege of working with - they are the true heroes."

The conference was an opportunity for The ROCKS Inc. to present ROTC scholarships to about a dozen students, Woods said. "He (Caldwell) gave the students command coins and words of wisdom," Woods said.

In addition to Caldwell being recognized as an Honorary ROCK, the ROCKS National Board recognized two members as ROCKS of the Year for their exceptional and sustain leadership and support: MG Thomas Bostick,

Commander of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command, and MG Dennis Via, Commanding General, Communications-Electronics Command, Life Cycle Management Command.

Throughout the year, the ROCKS Buffalo Soldier Chapter provides leadership in many facets, said Woods, an operations officer for Operations Group D, Battle Command Training Program.

The chapter awards scholarships to deserving high school seniors, performs community activities such as Meals-on-Wheels and clothing drives, and conducts monthly professional development for junior officers, Woods said.

Caldwell acknowledged the efforts of the ROCKS association during the ceremony. "I applaud the ROCKS Mentoring Program that I know is integral in how you help develop young leaders," Caldwell said. "I have benefited from a fantastic leader who understood the importance of mentoring - General Kip Ward." Ward, Commander of Africa Command, was one of the key speakers at the conference and spoke about mentoring young leaders.

The name ROCKS is in honor of the late BG Roscoe "Rock" Cartwright, a retired Soldier, who died December 1, 1974, in a commercial airplane accident. Cartwright spent 33 years on active duty serving in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

The genesis of ROCKS occurred at Fort Leavenworth in the mid-1960s. Cartwright was a student at the Command and General Staff College and a member of a group of black officers who jokingly called themselves the "Blue Geese". It referred to a term used at the college to give special assignments to students, according to [www.arlington-cemetery.net](http://www.arlington-cemetery.net).

Over the years, the "Blue Geese" kept loosely organized. In 1974, the group was planning to meet to become a formal association when their mentor, Cartwright died. It was decided to name the association ROCKS in honor of him.

During the ceremony, Caldwell acknowledged the "Blue Geese." "I am proud to report our Fort Leavenworth Chapter is still thriving," he said.

The ROCKS Buffalo Soldier Chapter invites all active-duty, reserve and retired officers, spouses and ROTC cadets for membership. For more information about the ROCKS Inc., visit [www.rocksync.org](http://www.rocksync.org). There is a link to the Fort Leavenworth Chapter.

Do you have a story to share about what it means to be a ROCK? Please email your story to [therocks@aol.org](mailto:therocks@aol.org) no later than **November 20, 2008**.

### **Bostick and Via named the ROCKS of the Year**



*MG Thomas P. Bostick, 2008 ROCK of the Year*

During the Annual Spring Gala, MG Dennis L. Via and MG Thomas P. Bostick received the distinct honor of becoming the 59<sup>th</sup> and 60<sup>th</sup> ROCKS of the Year. The ROCKS, Inc. selects individuals as ROCKS of The Year who have made great contributions to the ROCKS, the U.S. military and the Nation. Previous ROCKS of the Year Winners include LTG Michael Rochelle, General Colin Powell, and General Kip Ward.

MG Bostick is the Commanding General for the United States Army Recruiting Command (USAREC). He is responsible for more than 13,000 Soldiers and Civilians assigned throughout the United States, Europe, and the Far East. Not only is he responsible for providing our Nation's strength of 80,000 Regular Army Soldiers and 26,500 Army Reserve Soldiers, but he has taken a vested interest in our Nation's education. MG Bostick implemented a program called March 2 Success, a free program designed to assist students to become successful in reading, math, and grammar. March 2 Success is also designed to improve high school graduation rates. Students who successfully complete March 2 Success attain better scores on standardized tests. Students who participate are not obligated to join the Army. MG Bostick also promotes mentorship programs where senior leaders talk to students and the community. Mentors demonstrate how students can achieve their goals, encourage them to stay in school, and provide resources to support needs as required.

MG Via is the Commanding General for the CECOM Life Cycle Management Command (CECOM LCMC). He leads a worldwide organization of over 10,000 military and civilian personnel responsible for coordinating the command, control, communications, computers, intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (C4ISR) systems for all the Army's battlefield mission areas. Some of the systems include computers and their networks, satellite

communication, tactical radios, maneuver control, and intelligence.



*MG Dennis L. Via, 2008 ROCK of the Year*

General Via earned his undergraduate from Virginia State University and a Master's Degree from Boston University. He is also a graduate of the U.S. Army War College.

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*Reprinted with permission - COMTO*

### **“Godfather of Military Transportation” Honored as “Trailblazer” by Conference of Minority Transportation Officials**

March 31, 2008, Washington, D.C. – The Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO) awarded LTG Edward Honor, USA (Ret.) – admired as the “Godfather of Military Transportation,” its COMTO Trailblazer Award in a ceremony at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Washington, D.C., on March 6, 2008.

General Honor served our military at the highest levels of command and staff to include Commander, Military Transportation Management Command and Director for Logistics, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and the highest logistics staff position in the Armed Forces.

His 35 years of service in the military earned him numerous awards, including the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff distinguished Public Service Award, to name a few.

After retiring from the Army, he served as president of the National Defense Transportation Association for 13 years, where he oversaw a rapid expansion and led the organization to numerous successes. He serves on the Board of Directors for The ROCKS, Inc. a 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, with the mission to provide professional and social interaction/development to strengthen the officer corps.

“General Honor’s distinguished military career is testament to his smarts, his tenacity, and his willingness to roll up his sleeves and get the job done,” said Shirley DeLibero, chair of COMTO’s Board of Directors, which advocates for minority rights in the transportation industry. “Through his example, he helped blaze the trail for minorities in the transportation industry, today. It was a privilege to recognize him with an award he so rightly deserves.”

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### **Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Commanding General Retires**

WASHINGTON – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Commanding General MG Ronald L. Johnson completed a distinguished 32-year military career and relinquished his position with the Corps in a Retirement Ceremony on March 31.

“I love the Army and I always will. I love the people I’ve had the pleasure and honor of serving with,” Johnson said in his farewell remarks to coworkers, civilians, fellow Soldiers and friends in a packed auditorium.

Johnson’s introduction to the Army came through junior ROTC at a Chicago high school where, he said “an angel” ROTC instructor “tricked” him into pursuing his education at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.



GEN William E. “Kip” Ward and MG Ronald L. Johnson

He said his Army career has been fun and he plans to continue to work very hard for the next several years and continue to hone his skills. “I am as energetic now as when I first joined this team called the United States Army,” Johnson said.

A Chicago native, Johnson was commissioned as an Engineer Officer from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in June 1976. He held a variety of positions during his career including: Director of the U.S. Army Installation Management Agency; dual-hatted as the Commanding General of the Corps’ Gulf Region Division and as the U.S. Deputy Director to the Program Management Office, Coalition Provisional Authority, Baghdad, Iraq; and Commanding General of the Corps’ Pacific Ocean Division, Hawaii.

Chief of Engineers and Commander of the Corps, Lt. Gen. Robert Van Antwerp, said previously that Johnson “played a shaping role in the future of Iraq as the Commanding General of the Gulf Region Division, headquartered in Baghdad ... building clinics, schools, roads, pipelines, and power distribution systems. And he was the first African-American to serve as the Army’s Senior Engineer in the Asia-Pacific Region.”

Commander of the U.S. Africa Command, Gen. William E. “Kip” Ward, was the guest host of the Retirement Ceremony. He congratulated Johnson “for having done the things that have caused each of us to be better human beings.

“Your service to this nation, our Army, this institution, is characterized in ways that point to nothing other than being selfless,” Ward said.

“From his junior ROTC days in Chicago to every command assignment, every staff assignment, he, through leadership, through example, through professionalism, caused those things he was responsible for, those teammates with whom he served to be the very best that they could be just by pure force of will and personality,” Ward said. “That doesn’t stop just because that phase of this life journey is about to transition.

Earlier this year, on Feb. 16, Johnson received the Black Engineer of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award during the 22nd Annual Black Engineer of the Year Awards Conference on in Baltimore. Since 1986, the conference and the associated awards ceremony have recognized the outstanding achievements of African-Americans in companies across America, according to BEYA officials.

In addition to the lifetime achievement award, Johnson is also the recipient of the 2003 Black Engineer of the Year

Award for Professional Achievement in Government Service.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers comprises approximately 34,000 civilian and 600 military employees, who serve the Armed Forces and the Nation by providing vital public engineering services and capabilities across the full spectrum of operations—from peace to war—in support of national interests.

For more information or to obtain hi-resolution images, please contact Brett McMillan at 202-761-0348.

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### **All American Chapter President receives Bobby Burke Award**

*Written by LTC Rafeal Boyd*

On Monday, April 21, 2008, the former All American Chapter President, COL Conrado Morgan, presented the coveted Bobby Burke Award to the current chapter president, LTC Rafeal Boyd, for continued service to the chapter from June 2000 through the present. COL Morgan hosted a luncheon honoring LTC Boyd for the nomination and selection of the award as he was unable to attend the Spring Gala due to military obligations. LTC Boyd has served the chapter in the capacity of the Scholarship Chairperson, Secretary of Recording, Vice President of Administration, and most recently as the All American Chapter President.

Prior to the presentation of the award, COL Morgan provided a brief historical synopsis of the impacts, contributions, key roles, coordination, and execution efforts of COL Bobby Burke as they relate to the origins and foundations of the ROCKS, Inc. COL Morgan also expressed the positive impact that the All American Chapter has among other installations and chapters.



*COL Conrado Morgan presents the Bobby Burke award to LTC Rafeal Boyd*

LTC Boyd thanked COL Morgan for accepting the award on his behalf and 1LT Palmer for presenting the chapter's mission at the Spring Gala hosted by Nationals on April 2-3 2008 in Washington, D.C. LTC Boyd further expressed his gratitude to the chapter members regarding their continued assistance to further the ideals of Colonel Bobby Burke and other key leaders that have laid the foundation. LTC Boyd stated the chapter's success is due to a legacy of officers committed to excellence and dedication to duty and shared key moments that COL Morgan helped shape in numerous chapter functions.

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### **DC Chapter members receive the National Chairman's Award**

During the sixth National Leadership and Training Conference, LTC (R) James Collins, COL Conrado Morgan, and CPT Eduardo Moten became the latest Chapter members to receive the Chairman's Award. The ROCKS, Inc. selects individuals who have worked tirelessly to support the ROCKS goals and objectives. All three recipients consistently work tirelessly to advance the goals of the chapter.

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### **Morning Calm Chapter Hosts Brigade Commander's Forum in Korea**

*By CPT Henry M. Opolot*



Focusing on mentorship initiatives in Korea, the Morning Calm Chapter hosted its Brigade Commander's Forum to allow three successful brigade commanders an opportunity to give advice and insight to young commissioned and warrant officers on a variety of topics ranging from high performance to officer retention. COL Clarence "Dave" Turner, Commander of the Far East District, US Army Corp of Engineers, Seoul; COL William H. Morris, Commander of the 2nd Aviation Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Humphreys; and COL Brian McKiernan, Commander of the 210th Fires Brigade, Camp Casey (*in the order pictured*) were happy to field tough questions and gave candid answers to the 20 attendees at Camp Casey, Republic of Korea.

On what made them stand out as a lieutenant, all three acknowledged they had to develop their competence but were not perfect. COL McKiernan talked about mastering one's duties, getting partying out of his system, and being motivated by his intense fear of failure to family, self, and out of professional pride. He also advised officers to develop a healthy suspicion about information they receive, cautioning them to trust but verify. He also encouraged them to maintain their intestinal fortitude - "it's not worth shading the truth." COL Morris added a vivid caveat, "Avoid 'BS-ing' people. It's not about getting fired, it's about getting killed. You want to speak with credibility rather than snap-guessing." COL Turner stressed the importance of becoming a subject matter expert. "Know what the source is... you've got to go to the source to find ground truth—that's how you can be technically & tactically competent. Learning as much as you can about a subject before dealing with [that subject] allows you to operate with confidence." COL Turner also drove home physical training and a positive attitude because as a lieutenant, those are two areas where you get tested first, you want to be able to say 'Sir, let me show you my area, etc...'"

On dealing with new or uncomfortable social situations, like getting invited to the boss's home or unit social function, each concurred there is a significant impact in participating in the social aspect of an Army officer's life. COL McKiernan made several points regarding becoming well-rounded in order to adapt. "How you participate shows that you may be different but you have the ability to quickly assess situations and modify your behavior appropriately. I have seen that introverts can do very well. Find a way to participate and show who you are." All three agreed that it is ill-advised to miss team-building events. "Be flexible with a sense of who you are," said COL McKiernan. COL Morris put a different spin on socials, "Remember it is not just about you... You've got to mix and mingle. Those golf events, especially, are all about wardrobe... people like golfing with non-golfers!" COL Turner included the importance of dragging your peers to events, "It's in the tradition of team-building."

One critical issue that brought about a good news story was officer retention. COL McKiernan and his wife, a LTC at 18th MEDCOM, not only convinced an Army captain to drop her REFRAD request, but they convinced her husband to return to the uniform after leaving the Army, 11 months prior. The McKiernans had the couple over for dinner with their four daughters to show them they can have family and enjoy their military experience, "you can have it all with some sacrifices... we have an obligation to our institution to give our officers a reason to stay... a feeling that what I do matters... sake of preservation of this institution we have an obligation... young officers need to see that military life is consistent with their values..." COL Turner

stated that mentors must help junior officers in making personal and professional decisions that are right for them and the Army, but not to make decisions for those junior officers.

COL Morris also stated that it is sometimes in the best interest of the Army to make hard or unpopular professional choices that are in the best interests of the officer, as well as the Army. COL Morris once removed a captain from company command before that captain reached six months. After an honest assessment of that captain's command, his communication and interpersonal skills, COL Morris decided that the captain needed to do some honest self-assessment to find out the right role for him to progress. On mentorship, all three imparted that good and reliable mentorship demands honesty first and foremost. Junior officers who make good informed decisions on how to give what they have to offer can become good senior officers who will be good mentors down the line. Not only did each commander express similar keys to their professional success in the military, they all agreed that getting along with one's peers and keeping in mind what is in the best interests of others contributes to becoming the kind of officer the Army needs. "Don't complain [when assigned to a bad job]. You never know who is listening or what opportunity awaits you on the other side of that job," COL Morris stated frankly. "You got to be relevant," said COL Turner, "You've got to build a reputation that you will do it and do it well (both in good or less desirable jobs)." All three agreed that today's leader has to get over what their branch is and look at a bigger picture for an Army at War.

The news of the Brigade Commander's Leadership Forum was well received across the peninsula. LTC Charles Hamilton, senior advisor to the Morning Calm Chapter, said that similar forums are being requested at Osan Air Force Base (Area III) and at the camps in the Daegu area (Area IV). In addition to future professional development opportunities, the Morning Calm Chapter continues its fundraising and membership drives as it prepares to support the upcoming JROTC Drill Competition and this year's scholarship applicants from area high schools.

### **HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO TELL YOUR STORY!**

We are soliciting your candid feedback regarding the benefits and challenges of mentoring in general, or a mentoring relationship that you are currently in, or had in the past. Why not share your experience so that it might encourage, enlighten, or benefit others? Please submit your input for the next ROCKET to: [therocks@aol.com](mailto:therocks@aol.com) no later than **20 November 2008**.

### Fort Leavenworth 5K Fun Run

The Fort Leavenworth ROCKS Chapter sponsored a 5K Fun Run on April 12. The event was an effort to raise money to award deserving high school seniors scholarships who will attend college next year and to promote community unity, as well. The runners were made up of military, family members, and civilians.



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### Atlanta Chapter Visits Tuskegee University, March 2008

On March 27, 2008, the Atlanta Chapter, ROCKS, Inc., visited Tuskegee University (TU) to mentor and share experiences with Senior Army ROTC cadets. Mr. Maurice Buchanan, President, Atlanta Chapter, led the presentation and discussed areas to include Army Values, career stoppers, and serving with a diverse population. 2LT Benji Brown, Third Army/USARCENT, Fort McPherson, GA, also addressed the cadets, by providing them with information based on his experiences at the Basic Officer Leader Course II and III and his first assignment. MAJ (P) Augustine Clark, Professor of Military Science, TU Army

ROTC Program, was very appreciative and supportive of the ROCKS visit. She said, "I really appreciate the ROCKS speaking with the cadets. It's an opportunity to reiterate some critical areas, already discussed in the classroom."



*Cadets Spencer Harvey, Tarif Florence, and Merissa Holloway; 2LT Benji Brown; Cadets James Mayers, Taria Usher, and Edna Craig.*

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### Photos from the Carlisle Chapter (MG Charles C. Rogers Chapter)



*Chapter of the ROCKS met with the Commanding General of Recruiting Command, MG Thomas P. Bostick*



*Carlisle ROCKS welcomes the new United States Army War College (USAWC) Commandant, MG Robert M. Williams*

## Central Virginia Chapter Charter Ceremony

Central Virginia Inaugural Chartering Ceremony held on Fort Lee Installation at Regimental Club on March 22. Central Virginia Chapter ROCKS, Inc was established on October 2007.



*Fort Lee's Garrison Commander, COL Gwendolyn Bingham speaks during the Central, VA ROCKS Ceremony*

The Chartering Ceremony was well attended by both Junior and Senior Officers to include Cadets from VA State University through the rank of General Officer. The charter presentation was done by BG Clara Adams-Ender USA (Ret), Chairperson National Board of the ROCKS, Inc., followed by remarks and words of encouragement given by MG Stevenson, CG CASCOM.



*Presentation of Charter by BG(R) Adams-Ender to Central VA ROCKS Pres. COL Norrell as he also presented her with a token from Fort Lee*

Sworn in to office were (Chapter President) COL Oliver Norrell, CASCOM Assistant Chief of Staff - ARNG and (Correspondence Secretary) CPT Seneta Burns, CASCOM

PIO. Not present is the (Treasurer) CPT Theodore Davis, Company Commander, 49th Quarter Master Group.

"This is an opportunity to strengthen the networking channel here at Fort Lee and re-establish officers as mentors" - 1LT Chatman.

"This was an opportunity to network and socialize with officers, who have been where we are now. We look forward to coming to Fort Lee and being introduced to senior officers and having a chance to learn hands on from the ROCKS mentors. It's definitely a confidence boost" said VA State Cadet Capers and Cadet Wheeler.



*MG(R) Robert Gaskill, MG Mitchell Stevenson - CG CASCOM, BG(R) Clara Adams-Ender, BG Jesse Cross and LTG(R) Arthur Gregg*



*VSU ROTC Cadets at Central VA ROCKS Ceremony*

### **SAVE THE DATE**

The Washington, DC Chapter of the ROCKS will be hosting its 17<sup>th</sup> Annual 5-Mile Run / 2-Mile Fun Walk on **Saturday, September 13, 2008**. Please visit their website for more details, [www.therocksdc.org](http://www.therocksdc.org).

## **James Webster Smith Chapter Enjoys Mentoring Success & Highlights Chapter Events**

*LTC(R) Elgin Allmond, Advisor*

James Webster Smith (JWS) Chapter began its Leadership Outreach Program year with a Social Gathering hosted by COL(R) Maxie Joye, Chapter President.

The JWS Mentoring Committee was successful under the able leadership of MAJ Matthew Green. During the Fall Semester, the Committee attended the University of South Carolina (USC) Gamecock Battalion Cadet Society monthly meetings as Leadership Panel Discussion Members, Supporters, and Observers. Representatives included Officer and NCO Committee Members. The USC Gamecock Battalion also includes Cadets from HBCUs Allen University, Benedict College, and Morris College.

In January, the Chapter observed National Mentoring Month by sponsoring its 2d Annual Leadership Panel Discussion. The panelists were COL Anita Dixon, Fort Jackson Garrison Commander; CW5 (Ret) Harvey Jackson, former Director of the Wheel-Vehicle Maintenance School; and CSM David Belcher, Readiness Command CSM. LTC Allmond honored the panelists with Certificates. During the meeting, special recognition was given to CSM Posey Grier, Jr. for his contributions as Chapter Senior NCO Advisor and Honorary Member; and CPT Luella Frost for Chapter ROCK of the Year.

During February, COL Gregory Smith, Senior Region Engineer for 81st Regional Support Command (RSC), and LTC Richard Evelyn, Chief of Plans and Mobilization Division and a Professional Engineer from 81st RSG, presented a panel discussion on engineer career opportunities in observance of Engineer Month.

During March, the Chapter was honored with a presentation by Dr. (COL) Barrye Price, Commander, USMEPCOM Eastern Sector, on Leadership 101.

During April, MAJ Green, CPT LaShada Lewis, CPT Sasha Reynolds, Mr. Reginald Reynolds, MSG Ronnie Bush, Dr. Jaunita Heyward, and LTC Allmond represented the Chapter at the Leadership Conference, Chapter Reports Meeting, and Spring Gala.

The primary mentoring focus during the Spring Semester was on the Bull Dog Battalion at South Carolina State University (SCSU). The Bull Dog BN Cadre enjoyed reinforcement of mentoring, training, coaching, and teaching from SCSU Military Alumni and JWS Mentoring Committee. CPT Frost, Vice President for Administration, was guest speaker for the Bull Dog Spring Awards

Ceremony. MAJ Lorie Fanning and CPT Reynolds attended the ROTC Ball and Commissioning Ceremony.

SCSU commissioned six Second Lieutenants (2LTs) in the fall and six in the spring. USC commissioned three 2LTs in fall and 12 in the spring. SCSU plans to commission two during the summer and USC plans to commission three during the summer. Both Professors of Military Science are predicting much higher numbers for next year.

The Chapter ended its Leadership Outreach Program year with the "Spring Fest" Social Gathering that included a Hail & Farewell and an Awards Ceremony for members, supporters, families, and friends.

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## **Hampton Roads Chapter February Meeting Features GO Panel Discussion**

*by LTC(R) Toney C. Mooney, HR Chapter Historian*

LTC Henry Green, Professor of Military Science, and his Pirate Battalion of Hampton University's ROTC Department hosted the February General Membership Meeting of the Hampton Roads Chapter in the university's Harvey Library instead of the usual meeting place, the Army ROTC Department. The larger area was needed to hold the more than 85 people attending, which featured as its Officer Professional Development segment, a General Officer panel discussion on "The Intersection of Military Careers and Politics."



*Members of HU's Pirate Battalion gather before the HR Chapter Meeting. Pictured L to R: Cadets Alvin Wilkins, Tiffany Tompkins, and Bianca Berryhill, CPT Adam Curry, and 2LT Lydia Cumming*

Participating in the panel discussion were MG Montague Winfield, Commander of the US Army Cadet Command; and MG(R) Wallace Arnold, former Commander of US

Army Cadet Command, both HR Chapter Members, and Lifetime ROCKS members.

The event, called to order by LTC(R) Wendell Turner, President of the HR Chapter, was followed by the singing of the National Anthem by Cadet Brian Otey of Hampton University, and the invocation given by CPT Mary Aaron, Media Chief of the Public Affairs Office, US Army Cadet Command. Attending were HR Chapter Members and guests, LTC Weldon Harris, Professor of Military Science, and members of his Spartan Battalion from Norfolk State University; and LTC Vince Ross, Professor of Military Science, and members of his Mighty Viking Battalion from Elizabeth City State University.



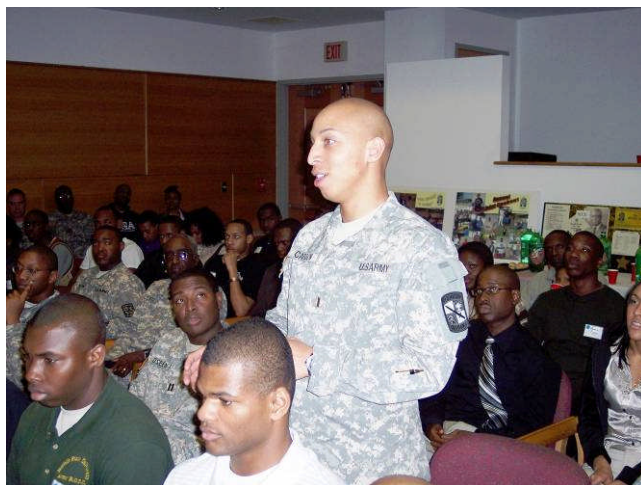
*MG Winfield and MG(R) Arnold lead Panel discussion*

After Chapter Officer and Committee Reports, LTC Turner turned over the OPD to COL (Ret) Julius Coats, Chapter Advisor, who facilitated the panel discussion. MG Winfield, and MG (Ret) Arnold made opening remarks. Their comments were consistent with DoD policy governing those things members of the Armed Forces should and should not do related to political activities. In general, while DoD policy encourages members of the Armed Forces to carry out their obligations of citizenship, members on active duty should not engage in partisan political activities, including online using government computers.

The panel answered questions from the audience such as "How do you balance military service with the dynamics of the national political environment, and the upcoming election?" They also discussed historical instances where former leaders got in trouble with too much involvement with politics.

This meeting and panel discussion was a huge success. Not only was there a abundant exchange of information between the GO Panel and the audience, but the camaraderie and

interaction between the HR Chapter Members, guests, and members of three Cadet Battalions was outstanding.



*2LT Bruce Carson, NSU Gold Bar Recruiter, asks a question to the GO Panel*

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### Atlanta Chapter's Annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon



*MG Jerome Johnson, Deputy Chief of Staff, G4, FORSCOM, was the Guest Speaker for Atlanta Chapter's Scholarship Awards Luncheon*

Atlanta Chapter worked hard to plan its 2nd Annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon which was held in June at The Commons, Fort McPherson, GA. This date also marked the 2nd anniversary of the group becoming a Chapter. The guest speaker for the ceremony was Major General Jerome Johnson, Deputy Chief of Staff, G4, FORSCOM, who earnestly supports the Atlanta Chapter and has given so much to ensure that the Chapter continues to flourish. MG Johnson highlighted the accomplishments the Chapter achieved during the last year and presented the scholarships and awards.

During the past year, Atlanta Chapter worked hard to accomplish all of the milestones established as part of its strategic plan. This has not been an easy task, especially considering the high incidents of deployments, mobilizations, rotations, and personnel turnovers experienced by the members of FORSCOM, First Army, USARCENT and USARC. Acknowledging their hard work and successes was both rewarding and worthy of recognition, as the

Chapter reached its second anniversary. Atlanta Chapter is comprised of dedicated leaders and mentors, who strive to ensure their colleagues and ROTC cadets succeed. The Chapter has been most proud of its willingness and ability to help young people.

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## **Morning Calm Chapter Paying It Forward**

*By CPT Henry M. Opolot*

The Morning Calm Chapter built upon the success of last year by hosting its 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ROCKS Spring Gala and Scholarship Reception. In front of parents, teachers, ROCKS members, and distinguished guests from all over the Korean peninsula, Morning Calm gave a total of \$2500.00 in scholarships to three outstanding high school seniors: Clara Hong, Erica Anglade, and Alyssa Gray. This year's theme was "Pay It Forward," based on the movie produced in 2000 and the concept of passing on good deeds received by others.

Three Junior ROTC cadets stood from an impressive field of applicants and absolutely blew away the scholarship committee on the basis of academic excellence, community service, leadership potential, athletics, and extra-curricular activities. Each applicant also submitted an essay explaining their goals and plans after High School, and why they were deserving of the ROCKS scholarship.



*MAJ Cheryl Womack, COL Christopher Queen,, Erica Aanglade, Clara Hong, Alyssa Gray, and MG John W. Morgan*

Pay It Forward is an appropriate theme for this year because it captures what the organization has done since its inception. Colonel Christopher Queen, guest speaker and Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Heavy Brigade Combat Team (2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division), gave a number of examples on how he has benefited from good mentorship throughout his career.

COL Queen also stated his responsibility has been to pass those lessons on to the next generation of leaders; much like it will be the same responsibility of the three recipients who will be leaders wherever they go.



*Scholarship Winners with Members of the Morning Calm Chapter*

In closing of the reception, Major General John W. Morgan III, Commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, commented on how the dedication and efforts of the Morning Calm Chapter this year translates into opportunity for each of the outstanding recipients to realize their potential in college and beyond. Both MG Morgan and COL Queen took part in awarding the scholarships to Cadets Hong, Anglade, and Gray. Erica Anglade is already accepted to Jacksonville University where she will major in Business Management and enroll in the Army ROTC Program. Clara Hong plans to attend the University of Nevada-Las Vegas and become an Army Nurse. Alyssa Gray will attend the University of South Carolina (Columbia), enroll into the Army ROTC Program and major in Business Administration.

The Morning Calm Chapter is especially proud of these future leaders of tomorrow and look forward to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Spring Gala in 2009.

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## **All American Chapter hosts Promotion Reception for Past President COL Conrado Morgan**

*By LTC Rafeal Boyd*

The All American Chapter hosted a fun-filled promotion reception and social for its immediate past president, COL Conrado Morgan on Friday, February 8, 2007, at the Pope Air Force Base, Pope Club. The All American's Vice President of Administrations, MAJ Giovanna Cheeks,

served as the mistress of ceremony and led the audience through a synchronized agenda appropriate for the event.

LTC Boyd kicked off the congratulatory remarks highlighting COL Morgan's tenure as president and his immediate impact to the greater Fort Bragg community through All American chapter and fraternal based events. In addition, LTC Boyd expressed that COL Morgan exemplifies the core competencies of the ROCKS, Inc. Specifically, mentorship, leadership, teaching and setting the example for his superiors, peers and subordinates.

Realizing the critical importance of senior leader involvement in the All American Chapter, he carefully crafted General Officer and VIP visits from the XVIII Airborne Corps Commander, to consistent visits and facilitated active participation by BG Rodney O. Anderson.



*COL Conrado Morgan along with LTC Rafeal Boyd*

The program continued with members of the XVIII Airborne Corps Staff, the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division, family and friends offering congratulatory remarks and reflections of the impact COL Morgan has had on their careers and personal acquaintances.

The formal portion of the event concluded after brief remarks from Dr. Phyllis Morgan, COL Morgan's wife and closing remarks from COL Morgan and LTC Boyd. Guests enjoyed music provided by a DJ and refreshments to close out the social.

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#### **Chapter Happenings**

Share your Chapter Highlights with other ROCKS Chapters in the Fall Edition of the ROCKET. **Email Articles and Photos to [www.therocks@aol.com](mailto:www.therocks@aol.com) no later than November 20, 2008.**

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### **All American Chapter hosts Retirement Luncheon for COL Cedric T. Rice**

*LTC Rafeal Boyd*

The All American chapter bided farewell to one of its very own members who has personified the core competencies of the ROCKS Inc. COL Cedric T. Rice has provided sound mentorship throughout the XVIII Airborne Corps and 82nd Airborne Division during his tenure as a Signal Officer and Battalion Commander. The All American Chapter hosted a much deserved retirement luncheon for COL Rice whose most recent assignment has been serving as the XVIII Airborne Corps G6 Officer. COL Rice's impact on both officers within the Signal Corps and key staff positions, has been matchless.

LTC Boyd presented a plaque bearing the ROCKS, Inc. logo and explained to the audience of civilians, officers and warrant officers about how COL Rice always demanded excellence in everything that he pursued. He has served the ROCKS membership with advice and was always willing to provide senior oversight, when needed.

COL Rice spoke to the audience on the importance of knowing yourself and channeling your talents in whatever capacity you are selected to work. He provided various examples and analogies to assist the audience in understanding key principles in mentorship and leadership.

The luncheon concluded with various members of the organization congratulating COL Rice on a much deserved recognition for his continued service to the various men and women, in and out of uniform.

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### **National Board ROCKS, Inc. Historian, COL Frank Francois (RET) speaks to Washington, DC Chapter**

On February 21, COL(R) Frank Francois served as the guest speaker for the Washington, DC Chapter for Black History Month. He provided a detailed historical background of the ROCKS. He shared treasured pictures and articles from the ROCKS, Inc. National archives. It was amazing to see how a small group of CGSC students had a vision that has spread worldwide and respected throughout all levels of command.

COL (R) Osborne provided a written quiz to test the members' knowledge of ROCKS in Black History. Everyone enjoyed the quiz and appreciated the much needed history



*COL Frank Francois USA (Ret) speaks to the Washington, DC ROCKS*

lesson. COL Francois also solicited members to provide their bio-graphies and pictures for the upcoming ROCK Historical Book scheduled to be sold to the public as a fundraiser.

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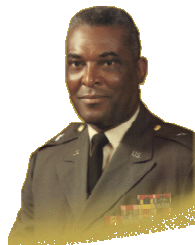
### Sexual Assault Awareness Information

If you went through April not realizing it was Sexual Assault Awareness Month, you weren't within range of a VA Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Coordinator. MST Coordinators nationwide hosted a variety of events designed to increase staff and veteran knowledge of MST. Susan McCutcheon, RN, EdD, Director of Family Services, Women's Mental Health and Military Sexual Trauma within the Office of Mental Health Services (OMHS), led the April effort. "Although people usually think of combat when they hear the word 'trauma' or 'post traumatic stress disorder' (PTSD), sexual assault and harassment in the military can be equally destructive, leading to things like depression, substance use disorders, interpersonal difficulties and physical problems," she explained. OMHS distributed educational and outreach materials to MST Coordinators at each VA Medical Center. Coordinators put these to good use in lectures, informational tables, and local publications. A key message was VA provides free care for all mental and physical health conditions related to experiences of MST. Veterans do not need to be service connected and may be able to receive this care, even if they are not eligible for other VA care. Coordinators also stressed that MST is not just a women's issue. "VA is legally mandated to screen all veterans for MST, but this makes good clinical sense," noted Rachel Kimerling, PhD, the MST Support Team's Director for Monitoring. "We see reports of MST from veterans from all eras, and from both men and women. Though rates of MST are higher among women, because our patients are predominately male, there are actually

about equal numbers of women and men who report having experienced MST." For more information about treatment resources, patient education materials, and training opportunities, check out the MST Resource Homepage at [http://vaww.collage.research.med.va.gov/collage/E\\_behav/MST](http://vaww.collage.research.med.va.gov/collage/E_behav/MST).

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### 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 [scook@wscassociates.com](mailto:scook@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. (Ret.) Frank Francois, III is the project director and if there are any questions he can be contacted at [goldenpin@aol.com](mailto:goldenpin@aol.com).



Graphic: Evolution Design/illustration

*Have a Wonderful*



**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:\_\_\_\_\_

**National Membership Fees (*circle one*)**

| <b>Years</b>    | <b>1</b>         | <b>2</b>      | <b>3</b>          |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 04 & Above      | \$50             | \$96          | \$142             |
| 03 & Below      | \$30             | \$58          | \$86              |
| Life Membership | Regular<br>\$450 | Gold<br>\$650 | Platinum<br>\$850 |

Method of Payment: Check Visa MasterCard  
Credit Card Number:\_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date:\_\_\_\_\_  
Name as it appears on card:\_\_\_\_\_

**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.