

# THE ROCKET

## Spring 2020



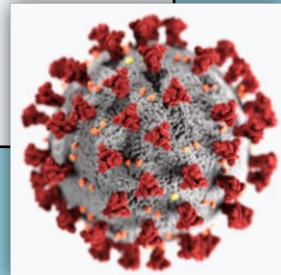
**COVID-19**  
CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

**Army COVID-19 Information Hotline**

1-800-984-8523

Overseas DSN 312-421-3700

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**STAY SAFE. STAY HOME. STAY STRONG**



## ROCKET SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- ✓ Submit articles in **Microsoft Word Document Format** *Only*  
(Do not include photos within body of text: please add photos to the end of the article)
- ✓ Article Header should be in **Times New Roman Font; Font Size=14 and Bolded**)
- ✓ Author/contributor credit reflected in following format:  
*Written by (Author's name) (Font=Times New Roman Italics; Font Size = 10)*
- Page Margins = 1" Left, Right, Top and Bottom
- The text should be Font=Times New Roman; Font Size=10. No special formatting. Use left justification. Maximum number of words=600 words
- Maximum number of photos per article = 3 (Include at the end of the article)
- Include photo captions under photo (Font=Times New Roman; Font Size=8)
- PDF document will NOT be accepted.
- Links to web articles will NOT be accepted.
- Articles should be written in 3rd party tense.
- If would like an article from another publication to appear in the ROCKET, you must obtain written permission from the author and forward it to [nationalrocket@gmail.com](mailto:nationalrocket@gmail.com) along with the article in MS Word format.
- We do not accept podcast or video as stand alone submissions for this written publication. However, we do have other media platforms available to disseminate or distribute video or podcast material.

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## Message from the Chairman



*BG Lawrence Gillespie, USA, Retired*

As we exit the first quarter of 2020, it is important that we examine our direction and if necessary, make any required course corrections. I am very impressed with the preparations and the level of cooperation associated with the Leadership and Training Conference and the Gala. Even though the event has been postponed due to our concerns surrounding the coronavirus, Colonel Wrancher and her team deserve a sincere

“Thank You” for the effort that has gone into these events.

I also want to comment on what I see as the direction and objectives that the ROCKS should focus on. The ROCKS is a dynamic organization which faces many different challenges and opportunities on a daily bases. It is my belief that a stabilized infrastructure consisting of a minimal full-time staff under our own roof would facilitate the ebb and flow of issues that we currently experience. Having our own office and staff, in my opinion, would assist us greatly in meeting the challenges that emanate from our Army. It would also help facilitate with our primary mission that being...mentorship.

In addition to acquiring our own space, another important focus area is to expand our ROTC Scholarship Program to achieve the goal of rewarding 500 scholarships per year. We are currently in discussions with a renowned organization that if successful, will enable the ROCKS to achieve this goal. In 2019, the TRADOC Commanding General issued a letter to the ROCKS commending the organization on its contributions to the Army and to the Cadet Command. This

correspondence was unsolicited and gives credit to our organization.

The reconstitution of our Outreach Program in the Washington, D.C. area will begin next month at Howard University. This program has served us well in the past and we are hopeful that the current and reinvigorated effort will be as successful.

Lastly, as part of our mentoring program, I strongly recommend that we begin on some level, a STEM Program that would benefit the youth within our military communities. There is no doubt that such effort would support the future technologies that will dominate the work environment, and our youth need to be provided every opportunity to participate on an equal basis in every area of mathematical sciences, electronics, engineering and beyond . Thank you and wash your hands.

Lawrence Gillespie  
BG USA (Ret.)  
Chairman

### THE PRESIDENT'S CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES FOR AMERICA

## DO YOUR PART TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Even if you are young, or otherwise healthy, you are at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others. It is critical that you do your part to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Work or engage in schooling **FROM HOME** whenever possible.

**IF YOU WORK IN A CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRY**, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule. You and your employers should follow CDC guidance to protect your health at work.

**AVOID SOCIAL GATHERINGS** in groups of more than 10 people.

Avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts — **USE DRIVE-THRU, PICKUP, OR DELIVERY OPTIONS.**

**AVOID DISCRETIONARY TRAVEL**, shopping trips, and social visits.

**DO NOT VISIT** nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

#### PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE:

- Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.

**CORONAVIRUS.GOV**

School operations can accelerate the spread of the coronavirus. Governors of states with evidence of community transmission should close schools in affected and surrounding areas. Governors should close schools in communities that are near areas of community transmission, even if those areas are in neighboring states. In addition, state and local officials should close schools where coronavirus has been identified in the population associated with the school. States and localities that close schools need to address childcare needs of critical responders, as well as the nutritional needs of children.

Older people are particularly at risk from the coronavirus. All states should follow Federal guidance and halt social visits to nursing homes and retirement and long-term care facilities.

In states with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate should be closed.

# TOP STORIES

## Army Leaders Detail Efforts Against Coronavirus

By Jim Garamone, (Defense.gov)



Army Secretary Ryan D. McCarthy and Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville hold a news conference on the Army's role in the Defense Department's COVID-19 efforts. The event took place at the Pentagon, March 26, 2020.

WASHINGTON -- Army leaders detailed how the service is deploying field hospitals to New York and Seattle, and what the Army is doing to ensure its missions continue.

Army Secretary Ryan D. McCarthy, Army Chief of Staff Gen. James C. McConville and others briefed reporters at the Pentagon yesterday on steps the service is taking in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. They spoke about force health protection, coronavirus testing and how the service maintains its combat effectiveness.

To listen to the press conference in its entirety please copy and paste this url, <https://www.defense.gov/Watch/Video/video/744431/dvpcc/false/?dvpTag=Defense+on+Demand#DVIDSVideoPlayer581>

“Leadership  
is action,  
~~not~~ position..”

Donald H. McGannon

## U.S. Army Raises Health Protection Across All Installations

By U.S. Army Public Affairs  
March 26, 2020

WASHINGTON – In order to maintain operational readiness around the world and to protect the force, the U.S. Army will raise the Health Protection Condition level to Charlie across all installations to align with the National Capital Region. Additionally, extra measures are being implemented to protect immediate contingency response forces to prevent exposure to COVID-19 should they need to deploy. These actions will ensure the Army's ability to quickly deploy contingency response forces across the globe.

The Army is increasing all installations to HPCON level Charlie. Installations will limit all access to essential personnel only and will limit the numbers of access points. All unit personnel are expected to follow all social distancing guidance to continue protecting our force.

The Army maintains forces ready to deploy worldwide within 18 hours to support national security requirements and has the capability to rapidly put boots and equipment on the ground in great numbers. The capabilities and flexibility of these Soldiers allow them to support global requirements and answer the nation's call at any time.

“To further protect our contingency response forces from exposure to the COVID-19 virus, we are taking extra

precautions and placing them under an HPCON Delta status,” said Gen. James C. McConville, Chief of Staff of the Army. “We are committed to maintaining the Army's fighting strength by reducing the spread of this virus while simultaneously maintaining dynamic force employment capabilities.”

Under HPCON Delta, the highest and most protective level, Soldiers are expected to remain at home for extended periods of time as movement in the community may be restricted. Home quarantine may be directed in order to protect the health and safety of Soldiers and their families.

As personnel from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army North, U.S. Army Medical Command the Army National Guard support other national agencies in their efforts to contain COVID-19, the Army's immediate contingency response force will continue to stand ready to deploy should the need arise.

For more information on Health Protection Control (HPCON) Levels what they mean, please visit, Army Public Health and see their article on Understanding HPCON Levels, <https://phc.amedd.army.mil/topics/campaigns/covid19/Pages/HPCON.aspx>.



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## ROCKS ON THE MOVE

### U.S. Army Women's Foundation 12th Annual Scholarship Awards and Hall of Fame Induction

*Submitted by COL (Ret) Dorene Hurt*

The U.S. Army Women's Foundation (AWF) conducted its 12th Annual Scholarship Awards and Hall of Fame Induction on Wednesday, 11 March 2020, at the Women's in Military Service for America Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery. As our nation celebrates Women's History Month, the U.S. Army Women's Foundation focuses on the future by awarding scholarships.

This year the Foundation awarded 34 Army women and legacy scholarships to children of Army women for the 2020 school year. Annually the U.S. Army Women's Foundation ensures women's service in the Army is honored and never forgotten through its Hall of Fame. This year the Foundation inducted 16 extraordinary Army women into the 2020 Class of the Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame.



*Army Women's Foundation Hall of Fame Awardees COL (Ret) Dixon, COL (Ret) Hurt with Army Women's 2019 Hall of Fame Inductee BG (Ret) Clara Adam-Ender and a member of the 6888th all-black female WWII Postal Battalion, and other awardees*

General Dennis J. Reimer, the 33rd Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army, was the Keynote Speaker and provided powerful,

inspirational words. Included with those honored by induction into the Hall of Fame were three dedicated ROCKS Lifemembers COL (Ret) Lillian "Anita" Dixon, COL (Ret) Edna Cummings and COL (Ret) Dorene Hurt. A standing room only audience witnessed the presentation of thousands of dollars in scholarships awarded to a wide variety of deserving recipients. The audience included one of the few remaining women of the all-black female postal battalion of 855 enlisted and officers stationed overseas during WWII. Many ROCKS were present to support the ROCKS honored to include Army Women's Foundation honoree BG (Ret) Clara Adams-Ender, LTG (Ret) Bob Ferrell, MG (Ret) George Alexander, BG (Ret) Earl Simms, and MG (Ret) Dorian Anderson.



*MG (Ret) Dorian Anderson, MG (Ret) George Alexander; Hall of Fame awardee COL (Ret) Dorene Hurt, Former ROCKS National Board Chairman BG (Ret) Earl Simms and BG William Green, US Army Deputy Chief of Chaplains.*

Retired Brig. Gen. Anne MacDonald, former chief of staff at the U.S. Army Reserve Command, also feels it's beneficial for the younger generation to see what they can aspire to. "This affects, of course, these inductees and their families, but there's an even bigger picture here," said MacDonald, president of the AWF. "Celebrating women's achievements has a great impact on our public. Those in the civilian sector, as well as military, have a model of what real leadership looks like. These women here serve as exemplary role models for all of us to look up to."

As the vice president of the AWF, retired Command Sgt. Maj. Cindy Pritchett said "not all achievements and contributions make the news, but they are just as important to our heritage and deserve to

be acknowledged, celebrated and remembered for the generations of military women who will follow us."

### The Deployed Battalion S1 Experience

*Written by 1LT William D. Scott III.*

1LT William D. Scott III. is currently deployed with Task Force Dragon, 10<sup>th</sup> Combat Aviation Brigade as the TF S1 in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel. He was previously deployed in 2018 as a postal platoon leader with the 510<sup>th</sup> Human Resources Company, providing postal services for all United States Military, Civilians, and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) partners.



*1LT William D. Scott III. on a UH-60M (Black Hawk Helicopter) during battlefield circulation to an outlying location.*

1LT Scott and his shop's duty and responsibilities include theater gateway operations, evaluations, awards, personnel actions, Postal Operations, Finance, notary, and records updates. They support 6 locations across West,

Southwest, and Southern Afghanistan, making them the battalion level task force in charge of the largest area of responsibility. 1LT Scott's shop is able to provide human resources support to this entire unit and it's locations with only four Service Members.

In his free time, there are opportunities for him to learn about the Afghan culture through visiting local markets on post and trying local cuisine. This experience has helped him to improve his understanding of the world outside of the popular norms of the United States, as well as share these experiences with his friends and Family.

1LT Scott was only seven years old during the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 so he understood the significance of the conflict in which he would deploy into. He looks forward to continuing to support his unit for the remainder of this deployment and coming home after mission accomplishment.

### **Brigadier General Adams-Ender Speaks at National Guard Bureau Program**

*Submitted by: COL (Ret) Dorene Hurt*



*BG (Ret) Clara Adams-Ender speaks at the National Guard Bureau 2020 AAHM Program*

Gen Clara Adams-Ender was the guest speaker at the African American History Month Observance at the National Guard Bureau Readiness Center in Arlington, VA on February 20, 2020. The theme of

the program was "African Americans and the Vote."

Gen Adams-Ender began by sharing a brief history and background of African Americans getting the right to vote. The history began with the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation. Frederick Douglass stated that "slavery is not abolished until the black man has the ballot." The 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment confirmed the full rights of citizenship for the former enslaved. After President Lincoln's assassination in 1866, the situation changed dramatically under President Johnson. In late 1866, Congress passed the Civil Rights Bill to build on the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment. President Johnson vetoed the bill, Congress overrode it and the bill became law in early 1867.

Over the next 10 years, African Americans voted in huge numbers across the South and were elected to serve in Congress. Intimidation and violence began almost immediately from the KKK and similar organizations. The 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments were subsequently added to the Constitution to further clarify the citizenship and voting rights of African Americans.

Why is voting so important? Gen Adams-Ender stressed that it is a responsibility, duty and right of every citizen to vote. Voting helps to ensure the fair and equitable division of resources. African American voter turnout could put them in a position to sway election on all levels. A final reason it is important for African Americans to vote is because we cannot afford not to vote. If we don't, people who don't have our best interests in mind, body and soul may get elected. Finally, our ancestors fought and died, were lynched and died and endured much suffering to ensure our right to vote. No matter who each citizen wants to prevail, we can't expect our candidates to win every time we vote; however, if we don't vote we will certainly collectively lose. We must continue to exercise our responsibility of citizenship. One incredibly impactful responsibility is voting, a right that many have fought and died to attain.

### **Women and Leadership: A Panel on Experience**

*Written by CPT Abdullah Clark, USA*

In the Fall of 2019, four accomplished women and leaders in their respective sectors gathered at Georgetown University to provide their thoughts and experiences to a captive student audience. The panel was sponsored by student organizations of the McCourt School of Public Policy, most notably members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Internship Program. The four established women leaders came from the private, government, academic and military organizations averaging multiple decades of experience. It's also worth noting that three of the four panel members were women of color, adding depth to the conversation on leadership challenges in the workplace as a double minority.



*Mrs. Cristina Antelo, Esq. Principal and CEO of Ferox Strategies*

Cristina Antelo provided an entrepreneurial perspective as the owner and Chief Executive Officer of Ferox Strategies, a lobbyist firm in Washington DC. Ms. Antelo is an inspiration to all and captivated the room with stories of how she came to the realization that she needed to start her own business after the self-revelation of her talents. A Georgetown University alum, Ms. Antelo now has an established client list and the days of bustling on K street are far behind.



*Dr. Karen Boroff, Professor and Dean Emeritus at Seton Hall University*

Dr. Karen Boroff offered an academic perspective to the panel hailing from her current role as the Provost of Seton Hall University. Dr. Boroff is many times published and taught at the United States Military Academy and directly impacted the education of thousands of commissioned Officers now serving in the Army. She recounted the challenges of her early days teaching, drawing on pivotal individuals that enabled her perseverance. Ms. Ruby Miller sought to inform the audience of her current role at the Department of Homeland Security and more importantly her groundbreaking service in the Navy as the first African American female cadet commander at the United States Naval Academy. Ms. Miller is the Chief of Staff for the Privacy Office at DHS and brings her training in the Navy to bare daily while conducting her duties. She recounted crucible leadership moments at the Naval Academy and while on active duty serving as a recruiting company commander in a very tough region.



*Colonel Karen M. Wrancher  
Chief of the Assistance Division of the  
US Army Inspector General Agency*

Last, but certainly not least, the Department of the Army Inspector General Agency managed to dispatch a prominent Army Colonel and division chief for the forum. Colonel Karen Wrancher has multiple decades of service dedicated to the Army and she shared some of her most critical experiences as a women leader. She recounted her days as a Airborne rigger platoon leader at Fort Bragg North Carolina as well as her time serving as the Chief (Director of Operations) for the largest division in the United States Army Inspector General Agency. Colonel Wrancher managed to provide the most presence throughout the forum speaking passionately about the challenge some men often have taking direction from women and more specifically women of color. She emphasized the importance of adhering to and enforcing standards as well as be an ethical leader with moral courage. She stated, “You have to demonstrate excellence to the point, it can’t be denied. Concentrate on the mission before you while taking care of the people placed under your charge.”

The Women and Leadership forum was made possible by the McCourt School of Public Policy, student organizations such as The Women in Policy Initiative and most notably members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Internship Program. Every year the Army selects twenty captains, post-company command, to attend Georgetown University for a Masters in Policy Management degree and follow-on service at the Pentagon. The officers selected matriculate Georgetown studied and focused for an intense learning experience as members of the Joint Staff and Army staff for a cumulative three-year program. Army Human Resources Command is the proponent for this outstanding program and officers should contact their respective branch manager if interested.

CPT Abdullah H. Clark is an Army Strategist (Functional Area 59) and a participant in the Joint Chiefs of Staff Internship program. His next assignment will be on the Joint Staff serving as the Operations Officer for the J3 Deputy Director for Special Operations and Counter-terrorism.

## **Celebrating Black History, Honoring the Six Triple Eight**

*COL(R) Shelia Howell-Flowers, USA*



*COL(R) Shelia Howell Flowers speaks to the audience.*

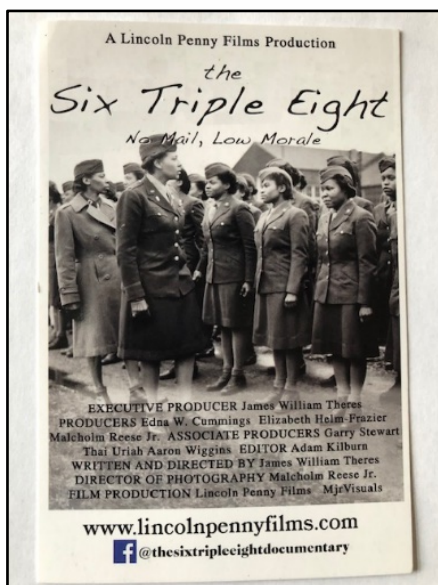
Under the theme “Honoring the Past; Securing the Future,” COL (Ret) Shelia Howell Flowers tells the story of how “Black History” and “Women in History” collides during her talk for the Fort Belvoir Equal Opportunity Black History Month Program.

She explained that it happened when the United States Army sent an all-black female battalion into England and France during WWII to clear up a two/three year backlog of mail. In 1945, 855 African American woman signed up to serve in the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, also known as the Six Triple Eight.



COL Howell Flowers, explained that the Six Triple Eight Postal BN was the first and only all-female African American unit deployed overseas during WW II and how they were confronted by racism and sexism from their own leadership and fellow comrades. Nevertheless, they still served their country with honor and distinction, completing their mission in record time.

They organized themselves and worked three eight-hour shifts, seven days a week processing and delivering mail to fighting troops, Red Cross workers, DoD Civilians and other NGOs servicing overseas in the European Theater of Operations. Each shift handled an estimated 65,000 pieces of mail. This band of sisters in arms understood the significance of their mission and coined the rally cry, "No Mail, Low Morale!"



By the end of the war they had moved over 17 million pieces of backlogged mail, which not only kept those serving in the European Theater of Operations connected to their loved ones, but it increased the morale of the Soldiers.

When they redeployed back to the United States in February 1946, they were not greeted with a parade nor any fanfare, but rather the unit was disbanded.

A few living members were finally honored at the Women in Military Service of America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. Later that

year, President Obama and first lady, Michelle Obama recognized them for their significant contribution made during WWII.



CSM Gragg and ROCKS Chairman BG (Ret) Lawrence Gillespie join ROCKS Chairman Emeritus BG Adams-Ender following the program.

Recently, Rep. Gwen Moore, introduced H.R. 3138 to Congress, the bill to award the 6888 BN with a Congressional Gold Medal.

### Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall 2020 Gospel Service features BG (Ret) Clara Adams-Ender

*Submitted by: COL (Ret) Dorene Hurt*

The Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Gospel Service hosted its annual Black History Month Celebration on Feb 29 at the Memorial Chapel, Fort Myer, VA. Under the theme, "Honoring Our Past, Supporting Our Future", the program consisting of guest speakers, the MDW

military mass choir, a dramatic presentation entitled Troubled Waters, all topped off with the presentation of the 2020 Keeper of the Community Award Honorees: Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Dwayne Renal Sims, Negro League Legends Hall of Fame, Mercedes Kirkland-Doyle, Good News Community Kitchen, Montford Point Marines, DC Chapter Six, Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Gragg, U.S. Army Medical Command and Min. Mona Fobish.

The Living Legend Award was presented to Brig Gen (Ret) Clara Adams-Ender for her unwavering dedication to the Army family, the healthcare of the community, and her selfless dedication to mentoring and developing leaders for many decades. Peppered with her legendary humor, Brig Gen (Ret) Adams-Ender provided spirited thought-provoking remarks that clearly resonated with the audience. Many ROCKS were in attendance to support her and the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Gospel Service members, some of whom are ROCKS.

Special guests included Chap (Brig Gen) William Green, Jr., US Army Deputy Chief of Chaplains and RADM Cedric Pringle, Commandant, National War College and Chap (Maj) Bryant Casteel Gospel Service Pastor. Two time Emmy award winning sports anchor Darren Haynes of WUSA 9 did an outstanding job as the emcee.



Chap (Brig Gen) William Green, Jr., US Army Deputy Chief of Chaplains, RADM Cedric Pringle, Commandant, National War College, Chap (Maj) Bryant Casteel Gospel Service Pastor, Chap (COL) Palmer and CSM Michael Gragg pose with BG (Ret) Adams-Ender

# Welcome to our New Members

*Joined 12/25/2019 – 04/03/2020*

CPT Adams Ryan USA  
BG Admiral Kevin USA  
2LT Ajala Henry USAR  
CAPT Anderson Rodney USA  
COL Bell Gregory USA  
1LT Bolden Antonnea USA  
CPT Boler Blair USA  
MAJ Booker Lakia USA  
Ms. Boykins Patricia  
CPT Brown Samantha USA  
MAJ Collins Sheron USA  
CPT Copeland Diana USA  
CPT Cox James USA  
2LT Dantzler Sade USA  
Mr. Edmonds Maurice  
CPT Ellis Bianca USA  
1LT Evans Ana USA  
CPT Ferguson Shaisha USAR  
1LT Ford Verniccia USA  
WO4 Freeman Sherry USA  
GEN Garrett Michael USA  
LTC Graham Eric USA  
1LT Griffin Alex USA  
MAJ Hardy Diana USA  
CPT Hassell Mary USA  
2LT Hilson Rashae USA  
MAJ Huff Harold USA  
2LT Jackson Corey ARNG  
2LT Johnson Miller USA  
Ms. Johnson Sheree  
2LT Jones Jermaine USA  
LTC Karim Jennifer USA  
BG Lawrence Gavin USA

1LT New Raven USA  
LTC Newton Charles  
ANG(Army)  
MAJ Nunnery Vikki USA  
MAJ Ortiz Francisco USAR  
Mrs. Osborne Sharon USA  
LTC Pace Carla USAR  
1LT Pham Justin USA  
COL Plummer Dawson USA  
MAJ Reedjohnson Angela USAR  
2LT Rose Kali USA  
MAJ Rubin Sheena USA  
CPT Russ Terry USA  
COL Smith Theresa USA  
Ms. Taylor Samantha USA  
COL Thaxton Ronald USA  
MAJ Toney Jr Bernard USA  
MAJ Walker Santwon USA  
Ms. Walker Kristin  
1LT Williams Alisha USAR  
1LT Williams Aireal USA  
1LT Woodruff Nikolina ARNG  
Ms. Wooten Breana  
CPT Wynn Daniel USA



- \* Volunteer to serve on the Leadership Outreach and Cadet Enhancement Team
- \* Attend chapter meetings
- \* Be accessible and become a mentor
- \* Volunteer to address chapters (General and Senior Officers are especially needed)
- \* Serve as a resource for referrals on branch peculiar and other professional development issues
- \* Encourage mentoring/coaching for all officers and set the example
- \* Volunteer to lead and/or participate in Committees
- \* Donate to our scholarship funds and sponsor a cadet to attend various events
- \* Volunteer to provide your expertise and guidance in assisting officer transitioning from military service
- \* Volunteer to provide your expertise and guidance in assisting current and transitioning civilian members
- \* Become a Corporate sponsor





## . Is It Possible to Over-Communicate?

By Karen M. Wrancher

In today's society with so many mixed messages, is it possible to over communicate a concept, idea or plan? As our nation and our world grapples to battle a pandemic the like of which our world has not seen since 1918 with the Spanish flu, clear messaging from our government and military leaders has never been of greater importance. It is essential for any leader to clearly articulate to their team, organization or company what it is they are trying to achieve. If leaders are successful in clearly stating to their audience what are the key objectives for the community or company, they are providing what can be referred to as an *effective mission statement*.

As the coronavirus (COVID-19) has changed our world in ways that we have yet to evaluate what the long-term impacts will be, there are some leaders that have been catapulted on to the national stage. This is due to their ability to disseminate an effective mission statement. Their mission statement, short and to the point, lets their community know what are their intentions and what can be described as the next steps in combating this deadly virus.

While the oval office changed their position on the severity of the pandemic a couple of times, there is one government official that exercised sound leadership from the very start....Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York. By comparison, oval office changed from a dismissive approach that the pandemic was something that would pass quickly to COVID-19 is a deadly virus with the number of casualties rising throughout our country and around the world. In addition, more restrictive measure needed to be enacted as COVID-19 was taking its toll on our nation. Consequently, many young and old, developed a newly found recognition of the impact the pandemic and the spread of virus was to be taken seriously.

In the meanwhile, Governor Cuomo of New York took the mantle of leadership and with his team quickly moved forward on creating an effective mission statement. It is from his example, we can learn how to create an effective mission

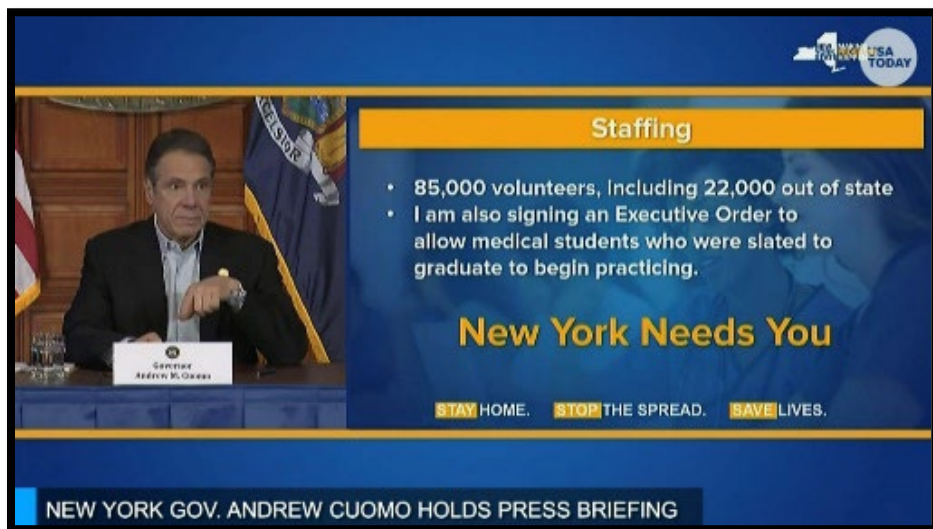
statement for our own chapters within the ROCKS, Inc.

**Keep it short and concise; don't write an essay.** Sum up your chapter's mission in a few sentences. We all know long drawn out statements are really not memorable and the hard and honest truth is we rarely pay attention to them. As some national leaders struggled to figure out how to address the problem, Governor Cuomo was at out and up front with clear messaging from the very start. Simply stated stay home. Stop the spread. Save lives. That message has not changed as he has continued to keep the State of New York and the nation informed of what his intentions were and are going forward. He uses each press conference as a target of opportunity to give an update as well as share with the audience what the next steps are in combating and trying to abate the pandemic.



*Governor Cuomo addresses "next steps" to include measures taken to address ventilator shortages. He expressed his gratitude to the Governor of Oregon, Kate Brown for sending ventilators and individuals responsible for getting ventilators from China.*

**Do think long term.** A mission statement is a daily investment in your organization's future, so keep it open to reflect your chapter's long-term goals. Governor Cuomo persistently stated that his goal is to stop the spread of disease within the New York. During his press conferences, he outlined his strategy in reaching out to other countries to get the desperately needed ventilators for both the people in need and health providers within the state. As you develop your mission statement for your chapter, it is plausible that you would integrate your long-term goals. Your long-term goals, for example, can be partnering with local universities, increasing civilian membership within your chapter, or doing outreach events or increasing the number of scholarships awarded to



*New York's Governor Cuomo states he will allow graduating medical students to practice to help abate the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19).*

promote your chapters presence within the local community or on the campuses of local universities and colleges.

**Find out what your teammates think of the mission statement.** A mission statement is designed with your teammates and the local community in mind. So it is always valuable to get the opinion of your teammates and ask them what they like or dislike about it and how you can improve the mission statement.

**Don't be afraid to change it.** In today's world this pandemic has touched every corner of the globe and humanity in a way that will forever change what we think of as normal. There are families, schools and universities, communities and companies that have taken a look at their mission, their priorities and have changed not only business model but modified their mission statement. Many of them are now conveying such sentiments as we are in this together, alone together, standing together among others. If a mission statement no longer represents what your chapter is trying to accomplish; it's simply time to change it...rewrite it.



*Governor Cuomo explains to audience while getting ventilators from another country is not typical for a state governor, his novel approach is similar to another NY Governor and later President of the United States, President Franklin D. Roosevelt as he defended the Lend and Lease Act before the United States' entry into World War II. President Roosevelt saw providing supplies to our Allies as necessary because we faced a "common enemy". Today's countries round the world are looking pass geographical lines and political difference partnering against a common enemy, COVID-19.*

A mission statement is not only a reflection of what your chapter intends to do but it is a declaration of what makes your chapter important. It is for that reason, it should reflect what is the value of your ROCKS chapter in your local community. It should be specific and clear so your community knows what our organization is about. It should also

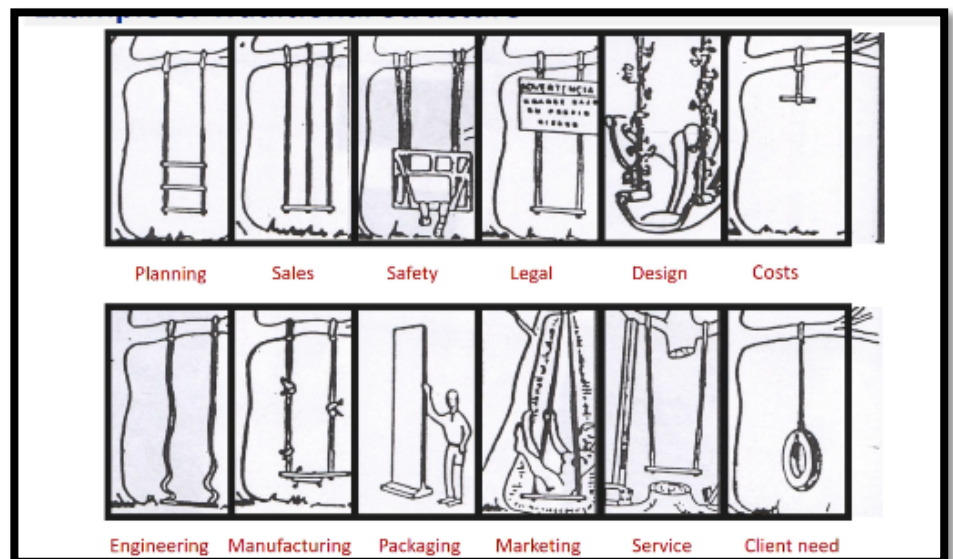
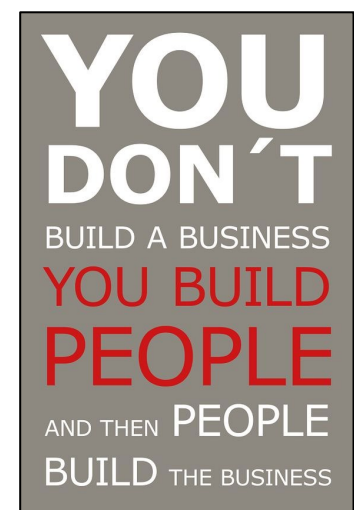
reflect why the ROCKS and its mission of mentorship is valuable and relevant to your installation and surrounding community. And at least in my opinion, equally important, it should inspire people so they would be motivated to join your organization as well as help you and your teammates in accomplishing its mission.

The mission statement has to be clear so it can represent your chapter even when you're not there to explain it. Once an effective mission statement is created it should be repeated by the members of your executive board and reiterated and clearly understood by everyone in your chapter. The worst case scenario is everyone hears it to the point where it seems overly emphasized. Is that a bad thing to be on the same page or share a common understanding? No, it is not and there are very few organizations (10% of corporations) which are successful in having clear cut messaging and a shared understanding of their mission statement.

Clear communication is essential for an organization's members or teammates to know what the organization's purpose, goals and future direction is and will be. More importantly, it is a key ingredient to reaching out to your installation and local community for them to know the value and relevance of the ROCKS, Inc.

Therefore, I say to you there's no such thing as over-communication of a mission statement. All the best wishes in creating yours!

Colonel Karen M. Wrancher is the Division Chief of the largest division in the United States Army Inspector General Agency, the Assistance Division. Under her leadership, the Assistance Division handles 3,900 actions annually to include requests of assistance, congressional responses and Whistleblower investigations and oversight. COL Wrancher hails from New York and has served our Nation for three decades.



*Miscommunication. The client just wants a swing in their backyard but every department in the company sees the job requirement and what is needed to accomplish the task a different way and without talking to each other to identify a joint and cost effective solution that will make the client or customer happy. (Source: Lean Six Sigma Institute)*

## (Y)our Spending Tells A Lot About Who We Are!

Submitted by: COL (R) Eric P. Flowers  
USA



The *where* and *how* of organizational spending is telling. Where the money goes reflects the organization's priorities and implicitly communicates the organization's forte(s). Subsequently, given our declared priority of mentoring, our spending should reveal a proclivity towards mentoring. This expectation applies to both the National Board and our chapters.

In general, our financial records should easily show we place a premium on spending our dollars on things we deem as important, like mentoring. When an imbalance exists and we are unable to easily and consistently show this, then we have a problem. Now, having a problem is not really a problem. The problem is not recognizing a problem exists and then not doing things within your power to fix it. It is important this doesn't occur with the chapters, because it can create bad habits and detached grasps on reality. Such dysfunctionism serves no one's best interests. Through The ROCKS, we indirectly seek to train up strategic leaders for the Army. One facet of strategic leadership is understanding how to manage the fiscal aspects of impactful organizations. This is pointedly true in the Army; particularly beyond the Brigade level. Although the Army exists to win America's land battles, it is primarily a business, and must be led as such. Having a basic understanding of fiscal management is a skillset ROCKS members should sharpen as part of a chapter.

To this end, leaders should always examine their chapters' spending... listen

to those treasurers and ensure established goals are attainable and in line with the organization's documented purpose. Spending money to generate activity is good, but without meaningful productivity, that activity basically equates to wasted resources. Our organization is best served by training ourselves to look for returns on investment with every dollar spent. Everyone benefits when we objectively ask (and expect) to get something tangible from every dollar spent. If the anticipated results do not substantively move the proverbial needle in a way that positively impacts our members' (or targeted audience's) lives, then don't fund it with organizational dollars; find another funding source. Our specialty, our legacy, is mentoring, so the majority of our dollars spent should be mentoring related. To move us closer to truly being who we say we are, leaders should strive to develop, and execute programming that accounts for no less than 40% of a chapter's annual expenditures. We are not there yet, but with the goal "put out there," we have a mark on the wall to move towards. Let's be more mindful of where we invest our money and more purposeful in ensuring that the dollars we spend are making substantive and measurable differences. This business-oriented mindset will help us get to a level of operations that are consistent with our abilities and potential and places us in a better position to...

Set the standard!!!  
Eric Flowers,  
VP, Finance

## SUMMER ROCKET DEADLINE

Articles for the ROCKET Spring Edition are due no later than **Friday, June 6, 2020**. Be sure to refer to the Submission Guidelines for guidance.



**2020 Honorary ROCKs of the Year**  
GEN Robert B. Abrams, USA  
Dr. Tyrone Taborn

**2020 ROCKs of the Year**  
GEN Michael X. Garrett, USA  
MG(R) Wallace Arnold, USA  
MG Patrick D. Sargent, USA  
BG(R) Lawrence Gillespie, USA  
BG(P) David Wilson, USA  
COL(R) Angelene Hemingway, USA

**2020 Colonel Robert "Bobby" Burke**  
LTC Stephen Stanley, USA  
LTC Vashaun Wrice, USA

**2020 Chairman Award for  
Exceptional Service**  
*Aloha Chapter of the ROCKS*  
MAJ Shari Bowen, USA  
1LT Summer Thomas, USA

*Gator Chapter of the ROCKS*  
CPT Ashley Ukwu, USA  
1LT Serah Ladipo, USA  
1LT Taurean Morrow, USA

*Hampton Roads Chapter of the ROCKS*  
MAJ Hubert L. Becton, USA (Retired)

*Morning Calm Chapter of the ROCKS*  
LTC Ellis Gales, USA  
CPT Madelyne Corciono, USA  
CPT Crystal Lattimore, USA

*San Antonio ROCKS Chapter*  
LTC Sharon D. Denson, USA  
LTC Dwayne Murray, USA  
MAJ Elizabeth M. Marlin, USA

*Washington, DC Chapter of the ROCKS*  
LTC Eduardo Travonte Moten, USA  
CPT Andre Foster, USA  
Ms. Tracey Bellamy, DA Civilian

*National Board of the ROCKS, Inc.*  
COL Michael McLendon, USA  
MAJ Tamara Da Silva, USA  
MAJ Howard Falls, USA  
MAJ Wayne Griffin, USA  
MAJ LaDarrell Willis, USA

# CADET CORNER

## ROCKS March to Success

By COL Scott Sonsalla, USA



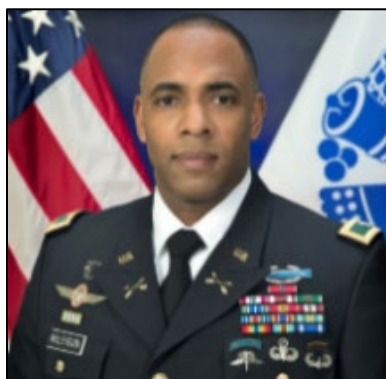
The road to achievement is never traveled alone. It takes support and mentorship to achieve success. This is why Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Cadets and ROCKS, Inc. have worked tirelessly to support our youth and provide them the resources they need to succeed. Our partnership is driven by a shared commitment to mentor and inspire dedicated youth to reach their potential and have opportunities to build skills, gain education and learn to be leaders.

As the largest provider of college scholarships, Army ROTC helps students reach their educational goals. The Army has awarded more than \$10 million in scholarships to nearly 200 ROCKS, Inc. mentored students over the past three years. Available at nearly 1,000 colleges and universities nationwide, Army ROTC programs provide unrivalled leadership training, professional development and the mentoring needed to succeed in life.

No test is more critical to college entrance and to earning scholarships than the ACT and SAT exams. Students wanting to increase their chances of earning a scholarship should look to the Army's March 2 Success (M2S) program. M2S is a free website that provides seven free ACT/SAT tests and online self-paced study materials designed to prepare students for these exams. To get your college career off to a fast start, visit [www.march2success.com](http://www.march2success.com).

College-bound students looking to ease the burden of college tuition may want to look into the numerous scholarship

options available through Army ROTC. Rising high school seniors interested in applying for a full-tuition scholarship for the fall 2021 school year may begin applying when the scholarship application window opens June 12, 2020 and will have until February 2021 to complete their applications. Students already attending college or those in high school that would like to learn more about Army ROTC and available scholarships, application requirements, and eligibility can learn more at [www.goarmy.com/rotc](http://www.goarmy.com/rotc).



COL Michael McLendon  
Vice President, ROTC Programs

## "Cadets-on-the-Move": 2020 National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. Scholarship Recipients

On behalf of Retired Brigadier General Lawrence Gillespie, Chairman of the National Board of the ROCKS, Inc., we proudly announce and present the ROCKS, Inc. 2020 Scholarships to five Army ROTC scholarship awardees.

The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. gives out several annual monetary scholarships, in recognition of the late Retired Brigadier General Roscoe C. Cartwright and late Retired Lieutenant General Edward Honor, to Army ROTC Cadets throughout the United States.

The purpose of the ROCKS, Inc. National Board Headquarters scholarships is to provide recognition and inspiration to deserving ROTC cadets who lead and display good character by example; and who aspire to enter the military as commissioned officers. A total of \$9,600 was given in scholarships by the National Board of the ROCKS, Inc.

Retired Brigadier General Roscoe (ROCK) Conklin Cartwright, United States Army retired after 33 years of Army service. He served in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. He became the first black Field Artilleryman promoted to Brigadier General. He is credited as the visionary who established the concept of ROCKS, Inc.; the Army's premier leadership development, mentoring, and professional networking organization.

Retired Lieutenant General Edward Honor, United States Army, was a veteran of the Vietnam War and retired in 1989 after serving 35 years of distinguished service to the Nation as a Transportation Corps Officer. He commanded at all levels during his career, which culminated as the Joint Staff Headquarters J-4 Director, Washington, DC. He was a founding member of the ROCKS, Inc. and was instrumental in establishing the ROCKS, Inc. National Board and numerous ROCKS, Inc. chapters.

Each year the National Board of ROCKS, Inc. holds an annual scholarship board; identifies quality Army ROTC cadets who have been nominated by their Professor of Military of Science (MS); and awards scholarships to deserving cadets who display high caliber leadership attributes and extraordinary character.

Cadets who receive these two scholarships demonstrate a body of high-level concern, dedication, and professionalism beyond their peers in the categories of:

- Leadership (ROTC, School, and Community)
- Overall Academic Grade Point Average
- Academic Accomplishments
- Volunteer Service
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- Physical Fitness Score

This year, five recipients were identified and will receive the 2020 Brigadier General Roscoe ("ROCK") Conklin Cartwright Scholarship or Lieutenant General Edward Honor Scholarship for outstanding leadership and excellence.

**BG Cartwright Scholarships Winners**

MS I Scholarship Winner of \$1,300 is **Cadet Sha'kirra Brown, Virginia State University (VSU)**. She is a Mathematics Major, School Presidential Scholar, and a member of the Virginia State University Honors Program. She holds a 4.0 grade point average. Cadet Brown is in the Army National Guard Simultaneous Membership Program.



MS I Scholarship Winner of \$ 1,300 is **Cadet Aubrey Hoover, University of Maryland (UMD)**. She is a Bioengineering Major and holds 3.2 grade point average. She ranks #1 of 51 MSI cadets in her program and is in the Biomedical Engineering Society and a member of the UMD Army ROTC Run Team.



MS II Scholarship Winner of \$2,000 is **Cadet Latesjia Lorfils, Morgan State University (MSU)**. She is a Political Science Major and holds a 3.6 overall grade point average. She is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Honor Scholar Athlete, a MSU Cheerleader, and a member of the cadet Battalion Color Guard Team.



MS III Scholarship Winner of \$2,000 is **Cadet Laturia Jones, Virginia State University (VSU)**. She is majoring in Biology, holds a 3.72 overall grade point average, and is a Deans List Award Recipient. She is a member of the Cadet Color Guard Team, Ranger Challenge Team, VSU ROTC Run Club, and Cultural Understanding and Leadership Program.

This year, one recipient from the Military Science IV class was identified and has

been awarded the **Lieutenant General Edward Honor Scholarship** for outstanding leadership and excellence.



MS IV Winner of \$3,000 is **Cadet Devin Myrick, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU)**. He is a graduate student majoring in Global Security & International Affairs and holds a 3.84 overall grade point average. He is in the Army Reserve Simultaneous Membership Program. He is the FAMU Cadet Battalion Commander, Ranger Challenge Commander, and Color Guard Commander. He is a Distinguished Military Graduate and has been assessed and will commission into the Army Aviation Branch.

We ask all our Historical Black Colleges to encourage your top cadets to compete for one of our two National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. Annual Scholarships.

You can find the coordinating instructions under the National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. homepage, Scholarship and Awards Tab: <https://www.rocksync.org/content.aspx?sI=1531615331>

Please submit 2021 Brigadier General Roscoe ("ROCK") Conklin Cartwright Scholarship or Lieutenant General Edward Honor Scholarship applications in PDF format by email to [rocksnationalboard@gmail.com](mailto:rocksnationalboard@gmail.com). All applications are due to the ROCKS by **Monday, 21 December 2020**.

## ARMY ROTC NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS for School Year 2021- 2022



### A WAY TO PAY FOR COLLEGE:

Army ROTC Scholarships and stipends can pay for college courses and help you focus on what's important. Namely, earning your college degree – not how you pay for it.

Army ROTC provides opportunities for applicants to receive both full and partial scholarships. Upon graduation you can receive a college degree with immediate job placement as a leader and manager in the U.S. Army.

### SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

The Four-Year High School Scholarship is for high school students planning on attending a four-year college program. For more information contact your high school academic advisor, campus Military Science department, local ROCKS, Inc. Chapter, or The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. at [vprotcandscholarshiprocks@gmail.com](mailto:vprotcandscholarshiprocks@gmail.com).

### SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

Whether you're a college-bound high school student or already attending a college or university, Army ROTC scholarships are available. Scholarships are awarded based on a student's merit and grades, not financial need. Army ROTC scholarships consist of:

- Two-, three-, and four-year scholarship options based on the time remaining to complete your degree
- Full-tuition scholarships

- If you qualify, the option for room and board in place of tuition is available
- Additional allowances for books and fees

### LIVING EXPENSES:

Army ROTC scholarships also provide a \$420 per month living allowance for each school year. Non-scholarship cadets in ROTC advanced courses (3rd and 4th year) are also eligible to receive this allowance.

### REQUIREMENTS:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Be between the ages of 17 and 26
- Have a high school GPA of at least 2.50
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent
- Score a minimum of 1000 on the SAT (math/verbal) or 19 on the ACT (excluding the required writing test scores)
- Meet physical standards
- Agree to accept a commission and serve in the Army on Active Duty or Active Duty in a Reserve Component (Army Reserve or Army National Guard)

### YOUR COMMITMENT:

- An eight-year service commitment in the Army
- Serve full time in the Army for four years and four years with the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR)
- Selected cadets may choose to serve part time in the Army Reserve or Army National Guard while pursuing a civilian career

### APPLICATION DEADLINE:

Next application round will open starting June 12th 2020, so use this time to get all your documents in order and talk to an ROTC Advisor if you need advice.

### ARMY ROTC NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD DATES FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2021- 2022:

- Review Board 1 - 19-23 October 2020
- Review Board 2 - 25-29 January 2021
- Review Board 3 - 15-19 March 2021

**Visit U.S. Army Cadets to Learn How to Apply and Create an Account:**

<https://www.goarmy.com/rotc/scholarships.html>

Contact ROTC Scholarships at (502) 624-8324

Mail Scholarship Applications and Other Related Documentation to:

Department of The Army  
HQ US Army Cadet Command  
G2 Incentives Division/690  
1307 Third Avenue  
Fort Knox, Ky 40121-2725

Fax Scholarship-Related Documentation to (502) 624-1120.

For more information, contact the Cadet Command Scholarship Branch at [usarmy.knox.usacc.mbx.train2lead@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.knox.usacc.mbx.train2lead@mail.mil).

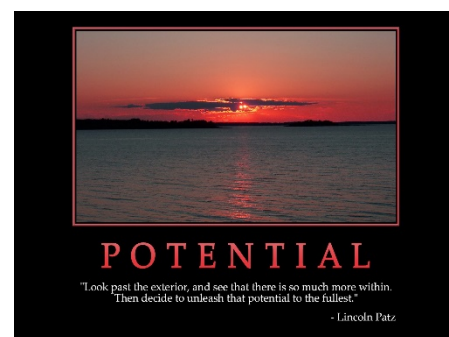
*Please include your full name and contact information on any correspondence.*

View how to create an account for an Army High School Student on the National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. Homepage:

[https://www.rocksync.org/content.aspx?page\\_id=22&club\\_id=459944&module\\_id=297615](https://www.rocksync.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=459944&module_id=297615)

If you require any scholarship assistance through the ROCKS, INC, please contact our office at (301) 423-5500 or via email at [rocksnationalboard@gmail.com](mailto:rocksnationalboard@gmail.com) / [vprotcandscholarshiprocks@gmail.com](mailto:vprotcandscholarshiprocks@gmail.com) (Attention: 1. Mr. Michael McLendon and 2. Mr. Sean Lanier).

We look forward to assisting you.



## ROCKS' CHAPTER ACTIVITIES



### All-American Chapter 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2020 Activities

*Submitted by MAJ LaDarrell Willis*

During the Spring of 2020, The All-American Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. hosted four leadership professional development sessions with topics ranging from property accountability to mental health awareness, awarded a \$500

scholarship to a deserving Fayetteville State University ROTC cadet, and The All-American Chapter of the ROCKS is in the Army's Center of The Universe, and it continues to Lead The Way, All The Way!

On February 4th, 2020 The All-American Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc., hosted CW3 Patrick Watts of the 82nd Sustainment Brigade during a Leadership Professional Development session on property accountability. Fort Bragg leaders new and experienced eagerly listened to CW3 Watts as he explained the highlights of AR 735-5, cyclic and sensitive items inventories, FLIPLS, property obstacles to avoid, and change of command inventories. CW3 Watts provided a wealth of knowledge to Fort Bragg leaders, who remained engaged by asking questions and offering their own property stories for the group.

The All-American Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. chose the winner of the Spring 2020 ROCKS Scholarship, Cadet James Hopkins, a fourth year Army ROTC student at Fayetteville State University. Cadet Hopkins wrote an endearing essay on perseverance, role models, and his military background that

made him the cadet he is today. Cadet Hopkins will be presented his scholarship check at Fayetteville State University on March 30th, 2020.

On February 26th, 2020 The All-American Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. hosted an LPD with Lt. Gen. Leslie Smith, 66th Inspector General of the Army, as its esteemed guest speaker. He covered several topics, to include mentorship, maintaining a healthy work and life balance, and preparing for the ACFT. The leaders in attendance also had the opportunity to engage Lt. Gen. Smith with questions covering topics that they face on a day-to-day basis.



*Fort Bragg leaders raise their hands to ask CW3 Patrick Watts questions on property accountability during the February 4th, 2020 LPD.*



*Fort Bragg leaders and ROCKS members pose with Lt. Gen. Leslie Smith (far left), 66th Inspector General of the Army, during the February 26th, 2020 LPD.*

The All-American Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. witnessed one of its own rise to the next chapter of her career. Lt. Alexis Carter was promoted from 2nd Lt. to 1st Lt. on February 7th, 2020 at the 3rd Special Forces Group Regimental Mess Building. 1st Lt. Carter is the Correspondence Secretary for the All-American Chapter of the ROCKS and has vastly contributed to chapter operations, and her promotion is well deserved. The Chapter looks forward to her continued success in the Army!

The All-American Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. continues to provide engaging dialogue between senior and junior leaders, give back through volunteering and scholarship opportunities, and be the epicenter of military networking and camaraderie in the Fort Bragg area. The chapter seeks to exceed the standard in all endeavors not only for the remainder of 2020, but for years to come.



*General (R) Vincent K. Brooks and the Aloha Chapter of ROCKS stand together fired up after a dynamic LPD discussion.*

### **Historic Leader- General (Retired) Vincent Brooks hosted an LPD with the Aloha Chapter of ROCKS, Inc.**

*Written by MAJ Shari S. Bowen*

On 10 January 2020, leaders from across the Island of Oahu attended a Leadership Professional Development (LPD) event hosted by the Aloha Chapter of ROCKS, Inc., at the Richardson Theater, Fort Shafter, HI. The keynote speaker was General (Retired) Vincent K. Brooks. Tried, tested, and true, General (R) Brooks is an inspirational leader, and history-maker in his own right.



*General (R) Vincent K. Brooks the former commander of United States Forces Korea and Major General Charles R. Hamilton, the commander of the 8th Theater Support Command*

A leader of many firsts, General (R) Brooks' trailblazing career began at the United States Military Academy where he has the distinction of being the first African American First Captain, a role that he would later fulfill at the highest

levels in our Army and DoD. General (R) Brooks commanded in various positions to include the 1st Infantry Division, Third United States Army, United States Army Pacific and the United Nations Command/Combined Forces Korea, Republic of Korea. Additionally, he made monumental strides as the spokesperson of the U.S. military as the deputy director of operations for U.S. Central Command during the War in Iraq.

During the LPD General (R) Brooks highlighted the importance and history of the ROCKS, Inc., by expounding upon the legacy of BG Roscoe Cartwright, and the lineage of the U.S. Army's presence within the Pacific from the mid 1800s through today. He highlighted the ventures through the war with Spain in Cuba, logistics challenges faced in the Philippines, and explained the origin of the U.S. Army Pacific and 25th Infantry Division patch. "We strike like Tropic Lightning," General (R) Brooks reminded the assembly that we were not only a part of history, but also part of the Army's presence and role in the Pacific. He imparted upon the audience the importance of understanding history in an effort to appreciate the current state of a unit, comprehend its lineage, recognize its culture, and learn from the mistakes.

The history of the ROCKS, Inc. lays the foundation for mentorship and leadership outreach to build and shape future

leaders. The LPD session motivated every leader within the audience to improve their area of responsibility personally and professionally. General (R) Brooks' parting words emphasized the importance of understanding that the Nation is counting on the military. General (R) Brooks stated, "Let nothing that has or is transpiring distract you from carrying out your mission". All leaders departed the LPD charged with serving as a true professional and living the Army values.



*MG Hamilton (Senior ROCKS, Inc mentor), CPT Justin "JT" Thomas (president of The Aloha Chapter of ROCKS Inc.), and the members of the Executive Board pose for a photo with General (R) Vincent K. Brooks. Brooks was the guest speaker during a Leader Professional Development held at Fort Shafter, HI*

***"Life is growth. If we stop growing, technically and spiritually, we are as good as dead." –Morihei Ueshiba***

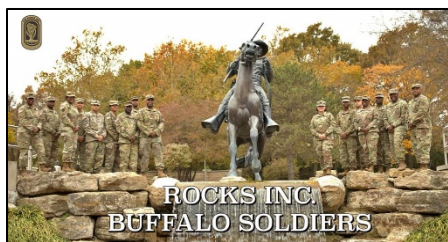


*Chapter members pose for a photo with LTG Leslie Smith (back row, 2<sup>nd</sup> from the left)*

## **Buffalo Soldier Chapter of ROCKS Inc.**

**Fort Leavenworth, Kansas**

*Submitted by MAJ Eloisa A. Cox*



We are honored and eager to share our organization's activities with our fellow ROCKS chapters. On 4 November 2019, our local chapter updated our group photo. Although we are small in size, as schedules are busy, we nonetheless still represent our current group!



*Members of the Buffalo Soldiers Chapter attend 2019 Holiday Social*

On 13 December 2019, we hosted our ROCKS Holiday Social at a nearby jazz club in Leavenworth, Kansas. We enjoyed the season celebration together and closed out 2019 on a positive note. With the support and participation from our ROCKS members during the Kansas Chief football games and Christmas gift wrapping lottery, we were able to raise \$2,500 to meet our 2020 scholarship goal.

On 21 October 2019, MAJs Lamont Brooks and Tawanda Baxter coordinated a professional development session with LTG Leslie C. Smith, the 66<sup>th</sup> Inspector General of the U.S. Army. He provided updated IG regulations and how to understand our roles and duties as field grade officers. LTG Smith had each one of us share our future goals and positions we would like to serve in.

On 12 December 2019, the Buffalo Soldier Chapter of ROCKS Inc., hosted a Leadership Growth evening with COL Clydea Prichard-Brown. She shared personal and professional experiences to provide examples of how work and life needs to be balanced with family and the Army.

On 3 March 2020, MAJ Tiffany Mohammed, our Vice-President Operations, scheduled a mentorship session with COL Carl Mason Sr. He provided a different perspective of what

Fair means and how to create your own playbook for your leadership style.

B-U-I-L-D Believe in yourself, Understand what is going on, Inspire others, Love what you do, Decide what type of leader you will be today! Words of wisdom to become the Best people we can Be!! \*Be the Best You\* \*There are no warm-up Jerseys\*



*Chapter members pose for a photo with COL Clydea Prichard-Brown (pictured in the center w/purple top)*

In conclusion, we are truly enjoying being part of the ROCKS group and will continue to grow our bench for our current and future officers.

*"Personal development is a major time-saver. The better you become, the less time it takes you to achieve your goals." —Brian Tracy*



*Buffalo Soldier ROCKS pictured with COL Carl Mason, Sr. (pictured holding the picture frame)*

## Hampton Roads Chapter Outreach Program Goes to North Carolina

*Written by LTC (Ret) Toney C. Mooney*

The Hampton Roads Chapter (HRC) was visited to Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) on February 15<sup>th</sup>, to participate in their Winter Open House.

The Chapter has on several occasions interacted with the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (AROTC) Cadets at ECSU, usually in events hosted by the Hampton University ROTC, or Norfolk State University (NSU) ROTC Departments. Last November for example, 1Lt Anderson People, the Assistant Professor of Military Science (PMS) accompanied 16 of the ECSU Cadets to NSU for the HRC General Membership Meeting. This however, is the first time the HRC has actually traveled to ECSU.



*LTC Judy Anthony (seated at left) with members of the "Viking" AROTC Battalion*

As part of the Winter Open House, the HRC convened a panel discussion for the ECSU Cadets and Eastern North Carolina area high school students who are interested in ROTC.

Panel Members included LTC (Ret) Joe Harris, Chapter President, MG (Ret) Frank Batts, COL Eddie White, LTC (Ret) Weldon Johnson, LTC (Ret) Monique Dickens, LTC (Ret) Toney Mooney, Chaplain (Major) Sharon Browne, and CPT Joe Hayslett.

There were two panel discussion sessions, each lasting just under an hour: One for the ECSU Cadets, and one for the

high school students. COL White served as the panel moderator. Each panelist gave a short self-introduction, then the Cadets and high school students asked a variety of questions, and the panel members provided candid answers.



*ECSU AROTC Cadets and Rocks Panel Members*

Also participating in both sessions, were LTC Judy Anthony, PMS at ECSU, and recently promoted CPT Anderson Peoples.

The ECSU Open House events are open to prospective freshmen, high school dual-enrollment students, transfers, military/veterans, and parents and guardians. The Open House at ECSU gives behind-the-scenes access to the professors, students, and the ECSU campus.<sup>1</sup>

According to LTC (Ret) Harris, this is just another step in the HRC's evolving Outreach Program. Last September, as reported in the fall edition of the Rocket, HU hosted the HRC and a professional development presentation on the Army Ordnance Corps. In November, NSU hosted the HRC with a professional development presentation on "Communicating a Vision, a Lesson in Organizational Leadership". Both sessions were received well, and like the Open House panel discussion, were very informative to the ROTC Cadets.

The Professional Development sessions with the Cadets, along with Christmas Caroling for the veterans at the Hampton Veterans Affairs Medical Center conducted in December, the HRC is making a difference in the Hampton Roads Virginia and Eastern North Carolina military communities.

## Climb to Glory ROCKS, Inc. Interest Group Social

*Written by 1LT William D. Scott III.*

On 13 September 2019, the Climb to Glory ROCKS, Inc. Interest Group held its Fall Social Event. This event allowed officers and warrant officers to socialize with current members of the Climb to Glory ROCKS, INC. Interest Group and gain a better understanding of their aims and mission on Fort Drum.

With the fast pace and never ending operational tempo of the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division (LI), it has been challenging to maintain a steady flow of membership. This social helped to better spread the Interest Groups' ideals across the Fort Drum community as well as greatly increase the membership count. There were also several officers and warrant officers who volunteered for leadership positions during the event which ultimately helped the Interest Group get closer to becoming an official chapter of the ROCKS, Inc.



*Climb to Glory ROCKS, Inc. Interest Group officers with interested members during the Fall Social Event.*

The Climb to Glory ROCKS, Inc. interest group continues to make strides towards becoming an official chapter and has gained positive attention from senior leadership on post. With continued support by the installation and motivated members, this interest group will be able to become a chapter and provide mentorship and professional development across the Fort Drum community for years to come.

<sup>1</sup> ECSU Website

<https://www.ecsu.edu/admissions/open-house/index.html>

# THE ROCKS, INC. ACTIVE CHAPTERS

As of 04 April 2020

## **Alamo Chapter**

*San Antonio, TX*

LTC Tamisha Norris, USA  
tamishanorris@gmail.com

## **All American Chapter**

*Fort Bragg, NC*

MAJ LaDarrell Willis, USA  
darrelltwillis@gmail.com

## **Aloha Chapter of the ROCKS**

*Oahu, HI*

CPT Justin Thomas, USA  
aloharockschapter@gmail.com

## **Buffalo Soldier Chapter**

*Fort Leavenworth, KS*

LTC Irvin Jackson, USA  
bscrocksteamftlvn@gmail.com

## **Central Virginia Chapter**

*Fort Lee, VA*

MAJ(R) Curtis Hall, USA  
cvcrocksinc@gmail.com

## **El Paso ROCKS Chapter**

*Fort Bliss, TX*

MAJ Michelle Cutts  
mcutts1984@gmail.com

## **Gator ROCKS**

*Fort Polk, LA*

1LT Taurean Morrow, USA  
taurean.d.morrow.mil@mail.mil

## **Gold Vault ROCKS**

*Fort Knox, KY*

LTC Bernard House, USA  
Bernard\_house@yahoo.com

## **Hampton Roads, VA**

LTC Joseph Harris, USA

Jahj1911@gmail.com;  
tcmoooney@cox.net

## **Morning Calm, Korea**

MAJ Nina Copeland, USA

morningcalmrocks@gmail.com

## **MG Charles C. Rogers Chapter**

*Carlisle Barracks, PA*

COL Tammy Heath, USA  
tammy.a.health.mil@mail.mil

## **Patriot ROCKS**

**GA National Guard**

*Forsyth, GA*

LTC Alicia Smith, USA  
Smith\_hd@comcast.net

## **Phantom Warrior ROCKS**

*Fort Hood, TX*

MAJ Wayne E. Griffin, USA  
w.e.griffin.jr@gmail.com

## **Screaming Eagles**

*Fort Campbell, KY*

MAJ Michael Bennett, USA  
bennettmichael6@gmail.com

## **The Henry O. Flipper Chapter**

*West Point, NY*

LTC Winston Williams, USA  
winston.williams@usma.edu

## **Washington, DC ROCKS**

COL(R) Sheila Howell-Flowers,  
USA

washdcrocks@gmail.com

