



The ROCKET



Spring 2010

Chairperson Message

Greetings of the Spring Season to Rocks around the world!! Welcome to the first 2010 Rocket edition. After a harsh winter on the east coast, we have finally dug out of record-breaking snowfalls and defrosted ourselves. Although we know that nothing can stop Rocks when they are committed to goal accomplishment, nature has a way of slowing things down and causing us to alter our plans and focus on the critical priorities, including those of this organization. We hope that you had a joyous holiday season and trust that the promise of warmer weather will inspire all of us to hibernate less and continue the business of the Rocks, Inc.

And what an organization it is! We are dispersed from the Aloha Chapter to the West, to the West Point Chapter in the Northeast, and all of the Chapters that dot our national landscape north and south, plus Chapters in Korea and Germany, and Interest Groups in Iraq, Kuwait (Camp AFRIJAN), and Afghanistan, where an interest group covers several regions. Despite our geographical separation, you contribute in extraordinary ways to many communities despite your many challenges. The depth and breadth of talent, individually and collectively, that you bring to bear on the tasks to which you are committed is phenomenal. You are truly awesome, I am proud of all of you and I truly appreciate your contributions to the overall success of this organization.

I share the excitement of the ROCKET Staff in bringing this issue, because it represents our ongoing commitment to several foundational Rocks values. The first is our commitment to engage and outreach to HBCUs. This issue reflects a major achievement the outreach effort. We are proud to present 11 Cadets from Army and Navy ROTC programs and two Cadets from the West Point Academy. We are committed to involving and engaging these young cadets early and often to ensure that they are prepared to succeed professionally and personally following commissioning in a way that strengthens the military officer corps.

Another foundational value that is reflected in the pages of this Rocket is the desire to celebrate achievements and selfless service. From the Trumpet Award received by Gen Ward in February, to the All American Chapter's participation in a Toy Drop Jump, to the participation of the DC Chapter in the poignant Arlington National Wreath Laying Ceremony, to the visit by the HRC to a VA Medical Center. Some individual contributions are CW4 Davis becoming the first African American female Food Service Advisor, and LTG Bostick, a

2008 Rock of the Year, pinning on his third star and becoming the new Army G1. You may read about these and many more examples of exceptional achievement and selfless service for which you should all be proud. The third key area that we love to share is evidence of professional development as was demonstrated by the Afghanistan Interest Group when they visited a forensics lab and the Carlisle Chapter enhancing its understanding of African American History during an insightful BHM presentation. Being committed to a life of ongoing learning is critical for successful military officers.

Our goal is to use the Rocket as an interactive communications vehicle not only to inform, but to inspire one to act, encourage participation in Rocks events, encourage all to mentor, inspire and support Rocks Chapters and your communities, and to gain lessons or information that may be of use. It is also important to provide motivation to support HBCU ROTC programs where cadets can benefit from your experience and knowledge. Lastly, the Rocket intends to provide information and insight that will enhance your overall professional and personal development.

In our ongoing effort to enhance communications with you in a way that is more interactive on a regular basis, we are fortunate to announce two additions to the Rocket staff. MAJ Rankin has not only volunteered to join the Rocket Team, but he is enthusiastically committed to establishing a Rocks, Inc. Facebook page. His proposal is laid out in this issue and he looks forward to your feedback on this effort. We are also fortunate to have MAJ Windsor as a new member of the Rocket staff. Majors Rankin and Windsor will be regular contributors to the Rocket and will focus on issues of interest and concern to junior and midgrade officers. We hope that you contact them to let them know what you'd like covered in the Rocket.

Lastly, I'd like to remind you of the upcoming Rocks Biennial National Training Conference that will be held 1-3 Apr at the Fort Belvoir Officers Club. The Spring Gala hosted by the Washington DC Chapter will be held on the evening of 3 Apr. Registration details are in this issue and online. Hope to see you there. Thanks for all you do in continuing to "Make the Difference that Counts!"

Clara L. Adams-Ender

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

National Board of the ROCKS, Incorporated

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Rocks National Chairperson Selected for Prestigious Council on Foreign Relations

General Adams-Ender was recently notified that she was invited by the Board of Directors to become a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She will be installed as a life member in April in New York. Founded in 1921, the mission of the Council is to serve as a resource for its members, government officials, business executives, journalists, educators and students, civic and religious leaders, and other citizens to help them better understand the world and the foreign policy choices facing the United States and other countries.

The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) is a membership organization with more than 4,300 members. CFR's ranks include top government officials, renowned scholars, business leaders, acclaimed journalists, prominent attorneys, and a host of distinguished nonprofit professionals. Members participate in meetings, panel discussions, interviews, lectures, book clubs, and film screenings to discuss and debate the major foreign policy issues of our time. Members have unparalleled access to world leaders, senior government officials, members of Congress, and prominent thinkers.

NATIONAL ROCKS LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING CONFERENCE

The ROCKS 7th Bi-Annual National Leadership and Training Conference will be held 1-3 April 2010 at the Ft. Belvoir, VA Officers Club. The theme is **"Making A Difference: Mentoring and Inspiring the Next Generation of World Class Leaders."** The program was developed based on input from the Rocks membership. Presenters include Gen Ward, LTGs Austin and Via, and principal Army General Officers to include the G1, G3, G8, Surgeon General and Commanders of TRADOC, Cadet Command, Human Resources Command and Recruiting Command.

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

The Schedule of Events is available at www.rocksync.org. Please make plans to attend. To register call ROCKS HQ at 888-762-5747.

GEN William E. Ward Trumpet Award Recipient *By Paul Prince. U.S. Army Forces Command*



Gen. William E. Ward, commander, U.S. Africa Command, and his wife, Joyce, speak with media on the red carpet before entering the 18th Annual Trumpet Awards event. (Photo Credit: Paul D. Prince)

Gen. William E. Ward became a Trumpet Award recipient during the 18th Annual Trumpet Awards in February for his ability to inspire others through his extensive military career. "It is a pretty cool award," Ward told reporters during media interviews after the presentation. Men and women who have achieved success through consistency and longevity in a chosen profession or career and who, through their achievements, inspire others are eligible for consideration for this award, according to event officials.

Ward said that those who have been - and are - inspired by his life's work are simply inspired by the work of a hard-working Soldier, which makes being a role model easier. "I am a Soldier first, and as a Soldier, I've always tried to do what I'd been asked to do and do it the very best I can," he said. "I take the obligation (of being a role model) very freely, but I also take it knowing that maybe if I can be an inspiration to others then that's OK with me."

Ward is the fifth African American to be promoted to the rank of four-star general in U.S. Army history. As an African American and senior Army leader, Ward sees his accomplishments and the accomplishments of other military leaders as signs that the Army is a well-rounded institution. "It represents that our Army is indeed a diverse organization. It is the strength of that diversity from which we all benefit," Ward said. "As we take advantage of all the diversity that exists and the contributions each member can make, we as a whole are better...a better institution...a better Army."



DC Chapter's Annual West Hamilton Membership Dinner

On 7 November 2009, the Washington, D.C. Chapter hosted its 34th annual West Hamilton Membership Dinner. As always, it was filled with great soul food, wonderful socializing and dance, and the famous silent auction. In addition to these events, the Chapter recognized some of its great members. The DC Chapters ROCK of the Year and Junior ROCK of the Year received over 95% of the votes – a clear testimony to their unwavering commitment to the ROCKS and its mission.

The Washington, D.C. Chapter ROCK of the Year is COL Charles Harris, III. In addition to being the ROCK of the Year, COL Harris has previously received the Bobby Burke Award, the ROCKS National Chapter Chairman's Award, the Hawaii Chapter President Service Award, the ROCKS President's Award, and an array of coins and certificates.



COL Morgan with West Hamilton Dinner Recipients – L-R: BG(R) Richardson, COL Harris, MAJ(R) Bell representing his daughter, CPT Bell, CPT Lockley and CPT Vaughn

The Washington, D.C. Chapter Junior ROCK of the Year is CPT Bridgette Bell. In addition to being the Junior ROCK of the Year, CPT Bell previously received the volunteerism award and an array of coins and certificates. CPT Bell developed the new Washington, D.C. Chapter's web page and saved the chapter \$5,000.00.

The Lifetime of Leadership awardee is the previous Washington, D.C. Chapter President, BG(R) Velma Richardson. BG(R) Richardson is also a previous ROCK of the Year Recipient, and has received numerous awards, coins, and certificates.

Three members received the volunteerism award. They were MAJ William Jones, Jr., CPT Janet Vaughn, and CPT Tilisha Lockley.

COL Conrado B. Morgan, the current Washington, D.C. Chapter President presented all the awards to the winners. Special thanks are extended to COL (R) Tommy Osborne for his unwavering support and leadership as the Chairman for the West Hamilton Membership Dinner.

The next West Hamilton Membership Dinner is 6 November 2010. Please place the date on your calendars and come enjoy the festivities.

DC ROCKS 36th Annual Spring Gala and Awards Banquet

You are cordially invited to attend the 36th Annual Spring Gala and Awards Banquet on Saturday, April 3, 2010 at 1800hrs. The event will be held at the Fort Belvoir Officer's Club, Fort Belvoir, VA. To make your reservation, call our management office at 877-762-5732. For more details visit www.therocksdc.org.

BAGRAM, AFGHANISTAN ROCKS!

The Afghanistan Interest Group of the ROCKS Inc. volunteered to serve the Thanksgiving Day Dinner held at the Yelner Dining Facility on Bagram Airfield, 26 Nov 2009. The ROCKS served over 3000 Soldiers, civilians, and contractors. The 401st Brigade Commander, COL Richard Dix, led with an opening ceremony and remarks. LTC Gregory K. Haywood covered the agenda for the event and briefed all participants on their roles and responsibilities. Over 20 officers participated in the Thanksgiving Day Dinner serving. The event was also published in the 401st AFSB Newsletter. An overall success for the Afghanistan ROCKS Interest Group, the volunteers had a great time and also took the opportunity to mentor junior officers.

All-American Chapter Donates to Operation Toy Drop Jump

Written by LTC John S. McLeod, Jr.

Major Adrian Brockington, Chapter Chaplain presented donated Toys on behalf of the All-American Chapter in support of the 12th Annual Operation Toy Drop Jump. Annually, hundreds of Paratroopers gather to participate in a lottery drawing for selection to jump as part of the toy drop and to earn a set of Canadian or German jump wings. Each year features different Jump Masters from various armed forces and opportunities to earn foreign jump wings. The event was started in 1998 by the late Sgt. 1st Class Randy

Oler. He envisioned an event where paratroopers could have a rare chance to earn foreign jump wings while helping children in local orphanages receive a present to open for Christmas.

Many paratroopers showed up as early as 3 a.m. for a slot. A previous jumper stated that "All you have to do is picture the children smiling as they receive a wrapped package, having no idea what's in it and knowing that it's probably the only one they are going to get." Another jumper was quoted as saying "In the end, it wasn't about the wings, the camaraderie, the chance jump, or even remembering a lost friend, it was all about the children." The Rocks All-American Chapter believes strongly in participating in community service and giving at every opportunity.



*MAJ Adrian Brockington presents donated toys to
Operation Toy Drop Jump Staff*

First Lady Michelle Obama with
BG Adams-Ender as she hosts a
February 2010 White House Tea in
Honor of Military Women



ROCKS CADET CORNER



***Cadet John Craig-Lee
USMA, West Point***

Cadet John Craig-Lee, a rising junior at The United States Military Academy at West Point, was born in Dallas, Texas on the 13th of June, 1990. He spent very little time there before his parents moved to Alexandria, VA, where he lived until he was 8 years old. At age 2 his younger brother Matthew was born and he became a big brother and began his training as a leader. Then at age 5, Michael was born and he became the oldest of three boys, and with that came an expansion of his responsibility. While in Alexandria, John displayed a determination like none other in caring for his family and doing whatever possible to ensure their safety and well-being.

Within the first few days of third grade, John and his brothers experienced a very long day. At the end of that day they were removed from the custody of their mother and placed in foster care under the Fairfax County Child Protective Services. The trio was relocated to Woodbridge, VA where they have lived since. In 2001 Annette and Edward Lee adopted the three brothers.

John attended, and in 2008, graduated from Gar-Field Senior High School in Woodbridge, VA. While there he took up several leadership positions, serving as acting president (and later president) of the DREAMS Club, a student mentor for the Gentleman's Club, was a peer mediator, and a member of the Healthy Communities Healthy Youth Council of Prince William County. He participated in both indoor and outdoor track, the International Baccalaureate program, was a peer mediator, and represented his school for two years in the Martin Luther King Jr. Oratorical Contest.

During John's junior year in high school he began to look deeply into what institution he would want to attend for his higher education, and a family friend recommended he look into West Point. He did some research and figured it would be a good place to gain admission since he had already decided to be an officer in the United States Army. After beginning his admissions packet and finally completing the admissions process, he waited with much anticipation for any indication of his status as a candidate. When he received his acceptance letter John was elated. He accepted the appointment because he states, "I wanted a challenge, and I was told West Point would sure provide that, and it has." To date, his decision has benefited him in numerous ways to include improving time management skills, producing a

better quality of work, meeting his girlfriend, and gaining a stronger appreciation for the Army as an organization and the NCOs who make it what it is.

John states, “mentorship is key because you can always learn new things from others.” With regard to the Army, John’s mentorship began as soon as it was known that West Point was his number one pick. “LISTEN TO YOUR NCOs!” Although the first piece of advice he ever received, he felt it is one of the most important things to internalize. John recalls being brought before the Washington, DC Chapter of The ROCKS Inc. weeks before entering the Academy and the officers there encouraged him to stand strong and persevere. The mentorship he’s received thusfar and what he expects as a future Second Lieutenant has greatly aided in shaping how he sees himself as a leader. He knows that now, and in the future, he will always be challenged to evaluate himself, thus improving or reinventing many aspects of his leadership style. To this end, mentorship is invaluable to John and much appreciated.

His current plan is to graduate and be commissioned into the Signal Corps. He selected Signal Corps as his first pick for branch assignment because of one of his mentors and good friends. John says that his mentor “is a man of great character, an inspiration to those he works with, and an ex-signaleer. He is an example for me and how I want to be as both a man and a leader.”



Cadet Daniel E. White
USMA, West Point

Why did you accept a West Point appointment and how has it benefited you?

I accepted my appointment to the United States Military Academy because I saw it as an opportunity to accomplish my ultimate dream of leading people, having an impact

on others lives, and being a part of a successful organization. My older cousin, Keith Flood, is a Class of 1985 graduate and my brother, 2LT Dave White, is a recent Class of 2009 graduate. They both, along with my parents, inspired and motivated me to compete for an opportunity to attend West Point. I was blessed to get accepted and I have challenged myself every day since then.

I feel that West Point has benefited me in two ways: mentorship and friendship. I have been able to pick the brains of a variety of officers and been able to go to them for advice on a variety of topics, in particularly leadership given the abundance of officers at West Point. I have also benefited from becoming friends with a variety of people, helping me to learn about different areas, experiences and knowledge.

What role does mentoring play in your development now and in the future?

Mentoring is a part of my development not only as a future commissioned officer in the greatest Army in the world, but also as a son, brother, friend, and man. My mentors COL Irving Smith and MAJ Hise Gibson have helped to direct and guide me in the direction that would be beneficial for the Army, myself and the community at large. COL Smith has guided me in my cadet career and taught me the importance of relationships with my subordinates, peers and supervisors. MAJ Gibson has motivated me to persevere to succeed and to be thankful and appreciative for the privileges I have been given. In returning that favor of guidance, I mentor a few young freshmen at West Point and try to teach them what has been taught to me.

What do you want to do once you are commissioned and why?

Upon being commissioned I hope to enter the Armor Branch and hopefully have an opportunity to serve in the Cavalry. I was first attracted to a Cavalry Regiment because of the rich tradition of excellence embodied by leaders such as General Black Jack Pershing and Colonel Charles Young. I had an opportunity to go to Fort Knox, Kentucky during the summer to train with armor units and I thoroughly enjoyed my experience. My older brother just finished his Armor Basic Officer Leaders Course and he has related stories to me about great soldiers and wonderful experiences. Also, the experiences of a variety of Armor Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers have lured me into the life as an Armor Officer.



Cadet Petrina Macauley
Howard University

Why did you join ROTC and how has it benefited you?

The reason why I joined ROTC was to earn a commission. Being prior service I had the option of going to OCS, however ROTC provided a chance for me to obtain an additional

degree and qualify for various medical programs. The great benefit I received from joining ROTC is receiving insight on the vast roles and responsibilities of different positions in the Army, from the NCO to officer ranks. ROTC develops you as a person and future officer, an intangible advantage that a 10 week OCS course could not give me.

What role does mentoring play in your development now and in the future?

Mentorship has played a vital role in my progression as a future officer. Career progression is all about placing

yourself in the right place at the right time, not forgetting to talk to the right people. As a new cadet, officer or even NCO, it is imperative that you have options and direction to make the best decisions. I feel mentors provide the necessary help one needs to accomplish personal career goals. I have an officer and noncommissioned officer mentor. It is important for me to always understand both sides of the spectrum, which helps me guide my career and helps with my interpersonal skills.

What do you want to do once you are commissioned and why?

Once I receive my commissioning and obtain a Physician Assistant degree, I will be a 2LT PA in the United States Army. I want to have the second most important job next to those soldiers who engage in combat and unfortunately get hurt. I want to be the one who helps patch those soldiers up so they can carry on the mission and get back to doing what they love to do.



***Cadet LTC Jonathan Foster
Norfolk State University***

Born in 1987 in Norfolk, VA and raised in Suffolk, VA by parents Sidney and Joyce Foster I am the youngest of eight older siblings and an uncle to over 11 nieces and nephews. My grandfather served in the Army during World War II and

my father retired from the Navy after 22 years of service. I am now attending Norfolk State University as a senior in the Army ROTC program and will be commissioned this coming May with a Bachelors degree in Health Service Management and branch of Medical Services Corp. I am a proud member of the Spartan Battalion and appreciate everything I have been through and learned during my years in the program.

Why did you join ROTC and how has it benefited you?

During my years in high school I had intentions of joining the military and serving in one of the branches. My father being a retiree of the Navy was a prime example of the benefits the military offered to those who served faithfully. Even in his years of retirement he still maintained a level of discipline in his daily life that I grew to respect. Not only did he instill those disciplines in me, his example was why they were so important to my life. While I understood the dangers of serving in our military, it also presented a history that made me proud of what our country had endured. Not only did I want to defend my country, but those at home whom I cared for and loved. Joining ROTC was an opportunity to

maximize my leadership and better myself as a person both physical and mentally.

What role does mentoring play in your development now and in the future?

Mentorship has played a beneficial role in allowing me to grow not only personally, but as a military leader also. My mentors have always been willing to sit down and talk to me about leadership and personal issues. This is a great long-term benefit because my mentors discuss how to avoid pitfalls in order for me to be successful in my life. If there was an issue that I could not get over for some reason or another, they would offer their best advice or direct me in the right direction to get answers. The same way my mentors took time to help me, I try to do the same with those who are under me as well.

What do you want to do once you are commissioned and why?

I was blessed to receive my first branch of choice, Medical Services Corp. when I completed the Leadership Development Assessment Course in the summer of 2009. My long to goals in the military are to one day be a 70A, which is a hospital administrator. When I chose my degree in college this was the goal I had in my mind for what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. Personally, I want to continue to grow as a leader and be more of an influence on those with whom I come into contact. Being a proud member of the Army requires dedication and a willingness to execute the tasks you have been assigned. Carrying this long-term is a mindset that I want to have each day I do my job. Therefore, when the end comes I have done everything in my power to be the best soldier and leader that I can.

***MSIII Cadet G'Nelle Franklin
Morgan State University***

Why did you join ROTC and how has it benefited you?

I initially joined ROTC for the scholarship and the idea of becoming disciplined and physically fit, but once in the actual program I also began to work on the mental aspect as well.

What role does mentoring play in your development now and in the future?

Mentoring provides an outline of what I should be in my life. I have an example of a good leader and officer. Not only does mentoring provide encouragement, but it also provides support in times of doubt and discomfort. In the future I will know how to be better and deal with certain situations because of mentoring and eventually I can become a better mentor to someone else.

What do you want to do once you are commissioned and why?

I have always had the desire to help people. Once commissioned I plan to enter the Medical Service Corps and then move on to the Medical Specialist Corps. Along with being in a service branch, especially medical services, I also would like to become a teacher so that I may work with children.

***MSII Cadet Cierra Palmer
Morgan State University***

Why did you join ROTC and how has it benefited you?

I believe that I joined ROTC not only to gain a scholarship, but to learn the pathway to leadership, as well as the beneficial skills of discipline that will help me focus on my academics during the rest of my journey here at Morgan State University.

What role does mentoring play in your development now and in the future?

Having mentorship currently helps me to learn from any mistakes I may make while in college. In the future learning from my mistakes will benefit me in the business sector where I will be called on to lead those around me.

What do you want to do once you are commissioned and why?

Most recently I have shown interest in becoming a part of the Army National Guard. I would prefer the National Guard because of not only the benefit they offer but I could be stationed here in Maryland where my family is and where I was born and raised. For my first few years out of college I would like to stay close to home to begin my career in hospitality and if the Guard needs me to travel then I will proceed with my duties as an officer.

***MSI Cadet Michael Ebert
Morgan State University***

Why did you join ROTC and how has it benefited you?

I joined the ROTC program because I have always wanted to serve in the military. Being a member of the Bear Battalion benefits me because besides having a strong academic foundation, I also have a strong social foundation thanks to the ROTC program.

What role does mentoring play in your development now and in the future?

Mentoring in general plays an extremely huge part in my development now and in the future because it enhances my

leadership skills. I also have mentors and friends who refuse to let me fail in anything, and that is real determination on their part, something I greatly appreciate.

What do you want to do once you are commissioned and why?

Once I am commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, I plan on branching Aviation. I have always wanted to fly, and the Army has made my goal of becoming a pilot that much closer to a reality.

***MSII Cadet Dennis McLendon
Morgan State University***

Why did you join ROTC and how has it benefited you?

I decided to join ROTC because I felt that the journey to becoming an officer would help develop my character, confidence and give me an advantage over my peers that no other organization could offer. It's benefited me by giving me all of these things plus eliminating the worry of paying for college. It is providing a possible career opportunity for me when I graduate and am commissioned, and motivates me both physically and academically.

What role does mentoring play in your development now and in the future?

I believe mentorship plays a meaningful role in my development now and in the future as it gives me other perspectives on where I'm trying to go in life, as well as experience to help me from making mistakes others have made.

What do you want to do once commissioned and why?

As of right now, I want to commission into either JAG or Infantry. The reason I want to commission into JAG is because of the tremendous opportunities available as a lawyer if I don't decide to make the military a career. The reason I want to commission into the Infantry is because, in my perspective, there is no greater challenge than leading men as an Infantry officer and it would help develop my character even more.

***MSII Cadet Matt Young
Morgan State University***

Why did you join ROTC and how has it benefited you?

I joined ROTC because it will provide me with a great career once I am commissioned and become a 2LT. It benefits me by helping me pay for college, and teaching me how to balance new responsibilities. I want to accept new challenges, take risks and set higher standards for myself.

What role does mentoring play in your development now and in the future?

Mentoring helps me expand and advance in my career. It can guide me to make the right decisions now and in the future. It gives me a personal relationship with a mentor and it provides me a networking tool not only with my mentor but other mentors in the future. Mentoring also provides vision, direction, and provides feedback on my personal and professional growth.

What do you want to do once commissioned and why?

I want to branch detail Infantry which means doing that for 2yrs then going into another branch for the rest of my career which would be Military Intelligence. I want to branch detail Infantry to be tactically proficient, gain self discipline, initiative, and assurance in myself and the soldiers around me. Then I would want to change over to Military Intelligence because you can get a high security clearance and skills that would be beneficial in landing a good job once my Army career is finished. It also aligns with my current academic studies, which is Information Science and Systems.

***MSIII Cadet Aneesha Daniels
Morgan State University***

***Why did you join ROTC and how has it benefitted you?
What role does mentoring play in your development now and in the future? What do you want to do once you are commissioned and why?***

I joined ROTC to become an officer in the Army and give back to my country. Serving is an honor and privilege. Mentoring provides you with a foundation in leadership; it helps to hone key attributes of a leader dedicated to helping other individuals grow. Upon commissioning I would like to advance my medical knowledge so that I may help in healing our fighting force as well as ensure they remain healthy.

**The Washington, DC Chapter of the
ROCKS, Inc. Annual Golf Tournament**

The Washington, DC Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. will conduct their annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, 26 June 2010 at the Osprey's Golf Club at Belmont Bay in Woodbridge, VA. There's a **\$25,000.00** hole in one prize, plus other prizes. Visit www.therocksdc.org for event and registration information



***Midshipmen Charles
Tomlinson
Prairie View A&M
University***

Why did you join ROTC and how has it benefitted you?

I joined ROTC for two reasons: First, it allowed me a way to serve my country in a role that I felt I could succeed in as an officer. My father and grandfather were in the military, the Army and Navy respectfully, so I have that sense of service. Second, it gave me a chance to attend college and obtain a bachelor's degree. I benefit tremendously from this program; since joining, I have been able to mature and learn to believe in myself, which I believe is vital to being an officer.

What role does mentoring play in your development now and in the future?

Mentoring has played a great role in my development into becoming an officer. When I first joined the program, I knew Navy life through my father's perspective. Through mentoring, I have opened my eyes to an aspect of the military that I had never seen before. Without mentors I feel that midshipmen would be lost because they wouldn't have guidance from an experienced person. The lessons I have learned will assist me in becoming a better individual and help me interact with servicemen from different levels and backgrounds.

What do you want to do once commissioned and why?

Once I receive my mechanical engineering degree and commission, I want to proceed to the aviation community and become a jet pilot. This would be the most rewarding billet and a dream come true. My father wanted to become a pilot and through this I could say that it was achieved for the both of us.

More about Midshipmen Charles Tomlinson:

Midshipmen Tomlinson is one of Prairie View A&M University's Navy ROTC top freshmen. His dedication, reliability, and superb appearance serve as an inspiration, and motivates his peers to uphold higher standards. Charles' involvement and commitment is a positive influence to the Prairie View A&M NROTC program. His solid academics led to his selection to the Dean's List, while his physical fitness regimen has benefitted everyone within the NROTC Unit. He consistently volunteers for every community event and fundraiser in the area. Possessing unlimited potential, he always demonstrates his commitment to teamwork and unit pride.



**Midshipmen
Mark Molander
Prairie View
A&M
University**

Why did you join ROTC and how has it benefitted you?

I joined the NROTC program to become a Naval Officer. The program has benefited me greatly and has provided me better leadership skills and a greater respect for hard work. The leadership skills I have obtained will benefit me both in the service and in any career outside the service.

What role does mentoring play in your development now and in the future?

Mentorship is one of the most important personal and professional growing tools anyone can attain, regardless of whether you are the mentor or the person being mentored. Throughout my career in NROTC, there are times when we all need to redirect our focus, and I believe it is important to have that mentor to help with our progression.

What do you want to do once commissioned and why?

Once I receive my commission I want to start Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) training and become an EOD officer. I enjoy the physical aspect of the EOD community as well as the camaraderie. A career of working with demolitions will also help me prepare for a career in building demolition in the civilian sector.

More about Midshipmen Mark Molander:

Midshipmen Molander is one of Prairie View's top NROTC midshipmen. Academic requirements, coupled with additional NROTC commitments can be taxing, yet he has easily tackled all requirements. His "can-do" attitude, dependability, and outgoing demeanor better the NROTC Unit and aid his fellow classmates. Mark's involvement and dedication is instrumental to the success of the NROTC unit. Mr. Molander's focus on academics and physical fitness led to his selection to the Dean's List, and in achieving the highest Physical Fitness Test score within the NROTC Unit. Mark positively impacts the community through volunteer work and fundraisers throughout the area. As a future leader, his exceptional performance and unlimited potential serves as an inspiration to all.

USC ROTC SPRING TRAINING

by Cadet Michael Morookian



Third-year Cadets from the University of South Carolina Army ROTC Program participated in an important training exercise at nearby Fort Jackson, SC in February 2010. Their primary purpose was to prepare for the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) this summer, where the Cadets will be evaluated on their skills and leadership potential. The Cadets' instructor, Major Charles Goad, believes the extra training is critical to developing successful Army leaders. "There's only so much we can do in a classroom," Goad explains. "Getting a chance to train in the field gives Cadets an opportunity to take what they've learned in class and apply it to a real life situation."

The training began at Fort Jackson's Engagement Skills Trainer Facility. They became familiar, then qualified with their M-16, and continued to develop their marksmanship skills. They then moved to the Team Development Course (TDC). The TDC is an obstacle course in which a squad leader is tasked with getting his/her team members and their equipment through or over an obstacle, while under a time constraint. Success in the course requires planning, toughness, and teamwork. The course is mainly designed to see how cadets will react under stress.

Later in the afternoon, cadets finished their training by conducting day and night land navigation. They built their confidence and honed their skills with a map and compass. Land Navigation is one of the biggest tests cadets will face at LDAC. The cadets will return to Fort Jackson in late March 2010 for their annual joint FTX. They will be accompanied by cadets from at least four different universities. Training at Fort Jackson and other military installations across the country continues to mold cadets into future formidable Army Leaders.

The University of South Carolina (USC) Army ROTC Program includes Cadets from three HBCUs, Allen University, Benedict College, and Morris College.

Afghanistan Holiday Social

There was no snow on the ground, but there was lots of holiday cheer as the Afghanistan Interest Group of ROCKS Inc. came together in the name of fellowship during its Holiday Social. This was an opportunity for officers to socialize in a more informal setting and to take a break from the operational tempo that most deployments bring. Instead of the traditional holiday meal, members took a break from the dining facility and sampled an “expeditionary” buffet consisting of Crunch and Munch, Oreos, fine chocolates, chips, dip, soft drinks, holiday cookies and a host of junk food. What started as a company grade officer asking casual questions about LOGCAP support, resulted in a future planning for an OPD on the Logistics Civil Augmentation Program. The evening was capped off with an “expeditionary” gift exchange and a group photo. A good time was had by all.



Although many were able to make it home for the holidays, several members are seen relaxing at the Holiday Social which was held at the Jirga Center in Bagram, Afghanistan.

Hampton Roads Chapter Brings Holiday Spirit to the Hampton VA Medical Center

By LTC (Ret.) Toney C. Mooney

The Hampton Roads Rocks Chapter, members of Hampton University Army ROTC battalion, and family members visited the local Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Saturday, December 12th, 2009 to sing Christmas Carols and fellowship with disabled veterans. This was the 9th consecutive year the chapter has visited the Medical Center overlooking the Hampton Roads Harbor.



Carolers: MAJ (Ret) Hubert Becton; MAJ Shevin Denmark; MG (Ret) Wallace Arnold; and MAJ Nerine Pete and her son Aiden

The event was coordinated by MAJ (Ret.) Hubert Becton, Chapter Parliamentarian, and pharmacist at the VA Medical Center. Carolers, led by MAJ Shevin Denmark, Chapter President, walked the massive corridors singing familiar holiday tunes. LTC (Ret.) Wendell Turner led another team who grilled hot dogs and hamburgers outside in the mild weather. A final group setup in the Medical Center dayroom assembling bag lunches to distribute to the veterans filling the seats. As the Carolers finished their rounds through the Medical Center complex and the food came off the grill, the session culminated with the whole day room in song and tasty grilled food for all.



Veterans sing along with the Carolers



HRC Members and ROTC Cadets carol and prepare to serve lunch

As always, this is a fun outing for all participants, and a chance to give back to the community and to honor our deserving disabled veterans. As a sign in one of the corridors read, "The Price of Freedom is Visible Here".

MG Bostick Promoted to Lieutenant General. Third Japanese American on Active Duty Wearing Three Stars.

Japanese American Veterans Association

Pentagon, Washington, DC. Major General Thomas P. Bostick, US Army, was promoted to Lieutenant General in a formal ceremony at the Pentagon auditorium on March 11, 2010. General George W. Casey, Jr, Chief of Staff of the US Army, hosted the ceremony. General Bostick's wife, Renee, and son, Joshua, proudly pinned the third star on this professional officer.

General Bostick has assumed the position of US Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, responsible for developing, managing, and executing manpower and personnel plans, programs, and policies for the total Army.



*Pentagon Auditorium. L-R: GEN George W. Casey, Jr, US Army Chief of Staff; LTG Thomas Bostick; Renee Bostick; Joshua Bostick.
Photo by Kris Ikejiri*

Prior to this assignment, he served in a variety of command and staff assignments, both domestic and foreign, most recently as Commanding General, US Army Recruiting Command. He deployed to Iraq with the 1st Cavalry Division initially to support Operation Iraqi Freedom and later as Commanding General of the Division.

General Bostick served as an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at West Point and was a White House Fellow, serving as a special assistant to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. He is a 1978 graduate of the US Military Academy and holds Master of Science degrees in civil engineering and mechanical engineering from Stanford

University. He is a licensed professional engineer in Virginia and is a graduate of the US Army War College. He was selected as Rock of the Year in 2008.

His decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters and the Bronze Star. He and Renee have one son, Joshua. His father is African American and his mother is a native of Japan. Other Japanese Americans on active duty wearing three stars are Lieutenant General Joseph Peterson, Deputy Commander of US Forces Command (FORSCOM), and Vice Admiral Harry B. Harris, USN, Commander of 6th Fleet with headquarters in Naples, Italy.

Promotion Board Briefing at the All-American Chapter

Written by LTC John S. McLeod, Jr.

Major (Promotable) Cedric Carrington provided the All-American Chapter of the ROCKs, Inc. based at Fort Bragg, NC, an in-depth briefing of the Army's officer promotion system in general and centralized selection process specifically (promotion boards). The briefing was well received resulted in a lot of discussion.

Major Carrington addressed the timeline for promotions, the regulatory guidelines, and how the Army manages the system. Areas also covered in his briefing included: Board Memorandum of Instruction, Board member selection, Board operations, Phase I: Identify Fully Qualified Officers, Phase II: Identify Below-the-Zone Selects, Phase IV: Officers for Show Cause, and the Board results process.

The take-away for the audience was a basic knowledge and understanding of the promotion process. Although every officer is assigned to a Career Management Officer (CMO), they must really manage their own career. Officers must update their records at least once or twice a year and update their photos frequently as rank changes and additional awards are received. Major Carrington pointed out that one's files are looked at for more than just promotion and command boards. Many files get looked at for special assignments, joint opportunities and at the request of commanders and leaders looking for officers with special skill sets or experience. Therefore, an officer should always have their best foot forward and reflected in their files.

Major Carrington encouraged junior officers to take on the hard jobs. Promotion board members all recognize hard and challenging positions and that carries a lot of weight on how a file is viewed and voted upon.

Major (P) Carrington is the 2009 ROCKs COL Robert. B. Burke Award Recipient. He previously served as a DA Secretariat Board Recorder, reviewing and preparing files for promotion boards.



MAJ Carrington makes his presentation to an attentive audience

The European Chapter of The ROCKS Launches Ambitious Fundraiser to Permanently Honor Black WWII Soldiers Killed in Wereth, Belgium

The European Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc, is working to have a memorial recognized as part of the American Battle Monument Commission. The site honors the 11 black GIs of the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion who were murdered by the German SS after they had surrendered during the first days of the Battle of the Bulge. This memorial also honors all black GIs and segregated units that fought in Europe during WW II. It is believed to be the only memorial of its type in Europe.

Creation of the site began in 2001 when three Belgians took on the task of creating a more prominent memorial to the soldiers. The nonprofit U.S. Wereth Memorial was created to acquire the land where the massacre took place by integrating the cross erected in 1994 by Herman Langer into a new memorial, which was dedicated by General William "Kip" Ward on 23 May 2004. Check out: http://www.wereth.org/en/en_dedication.php.

In May 2009, General Ward hosted a ROCKS meeting where he challenged the European Chapter to take on the task of the Wereth 11 Memorial Site being recognized as part of the American Battle Monument Commission. This has finally come to fruition; however, one of the requirements for its being accepted into the Monument Trust Fund

Program is an acceptable plan and transfer of sufficient funds to the Commission to fund the maintenance of the site for at least 30 years. That amount is estimated at \$85,000.

The European Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. believes this can be done with the support of other Rocks. We would like to start a Wereth 11 Pledge program. The Kick-Off for this event starts 3 April and ends 30 September 2010. The proceeds to the European Chapter on behalf of Wereth 11 will be placed in a trust to recognize and honor these eleven African Americans and their courage during World War II including maintaining the site. All donations to the European Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization are tax deductible within the limits of the law.

Please make your check or money order payable to "The ROCKS": European Chapter and mail to CMR 442 Box 356, APO AE 09042. A ROCKS European Chapter Paypal account is also available. Check the Rocks website for more info or contact MAJ LAWANDA D WARTHEN, Ph.D, Rocks European chapter, lawanda.d.warthen@us.army.mil. Stateside number: (561) 459-3312). A video link with Gen Ward about Wereth is also on the website- www.rocksync.org.

They eagerly look forward to your contributions and support, to achieve their pledge goals that will result in honoring these men who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Rocks National Chairperson Visits Aloha Chapter Officers



BG (R) Adams-Ender with LTC Robin Adams, Vice President and Lt. Mark Preston, Secretary

Be the change you want to see in the world – Ghandi

ROCKS SPOTLIGHT

Major Glover H. Castro received the Joint Service Achievement Medal for his work in support of the Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology Integration Working Group (ATIWG). Major Castro's yearlong deployment is one of a handful of Army Acquisition Corps Officer positions directly supporting the Warfighters. Major Castro facilitated the ATIWG for over 40 different program managers whose responsibility is to field new equipment to soldiers of the Combined Joint Task Force, Afghanistan.



DC ROCKS Volunteer Efforts

Article Submitted by LTC Janice Gravely

The Washington DC Chapter began its quest to personally give back to the community by volunteering at events recognizing our fallen comrades and participating in community service. On 12 December 2009, the Washington DC Chapter of the ROCKS was amongst 6,000 other volunteers who participated in the 18th annual Wreaths Across America activities at Arlington National Cemetery.

Even though it was a chilly December morning, it was sobering and moving to lay a wreath at the gravesite of a Servicemember to honor their contributions to this great nation. Afterwards, a few of the members went to breakfast for additional fellowship.

On 18 January 2010, the Chapter participated with over 200 volunteers at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library in the "We Feed Our People" project. The DC ROCKS assisted by informing participants and volunteers about the importance of obtaining their H1N1 shots. They escorted those desiring shots to the appropriate area. It was

interesting to meet and talk about different topics with some of our nation's less fortunate.



Washington, DC Chapter Members Pays Tribute at Arlington National Cemetery in Support of Wreaths Across America

Currently, a visit to the Armed Forces Retirement Home is planned for May and the Wounded Warriors at Walter Reed in December. For more information about future volunteer events, please visit our website at www.therocksdc.org.



Washington, DC Chapter helps to immunize the community for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

War College Professor Remembers Dr. King Lesser Known Words of "I Have a Dream" Speech Used to Honor Martin Luther King Jr.

By Joseph Cress, Sentinel Reporter

When people think of Martin Luther King Jr., they often remember the stirring words of his "I Have a Dream Speech" of August 1963. In it, the famed civil rights leader outlined a world where children are not judged by skin color, but on the "content of their character."

But Charles Allen, an Army War College professor, wants people to recall the moment when Dr. King said society had handed African-Americans a “bad check” marked “insufficient funds.” King used that metaphor to describe how America defaulted on the promise made by the founding fathers that “all men are created equal” with unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Just like King, Allen refuses to believe justice is bankrupt and the “great vaults of opportunity” are empty. Allen challenged people to not forget change of any kind requires people willing to answer the call of service to others.

A retired Army colonel, Allen was the guest speaker at an observance at Carlisle Barracks honoring the life and work of Dr. King during a ceremony in Root Hall in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



USAWC Professor Charles Allen and fellow Carlisle Chapter ROCKS members COLs Patrick Brewington (3rd from left) and COL Burl Randolph.

‘Whom shall I send?’ Allen started by explaining how passion and conviction of spirit led Dr. King to pursue the ministry before he was called into the unplanned role of civil rights leader. In making his next point, Allen quoted the Bible verse Isaiah 6:8, which states “And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send’... Then I said ‘Here I am. Send me.’”

With that, Allen traced the history of African-Americans in the service to the country from Crispus Attucks, the runaway slave who died during the Boston Massacre, to the current administration of Barack Obama, the first black President.

He included in his speech references to such famous all-black military units as the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment, the “Buffalo Soldiers” of the 9th and 10th Cavalry regiments and the Tuskegee Airmen. In all cases, Allen said, the country cried out “Whom shall I send?”

for the cause of liberty and justice and these men answered “Here I am. Send me.”

Along the way, the military led the way by naming Benjamin O. Davis the first black general in 1940 and by fully integrating the armed services in 1947, said Allen, who grew up in Cleveland, Ohio in the wake of the Civil Rights movement. Allen experienced the race riots of 1966 and 1968 and was a paperboy delivering the Cleveland Plain Dealer when news broke of the assassination of Dr. King on April 4, 1968. Like so many of that generation, he was inspired directly by the words and deeds of Dr. King.

“He made a difference in my life,” said Allen, who joined the Army at a time when the service branch was looking to increase the number of minorities in its officer ranks. He progressed up the ranks and eventually retired. He is now director of leader development and a professor of cultural science at the War College.

If King was alive, he would ask each of us to look around and see where there continues to be deficiencies in education, health care and other opportunities for all people, Allen said. He added King would expect us to work in the lives of others to affect change. “We have an obligation to each other,” Allen said. “When the call comes, what’s going to be your answer?”

Army Col. John Owens, an Army War College student, thought the speech was an outstanding mix of history and spiritualism. While society is moving in the right direction, Owens said there is still work to be done before the dream of Dr. King can be realized and the debt can be paid. “At best, there is now somebody getting ready to sign the check,” said Barry Farquhar, operation director for the garrison. “There have been great strides. The finish line is in sight, but we are not there yet.”

DC ROCKS CELEBRATES THE 1970s

Article Submitted by LTC Janice Gravely

Everyone was dancing and swaying to the music and reminiscing about an era long gone during the first Washington, DC Chapter 70s Masquerade party. The dance styles ranged from the classical two-step, the robot, bump, and the hustle to name a few.

Outfits ranged from the psychedelic, to casual, to hot pants, and everything in between. Some participants sported their natural afro while most showcased the big hairdos of yesteryear. The age ranged from college freshmen from Howard University ROTC to seasoned partiers who led the

way on the dance floor. There were also officers from Fort Lee, Virginia in attendance.



1970s Party Committee: L-R – LTC Hawkins, MAJ Mins, LTJG Vaughn, MAJ Johnson, COL Rogers, LTC Gravely, COL Morgan



1970s Party People



1970s Contest Winners

The judges, BG(R) Richardson, MAJ Mims, and MAJ Johnson, had a big challenge to select the top three dancers of the soul train line and whittle down the best dressed for

the top three-audience vote. Even when the clock struck midnight (marking the festivities end), people both young and old were mingling and socializing as if they were captured in time and could not move on.

COL Mike Rogers and his committee did an outstanding job planning this event. If you would like to see additional pictures, register to become a DC ROCKS member at www.therocksdc.org and enjoy.

AFGHANISTAN INTEREST GROUP ROCKS FORENSICS



ROCKS are seen touring the fingerprint lab at the Joint Expeditionary Forensics Facility.

Staying true to the history of Rocks Incorporated, Army officers of the Afghanistan Interest Group (AIG) meet informally to foster fellowship and leverage areas of interest that enhance their professional development. On 17 January, 2010, members of the AIG visited/toured the Joint Expeditionary Forensics Facility (JEFF) located on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. The event was coordinated by MAJ Felicia Moore, President of the AIG, and had several officers who participated in the tour. The tour was conducted/facilitated by the JEFF Director, MAJ Ronaldo B. Cabales, who oversees and manages the JEFF labs within the Afghanistan Theater of Operations (ATO).

During this event, officers were afforded the opportunity to learn what the JEFF program entails and how it contributes to counter-insurgency efforts. The JEFF was established in January 2009 as the first fully operational forensics facility in the ATO to provide non-Improvised Explosive Device (IED) forensics exploitation in support of the Warfighter. The JEFF mission is to provide top notch forensics capabilities in the disciplines of Latent Print, Nuclear DNA, Firearm and Tool mark analysis in support of US and Coalition Forces in order to exploit non-IED material and

facilitate information yielding the ability to identify, target, track, detain, and/or prosecute anti-Coalition and anti-Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) forces.



AIG Members continue to celebrate The Year of the NCO and are pictured outside the Joint Expeditionary Forensics Facility with Lab Manager Jessica D. Janisch, SGT Fifi McGhee-Dennis (holding guideon) and SSG Erik Caldwell (knelling).

With the aforementioned forensics disciplines, the JEFFs are capable of processing all non-IED related material. This includes material that comes from weapons caches, complex attacks on Coalition Forces, sniper attacks, or even enemy killed in action during an operation. Using these JEFF capabilities, all source intelligence processes are facilitated and partnerships within the exploitation community are built. Established partnerships with the Joint Document Exploitation Center (JDEC) or the Combined Explosives Exploitation Cell (CEXC) allow for the simultaneous exploitation of cases where additional forensics analyses, which fall outside of the JEFF capability, are required.



AIG President MAJ Felicia R. Moore is seen presenting a Certificate of Appreciation to Senior Mentor, COL Joseph Smith"

The officers also were briefed on the command and control relationships of the JEFF program in Afghanistan. The JEFFs fall under the Chief, Task Force Biometrics (COL Joseph K. Smith). The 19th MP Bn (CID) provides the command, control and staff function support to the JEFFs. One of the other points highlighted during this discussion was the close relationship between forensics and biometrics and how they are intricately intertwined. For example, the unknown latent prints submission generated by the JEFF relies on the biometric enrollments in order to create a known to known identification/match as both entities feed into the Department of Defense Automated Biometrics Identification System (DoD ABIS) database. Ultimately, the end state is aimed at denying the enemy forces anonymity. The tour broadened several members' perspectives and highlighted an organic capability that most didn't know existed. Overall, the event was a successful OPD. Today they now ROCK Forensics!



Congratulations to CW4 Georgene Frances Davis for Being Selected as the Army Food Advisor

*Article Submitted by Central
VA Chapter*

On 08 February 2010, Chief Warrant Officer Four Georgene Davis assumed the position of the Army Food Advisor, the first female to hold this position. After joining the Army in November 1986, she attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina in the MOS 92B. She has been serving on active duty for 23 years and is married to CW4 Bobby Davis. They have four children.

Assigned to Fort Lee, VA since 2007, Chief Warrant Officer Four Davis has served as: the Officer in Charge at Field Operations Training Branch, Instructor Writer, and Senior Instructor for the Warrant Officer Advance Course.

Chief Warrant Officer Four Davis has completed every level of the Warrant Officer Education System. She holds a Master's of Science in Business with a Concentration in Human Resource Management from Troy University and is currently pursuing a PhD in Organizational Psychology from Walden University. CW4 Georgene Davis is a Certified Demonstrated Master Logistician (DML) from S.O.L.E. (Society of Logistics Engineers).

*I've learned that people will forget what you said,
people will forget what you did, but people will
never forget how you made them feel.*

Maya Angelo

Carlisle Chapter of the ROCKS Black History Month Event

Submitted by LTC(P) Rick Emerson



Ms. Jones accepts an award from Carlisle ROCKS President LTC Rick Emerson and the Garrison CDR of Carlisle Barracks, LTC Janet Holliday

Former Army leader Michele S. Jones headlined the Black History Month event at the Army War College and Carlisle Barracks Wednesday, Feb. 24-2010. Ms. Jones was the first female CSM of the Army Reserve, the first woman to serve as class president at the US Sergeants Major Academy, and as a division CSM. Ms. Jones now applies her experiences and skills as the Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense White House Liaison -- the principal DoD contact with the Presidential Personnel Office, White House Military Office, and principal DoD liaison for the White House Political Affairs Office, White House Intergovernmental Affairs and the President's Council on Women and Girls.

Appreciation Shown for LTC Rafeal Boyd, Past All American Chapter President

Colonel D. A. Harris, President of the All-American Chapter at Fort Bragg, NC, presented LTC Rafeal Boyd, Past Chapter President, an autographed copy of "The Autobiography of Becton, a Soldier and Public Servant", by LTG Julius Becton. The book was given as a token of the Chapters' appreciation for his leadership and tenacity during challenging membership times and a very high OPTEMPO.

LTC Boyd maintained chapter integrity and led members through outstanding and unique programs and professional development briefings. LTC Boyd was the 2008 Recipient of the ROCKs, Inc. COL Robert Burke Award. He currently serves as the Equal Opportunity Officer, XVIII Airborne Corps.



Colonel D. A. Harris presents LTC Rafeal Boyd, with autographed copy of "The Autobiography of Becton, a Soldier and Public Servant", by LTG Julius Becton.

DC ROCKS History Lesson

Article Submitted by LTC Janice Gravely

Even with several feet of snow remaining on the ground and uncertainty about current weather, many of the faithful DC ROCKS members came out to listen to COL(R) Francois provide his insight on the history of how the ROCKS originated during the February monthly meeting. It was inspiring to learn what so many Rocks leaders have accomplished in less than 50 years. Accomplishments range from having several three and four-star generals within the ROCKs family to having numerous corporate leaders who had a ROCKS foundation.



COL Frank Francois USA (Ret) speaks to Washington, DC Chapter about ROCKS History

COL(R) Francois also provided a quiz and it was exciting to see how many current ROCKS have made history by being the "First" in so many areas. If you would like to take the quiz and learn more about our ROCK history, please check it out on the Chapter's rocks web page at www.therocksdc.org.

Hampton Roads Chapter Halloween Fundraiser Bolsters 2010 JROTC Scholarships

Submitted by LTC (Ret) Wendell Turner, HRC Rocks



LTC(Ret) Hubert Becton poses in the costume contest and welcomes everyone to the Mothership

Music, fellowship, fun and games abounded at the Hampton Roads Chapter's first Halloween Costume Party Fundraiser, held October 30, 2009 at the Kiln Creek Recreation Center, in Yorktown, VA. The party was the culminating event in a busy 2009 fundraising campaign designed to seed the chapter's 2010 high school JROTC scholarship effort.

The chapter's 2010 scholarships will provide several deserving high school students \$1000 if they are selected winners. The students must be enrolled and currently active in JROTC. They must complete a 2010 scholarship package that demonstrates merit and indicates a strong desire to continue their ROTC training in a four year college or university in the fall of 2010.

The party featured great music by DJ Muscle (MSG Darlene Austin and SFC Derrick Austin) from Fort Eustis, VA, a best costume contest, prizes, raffle, and a 50/50 raffle. The event generated over \$500.00 of revenue and proceeded smoothly due to months of extensive planning and oversight by MAJ Dikila Jones, MAJ (Ret) Hubert Becton and LTC (Ret) Wendell Turner on the party planning committee.

Chapter advisor, MG (Ret) Wallace Arnold and his wife were in attendance, declaring the event a great success for the chapter. The Hampton Roads Rocks will explore a 2010 event that will rival or surpass this affair during its future planning.



Male & Female costume contest winners – SFC Derrick Austin & 1LT Kori Daniel win grand prize from corporate donors

National Rocks members and interested persons may inquire about the complete listing of Hampton Roads 2010 fundraising events and dates by calling Mr. Wendell Turner at 757-203-3696 or e-mail wturner60@yahoo.com.

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 next Edition of the ROCKET no later than **5 May 2010**.

WE NEED YOU!! We are looking for **1-2 LTs-CPTs** 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. **BE A PART OF MAKING THE DIFFERENCE THAT COUNTS!**

AARP Survey: African Americans 45+ Hit Particularly Hard By Economic Recession

Findings Show African Americans More Likely to Help Family, Friends Cope with Financial Hardships

WASHINGTON, DC — While millions of Americans have experienced hard times during the economic recession, the environment for many African Americans age 45+ and their families is particularly difficult, according to a new survey by AARP. The survey, which is part of AARP's continued look at how Americans age 45+ are faring in this economy, found that over the last 12 months, a third (33%) of African Americans 45+ had problems paying rent or mortgage, and 44% had problems paying for essential items, such as food and utilities. Nearly twice as many African Americans 45+ lost a job than the general population (18% vs. 10%), and almost one in four (23%) lost their employer-sponsored health insurance.

"We have seen the devastating impact that this economic recession has had on the African American community—lack of job prospects, problems paying for basic needs including medical care, and families struggling to make ends meet," said AARP Vice President Edna Kane-Williams.

African Americans have taken some positive steps to lessen the sting of the recession. Half of those surveyed postponed plans to travel and two-thirds (67%) cut entertainment expenses. Even in the tough employment environment, 12% of African Americans age 65+ returned to the workforce from retirement, while 19% of African Americans age 45 to 64 increased the number of hours worked and 12% took a second job. Unfortunately, African Americans 45+ have been forced to make increasingly difficult decisions to cope with this economic downturn—decisions that could have serious long-term consequences. A third (34%) stopped putting money into a 401(k), IRA or other retirement account, and a quarter (26%) prematurely withdrew funds from their retirement nest eggs to pay for living expenses, including mortgage or rent, health care, education expenses, and for other reasons. More than three in ten (31%) have cut back on their medications, and 28% have carried a higher balance on their credit cards during the past 12 months.

"The recession has driven many African Americans to make hard choices now that may lead to serious problems down the road," added Kane-Williams. "Raiding your nest egg or ending contributions, even in the short-term, will have long-term consequences because you will have less time to make up the losses. Cutting back on your health care can compromise your health now and lead to higher health care costs as you age."

Faced with the extraordinary impact of this economy, African Americans 45+ are more likely to turn to family or the community for assistance, and are more likely to help family members and friends cope with financial hardships. About one in five African Americans 45+ (22%) consulted friends or family members about finances. Eighteen percent had a child move in for financial reasons, and 44% helped a child pay bills or expenses. Almost one in five (18%) helped a parent pay for basic necessities. African Americans age 45+ were more than twice as likely as all Americans 45+ to seek financial assistance from family, friends, charities and churches (28% vs. 13%).

While some African Americans age 45+ are looking for resources and tools to provide financial information, many may not be aware or are not taking advantage of the accessible resources available to them. African Americans 45+ were half as likely as all Americans in that age group to seek out a financial planner (12% vs. 24%), and only one in ten (11%) consulted online resources about financial planning. Thirteen percent have taken training to get a different type of job, and 18% have attended a job fair to help with their career or job search. Three in ten reported taking training to keep skills up to date or learn new skills for their current job.

"This survey shows that people are managing as best they can in this economy and reaching out for assistance from family and friends. Millions of Americans are hurting today. The good news is that there are many resources available to help people get back on track, and to help families make the best decisions for their health and economic future," said Kane-Williams.

AARP offers free online resources, publications, and information on events to help Americans cope in this economy—available at www.aarp.org/realrelief. These include AARP Real Relief, which offers a wide range of tools to help people look for work, manage finances and find public benefits; financial tip sheets that help people save and plan for retirement; and the 2010 AARP Financial Freedom Tour, which features workshops and financial advice clinics for African American and Hispanic communities in particular.

AARP commissioned the survey, titled "African American Experiences in the Economy: Recession Effects More Strongly Felt." The telephone survey included a nationally representative general sample of 1002 adults ages 45+ and a targeted sample of 405 African-Americans age 45+. It was conducted January 15-27, 2010 by Woelfel Research, Inc. For more information or to view the complete survey, visit <http://www.aarp.org/research/surveys/money/econ/trends/articles/economyaa.html> or contact AARP Media Relations at 202-434-2560.

Rocket Editor Gleefully accepts the two dedicated officers who are willing to join her team. In addition to capturing stories that would be of interest to more senior Rocks, both Major Windsor and Major Rankin will carefully develop a strategy that involves active engagement with Majors and below to ensure that what is important to them is reflected in the Rocket.

ROCKET STAFF WELCOMES MAJ(R) DIEDRE WINDSOR & MAJOR SHERDRICK RANKIN



Hello Fellow ROCKS!

I'm extremely excited about joining the staff of The Rocket and consider myself fortunate to be here. I look forward to working with this wonderful team of professionals as we strive to raise the publication's standard, reputation and visibility even further.

The truly nice part of this is that no undue weight will be placed on my shoulders as The Rocket is not the voice of a few people, but a community. With that, I look forward to working with you and the entire ROCKS membership to ensure we are bringing you the information you want and need to hear.

Thanks,
Diedre L. Windsor, Major, US Army, Retired

Major Rankin, a previous contributor, has joined the Rocket staff. We are delighted to have him and look forward to his contributions to the Rocket and also the implementation of a number of his exciting ideas that include enhanced engagement with our readers. Enjoy his introduction!



I am very fortunate to be a part of the ROCKS organization. It has been a rewarding and humbling experience for me to say the least. I am honored to just be included and become a member in an organization that includes notable active and retired senior leaders. I have had several ROCKS take a personal interest in my career

as an officer and ensured that I stay on a path that has led me to success up to this point.

These officers include BG Larry Wyche, COL Richard Dix, and LTC Deb Ellis. They along with numerous other ROCKS have helped me tap into my talent and knowledge base to do my best in completing any mission given to me by my superiors. Mentorship to me means more than just giving someone advice on how to handle problems and just coaching and advising, to more of a role of developing a personal relationship and advancing mentees careers.

Obviously, the Army wants to retain the best and brightest in its inventory and doing well in key jobs can help an officer get placed on the fast track. They can find themselves working in jobs of higher responsibility that could have been given to someone of a much higher rank or a more "seasoned" officer. I recently had the pleasure of getting promoted a year early to Major and I know this was a result of hard work and great mentorship.

In addition to receiving assistance to job related scenarios, my mentors have also been a great source of help during times when I have come to a crossroad deciding between going to a school, PCSing to a key developmental job, or even thoughts of changing to another career field. In my humble opinion many officers should research and join the ROCKS. It is a great organization and the professional development is second to none.

Since I have received much help I am now in a position to give back and ensure the LTs and CPTs under me receive the same assistance. In order to do so I have begun talking to JROTC cadets and junior high school students about my experiences and the positives of military service. I am now constantly sharing information with my mentees and staying focused on watching them grow and keeping an open door so that I am always available when they need assistance.

Now that I am in a position to assist at the National level, there are some initiatives that I am would like to present to you all and gather some interest. The first is the establishment of a ROCKS Facebook and/or Twitter site where we could collaborate with one another and share ideas and information. Here at Ft Leavenworth we are blogging

with the CG on a daily basis and these commands are using Facebook like never before. Many brigades and battalions out there are using Facebook and some BDE Commanders are using Twitter as an information vehicle to their Soldiers. Please let me know if you are interested. My email address is sherdrick.rankin@us.army.mil.

MAJ Sherdrick S. Rankin Sr. is currently a student at the Command and General Staff College. In his most recent assignment at Fort Drum he served as a Company Commander, BN S-3, and BDE S-4 for the 10th Sustainment Brigade 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. His combat tours include serving in Bosnia from June 2003 to December 2003; OEF from February 2006 to February 2007, and OIF from November 2008 to October 2009. He is married to the former Joy Martin and has two sons, Sherdrick Jr and Sterling.

Rankin Hits the Ground Running: Proposes Rocks Facebook Site

Brimming with new ideas and eager to actively engage current and potential Rocks, Major Rankin hits the ground running on the Rocket staff by proposing a new Rocks Facebook site. The following reflects the key points of his proposal. Your feedback is welcome as this moves forward.

1. Purpose. To provide the strategic plan for Rocks, Inc to begin participating in public social media (Facebook).
2. Background. The United States Army began using Facebook in April 2009 and now has over 190,000 members on its Facebook page.
3. Discussion. The following points explain some reasons why the Rocks should establish a Facebook site:
 - a. Until now, our public internet community has increased organically - our followers and fans find us based on what we broadcast on the Rocks national website and by word of mouth. This plan explores a virtual approach as we identify the Rocks, Inc network (both internal and external) and expand it strategically. Social media will prove to be a quick, efficient and easy way to convey messages to thousands of users in real-time.
 - b. Rocks, Inc Social Media group will use the popular site Facebook as well as the Rocks, Inc national website to distribute articles and photos approved for public release to a wider audience thereby creating greater awareness of our systems and support to our members. This social network initiative supports the vision to build a world-class professional and personal counseling, mentoring and networking organization.

c. Creating a Facebook page will increase awareness of Rocks, Inc., mentorship and leadership outreach by reaching an expanded, relevant audience by doing the following:

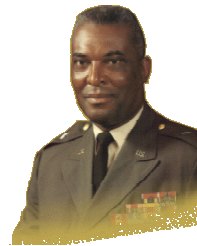
- Open lines of communication with our members brings matters to our attention much more quickly and allows for a public mentorship response from members
- Use of social media platforms in conjunction with traditional media (i.e. print articles, Rocks, Inc website) expands the reach of our message
- Encourage competition among potential vendors by creating an additional venue for awareness and transparency of their products and services

4. From the U.S. Army Social Media Best Practices (Tactics, Techniques, Procedures), "Individuals are looking to the Web as their primary source of news and information. As an organization, we have an obligation to tell our story in the spaces and places where our community is already engaging." In fact, 40% of adults get information online, compared to 35% who get it from newspapers.

Facebook has built-in metrics reports that show visits and users statistics. Google Analytics provides a detailed report on the public site that shows the number of visits, which sites referred visitors, and their countries of origin.

Please submit your suggestions/comments regarding this proposal to: sherdrick.rankin@us.army.mil.

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. 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 will be a ROCKS fundraiser and we hope every ROCK member, their friends and interested organizations and groups will purchase one or more journals. The ROCKS' Historian, COL(R) Frank Francois, III is the project director and if there are any questions he can be contacted at goldenpin@aol.com.



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Make your check or money order payable to NATIONAL ROCKS, INC. and mail to National ROCKS, Inc., c/o WSC Associates, LLP, 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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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