



The ROCKET



Fall 2010



Chairperson Message

"THAT'S A ROCK!"

On September 1, 2010, I watched the change of command ceremony at the Victory Base Complex, Baghdad, Iraq, between outgoing Commander, US Forces Iraq, GEN Ray Odierno and incoming Commander, US Forces, Iraq, GEN Lloyd J. Austin, III. The ceremony was officiated by Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates. The day's mission was to change command and start a different chapter in American-Iraqi relations. It was the official end of U.S. combat operations or Operation Iraqi Freedom and the beginning of stability operations or Operation New Dawn.

Vice President Biden, Secretary Gates and General Odierno spoke eloquently about the occasion, the journey to this point and the way ahead. I listened most intently as the assumption of command order was read and to the sum and substance of General Austin's speech, because he is now the "commander with the mission." He spoke of his "sincere honor to return to this great country...to participate in the next phase of ensuring Iraqi security for the Iraqi people." In closing, he stated that "we will establish and maintain a bond with Iraq...based on trust, confidence and mutual respect, to build a stable, secure and self-reliant Nation."

As I listened to General Austin and watched him demonstrate the decorum, pride and demeanor of a great leader, it suddenly dawned on me that I also admired him greatly because he is a ROCK. In addition to representing the military and the Nation, he is also representing the ROCKS to the world. He's a ROCK!

I perused this current copy of THE ROCKET and was able to identify other ROCKS who were about personifying our motto of *Concern, Dedication and Professionalism*. I'd like to point out some of them that you may read about at your leisure in this issue.

BG Belinda Pinckney rose from a finance specialist to Officer Candidate School to a lieutenant in the Finance Corps. She retired recently after a distinguished military career. She is one of few officers who can say that she advanced through the ranks from private to general and can proclaim that honor forever. She's a ROCK!

BG Bob Ferrell, Director, Africa Command Communications, recently participated in Africa Endeavor, a 2-week communication exercise with African and European partners. The goals were to develop standard tactics, techniques and procedures that can be used in future humanitarian assistance, disaster relief and peace support missions. He's a ROCK!

When the Army celebrated its 235th Birthday at a Ball in Korea this year, I was pleased to see that COL Sharpe, LTC Roberson, MAJ Jackson and CPT Blair showed up and represented. They are ROCKS!

LTC (R) Elgin Allmond, a stalwart at the James Webster Smith Chapter, recently accepted an assignment overseas and will be leaving the chapter after 10 years of outstanding service. I know personally of the superb work and dedication that he has given in mentoring junior officers and providing career guidance as necessary. Elgin, I am sure that wherever you go, you will continue to help others in your own special way. He's a ROCK!

The Henry O. Flipper Chapter at West Point is one of our newest chapters. They are already busy with recruitment activities and letting cadets know about their existence. They are also busy planning their activities and events for the coming year. It was great to see them rubbing shoulders with the Army Chief of Staff, Gen Casey. I smiled and said to myself, "They are ROCKS!"

Hampton Roads Chapter has been actively helping to educate deserving high school students by awarding scholarships during their annual Junior ROTC Scholarship Campaign. With pride and pleasure, I acknowledge that they are ROCKS!

So you see, we have much to celebrate, to be proud about and to share with you as you devour this copy of THE ROCKET Newsletter. I challenge you to read all of it, because my brief notes only scratch the surface. However, as you read, be mindful and proud of the fact that you belong to a dynamic organization whose members permeate the highest echelons of leadership in this Nation and serve proudly all over the world. WE ARE ROCKS!!

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

National Board of the ROCKS, Incorporated

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Pittard Takes Command, Welcomes President Obama

Contributor: Ms. Marcie Wright
Photos provided by MAJ Myles Caggins



MG Pittard is joined by his sons Taylor, Jordan, and his wife Lucille.

The Soldiers of Fort Bliss are in new hands after the post's senior change of command ceremony held on Noel Parade Field, July 9.

The ceremony, steeped in military tradition, was presided over by Gen. James D. Thurman, commanding general of U.S. Army Forces Command, and signified Bliss' farewell to its much accomplished senior commander of more than two years, Maj. Gen. Howard B. Bromberg, and welcomed Maj. Gen. Dana J. H. Pittard as the new leader.

"To be back in El Paso where I grew up is an absolutely amazing feeling," said Pittard. "We have a lot of family history here, making it such a unique honor and privilege to take command of Fort Bliss."

The Air Defense School departed Fort Bliss in 2009 and 1st Armored Division headquarters will arrive in spring 2011. Four brigade combat teams are already on station. Over 25,000 Soldiers are assigned at Fort Bliss.



President Barack Obama visited Fort Bliss on Aug. 31, prior to announcing the end of "combat operations" in Iraq. Obama was met planeside by Pittard (photo on right); and, thanked Soldiers and family members at a dining facility on post for their sacrifices during deployments to Iraq.

"The Commander-in-Chief's visit was absolutely exciting for Fort Bliss. The future of the Army is here; Fort Bliss

and El Paso is where Soldiers and families want to be," said Pittard. "We are proud of our Soldiers from Fort Bliss who remain deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan, the President's visit is further recognition for their great efforts."

Pittard has expressed commitment to re-activating the Fort Bliss Rocks chapter.

Commanding General of US forces Iraq



On September 1, 2010 GEN Lloyd Austin, III was promoted to Commanding General of US forces Iraq at a ceremony at the al-Faw palace in Bagdad, Iraq. He took over from General Ray Odierno. Vice President Joe Biden, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, and Joint Chiefs Chairman Adm. Mike Mullen presided over the ceremony.

ROCKS support the 235th Army Birthday Ball in Korea

Written by MAJ(P) Arvesta Roberson



L to R: LTC Arvesta "Rob" Roberson, COL Carolyn R. Sharpe, Director, CPT Janet Blair, Budget Analyst, and MAJ Marcus Jackson

On 17 June 2010, several of the members of the Morning Calm Chapter participated in the 235th Army Birthday Ball in Korea. The eighth Army sponsored the ball and it was recognized as being one of the largest in the Army. In the spirit of unity, several ROCKS members attended the ball together. During the ball, the officers received several accolades from the Eighth Army Deputy Commander and other senior officers. ROCKS LEADING THE WAY!

Brigadier General Belinda Pinckney Retires from the US Army

By MAJ(R) Diedre L. Windsor, Rocket Staff



Women in Military Service for America Memorial, Arlington Cemetery.

BG Belinda Pinckney, a native of Dublin, Georgia, entered the Army in September 1976 as a Finance Specialist. Upon completion of basic and advanced individual training, she was assigned to the 105th Finance Section, Augsburg, Germany. While holding various finance positions within the office, she was selected for Officer Candidate School in 1978 and was commissioned a Finance Officer in February 1979.



(L to R) General George Casey, Chief of Staff of the Army, BG Belinda Pinckney, General Ann Dunwoody

BG Pinckney earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration at the University of Maryland; a Master of Public Administration degree in Financial Management at Golden Gate University; and a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

On 21 November 2007 the Chief of Staff of the Army appointed BG Pinckney as the Director, Army Diversity Task Force. Her prior command and staff positions include: Commanding General, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command; Congressional Appropriations Liaison Officer, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense

(Comptroller); Principal Deputy Director/Army Element Commander, Defense Finance and Accounting Service; Brigade Commander, 266th Finance Command and US Army Europe Staff Finance and Accounting Officer, Heidelberg, Germany; Battalion Commander, Training Support Battalion, Soldier Support Institute, Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Military Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Financial Management and Comptroller); Budget Analyst, Technology Management Office, Office of the Chief of Staff, Army; and Company Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 266th Finance Command.



BG Pinckney receiving her Certificate of Retirement from Gen Dunwoody

Her military awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, three Legion of Merit medals, six Meritorious Service Medals, four Army Commendation Medals, two Army Achievement Medals, the Office of the Secretary of Defense Staff Badge, and the Army General Staff Identification Badge. BG Pinckney was inducted into the Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame in 2001.

BG Pinckney's better half for the past 31 years is Lieutenant Colonel (US Army Retired) Quinnsander M. Pinckney. They have one son, Andre' M. Pinckney, and a grandson named Amari.



Congratulations!

Congratulations!

Africa Endeavor (AE) 2010

*Written by MAJ(R) Deidre Windsor
Photos provided by BG Robert Ferrell, USA*

BG Robert Ferrell, Africa Command Communications Director, recently participated in Africa Endeavor (AE) 2010 and shared these photos with ROCKS members.

Africa Endeavor is a U.S. Africa Command-sponsored initiative intended to encourage interoperability and information exchange among African nations via communication networks and subsequent collaborative links with the United States, African Union (AU) and other African partners with common stability, security and sustainment goals.

During this two-week communications exercise, African and European partners and the U.S. worked together to develop standard tactics, techniques and procedures that can be used in future humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and peace support missions.



ACCRA, Ghana - Ghana Minister of Defense, LTG J.H. Smith (front, right) is escorted by Africa Endeavor (AE) 2010 exercise director, U.S. Navy Commander Britt Talbert (front, left), U.S. Africa Command communications director, U.S. Army BG Robert Ferrell (middle, right), and U.S. Embassy Ghana Charge d' Affaires, Julie Furuta-Toy (middle, left) as he reviews the AE 2010 exercise participants during a ceremony at the Ghana Command and Staff College in Accra August 9, 2010 (U.S. Africa Command photo by Lieutenant Commander James Stockman)

United States Africa Command, AFRICOM, headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany, one of six of the Defense Department's regional military headquarters, was declared a fully unified command on October 1, 2008.

As such, Africa Command has administrative responsibility for U.S. military support to U.S. government policy in Africa, to include military-to-military relationships with 53 African nations.



BG Ferrell being interviewed by local press after the Africa Endeavor Opening ceremony.



ACCRA, Ghana - U.S. BG Robert Ferrell, U.S. Africa Command's communications director, watches as Republic of Congo Colonel Leon Ndingo is instructed by John M. Atkinson, Land Mobile Programs director for Inmarsat, on how to conduct a satellite call during Africa Endeavor (AE) 2010 on August 10, 2010, at the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College in Accra.



ACCRA, Ghana - U.S. Congresswoman Sheila Lee Jackson (D-TX) (right) is greeted by Ghanaian BG Joseph Searyoh, Defence communications and Information Systems director general (left), and U.S. Army BG Robert Ferrell, U.S. Africa Command C4 Systems director (center), during Africa Endeavor (AE) 2010 Distinguished Visitor (DV) Day at the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College in Accra on August 20, 2010. DV Day provided the Congressional delegation insight into Africa's largest communications exercise. (U.S. Africa Command photo by Susannah Dowell)

**19TH Annual
Washington, DC Rocks, Inc.
5-Mile & 2 Mile Walk
Saturday, September 18, 2010
(8:30 A.M.)**

**Burke Lake Park,
Fairfax Station, Virginia**

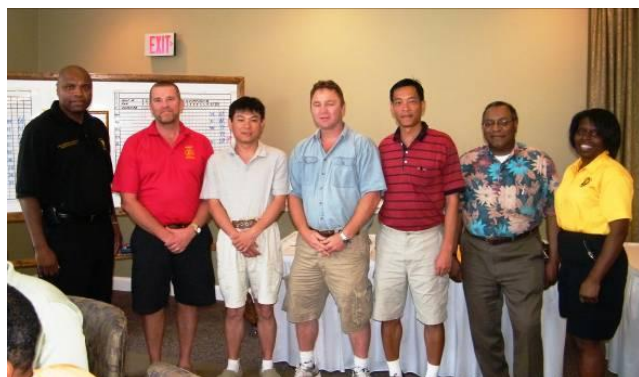
(Additional details can be found on page 17 of this publication)

**The Annual Golf Tournament
Washington, DC Chapter**

By COL Conrado B. Morgan, USA

The DC Chapter of the ROCKS hosted its annual golf tournament on June 26th at The Opsrey's Golf Club in Belmont Bay, Woodbridge, Virginia. This year's event drew 54 golfers, twenty-seven sponsors for the holes and several monetary and gift donations. This year's prizes included \$25,000 for a hole-in-one, a flat screen TV and much more. While no one came close to hitting the hole-in-one, a fun and exciting time was had by all.

Sincere appreciation was extended to the event's corporate sponsors and special thanks to MG(R) Peet Proctor for his guidance in making this event a reality. *Following photos: COL Conrado Morgan, Chapter President and Golf Chairman, COL(R) Tommy Osborne, Vice President of Operations and LTC Jan Gravely, Vice President of Administration present trophies to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place teams. Also pictured are International Students of National Defense University from Japan, Ireland and Turkey. Visit the chapter's web site (www.therocksdc.org) for additional pictures.*



National Defense University International Students (2nd thru 4th from l)



1st Place Winners (holding trophies)



2nd Place Winners (holding trophies)



3rd Place Winners (holding trophies)

"Do more than belong: participate. Do more than care: help. Do more than believe: practice. Do more than be fair: be kind. Do more than forgive: forget. Do more than dream: work".

William Arthur Ward

Veteran's Administration's Maryland Center for Veterans Education & Training (MCVET) is Making the Difference that Counts!

By MAJ(R) Diedre Windsor, Rocket Staff



BG(R) Adams-Ender with MCVET's Staff

BG(R) Adams-Ender recently visited the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training and was moved by what they are doing for our nation's Veterans. The Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVET) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) Corporation designed to provide homeless veterans and other veterans in need with comprehensive services that will enable them to rejoin their communities as productive citizens. MCVET serves more than 250 veterans daily, through five distinct programs -- a Day Drop-In Program, an Emergency Program (13 weeks), a Transitional Housing Program (up to two years), a Follow-up Program, and 80 Single Room Occupancy apartments (SRO). Additionally, Veteran applicants from outside MCVET's program are also accepted into the SRO program, provided they meet the eligibility requirements. Veterans in the program receive an array of services that support MCVET's primary goal of empowering Veterans to return to their families and communities. MCVET has received a great deal of attention from the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. On May 7, 1997, HUD declared that MCVET was the "National Model" for seamless services to homeless veterans.

BG(R) Adams-Ender with Veteran's Administration Baltimore Veterans Education & Training Center Director COL (R) Charles Williams, MS, USA.



Annual Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. Conference – A Personal Reflection

By LTC(R) Amicitia I. Maloon-Gibson USA

I recently (July 28 - Aug 1, 2010) attended the Annual conference for the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. (TAI) in San Antonio, Texas. I was asked to write the following article that was included in a souvenir booklet for them. I would like to share it with ROCKS' members. Our goal is to keep the legacy of TAI, Inc. moving forward as the documented original Tuskegee Airmen and women are now in their 80's and 90's. Support a chapter in your area by becoming a member.



(L to R) President of General Daniel "Chappie" James Chapter (Florida Chapter TAI, Inc.), Rev Riley - Pastor of Mount Moriah MBC, and Vice President Amicitia I. Maloon-Gibson.

The Tuskegee Airmen – Essay on Their Legacy

What I know for sure about the Tuskegee Airmen and their Legacy -- past, present and future is that their sacrifice and successes was the beginning of a paradigm shift of positives for African American in the military, pilots today and recruitment of pilots in the future. The Tuskegee experiment demonstrated that African Americans had the ability to accomplish and achieve what became historical successes. Document and undocumented accounts of literary and verbal stories by those who served throughout Tuskegee Airmen's history, identified that these African Americans men and women have worked for and earned the respect that they have acquired coined as "Tuskegee Airmen." What started out as an experiment resulted with a group of African American men proving to the world that they were capable and eager to help their country in a time of crisis. Although, it was historically an era of the three R's environment, that of, recruit, reject and recruit which applied to minorities and women during the evolution era of the Tuskegee Experiment. The Tuskegee Airmen's legacy is second to none in Aviation and World history and will hold a place in American history just as Benjamin O. Davis Sr. became the first African American to serve as a general officer in the U.S. Army; Roscoe Robinson Jr. became a distinguished combat

commander and the first African American to become a four-star general; Henry O. Flipper became the first African American to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point; and the presidential inauguration of Barack H. Obama, the nation's first African American President of the United States of America. The beginning of the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and women change the path of African Americans in the military, our nation and the world. In 1948, due in no small part to the success of the Tuskegee Airmen, President Truman issued Executive Order 9981, officially ending segregation in the military. Over sixty years later, the White House has experienced a change that could not have happened if the Tuskegee Airmen were unsuccessful. I am grateful that because of the Tuskegee Airmen experiment it open doors for me as African American soldier and woman that enlisted as a Private and retired as a Lieutenant Colonel who served for Twenty nine years. During the past ten years I have had the honor and distinction of meeting and listening to the many, many stories of documented original Tuskegee Airmen. I am dedicated to keeping their legacy alive by telling their stories to the next generation in manuscript and photos.

Washington, D.C. Chapter members and family visit the White House

By COL Conrado B. Morgan, President



Family and Members of The Washington, D.C. Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc. White House visit, June 15, 2010

The Washington, D.C. Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc. visit to the White House on June 15th was pretty special. It was great to have the families together at the White House and truly a dream come true for many. As the DC Chapter looks to the future, we will not forget that the 'children' are our future. The children in these photos were extremely happy to be at the home of 'Sasha and Malia' and were wowed by the colorful décor and beautiful pictures of the many 'First Families'.

The DC Chapter sincerely thanks the Honorable Carolyn C. Kilpatrick, Member of Congress, 13th District, Michigan and her staff (Damien Savage, Staff Assistant, Major Joe Funderburke, Military Legislative Assistant/Defense Fellow) for hosting and setting up the visit. Appreciation is extended to WSC Associates for their work in tracking the attendees and sending out the reminders for the visit.

Family First!



Family and Members of The Washington, D.C. Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc. White House visit, June 15, 2010

Carlisle Barracks Chapter Activities

The MG Charles C. Rogers Chapter for Carlisle Barracks and US Army College concluded another successful year under the leadership of LTC Rick Emerson and the ROCKS membership. The focus of the chapter remained on its three pillars of education, mentorship, and fellowship. The following is a recap of the year's achievements by the chapter and its members.

■ Education

- Jan 10- Dr. M.L. King Jr. Observation Day
Program-Prof Allen, Speaker
- Feb 10- Black History Month
 - Film Night- A Soldier's Story - Dr. Gordon, Moderator
 - Black History Month Program - CSM (R) Ms. Cheryl Jones
 - Noon Time Lecture- Dr. Sommers: "Black Soldiers in the Civil War: The Margins of Manpower"

■ Mentorship and Community Outreach

- Established mentoring partnership with Dickinson College ROTC
 - Provided 13 mentors for 13 commissioned cadets

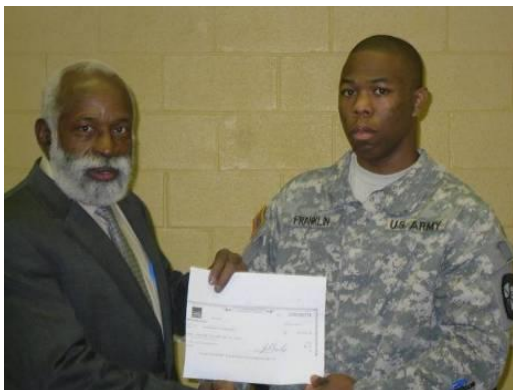
- Conducted panel discussions with MS II, III and IV cadets
- Supported Commissioning ceremony on 22 May 10
- Supported Bellaire Elementary School Reading Program with eight reading sessions with first, second, and fourth graders
- Supported Carlisle Victory Circle (CVC) Youth Mentoring program.
 - Seat on the CVC Board
 - Supported the middle school program
 - Supported in the 1st Annual Spring Gala
- Awarded two college scholarships
- Outreach opportunities
 - Contributed to the ministry, counseling and growth of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church
 - Provided remarks for the community Dr. M.L. King Jr. Day celebration
 - Provided Memorial Day keynote speaker for American Legion and the African-American community.

The Carlisle Barracks ROCKS graduated as members of the US Army War College Class of 2010 in June and have returned to operational assignments and positions of great responsibility.

The chapter organizational meeting was held on 11 August with the arriving class. The Carlisle Chapter is on its way to another outstanding year of mentorship and fellowship for the ROCKS!

The James Webster Smith Chapter Recognizes Excellence

By LTC(R) Elgin Allmond



LTC Allmond presents Scholarship check to Cadet Bennard Franklin

The James Webster Smith Chapter awarded a scholarship to Cadet Bennard Franklin on July 18, 2010. Cadet Franklin is

a sophomore at Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina and a member of the University of South Carolina's Gamecock Battalion. Cadet Franklin is also an honor student at Benedict College.

Major Patricia Williams was named the ROCK of the Year by the James Webster Smith Chapter on July 29, 2010. Amongst other achievements, MAJ Williams developed the chapter's highly successful middle school outreach program.



MAJ Williams receives JWS Chapter ROCK of the Year Award from LTC(R) Allmond

Fort Jackson ROCKS Members Bid Farewell to LTC(R) Elgin Allmond

By CPT Jamil Brown



LTC Marlon James presents LTC(R) Allmond with Appreciation Gift for his service to the Chapter

Retired Lieutenant Colonel Elgin Allmond recently accepted an overseas assignment and will be leaving the James Webster Smith Chapter after over 10 years of service to Fort Jackson and the surrounding community. LTC(R) Allmond's contributions to the mentoring of junior officers and future officers were recognized at a luncheon in his honor on July 29, 2010. LTC(R) Allmond received a commemorative gift from members of the chapter for his leadership.

The Henry O. Flipper Chapter

By COL Irving Smith III, USA



STEM Workshop Participants

The Henry O Flipper Chapter of ROCKS, Inc. has been hard at work over the summer conducting cadet summer training, academic research, and preparing for the upcoming academic year. The chapter held its first meeting in conjunction with the Directorate of Admissions annual barbeque. The chapter also kicked off its recruiting drive by establishing a presence at the West Point Community Fair. During the fair chapter officers handed out information flyers, membership forms, and spoke to members of the West Point Community. Throughout the summer the newly elected chapter officers, COL Irving Smith (president), MAJ Crystal Hills (vice president), MAJ Robert James (vice president), MAJ Vashaun Wrice (Secretary), CPT Chyteira Dues (Treasurer), and Dr. Michelle Craddock (Fundraising Chair) have been busy organizing and planning this year's events. This year is shaping up to be particularly memorable.



Left to right: MAJ Robert James, COL Irving Smith, and CPT Chyteira Dues at the West Point Community Fair

COL Michael Endres and CPT Mike Burns, active members of the Chapter, were hard at work bringing in the new class of freshmen to the Academy. The Class of 2014 has 1,375 members. This large class size is a testament to the desire and quality of candidates that are applying to USMA. The overall acceptance rate for candidates in the incoming class was 87%. This is the highest candidate acceptance rate in recent West Point history. The Academy is also happy to

report that 124 African Americans (compared to 90 for the Class of 2013) reported to the West Point on Reception Day. This is not only the 2nd most African Americans to enter a class in West Point's history (Class of 1986 – 127 African Americans), but it will also be the first time in over a decade that West Point has met its class composition goal (8-12%) for African Americans in the Corps. Cadets had the opportunity to do internships with members of congress, do research in the United States and Africa, attend conferences, or spend time mentoring High school students visiting the Academy.

LTC Donald Outing, an executive board member of the Henry O. Flipper Chapter, and the Director of West Point's Center for Leadership and Diversity in STEM (CLD_STEM), assisted in the planning, coordination, and execution of West Point's first Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) workshop for middle school students. The STEM workshop brought 76 students from grades 7 and 8 to West Point to give them exposure to West Point, provide them with an academic enrichment experience, and encourage them to pursue careers in STEM.



Cadets with GEN Casey

Additionally, LTC Outing led a four person team to Spartanburg, SC, to launch CLD_STEM's inaugural mobile STEM workshop. Twenty students from George Washington Carver Junior High School gave up three days of their summer vacation to participate in West Point's Summer STEM Quest Institute, a program aimed at boosting student interest in STEM career fields. The program served as a hands-on kickoff to Carver's new STEM focus curriculum. A rocket launch exercise introduced students to Newton's Laws, projectile motion and dynamic motion. They later learned about the engineering design process, applying STEM principles to create a bridge from K'nex pieces strong enough to carry two weighted toy vehicles from one platform to another.

Cadet Corner

Rattler "Strikes" with Servant Leadership

By CPT William Toles



Cadet Johnson with Colombian Soldiers during small unit tactics

It's not often enough that we engage men and women who truly have a mind to serve. Therefore, engaging such a young man has been refreshing and reaffirms hope for our nation's future. In two short years, Cadet Stanford Johnson has blazed an unprecedented path of service as a member of the Florida A&M University (FAMU) Rattler Battalion's ROTC Program. He personally identifies ways to bring other inspiring students and Cadets right along that same path; reminding all of us of the words stated by Albert Schweitzer, "Example is not the main thing in influencing others, it is the only thing." Cadet Johnson made his way to the Florida A&M University ROTC program in August of 2008. Being inspired by the teamwork and discipline of the Rattler Battalion he incorporated his own brand of professionalism and servitude by steady participation and always searching for ways to improve himself and those around him.

During his first year, his first venture with conscription while showing a keen desire to give back began with escorting LTC Jeffrey N. Williams, the Professor of Military Science, to visit his Alma Mata, Cypress Lake High School in Fort Myers, Florida. Without any coaching, Cadet Johnson began interacting with highly recruited prospects that were considering which institution of higher learning they would attend. He laid out specific benefits of attending Florida A&M University and participating in ROTC. He made a point of sharing his positive experiences in a manner that warranted further discussion on the likelihood of attending. Once the visit was completed, Johnson had secured three of

the brightest future Cadets firmly into the nest of his new home -- the Rattlers.

Since their arrival these three Cadets have maintained a cumulative combined GPA of 3.4 and have exceeded all physical fitness standards, partly due to Johnson's numerous small group sessions and big brother talks. Cadet Vienna Smith, Pre-Nursing, Cadet Silienne Saint-Fleury, Criminal Justice and Cadet Tavaris Andrews, Computer Information Systems are all fine examples of what King Solomon was intending when he wrote, "Iron sharpens iron; so let a man sharpen the countenance of his friend." One of these superb Cadets was selected as the Outstanding Freshman Cadet of the Year and yet another was a key member of the 6th Brigade Gold Tier Ranger Challenge Championship team. Additionally, Cadet Andrews was selected as the only freshman to attend the U.S. Army Airborne Course. Upon successfully completing the Course it was no one other than Cadet Stanford Johnson standing by his side to be the first to congratulate him and pin on his Airborne Wings.

Because of his caring leadership and commitment to excellence Cadet Johnson was selected as the FAMU ROTC Cadet sponsor to lead the establishment of the United States Army Cadet Command (USACC) Cultural Language Program (CULP), which sends ROTC Students to indigenous countries around the world in order to become familiar with the appropriate cultural sensitivities, develop language aptitude and prepare them for future military/governmental affairs and interactions. He garnered the initiative and completed all requirements well before the established deadline. The warning order was issued for students to submit applications and Johnson worked relentlessly to get students signed up for the program. In his haste to complete eight of his fellow Cadets applications, he submitted his own application last resulting in his eventual non-selection. Upon hearing of his non-selection he just gave his usual positive and personable smile while stating, "That's ok, it wasn't my time!" As a result of his diligence to help others and his tireless hours, three Cadets were selected to embark into the countries of Ghana, Morocco and Senegal. These Cadets were given a once in a lifetime opportunity to experience a portion of the world most will never see. Their expressions of gratitude for this remarkable experience have been overwhelming.

No good deed should go unrewarded and it would be his time soon! As USACC was preparing cadet selections for the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) program at Fort Benning, GA, Cadet Command requested highly motivated and professional individuals to apply. Cadet Johnson was an obvious selection. He was one of only fifteen Cadets from across 273 colleges and universities with host ROTC programs and the only HBCU program cadet to attend the course that included members from the Dominican Republic's military force.

This challenging and specialized training included Spanish language study, counter-drug operations, medical assistant training, small unit tactics and combat water survival training eventually culminating with the completion of the U.S. Army Airborne Course taught entirely in Spanish with soldiers from the Dominican Republican Army. Cadet Johnson has been an exceptional SERVANT LEADER during his tenure with the FAMU Rattler Battalion and has truly lived up to Winston Churchill's words, "Before you can inspire with emotion, you must be swamped with it yourself. Before you can move their tears, your own must flow. To convince them, you must yourself believe."



Cadet Johnson (far left corner) with 2010 WHINSEC Cadets

Hampton Roads ROCKS Recognize Deserving Area High School Students

By CPT Courtney J. Gary Chapter Publicity Chair

The Hampton Roads ROCKS Chapter concluded its annual Junior ROTC Scholarship Campaign earlier this summer, awarding four \$1000 dollar scholarships to deserving students attending High Schools in the immediate area. The winners of those scholarships were:

- Nikko Tanap, attending Virginia Tech, from Landstown HS, Virginia Beach Virginia
- Kristin Rovito, attending the Naval Academy from Salem HS, Virginia Beach Virginia
- Raven Jackson, attending Mary Baldwin College from Deep Creek HS, Chesapeake Virginia
- Donald Sewell, attending Xavier University from Landstown HS, Virginia Beach Virginia



Pictured is High School Senior Kristin Rovito being presented a \$1000 dollar scholarship from the Hampton Roads Chapter Vice President of Operations, LTC (Ret) Weldon Harris.

University of South Carolina Cadets

Submitted by LTC(R) Elgin Allmond

The US Army's ROTC Program's ranks are filled with some of the brightest young men and women in America. Across college campuses nation-wide, Army cadets are molded into tomorrow's leaders. Upon graduation, they receive commissions as Second Lieutenants, and go on to lead successful military and civilian careers. Cadets from the University of South Carolina's Gamecock Battalion shared their personal motivation for becoming an ROTC Cadets.

Cadet Tara Connolly, Junior, USC

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

I joined ROTC during my freshman year after speaking with a recruiter about ROTC's nursing opportunities. I have learned self-discipline and am in great shape. The Army is preparing me for the challenges I will face throughout life and gives me the opportunity to pursue my nursing career in ways I didn't know were possible.

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

Mentoring is an important aspect of ROTC. I've matured and learned so much from the Cadre here. I'm looking forward to becoming an officer and having the ability to mentor and influence others under my command.

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

I want to become a successful Army nurse and help the men and women defending our country. I want to apply the knowledge I've learned from school and ROTC and make a positive difference after I commission.

Cadet Jack McFadden, Junior, USC

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

I decided to join Army ROTC to pay for college. ROTC has benefited me in ways I didn't know it would. I have become more confident and more organized. I've discovered more and more opportunities the Army has to offer in my time here. I've managed to be financially stable and am able to build a solid foundation for the rest of my career.

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

Mentors play a huge role in my life. There are several professors that I look up to and try to get advice from. One of my professors in particular has really taken me under his wing and we are currently working together on a research project. This kind of work will develop me into a successful leader after graduation.

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

Once I get my commission I plan on serving in the National Guard. I want to attend graduate school as soon I graduate from here. I want to use the Army's help to get a Master's Degree to prepare me for my work as a civilian.

Cadet Jarrod Farmer, Junior, Benedict College

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

I enlisted in the Army in 1994. I'm pursuing my goal to become an officer through the Army's Green to Gold Program. ROTC has taught me all about the officer corps, and has helped lay the foundation for the rest of my life. I've become more physically and mentally tough, and in doing so have dramatically improved my competence and self-confidence.

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

Mentoring is a very important aspect of my life. It keeps me focused on the task at hand, and mentors serve as great and influential role models. Mentors are a helpful tool in my development, and I'm glad to have the opportunity to be able to learn from their past experiences.

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

I hope to branch in the Army's Signal Corps. I want to work with computers and continue to hone my leadership skills. I'm looking forward to holding a command and influencing others under me. I will be able to take the knowledge I will acquire and the skills I will learn to have a successful career in civilian life.

**ROTC SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE**

Summer is over and it's back to school time for that outstanding High School Senior. It is also time to begin thinking about college. For those who read this article and either have a Senior, or know of one, the following information may prove very helpful in gaining and affording entrance to the college of their choice. Consider the following snapshot of information: a 2.75 GPA and above, SAT scores above 1050, and enrolled in a college preparatory program. There are numerous scholarships but you need to start looking now! Retake your SATs/ACTs and do so as many times as you can. Get your GPAs up. There is still time. An ROTC scholarship can be in your future. Do not wait!

For more information contact:

BG(R) Earl M. Simms,

VP, ROTC Programs

Phone: 571-213-2321

Email: esimms@serco-na.com or esimms44@yahoo.com

**Smith Assumes Command of 20th
SUPCOM (CBRNE)**

*By Rachel Ponder
APG News*

More than 250 dignitaries, family, friends and 20th Support Command Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High Yield Explosives (CBRNE) Soldiers and civilians gathered to honor the new commander of the 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE) during a traditional military assumption of command ceremony at the Edgewood Area McBride Parade Field, July 8.

During the ceremony Gen. James D. Thurman, commander of the U.S. Army Forces Command, and host of the ceremony, passed the organizational colors to Brig. Gen. Leslie C. Smith, symbolizing Thurman transferring leadership to Smith.

During Thurman's remarks he welcomed attendees to the ceremony.



Brig. Gen. Leslie C. Smith (center), incoming 20th SUPCOM commander, accepts the organizational colors from Gen. James D. Thurman, commander of the U.S. Army Forces Command, as 20th SUPCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald E. Orosz looks on.

“It is a great day to be a Soldier,” Thurman said.

Thurman commended Smith for his extraordinary leadership skills, and said Smith was the right man to lead the 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE).

“Brig. Gen. Smith is a proven leader,” Thurman said. “He brings a wealth of experience to the command and he is well-qualified to lead this unit.”

Thurman added that Smith has previously served with 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE). From August 2007 to June 2008, he served as the G3, 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE) responsible for the operations of two Explosive Ordnance Disposal groups, one CBRNE brigade and multiple combat enablers for the command.



Brig. Gen. Leslie C. Smith, incoming commander of the U.S. Army 20th Support Command, speaks during his Assumption of Command ceremony. (Photo by Maj. Robert Moore, 20th SUPCOM)

“We are proud to add his name to the list of those commanders who have gone before,” Thurman said. “Brig. Gen. Smith is a proven leader, capable and worthy of increased responsibility he receives today. He brings a wealth of experience and proven

leadership to this command. For the past 24 years he has had some of the most challenging assignments in our Army. He will put his extensive leadership experience to work here as he prepares the men and women of this command for the

unknown challenges that lie ahead. Brig. Gen. Smith is the right man at the right time.”

Thurman said that Smith’s wife, Vanedra, complements his abilities as she deeply cares for Soldiers and their Families.

“Vanedra inspires others to make a difference, because on so many occasions she has made a difference herself,” Thurman said.

“She will be a perfect fit for Aberdeen Proving Ground, a place she has called home before.”

During Smith’s remarks he said he looks forward to working with the members of the 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE) team as the organization maintains a legacy of outstanding service to the nation.

“The 20th Support Command has a tradition of excellence,” Smith said. “Our goal is to be that good example in everything we do for the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Civilians and Families that we have serving now with the 20th Support Command and joint elimination coordination element and in the future as we grow into what the nation expects of our command.”

Brig. Gen. Leslie C. Smith

Smith comes to APG from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., where he served as the commandant of the U.S. Army Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear School and deputy commanding general, Material and Technology, U.S. Army Maneuver Support Center of Excellence.

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

U.S. Army 20th Support Command (CBRNE)

The 20th SUPCOM (CBRNE) gives the Army and the nation a flexible response capability to operate in a variety of environments, from urban areas to austere sites across the spectrum of military operations. CBRNE operations detect, identify, assess, render safe, dismantle, transfer, and dispose of unexploded ordnance, improvised explosive devices and other CBRNE hazards. These operations also include decontaminating personnel and property exposed to CBRNE materials during response.

2010 R.C. CARTWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIP CAMPAIGN

The National Board of the ROCKS would like to thank all ROCKS' members and supporters for their donations to the RC Cartwright Foundation. During 2009, more than \$19,000.00 was raised to provide tuition assistance to ROTC cadets who were enrolled in programs to become military officers. Due to the generosity of our members, we were able to award ten tuition assistance scholarships at the Annual Spring Gala, this past April.

Our monetary goal for 2010 is \$25,000. Therefore, as you plan your tax exempt donations for 2010, please consider donating to the R.C. Cartwright Scholarship Foundation. One hundred percent (100%) of your donation goes to the Foundation for scholarships.

Thanks in advance for your consideration and support. The ROCKS point of contact is COL (Ret) Lucretia M. McClenney – Email: lmmcclenney@aol.com / Phone: (703) 924-1579.

THANK YOU TO OUR CURRENT 2010 R.C. CARTWRIGHT DONORS

BG	Clara	Adams-Ender	USA(R)
COL	Charles	Allen	USA(R)
LTC	Quentin	Banks, Jr	USA(R)
COL	Charles	Boaz	USA
COL	Robert	Bowles, Jr	USA(R)
LTC	Muriel	Brown	USA
LTC	Victor	Burnette	USA
BG	Sherian	Cadoria	USA(R)
LTC	William	Calbert	USA(R)
LTC	Norris	Capers	USA(R)
LTC	Gail	Clarke	USA
COL	Stanley	Evans	USA(R)
HON	H. Minton	Francis	USA(R)
COL	Travis	Gafford	USA(R)
LTC	Vincent	Gallman	USA
BG	Lawrence	Gillespie	USA(R)
MG	Elder	Granger	USA
MAJ	Albert	Harris	USAR
COL	Cecil	Harris	USA(R)
COL	John	Harris	USA(R)
COL	Angie	Hemingway	USA
COL	Quincy	Hobbs	USA
CW5	Harvey	Jackson	USA
CPT	Brett	Jackson	USA
LTC	Rivers	Johnson, Jr	USA

LtCol	Gilbert	Jones	USAF
COL	James	Marshall, Jr	USA(R)
COL	Warren	Mercer	USA(R)
MAJ	Felicia	Moore	USA
MG	Robert	Nabors	USA(R)
COL	Tommy	Osborne	USA(R)
GEN	Colin	Powell	USA(R)
COL	Diana	Raynor	USA
LTC	Cephus	Rhodes	USA(R)
COL	Artie	Shelton	USA(R)
BG	Robert	Stephens	USA(R)
LTC	Carol	Strong	USA
COL	David	Thomas	USA(R)
CPT	Stephen	Trynosky	USAR
COL	Robert	Warren	USA(R)
LTC	Paul	Washington, Jr	USAR
COL	James	Whitehead, Jr	USA(R)
COL	Howard	Williams	
LTC	Ralph	Young	USA(R)
COL	Kenneth	Younger	USA(R)

Check Out The Rocks Inc. Website! www.rocksync.org

As we move forward with integrating the use of technology as a way of improving our operations and communication efforts, the organization is seeking your assistance in maintaining accurate membership information. As a ROCKS member, you are able to update your personal information, search for members using the membership directory, review available job opportunities, and much more.

To gain access to the Members Only section of the website, you will need your login name and password. If you have not received or have misplaced your login information, you can reset your password and usernames by clicking on "Member Login" then "Forgot My Username/Password". An email we will sent to you with your username and temporary password. You will have the opportunity to change your password after you log in. After you have logged in, please be sure to check your email and mailing address for accuracy.

We urge all our members to visit the website regularly in order to keep up-to-date with the National organization as well as the various local chapters.

"We cannot advance without new experiments in living, but no wise man tries every day what he has proved wrong the day before." -- James T. Adams, American Statesman

ROCKS, Inc. HISTORY JOURNAL

This is an advanced notice about the publication of a Historical Pictorial of the Legacy of the ROCKS. This history journal has been approved by the Board of Directors of the ROCKS and is scheduled for publication in the Spring of 2011. It is requested that anyone who may have pictures and or military stories about the ROCKS, that they are submitted to Sharene A. Cook of WSC Associates, LLP, at 7700 Old Branch Avenue, Suite A202, Clinton, MD 20735. You can also email them to therocks@aol.com.

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

Did you know?

VA Introduces Mobile Vet Centers

Veterans Affairs is reaching out in a new way by bringing service to Veterans and their families where they live with 50 new Mobile VA Vet Centers (MVCs). The MVCs are customized RV offices equipped to provide emergency support if needed. MVC services include PTSD and military sexual trauma counseling, bereavement counseling, marriage and family counseling, VA benefits information, and suicide prevention referrals. They travel to rural and other under-served areas to save travel time and money for Veterans and their families. Many Vet Center staff members are combat Veterans who relate directly to the Veterans they see. Typical of MVC use was last week's visit to the PX at Fort Benning, Ga. The mobility of these traveling counseling centers provides convenience, visibility and awareness to the services offered by the VA, and, ultimately, aid for those in transition between military and civilian life. Learn more about MVCs at <http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/>.

Wereth 11 Massacre Documentary

Currently in production, The Wereth Massacre, retraces the steps eleven black GI's from the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion took when their unit was overrun by Germans at the start of the Battle of the Bulge. Their 10-mile trek from their battery position to Wereth, Belgium would be the last journey of their lives as a local resident turned them in to an SS scouting party.

Subsequently all eleven were butchered and killed.

The film begins with a recreation of the German artillery barrage and the attack on the 333rd then immediately brings us up to modern day where descendants of members of the 333rd retrace the journey of the "Wereth 11". Some of the relatives had never been to Belgium nor seen the place where their uncles and fathers fought. The emotions are quite compelling.

The film closes with a wreath laying at the memorial and emotional remembrance of the eleven men who were murdered so senselessly in a war crime that is all but unknown to most Americans today. The film will be released in February, 2011 for Black History Month.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Wereth-Massacre/109405362427004>

For more information, contact:
Joseph Small, Executive Producer, (631) 655-7955 or
Lawanda D Warthen, (561) 459-3312

DATES TO REMEMBER

Columbus Day	MON - 11 OCT 2010
Thanksgiving	THU - 25 NOV 2010
Christmas Day	SAT - 25 DEC 2010
New Year's Day	SAT - 01 JAN 2011

The ROCKS, Inc. is a non-profit [501c(4)] organization comprised of active duty, reserve, retired, ROTC cadets, and former commissioned officers of the U.S. Armed Forces, widows and widowers of deceased members, and other uniformed services. The organization was formed to provide professional and social interaction/development to strengthen the officer corps. In addition to the R.C. Cartwright Scholarship Fund, the "Leadership Outreach" program provides the opportunity for teams consisting of ROCK members to visit Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to provide professional career development guidance to ROTC students.

ROCKS in the Spotlight

Colonel Conrado B. Morgan Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. International Founders Award

By MAJ(R) Diedre L. Windsor, Rocket Staff



(L to R) Mr. Warren Lee, Jr., Grand Basileus, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., COL Conrado B. Morgan and Mr. Victor Bruinton, Sixth District Representative

COL Conrado B. Morgan, President, Washington, DC Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc. received the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity International Founders Award on July 28, 2010 at the organization's 76th Grand International Conclave which was held in Raleigh, North Carolina. Colonel Morgan was recognized for his contributions to society, which have enhanced the welfare of mankind in his local community, the District (State of North Carolina and South Carolina) and at the international level. COL Morgan was lauded for his extensive community service work over the last twenty-five (25) years.

Congratulations!! Congratulations!!

✚ **Major Sherdrick Rankin** has been selected to attend the Army's School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS) Advanced Military Studies Program (AMSP) for Academic Year 2011

✚ **WSC and Associates (Sharene & Team)** the Company that provides administrative support to the National Board of Directors of the ROCKS, Inc. and The Washington, DC Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. recently achieved 8A certification through the Small Business Administration.

Congratulations!! Congratulations!!

Brigadier General Promotions

Colonel Gwendolyn Bingham (LG)
Special Assistant to the Commanding General
1st Theater Sustainment Command
OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM, Kuwait
APO AE 09306

Colonel Frederick A. Henry (53)
Deputy Commander
United States Army Network Enterprise
Technology Command
Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613

Colonel Henry L. Huntley (46)
Director, Public and Congressional Affairs
United States Army Materiel Command
Fort Belvoir, Virginia 22060

Colonel Barry L. Price (AG)
Deputy Commander
United States Army Cadet Command
Fort Monroe, Virginia 23651

Colonel Darryl A. Williams (FA)
Assistant Surgeon General for Warrior Care and
Transition/Commander Warrior Transition Command
2350 Crystal Drive, Room 3E30
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Colonel Michael E. Williamson (AC)
Deputy Program Executive Officer, Integration
4117 Boothby Hill Road
Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland 21005

Colonel Cedric T. Wins (49)
Deputy Director, Program Analysis and Evaluation
Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-8
United States Army
700 Army Pentagon, Room 3E362
Washington, DC 20310-0700

*"Adversity causes some men to break,
others to break records."
William Arthur Ward*



National Institutes of Health (NIH) Features the Recent Successes of Retired Army Officer

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Cathy Troutman, a ROCKS Inc. Lifetime Member, joined the

National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), the 5th largest of the 27 Institutes that make up NIH, as an Administrative Specialist and the Institute's Property Accountability Officer (IC PAO) after retiring from a distinguished career in the US Army. Cathy began her military career as a Biomedical Information Systems Officer and was later tasked with the responsibility of Chief Information Officer (CIO). Cathy held several CIO positions at military treatment facilities throughout the United States and abroad. Her assignments included CIO roles at the 97th General Hospital in Frankfurt Germany, Ft Meade Medical Activity, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Ft Belvoir Hospital, North Atlantic Regional Medical Center (Telemedicine). One of the highlights of Cathy's career was her assignment as a member of the Army Surgeon General's staff during which she served as the Deputy Director for two programs: Automated Neuropsychological Assessment Metrics Program for Mild Traumatic Brain Injuries and culminating her career as the Deputy Director for the DoD's Pharmacovigilance Program.

Though her length of employment with the National Institute of Health, National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute (NHLBI) is not long, her contributions make her an invaluable asset. She has demonstrated a proven ability to effectively develop and implement strategic business plans in support of accountable property consistent with the NIH, and NHLBI, mission. Cathy's professional skills have been rewarded with opportunities for rapid advancement.

Cathy's tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed; a recipient of the 2009 NHLBI "All Star" Award, 2009 NHLBI Property Team Award, 2009 Performance Award and most recently, a Management Analyst Team Award, she has gained the respect of colleagues within the NHLBI & NIH.

A native of Arkansas, Cathy earned her BS degree in Business Data Processing in 1984 from Arkansas State University and her MS Degree in Business Administration from Webster University. Cathy retired from active duty in 2008 and is a member of numerous military, civilian and community organizations, where she holds key positions and has made significant contributions. LTC(R) Troutman is married to Rich Troutman. They reside in Rockville, Maryland.

The ROCKS, Inc. Limited Edition Print "A Legacy of Leadership and Excellence" by Don Stivers



This is the second limited edition print commissioned by The ROCKS, Inc.

To order your copy of this print, visit our website at www.rocksincl.org (scroll down) and click on the words "Stivers Print For Sale Click Here" to view the print and to print an order form. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at 301-856-9319 or 888-762-5747 (toll free).

Prints will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis. The cost for a limited edition print is \$150 + \$15 for shipping and handling (per two prints ordered). If you are interested in receiving an artist proof, there are a limited number at a cost of \$285 each + \$15 for shipping and handling (per two prints ordered).

****Chapters receive a rebate of \$25 per print purchased by a Chapter member in good standing****

Upcoming Events

22nd Annual Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust (CBCVB) September 17, 2010

ROCKS members are invited to attend the 22nd Annual Congressional Black Caucus Veterans Braintrust (CBCVB) National Forum during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation 40th Annual Legislative Conference (ALC).

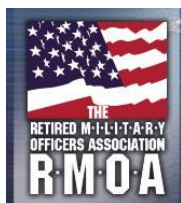
The Conference will be held at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC from September 15-18, 2010. This year the Annual Veterans Braintrust Forum will be held in Room 145-A of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center on Friday, September 17, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

Traditionally known as the highlight of the ALC, the Veterans Braintrust has truly become a family affair bringing together African American veterans and supporters from across the nation.

Entitled "Supporting Our Troops, Preserving Their Families," the event will address the challenges that service members, their spouses, children, family members, and other caregivers and supporters must deal with while on duty and upon their return. Topics include coping with service-related injuries, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), suicide, affordable housing, home foreclosures, health care, financial loss, debt, unemployment, career development, marital stress, divorce, and childcare.

This forum is jointly hosted by Representatives Charles B. Rangel (D-NY), Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (D-GA) and Representative Corrine Brown (D-FL).

For a complete schedule of CBC Conference events go to:
<http://www.cbcfinc.org/alcf-2010/schedule.html>



Retired Military Officers Association (RMOA) Reception September 16, 2010

RMOA is hosting a reception to honor America's Black Soldiers and introducing the leadership and programs of the Retired Military Officers Association and Military Veterans Business Association (MVBA). The event will take place Thursday, September 16th, 6:00-9:00pm. The event will take place at the JW

Marriott Hotel in Washington, DC. For additional information please call (301) 856-9319.

**RMOA and MVBA are trade associations supporting the African American veteran owned business community in specific and the African American business community in general. Membership inquiries are invited, or visit our website www.RMOA.ORG for more information

Washington D.C. Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. 5 Mile Run / 2 Mile Walk September 18, 2010

Runners, Walkers, Spectators!!! The Washington, D.C. Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc. will host its' 19th Annual Rocks Inc., 5 Mile Run and 2 Mile Walk at Burke Lake Park in Fairfax Station, VA on Saturday, September 18, starting at 8:30 AM. Donations from this event support the chapter's Brigadier General Roscoe "Rock" Cartwright Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Scholarship Fund and Cadet Leadership Outreach programs.

All entrants and donors will receive a T-shirt and the top three overall male and female runners, finishers and ROTC Cadets in each group will receive awards. There is also an award for the top male and female in the 70+ and walker categories. We will also host the annual ROTC Team Challenge to award the top three finishing ROTC teams competing. Visit our chapter website at www.therocksdc.org to register, donate or find out more about our chapter activities and programs. Cost for registration is \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members until September 11. For more information please contact race chairman Chuck Harris at therocksdc@aol.com or call (877) 762-5732.

Washington D.C. Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. West Hamilton Dinner and Silent Auction November 6, 2010

This event is held every fall at the Andrews Air Force Base Golf Club. It's a great opportunity to enjoy dinner and dance with Chapter members and local ROTC Cadets. In conjunction with this dinner, the Silent Auction which started 1986 and was historically conducted by the late LTG(R) Ed Honor, will continue as a testament to him and as a Chapter fundraiser. The proceeds from the Silent Auction go toward several programs sponsored by the Washington DC Chapter. Awards presented at this event are: Volunteerism Award, Junior ROCK of the Year, ROCK of the Year, and Lifetime of Leadership Award. Please visit therocksdc@aol.com regularly for updated registration information.

Rocks, Inc. Embraces Social Media by Launching Facebook Page

By MAJ Sherdrick Rankin, Rocket Staff

A few months ago the idea of creating a Rocks Facebook page was raised, approved by the National Board, and recently launched. Immediately after setting up the page, several Rocks members went to the page and clicked on the 'like' button to join our Facebook page. The page features information from the National Board and chapters, professional development information, social events, updates on Rocks in the News.

This Rock's Inc. Facebook page is our solution of choice for using social media as another vehicle to spread the good work of the Rocks worldwide. Members can also interact with the page, discuss topics on the board, and comment on the page wall. Our page has a number of methods to communicate with our members. The Facebook page can send updates to members which will appear as a notification on their respective homepage. Communication through page updates can contain text and plain non-anchor tagged hyperlinks. The content of the update should always be related to the Rocks, Inc page and does not fall under any particular guidelines except the Facebook's Terms of Use, the Facebook Code of Conduct, and the Facebook Advertising Guidelines.

Pages can also send status updates that will appear in a fans Homepage. Friends can then Comment or 'Like' a status update that they find entertaining – which means increased engagement for the Page. When members go onto our page and click on the 'Like' selection, any comments on the Rocks, Inc Facebook page will appear in that member's news stream and Highlights section of their Homepage of the friends of the fan, leading to increased exposure. If your normal Facebook friends see that you are a fan of the Rocks page, they will be able to click on the page and become a fan. When a fan interacts with a Page, the action is published on their homepage automatically. We'll be able to take advantage of Facebook's in-house analytical tools which enables us to see how many new members we reach.

The easiest way to get access to this new page is to log-on to your Facebook account, scroll up to the search box, and type in Rocks, Inc. Once you get to the page click on 'like' and you're set. An email was sent to the various regional chapters that were listed on the Rocks, Inc national website to inform them of the new page. The first day the site was created, we had 10 fans in the first hour. Like anything else success does not happen overnight, but we have a feeling this will grow and we hope this page will be a help to you in your professional development as well as "keep you in the know" on ROCKS related events.

Rocket Staff Welcomes Major Myles B. Caggins III



Maj. Myles B. Caggins III is a Public Affairs Officer in the U.S. Army. He is the spokesman for Fort Bliss, Texas and the 1st Armored Division (Provisional). In May, he returned from a deployment to southern Iraq with the 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division. He partnered with U.S. State Department Provincial Reconstruction Teams and Iraqi Security Forces media officers to inform the public of U.S. efforts for security and stability.

Caggins served as a White House Social Aide for Presidents Bush and Obama. He has earned two Bronze Star medals, Combat Action Badge, and other military awards.

Myles earned a Master's in Public Relations from Georgetown University and Bachelor's in History from Hampton University.

He has been a member of the Rocks, Inc. for 13 years and is a charter member of two ROCKS chapters--European Officers and Central Virginia. In 2005, MAJ Caggins was presented the Bobby Burke Award.

Welcome MAJ Caggins - Thanks for volunteering to help us take 'The Rocket' to the next level! The Rocket Staff

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.

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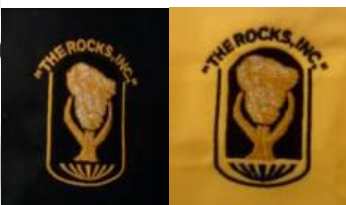
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National Board of the ROCKS, Inc.
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To renew your membership by credit card, please visit our website at www.rocksync.org and click on the Member Login link. If you have not received your membership 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	\$650		

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

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c/o WSC Associates, LLP 7700 Old Branch Avenue, Suite A202, Clinton, Maryland 20735