



The ROCKET



Fall/Winter 2009

Chairperson Message

As we enter the holiday season and the close of 2009, I'd like to begin this issue by extending my personal appreciation to all that you've achieved this year. As I look back I realize that we have much for which to be thankful. Individually and collectively, you have continued to demonstrate your commitment to the ideals and priorities of the ROCKS, both at home and abroad, despite the optempo.

This Rocket edition not only reflects the broad spectrum of your activities and contributions, but also the depth of the same and the promise of the future. From professional development, to community outreach, networking, and mentoring, you continue to excel, often against very compelling and competing demands of your time and talent. Special thanks to the Afghanistan Interest Group for their heartwarming efforts to support a young girl in that country via their creative outreach. Their efforts will undoubtedly send a strong message regarding "Concern, Dedication and Professionalism" even during war. I also want to especially thank those of you who are accomplishing what you are doing primarily with a small core of chapter members who are dedicated to making big things happen despite your numbers.

A cornerstone of the Rocks, Inc. efforts is mentoring. I am proud to share not only keen words of wisdom with you from LTG Dennis Via, but also his story, one that reflects the power of mentoring. An honorable and talented man from humble roots, LTG Via's comments paint a picture of how fundamental values, a commitment to hard work, high standards, lifelong learning, and supporting others can translate into phenomenal professional and personal success. In addition to what I hope you'll glean from LTG Via's comments, there are several other articles that focus on the importance and power of mentoring that I hope you'll enjoy.

Much appreciation to the Howard University ROTC Bison Battalion and the Prairie View A & M University Navy ROTC program for their contribution to this edition's Cadet Corner. It is clear that both organizations are hard at work training and developing our future military leaders. We applaud you for this and will do whatever we can to support you in your efforts.

We are only about four months away from the Rocks National Conference which is sanctioned by the Office of the Secretary of Defense and will be held in April 2010. I highly encourage you to check out the website now for information regarding the conference and plan to attend what promises to be a very informative and interactive forum that you won't want to miss. The conference will include a host of senior military and civilian leaders, several informative panel discussions, and numerous opportunities to network, learn from each other, and grow professionally. There will also be an opportunity to learn best practices first hand from other chapters during the Rocks chapters report session.

I'd also like to make a personal plea to you regarding the upcoming window of opportunity for ROTC Scholarship application submittals. The Rocks will again facilitate the submission of ROTC scholarship applications to Cadet Command. Now is the time to review application requirements online and begin working with potential candidates and their families to ensure that they are properly informed about ROTC and their applications are submitted by the deadline. ROTC application process info is in this edition.

I would be remiss if I did not encourage everyone to support our deployed personnel, both military and civilian, during this holiday season and throughout the year. Whether you send a thoughtful card or a care package by the fast approaching holiday deadline, I am certain that whatever you do will be much appreciated by those serving in harms way. In addition to our deployed personnel, please reach out and touch their family members to ensure that they know that we care about them and are willing to provide assistance and support.

The Rocks, Inc. National Board and I congratulate you on all that you continue to do to develop future leaders and strengthen the officer corps. We stand ready to support you in your endeavors so please do not hesitate to let us know how we can enhance our support to you. As always, thank you so much for "Making the Difference that Counts!"

BG Clara Adams-Ender USA (Ret)
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Strong Values Serve as the Foundation for this Soldier's Story: Insights from LTG Dennis Via, USA

Submitted by COL (Ret) Dorene Hurt



Chief of Staff of the Army, GEN George W. Casey, Jr.
Administers the oath to LTG Dennis Via, USA

1. You and your family come from very humble beginnings in Martinsville, Virginia. Can you describe what it was like being raised there and how you would describe how your foundational values were established?

I was very fortunate to be raised in a close family-based community. Everyone in the community knew each other, to include my school teachers, which could make life as a student very interesting, and there was always a helping hand in times of need. Like many communities in rural southern Virginia at the time, many of my relatives lived close by and there were always numerous family gatherings, including Sunday dinner with lots of aunts, uncles, and cousins at my Grandmother's home following church services, birthdays, anniversaries, community events, and family reunions in the summer which my family has held annually since 1939. I have very fond memories of growing up with my brother, cousins, and several friends, many of whom I am still close to today. Strong values were learned early-on from my father and mother, and reinforced by Sunday school teachers, through community church services and activities, and by elementary and high school teachers. Although, as you've stated, I came from humble beginnings, we had a very rich family foundation.

2. At your recent promotion ceremony, you spoke about a number of the key influencers in your life and how what you learned from them played a great part in your phenomenal achievement in the Army. Please describe and include why you chose the Army yourself.

Well, first of all, I've been very fortunate to have had many key influencers throughout my life, starting with my father who reinforced the value of a strong work ethic, to be responsible for your actions, and to always treat people with dignity and respect. Although he was not a veteran, having not been able to serve because of a childhood injury, he instilled the values of honesty and integrity in my brother and me, and always did his best to prepare us to lead successful adult lives. He would tell us to always do our very best because "someone is always watching."

There were also several men and women in my hometown community – Mr. Charles Turner, Mrs. Virginia Reid, Mr. John Robert Redd and many others who were "pillars" of the community. Many of them were veterans from World War II and Korea, whom I greatly admired and respected. I had some outstanding teachers and coaches who served as role models including Ms. Betty Wade, my first-grade teacher, and football and basketball coaches Mr. Charlie Belvin and Mr. Andy Wills, and of course, Mr. Edward Fontaine, my high school teacher, also an Army veteran, who played – and continues to do so today – such an instrumental role in my life and in my attending Virginia State University. I also had two exceptional ROTC Professors of Military Science at Virginia State, Colonels (Ret) Jona McKee and Frank Underwood, and also Colonel (Ret) Porche Taylor, the University Vice-President for Student Affairs. Both COLs McKee and Taylor are original members of the 555th Parachute Infantry Regiment (The Triple Nickels). So I'm certain with so many key influencers this early in my life, many of whom were Army veterans including several uncles, service in the Army seemed to be the predetermined path for me.

Since entering active duty, the number of key influences from Second Lieutenant to Lieutenant General have continued to expand, too many to name here, but three of my most influential mentors are Lieutenant General(Ret) Robert "Bob" Gray, whom I met when I was a 2LT assigned to the 35th Signal Brigade at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, General William "Kip" Ward, my Assistant Division Commander when I commanded the 82nd Signal Battalion, and General (Ret) Ben Griffin, whom I met at Ft Hood when I commanded the 3rd Signal Brigade and have worked for twice as a General Officer. What I learned most from each of these great Army General Officers and leaders was their extraordinary leadership and sterling examples of excellence.

3. Despite successes like yours, it is clear that there are many weighty challenges confronting African Americans in our nation, especially African American males. For a variety of reasons, many African American males do not view military service as a viable option. What needs to be done to enhance understanding, support and uplift them

including providing viable opportunities like college ROTC or attendance at a military academy?

Effective – and continuous – communications. I believe we can never communicate enough with our youth, especially those who live in challenged environments. We can inform them and their parents about the exceptional opportunities afforded America's youth through service in our Armed Forces or in service to the federal government. For those of us who wear the uniform, or have worn the uniform, we need to tell our story, and tell it often. And this requires a personal investment in time. There is no better example than having successful officers and non-commissioned officers visit their hometowns, middle and high schools, and communities – in uniform – to speak directly to our youths and their parents, as well as teachers and community leaders. I visit my hometown and alma mater at least once annually to speak to middle and high school students, college students, and ROTC cadets. During these visits, very often I find that our youth are either misinformed, or simply unaware of our programs and opportunities.

4. An Army career is challenging under the best circumstances. You've had the benefit of a wonderful wife in Mrs. Linda Via who has supported you and been by your side throughout your career. Given the unending demands of your overall career and specific jobs, how did the two of you develop into such an awesome team and how have you maintained some sort of balance in your family life especially for your sons Brian and Bradley?

I'm very fortunate and blessed to have married such a wonderful partner in Linda. She certainly gets 51% of the credit. From the day she pinned my Second Lieutenant bars at my commissioning along with my brother, she has always been by my side – sometimes leading the way, and has ensured I remained grounded as I was promoted through the ranks. We recently celebrated our 26th Wedding Anniversary, and I can assure you, I would not be who and where I am today without Linda and her unconditional love and support. We've been together from the start, through the good times and not so good times. We have tremendously enjoyed our service together in the Army and with the tremendous Soldiers and families we've been privileged to lead and serve with throughout my career. We made a commitment early in my career, especially after our sons were born, to strive to achieve "balance" between my official duties and family, and at every promotion level and position, we've worked very hard towards this goal. Linda has been fortunate to have other wonderful Army spouses who played a major role in her growth and development as an Army spouse, especially Mrs. Joyce Ward. Clearly, it has not always been easy, but we've always committed ourselves to do so, not only for us and our sons, but also as an example for others.

5. Describe your professional choices. Why did you become a Signal officer? How were you prepared and developed? What significant changes have occurred in your field and what should young Signal officers expect in the future, especially in an era of persistent conflict?



GEN Casey and Mrs. Linda Via pin LTG Via

My interest in becoming a Signal Officer began during ROTC Summer Advanced Camp at Fort Bragg, where we visited a tactical Signal Unit display. Having a background and interest in electronics, I was fascinated by the ability of the Signal Corps to provide communications – telephone calls and messaging – from field locations. In fact, I think they allowed me to place a telephone call to Linda. Although Communications-Electronics was not part of the ROTC curriculum, the courses and training provided during the Signal Officer's Basic and Advanced Courses provided a solid foundation for follow-on assignments. I also spent considerable time in self-study to improve and enhance my knowledge of communications-electronics, terrestrial and satellite communications.

The Signal Corps today is the most transformational branch in our Army and our Armed Forces. With the advent of the Internet, along with extraordinary advancements in information technology, the C4 (Command and Control, Communications and Computers) systems and capabilities delivered to the joint and combined warfighter, especially during war, are enormous and very powerful. In an era of persistent conflict executed on a highly fluid, dispersed, and mobile battlespace, the mission of the Signaler will only become more complex as the speed of technology increases and we continue to push the delivery of C4 and ISR (Intelligence, Sensors, and Reconnaissance) capabilities traditionally located at Brigade and Battalion level down to company, squad, and team level. In addition, the evolving Cyberspace Warfighting Domain adds new challenges and complexity which we need to fully understand. It's truly an exciting time to be in this career field.

6. Many people think that officers become Generals because they make few mistakes and fail at nothing. However, we know that most successful leaders have failed at something. Describe a situation when you failed at something important and how you were able to overcome it. Who made the biggest difference for you in this instance and how would you recommend that young officers deal with major errors and failures?

I personally believe officers who are fortunate to be promoted into the General Officer ranks, or to other senior ranks or positions, have in fact, made numerous mistakes. However, the reason they've been successful or have overcome those mistakes is that they learned from them, and turned their mistakes into experience. And believe me, I have made many. I've found the biggest difference is having someone – a mentor or someone you trust – to call and obtain advice.

When making a mistake, the most important step an officer can take is to inform his or her supervisor. More often than not, not informing a supervisor about a mistake that has been made, or worse misleading the supervisor, leads to the mistake becoming a major personal failure. The old adage; "bad news does not get better with time" rings true. In a demanding career such as the Army, leaders will make mistakes; the key is to learn and grow from those mistakes.

7. You excelled in some of the most interesting, complex, and toughest assignments in the Army. What were some of the common lessons learned from a few of those that have served you the most since then?

One of the most common lessons I've learned goes back to what I mentioned previously that my father told me – always do your very best because someone is always watching. I've made a slight modification to his guidance: always do your very best even if no one is watching. This was reinforced to me as a 2LT Platoon Leader when the Battalion CSM, CSM Brown, stopped me one day on my way back from the motor pool and told me that the Battalion Commander had completed a walk-thru of the motor pool and was very impressed with my platoon of vehicles. At the time, I didn't think the Battalion Commander even knew I was in the battalion, let alone one of his Platoon Leaders. This eventually led to my selection a few months later as the Battalion Maintenance Officer and Headquarters Company Commander.

The second lesson I've learned is to always take care of your people, treat them with dignity and respect, and ensure they are afforded every opportunity to succeed. This begins with establishing a positive command climate and work environment. I learned this lesson from my Platoon Sergeant, SSG Washington, when he said to me; "Sir, always take care of the Soldiers and they'll take care of the mission." This has

been proven true to me time and time again throughout my career, initially with Soldiers, and then while serving in senior leadership positions, with Department of the Army civilians and contract workforce.

The third most common lesson is that it's not about you – it's about the servicemen and women you serve and their families. It is through their service and sacrifice that we are able to accomplish our mission and keep our nation safe. Accordingly, I believe that it is very important to always remain humbled and grounded in your success.

8. Hindsight is almost always 20/20 but what do you know now that you believe would have been of great benefit knowing early on in your career?

Well, again, I've been very fortunate to have enjoyed a successful Army career that is beyond anything I ever imagined. I've commanded seven times – twice as a General Officer, so I've been the beneficiary of numerous opportunities and personal investments made by others in me. In looking back, one thing that could have been of great benefit is the importance of having a mentor. It was only after I was promoted to the rank of Major that I clearly understood the importance of having a mentor.



LTG Via's Family poses for a photo with Gen Casey

9. What is mentoring to you and what is your personal and professional approach to mentoring? How have you benefitted from mentoring? Any words of wisdom on mentoring for our Cadets and company grade officers?

Mentoring, to me, is all about building the future bench of Army leaders. My approach is to first lead by example in all that I do and to make myself available. Second, is to reach-out to senior and junior officers and ensure they are availing themselves to a mentor, and are mentoring others. As previously stated, it is very important to establish a mentor relationship early on in one's career. Being an effective mentor or mentee requires mutual trust and respect,

and a clear understanding that mentoring is a professional relationship designed to assist an officer in his or her professional growth and development.

10. Is there anything else you would like to add?

I would like to thank the ROCKS for the opportunity to share this Soldier's story. I also want to thank this tremendous and historic organization for the outstanding support it continues to provide to our Army and our Armed Forces, and for all it does in contributing to building future leaders for our Army and our nation.

**Rocks Inc. Chairman Receives 100
Distinguished Alumni Award at
University of Minnesota School of
Nursing 100th Anniversary**

BG (R) Clara Adams-Ender received a medallion and the 100 Distinguished Nursing Alumni Award at the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the University of Minnesota School of Nursing on Nov 5, 2009 in Minneapolis, MN. Of the 12,100 living graduates of the School of Nursing, General Adams-Ender is the only one to have attained general officer rank. Earlier this year, BG Adams-Ender served as the Commencement Speaker for the School of Nursing and was awarded her 14th honorary doctorate degree presented by University of Minnesota's Dr. Connie Delaney, Dean, School of Nursing and Steven Hunter, Board of Regents.



BG Adams-Ender with Dr. Delaney and Steven Hunter during Commencement and honorary doctorate degree conferral.

The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Wereth 11 Memorial

Submitted by CPT Chanel Harris, ROCKS European Chapter

On September 26, 2009, a commemorative ceremony was held in Wereth, Belgium, to honor the memory of 11 African American Soldiers assigned to the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion during World War II who were killed by the German SS on December 17, 1944, during the Battle of the Bulge. Major General Byron S. Bagby, the United States Army Europe, Chief of Staff, officiated at the commemoration.

MG Bagby thanked the Wereth Monument Committee and welcomed the day's special guest, Mr Robert Hudson. His father was CPL Robert Hudson, Sr. a member of C Battery, 333rd Field Artillery. MG Bagby stated that at the beginning of Battle of the Bulge, CPL Hudson was wounded in the initial fighting during the same time that the 11 members of the Headquarters and Service Battery became separated from their unit while evading German armor and infantry units. Searching for food and shelter, they approached the first house in the nine-house hamlet in Wereth, which was owned by the Langer Family. The Langer family welcomed the 11 cold, hungry, and exhausted Soldiers and gave them food. These same 11 Soldiers were later captured by SS troops who brutally murdered them.

Although these 11 men died almost 65 years ago, their spirits live to this day in Wereth, Belgium and in the hearts of many, as is clearly evident by the private gesture of Herman Langer, whose father had given the men food and shelter. He erected a small cross bearing the names of the men in the corner of the pasture where they were murdered. It is a fitting memorial to these men, but it also honors all African American GIs who served in World War II. Direction signs are posted along the highway leading to the memorial, and the Belgian Tourist Bureau lists it in "Battle of the Bulge" brochures.

These 11 African American men, like so many others, paid the ultimate price for our freedom. "They are not nameless nor faceless, people but sons, brothers, grandsons, nephews, fathers, friends and neighbors," stated MG Bagby.

MG Bagby closed by acknowledging that the ceremony did not happen by accident. He thanked those responsible for putting the event together to include the European Chapter of ROCKS, Inc., guests, and citizens of Wereth, Belgium. Special thanks were extended to Ms. Adda Rikken, President of the Wereth Monument Committee, Tina and Herman Langer, Mayor Klaus Schuehucher, Madam Noel and Mr. Jonkur for planning and coordinating the ceremony.



*President Obama signs the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act in the East Room of the White House on Oct. 22, 2009.
(Photo courtesy of BG Adams-Ender)*

Afghanistan "ROCKS" Interest Group Performs Community Service

On October 6, 2009, members of the Afghanistan Interest Group of The ROCKS Inc. participated in a community service event to provide comfort and support items to a young Afghanistan girl who suffered major injuries during a military attack. Little Razia Aziz sustained multiple burns to her face, head, arms, back, and neck during the attack and has had over 15 surgeries on her road to recovery. The ROCKS members leading this project are all members of Black Greek-lettered organizations to include, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and Delta Sigma Theta, Inc.



Rocks Afghanistan Interest Group members with Razia Aziz and her Father

After meeting the girl for the first time, the group felt compelled to take a proactive stance in performing an act of humanity. MAJ Arick Arnold called the group to action and organized a committee of volunteers to participate in this event. Using their personal funds and off-duty time, the group raised funds, solicited donations, and procured needed items to present to Razia and her parents. Among the items presented to the family were toys, coloring books, crayons, dolls, stuffed animals, soap, towels, linen, and various toiletry items. The family was very appreciative of the organization's acts of generosity, and Razia even rewarded the group with a smile.

The Afghanistan Interest Group continues to seek opportunities to uphold the principles of The ROCKS Inc. while serving abroad.



Congratulations to BG Dana J. H. Pittard, BG Michael T. Harrison Sr., and BG Reuben D. Jones on their selection to Major General!

BG Ferrell Tapped for AFRICOM J6 Assignment



Promoted in July while serving as the Army Modernization Strategic Communications Director, BG Ferrell was recently tapped to serve as the United States Africa Command J6 headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany. United States Africa Command, in concert with other U.S. government agencies and international partners, conducts sustained security engagement through military-to-military programs, military-sponsored activities, and other military operations as directed to promote a stable and secure African environment in support of U.S. foreign policy.

A Rocks, Inc. National Board member and Rocks life member, BG Ferrell has been extremely active in the Rocks for many years. Unwaveringly supportive of cadets and their cadre, he recently visited almost every Historically Black College and University in the Washington D.C. and surrounding region to include Morgan State University, Hampton University, and Howard University. He also visited the Rocks, Inc. Hampton Roads and West Point Chapters. Congratulations to BG Ferrell on his new assignment!

President and Mrs. Obama Encourage Talented Leaders to apply for the White House Fellows Program!

For more information on applying for the Fellows Program visit www.whitehouse.gov/fellows

Note: Current Federal employees are not eligible to apply for the White House Fellowship while still employed by the Federal government. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call the program office at 202-395-4522.

Reaching Out – What is Mentorship and Why is it So Important?

Submitted by MAJ Glenda A. Gill



The ROCKS, Inc. has been a premier organization in mentoring officers for career success. This is evident in recent senior officer promotions and with various chapter activities highlighted in this issue of The Rocket. “Concern, Dedication and Professionalism”

are seen around the world with senior leaders sharing words of wisdom in forums such as Brigade Commander Round Tables, Officer Professional Development (OPD) Sessions on a variety of topics, and in informal settings that provide an atmosphere for professional discussions.

Mentorship is important because junior officers and cadets gain insights from senior officers that will not be taught in a classroom or during a training exercise. Based on my experience, having a mentor is valuable in receiving honest feedback on evaluation reports, guidance on duty assignments, feedback on how to maintain career competitiveness, and the do's and don'ts of being a minority officer. For example, some of the best advice I have received over the years is to take the hard jobs, be competent, maintain a high level of physical fitness, stay branch qualified and developed for your rank and specific branch. You must also be committed to life-long learning.

Senior Officers, Junior Officers and Cadets can find information about the Army's Mentorship Program on the G-1's webpage (<http://www.armyg1.army.mil/HR>) that can assist in establishing long-term mentoring relationships. Resources include a mentorship training video, mentoring advice for senior leaders, and rules for success.

In COL Mark Melanson's (2007) “Mentors and Protégés: Simple Rules for Success,” mentorship is defined as a partnering relationship between a senior, more experienced officer who provides guidance and advice to a junior officer

to promote professional growth. Melanson also highlights things to keep in mind for both the mentor and mentee, as they develop a mentoring relationship.

Mentor –

- (1) Remember the relationship is not about you
- (2) Maintain the mentee's confidence
- (3) Establish and enforce boundaries
- (4) Acknowledge knowledge limitations
- (5) Keep promises
- (6) Be an attentive listener and ask questions
- (7) Approach junior officers
- (8) Provide honest feedback
- (9) Be yourself
- (10) Commit to continuous professional development

Mentee (Protégé) -

- (1) Value mentor's time
 - (2) Maintain the mentor's confidence
 - (3) Learn from mistakes
 - (4) Be receptive to feedback
 - (5) Keep promises
 - (6) Consider the mentor's advice
 - (7) Ensure your expectations are clear
 - (8) Respect the chain of command
 - (9) Talk about more than your problems
 - (10) Commit to continuous professional development
- (Melanson, 2007, pp. 29-36)

Ideally, the Senior Officer seeks out the Junior Officer or Cadet. If a junior officer or cadet seeks out a potential mentor, he or she must use good judgment on when to approach a senior officer. It may be necessary to make an appointment with his/her secretary. When keeping the above keys to success in mind, a productive mentoring relationship can result and will benefit both the mentor and mentee.

Reference:

Melanson, M.A. (2007, October – December). *Mentors and Proteges: Simple Rules for Success [Electronic Version]*. In *Army Medical Department Journal*, 29-36. Retrieved November 15, 2009 from <http://www.armyg1.army.mil/HR/mentorship/docs/Mentors%20and%20Proteges%20Article.pdf>

Go to the people. Learn from them. Live with them. Start with what they know. Build with what they have. The best of leaders when the job is done, when the task is accomplished, the people will say we have done it ourselves.
Lao Tzu

Fort Leavenworth Buffalo Soldier Chapter Highlights

Just as was the case decades ago during the initial formation of The ROCKS, Inc., then known as the "Blue Geese," "Surviving CGSC" remains a priority for officers attending the Command and General Staff College (CGSC) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. What began as an informal way to socialize after class by many minority officers who had met before in previous assignments, evolved into banning together to achieve a major and common goal of graduating from CGSC.

Today surviving CGSC is still not an easy task; however, the Buffalo Soldiers Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. at Fort Leavenworth has, and will continue to make that task a little easier. How is this done? To start with, there is a requirement that CGSC students engage in strategic communication. This is completed by getting involved in the community, social meet/greet activities and various officer professional development (OPDs) opportunities as well as, scholarship fundraisers.

At CGSC each student is required to do four things related to strategic communication: write an article, speak to a group to tell the Army story, engage with media, and blog. Recently, members of the Buffalo Soldiers Chapter's leadership outreach committee traveled to Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri, where they spoke to ROTC students about their recent experiences in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and as an officer in the United States Army. Those who participated wrote about it upon their return.

The Buffalo Soldiers Chapter has made its presence known in the community with several activities. Twice a year the Chapter has spearheaded the community-wide picnic in the Leavenworth area where they welcome newcomers to the community and bid farewell to those that are leaving.

Chapter members were involved in the dedication of a road on Fort Leavenworth in honor of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Harry H. Hollowell, for his 28 years of military service including him being the first African American bandmaster and 22 years of dedicated service at the United States Disciplinary Barracks. This upcoming 4th of July, his wife - Mrs. Thelma Hollowell - will celebrate her 100th Birthday in Leavenworth, KS. Still very alert and engaging, Mrs. Hollowell was present at the dedication ceremony.

OPDs are the cornerstone of the monthly meetings in the college and provide the members a chance to engage speakers. Recently, the chapter's leader development session included breakfast with LTG(R) Russell L Honore. During the breakfast LTG Honore advised the ROCKs "on

mentoring and developing officers, avenues for success as an officer in today's military, giving back to the community, the origination of the ROCKs, officer challenges, and media involvement.

The Chapter also celebrated the 35th year anniversary with the theme "The ROCKS, Inc. Fort Leavenworth Buffalo Soldiers Chapter Celebrating 35 years of mentoring and developing Officers." During the ceremony MG (R) James Klugh, one of the officers that was closely involved in the ROCKS since its beginning and former national chairman related a personal history of the ROCKS. He noted how a number of reserved officers training corps (ROTCs) and Universities where having issues with personnel trained and teaching students how to manage their careers and preparing themselves to function in the Army.

The event's guest speaker was COL Wayne A. Green, the Fort Leavenworth Garrison Commander. He stated "We are great because we stood upon the shoulders of the giants that came before us. As a result, an organization that started with a few at Fort Leavenworth is now 1200 members strong and are located all over the world." An anniversary reception followed the ceremony.

Buffalo Soldier's Chapter of the ROCK's mentorship is not limited to the CGSC students. They have a partnership with the Richard Allen Cultural Center of Leavenworth, KS, working with the Director Mrs. Phyllis A. Bass. Their efforts and partnership also involve other community organizations within the Leavenworth, Kansas area and including a tutoring program for school age students in the Leavenworth community. Three hundred fifty students have completed the tutoring program at the center as a result of the help that Buffalo Soldier Chapter members provided.

Local ROCKs fundraisers have included Fort Leavenworth community yard sales resulting in donations from members and friends to make the event a success, a three on three basketball tournament open to the community, and finally, the Chapters culminating event - the ROCKS Buffalo Soldiers Chapter 5K Fun Run on Fort Leavenworth. This event is conducted annually in the spring and usually involves running groups from within a fifty (50) mile radius of Fort Leavenworth, KS.

The Chapter wholeheartedly welcomes anyone scheduled to permanent change of station (PCS) or visit Fort Leavenworth. Please visit their website for more information at www.therocksbs.org.



James Webster Smith Chapter Still on the Move

LTC (Ret) Elgin Allmond, JWS Chapter President

Since the last chapter report, James Webster Smith Chapter has really been on the move. During the 2009 Spring Gala and Awards Banquet held on 4 April 2009 at the Fort Belvoir Officer's Club, LTC Elgin Allmond received the Chairman's Award for Exceptional Service for LTC Marlon James, MAJ Luella Frost Wallace, CPT Patricia Ruth Williams, and ILT Steven Trice.

During May, LTC Marlon James, Vice President for Operations, presented the Promotions and Selections Professional Development (PD) to a large group of officers, warrant officers, and civilians. LTC James and other officers with board experience answered many informational questions. After the presentation, LTC Allmond presented President's Awards to LTC James and Dr. Jaunita Heyward, Education Advisor to the All-American and JWS Chapters.

During the June Awards Luncheon, LTC Allmond and COL Anita Dixon, Senior Advisor, presented the above Chairman's Awards and Chapter Awards to numerous deserving members. LTC Allmond recognized COL Dixon as Chapter ROCK of the Year. LTC James was the Speaker.

At the July Scholarship Luncheon, LTC Allmond presented the Scholarship Award to Cadet Morgan Tapp. Cadet Tapp's parents and grandparents were special guests. The keynote speaker was LTC Orestees Davenport, South Carolina State University (SCSU) PMS. Other speakers were Cadet Tapp and her grandfather, SFC (Ret) Julius Copeland. Cadet Tapp's mother (USAF), father (USA), and grandfather (USA) are all veterans. Cadet Tapp is a proud Cadet who made a smooth transition from A.C. Flora High School to Hampton University as a Political Science major.

In August, LTCs Allmond and James presented briefings to Dr. Percy Mack, Richland School District One Superintendent and Ms. Jeannetta Scott, the District Middle School Coordinator. The Chapter plans to launch its School Outreach Program in Richland School District One middle schools in January 2010 during National Mentoring Month. Both the Chapter and the school district are excited about their partnership.

Selected Chapter members were honored at the Columbia Chamber of Commerce Annual Gala. Also in August, COL Dixon accepted the Palmetto Pillar Award on behalf of Fort Jackson. The award recognizes local green technology-based projects and is presented by the Columbia Chamber of Commerce Information Technology Council.

In September, the chapter hailed BG Mark McAlister and his wife, Beverly, both Hampton graduates, with a Welcome Reception hosted by COL Dixon and attended by numerous Chapter members and their guests. BG McAlister became Commanding General (CG) of the Soldier Support Institute in July.

In October, COL Dixon served as keynote speaker during the 2009 South Carolina State NAACP Conference and received the Military Award. As Garrison Commander, COL Dixon led her garrison team through many successful projects, including the garrison's participation in the opening of a new Family Readiness Center and the re-opening of the on-post movie theater – a \$1 million project.

During October and November, LTC James was guest speaker at SCSU and Lake Carolina Elementary School. LTC James honored those missing in action at a veterans day program with BG Bradley May, Commanding General, Basic Combat Training Center of Excellence and Fort Jackson. COL Dixon was again speaker for the annual Military Appreciation Day Program at Bible Way Church of Atlas Road. COL Terry and Mrs. Violet Staley have chaired this program for four years. LTC Allmond, Dr. Heyward, and CPT Alonda Grier also participated.

The 2009 calendar year will close out with a "Year of the NCO" special tribute, family night, and holiday gift wrapping.

Hampton Roads Chapter Hold 3rd Annual Golf Tournament

*By LTC (Ret) John E. James Jr.
Photos by LTC (Ret) Toney C. Mooney*



*MG (Ret) Wallace Arnold, Senior Advisor to the Chapter, and
LTC (Ret) John E. James Jr., Golf Committee Chairman*

Fort Eustis, VA -- The Hampton Roads community turned out on October 2nd to participate in the Third Annual Hampton Roads Chapter (HRC) of The ROCKS, Inc. golf

tournament. It was held at the Pines Golf Course, Ft. Eustis, Virginia as a fundraiser and professional networking forum.

The HRC of The Rocks event attracted community members from the Greater Hampton Roads Area. Proceeds will assist HRC of The ROCKS as they continue to provide mentorship services to our nation's young military professionals and award scholarships to deserving students in the Hampton Roads Community.

With the assistance of MG (Ret) Wallace Arnold, Senior Advisor of the HR Chapter, who welcomed the golfers, Mr. Randy Lewis, course manager at The Pines, who covered the tournament rules, and Chaplain (COL) Clark McGriff, HR Chapter Chaplain, who provided a prayer, the tournament got under way. First place went to the team of Mr. Luke Bohac, Mr. Jeff Boynton, Mr. Miguel Gujardo and Mr. Tony Williams with a score of 58. Second place went to the foursome of Mr. Jeff Moore, Mr. Mike O'Connor, Mr. Hugh Dawson, and Mr. Tony Siler. The Longest Drive was won by Mr. Hugh Dawson, and the Closest to the Pin was secured by Mr. Tony Williams. COL (Ret) Karen Evans and Ms. Courtney Wilson were the top female golfers. The day concluded with a dinner catered by The Pines lead by Ms. Essie Carlyle, an awards ceremony, and a raffle of donated items.



*Hampton University ROTC Cadets,
Prince, Welcome, and Coble*

There were 26 players from the Hampton Roads Community. And Cadets from Hampton University. Senior Steven Coble of Detroit, Michigan, and sophomores Lauren Prince of Augusta, Georgia, and Crystal Welcome of Bamberg, South Carolina attended and contributed tremendously to the golf tournament. The players were very interested in speaking with them, and the cadets did a fantastic job helping out with the tournament and benefitted by receiving some good mentoring.

The Chapter is already poised for next year's tournament and more events of this kind. The Fourth Annual Hampton Roads Chapter (HRC) of The ROCKS, Inc. Golf Tournament will

take place on April 9, 2010, at The Pines Golf Course, Fort Eustis, VA. Everyone is cordially welcomed to attend.



*First Place Winners
Bohac, Boynton, Gujardo and Williams*

NATIONAL ROCKS LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING CONFERENCE

The ROCKS 7th Bi-Annual National Leadership and Training Conference will be held 1-3 April 2010 at Ft. Belvoir, VA Officers Club. The National Board has approved the following theme: **"Making A Difference: Mentoring and Inspiring the Next Generation of World Class Leaders."** The program was developed based on input from the Rocks membership. Invitations have been extended to Generals Casey, Ward, and principal Army General Officers to include the G1, G3, G8, and Commanders of TRADOC, Cadet Command, Human Resources Command and Recruiting Command. Additionally, the Chief of the Army Reserve and the Director, Army National Guard have been invited to address the conference.

The program has been expanded to include Army Special Staff members and other leaders who can provide interesting, relevant, and insightful information in addition to actively engaging attendees.

Online registration is now available at www.rocksync.org. Please make plans to attend.

West Point ROCKS Activities

MAJ Kandace M. Daffin USA

The Henry O. Flipper Chapter of the ROCKs was established in September 2009 at the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY. The Flipper Chapter at West Point is mission focused on member professional development and fellowship, cadet mentorship, as well as scholarship fund-raising.

The Chapter kicked off the semester with a minority picnic to welcome the Class of 2013, which was attended by cadets, their families and friends, and fellow officers. This year, the Chapter also started its cadet mentorship program which began with an informal branch briefing, facilitated by officers at the Academy to familiarize cadets with the many opportunities and challenges within each branch. The Chapter has an informal mixer planned to introduce the Mentorship Teams (Officer & Cadet).



Lieutenant Colonel Archie Wilmer, Interim President, Henry O. Flipper Chapter of the ROCKs (left), and Brigadier General Patrick Finnegan, Dean, United States Military Academy at West Point (right)

For the semester's professional development initiative, BG Patrick Finnegan, Dean of the Academic Board, addressed the members and invited guests on the topic of diversity and minority recruiting within the faculty and student populations on September 19, 2009.

Carlisle Barracks Rocks Outreach through Mentorship and Community Service

*LTC Rick Emerson USA
President, MG Charles G. Rogers (Carlisle) Chapter*

The AY10 Carlisle Barracks Chapter of the ROCKS Inc. is working to make a difference in the Carlisle community. The Chapter's mission is to promote mentorship, education/awareness, networking, leadership, and outreach support to the Army War College, Carlisle Barracks and the community.

The AY10 ROCKs developed a community outreach plan consisting of four areas of concentration: establishing ROCKS stakeholders in the community, identifying mentorship opportunities in the community, identifying

transitory events and organizations requiring or requesting ROCKs assistance, and to provide mentorship and education through a guest speaker program focused on schools and organizations throughout the community.

To date, the ROCKS have supported community events at the Army War College and around the community. On September 23, 2009, MG(Ret) Robert Gaskill; former Deputy Commander of the Army War College, attended the Roberge Lecture honoring Dr. Buzz Aldrin. MG (Ret) Gaskill was the 2001 National ROCK of the Year recipient. To date, ROCKS officers have developed community outreach initiatives in coordination with the American Legion, the United Way, and the Carlisle Victory Circle for Youth outreach, and through high school and middle school interaction.



County Fair- Carlisle Barracks County Fair ROCKs booth taken during Class 2010 orientation week.

Currently, the ROCKS support Project Share through the monthly distribution of food to needy members of Carlisle. Volunteers bag fruit and vegetables, man distribution stations for foodstuffs, and stock shelves in the food bank warehouse. This effort is in collaboration with other volunteer groups, local churches, civic organizations, and consumers. Other initiatives planned include reading assistance for elementary school children, mentorship to prospective ROTC students from Dickinson College and the awarding of two scholarships to 2009 graduates from local high schools.

Over the next 90 days, the Carlisle ROCKS will support various community outreach programs to include the Carlisle Barracks Holiday Tea honoring the elderly from local nursing homes, the celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday in January, and the February celebration of Black History Month. Additionally, the Chapter will finalize plans to award monetary scholarships to two 2010 local high school graduates prior to the end of the 2010 school year.



Buzz Aldrin Lecture: center - MG (Ret) Robert Gaskill (former Deputy Commandant USAWC) with MG Robert Williams Cmdt, USAWC (left) and Mr. Charles Allen (right). These photos were taken following the Robert Roberge Lecture honoring Dr. Buzz Aldrin (NASA astronaut), 23 Sep 09 at Carlisle Barracks

DC ROCKS Chapter Conducts 18th Annual Rocks Five Mile Run and Two Mile Walk

by COL Charles Harris USA
5-Mile Committee Chair

The Washington, D.C. Chapter of the Rocks, Inc. successfully conducted its 18th Annual Rocks Five Mile Run and Two Mile Walk at Burke Lake Park, Virginia on Saturday, September 19, 2009. Over 170 runners and walkers were off to the races as guest race starter, LTG Dennis Via (Director, Command, Control, Communications, & Computer Systems Directorate, J6, Joint Staff) signaled the start of the event.

The overall male winner of the five mile run was Mr. Daniel Yi with a time of 29:15 while the overall female winner was Ms. Cathy Ross with a time of 36:40. Other categories included 1st male walker (MG(Ret) Bob Gaskill), 1st female walker (BG Belinda Pinckney), 1st Rocks male (Bernard Quartermann), and 1st Rocks female (Jasmyn Morgan). Rocks member MG (Ret) Ike Smith also placed 1st in the 70 and older category.

This years' winner of the ROTC Challenge male and female team competitions were Bowie State University and Morgan State University respectively. Other participating schools were Norfolk State, Georgetown, and Howard University with over 50 cadets participating in the event.

Over 40 dedicated volunteers helped execute the event which also represents a great opportunity for Rocks members and friends to socialize with each other as well as members of the local community. Brigadier Generals

Belinda Pinckney and Bob Ferrell were also distinguished guest supporters on-site providing words of wisdom to cadets and junior officers. Over \$4200 were raised in support of the event. A significant portion of these funds were raised through the "Five Miler Greek Challenge," a first time fund-raising initiative where representatives from Alpha Phi Alpha, Kappa Alpha Psi, Omega Psi Phi, and Phi Beta Sigma fraternities and members from Alpha Kappa Alpha and Delta Sigma Theta sororities donated funds specifically to support Rocks Inc. scholarships and outreach initiatives.

The winning organization, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. presented DC Chapter President, COL Conrado Morgan, a check in the amount of \$3000 during the October chapter meeting. Planning committee leaders included COL Chuck Harris (coordinator), Mr. Al Schenck (Operations), Mr. Andre Barnes (Logistics), LTC Seena Tucker (Registration), COL LaTonya Lynn (Sponsorship), Mrs. Gail Clarke (Volunteer Coordinator), LTC Carmen Bell (Refreshments) and LTC Jan Gravely (Photography). It was indeed a grand event! Results from the event are posted on the Chapter website at www.therocksdc.org.



*1st Place Female Winner, Cathy Ross
Poses with COL Morgan and LTG Via*



1st place Male Winner, Daniel Yi



Winning ROTC Team – Bowie State



LTG Via mentors ROTC Cadets



Members of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity present \$3000 check to DC Chapter President, COL Morgan. Pictured l-r are COL Morgan, COL Chuck Harris, Chuck Simmons, Joe Nickens, LTC Rich Wilson, LTC Mike Black, and Gary Powell.



Mentorship: Importance of Military Education for Junior Officers

By CPT(P) Sherdrick S. Rankin, Sr.

When a brand new lieutenant arrives at their first assignment after the Officer Basic Course, the unit is more than likely conducting operations and moving at a rapid pace of over a hundred miles per hour. The next question is who will assist this new officer by introducing him or her to the military education system? These lieutenants need to start off at the very beginning of their career with a good base of military education. Hopefully their fellow platoon leaders or executive officer has some experience with military education and courses other than the Officer Basic Course (OBC) or Basic Officer Leadership Courses (BOLC) that lieutenants are required to attend before reporting to their first duty station.

Some junior officers are fortunate and may have completed the Airborne Course at Fort Benning, Georgia which also gives them a “5P” special skill identifier to add to their Officer Record Brief (ORB). If any of the new lieutenants get an initial assignment to one of the following installations they may apply to attend the local Air Assault Course: Fort Bragg, Hawaii, Fort Campbell, or Fort Drum. Some lieutenants, if lucky, will get to attend a local school such as the Unit Movement Officer (UMO) Course, NBC Officer Course, or Combat Lifesaver Training. Besides these few courses what other options of military education is available for a young officer to get ahead, learn Army processes, and become competitive for promotion and advancement? The answer lies with the Army Correspondence Course Program (ACCP).

Many young Soldiers and junior NCOs complete correspondence courses to better their chances for promotion to Sergeant and Staff Sergeant. However there are also several courses that officers can take via ACCP that can be added to their ORB by their servicing personnel officer upon completion. There is one particular course, the Visual Information Officer Course that consists of six modules and when completed the officer is awarded a special skill identifier of “5B.” These courses are all taken on-line and can be completed at the pace of the student.

A few other examples of officer related courses that can be found on the Army Correspondence Course site are the Support Operations Course Phase I, Petroleum Officer Course Phase I, Station Commander Course, Commander Safety Course, Maintenance Leaders Course, and various branch specific courses. Correspondence courses can be found at www.atsc.army.mil/accp/aipdnew.asp.

CPT(P) Sherdrick S. Rankin Sr. is currently serving as the BN S-3 for the 10th Sustainment Brigade Troops Battalion at

Fort Drum, New York. A Logistics Corps officer, he has a bachelor's degree in History from Fayetteville State University and a MBA in HR Management from Baker College. CPT Rankin served in Bosnia from June 2003 to December 2003; OEF from February 2006 to February 2007, and OIF from November 2008 to October 2009.

VA Extends "Agent Orange" Benefits to More Veterans

Parkinson's Disease, Two Other Illnesses Recognized

WASHINGTON –Relying on an independent study by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki decided to establish a service-connection for Vietnam Veterans with three specific illnesses based on the latest evidence of an association with the herbicides referred to Agent Orange.

The illnesses affected by the recent decision are B cell leukemias, such as hairy cell leukemia; Parkinson's disease; and ischemic heart disease.

Used in Vietnam to defoliate trees and remove concealment for the enemy, Agent Orange left a legacy of suffering and disability that continues to the present. Between January 1965 and April 1970, an estimated 2.6 million military personnel who served in Vietnam were potentially exposed to sprayed Agent Orange.

In practical terms, Veterans who served in Vietnam during the war and who have a "presumed" illness don't have to prove an association between their illnesses and their military service. This "presumption" simplifies and speeds up the application process for benefits.

The Secretary's decision brings to 15 the number of presumed illnesses recognized by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

"We must do better reviews of illnesses that may be connected to service, and we will," Shinseki added. "Veterans who endure health problems deserve timely decisions based on solid evidence."

Other illnesses previously recognized under VA's "presumption" rule as being caused by exposure to herbicides during the Vietnam War are:

- Acute and Subacute Transient Peripheral Neuropathy
- AL Amyloidosis
- Chloracne
- Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia

- Diabetes Mellitus (Type 2)
- Hodgkin's Disease
- Multiple Myeloma
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
- Porphyria Cutanea Tarda
- Prostate Cancer
- Respiratory Cancers, and
- Soft Tissue Sarcoma (other than Osteosarcoma, Chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or Mesothelioma)

Additional information about Agent Orange and VA's services and programs for Veterans exposed to the chemical are available at:

www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange.

ROCKS CADET CORNER

The ROCKET's "Cadet Corner" is intended to highlight key accomplishments and activities in ROTC and Military Academy programs as well as feature cadets and their ROTC leadership. The purpose is also to convey what cadets view as important to them in addition to serving as a conduit to cadets and future mentors. We encourage you to submit articles and information that you believe will be useful in developing and supporting these future leaders and their cadre. The overall goal is to strengthen our officers corps.

Howard University Welcomes New DMS: Lieutenant Colonel Landy D. Dunham

Concluding a highly successful assignment as Department Chair /Professor of Military Science at Howard University, active Rocks DC Chapter member LTC Bobbie Williams was replaced by LTC Landy Dunham. A native of Camden,



South Carolina, LTC Dunham enlisted in the Army in May 1988. While enlisted, he was selected to attend the United States Military Academy Preparatory School (USMAPS) at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. Upon graduation from USMAPS in 1989, LTC Dunham earned an appointment to the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York. He graduated from the Academy in May 1993 and was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in the Aviation Branch. Following his commissioning he graduated from

the Aviation Officer's Basic Course and the Initial Entry Rotary Wing Course (Army Aviation Flight School) at Fort Rucker, Alabama in July 1994. LTC Dunham departed Fort Rucker for Fort Campbell, Kentucky where he served in several key leadership positions to include: Aviation Assault Platoon Leader, Assistant Operations Officer, and Battalion Intelligence Officer for 4th Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment, 101st Airborne Division.

In September 1997, following his tour with the 101st Airborne Division, LTC Dunham was selected to represent the Aviation Branch at the Combined Logistics Officer Advanced Course (CLOAC) at Fort Lee, Virginia. He graduated from CLOAC with honors in March 1998 and immediately attended the Combined Arms Service Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. In June 1998, LTC Dunham was reassigned to South Korea "The Land of the Morning Calm" for a one-year tour, where he served as the Shop's Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer of Charlie Company, 52nd Aviation Regiment.

In June 1999, LTC Dunham was assigned to the XVIII Airborne Corps' Aviation Brigade at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. While assigned to the 18th Aviation Brigade, he excelled as the Brigade Logistics Officer until June 2000 when he was selected to take command of Alpha Company, 1st Battalion 159th Aviation Regiment. LTC Dunham's two- years as a company commander culminated with a deployment to Bosnia-Herzegovina in September 2001 in support of Operation Joint Forge.

Upon the completion of his company command in June 2002, LTC Dunham was nominated to serve as the Aviation Captains' Career Manager and Assignments Officer at the Army Human Resources Command (HRC) in Alexandria, Virginia. LTC Dunham served two years at HRC before being selected to represent the Army at the United States Marine Corps' Command and Staff College at Quantico, Virginia.

After graduating from the Marine Corps Command and Staff College in June 2005, LTC Dunham was once again assigned to the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Two months following his arrival to the 101st, he deployed to Iraq as the Battalion Operations Officer of 5th Battalion 101st Aviation Regiment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. LTC Dunham returned from Iraq in September 2006 and became the Executive Officer of the 5th Battalion 101st Aviation Regiment. In July 2007, LTC Dunham was nominated to return to the Human Resources Command in Alexandria, Virginia. to serve as the Aviation Majors' and Lieutenant Colonel's career manager and Assignments Officer.

LTC Dunham's military education includes the Aviation Officer Basic Course, the Initial Entry Rotary Wing Course,

the Combined Logistics Advanced Course, the Combined Service and Staff School, the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, the US Army Airborne School, the Air Assault and Rappel Master course. LTC Dunham's civilian education includes a Bachelor of Science degree in Management from the United States Military Academy and a Masters degree in Military Art and Studies from the United States Marine Corps University.

His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (w/ three OLC), Army Commendation Medal (w/ OLC), Army Achievement Medal (w/ two OLC), National Defense Service Medal (w/ Bronze Star), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal (campaign star), Global War on Terror Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Army Service Medal, Overseas Service Medal (w/ Numeral 2), NATO Medal, Senior Army Aviators Badge, Air Assault Badge, Army Parachutist Badge, and the Honorable Order of Saint Michael medallion.

LTC Dunham and his wife of 15 years, the former Ms. Kaye Warzynski, have two daughters Kaylan (10) and Lucinda (6). The Dunham family resides in Woodbridge, Virginia.

Cadet Shaquille Turner, MS II



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

Initially, I joined Army ROTC primarily because I needed a way to pay for my college experience and secondly, because I come from a family with a strong military background. I understood early on what an honor it would be to lead our nation's Soldiers. It is only now that I've grown through being an active member in ROTC, that I realize the many ways in which it has benefited me far past paying my tuition. It has given me keen leadership skills that are second to none, provided me with exciting training opportunities that only the Army can offer, and most importantly, has provided for me a vehicle for the fulfillment of my dreams.

I was given the opportunity to be the captain of the Ranger Challenge Team for 2009; and from that experience I learned how to create plans for action, keep troops motivated, and learn from obstacles and hardships in order to overcome them, and improve for next year's competition.

Last summer I was blessed with the opportunity to attend Airborne School. It was truly an experience like no other. Not only was I able to be fully immersed in military life, but I was also eventually able to jump out of a moving C-130 airplane.

My ultimate goal in life is to become an excellent lawyer, and ROTC has helped me to develop a clear plan of action to make sure I succeed in that goal. My mentor, c/LTC Llewintina King, has always been available to help me in my endeavor. Mentoring has been very important in my life up until this point, and I am sure it will be of great importance in the future. I am where I am today because of influences from my parents, great coaches, and older peers who knew what they wanted out of life and were doing their best to get there.

Houston Consortium NROTC Pentathlon Fall 2009

Submitted by CAPT Jeff "Woody" Gruetzmacher, USN

The Houston NROTC Consortium Pentathlon is a bi-annual competition between the NROTC units at Prairie View A&M (PVAMU) and Rice Universities, with invitations also sent out to other local ROTC units such as the Houston Corps of Cadets (Army/Air Force ROTC) and the Prairie View A&M Army ROTC cadets. The competition consists of five sporting competitive events with two separate trophies competed for and awarded at the end of the day's competition.



Captain Gruetzmacher, Commanding Officer of the Houston Consortium NROTC Unit presents the winners trophy to midshipman First Class Nikita Baker, representing The Prairie View A&M University NROTC Unit.

A trophy is awarded to the winner of the most events between Prairie View's Navy unit and Rice's Navy unit.

This trophy is fought for each semester to determine which unit will take it home for proper display and bragging rights until the next semester's competition ensues. A second trophy is awarded to any unit that competes and wins the most events overall. The Pentathlon serves not only as an event that the units compete in, but also serves to build camaraderie within and between units as well. This bi-annual event is an opportunity for the sister services to join together for friendly completion and also serves to allow all cadets and midshipmen to learn more about each other's mission, goals, and members.



The triumphant winners of the soccer competition from Prairie View A&M University.

On November 7, 2009, the Houston Consortium held its fall Pentathlon at Rice University. 75 midshipmen from PVAMU NROTC, 35 from the Rice Unit, and 12 from the Air Force Unit at the University of Houston competed in soccer, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball, basketball, and tug of war. PVAMU reigned supreme and captured both trophies this semester with overwhelming wins in soccer, ultimate Frisbee, and basketball.

The sergeants of the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Program at Rice University grilled hamburgers and hotdogs to feed all of the hungry competitors before the winners were announced and trophies were presented. It was truly an enjoyable day in which all participants gave their all physically, and left with smiles and a better understanding and appreciation of their fellow sailors, soldiers, marines and airmen. For the winning members of the PVAMU unit, they will maintain bragging rights until the competition is renewed in the spring of 2010 on their home campus.

What chance gathers she easily scatters. A great person attracts great people and knows how to hold them together. -- Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

Houston Consortium NROTC Unit Orienteering Meet

Submitted by CAPT Jeff "Woody" Gruetzmacher, USN



1st Class Midshipman Simon Mulaula instructs high school JROTC participants on the rules of the Orienteering meet competition.

On Saturday, September 26, 2009, the Prairie View A&M University Naval ROTC unit hosted its 8th annual Orienteering meet. PVAMU hosted the largest event turnout ever, with 20 high school JROTC teams from

around Texas arriving to the campus to compete in a series of physical fitness challenges and field events. The schools that excel in each event earned numerous awards and bragging rights for the year. The event also gives Prairie View NROTC students the chance to interact with high school students, make new friends, and help recruit seniors interested in college and Naval ROTC for the next year.

The orienteering meet brings out the competitive nature in all as competitors from each school attempt to push their maximum in pushups, sit ups and pull ups. The students also tested their military knowledge with an academic test and navigated the campus during the orienteering challenge. The day's activities culminated in a relay event to help determine the overall winner followed by lunch and the awards ceremony.



High school JROTC students compete in the crunch competition, a 2 minute event to determine who can complete the most number of crunches in a timed 2 minute period.

Many of the PVAMU Midshipmen helping to organize the event were past NJROTC participants in the meet and had the opportunity to reconnect with their former JROTC instructors and classmates. Freshman PVAMU MIDN 4/C

Villarin competed in the orienteering meet all four years of high school and this year had the opportunity to play a part in organizing and running the meet. "After competing in this meet for so many years, it was awesome to see it from the other side and how much hard work goes into planning this event. I look forward to next year," said MIDN Villarin.

The Prairie View NROTC midshipmen look forward to the challenge of planning and organizing an event of this magnitude and greatly appreciate the support the University

offers by allowing use of the campus facilities. A Naval Science Instructor from Stephen F. Austin High School, the overall winner of the Orienteering meet, said "this was the best organized and executed event I have seen in all my years as an NJROTC instructor." The 8th annual Orienteering Meet was a rousing success and the PV A&M NROTC looks forward to hosting this and many more events in the future, hoping to make it more challenging and enjoyable every fall.

2009 Prairie View A&M University Military Ball

Submitted by CAPT Jeff "Woody" Gruetzmacher, USN



Military Ball guest speaker Dr. Freddie Frazier, Professor of Mathematics at Prairie View A&M University, reminds the assembled midshipmen that dedication, perseverance, and hard work will lead them to their goals of graduation and commissioning.

The Navy and Marine Corps Birthdays fall on October 13, 1775 and November 10, 1775, respectively. Each fall, the Houston Consortium NROTC unit consisting of the Prairie View NROTC unit and the Rice NROTC unit, holds a Military Birthday Ball to celebrate these two events. The event is planned entirely by the midshipmen staff and includes reserving a ballroom, sending out invitations, writing a Letter of Instruction detailing regulations and timeline of the event, and ensuring all other accommodations necessary for a formal dinner and ball are met. The budget of a formal dining experience of this magnitude can be rather high.

One of the most difficult tasks for the staff, handled mostly by the midshipman operations officer, is making sure that the midshipmen fund at each unit contains sufficient funds to pay for the event. Both units are steadily growing in size and the costs of holding a formal ball increase each year, but the efforts put forth by the midshipmen also increase to ensure success. The night is looked forward to by all, and all are

willing to work a little harder to make sure that their Military Ball, whether it be their freshman, sophomore, junior or senior ball, is the most momentous event the Consortium has seen.

The 2009 Houston Consortium Military Ball was no exception. With a combined strength of 130 midshipmen, Officer Candidates, and Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program participants from the Houston Consortium NROTC units, plus nearly 100 guests, this year's Ball was abounding with applause, laughter, and the most entertaining dancing the Crowne Plaza has ever seen. Dr. Freddie Frasier of Prairie View A&M University's Math Department was the honorable guest speaker for the event, reminding everyone that it takes a tremendous amount of dedication and hard work to become an officer in the military, while also announcing that calculus is an integral part of ballistic weapon trajectory.

After the colors were retired and the guest speaker concluded, dinner was served. Conversation filled the room during dinner and shortly afterward the DJ switched gears from "elevator" to "club," cueing the dancing portion of the evening. More memories were made as attendees flexed and boot-scooted the rest of the evening away, creating memories that will be talked about until next year's Military Ball.



Proud Prairie View A&M midshipmen and dates enjoy the fruits of their hard work at the successful 29 Military Ball.



POSTAL DEADLINE FOR PACKAGES TO DEPLOYED PERSONNEL!!!!

Please support deployed military service members and civilians with holiday care packages. The first week of December is the Postal Service recommended deadline for arrival by Christmas.

ROCKS SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER

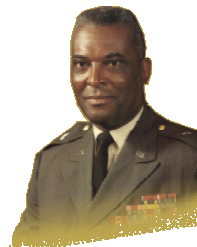
Its scholarship time again. The ROCKS will once again oversee two scholarships for ROTC cadets and perspective ROTC cadets; the RC Cartwright Scholarship and an unlimited number of Army four-year ROTC Scholarships. Applications for the RC Cartwright Scholarship are due at ROCKS Headquarters no later than **March 22, 2010**. We will offer ten RC Cartwright Scholarships. These ten will be available to Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors. Winners will be announced on March 26, 2010.

Paper applications for the Army four-year ROTC Scholarship must be cleared through ROCKS Headquarters, Attn: BG (Ret) Simms before they are submitted to Cadet Command. Due date for this submission is March 5, 2010. All applications and information can be found at the ROCKS website <http://www.rocksync.org/>.

Contact Information:

BG (Ret) Simms - (571) 213-2123 (c) / (703) 723-9192 (h)
emsimms44@yahoo.com or fsimms44@yahoo.com

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 2010. 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 7700 Old

Branch Avenue, Suite A202, Clinton, MD 20735. You can also email them to therocks@aol.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.



Clintony, Oklahoma, Oklahoma

From the Heart of a Combat Leader...

By LTC James R. Sears USA

Have you ever stood strong when fear was all around?
I mean did you stand tall while others fell to the ground?

Have you ever done what common sense says not to do?
Even when others ran and said "come on, don't be a fool."

Has fear ever gripped you so tightly that you had to concentrate
just to breath? I am talking about the kind of fear that brings
strong men to their knees.

Have you ever had to remain calm and lead other to a safe place,
while fear was clouding your judgment and causing your heart
to race?

Have you ever been so engulfed by fear that 48 hours passed
without you missing a beat? Heck, I almost went three days on
just two hours sleep.

Have you ever thought this could be the last breath I take?
Because there was death all around you with no room for error
or mistake.

Have you ever been so frozen by fear that you did not know
what to do? But you had to go on because 237 Soldiers needed
you to lead them through.

See, fear in the face of leaders could destroy the will of many
people, While fear that goes un-faced could be deadly and
extremely lethal.

Have you ever given an order that even you were afraid to do
yourself? I mean something so crazy that you would not do for
all the world's wealth.

Have you ever had to send someone on a mission they might not
complete? That would be another night were I did not get any
sleep.

Have you ever had to give CPR to someone who worked for
you? Work on Specialist Seirra for over an hour but he just did
not pull through.

Have you ever had to carry the body of someone who saved
your life? The whole time I was thinking, what will I tell his
wife?

Have you ever had to tell someone that her loved one was no
longer alive? You can actually see their heart breaking through
the tears flowing from their eyes.

Have you ever stood over a person who was dead due to an
order you gave? Look, don't stand too close at the funeral
because you might feel like jumping into his grave.

Have you ever had to stand before a grieving family? – Yes it is
completely sad! Their Soldier gave his life for his country and
all they get is this U.S. Flag!

See I am a leader of Soldiers because that is what I was called to
do And just for the record, I am not trying to prove anything to
you.

Most people just don't understand a true Combat, Soldier,
Warrior and Leader. Well this is some insight that's not for the
average reader.

You don't really understand the sacrifices we have made for the
armed forces. I've missed birthdays, holidays, anniversaries
and been through a couple of divorces.
We learn loyalty, honor and respect for the US, the government
and for freedom. But we actually fight for our fellow Soldiers –
you'd understand if you ever did meet them.

Yes I have faced fears for you and even for those that act like
complete jerks. Because failure is just not an option in my line
of work!

See, I am the former slave turned into a Soldier so here is my
quote. I fought for this country before I could even vote.

I am the Buffalo Soldier who fought the Indians and settled the
west. Absent from your history books, it was my blood, sweat
& hard work helped build the US

I bravely charged up San Juan Hill and was later discredited in
the press. Racism would not let the world view me as this
nation's best.

I am that courageous hard working Sailor who signed up at that
local rally. Then I learned that I could only serve this country
from deep in the ship's galley.

I am the Black Flier who defied all odds to fly, fight, and win.
Well you might have heard them say that I'm one of the
Tuskegee Airmen.

I fought in two world wars to stop global oppression.
But it was not until the Korea War when we over came
segregation.

The media and the public want you to call me a hero.
But you treated my Vietnam brothers like complete zeros.

Those Vietnam Warriors followed orders, fought with honor
and had no regret. But they came home to insults, no cheers and
your total disrespect.

Well, I have faced my fears because war is a beast.
But please remember this, there are Soldiers dealing with fear
right now so you can live in PEACE!

We would love to hear from you about your Chapter activities, programs and events. Please submit your article(s) to therocks@aol.com for the Fall Edition of the ROCKET no later than **28 February 2010**.

DATES TO REMEMBER

🌈 Christmas Eve	Thursday, December 24, 2009
🌈 Christmas Day	Friday, December 25, 2009
🌈 New Year's Eve	Friday, December 31, 2009
🌈 New Year's Day	Friday, January 1, 2010
🌈 Martin Luther Jr. Day	Monday, January 18, 2010
🌈 Valentine's Day	Sunday, February 14, 2010
🌈 President's Day	Monday, February 15, 2010

WE NEED YOUR!! We are looking for a 1-2 LTs-MAJs who are interested and willing to join the ROCKET publication team. We are committed to having the ROCKET reflect your achievements, interests and concerns. There is no requirement to be in the MD/VA/DC area since most of the coordination is accomplished electronically. Interested?? Please contact the ROCKS administration office at therocks@aol.com or call 301-856-9319 / toll free: 888-762-5747.

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Make your check or money order payable to NATIONAL ROCKS, INC. and mail to National ROCKS, Inc., 7700 Old Branch Avenue, Suite A202, Clinton, MD 20735. To purchase using your credit card, you may call our office at 888-762-5747 and provide your payment information or fax this form and payment information to our confidential fax number 301-856-5220.

National Board of the ROCKS, Inc.
Membership Application

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

Method of Payment:

☐ Check ☐ Money Order

To renew your membership by credit card, please visit our website at www.rocksync.org and click on the Member Login link. If you have not received your membership login password by email, please contact our office at (301) 856-9319 or toll-free at 888-762-5747.

National Membership Fees (circle one)

Years	1	2	3
Cadet	\$10	X	X
04 & Above	\$50	\$96	\$142
03 & Below	\$30	\$58	\$86
Life Membership	Regular \$450	Gold \$650	Platinum \$850

Note: Local membership fees are not included.

CURRENT NATIONAL ROCKS MEMBERS DO NOT HAVE TO PAY DUES WHILE DEPLOYED

Upon receipt of your renewal notification, please inform National HQ that you are deployed by sending an email to therocks@aol.com and type "DEPLOYED ROCKS MEMBER" in the subject line.

ALL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS AND FEES MUST BE SENT TO NATIONAL

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

National ROCKS, Inc.

c/o WSC Associates, LLP

7700 Old Branch Avenue, Suite A202, Clinton, Maryland 20735