

**THE ROCKET  
WINTER 2020**





## UPDATED ROCKET SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- ✓ Submit articles in **Microsoft Word Document Format Only!!!** (Do not include photos within body of text.)
- ✓ Article Header Font = **Times New Roman**; Font Size = 14; **Bold**.
- ✓ Author/contributor credit reflected in following format: *Written by [Insert Author's name]*; Font = *Times New Roman Italics*; Font Size = 10]
  - Page Margins = 1" Left, Right, Top and Bottom
  - The text should be **Times New Roman** Font; Font Size=10. No special formatting. Use left justification. Maximum number of words = 600 words
  - Maximum number of photos per article = 3 (Place at the end of the article)
  - Include photo captions under photo (Times New Roman Font; Font Size=8)
  - PDF documents will **NOT** be accepted.
  - Links to web articles will **NOT** be accepted.
  - Articles should be written from third-person point of view, or outsider looking in, and use pronouns like he, she, it, they or the \_\_\_\_ Chapter.
  - 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.

**DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS** will be sent for former/current ROCKS Members and their spouses. The dissemination of such information for children and extended family is to be done at the discretion of the local chapter president.

**SAVE THE DATE ANNOUNCEMENTS** need to have the name of the event, date and time; the address, building number or name, city or post.

Note: We do not accept podcasts or videos 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*

### DECEMBER 2020 Chairman's Comments

In this season of Presidential politics, Covid-19 paranoia and the resultant hardships some of our citizens are facing, I wanted to reach out to our membership and ask that we remember those who are less fortunate. As we transition into 2021, we should think about all of the blessings we have received and pass your blessings on to those who could use your support.

The ROCKS has experienced a significant 2020. Our membership has increased. We have a new and thriving chapter at Fort Drum, reinvigoration effort at Fort Hood, and a growing Interest Group in Tampa. Although the COVID-19 caused the cancellation of our Spring Gala and the Annual Golf outing, we persevered and successfully transferred our activities to the virtual Zoom communications platform. Needless to say, that this transfer has been instrumental in increasing participation in our LPDs in an impactful manner. Many of our chapters as well as the National Board have used Zoom to have relevant and noteworthy LPDs with senior Army leadership. Particularly noteworthy was the two hour Zoom LPD we experienced with the Secretary of the Army, the Army Chief of Staff, the Command Sergeant Major of the Army and the Senior Warrant Officer Advisor to the Chief of Staff.

We also had the honor in conjunction with Cadet Command, sponsor seventy-seven ROTC Scholarships primarily to HBCU's. For 2021 I would like to see this number doubled. There are those in our communities that want to attend college and don't have the resources to do so. We can help, all we have to do is extend ourselves and get our story out into these communities.

Lastly, I want everyone to seriously practice staying safe. The Covid-19 Pandemic is deadly. Also please enjoy the Christmas/New Year holiday and God Bless.

Lawrence Gillespie  
BG USA (Ret.)  
Chairman



**NATIONAL BOARD OF  
THE ROCKS INC.**

**CFC# 60959**

**Official Solicitation Period  
September 21, 2020 –  
January 15, 2021**

### ROCKET DEADLINE



### ROCKET SPRING EDITION

Deadline: 1 March 2021

### SUMMER EDITION

Deadline: 14 June 20201

## You Can Support The ROCKS, Inc.

- 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.

## Message from Our Chaplain



### “Happy Holidays; What Does It Really Mean?”

*By Dr. B. Gregory Edison, Chaplain (COL), USA*

During this time period or season we often hear the words, “Happy Holidays.” Generally speaking it is a salutation to express the excitement and hope of the season.



The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines holiday as a day marked by a general suspension of work in commemoration of an event. The event (s) are traditionally observed as a festival, cultural, religious event, or national celebration. The holiday season or period is the time from November to the beginning of January, which many holidays are celebrated. Holidays include Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and New

Year’s Eve. The various forms of celebration are dependent on different regions, sovereign nations and territories’ significant historical events.

President Abraham Lincoln on October 3, 1863 made a proclamation to observe the last Thursday of November “as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise” to our beneficent Father who dwells in the Heavens. Although Thanksgiving has roots in religious and cultural traditions, it is a national holiday and not an ecclesiastical holiday.

Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights is a Jewish festival commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days by lighting a nine branch candelabrum or menorah. Hanukkah signifies after the temple was purified; the wicks of the menorah burned for eight days despite having enough sacred oil for one day. According to the Hebrew and Gregorian calendars the festival may occur from late November to late December. This year Hanukkah begins at sunset on the 10th of December and ends at nightfall on the 18th of December.

Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Maulana Karenga after the Watts riots. The founder’s intent was to create a holiday that celebrated African heritage based on seven principles. Kwanzaa begins December 26, 2020 and ends January 1, 2021. Each of the seven days of Kwanzaa is dedicated to one principle. The principles are unity, self-determination, collective work and

responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith.

New year traditions are celebrated the day before the new year, which is referred to as New Year’s Eve (31 December) and on New Year’s Day. Common traditions welcoming in the new year range from singing, watching fireworks and the iconic New York City’s Times Square giant ball, or a watch night worship service thanking God for another year, and seeking the Creator’s guidance.

Christmas is the holy celebration of Jesus’ birth. Christmas commemorates the entrance of Christ into the world. “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11).

December 25 is now the widely observed date of Christ’s birth and Christmas. The exact date of Jesus’ birth is not mentioned in the New Testament and has been debated. Jesus’ birth is more probable in the summer or early fall. Luke 2:8 states, “And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over the flock by night.” Culturally, sheep were usually kept indoors during winter nights and grazed outdoors on summer nights.

Regardless of the exact date of birth, billions of Christ followers across all cultural boundaries, believers and non-believers, would testify of the promised Messiah as outlined in Isaiah 7:14, “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (meaning God with us).

There have been others whose birthdays are nationally and globally remembered. But the birthday of Christ offers what no others can; a person-to-person connection with Him through faith!



*Dr. Edison is the Chaplain to the Commanding General of Training Doctrine Command (TRADOC) located on Fort Eutis, Newport News, Virginia.*

*Words to Inspire and Encourage for the New Year  
from the Chaplain of The National Board*

"Even a mosquito  
doesn't get a slap  
on the back until  
he starts  
working."

*Jeremiah 29:11*

**Philippians 4:13**

**1 John 4:4**

**Psalms 46:1**

**1 Corinthians 15:58**

"By  
perseverance  
the snail  
reached the  
ark." —C.H.  
Spurgeon

*"A Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to a person who isn't."*

"The way to be anxious about nothing is to  
be prayerful about everything."



"Carve your name on hearts, not on marble."

*"Faith opens the door to  
God's promise for you and  
patience keeps it open until  
that promise is fulfilled."*

**"WHEN YOU KILL  
TIME,  
REMEMBER—IT  
HAS NO  
RESURRECTION."**

"A friend is one  
who can put a  
finger on your  
faults without  
rubbing it in."

"It is good to have things  
settled by faith before they  
are unsettled by feelings."

*Philippians 4:6-7*

**2 Timothy 1:7**

*Hebrews 12:1*

*Galatians 6:7*

**2 Corinthians 4:16-18**

"You may have had a  
bad start in life, but  
you need not have a  
bad ending."

**YOU SHOULD KNOW THEIR STORY.... BECAUSE IT IS OUR STORY, THE  
ROCKS INCORPORATED.... THIS IS *THE JOURNEY***



**BG(R) Roscoe "ROCK" Cartwright**



**Burke**



**Brooks**



**Cade**



**Chambers**



**Collins**



**Francois**



**Hazelwood**



**Mann**



**Miller**



**Wyatt**

*Shown above:*

*COL Robert B. Burke  
MG Harry W. Brooks Jr.  
BG Alfred J. Cade  
LTG Andrew P. Chambers  
COL Harold Collins*

*COL Frank Francois III  
COL John E. Hazelwood  
LTC John E. Mann Sr.  
COL Clarence A. Miller  
COL James E. Wyatt*

**Do you know their names? These men comprised the "Blue Geese".  
They are "*The Journey*"**

**More information available on page 40**

# TOP STORIES

## Gen. Lloyd Austin's Historic Defense Secretary Nomination

*Submitted by COL (Ret) Dorene Hurt  
w/permission from AUSA*

ROCKS legend, 2007 ROCK of the Year and Life member, Gen Lloyd Austin made history on Wednesday, December 9, 2020. Austin is President-elect Joe Biden's choice to become his secretary of defense, a historic selection because Gen. Lloyd Austin would be only the third retired general officer to serve in the post and the first Black person to lead DoD. The 67-year-old Austin retired from the Army in 2016 after rising to serve as the 33rd Army vice chief of staff and the 12th commander of U.S. Central Command. Raised in Thomasville, Georgia, Austin is a 1975 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, who began his career as an infantry officer. Austin has 41 years of military service, including time in Iraq and Afghanistan.



*Photo by DoD/Army Staff Sgt. Sean Harp*

His confirmation by the Senate to the top Pentagon post will require a congressional waiver because the National Security Act of 1947, last modified in 2008, requires a minimum seven-year gap between active-duty service and an appointment to be defense secretary. A waiver was granted in 2017 allowing retired Marine Gen. Jim Mattis to serve as defense secretary. A waiver was also required in 1950 for General of the Army George Marshall.



*President-elect Joe Biden on Wednesday announced his nomination of Gen. Lloyd Austin for secretary of defense. Photo Credit: Hilary Swift for The New York Times*

The entire ROCKS, Inc. family is so proud of Gen Austin and his bride for almost four decades, Charlene Austin. We wish them both the best during the confirmation process and look forward to him serving as the next Secretary of Defense.



*Gen. Lloyd J. Austin, III and his wife Charlene attend the 2013 USO Gala at Wash Hilton on Oct 25, 2013 (Photo by Charles Norfleet/Getty Images)*

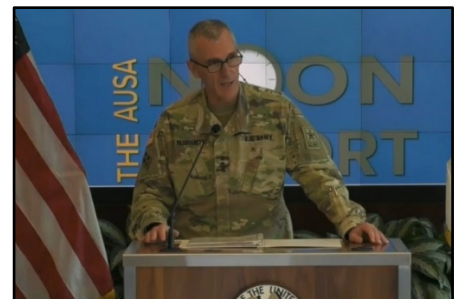
Austin has a personal connection to Biden. In a Dec. 8 commentary in The Atlantic, Biden wrote that he was at the 2010 change of command ceremony at Camp Victory in Iraq when Austin became commander of U.S. Forces-Iraq and was there again with Austin in December 2011 for a ceremony marking U.S. forces' departure from the country. "General Austin got the job done," Biden wrote. "He played a crucial role in bringing 150,000 American troops home from the theater of war. Pulling that off took more than just the skill and strategy of a seasoned soldier. It required Austin to practice diplomacy, building relationships with our Iraqi counterparts and with our partners in the region. He served as a statesman, representing our

country with honor and dignity and always, above all, looking out for his people," Biden wrote. "He is a true and tested soldier and leader. I've spent countless hours with him, in the field and in the White House Situation Room. I've sought his advice, seen his command, and admired his calm and his character. He is the definition of a patriot," Biden wrote.



## No 'Easy-Button' in Army Modernization, Says G-8

*By Thomas Brading, Army News Service*



*Lt. Gen. James Pasquarette, Army Deputy Chief of Staff for Resources and Plans, addresses virtual audience Nov. 18, 2020, during a webinar hosted by the Association of the United States Army. Photo credit: Thomas Brading*

WASHINGTON -- The Army's G-8 said he has high hopes for modernization efforts heading into the next year, despite potential budget cuts that could impact

them as well as future end strength and force readiness.

“We’re on the path to deliver the capabilities our Soldiers require to fight and win,” said Lt. Gen. James Pasquarette during an Association of the U.S. Army Noon Report webinar Wednesday.

In previous years, Army modernization has come with its share of hold-ups and headaches. But this time, Pasquarette believes the force’s current efforts are much more promising than past attempts.

The general, who has now served two years in his role as G-8, said he was confident that if topline cuts were required, leaders would continue funding top modernization capabilities.

“[The Army secretary and Army chief of staff] have both stated that we must modernize the Army,” Pasquarette said. This is a “once-in-every-40-years opportunity, and it’s against a valid requirement.

“Russia and China aren’t going anywhere,” he added, underscoring the importance of modernization. He said Army officials believe near-peer competitors “will continue going the wrong direction” regarding diplomatic relations.

In addition to having support from senior leaders, another helpful source for modernization programs has been the U.S. Army Futures Command. Established in 2018 with a sharp focus on meeting modernization goals, he said this centralized effort has brought a streamlined approach to modernization. And having a four-star general “intimately involved in the modernization effort” has assured its success.

“Since the end of the Cold War, when the Army has been faced with a significant downturn in the top line, the easy button has been modernization,” he said. In other words, when previous budgets have taken a hit, modernization was the first to be cut.

“[Army leaders] have turned down the modernization dial in order to preserve end strength,” he said. “And whatever

was left over after that, we put into readiness to ensure we had the ability to fight.”

To him, hitting “the easy button” is just the easy way out for that moment in time, he said. Now things are different: there is no easy way out.

“The equipment we have today is what we need to deter, and if necessary, fight and win against high-end adversaries” like China and Russia, he said. And if it comes time to cut spending “I believe we’ll continue to fully resource top priority” efforts like Army Futures Command’s cross functional teams.

Despite challenges, “we’re on a path to deliver the next-generation capabilities our Soldiers require, and if necessary, to fight and win against near-peer adversaries in the future,” he said.

The Army’s No. 1 modernization priority, the long-range precision fires portfolio, is on track to deliver the force’s long-range hypersonic weapon, he said. Earlier this year, in a joint effort with the Navy, the Army successfully test fired a hypersonic missile and plan to have a battery of prototype hypersonic weapons fielded by fiscal year 2023.

When it comes to mid-range capabilities, the Tomahawk, a low-flying subsonic missile, and SM-6, a supersonic, high-altitude missile, are both capable of “striking maritime and land targets at range,” he said, adding they are on track to be fielded by fiscal 2023.

The Extended Range Cannon Artillery, or ERCA, which is capable of firing rounds more than 40 miles, is also on the horizon, he said, adding that a follow-on variant with an auto-loader is in the works, too.

Other modernization programs are also in various stages of implementation. For example, next month the Army plans to release a request for proposal for the Optionally Manned Fighting Vehicle.

Pasquarette assured the virtual audience “we’re on a positive path” to modernization as the Army continues to “revolutionize how we fight where it

matters most -- at the squad and platoon levels.”

But modernization is not cheap, especially when facing a flat budget.

For the third year in a row, senior leaders have conducted “night court” processes across Army portfolios to realign funds to modernization efforts, he said.

The budgetary review strategy, which was most recently conducted in the spring under COVID-19 conditions, helped leaders realign billions of dollars, he said.

Pasquarette, who manages the night court process, did not disclose an exact dollar amount or how many programs were cut during the 2022 program review, but he said this year’s findings were comparable to last year’s deep-dive.

During last year’s budget review for 2021, senior leaders realigned roughly \$10 billion and eliminated 80 legacy programs.

Last year “we received the resources needed to grow the Army, increase the readiness of the Army, and invest in the future readiness of the United States Army,” the general said.

Even though the future of the Army’s spending is “a bit hazy,” he said, Army leaders and lawmakers are making the right choices to keep modernization efforts on track.



## Warp Speed Readies to Distribute New Drug Cocktail for COVID-19

*By C. Todd Lopez, Defense.gov*

WASHINGTON – On November 21<sup>st</sup>, the Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization, or EUA, for casirivimab and imdevimab. Administered together, intravenously, this drug “cocktail” has been shown in

trials to reduce hospitalization or emergency room visits in patients who have contracted [COVID-19](#).



*The 378th Expeditionary Medical Squadron recently installed new COVID-19 test equipment at Prince Sultan Air Base, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The BioFire Diagnostics System increases the medical staff's capability to identify possible COVID-19 cases on base by producing results within an hour. Photo credit: Staff Sgt. Cary Smith.*

The investigational monoclonal antibody therapeutic cocktail of casirivimab and imdevimab, from drug maker Regeneron, is not for COVID-19 patients who are already hospitalized, but instead for patients who have mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms and who are at high risk of disease progression.

According to the FDA, administration of casirivimab and imdevimab proved better than a placebo at reducing viral load in infected patients. Additionally, the FDA said, for high-risk patients, only 3% of those treated with the drug cocktail eventually required hospitalization or emergency room visits, versus 9% for those who received the placebo.

"Keeping patients out of the hospital with this therapeutic can reduce the strain on our healthcare system, help hospitalized patients receive better care, and in all likelihood, save lives," Alex M. Azar, secretary of Health and Human Services, said during a conference call today.

Operation Warp Speed plans to begin distribution of the new drug cocktail where it's needed most around the country beginning Nov. 24. To start with, Azar said, about 30,000 doses will be available for distribution initially, with more becoming available in the coming weeks.

Dr. John Redd, the chief medical officer for the office of the assistant secretary for

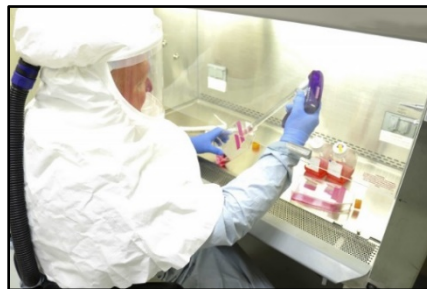
preparedness and response within HHS said distribution of the casirivimab and imdevimab cocktail will be similar to the distribution of another monoclonal, bamlanivimab. That drug is manufactured by Eli Lilly and Company, and it received a similar FDA EUA November 9.

"We will continue to manage the allocation and distribution of COVID-19 treatments in a manner that is fair, equitable, accessible and understandable to the American public," Redd said.

With bamlanivimab, distribution is now in the third week. Already, Redd said, more than 120,000 patient courses for that drug have been allocated across the nation, and over 85,000 patient courses of bamlanivimab have been delivered to nearly 2,500 care sites across the nation.

"In so doing we've taken into account both ethical and clinical considerations as part of the allocation methodology," Redd said. "We will continue to use this methodology for allocation of the Regeneron therapeutic as well."

Redd said distribution will make use of existing infrastructure within the federal government as well as the manufacturer and distributor channels. Allocations to state and territory health departments are proportionally based on confirmed COVID-19 cases in each state and territory over the previous seven days, he said.



*Brian Kearney, a research microbiologist, harvests samples of the coronavirus in a Biosafety Level 3 laboratory at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Md., March 3, 2020. This virus stock's purpose is to develop models of infection for coronavirus, as well as diagnostic tests, vaccines and therapeutics. (Photo Credit: William FBill Discher, Army*

"The federal government allocates the medication to state and territorial health departments," Redd said. "Those health

departments will, in turn, continue to determine which treatment facilities in their respective states and territories actually receive the drug, as it is the health departments, not the federal government, that have the greatest insight into the needs of their jurisdictions."

OWS is a partnership between the Defense Department and the Department of Health and Human Services. Specific DHS components involved include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health and the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority.



## These Reading Apps Will Ensure Your Favorite Books Are Always with You

*By Kimberly Zapata*

Reading is *very* different than it used to be. The act is the same, but the medium has changed (for some, at least). Instead of paging through hardcovers and paperbacks, most of us turn to our phones, tablets, and [e-reading devices](#). The bad news (at least for print purists) is that this format lacks a certain *je ne sais quoi*. The upside? Thanks to user-friendly reading apps, literature is always at our fingertips. Try Apple Books where you can join [Oprah's Book Club](#), or Overdrive, a free app that lets you virtually borrow audiobooks and e-books with a valid library card or account. If you have a child in the family, the young reader app, Epic, might come in handy, and there's even an option specifically for comic book lovers!

So if you're looking to download some digital books, our favorite [beach reads](#), [true crime page-turners](#), [dystopian novels](#), [YA](#), [scary stories](#), and [cozy Christmas tales](#) can be accessed with the push of a button.

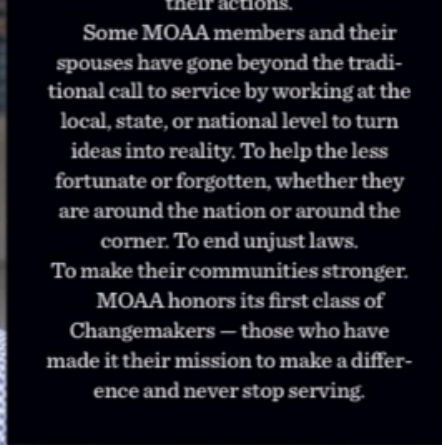
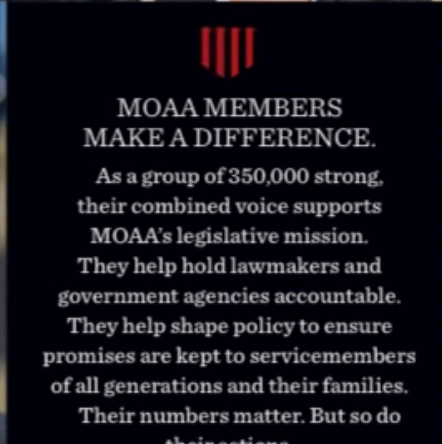
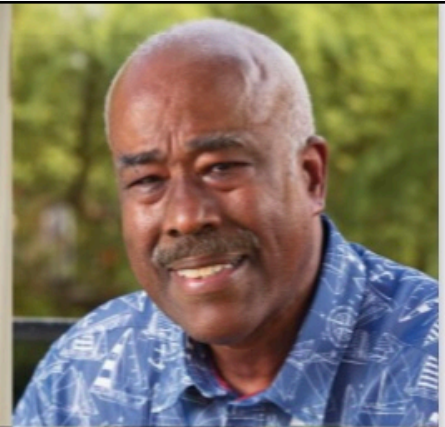
*Continued on page 15*

COVER STORY

# THE CHANGE *MAKERS*

Meet MOAA members and spouses  
whose stand-out service  
is worthy of recognition.

Reprinted from the December 2020  
Edition of the MOAA Digital Magazine



NEVER STOP SERVING.

## Brig. Gen. Larry Gillespie, USA (Ret)

The group of Army officers who began gathering in the mid-1960s at the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., had plenty in common.

"They were meeting informally, primarily just to help and support each other," said Brig. Gen. Larry Gillespie, USA (Ret), chairman of the board of an organization now more than four decades old that helps mentor and support military officers.

When many of the officers received assignments at the Pentagon and the greater Washington, D.C., area, they continued to meet. By the fall of 1974, led by Brig. Gen. Roscoe Cartwright and Col. Robert B. Burke, they agreed to formalize the growing network.

After Cartwright died in a plane crash along with his wife, the group named itself The ROCKS and created the Roscoe C. Cartwright Scholarship Fund in his honor. Today, The ROCKS has 16 chapters and 1,200 members worldwide. Gillespie joined the organization just a few years after it was formalized.

"What it means to me now and what it meant to me back in those days was providing guidance, leadership, and mentorship," he said. With Gillespie at its helm, The ROCKS helps guide ROTC cadets, junior officers, and others as they seek to advance their careers — and carries on the legacy of Cartwright, who provided nurturing guidance to young officers.

Gillespie grew up interested in flight and military life; his uncle was a member of the Golden 13, the first African American officers in the Navy.

He went to Officer Candidate School and then flight school. Soon, he was flying gunships in Vietnam, where he served two tours. He retired in 2000 as assistant deputy commanding general of Army Materiel Command after 36 years of service. He went on to spend four years on the

'What it meant to me ... was providing guidance, leadership, and mentorship.'



Defense Intelligence Agency Advisory Board, and today serves as chairman of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve in addition to chairman of the board of The ROCKS.

Today, Gillespie is most proud of his two tours in Vietnam, "for being able to carry out what I was assigned to do, and being able to save lives, and just serve the Army as I should." ■■■

*By Kristin Davis | Photo by Mike Morones*

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Congratulations to our Chairman of the National Board as MOAA recognizes his continued service!



## GREAT READS FROM GREAT LEADERS

*A great book engages you and provokes thought. Give the gift of reading, a book which is a great read to a friend, a loved one or just treat yourself during this holiday season. Some favorites from some senior leaders are:*

You'll get a lot of books on leadership and our profession from this group and many if not most of them are similar. I'd offer a book that talks to the dynamic on the African continent and examines the countries since the Independence era. It is a large volume but to those who seek an understanding of what drove the dynamics of what happened, it is a great read. Talk about valuable insights that guided my years as COM AFRICOM, this is it!! The leadership and tactics piece notwithstanding, this was a jewel. And as I said, you'll get a lot of the other to be sure. This one is history and perspective on a part of the world we need to be concerned about. ***The Fate of Africa*** by Martin Meredith.

- General (Retired) Kip Ward  
Former Commanding General  
US Africa Command

These three books are my favorites because of the quality of research and the story telling of African Americans in the defense of our Nation. They are:

- \* ***Strength For The Fight: A History of Black Americans in the Military*** by Bernard Nalty
- \* ***The African-American Soldier: From Crispus Attucks to Colin Powell*** by Michael Lee Lanning
- \* ***The American Foreign Legion: Black Soldiers of the 93d in World War I*** by Frank Roberts (best discussion of the Black regiments under French command)

- General (Retired) Vincent K. Brooks  
Former Commanding General  
United States Forces Korea

*Write to be  
understood,  
speak to be  
heard,  
READ TO  
GROW.*  
— Lawrence Clark Powell

## Reading Apps continued from page 10

But how do you know which reading app is the best for you? Check out our picks here. Bonus: Many are free.



### Apple Books



Books is Apple's one-stop shop for all things literature. You can browse the shelves of their online "book store," keep track of what you've read—and what you want to read—listen to your favorite audiobooks, and even [join Oprah's Book Club](#) (which we obviously recommend).

### Overdrive



While we *love* going to the library, in-person visits aren't always possible—but that's where Overdrive comes in. This app works with area libraries to give you access to thousands of e-books, audiobooks, and videos... for free.

### Libby by Overdrive

Like Overdrive, Libby lets you peruse the "shelves" of your local library from home. However, since Libby is a newer app, it does not have all the bells and whistles of Overdrive—though its faster and (arguably) more attractive.

### Google Play Books



Formerly Google eBooks, this app doesn't just give you access to millions of titles, it also lets you make layout changes, i.e. you can tweak each piece's typeface, font size, and line spacing. It allows you to highlight text and access a built-in dictionary, and Google Play Books has a special mode for reading

manga and comics, which brings your favorite animated stories to life.

### Epic!

If the little bookworm in your life—be they in kindergarten or middle school—enjoys reading apps, look no further than Epic! With a colorful, inviting, and easy-to-use interface, multiple profiles, several languages, 35,000 titles, learning videos, and quizzes, and a "read-to-me" mode, Epic! is handy for any emerging reader.

### Amazon Kindle



Kindle may be the most common and well-known e-reading program, and for good reason. The app offers a wide selection of books, magazines, and newspapers—more than one million to be exact. The interface is clean and easy-to-use. Plus, you don't have to own a Kindle to access its content. The app is available on Android and iOS devices.

### Goodreads



For a fun, interactive reading app try Goodreads, where you can participate in reading challenges, see book reviews, get updated on your friends's reading lists, get personalized recommendations, vote for your favorite books in the annual Goodreads Choice Awards, and more. Plus the app's catalog has more than 12 million books.

### ComiXology



If you're looking for a solid way to read graphic novels, mangas, and comics online, look no further than ComiXology. With a clean interface and immersive reading experience, this cloud-based service gives you access to more than 100,000 titles.

### Scribd

If you love to read, you may want to consider Scribd. This subscription service gives you access to millions of book and audiobooks—all for \$8.99 a month.

### Rakuten Kobo



While Rakuten's Kobo has a strong international presence, the app is relatively unheard of in the United States. But don't let its obscurity fool you: Kobo has a *huge* library (more than 5 million titles!) and it allows you to import your own content.

### Aldiko



Aldiko is—first and foremost—an e-reader, but what makes it stand out is its competitive shopping platform. This app doesn't have its own bookstore. Instead, you browse several options to get the best price. Aldiko also lets you read *any* EPUB, PDF, or Adobe DRM file.

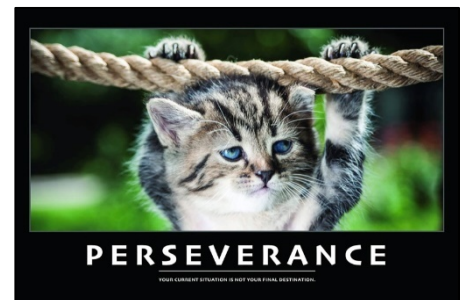
### Serial Box

While Serial Box isn't a reading app—at least not technically—the audiobook program features thousands of science fiction, fantasy, drama, thriller, and mystery stories from award-winning creators. Plus, each "episode" is broken into 20 to 60 minute parts, making it easy to get your literary fix on-the-go.

### AIRreader



Even though AIRreader is a relative newcomer to the e-book scene, it is already making a name for itself thanks to its solid and highly customizable design. Plus, AIRreader supports older Android devices, which most applications do not.



## How 9 Governors Are Handling the Next Coronavirus Wave

By Rachel Roubein and Shia Kapos

President Donald Trump hasn't been leading on the coronavirus and governors are again in charge of the nation's response. They're reacting with a patchwork policy that's unlikely to head off the long-warned "dark winter" in America.

Governors are balancing rising case numbers and pressure to keep schools, restaurants and bars at least partially open. They're employing loosely defined "curfews" on all but essential workers, admonishments over holding Thanksgiving dinners and reductions in capacity limits on indoor spaces — and a [growing number of Republicans are mandating masks](#).

What they're not doing: Returning to the all-or-nothing approach of the pandemic's earliest month, sparing a disease-weary public another round of lockdowns.

"Governors are being very, very careful. They're being surgical in some of their requirements," said Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers, a Democrat who has battled Republicans over his containment efforts, in an interview. "The big ones are making sure people wear masks and facial coverings. I think they're doing a good job."

Here's a look at how nine governors — from across the country and from across the political spectrum — are responding to what experts fear may become the deadliest coronavirus surge yet in the U.S.

### How bad is the pandemic?

South Dakota has one of the highest rates of cases per capita in the entire country, [according to CDC data](#) — a fact Noem didn't acknowledge in a press conference last week. It's one of just several states where [close to half of coronavirus tests are positive](#), and the home state of a [nurse who went viral](#) this month after sharing



Photo Credit: POLITICO illustration/Getty Images, AP, iStock Govs. Greg Abbott, Charlie Baker, Andrew Cuomo, Ron DeSantis, Tony Evers, Gary Herbert, Gavin Newsom, Kristi Noem and J.B. Pritzker

stories of dying patients who refuse to believe the coronavirus is real.

### How South Dakota is fighting the virus

Noem has taken a page out of Trump's playbook, repeatedly downplayed the virus while also taking a more hands-off approach to fighting the pandemic than many of the nation's governors.

She refused lockdowns in the spring, and allowed the massive Sturgis Motorcycle Rally to proceed this summer — an event since linked to [hundreds of cases](#) across the region. As the virus surged in the state this fall, Noem didn't implement restrictions and declined to urge state residents to even wear masks, let alone enact a mandate.

"I've consistently said that people that want to wear masks should wear masks and people who don't shouldn't be shamed because they choose not to," Noem said at a press conference last week.

Her office defended her pandemic response in a statement.

"Look at Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois — states that have had mask mandates for months but are still seeing rapidly increasing cases," wrote Ian Fury,

a Noem spokesperson, in an email. "Since the start of the pandemic, Governor Noem has focused on solutions that do good, not solutions that feel good."

— Rachel Roubein

### How bad is the pandemic?

After months of low positivity rates — Illinois was an island surrounded by others with soaring numbers of cases — the state has seen an "exponential" rise in cases and hospitalizations in recent weeks. In the past week, it surpassed 11,000 deaths, a number the state health department thought wouldn't be reached until the end of the year.

### How Illinois is fighting the virus

Pritzker was an early adopter of ordering masks to be worn, wearing one himself when he approached the podium for his daily Covid-19 briefings. His springtime executive order locking down the entire state — the first in the country, along with California — drew criticism from rural residents who said it wasn't fair to lump their sprawling downstate region with urban Chicago.

So Pritzker divided the state into 11 regions and now gauges the need for mitigation based on each region's hospital bed availability and positivity

rates. Lawsuits have since ensued, but they've been shot down by the courts.

"We're a big state, so it made sense in some ways. You couldn't do it in a state that's half our size," Pritzker said in an interview. "It really worked for a while. We'd put regions into mitigations and out of mitigations and then you didn't have to force other regions into mitigation when they are doing well."

In the second wave, bars and restaurants have closed for indoor dining, retail stores must adhere to new capacity limits — grocery stores at 50 percent and big-box stores at 25 percent. Museums, movie theaters and casinos are closed, too. The mask mandate remains, and Pritzker says the state is one step away from an order to stay at home.

#### **His biggest challenge?**

"The politics of mask-wearing and the politics that Donald Trump brought to fighting a virus that doesn't know politics," Pritzker said. "The virus is killing Republicans just like Democrats. This virus is killing people who don't wear masks more often than it's killing people who wear masks, for sure. I'm trying to keep everyone, Republicans and Democrats, safe."

— *Shia Kapos*

#### **How bad is the pandemic?**

Massachusetts was an early hot spot at the beginning of the pandemic. Coronavirus cases are rising again in Massachusetts: The state is reporting around 2,000 new cases per day and just passed the grim milestone of 10,000 coronavirus-related deaths. Officials say Bay State hospitals are better prepared with personal protective equipment and hospital capacity to handle the current surge.

#### **How Massachusetts is fighting the virus**

Massachusetts has had a mask requirement in place since the spring, but Baker issued a stricter order in November requiring residents wear face masks at all times in public.

"We are in the midst of a surge in cases," Baker said during a recent press conference. "There is community

transmission across the commonwealth. And we are standing up at least one field hospital to treat a crush of ill patients."

Baker recently imposed a 9:30 p.m. curfew for indoor dining and social gatherings, and asked residents to be in their own homes by 10 p.m., though some state lawmakers and advocates are calling on Baker to halt indoor dining completely.

The biggest fight playing out in Massachusetts is how to handle schools as cases increase. The Baker administration has stressed the importance of keeping schools open in person, and points to data that shows the virus is not spreading rapidly at schools. The in-person school push has put Baker at odds with local officials and powerful teachers' unions.

Reopening plans are up to local school committees in the state's 351 cities and towns, and many have opened for remote-only learning or a hybrid model with limited in-person attendance.

— *Stephanie Murray*

#### **How bad is the pandemic?**

Wisconsin is seeing one of the worst outbreaks in the nation, [according to the CDC](#). The coronavirus case count is continuing to rise, while the availability of intensive care unit beds has dwindled to dangerously low levels.

#### **How Wisconsin is fighting the virus**

Evers has faced a slew of legal challenges over his policies aimed at slowing the spread of the virus. He has not been especially successful in defending the efforts.

The state Supreme Court sided with lawmakers who said they should have had a say in whether to extend Evers' initial stay-at-home order. The decision resulted in the state opening up again, and coronavirus cases skyrocketing.

"It's dire," Evers said in the interview. The governor has declared a public health emergency in the state, requiring face coverings in public. That too is being challenged by conservatives.

Local health departments, including those of big cities like Milwaukee and Madison, have reduced the capacities of restaurants and other businesses. And some school districts have closed in-person high school attendance. The state is also encouraging — not ordering — residents to stay home.

But Evers says he wants to do more.

"Republican opposition is no question the biggest challenge," he said. "They've taken the Trump mantra to a whole new level. When you're against mitigation and against any effort to prevent the virus from spreading and requiring that, that's a problem. And we've been fighting that for months and that's one of the reasons we are in the predicament we are."

— *Shia Kapos*

#### **How bad is the pandemic?**

Texas is in the midst of another severe outbreak following a summer spike in cases. More than one million Texans have tested positive for Covid-19 so far and more than 20,000 have died. El Paso, in West Texas, has become a virus epicenter during the current outbreak, with some of the fastest growing caseloads in the nation. Hospitals have been so full that patients are being air-lifted to other cities and a field hospital has been constructed at a city convention center.

#### **How Texas is fighting the virus**

In the summer, with cases rapidly rising in the state, Abbott reimposed a series of Covid-19 measures: He limited capacity in restaurants, shut down bars and for the first time instituted a statewide mask mandate. In September he relaxed restrictions for businesses, pointing to declining hospitalizations.



*Continued on page 34*

## Oldest Living Tuskegee Airman Brigadier Charles McGee Turns 101

Submitted by COL (Ret) Dorene Hurt  
(Primary Source:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles\\_McGee\\_\(Tuskegee\\_Airman\)#/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charles_McGee_(Tuskegee_Airman)#/))



General McGee is a retired American fighter pilot and one of the last living members of the Tuskegee Airmen, an all African-American military pilot group who fought during World War II (as part of the 332d Fighter Group). He served as an officer in the U. S. Air Force for over 30 years. He flew 409 combat missions in WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, one of the highest combat totals and longest active-duty careers by any Air Force fighter pilot in history. The ROCKS, Inc. proudly join everyone in wishing Brig Gen. McGee Happy 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday

He was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on December 7, 1919. As a child, McGee was a member of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and earned the Eagle Scout award in 1940. He was recognized as a Distinguished Eagle Scout Award in 2010.

In March 1942, McGee was a sophomore at the University of Illinois studying engineering. He was a member of the National Society of Pershing Rifles. He also became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. He enlisted in the U. S. Army on October 26, 1942, the same month he was sworn in as an aviation cadet.

He would in time become part of the Tuskegee Airmen, having already earned his pilot's wings graduating in June 1943. By February 1944, McGee was stationed in Italy with the 302nd

Fighter Squadron of the 332d Fighter Group, flying his first mission on Valentine's Day. McGee flew multiple aircraft escorting bombers over Germany, Austria, and the Balkans.

In August 1944, while escorting B-17s he shot down a Luftwaffe aircraft. Now a captain, McGee had flown 137 combat missions before returning to the U. S. in late 1944, to become an instructor for the bombers of the 477th Bomb Group (Medium), another unit of the Tuskegee Airmen where he remained until it closed in 1946.

After World War II, McGee was assigned at Lockbourne Army Air Field, Columbus, Ohio, continuing his service as a fighter pilot. When the Korean War broke out, he flew P-51 Mustangs in the 67th Fighter Bomber Squadron, completing 100 missions. During the Vietnam War, McGee flew 172 combat missions. During his Southeast Asia combat tour, McGee served as the Squadron Commander of the 16th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron (TRS), of the 460th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing in South Vietnam. In a 30-year active service career, McGee achieved a three-war fighter mission total of 409 combat missions, one of the highest by any Air Force fighter pilot. After a series of other assignments in the U. S. and abroad, then Col McGee retired in January 1973. He ended his military career with 6,308 flying hours. McGee was recognized for his combat and military service with numerous military awards and decorations.



Brig Gen McGee at the 2020 State of the Union address

In March 2007, President Bush and the U.S. Congress awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to McGee and other surviving and deceased

Tuskegee Airmen. The Congressional Gold Medal is the nation's highest civilian award. On February 4, 2020, McGee was promoted to brigadier general. It was authorized in legislation introduced in December 2019 shortly after his 100th birthday.



Brig Gen McGee surrounded by well wishers in celebration of his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday in Maryland

After his military service, McGee held many prestigious functional and honorary positions in the field of aviation. In 1978, he completed his college degree at Columbia College, over 30 years after his initial enrollment at the University of Illinois. Though interrupted by World War II, a college degree was a lifelong goal. General McGee served as the Director of the Kansas City airport and as a member of the Aviation Advisory Commission. For over 30 years, he's served an ambassador of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. In 2018, to celebrate McGee's 99th birthday, former Air Force pilot Glenn Gonzales took McGee for a flight, allowing McGee to take the controls of an airplane in flight for the first time in 37 years. In December 2019, for his 100th birthday, McGee flew with a copilot to Dover Air Force Base where he was lauded by all present.



## ROCKS ON THE RISE

### Lynchburg Doctor of Medical Science Graduate, Veteran Making Her Mark in Army Medical Department

Since earning her Doctor of Medical Science (DMSc) degree from the University of Lynchburg in September, Lt. Col. Sharon Denson '20 DMSc has continued to garner accolades as a U.S. Army medical professional.

This month, Denson, who currently serves in the U.S. Army Medical Command as an allied health policy officer at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, was selected for the competitive Army Medical Department Long-Term Health Education and Training program. Her 12-month internship starts next summer and will include testing and evaluating medical materiel and equipment for deployable organizations in the Department of Defense.

"I'm extremely grateful to be one of the medical officers selected for this amazing opportunity," Denson said.

The honor follows Denson's recent award of the Army Surgeon General's 9A Proficiency Designator, the highest recognition for professional excellence in the Army Medical Department. Candidates nominated for the honor must be eminently qualified to chair a department, division or service, or have attained full professional status and national prominence in their field.

Denson enlisted in the Army in 1989 and served nine years as an automated logistics specialist. She was a Distinguished Honor Graduate in Army Advanced Individual Training, inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club in 1997, and achieved the rank of sergeant first class before attending the Interservice Physician Assistant Program at Fort Sam Houston in 1999.

Her long career has shown her that physician assistants are uniquely qualified to thrive in a military environment.

"PAs are clinically proficient and board-certified medical professionals who deliver a unique skill set to support Army warfighters," Denson explained. "We adapt to fluid and stressful situations in tactical, operational, and strategic environments. PAs apply critical and creative thinking to devise timely solutions to complex problems. We also possess multifunctional leadership skills that enable us to successfully perform in command and staff positions across the Army."



For Denson, Lynchburg's DMSc program was a perfect match, because it challenged her to take those skills a step further.

"The University of Lynchburg DMSc program was exactly what I needed," Denson said. "It's designed for PAs like me who desire to go beyond clinical practice and serve in a variety of roles and leadership positions, in administration or academia. The DMSc program has also strengthened my knowledge in research, disaster management, and global health. I could not believe how applicable the coursework was during the pandemic."

Denson's academic career began in 2003 with a Bachelor of Science in physician assistant studies from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Army Medical Specialist Corps and deployed immediately after graduation to Iraq, often supporting the maneuver units. After a redeployment in 2004, Denson completed a master's in physician assistant studies at Nebraska.

She deployed again in 2005 as the senior medical officer and, after two combat tours, was reassigned as a surgeon and platoon leader from 2007 to 2011. Her numerous assignments since then have



included serving in the Pentagon from 2013 to 2016.

Among Denson's awards and honors are two Bronze Stars, four Meritorious Service medals, and the AMEDD Order of Military Medical Merit. She is the membership director for the Society of Army Physician Assistants, East Texas' military attaché for Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, and the corresponding secretary for Alpha Pi Zeta in San Antonio. She's also an active member of the Junior League of San Antonio and one of the NCCPA Ambassadors for 2020-21.

A wife, mother of four, and grandmother, Denson isn't showing any signs of slowing down anytime soon.

"I have one of the best professions in the world and I wake up every day to serve in the best Army in the world," she said. "I'm determined to help advance the efforts of the PA profession and its relevance to the operational force. PAs are in high demand due to increasing Army medicine requirements, and I want to help fill those demands."



Lieutenant Colonel Denson is a seasoned Physician Assistant (PA) who serves as the MEDCOM Clinical Policy Service, Allied Health Policy Officer and the Surgeon General's PA Deputy Consultant. She also serves as the Vice President of the Alamo Chapter of the ROCKS.



*Mechanics from 2-15FA, 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT, 10<sup>th</sup> TN DIV (LI), are preparing to preform an engine replacement during table certifications for the firing batteries*

## Being a Non-Combat Officer in a Combat Battalion

*Written By: LT Jeron Draine*

Serving in a combat arms battalion as a support asset presents many leadership opportunities for a newly commissioned second lieutenant. A support officer is expected to understand the equipment and vernacular of their unit, while serving as the subject matter expert in their support area.

Even though your branch may be different from others in the battalion, be prepared to embrace opportunities distinguish yourself. Study TM's, ask questions, volunteer to take on challenging tasks, excel in PT, and become a part of the team.

How does one become a part of the team? Participate in Hail and Farewells, Right Arm Nights, and social activities that promote building relationships, establishing trust, and demonstrating one's ability to be a multi-faceted leader. Additionally, serve as the standard bearer for your enlisted members. Soldiers trust what they see beyond what you say. Also, remember your word is your bond. When you say you will do something, accomplish a task, or support something – it is imperative that you keep your word.

The task is often intimidating being non-combat arms officer working in a combat battalion. If you take the time to master your craft, learn more about the operating

procedures of your battalion, and continue to strive for excellence both physically and mentally then the experience is extremely rewarding. Initially, be prepared to feel overwhelmed and treated differently because you are not combat arms. However, stay focused, be a team player, and always remember that non-combat support is the foundation to any battalion success!



**HOPE**  
Is seeing light  
in spite  
of being  
surrounded  
by darkness.

Live Purposefully Now



## Expanding (Y)our Networks

By COL (R) Eric P. Flowers USA

As we progress further into the “Roaring Twenties,” we serve the ROCKS’ best interests by recognizing we offer a valuable service within the Profession of Arms and additional avenues of support exist outside our comfort levels and traditional circles of affiliation. Fortunately, through the National Board’s foresight, we now possess the ability to proactively and boldly seek out opportunities to create noticeable synergies between the two points highlighted earlier. These synergies exist in the domain of fundraising.

Friends and supporters, March 2021 marks the start of the National Board’s efforts to impart every chapter with fundraising tools and enduring, replicable skillsets designed to infuse existing fundraising activities with cutting-edge technical capabilities. Of course, this benefit lacks the ability to do it all for us, but it does posture us to begin to look at chapter-level fundraising as both a science and as an art in a timely and efficient fashion. In the coming weeks, Chapter treasurers can expect to receive invitations to take advantage of training sessions intended to pass on these skills and capabilities. Please accept the invitations and get ready to take your chapter’s fundraising to new heights!

Given the nature of what we do via mentoring, professional development, and scholarship disbursements, it makes

sense that we deliberately look beyond our traditional sources of support (the members) and strategically tap into external opportunities of support. The aftermath from last summer’s social turbulence shows us there exists a potential multitude of untapped sources of support waiting for us to approach them for new collaborative partnerships. We would do ourselves (and our legacy) a disservice by not seeking out new partners in our respective networks and proactively engaging with them. Whether it be the regional headquarters of a major business located in the Chapter’s area of operations, or the altruistic local resident eager to help promote the matriculation of tomorrow’s leaders, we are well served by expanding our networks. Doing so increases our ability to work in a collaborative fashion with more businesses and individuals for the well-being of the greater good.

Fellow ROCKS, our organization has so much potential, and now is a fitting time to act on this recognition and do things in a more deliberate and expansive manner. When we do so, we enhance our ability to touch the lives of others in far-reaching and indelible ways. Our forthcoming skills enrichment activities (in organizational fundraising) intends to contribute to our collective efforts to take the organization to the next level; please don’t forsake the opportunity to be a part of it- the learning/development opportunity is not just limited to Chapter treasurers.

The year of 2021 is going to be a dynamic and explosive year, and our intention to raise our level of fundraising- across the *entire* organization- is just another way that (y)our National Board is determined to...

Set the standard!!!

Eric Flowers,  
VP, Finance



## It Takes A Village

by Karen M. Wrancher

Despite being at what we hope is the beginning of the end of a pandemic, which has curtailed travel, working in office space and even caused some individuals to feel isolated, ROCKS chapters and their members have found innovative and creative ways to conduct relevant and engaging leadership professional development sessions (LPDs) keeping us all connected worldwide. From the Aloha Chapter in Hawaii to the Morning Calm Chapter in South Korea, the National Board of the ROCKS and chapters’ members have conducted outstanding LPDs. The new level of success and participation is because these events have been conducted using virtual platforms, resulting in an unprecedented level of participation with individuals from different geographical areas and traversing different time zones. Starting with The Talk with several successful general officers including then Major General Gary N. Brito (who has since gone on to be selected as the Army G-1) before the advent of the pandemic. Attendees of these virtual LPDs have unfettered access to leaders, have the opportunity to talk to general officers directly and ask them questions about the social and racial unrest that was gripping our country. In addition, it provided officers with a window of opportunity to ask about professional development and obtain advice on how to pursue a successful Army career. This successful event was followed by the Talk 2, when again ROCKS members had the opportunity to talk directly to our Army

leadership which included the Secretary of Army, the Chief of Staff of the Army, the Sergeant Major of the Army, and the Senior Warrant Officer Adviser to the 40th Chief of Staff of the Army.

helping to develop officers (of all racial backgrounds and ethnicities). Additionally, there are those that would ask why should I join the ROCKS at a time when I can go to our website or

and unparalleled opportunity to talk directly to senior leaders and general officers to get professional advice and guidance on how to be successful. Also attendees have unfettered access to general officers to hear their stories on how they negotiated their way around difficult and challenging situations. No matter how successful you are or how successful you will become, there are those moments in your career where you will encounter challenges and you may not have all the answers. Whether you are receiving answers from retired or active duty leaders while the regulations and the number assigned to policies may change, the inter-dynamics and the challenges that face the Army to include racial equality, diversity and even gender equality continue to be a challenge for our Army has existed for more than 200 years. The reality is there are good people that serve our nation but conversely and unfortunately, there are those that cling to their preconceived notions, even prejudices of what people can accomplish based on their ethnicity or their gender.

The ROCKS is an established organization which is recognized by the Army's Senior leadership as an organization established to support and provide mentoring in our community, no matter an individual's ethnicity or gender. The ROCKS is open to officers, Department of the Army civilians and their spouses who wish to pursue excellence and want to be part of a professional, networking organization to help them to be successful in their career path. These is time like no other but is a time of limitless possibilities with excellent opportunities to grow and develop professionally together. Join us for our LPDs and you will receive relevant and timeless advice like:

\* You empower your staff, they are the SMEs, allow them to do their job and provide you with the information to make informed command decisions.

\* I would be where my Soldiers...checking on them. As leaders it is our responsibility to look for outstanding, talented Soldiers, that diamond in the rough.

**ROCKS, Inc is with 洪慶安.**

Posted by Karen Wrancher  
September 9 · 🌐

**JOIN THE TALK: Let's keep the dialog and the momentum towards meaningful and relevant c... See More**

**ROCKS Inc. The Talk**  
with  
**Today's Army Leadership**

Saturday, 12 September @ 1530 (EDT)  
Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86203508687?pwd=OWI2bS9XbUJh6bFtHMnhOeQzhZSsvZz09>

Join us as senior leaders address the future direction of our Army, racial diversity and inclusion

**46 Years of Mentoring Today's and Tomorrow's Leaders!**

67 Likes 43 Comments 387 Shares

Love Comment Share

33,522 people reached > **Boost Post**

There are those who would assert that the ROCKS has gone past its time of significance or making an impact in

internet search engine and look for the offer information I need? The answer is simple the ROCKS provides a unique,

\* I was the best company commander — the best trained unit, highest operational readiness ratings but my OER didn't reflect that. I went to my senior rater and professionally and respectfully outlined the reasons why my OER should be changed but my battalion commander would not change it. I saw him years later, he had gotten out of the Army and was a Colonel working the Pentagon and I just said hello and held no malice.

- General (Retired) William "Kip" Ward, Part 1 of the Buffalo Soldiers Series

\* Give people the same respect you expect from them.

\* The more things change, the more they stay the same.

\* When people believe they are participating in the process, it will go well.

- General Johnnie E. Wilson, Part 2 of the Buffalo Soldiers Series

\* When a senior leader recognizes the potential in you and they tell you to call or email them, don't miss out on that opportunity! Reach out and seize that opportunity to be mentored and given help to achieve the next chapter of success.

- BG Milford Beagle, Commanding General of US Army Training Center & Fort Jackson during All-American Chapter's LPD



\* Even a cracked vessel can pour out a blessing.

\* When you are outstanding and you stand out, there may be some unwanted attention you may receive, you need to be prepared for that. (Speaking on jealousy when your goal is to be outstanding and successful in all you do.)

\* When opportunity meets preparation opportunity happens.

\* Think in complexity but speak in simplicity.

- General (Retired) Vincent K. Brooks during Part 3, Buffalo Soldiers Series

Diversity and inclusion require action. It requires decisions and requires leaders that must put themselves out there and must make purposeful decisions.

- General Richard Clarke, Commander of USSOCOM during Tampa ROCKS LPD with General (Retired) Vincent K. Brooks



The power of the ROCKS is it is a multigenerational organization that offers the opportunity to learn and develop while you engage in relevant honest discussion about leadership, mentoring and the future direction of our Army. We bring today's Army Senior Leadership to you like having the Director of the Army's of the Army's Talent Management Task Force, Major General J.P. McGee talked directly to our members about talent management and the armies future direction goals and objectives. That is the power of the ROCKS around the world. Join us and allow us to be part of YOUR Army journey.

### Member Comments

The LPDs and activities that all the chapters are hosting are having a positive impact across the Army enterprise, even for individuals who are in areas that do not have a ROCKS Chapter.

*Email from CPT Kai A. Callwood*

I am not affiliated with any chapter as I am currently overseas and when I return to my HOR there is no chapter nearby in the Virgin Islands. I am still pushing the benefits of the ROCKS. But nonetheless, I appreciate all the chapters as I can participate in the virtual Profession Developments. If you can, please let all those chapters know their work is truly appreciated especially the event with the army leadership in OCT, I think. It was about diversity/equal opportunity/changing the culture.

*Karen Wrancher is a Colonel who served as the Division Chief of the Assistance Division, the United States Army Inspector General's largest division. She is transitioning and will work for Wells Fargo, the 4th largest bank in the nation as an Audit Manager.*





## A Review of Our Membership Year Membership Development

*By COL Angie Hemingway USA (Ret)*

Although this year will go down in history as an incredibly challenging year from any angle you look at it, I hope you will choose to look at the progress we have made. Yes, there are areas where we need to improve, but tiny and consistent steps forward will help us improve in the areas where improvements are needed.

Membership Recruitment has been incredible this year. The Alamo ROCKS Chapter takes the Membership Achievement Award for an 81% increase in membership since January 2020. Other areas they were evaluated on are their engagement with programs and work with cadets. Despite COVID-19, under the leadership of Chapter President Tamisha Norris, they have reached out to Association of the United States Army (AUSA) leaders in their area to coordinate programs. They have worked with the Professor of Military Science (PMS) personnel in their catchment area to mentor and provide training to Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Cadets. Other chapters with membership increase since January include the Fort Drum Climb to Glory ROCKS Chapter – 60% and the Washington DC ROCKS Chapter – 13% of the ROCKS.

The Fort Drum Chapter of the ROCKS received their charter as a chapter in June 2020. Under the leadership of Dr. Jan Gravely the chapter has soared. Dr. Gravely is no stranger to the ROCKS.

Her chapter has soared because of her leadership and her ability to communicate to her chapter members, the vision that is needed to grow. This communication has also extended to the National Board members as well. Dr Gravely's prior work in various positions at the chapter level puts her in a unique position to understand the mission and the vision of the ROCKS and to continue a level of excellence.

The DC Chapter of the ROCKS has always been the Bell Towel for everything ROCKS. Under the leadership of COL (Ret) Shelia Howell-Flowers, the chapter continued forging the way for membership recruitment. The DC Chapter of the ROCKS held the first Zoom meeting of the year which was executed with outstanding excellence. These meetings spoke volumes about the membership need to reconnect and be heard. Membership attendance during the Zoom meetings were well attended by members and guest. COL Flowers left this summer, and the chapter is now under the leadership of LTC (P) Leon Rogers. LTC (P) Rogers brings new ideas which will ensure the great legacy of the DC Chapter.

Looking at the growth of these three chapters, what stands out is these chapters are led by selfless leaders who know and support the operations of the ROCKS Inc. They have worked in various positions in the ROCKS and know the organization. They are personable people, who know that involving and bringing along others will further help in the goal to excellence. It has been said several times, that Ft. Drum has been a chapter in the past, however there is no documentation of this. Dr. Gravely's knowledge of requirements to operate as a chapter was cemented on June 16, 2020 when Fort Drum was chartered as a ROCKS Chapter. And she also has the video to prove it!

This year we have also had a resurgence of interest in chapters who are currently inactive and wanting to become active again. The Ft. Carson, Iron Horse ROCKS Chapter under the leadership of MAJ Tia Terry is finishing requirements to reactivate. We also see a surge in

members joining in the Washington state area where Joint Base Lewis McCoy is located and at Fort Benning, Georgia. Overseas, membership is increasing in Germany and Kuwait areas. The Tampa Interest Group ROCKS is near to becoming a chapter. Don't forget to contact the chapter leadership if you will be PCS there this year.

Much of the quest to stand up chapters in areas that have been dormant has come from junior officers who are crying for leadership. I urge senior leaders to step up to the plate and lead, assist and help chapters to reactive or standup.

As we near the end of the year and head to a New Year, my prayer is that each of you remain safe and vigilant. The Membership Committee will continue to work membership concerns, that increase membership and help spur our organization to a more excellence level.

Thanks for the honor to serve you. Let us know if you need help. I am reachable through the national website at [angiehemingway@hotmail.com](mailto:angiehemingway@hotmail.com).



**Nominations are now being accepted for The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. 2021 Awards.**

**ROCK of the Year**

**Honorary ROCK of the Year**

**COL Robert B. Burke Award**

**Chairman Award for Exceptional Service**

# ROCKS' CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

## Alamo ROCKS' Supports "Houston's Paying it Forward" in Hurricane Laura Relief Response

*Written by LTC Michelle A. Jefferson,  
DVM, DACVP*

San Antonio -- The San Antonio Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. members supported Hurricane Laura relief efforts after the category 4 hurricane caused damage in southwestern Louisiana and southeastern Texas near the Gulf of Mexico.

Martin Luther King, Jr. stated, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is, what are you doing for others?" Though media coverage has turned to other subjects, thousands of people in Louisiana and east Texas are hoping someone remembers them as they continue to face the devastation left behind almost a month ago by hurricane Laura. When asked why it was important to help those affected by hurricane Laura, National Board Alamo Chapter Representative, LTC Michelle A. Jefferson stated, "The Alamo ROCKS are making sure hurricane Laura survivors have critical food, water and other assistance as they work to recover. The ROCKS is a nonprofit organization who puts people first, through its principal mission and core values: mentorship/professional development, leadership outreach, scholarship, networking and community service/outreach. Many ROCKS members and our friends believe that you have not lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you, so it was important that the Alamo ROCKS help our neighboring communities who have been devastated by hurricane Laura by donating critical supplies as they rebuild their lives."

The San Antonio ROCKS, Inc. members initially donated to the Windcrest Lions

Club Donation Drive Sept. 4. After seeing an increased need for supplies, they hosted two-day Hurricane Laura Relief Donation Drive on Sept. 17-18 at the Randolph, Air Force Base in Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA). This donation drive was part of its 2020 Fall Community Service Project.

The chapter coordinated with the Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner's Health Equity Response (H.E.R.) Task Force to collect diapers, cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, nonperishable food, bottled water and pet food. LTC Jefferson also worked with two Airmen mentees from Fort Sam Houston, JBSA, Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Marisa Grantham of 711th Human Performance Wing (HPW)/RHDV (Veterinary Services) and SSgt Marin Jones of 502D Security Forces Squadron (SFS), to organize donation drives within the 711HPW/RHDV and the 502D SFS in order to support the San Antonio ROCKS, Inc. Hurricane Laura Relief Donation Drive. This collaboration with SSgts Grantham and Jones raised more than half of the drive's donations! Overall, they collected 547 diapers; several packs of baby wipes; 20 items of cleaning supplies, several bags of gently used clothing and household linens; more than 600 pounds of nonperishable food; 80 bottled water and 20 pounds of pet food; and over 40 personal hygiene kits that included shampoo/conditioner, soap or body wash, lotion, antiperspirant, hand sanitizer, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

On Saturday, 19 September, several Alamo Chapter members volunteered to load up the donations for Chapter Vice President and Secretary, LTC Sharon Denson. LTC Denson transported the donations to Houston and dropped them off at the Gallery Furniture location in support of the "Houston's Paying it Forward" Relief Response to victims of Hurricane Laura. All donated items were sent to Port Arthur, Orange, and Beaumont, Texas as well as Sulphur and Lake Charles, Louisiana. With the help of partners like the San Antonio ROCKS, Inc., "Houston's Paying it Forward" Relief Response distributed more than 168,000 relief items and cleaning supplies to residents trying to recover

their homes and personal belongings that were damaged or destroyed and help prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

For more information on the San Antonio, TX Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. "Alamo Chapter" activities check out the Chapter Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/alamorocks>



## All American Chapter Hosts "Training Diverse Leaders for Our Future Army"

*Written by LTC Tonya Maddox*

On Thursday, November 19, 2020, the All American Chapter hosted a virtual Leader Professional Development (LPD) titled Training Diverse Leaders for Our Future Army. The LPD, conducted in a panel style allowed the participants to interact with four of the most influential leaders currently serving in the Army Centers of Excellence and Training Center.



*BG Milford Beagle, Jr.*

The panel members consisted of Brigadier General Milford Beagle, Jr, Commanding General, U.S. Army Training Center & Fort Jackson; Brigadier General Kevin D. Admiral, Commandant, U.S. Army Armor School; Brigadier General Mark C. Quander, Commandant, U.S. Army Engineer

School; and Brigadier General James M. Smith, Chief of Transportation and U.S. Army Transportation School Commandant.



BG Kevin Admiral

Some of the key takeaways from this LPD include:

Diversity matters and you should care. Have the difficult conversations and set the example.

In this time of pandemic and extreme stress for some of our leaders and teams, it is important that we connect with our teams and ensure everyone knows and understands that they are valued. COVID19 is Biological. We must not forget our CBRNE training. Adhere to the standards, follow the guidelines, and take no unnecessary risk. Stay on guard and be disciplined.

When presented with challenges, look for opportunity. Good leaders are not complaining, instead, they are problem solving and looking for opportunities to make things better.

Leaders must display the skills necessary, to obtain the buy-in you desire. These skills include behavior, attitude, and habits. Identify and develop those leaders with competence, commitment, and character. Leaders who possess them all will lead our Army one day. We must ensure they are ready. Brevet promotions identify talent that assist Officers to compete for the next level. Balance talent across the board.

Guard your reputation. Conduct yourself in a way that is above reproach. Relationships are important. Relationships between Commands are more important. Be the leader you want to lead you.

Ensure everyone can voice their concerns and be fully engaged as a leader. Each member should feel a part of the team. Gain a seat at the table. Feel a sense of belonging.

Pregnancy does not make a woman leader any less valuable than a man. Families are important. It is up to leaders to eliminate any stigma where women feel they cannot contribute to the team because she decides to start a family.

Mentorship is important. Majors should be extending mentorship to Junior Officers. Consider mentors two levels up. It's not just Colonels and General Officers that should be mentoring. Peers should be helping peers. You need to have a good mentor or two by the time you are a Captain. Establish and begin building your networks. Seize opportunities and do not let them go unanswered. When an invitation is extended to you, reach out quickly and with purpose.



BG Mark C. Quander

#### Suggested Reading:

Mindset - How You Can Fulfil Your Potential, by Carol S. Dweck  
White Fragility, by Robin DiAngelo  
Brothers in Arms: The Epic Story of the 761st Tank Battalion, WWII's Forgotten Heroes, by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Anthony Walton  
Platoon Leader, by James R. McDonough  
Talent Code, by Daniel Coyle  
General Fox Conner: Pershing's Chief of Operations and Eisenhower's Mentor, by Steven Rabalais

The All American Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc., is extremely thankful to these leaders for their time and dedication to helping others grow and reach their full potential.



BG James M. Smith



## US Army War College ROCKS Chapter, AY21

*Submitted by COL LaCher Campbell*

Adjusting to the new environment requires leveraging multiple platforms to support professional development, peer to peer mentorship, and discuss strategic challenges. The MG Charles C. Rogers Carlisle Chapter kicked off the AY21 professional development series with MG Xavier T. Brunson, 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Commanding General, and former Army War College ROCKS President. The chapter was also privileged to have MG Steve Maranian, USAWC Commandant, and CSM Brian Flom, USAWC Command Sergeant Major, in attendance. MG Brunson focused the conversation on "leadership is understanding." He further discussed that serving is a privilege and we are a melting pot of society; we are not reflections of it." MG Brunson closed with, "your legacy at this stage of your career is to shape your subordinates and give back with your time. How are you mentoring the next generation of officers?"

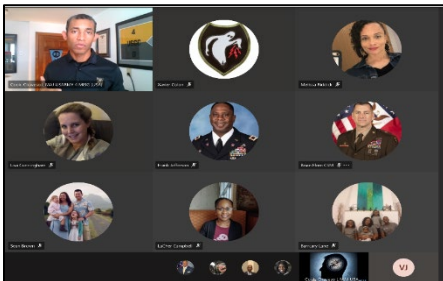


*Chapter members meet each other socially distanced and with masks building relationships beyond the academics.*

During November, the chapter met in person, dispersed in small teams with masks, conducted a meet and greet, and learned ROCKS' history through a trivia game to honor Founder's Day. The chapter also participated in the USAWC forum on Race, Diversity, and Inclusion hosted by the Commandant MG Steve Maranian. The panel members consisted of GEN(R) Vincent Brooks, GEN(R) Carter Ham, MG(R) Linda Singh, MG(R) Ronald Johnson, and COL(R) Dwayne Wagner. The common thread, leaders must be willing to have conversations with empathy and act because inclusion is being included on the team and the field. The chapter followed up with a session on "Crafting Cognitive Diversity: A Few Developmental Ideas" provided by MAJ(P) Chevy Cook, where the chapter shared thoughts on people, suitability, and how cognitive thought is contingent upon inclusion of that thought to create cognitive diversity.



*MG Xavier T. Brunson, 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Commanding General, MG Steve Maranian, USAWC Commandant, and CSM Brian Flom, USAWC Command Sergeant Major with members of the Carlisle ROCKS Chapter.*



*Cognitive Diversity discussion with MAJ(P) Chevy Cook, PhD Candidate via Teams*

As AY21 moves into winter break, members of the chapter look forward to supporting the Carlisle community starting in January 2021 through partnering events. Additionally, the chapter will have an opportunity to host BGen Lorna Mahlock, USMC Director, Command, Control, Communications and Computers (C4) Deputy Department of the Navy Chief Information Officer (CIO) of Marine Corps, on how diverse teams of Joint warfighters can enhance lethality in both competition and conflict. The MG Charles C. Rogers Chapter would like to recognize the chapter's FY21 Command Selectees: LTC(P) Xavier Colon, COL Frank Jefferson, LTC(P) Ricardo Jones, LTC(P) Vernon Jones, Jr., LTC(P) Adisa King, and LTC(P) Barr Cary Lane.

## Manage and Develop

*Article submitted by: CPT Davon Estelle  
and MAJ Raja Nelson, Social  
Media/Public Relations*



*LTC Larry R. Dean, Student,  
National Defense University*

On 15 OCT 2020, The Fort Lee - Central Virginia Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc. hosted a Leader Professional Development session with guest speaker LTC (P) Larry R. Dean. CPT Reginald Hamilton moderated and hosted the LPD.

The discussion was facilitated via Microsoft Teams in order to remain within compliance of COVID-19 restrictions on Fort Lee, VA with a turnout of over 75+ participants and special guest attending.

CPT Hamilton initiated the LPD with a thorough discussion of the purpose and intent of the ROCKS, Inc. This was critical to the success of the LPD understanding that several participants were newly commissioned Second Lieutenants with limited exposure to the broad opportunities that the ROCKS, Inc. provides. CPT Hamilton transitioned the LPD to LTC (P) Dean with a short introduction and his military biography.

LTC (P) Dean covered a wide variety of topics ranging from officer / non-commissioned officer relationships, self-development, and the Army's revitalization initiative on Talent Management. His focus was ensuring the audience understood that the Army is transitioning to a people centric organization and with that shift of focus the new predicated requirements. He spoke on broadening assignments to

include Aide-de-Camp, CTC Observer, Instructor, Recruiter, ROTC PMS, Training with Industry (TWI), Training Developer, Division G4 and BSB S3 referencing directly from DA PAM 600-3 (Commissioned Officer Professional Development and Career Management). Following his discussion, he provided a detailed example of a 5-Year Plan and elaborated on key details for keeping it up to date. After which he opened the floor for comments and additional questions.

LTC Dixon-Reed, Fort Lee - CVC President closed the LPD with additional information on The ROCKS, Inc. and how to become a member and contribute to the organization. She also discussed the benefits of being a local member.



## MG Rogers Chapter Freedom, Democracy, and Thanksgiving Day 2020

*Written by COL (Ret) Charles D. Allen  
(The Sentinel, 26 November 2020)*

As Americans approach the close of 2020, we have lot to reflect upon from the era of COVID-19, its associated economic turmoil, and the political rancor of a presidential election season. Domestically, we continue to struggle with this great experiment called democracy for our society and its culture, which defines the daily experience of the many peoples (citizens and those who aspired to be) inside of our American borders.

This week we will celebrate Thanksgiving Day and follow the tradition of Presidential Proclamation established by Abraham Lincoln in 1863. In November 2019, it opened with: “On Thanksgiving Day, we remember with reverence and gratitude the bountiful blessings afforded to us by our Creator, and we recommit to sharing in a spirit of thanksgiving and generosity with our friends, neighbors, and families.”

Addressing global chaos and turmoil with the emergence of the Second World War

in his January 1941 State of the Union Address, President Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke of four freedoms as values of democratic societies. In preceding years, totalitarian and fascist regimes of Germany, Japan, and Italy continually demonstrated disregard for such values. In his exhortation, FDR was building the case for U.S. intervention for the sake of others — that is, the security of allied governments and their people.

“In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

The first is freedom of speech and expression — everywhere in the world.

The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way — everywhere in the world.

The third is freedom from want, which, translated into world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants — everywhere in the world.

The fourth is freedom from fear, which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor — anywhere in the world.”

The themes of FDR’s speech are poignantly captured by the imagery of Norman Rockwell’s series of paintings, “The Four Freedoms” featured in The Saturday Evening Post. For each issue, the respective painting was accompanied by an essay from a renowned American writer.

As I re-read each one, the essay that spoke to me most in the current context of our American political and social debates, and as we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, was penned in March 1943 by Filipino immigrant, Carlos Bulosan. Rockwell’s iconic cover painting features the happy American Family of multiple generations sitting eager with anticipation around the holiday table laden with plenty.

Bulosan, whose parents suffered economic hardship in his native Philippines and as he also did as an immigrant laborer in California, recasts the “Freedom from Want,” in his essay. It is clear that Bulosan sought the American Dream to overcome the privation of his country of birth to become a citizen of his country of choice — The United States of America.

“It is only when we have plenty to eat — plenty of everything — that we begin to understand what freedom means. To us, freedom is not an intangible thing. When we have enough to eat, then we are healthy enough to enjoy what we eat. Then we have the time and ability to read and think and discuss things. Then we are not merely living but also becoming a creative part of life. It is only then that we become a growing part of democracy.

We do not take democracy for granted. We feel it grow in our working together — many millions of us working toward a common purpose. If it took us several decades of sacrifices to arrive at this faith, it is because it took us that long to know what part of America is ours.”

It is important for us to consider that immigrants “do not take democracy for granted.” Unlike our American citizens who may say “it can’t happen here,” immigrants have such lived experience of failed democracies, which should provide us warning.

Bulosan continues, “Our faith has been shaken many times, and now it is put to question. Our faith is a living thing, and it can be crippled or chained. It can be killed by denying us enough food or clothing, by blasting away our personalities and keeping us in constant fear. Unless we are properly prepared, the powers of darkness will have good reason to catch us unaware and trample our lives.”

Nearly eight decades later, the challenge to faith in the American Dream extends beyond the immigrant ‘other’ to our citizens who continue to suffer from economic and social inequities. To believe in the American democracy requires us to act to address all forms of injustice within our nation.

We must share Bulosan’s hope and affirmations that, “Sometimes we walk

across the land looking for something to hold on to. We cannot believe that the resources of this country are exhausted. Even when we see our children suffer humiliations, we cannot believe that America has no more place for us. We realize that what is wrong is not in our system of government, but in the ideals, which were blasted away by a materialistic age. We know that we can truly find and identify ourselves with a living tradition if we walk proudly in familiar streets. It is a great honor to walk on the American earth."

With the year 2021 ahead, let us make this an American decade and rise to establish freedom from want for others in our society and for our democracy.

*Col. Charles D. Allen, U.S. Army, Ret., is professor of leadership and cultural studies at the U.S. Army War College.*



## Are Warrant Officers Being Utilized Effectively?

*Written by: CW2 Angel Bloodworth and WO1 Monroe Staples*

The Morning Calm Chapter continues to conduct virtual sessions to increase membership and remain connected with members on the peninsula. As our Army continues to meet the unprecedented challenges of COVID-19, we continue to place emphasis developing our junior leaders. We started with a Warrant Officer Professional Development (WOPD) zoom call, hosted by the Republic of Korea Morning Calm Warrant Officers Association.

On Oct. 12, CW2 Angel Bloodworth and WO1 Monroe Staples facilitated a ZOOM session with 56 participants, comprised of senior leaders from around the world. The professional, informal atmosphere facilitated the discussion: Are Warrant Officers effectively utilized?

Key topics of discussion were AIM 2.0 resume writing, bridging the gap for new Warrant Officers in becoming staff

officers, and Warrant Officer Professional Military Education (PME). The senior Officers and Warrant Officers spearheaded the topics but filled with real-time feedback from Junior Warrant Officers. The energy and active feedback throughout the discussion created an appetite for follow-on Zoom sessions. This WOPD forum is one of many more to come as we look forward to seeing new faces ready and willing to contribute to future discussions. These calls will continue the exploration of silent matters that can make us a better fighting force.

MAJ Nina Copeland, the ROCK Vice-President, coordinated a Field Grade Officer LPD with LTG (R) David Valcourt, former TRADOC Deputy Commander, and Eighth Army Commander. He compared his personal leadership experience to current day demands put on leaders. LTG (R) David Valcourt also highlighted the importance of non-commission officers, work / life balance, and training and readiness. He echoed advancements in technology have resulted in leaders' inability to disconnect. LTG Valcourt also stated, "Leaders today are inundated with information and bogged down with computers, tied to email and distracted with cell phones." Lastly, he encourages leaders to select 4-5 things you want the organization to be known for and place energy toward those things and be okay with the other stuff. Don't drive your Soldiers insane, trying to be the best at everything.

Lastly, on Nov. 22, the Morning Calm Chapter conducted an inaugural Women's Leadership Panel on Zoom. MAJ Nina Copeland was the moderator and responsible for spearheading the event. The panel consisted of enlisted, officers, and a civilian providing their perspectives and impacts of being dual military, a single parent, balancing kids and EFMP concerns while remaining competitive. They discussed the importance of building up others in their formations. The participants provided positive feedback and requested another future session. The chapter plans to host another session in the spring.



## Alamo ROCKS Chapter Hosts Virtual Leadership Professional Development & Honors BG Roscoe "Rock" Cartwright, Sr.

*Written by LTC Michelle A. Jefferson, DVM, DACVP*

San Antonio – On Thursday, 22 October 2020, the San Antonio (Alamo) Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. conducted a virtual LPD focused on the theme "Mentoring During Challenging Times." The guest panelists included Major General (MG) Dennis P. LeMaster, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Medical Center of Excellence (MEDCoE) and the 19<sup>th</sup> Chief of the U.S. Army Medical Service Corps, Brigadier General (BG) Shan K. Bagby, Commanding General Brooke Army Medical Center and the 28<sup>th</sup> Chief of the U.S. Army Dental Corps, and Command Sergeant Major (CSM) (Ret.) Dr. Karen Archondidis, Deputy Commandant of the Army Medical Department (AMEDD) NCO Academy. Following the LPD, the chapter held their annual ROCKS Founder's Day Program. To honor BG Roscoe C. Cartwright, Sr., the chapter invited his grandson, Mr. Roscoe C. Cartwright, Jr., as a guest speaker to share his thoughts on what the ROCKS legacy meant to him. Finally, the chapter honored first-year Naval Academy midshipman Gabrielle Cleveland as the Alamo ROCKS Chapter's 2020 BG Cartwright, Sr. \$500 scholarship recipient.

MG LeMaster reminded us that leading through a pandemic may be new and challenging but it is not the end of the world. "Don't take counsel in our fears. We should not catastrophize. As leaders, we should portray calmness, hope, and strength," he said. MG LeMaster shared the importance of having a plan while being a positive source of hope. His definition of a successful plan is where one must first understand the problem and the facts while staying away from conjecture. He then emphasized the



*(Left to right) LPD Panelists - MG Dennis P. LeMaster, BG Shan K. Bagby, and CSM (Ret.) Dr. Karen Archondidis. Founder's Day Guest - Roscoe C. Cartwright, Jr. and Chapter's 2020 BG Cartwright, Sr. Scholarship Recipient - Naval Academy Midshipman Gabrielle Cleveland. (Photo credit: MAJ Lakeshia Logan)*

importance of overcommunicating your plan to stay on mission. Lastly, MG LeMaster shared his three lines of effort for MEDCoE's Project Inclusion Campaign "We Will Do Better." The first line of effort is to showcase diversity and inclusion to reemphasize and highlight diversity in our own organization. The second line of effort is to create and maintain safe spaces so that people feel safe to speak up without reprisal or being shot down. Lastly, the third line of effort is to enable and empower leadership to engage in diversity efforts.

BG Bagby shared his thoughts on leadership and focused on 1) knowing who you are, 2) understanding your strengths, biases, and heuristics that you leverage, and 3) understanding your core values and what you stand for as your ethics will be challenged. BG Bagby shared the Greek philosopher Aristotle's Rhetorical Triangle, the three areas in which a person appeals to their audience. *Logos* or logic - As leaders it is important to speak in a logical, easy to understand way where you can provide the strategic message upfront. Also important is being able to speak with a simple message that includes buy-in. *Ethos* or ethics - As leaders it is important to be trustworthy. *Pathos* or passion - As leaders you must be able to encourage your team and know what drives team. BG Bagby highlighted the importance of mentorship and having

different mentors from all walks of life e.g., military, civilian, foreign born, genders, races, and professions. Lastly, he provided advice on remaining resilient while leading and mentoring in this challenging time and emphasized the importance of knowing your own triggers. He reminded us to leave work by a decent time while allowing others the same opportunities. BG Bagby imparted that one should not be afraid to ask for permission to take a knee or be afraid to preserve your own energy.

CSM (Ret.) Dr. Archondidis wanted everyone to reflect on the definition of diversity and inclusion. She asked, "Do we really understand the definition of diversity? Inclusion?" She spoke of the significance of excluding traits that promote division and actually exercising your established diversity and inclusion policies to prove to those in our formations that we forge a climate of change for true diversity and inclusion. Dr. Archondidis also addressed some best practices on how to grow leaders who have been socialized in a racist environment by making sure leaders first look internally - asking oneself, "Am I a part of the problem." She emphasized that leaders do not exercise silence and must always speak with facts. Finally, she stressed that leaders must avoid the trend and get beyond tolerance. In order to accomplish this, there must be safe places

where people are free to speak without fear of reprisal. Dr. Archondidis's key takeaway message was to keep everyone accountable. "If you keep doing something the same way, you won't see a change. We need to change things up and to discern what that change needs to look like. It is the differences that are dividing us. We need to get in front of our formation and communicate our message."

During the Alamo Chapter's ROCKS, Inc. Founder's Day Program, BG Roscoe C. Cartwright, Sr.'s grandson stated, "Your life is a message to the world, make sure it is inspiring." The National ROCKS Inc. is a 46-year-old organization that reminds him of his grandfather's legacy of being an inspiration to others. BG Roscoe C. Cartwright, Sr. was one of the first black generals who wanted to ensure others had the network and mentorship they needed to be successful. Although the military and nation still struggle with diversity and inclusion, organizations like the National ROCKS Inc. are important and can bring a catalyst for change because they provide opportunities and college scholarships to our future leaders - our change makers. The Alamo Chapter continues the legacy by awarding at least one annual \$500 scholarship in honor of BG Roscoe C. Cartwright, Sr. This year, the chapter recognized its recipient, Ms. Gabrielle Cleveland, who is the 2020 salutatorian of the Thomas Jefferson High School where she served as a cadet facilitator for West Point LEADS (Leadership, Ethics and Diversity in STEM), played varsity tennis and was a member of Girl State. Ms. Cleveland is currently a first-year midshipman at the Naval Academy where she's learning and adapting to become a great officer. The Alamo Chapter also actively participated in the National ROCKS Inc. initiative to find potential minority ROTC Scholarship awardees for the U.S. Army Cadet Command. For 2020, the Alamo Chapter directly assisted two San Antonio high school graduates with full multi-year ROTC scholarships.

For more information on the San Antonio, TX Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. "Alamo Chapter" activities check out the chapter Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/alamorocks>

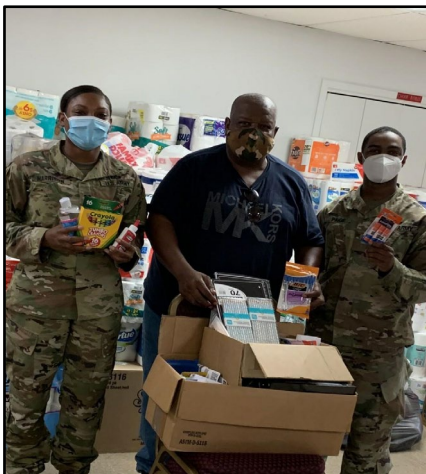


## Gator ROCKS, Fort Polk LA 2020 -2021 Initiatives

*Written by Jasmine Evans*

Gator ROCKS focused on leadership development, scholarship, and organization revitalization. The Gator ROCKS conducted monthly meetings, three LPDs, three fundraising ventures, and social events. The Gator ROCKS continue to push towards their goals of increasing membership and consistent membership involvement, raising proceeds for scholarship initiatives, and professional mentoring and development.

October was Breast Cancer awareness month. This year, Gator ROCKS hosted a Virtual Run, Walk, Bike event. Personnel had a chance to participate in the month of October to log the most miles and the money raised was for a local center. Gator Rocks strives to give back to the community and this endeavor allowed us to do that and connect with personnel. It was great to see personnel miles and the competition was fierce. It was a success, and we hope to implement this program again in the future.



*CPT Harrison and 2LT Paige dropped off donations to a local organization.*



*Cadets from the surrounding school along with active duty officers during Branch Day.*

Given the current state of our country Gator Rocks had to be conscientious in conducting engaging LPDs. One in particular was given by COL Hardman in person adhering to the CDC guidelines of social distancing. He is the Brigade commander of 3/10th Mountain Division. He shared his knowledge on mentorship and networking. A takeaway that many of us don't consider is finding a mentor that does not look like you or think like you. This allows a different perspective to receive feedback and counsel. Another nugget he shared was if you cannot listen you cannot be mentored. Many times, we listen to respond but we need to listen to understand. He shared a wealth of knowledge with the group and we look forward to having him again in the Spring or Summer time. Another LPD that stood out for us was conducted by LTC Rafael Morrison, the squadron commander of 4th Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment. He discussed the Unwritten rules of officership over Zoom.

Gator ROCKS hosted a Founders day event. It was a great time to celebrate and fellowship with fellow officers and family members and remind them why ROCKS began and our higher purpose. Also, this was the time we bid farewell to Chaplain Dukes and his family. He was actively involved in the chapter initiatives of providing professional development and mentorship. He bestowed words of wisdom to members and provided insight from various perspectives in discussion of leadership, Soldiering in today's army and finding your higher purpose. Chaplain Dukes was a great asset to Gator

ROCKS, and we wish him all the best at his new duty station.



*COL Hardman and 1LT Tucker after the mentorship and networking LPD.*

On the 6th of November Gator ROCKS hosted Branch Day for the local ROTC cadets from Grambling, Southern and Northwestern State University. There were over 60 cadets present given an opportunity to network with active duty officers in various branches they are considering. Gator Rocks was able to get officers from many branches to come and talk with the cadets about their day-to-day activities, career paths, and branch requirements. Branch day is an important event for Gator ROCKS because it allows many officers to pour into the future officers. This is the time we can discuss many questions they have lingering in

their mind and show them around the post. The cadets are able to tour company areas, motor pools and speak with enlisted Soldiers.

As the year comes to a close, we reflect on the lessons learned and prepare to start the upcoming year with new events, LPDs and fundraising initiatives. Gator ROCKS looks forward to what the new year has to bring new relationships, new opportunities for growth, and new beginnings. Don't let any setbacks define you or stop you from achieving success.



## All American Chapter Hosts LPD with U.S. Army Surgeon General

*Written by LTC Tonya Maddox*



*LTG R. Scott Dingle  
the 45<sup>th</sup> Surgeon General of the Army*

On Monday, 07 December 2020, the All American Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc., hosted LTG R. Scott Dingle, U.S. Army Surgeon General. He conducted a Leader Professional Development on Career Minefields.

Here are key takeaways from his LPD, Navigating the Career Minefield:

What is a Career Minefield? It is a roadmap to negotiate and navigate your personal and professional life for success. As you matriculate in life, you may run into minefields. Navigating these minefields properly is the key to your success.

What are mines? There are two types of mines, anti-tank and anti-personnel.

Anti-tank mines are things such as documented poor performance, breaches of code of ethics, DUI's, drug use, inappropriate/adulterous relationships, public marital problems/domestic violence, UCMJ. Anti-tank mines are big and cause irreparable damage to your reputation, career and life.

Anti-personnel mines are things like APFT or HT/WT failures, poor personal appearance, academic failures, and documented mediocre performance on your OER with phrases like "needs more experience" or "does a good job". Anti-personnel mines are recoverable, but it is difficult and you will be behind your peers. It will take stellar performance in the hard jobs to recover and catch up if you fall victim to anti-personnel mines.

He advises, do not be the person caught by a mine. Be calculating in your decisions with your career and life. Mentors can provide over-watch to help you clear those minefields. Leverage those leaders who have been there before you. Reach out to your mentors and learn from their experience. When someone offers help and mentorship, pay attention and take them up on their offer

To navigate the Career Minefield you must stay ALERT

- A – Avoid them
- L – Learn from them
- E – Evade them
- R - Recognize them
- T – Track them

LTG Dingle challenged the participants to consider the following questions and sent an invitation for those in attendance to share their answers with him.

Who are you?  
What are your priorities?  
What is success?  
Where are you going?

For general career advice, he recommends that leaders be calculating. Be the best. Live your dream. Set your goals and go after them. Coach, mentor, and teach others. Display excellence in all you do. Don't drink alcohol at military

events, you always want to be alert and clear headed when you are on-stage.



*LTG Dingle and Stay ALERT slide*

Maintaining work / life balance is not always possible. Sometimes it is more an equilibrium that you must constantly adjust. Set your priorities (family, work, spiritual, health, etc.) and be cognizant of them to remember what is important. When you are deployed or in a no-fail mission environment, you must sometimes put that first. When back in garrison and work can wait, that is when you must make those games for your kids and spend time with your spouse or support system. Remember your family and your health are very important.

The All American Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc., would like to thank LTG Dingle for his time and dedication to helping others. If you are experiencing any anti-personnel mines or life difficulties, please consider reaching out to a chaplain, healthcare provider or call Military One Source at 800-342-9647.



## Climb to Glory ROCKS First Chapter Meeting

*By Captain William D. Scott III.*

On 20 November 2020 The Climb to Glory ROCKS held its first general meeting since becoming an official

chapter on 16 June 2020 - both held at the historic Leray Mansion on Fort Drum, New York. The highlight of the general meeting was an Assignment Interactive Module (AIM) 2.0 class taught by Captain William D. Scott III., Vice President of the Climb to Glory ROCKS. During the session, officers and warrant officers had the opportunity to learn how to preference assignments in the AIM Marketplace, build their AIM Resumes, and generate Personal Action Requests. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, the Climb to Glory ROCKS was still able to create a personal learning experience through ZOOM. As CPT Scott briefed, other executive board members monitored for questions in the text chat of zoom. If a question did arise, CPT Scott answered it live so participants could learn. His supporting team included 2LT Jeron Draine, CPT Antonnea Bolden, CPT Zoe Bolden, and Ms. Bianca Ellis.

Several Fort Drum leaders and community officials were in attendance via zoom, to include the Honorable Mr. Joseph M. Butler Jr., the Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) for New York-North. Mr. Butler initially highlighted the importance of diversity in our military and how it is one of the Secretary of the Army's key priorities. He also provided comments addressing three characteristics of a good leader (paraphrased comments are below):

They are good listeners – never underestimate the power of listening and asking questions as appropriate.

They are effective communicators (written and oral). They make the effort to enhance those skills by attending additional training and practice; and

They are also great on their feet. They know how to write letters, text messages, and emails. They understand once it's written and signed it is a part of history, so you want to be responsible in how you react and write.

Additionally, COL Damon Harris (Commander, Second Brigade Combat Team) provided additional advice on understanding AIMS and its impact on one's military career:

Read and Understand DA Pam 600-3 (highlights branch specific career paths)  
What do you want to get out of the Army (The decisions you make in AIMS now

will impact your future career opportunities)?

Call HRC and Talk to your assignment officer - ask for a file assessment – make sure your file strength is good enough (every officer must be their own career talent manager)

Diversity in Assignments (get out of your comfort zone to give yourself better career opportunities)

Focus on your interview skills (Your interview can make the difference in your selection for a job)

Make sure you have a good mentor who can give you candid feedback (Be open to honest feedback and build from those assessments).

The Next Climb To Glory ROCKS event will be a local Wreaths Across America Dedication at Fort Drum on 19 December 2020.



## Do More Together Inaugural 2020 Virtual Summit “Homecoming”

Since its founding in 2016, Do More Together (dmT), the Black and African American West Point Alumni Organization, has consistently focused on growing, supporting, and enhancing the community of Black and African American graduates from the United States Military Academy. After several years of steady growth, the organization experienced a substantial increase in membership during the pandemic and subsequent social unrest across the United States. In October, Do More Together's commitment to *engaging,*

*mobilizing,* and *empowering* its community reached a literal summit at the execution of the organization's first annual Virtual Summit under the theme “Homecoming.”

In the summer of 2020, co-founder Jamal Robinson ('10) came up with the idea of having an annual Do More Together event to help promote the organization's four pillars: mentorship, networking, recruiting, and fundraising - with a specific emphasis on navigating the challenges of 2020. After completing a strategic brainstorming session with other co-founders Bridgette Bell ('04 and member of the Washington DC Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc.) and Mary Tobin ('03), the leadership team immediately committed to creating a virtual *Homecoming* experience for members and supporters that not only elevated the programs of Do More Together, but also set the stage for impactful discussions, critical reflection, long overdue healing, and career-enhancing opportunities.

With initial goals of 500 attendees and \$30K in sponsorship, attendance at the Virtual Summit exceeded expectations, with over 600 people participating during the 3-day conference and almost \$100K in contributions from sponsors and donors. The organization was proud to have title sponsors Johnson & Johnson and JP Morgan Chase & Co. Through the incredible efforts of our volunteers and in record time, PepsiCo, Deloitte, Davita and Nike joined the sponsorship lineup. Because of their commitment to this event, attendees were able to participate without cost. Representatives from these amazing organizations joined the mainstage, industry experts led breakout sessions to share their experiences and expertise, and senior leaders participated as keynote speakers in the Homecoming seminars.

The impressive array of exceptional keynote speakers included fantastic leaders such as LTG(R) Bob Caslen ('75), Herman Bulls ('78), and Dr. Kwasi Mitchell. There was also tremendous participation from leaders Pat Locke ('80), Keenan Beasley ('05), Kaya Ladejobi, Erica Jeffries Purdo ('98), John Tien ('86), and Courtney Billington ('86).

The list of accomplishments and professional credentials from the speakers and panelists is extensive and was essential in driving the engagement of presenters and attendees alike in a uniquely orchestrated agenda.

Day “Zero” focused on preparatory work for participants who were looking to enhance their marketability to the corporate world, navigate the complexities of the MBA application process, build their personal brands, and effectively translate military accomplishments into civilian opportunities. The second day provided a variety of sessions that were focused on Career and Professional Development, exploring the importance of diversity and inclusion at senior levels of leadership, financial literacy, and strategies for success in higher education and the technology sector. Closing out the conference on Friday, was the “Un-Conference,” which was an untraditional way to conclude a conference in a very unconventional year. These high-energy discussions focused on leading in the face of adversity, racial equity in business, racial trauma and healing, and the strategic future of the organization as it continues to build a strong community of West Point graduate and non-graduate members and supporters. The Keynote speakers for the “Un-conference” provided different perspectives on how to continue making the Long Gray Line better and more inclusive for all.

While the results of the continuing education, professional development sessions, and networking mixers continue to show impactful returns for attendees, dmT’s ability to set the standard for virtual engagement has allowed individuals and organizations to grow. Most noteworthy, dmT members and supporters were able to see the power of overcoming current environmental constraints to make an impact through discussions around race, character, the profession of arms, and upward mobility in the public and private sectors. Plans are already in the works to make the 2021 Homecoming Summit an even better event and we are looking forward to seeing you there!

Do More Together forms a non-profit global network of United States Military

Academy graduates and supporters from all backgrounds that engages, mobilizes, and empowers Black & African American graduates and cadets. We endeavor to serve the community, our country, and all USMA graduates. Membership is open to all and Do More Together is committed to elevating the shared interests between its community and the strategic objectives of The ROCKS, Inc. For more information on the dmT Virtual Summit, check out [summit.domore2gether.org](http://summit.domore2gether.org). To find out more about our signature programs the Army/Navy Give Back, the Grip Hands Mentorship Program, and the Building the Pipeline Diversity Recruiting Program, visit [www.domore2gether.org](http://www.domore2gether.org).



### *Governors Are Handling the Next Coronavirus Wave*

#### *Continued from page 10*

Now, despite the rapid rise in cases, Abbott has resisted calls to tighten capacity limits and shut down businesses, and he’s even tied the hands of local officials who are trying to curb the virus spread through renewed measures. The state sued El Paso County over an order closing businesses. An appeals court sided with Texas and overturned the order.

“It is important for everybody in the state to know that statewide we’re not going to have another shutdown,” Abbott said during a news conference last week. “There’s an overestimation of exactly what a shutdown will achieve, and there’s a misunderstanding about what a shutdown will not achieve.”

Abbott has sent aid to El Paso including equipment, medical staff and National Guard troops. And the mask mandate remains in place for most of the state’s 254 counties.

— Renuka Rayasam

### **How bad is the pandemic?**

New York successfully slowed the virus’ spread since becoming the global epicenter for Covid-19 in March and April. After hitting lows over the summer, the number of new coronavirus cases has begun to creep up in recent weeks amid enhanced testing in hot spot zip codes. New York has been reporting more than 5,000 new cases daily in recent days.

### **How New York is fighting the virus**

After implementing a statewide shutdown in the spring, Cuomo reopened the state through a regional, phased approach. His strategy now includes [face covering requirements](#), [travel quarantine rules](#), [restaurant curfews](#) and restrictions on gatherings.

Cuomo is also [utilizing a “micro-cluster” strategy](#), an approach where the state responds to outbreaks in specific neighborhoods. That has meant new restrictions — including some limits on in-person learning and high-risk, nonessential businesses — additional testing, [contact tracing](#) and compliance enforcement on communities and ZIP codes where Covid-19 is surging.

Gareth Rhodes, the deputy superintendent and special counsel at the state Department of Financial Services and a member of the governor’s Covid-19 task force, said the micro-cluster strategy has been effective in controlling the viral spread in hot spot areas and helped prevent another statewide shutdown.

“When there’s evidence that there is broad-based community spread happening and the trend is going in the wrong direction, that’s when we implement the cluster,” Rhodes said. “It serves as a wake-up call to communities that, unless additional actions are taken by the community, there will be further restrictions coming.”

The state has ramped up its testing and contact tracing efforts to better understand how and where Covid-19 is being transmitted. Rich Azzopardi, a senior advisor to Cuomo, said “the big difference between March and April and

now is we just know so much more” about how the virus spreads.

“It’s like the fog of war has lifted and you can now see the field,” he said. Despite focusing on a micro-cluster approach, Cuomo has yet to take the possibility of another statewide shutdown off the table.

“Everything is based on the numbers,” Rhodes said. “We monitor the numbers every single day. there’s no one metric that’s determinative — we look at a series of metrics.”

— Shannon Young

### How bad is the pandemic

[Nearly 18,000 people in Florida have died from Covid-19](#), and more than 910,000 have been infected since the first positive test results appeared in early March. More than 500,000 of those infections were part of summer resurgence, and some medical experts fear another one has begun in the state.

### How Florida is fighting the virus

DeSantis has taken cues from the White House as he addresses the pandemic, and most recently has kept Florida wide open for business. He’s pushed for in-person learning and says it’s just the elderly, not so much the young, who need to worry about the pandemic.

DeSantis banned visitors to nursing homes and shut down bars, nightclubs and restaurant dining rooms early on. All nonessential businesses were ordered closed statewide by early April.

In May, DeSantis began allowing businesses to reopen, largely in sync with recommendations from the White House, and hasn’t looked back since. He’s even had second thoughts about his original lockdown order.

“Now we know those types of shutdowns didn’t really do anything,” DeSantis said in September. “Actually, it looks like they were more harm than good.”

DeSantis has lifted nearly all of the restrictions he had imposed, allowing all businesses to remain open and declining to issue a mandate to wear face masks.

The state has blocked dozens of local governments that have issued mask requirements from collecting fines.

DeSantis has pushed aggressively to keep schools open, making it all but impossible for districts to decide on their own to shut down. And the governor is now focusing his efforts on the elderly and medically vulnerable, who are the most likely to die from Covid-19. In a roundtable discussion this fall with university health experts — an event that drew shoutouts of encouragement from Trump — DeSantis pointed to state testing data that showed that most young people recovered from the virus without medical attention.

Florida now is awaiting the arrival of Covid-19 vaccines, and DeSantis believes some of the state’s hospitals and long-term care facilities could [start seeing doses in the next three to six weeks](#). He has shown no signs of moving back toward a lockdown.

— Arek Sarkissian

### How bad is the pandemic?

California, the nation’s most populous state with nearly 40 million residents, was an early epicenter of the pandemic, but has fared better than much of the rest of the country in managing it. Now, new cases are topping 11,000 a day, and the state’s rising positivity rates and a more than 77 percent jump in hospitalizations over the past two weeks have the governor sounding the alarm.

### How California is fighting the virus

Newsom’s actions in mid-March to enact the first statewide stay-at-home order won the state early praise for bending the curve, but rising caseloads forced him in July to crack down again on business reopenings and to revamp California’s reopening framework.

The most recent spike prompted the state last week not only to [dramatically pull back on reopenings](#), but to issue [a statewide curfew](#) beginning Saturday that requires residents to stay in their homes between 10 p.m. through 5 a.m. unless performing essential activities. The curfew will be in place through Dec. 21.

Newsom also pulled the “emergency brake,” placing the majority of the state — 94 percent of the state’s population — into the most restrictive level of the state’s four-tiered, color-coded reopening structure. That has meant the end of indoor dining for most of the state, along with prohibitions on indoor operations for gyms, museums and religious services.

The governor, who has had a rough week after news broke that he [attended a maskless birthday gathering at a three-star Michelin restaurant](#) in the Napa Valley and [whose kids were exposed to the coronavirus](#), said the time to take action to curb the virus’ spread is now, and called on all Californians to comply with the state guidelines.

“This is simply the fastest increase California has seen since the beginning of the pandemic,” Newsom said of the state’s rapidly rising case count at a press conference last week.

Since then, it’s only gotten worse.

— Victoria Colliver

### How bad is the pandemic?

The coronavirus has surged in Utah this fall, and shattered records for hospitalizations the week before Thanksgiving. Cases have exploded, reaching more than 4,000 daily cases for the first time this month. During one such spike in late October, hospitals presented Herbert with a proposed plan for rationing patients’ care. Doctors now say they’ve begun informally rationing care, [The Salt Lake Tribune reported this week](#).

### How Utah is fighting the virus

Herbert enacted a new state of emergency effective Nov. 9 and became one of a rising number of Republican governors to impose a statewide mask mandate. He also ordered new restrictions after discussing the spike in cases with CDC Director Robert Redfield and Deborah Birx, the coronavirus task force coordinator. Those measures, except for the mask mandate, expired Monday, as Utah rolled out a new public health order and dropped its restrictions on social gatherings.

The statewide mask mandate, which is expected to remain in place for the

foreseeable future, came over a month after the Utah Medical Association implored him to adopt the requirement. The governor had first used a local approach to masks, letting jurisdictions set their own rules and then, in mid-October, rolled out a new mandated mask system depending on the level of infection in an area.

But in the past few weeks, “the strain on our hospitals has dramatically increased,” according to Anna Lehnardt, a spokesperson for Herbert.

“The governor’s decision to extend a mask mandate to the entire state was closely tied to his declaration of new state of emergency to address hospital overcrowding,” Lehnardt said in an email.

— Rachel Roubein

#### **How bad is the pandemic?**

After months of low positivity rates — Illinois was an island surrounded by others with soaring numbers of cases — the state has seen an “exponential” rise in cases and hospitalizations in recent weeks. In the past week, it surpassed 11,000 deaths, a number the state health department thought wouldn’t be reached until the end of the year.

#### **How Illinois is fighting the virus**

Pritzker was an early adopter of ordering masks to be worn, wearing one himself when he approached the podium for his daily Covid-19 briefings. His springtime executive order locking down the entire state — the first in the country, along with California — drew criticism from rural residents who said it wasn’t fair to lump their sprawling downstate region with urban Chicago.

So Pritzker divided the state into 11 regions and now gauges the need for mitigation based on each region’s hospital bed availability and positivity rates. Lawsuits have since ensued, but they’ve been shot down by the courts.

“We’re a big state, so it made sense in some ways. You couldn’t do it in a state that’s half our size,” Pritzker said in an interview. “It really worked for a while. We’d put regions into mitigations and out

of mitigations and then you didn’t have to force other regions into mitigation when they are doing well.”

In the second wave, bars and restaurants have closed for indoor dining, retail stores must adhere to new capacity limits — grocery stores at 50 percent and big-box stores at 25 percent. Museums, movie theaters and casinos are closed, too.

The mask mandate remains, and Pritzker says the state is one step away from an order to stay at home.

#### **His biggest challenge?**

“The politics of mask-wearing and the politics that Donald Trump brought to fighting a virus that doesn’t know politics,” Pritzker said. “The virus is killing Republicans just like Democrats. This virus is killing people who don’t wear masks more often than it’s killing people who wear masks, for sure. I’m trying to keep everyone, Republicans and Democrats, safe.”

— Shia Kapos

#### **How bad is the pandemic?**

Massachusetts was an early hot spot at the beginning of the pandemic. Coronavirus cases are rising again in Massachusetts: The state is reporting around 2,000 new cases per day and just passed the grim milestone of 10,000 coronavirus-related deaths. Officials say Bay State hospitals are better prepared with personal protective equipment and hospital capacity to handle the current surge.

#### **How Massachusetts is fighting the virus**

Massachusetts has had a mask requirement in place since the spring, but Baker issued a stricter order in November requiring residents wear face masks at all times in public.

“We are in the midst of a surge in cases,” Baker said during a recent press conference. “There is community transmission across the commonwealth. And we are standing up at least one field hospital to treat a crush of ill patients.”

Baker recently imposed a 9:30 p.m. curfew for indoor dining and social gatherings, and asked residents to be in

their own homes by 10 p.m., though some state lawmakers and advocates are calling on Baker to halt indoor dining completely.

The biggest fight playing out in Massachusetts is how to handle schools as cases increase. The Baker administration has stressed the importance of keeping schools open in person, and points to data that shows the virus is not spreading rapidly at schools. The in-person school push has put Baker at odds with local officials and powerful teachers’ unions.

Reopening plans are up to local school committees in the state’s 351 cities and towns, and many have opened for remote-only learning or a hybrid model with limited in-person attendance.

— Stephanie Murray

#### **How bad is the pandemic?**

Wisconsin is seeing one of the worst outbreaks in the nation, [according to the CDC](#). The coronavirus case count is continuing to rise, while the availability of intensive care unit beds has dwindled to dangerously low levels.

#### **How Wisconsin is fighting the virus**

Evers has faced a slew of legal challenges over his policies aimed at slowing the spread of the virus. He has not been especially successful in defending the efforts.

The state Supreme Court sided with lawmakers who said they should have had a say in whether to extend Evers’ initial stay-at-home order. The decision resulted in the state opening up again, and coronavirus cases skyrocketing.

“It’s dire,” Evers said in the interview. The governor has declared a public health emergency in the state, requiring face coverings in public. That too is being challenged by conservatives.

Local health departments, including those of big cities like Milwaukee and Madison, have reduced the capacities of restaurants and other businesses. And some school districts have closed in-person high school attendance. The state is also

encouraging — not ordering — residents to stay home.

But Evers says he wants to do more. “Republican opposition is no question the biggest challenge,” he said. “They’ve taken the Trump mantra to a whole new level. When you’re against mitigation and against any effort to prevent the virus from spreading and requiring that, that’s a problem. And we’ve been fighting that for months and that’s one of the reasons we are in the predicament we are.”

— *Shia Kapos*

### How bad is the pandemic?

Texas is in the midst of another severe outbreak following a summer spike in cases. More than one million Texans have tested positive for Covid-19 so far and more than 20,000 have died. El Paso, in West Texas, has become a virus epicenter during the current outbreak, with some of the fastest growing caseloads in the nation. Hospitals have been so full that patients are being air-lifted to other cities and a field hospital has been constructed at a city convention center.

### How Texas is fighting the virus

In the summer, with cases rapidly rising in the state, Abbott reimposed a series of Covid-19 measures: He limited capacity in restaurants, shut down bars and for the first time instituted a statewide mask mandate. In September he relaxed restrictions for businesses, pointing to declining hospitalizations.

Now, despite the rapid rise in cases, Abbott has resisted calls to tighten capacity limits and shut down businesses, and he’s even tied the hands of local officials who are trying to curb the virus spread through renewed measures. The state sued El Paso County over an order closing businesses. An appeals court sided with Texas and overturned the order.

"It is important for everybody in the state to know that statewide we're not gonna have another shutdown," Abbott said during a news conference last week. "There's an overestimation of exactly what a shutdown will achieve, and there's a misunderstanding about what a shutdown will not achieve."

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### How New York is fighting the virus

After implementing a statewide shutdown in the spring, Cuomo reopened the state through a regional, phased approach. His strategy now includes [face covering requirements](#), [travel quarantine rules](#), [restaurant curfews](#) and restrictions on gatherings.

Cuomo is also [utilizing a "micro-cluster" strategy](#), an approach where the state responds to outbreaks in specific neighborhoods. That has meant new restrictions — including some limits on in-person learning and high-risk, nonessential businesses — additional testing, [contact tracing](#) and compliance enforcement on communities and ZIP codes where Covid-19 is surging.

Gareth Rhodes, the deputy superintendent and special counsel at the state Department of Financial Services and a member of the governor's Covid-19 task force, said the micro-cluster strategy has been effective in controlling the viral spread in hot spot areas and helped prevent another statewide shutdown.

"When there's evidence that there is broad-based community spread happening and the trend is going in the wrong direction, that's when we implement the cluster," Rhodes said. "It serves as a wake-up call to communities that, unless additional actions are taken by the community, there will be further restrictions coming."

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"It's like the fog of war has lifted and you can now see the field," he said.

Despite focusing on a micro-cluster approach, Cuomo has yet to take the possibility of another statewide shutdown off the table.

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— *Shannon Young*

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### How California is fighting the virus

Newsom’s actions in mid-March to enact the first statewide stay-at-home order won the state early praise for bending the curve, but rising caseloads forced him in July to crack down again on business reopenings and to revamp California’s reopening framework.

The most recent spike prompted the state last week not only to [dramatically pull](#)

[back on reopenings](#), but to issue [a statewide curfew](#) beginning Saturday that requires residents to stay in their homes between 10 p.m. through 5 a.m. unless performing essential activities. The curfew will be in place through Dec. 21.

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The governor, who has had a rough week after news broke that he [attended a maskless birthday gathering at a three-star Michelin restaurant](#) in the Napa Valley and [whose kids were exposed to the coronavirus](#), said the time to take action to curb the virus’ spread is now, and called on all Californians to comply with the state guidelines.

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Since then, it’s only gotten worse.

— *Victoria Colliver*

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### How Utah is fighting the virus

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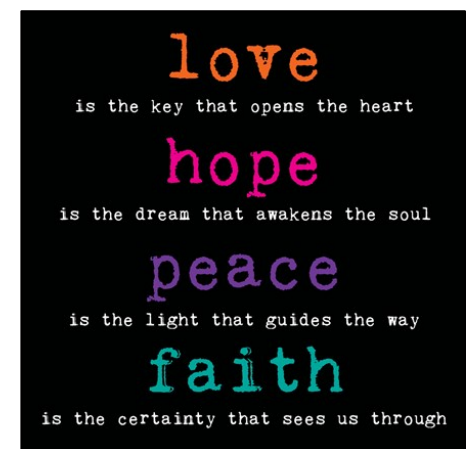
and dropped its restrictions on social gatherings.

The statewide mask mandate, which is expected to remain in place for the foreseeable future, came over a month after the Utah Medical Association implored him to adopt the requirement. The governor had first used a local approach to masks, letting jurisdictions set their own rules and then, in mid-October, rolled out a new mandated mask system depending on the level of infection in an area.

But in the past few weeks, “the strain on our hospitals has dramatically increased,” according to Anna Lehnardt, a spokesperson for Herbert.

“The governor’s decision to extend a mask mandate to the entire state was closely tied to his declaration of new state of emergency to address hospital overcrowding,” Lehnardt said in an email.

— *Rachel Roubein*



ROCKSWide Virtual Meeting  
National Board Members & ROCKS Chapters

Sunday, 20 February 2021  
1700 – 1830 hrs  
5:00pm – 6:30pm ES

# New Members

W • E • L • C • O • M • E

*Joined 10/13/2020 – 12/21/2020*



COL Alissa Ackley  
1LT Andreina Arocho-Reyes  
CPT Marquita Barr  
MAJ Douglas Bazil  
1LT Devon Bell  
MAJ Afua Boahema-Lee  
MAJ Kristina Bolden  
CPT Aramis Brewington  
Ms.. Karlatta Brown  
CPT Michael Bryant  
MAJ Tommie Bryant  
MAJ Nicole Clark  
Ms.. Jacqueline Clayton  
1LT Robin Cunningham  
COL Mark Danner  
LTC Steven Davis  
MG John Evans  
2LT Carla Figueroa-Matos  
MAJ Randolph FLEMING  
CPT Keshawn Frasier  
1LT Jarred Garland  
CPT Wollency Gentillon  
WO4 Jermaine Goodman  
CPT Shemiya Graham  
Ms.. Kashona Grate  
MAJ Sarita Guzman  
MAJ Analiza Harry  
1LT Dwain Hebert  
COL Raphael Heflin  
LTC Christopher Hodl  
CPT Quincy Holder

1LT Ykevaa Hunt  
MAJ Cassandra James-Ivery  
MAJ Kenneatta Jasper  
CPT Albert Jenkins  
LTC Patricia Jones Johnson  
Mrs. Ziyah Judson  
LTC Brenda Kemp  
COL Michael Konczey  
1LT Kevin Korthuis  
MAJ Fadji Kumapley  
Mr. Antwan Lang  
1LT Tichina Lewis  
LTC Latisha Lewis  
COL Luis Lomas  
COL Fredric Maddox  
LTC Tonya Maddox  
CPT Keeshana Marshall  
Mr. Jamal Mccoy  
BG Stephen Michael  
2LT Shamika Mings  
LTC Bernard Monroe  
Mrs. Christine Moody  
MAJ Marie Okoro  
COL Bidemi Olaniyi-Leyimu  
MAJ Riccardo Paggett  
LTC Jasmine Peterson  
1LT Krysta Piper  
COL Prentice Price  
CPT Nicholas Pruitt  
LTC Stevan Rich  
CPT April Robinson

LTC Manuel Rodriguez  
MAJ Owen Ryckman  
MAJ Melissa Salamanca  
LTC Ireka Sanders  
MAJ Victor Shepherd  
MAJ Sarah Simmons  
1LT Courtney Smith  
LTC Shawn Smith  
MAJ William Spruill  
CPT Mikayla Stewart  
LTC Kyle Taylor  
Ms.. Helene Taylor  
CPT Andrew Trahan  
2LT Destiny Trouilliere  
CPT Shaquille Turner  
MAJ Candice Van Leeuwen  
LTC Carsell Walker  
CPT William Wallace  
MAJ Robert Wallace III  
COL Christopher Washington  
WO3 Gabrielle Wheat  
MAJ Nicole White  
CPT Baasil Wilder  
COL Ronald Wilkes  
COL Anthony Wilson  
CPT Deserae Wood  
LTC Jody Wright  
LTC Johanna Wynne  
2LT Gabrielle Young



*The Journey* is a historical treasure about eleven African American officers who initially bonded to support one another while attending the Regular Course, Class of 1965 at the United States Army Command and General Staff College. As they formalized the ROCKS, bonds, mutual support and the group grew with many excelling and making history along the way. Discover our history! Discover Your ROCKS history! Discover American military history!!

The new release tells their story and that of The ROCKS Inc. It is full of wonderful history and the many accomplishments of its members.

*"The Journey means at last the story will be told of how a group of minority Army officers strove to learn how to give their best as officers, how to best serve their country in defense and how these officers learned to participate in a process of professional and personal development called mentoring, to assist other officers in reaching their full potential while serving in defense."*

~ Gen Clara ~  
(BG (R) Clara Adams-Ender  
Past Chairman, The ROCKS Inc.

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For any questions contact:

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As of 11 December 2020**

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