



Courage, Dedication, Professionalism

The ROCKET



Spring 2011



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Chairperson Message

Springtime Greetings Fellow Rocks!

I know that we are all eager to cast off the residual of winter and welcome the promise of what this new year has in store for us. As you have already seen from the new Rocket cover and will also see from its contents, 2011 represents a new look and focus not only for the Rocket but also many opportunities for The Rocks, Inc. to strengthen our officer corps and communities.

Your National Board and I are excited about presenting the first Rocket of the year to you. We have resurrected popular segments such as “Rocks on the Move,” added more information requested by our members including a professional reading list broadened the scope of our articles to include more from individual Rocks members, and added a “News You Can Use” segment. We will not stop there.

The bottomline is that we want the Rocket to not only serve as a resource for you, but also a strategic communications instrument for our organization, one that you will be proud to share with others who might have an interest in joining or supporting us. We look forward to your feedback and active support of this publication because your participation is key to making the Rocket the best that it can be.

This edition is packed full of information that will be enlightening and inspirational. It begins with a well-earned farewell to Gen. “Kip” and Joyce Ward, former Commander of AFRICOM. The Wards will conclude a phenomenal 39 years of service to our nation when they retire from the Army on April 26th. In our quest to keep everyone updated on our 2011 Goals whether you are a member of a Chapter or IG or At-Large, we have included our seven goals for 2011 that have already been sent to our Chapters/IG. We are counting on each Chapter/ IG to develop your own Goals and Objectives, ones that support and complement the National Goals, but are tailored to your local needs. We are looking forward to your feedback and are excited about how you will translate our collective goals into action.

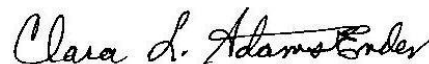
Scores of Rocks, especially those from the European Chapter like Generals Ward, Ferrell, and Bagby and Major Warthen, worked tirelessly for years bringing

the story an all African-American Army unit of soldiers serving in Normandy in 1944 who were slaughtered by the German SS during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II to the public’s consciousness. Details about the captivating account of the “Wereth 11” have finally come to fruition via a documentary that we hope that all of you will review. Read more about this inside.

Outreaching to Rocks Chapters/IGs by senior Rocks is a major goal that we have already begun to attack in earnest reflected by conducted and planned senior Rocks visits to several Chapters. Please contact our VP for Special Projects and Global Networks through the Rocks National HQs office if you need senior level support.

Our “*Rocks on the Move*” are truly an inspirational group of officers, ones who epitomize our motto of “Concern, Dedication, and Professionalism.” Please enjoy reading about not only what they are doing and have done, but the candid reflections by COLs Bush and Wilson about what being a Rock means to them. Many thanks to the nine Chapters and several individual Rocks for contributing to this edition. You have hit the ground running in 2011 to revitalize, rebuild and strengthen your Chapters/IGs. Your input matters! Keep up the great work!

On behalf of all Rocks, we bid a fond farewell to COL (R) Homer Pettitt, Jr. A loyal Rock for decades, COL Pettitt will be buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on March 31st. Finally, I am proud to announce the 2011 Rocks of the Year and Honorary Rock of the Year. MG (R) “Pete” Proctor and COL Rich Dix are our Rocks of the Year and Gen. Anne Dunwoody, Commander, Army Material Command is the Honorary Rock of the Year. We hope that you will join us in recognizing them and other awardees publicly during the upcoming Rocks Spring Gala on April 16th. Congratulations to them and all who were nominated. Special thanks to everyone who took the time to nominate those who are truly “Making the Difference that Counts!”



BG Clara Adams-Ender USA (Ret)

The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. 2011 Goals

1. Effective strategic communications program (CONUS/OCONUS)
 2. Establish viable financial management program
 3. Establish an effective mentorship and outreach program
 4. Strengthen and expand membership, incentives, regions
 5. Continue to serve as an exclusive organization to U.S. Armed Forces
 6. Sustain and increase organizational relationships and engagements
 7. Expand pool of future Officers
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A Word from the Editor

Reality Check that Should Make you RUN to Check your Smoke Detectors

Written By COL(R) Dorene Hurt USA

I recently returned from an incredibly heartbreaking funeral – one that should probably never have happened. A family was literally snuffed out by a virtual inferno that engulfed their home. The couple and their infant had only recently moved into their house – ironically- around Valentine’s Day. They were so happy and full of hope for the future. But their hopes and future were all dashed on an early Saturday morning as they slept peacefully, him having dozed off on the sofa and she with their baby upstairs in bed.

Accidentally falling asleep while there was something he was cooking still on the stove, they never had a chance. The silence that gripped their home as the lethal smoke substituted itself for the life giving oxygen while flames began to roar provided no chance for warning let alone an escape. There were either no smoke detectors present or at least none

operating from what I’ve been told. Unfortunately, this sad truth is something that is not uncommon in many a home around the nation. As obvious as the need to address this is after a tragedy like the one that befell this family, why isn’t the need more acute before the tragedy? Maybe you’ll just “get around to it.” Maybe you are counting on a superhuman sense of smell and alertness to save you and yours, or maybe you are just apathetic like many of us because this kind of thing never happens to anyone that we know.

I attended the funeral of this family the other day. I have never been to a funeral like that in my life and hope never to have the need to do so again. You see the fallen family was my cousin and his family who were killed in that house fire. Three caskets, including one for a 5 month old infant, sitting in front of a church with about 1,000 distraught people in attendance was an unbelievable sight to see. It was very sober and humbling, and all so avoidable.

How about checking your smoke detectors NOW? If not for you and your family, do it for me so that I do not have to visualize you going through the pain and senseless agony that gripped mine.



President Barack H. Obama delivers a speech at National Defense University on March 28, 2011. COL Conrado B. Morgan, Director of Operations, J3, NDU and President, Wash, D.C. Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc. participated in the event.

Farewell to General Ward

Written By MAJ Lawanda D. Warthen USA
Commander USAHC- Kaiserslautern



The change of command for Gen. William E. (Kip) Ward was held March 9, 2011, a date that will mark the final farewell for Ward and his wife Joyce as they transition to civilian life after 39 years in the Army. General Ward is only the fifth African American to earn four stars, but he has never allowed his rank to determine who he is.

When he was promoted, he said, "There are several gentlemen in the room who are my father's generation, who look at me and see their toils and their labor being realized [in my achievements]." General Ward added that he learned important lessons from his father. "I think probably the greatest thing my dad taught me was that every individual has value and worth. I watched him treat people with dignity and respect." The general has carried on that tradition throughout his career. General Ward did not attend West Point but historically black Morgan State University in Baltimore and joined the military at age 22 after earning a commission through ROTC. He never intended to make the Army his career, but over the years, opportunities kept presenting themselves, and he enjoyed the challenges each one brought.

On October 1, 2007, in Stuttgart, Germany, General Ward became the first commander of the newly formed US Africa Command (AFRICOM), one of six geographic commands within the Department of Defense unified command structure. During his tenure, he brought stability and peace to many regions by being a teacher, a listener, a role model, and a mentor. His main priority and mission was building relationships, providing humanitarian aid, and preventing conflict. He also sought

to improve the capabilities of African countries to control their territory, contain conflict, and create an environment hospitable for socio-economic development.



His retirement ceremony will be held on Tuesday, 26 April 2011 at Fort Myer, Arlington, VA.

STUTTGART, Germany, Mar 9, 2011
(SOURCE: AFRICOM Press Release)

U.S. Army General Carter F. Ham assumed command of U.S. Africa Command from General William E. Ward during a ceremony March 9, 2011, at the Stadthalle in Sindelfingen, Germany, on the outskirts of Stuttgart. Ham is the second commander of U.S. Africa Command, which was established in October 2007. In October 2008 AFRICOM became the U.S. military's sixth and newest unified combatant command, coordinating U.S. military relations with more than 50 nations in Africa.

"Those of us who are privileged to serve today often say that we have the great honor in walking in the footsteps of giants. Today, as Christi and I follow Kip and Joyce Ward, that phrase has never been more meaningful to me than that," Ham said. "I know we'll face many challenges, some of those we can see very clearly today, while others will emerge in unexpected ways and in unexpected places. I remain wholly confident that the Africa Command team will meet each and every one of those challenges with agility, imaginative thought, and unselfish dedication. My fundamental belief is that we can and will accomplish more when we work together with our African partners," he added.



Ham brings diverse experience to the command from his former positions, including serving as the director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, conducting peacekeeping operations in Macedonia, and commanding troops in northern Iraq. In his most recent position, he served as the commanding general of U.S. Army Europe, headquartered in Heidelberg, Germany.

The change-of-command ceremony was attended by approximately 700 people, including staff members and dignitaries from the United States, Germany, and other European nations. Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates and Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff James E. Cartwright both provided opening remarks. "When we first announced the creation of AFRICOM, with its regional focus and institutional inclusion of [the Department of] State and USAID personnel, there was to put it mildly, a certain amount of skepticism," Gates said.

"Some feared the command represented the first steps to a major U.S. military presence in Africa. Others that it would lead to an unacceptable militarization of U.S. foreign and development policy. But, as I said then, and still believe, when crime, terrorism, natural disasters, economic turmoil, ethnic fissures, and disease can be just as destabilizing as traditional military threats, we need to fuse old understandings of security with new concepts of how security, stability, and development go hand in hand," Gates continued. "From the moment he took command, Kip Ward demonstrated the worth of this concept by keeping his eye on the mission, promoting African security by building the capacity of partner nations and organizations."

Cartwright talked about how Ward and his wife Joyce always recognized people as the priority--both in Africa and at the command.

"Africa -- it's a vast continent with tremendous natural resources, but its treasure is its people. And that is something that General Ward has brought to this command since its standup in October of 2007. This continent has over 50 countries, over a billion people. But its people are where he focused this command, and where this command has led from the front."

In his last address as U.S. AFRICOM commander, General Ward thanked the many people who supported and contributed to the creation of the command, giving special mention to those who were there from the beginning in the command's early establishment phases.

"The story of U.S. Africa Command's establishment is filled with unsung heroes who dedicated themselves to an idea--that in recognition of Africa's strategic importance to the United States, the Department of Defense needed a new construct that better aligned the Department's programs and activities to meet our African partners' needs. It fell upon these unsung heroes to turn that idea into a reality, through good solid hard staff work," Ward said.



Ward also emphasized that U.S. military engagement and relationship-building have shown significant results through people-to-people contacts.

AFRICOM has undertaken "a series of military engagements where soldier by soldier, sailor by sailor, airman by airman, Marine Corpsman by Marine Corpsman, Coast Guard by Coast Guard, we make a difference," Ward said. "And not because we teach

someone how to shoot straight or how to drop a bomb accurately or how to drive a ship in the right direction, but because by partnering with our friends and teammates, they see the best of America -- an American service man or woman -- they get to know us, and they say 'Hmm, that is okay.' And there is no greater evidence of that today than what is going on in the northern tier of this continent," he added, referring to recent popular upheavals in several North African nations.

"Where we have had those sustained relationships, we see the military behaving in a way that contributes to the stability of a society," Ward said. " ... And where that has not been the case [of sustained U.S. partnership], militaries are contributing to that additional instability. If you say it's not important for us to be engaged in a sustained way over time, look around. Your Africa Command is dedicated to that."

Ward was deputy of U.S. European Command in August 2006 when EUCOM was notified to begin planning for the possible creation of a new command for Africa. In late September 2007, Ward was confirmed as the first commander of U.S. AFRICOM. He led the command in its conception, planning, and operations, from October 1, 2007 until March 9, 2011. During this time he traveled to more than 40 African countries and met with those nations' senior leaders and military officers. His extensive travel included meeting with a wide number of officials to explain U.S. Africa Command following widespread concern and skepticism when the command's creation was made public in 2007.

During a conference in Stuttgart in October 2010, Ambassador John K. Shinkaiye, chief of staff of the African Union Commission, stated that Ward has "made the establishment of Africa Command acceptable to Africa," adding that Ward's "own personal qualities contributed to the turn-around, and we thank him for this immense contribution to helping tackle Africa's many serious security problems."

During the change of command ceremony, Gates quoted Ward in noting that "African leaders are no longer asking, 'Why is AFRICOM there?' but 'What can AFRICOM do to help?'"

Gates during the ceremony presented Ward with a Defense Distinguished Service Award for his

leadership and accomplishments as U.S. AFRICOM commander.

"General Ward's outstanding leadership, foresighted planning, and trademark leadership brought a unique team together from scratch. The hugely successful standup of U.S. Africa Command was a direct result of his thorough collaboration, vision, and attention to detail," the award read.

Ward's wife, Joyce, an active volunteer in the Department of Defense and the local Stuttgart community, also received a Distinguished Public Service award. Mrs. Ward championed quality-of-life initiatives for military service members and their families to include an annual forum called the U.S. Africa Command Families on the African Continent (AFOTAC) that gave command staff and U.S. military family members living in Africa a venue to express quality-of-life challenges and provide them with updates on the command's activities. She also frequently traveled to Africa with General Ward in support of a variety of humanitarian efforts.



"Over a span of four years, Mrs. Ward visited 26 African states, donating countless supplies and books to orphanages and health care facilities," the award stated. "Her exceptional commitment and service to her country, coupled with her personal concern for others, have contributed immensely to the positive perceptions of U.S. Africa Command."

U.S. Africa Command, headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany, focuses on synchronizing hundreds of activities inherited from three regional commands that previously coordinated U.S. military relations in Africa. The command's mission statement reads: "U.S.

AFRICOM, in concert with other U.S. government agencies and international partners, conducts sustained security engagement through military-to-military programs, military-sponsored activities, and other military operations as directed to promote a stable and secure African environment in support of U.S. foreign policy."

ROCKS ON THE MOVE



According to Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, the President has nominated Lt. Gen. Dennis L. Via for reappointment to the rank of lieutenant general and assignment as deputy commanding general/chief of staff, U.S. Army Materiel Command, Redstone Arsenal,

Ala. LTG Via is currently serving as director for command, control, communications and computer (C4) systems, J-6, The Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.

We know that all Rocks members are very proud of LTG Via and wish him and his family the best in his new assignment.



Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates has announced that the President has nominated Major General Vincent K. Brooks, United States Army, for appointment to the rank of lieutenant general and assignment as Commanding General, United States Army Central/Third Army, Kuwait.

He is currently serving as Commanding General, 1st Infantry Division and Fort Riley, Fort Riley, Kansas. Maj. Gen. Brooks, a U.S. Military Academy at West Point graduate of 1980, became the first black cadet in

the school's history to be named cadet brigade commander (the top-ranking cadet).

In this position, which is somewhat like the president of a college class, he led more than 4,000 cadets during his senior year. Brooks then graduated first in his class. Moving through the ranks in the Army, Brooks served as a brigade commander during Operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo. In June 2002, he became the spokesman for the U.S. Army Central Command in Qatar during Operation Enduring Freedom. During the American-led war with Iraq in the early months of 2003, Brooks handled the daily press conferences for the command and was widely referred to as "the face of the U.S. military." During his 29 years as a commissioned officer, Brooks has served in command and staff positions in the United States, in Germany during the Cold War, in Korea, in Kosovo and in the Middle East.



Recently promoted to Colonel, COL Bichson Bush, 2010 ROCK Bobby Burke Awardee, currently serves as the Army G-2 Training and Simulation Team Chief. She is a ROTC Distinguished Military Graduate and received her Regular Army commission in 1988.

COL Bush has served in a variety of assignments in Korea, the Middle East, and the United States. She commanded at the company and battalion levels, serving as the Battalion Commander of the 344th Military Intelligence Bn at Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas from June 2008 – June 2010 and as Bravo Company Commander in the 524th Military Intelligence Bn at Camp Coiner, Republic of Korea.

Her staff positions include intelligence positions with the U.S. Forces Korea, Platoon Leader, Targeting Officer during Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Assistant Operations Officer at battalion and brigade levels, Professional Development and Captain Assignment Officer, Executive Officer at the company and battalion levels, Division Intelligence Planner, Brigade Operations Officer during OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (Task Force Ready (formerly 504th Military Intelligence Brigade)), DoD Planner to the Drug Enforcement Administration, and Deputy

Director, Intelligence for the U.S. Army Executive Communications and Control Office.

COL Bush holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting (Winston-Salem State University, North Carolina), Master of Science degree in Human Resources Management (Chapman University, California), Master of Science degree in Strategic Intelligence (Post Graduate Intelligence Program (PGIP)), Joint Military Intelligence College, Bolling Air Force Base, Washington, DC), and Master of Science degree in Military Arts and Sciences (School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS), Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas). She is also a graduate of the Military Intelligence Officer Basic and Advanced Courses, Electronic Warfare Officer Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, Joint Collection Management Course, Joint Counterintelligence Course, and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.



*LTC Bush being pinned at her promotion ceremony by
LTG Richard Zahner and her husband, Larry Bush*

Her awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Achievement Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, National Defense Service Medal with bronze star, Korean Service Medal, Southwest Asia Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

COL Bush has been married for over 20 years to Larry E. Bush and they have two daughters: Shannon (age 18) and Megan (age 12).



*Pictured: Parents – Mr. Henry & Mrs. Tam Stevenson
COL Bichson Bush & Husband, Larry Bush
Daughters – Shannon and Megan Bush*

LTC Bichson Bush was promoted to Colonel on Feb 2, 2011 at the Pentagon Hall of Heroes. The Presiding Officer was LTG Richard Zahner, Deputy Chief of Staff, Army G-2. During COL Bush's speech, she expressed profound appreciation to her family members for their love and support throughout her career. COL Bush also expressed to her professional family that this promotion to Colonel was a reflection of those who believed in her and taken the time to mentor, guide, and/or train her to be a better leader and individual; therefore, she was forever grateful for their wise counsel and support.

Reflections from COL Bush

- *What the ROCKS, Inc. means to me professionally/personally:*
 - Provide opportunity to be both a mentor and mentee; help fellow military professionals, especially Soldiers
 - Provide opportunity to develop and enhance professional/personal relationships
 - Provide professional development opportunities to better understand the profession of arms, resulting in better leaders and individuals
- *Why it is important to be part of the ROCKS organization:*
 - Proven organization that mentors officers to be effective and productive leaders
 - Provide opportunity to give back to the profession of arms

CPT Tilisha C. Lockley Receives General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award



The ROCKS membership congratulates CPT Tilisha C. Lockley, DC Chapter member, on her selection as one of the Army's General Douglas MacArthur Leadership Award winners for Calendar Year 2010. The selection process for this award is Army wide

and fiercely competitive. Winners of this prestigious award epitomize the ideals for which General Douglas MacArthur stood: Duty, Honor, Country.

Captain Lockley, a native of Washington County, North Carolina, enlisted in the North Carolina National Guard at the age of 17 as a Personnel Service Specialist. She graduated from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University May 2002 and was commissioned as an Army Officer in the Signal Corps. Her assignments include Node Center Platoon Leader and Company Executive Officer, Bravo Company, 327th Signal Battalion (ABN), 35th Signal Brigade (ABN), Fort Bragg, North Carolina and Brigade Signal Officer, Headquarters, Multi-National Corps/Division, Iraq. CPT Lockley is enroute to her next assignment as the Brigade Signal Officer for Headquarters, Dragon Brigade,

Captain Lockley's military education includes the Signal Officer Basic Course, Signal Officer Captains Career Course, Battlefield Spectrum Management Course, Joint Spectrum Management Course and the Air Force Space Fundamentals Course.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, a Masters in Aeronautical Science and Space Studies from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and a Masters in Business and Organizational Security Management from Webster University.

Her awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Army Parachute Badge and the Bronze Order of Mercury.

CPT Lockley is married to Mr. Ken Lockley of Naples, Florida.

New Members Appointed to VA Committee on Minority Veterans

WASHINGTON, DC – On March 2011 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs announced the appointment of 8 new members to VA's Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans, an expert panel that advises him on issues involving minority veterans. "The new members of the Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans will bring their expertise to help guide VA's efforts in serving minority Veterans," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "VA welcomes these new members." Chartered on January 30, 1995, the committee makes recommendations for administrative and legislative changes. The committee members are appointed to one, two, or three-year terms. One of the 8 new members is BG (R) Clara Adams-Ender, Chairman of the Rocks Inc. National Board. Congratulations Gen Adams-Ender!

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FALLEN ROCK



PETITT HOMER
PETITT, JR. (Age 85)
Colonel, U.S. Army
(Ret.) of Burke, VA died
Saturday, January 29,
2011 in the comfort of
his home surrounded by
his loving family. Born
in Wharton, TX, Homer
was the oldest child and

the only son of Mr. Homer Petitt, Sr. and Mrs. Tommie (King) Petitt. He was raised with his three sisters on the family's farm in Kendleton, TX. Homer served in the U.S. Armed Forces during three wars. He interrupted his high school education to enlist in the Navy during World War II. Honorably discharge after the war ended, he returned to Texas, completed high school, and entered Prairie View A&M College, Prairie View, TX from where he graduated in 1952

with a BS Degree in Business Administration and a commission as a second lieutenant in the US Army.

He served 27 years as a Regular Army officer, initially in the Infantry and later in the Signal Corps. Among his proudest accomplishments as a Signal Corps officer were the successful management of the project to install in Southeast Asia the most extensive and sophisticated telephone switching system the Department of Defense had ever operated in a combat zone, and in Germany, his command of the Army's largest signal battalion. During his career, Colonel Petitt was awarded the Legion of Merit (two awards), the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards) and the Army Commendation Medal (two awards). In 1977, he retired from the military service and began pursuit of his lifelong interest in business management. In 1986, he founded and incorporated his own firm, Alexandria, VA-based Dynamic Technology Systems, Inc., a company that specializes in the exploitation of technology and the fusion of products and services. Until his death, he served the corporation as its Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Colonel Petitt was a member of Mount Olive Baptist Church, Arlington, Virginia where he served on the Board of Trustees.

He was also a life member and staunch supporter of the Rocks Inc., for decades. He was honored as Rock of the Year in the 1990s. His survivors include his loving wife of 59 years, Ada Floyd Petitt of Burke, Virginia; one daughter, Kim D. Graham of Chantilly, VA; two sons, Terance J. Petitt of Camp Springs, MD and Brian K. Petitt of Springfield, VA.

Memorial services were held on Sunday, February 6, 2011 at the Demaine Funeral Home in Springfield, VA and the funeral service at February 7, 2011 at Mt. Olive Baptist Church. Interment will be at Arlington National Cemetery, with full military honors, on March 31st at 1PM. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Prairie View A&M University ROTC Program. Checks payable to The York Fund, c/o PVAMU Army ROTC, Attention: Mr. Edwards, P.O. Box 2757, Prairie View, TX 77446 www.demainefunerals.com

Published in The Washington Post on February 6, 2011

When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure. ~Author Unknown

Premier of the Wereth Eleven Documentary

By MAJ Lawanda D Warthen, Commander USAHC-
Kaiserslautern, Germany



MAJ Lawanda Warthen with the US Surgeon General, Dr. Regina Benjamin at the Wereth Premier

On February 19, 2011, I was one of over 200 people who attended the premier of a documentary called *The Wereth Eleven* at the World War II Museum in New Orleans. The film is the story about soldiers in an all African-American Army unit serving in Normandy in 1944 who were slaughtered by the German SS during the Battle of the Bulge in World War II. The event was not widely known until relatively recently.

After being separated from their unit and trying to evade the Germans, they approached a home in Wereth, Belgium, and the family took them in. When a German patrol came to the house, the Americans surrendered. The men were marched down the road, tortured, and finally killed and dumped into a ditch, where their bodies remained until mid-February.

The official report noted they had been brutalized. Many had had their legs broken, suffered bayonet wounds to their heads, and had fingers hacked off. The film finally gives this heretofore unknown group of men the honor they have always deserved. Like many others who have served and are serving today, they paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

Among those who attended this special event was Dr. Regina Benjamin, the 18th Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service, and the niece of one of the soldiers who served with the 333rd Field Artillery Battalion, an all-black unit, in World War II.



Congresswoman Barbara Lee Announces Introduction of Bill to Promote Buffalo Soldier, Colonel Charles Young Posthumously

Re-post from <http://lee.house.gov>

On March 11, 2011 Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA) announced the introduction of a bill calling for the honorary promotion of Colonel Charles Young to the grade of Brigadier General. Colonel Young was born to former slaves in 1864, and in 1998 became the third African-American cadet to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He had combat commands during the Philippine Insurrection and General Pershing's Punitive Expedition, during which his courageous actions under fire resulted in the rescue of the 13th Cavalry. At the outset of the First World War, Colonel Young was the highest ranking African-American in the United States Army.

"As we celebrate the legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers, it is particularly fitting to honor the service of 'the Golden Buffalo,' Colonel Charles Young," said Congresswoman Barbara Lee. "Colonel Young was a true trailblazer; in a time when the obstacles he faced due to the color of his skin seemed insurmountable, his achievements were astounding. I can think of no better way to honor his service, than with an honorary promotion to the rank of Brigadier General."

Over the course of his thirty-two year career, Colonel Young distinguished himself numerous times as an administrator, as a soldier, and as a combat officer, and became the first black military attaché, the first black Superintendent of a National Park, and the first black soldier promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and Colonel.

The call for renewed recognition of the contributions of Colonel Young and the Buffalo Soldiers has been led by the National Veterans Coalition, founded in 2008, and the National Minority Military Museum Foundation.

Media Contact: Joel Payne, (202) 225- 2661

Editor's Note: A number of DC Chapter Rocks attended this historic event. LTG (R) Arthur Gregg participated in the unveiling.

50th Anniversary of the Freedom Rides

Written by LTC Shawn Hawkins USA
Chaplain, Washington, DC ROCKS



L to R: COL Andre & Glenda Barnes and LTC Shawn & Lyletha Hawkins

On Saturday, February 19, 2011, the Center for African American Genealogical Research, Inc (CAAGRI) hosted a Black Tie Dinner at the Fredericksburg Hospitality House and Conference Center to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Freedom Rides. During the Freedom Rides, from May through December of 1961, more than 400 black and white Americans traveled together by bus and train throughout the Deep South, engaging in acts of nonviolent civil rights activism that changed America forever. These American heroes challenged racial segregation head-on during the American Civil Rights Movement. This Black History Dinner honored the legacies of Dr. James Farmer, Jr. and United States Congressman Bob Filner.

Dr. Farmer initiated and organized the Freedom Rides in order to test the Supreme Court ruling outlawing racial segregation within interstate commerce. Under the Commerce Clause (Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the US Constitution) state and local laws, with respect to segregation, were invalid. Federal law prohibited the practice of segregation in restaurants, restrooms, bus terminals, train stations, and hotels for passengers travelling across state lines. The Freedom Rides eventually led to the desegregation of interstate transportation in the United States.

When Dr. Farmer left Washington, DC on May 4, 1961, one of the twelve other persons on the Trailways bus with him was Robert Earl Filner. An 18 year old Cornell University student at the time, Mr.

Filner was one of four white students to be arrested and jailed in a Jackson, Mississippi state penitentiary for participating in the Freedom Rides. His crime was refusing to post bail in order to, as he states, “keep national spotlight on integration”.

An eight term congressman from California, Bob Filner represents California’s 51st Congressional District. In addition to receiving the CAAGRI 2011 Living Legacy Award, Congressman Filner also provided the keynote address. Inspirational, reflective, and invaluable, his words were well received by all in attendance that evening.

Members of the Washington DC Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc., COL Marilyn Brew (not pictured), COL(R) Andre and Glenda Barnes, and LTC Shawn and Lyletha Hawkins attended the event on the evening of February 19th. Other attendees included: Congressman Robb Whitman (1st Congressional District of VA), Bill Howell (Speaker of the VA House of Delegates), Fredericksburg City Council Members Bea Paolucci and Fred Howe III, and the University of Mary Washington’s President’s Cabinet: Dr. Martin Wilder (Chief of Staff), Dr. Leah Cox (Special Assistant to the Pursuant, Director of the James Scholarship Program and Dean of Student Services), and Xavier Richardson (Board f of Visitors and President of the Mary Washington Foundation). Entertainment that night was provided by the Gye Nyame Dancers and Drummers, as well as, the Richmond Boys Choir. Click on the links below to watch the performances. Paula D. Royster, President and CEO of CAAGRI sends a sincere ‘Thank You!’ to the men and women of the ROCKS, Inc. for our support of this event. More information on CAAGRI, the services it provides, and how you can get involved can be found at the following link:

<http://www.caagri.org/>.

"Press on knowing that you have been equipped to endure and that life is not lived completely unless you love with intensity, garner compassion, forgive even when it is difficult, and remain committed to the goal of being true yourself. "-----Kim J. Wagner

LTG Via visits the All-American Chapter

Written By 1LT Sharon Height, MAJ Clydellia Prichard-Allen
& LTC John McLeod, Jr.

Lieutenant General Dennis Via, the Director, Command, Control, Communications & Computer Systems Directorate (J6), the Joint Staff, recently visited Fort Bragg, NC to serve as the keynote speaker at Fort Bragg’s Rev. Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Celebration. During his visit, he took the time to spend with the ROCKS, Inc. flagship All-American Chapter to speak to, mentor and re-energize the All-Americans.



LTG Dennis Via (center) with All American Chapter Members

LTG Via personally greeted everyone, especially his fellow Virginia State University Alumni in attendance. He then gave a brief synopsis of his background, taking care of Soldiers and their Families, always doing the right thing and giving his best at every assignment. He mentioned that “everyone must do their best at every job because it prepares one for assignments at the next level” Whether leaders know it or not, someone is always watching or monitoring one’s performance which establishes a leader’s reputation. This can lead to doors opening with opportunities.

General Via told the audience that all of the Army Values are “just reflective of what we have learned since birth from our parents, family, churches, schools and community.” Those values never change and are interwoven in our daily lives. In that same spirit, “as leaders, everything we learned about leadership, we

learned as 2LTs, Sergeants and WO1s.” The same leadership traits he utilizes as a three-star general are the same basic traits he learned as a second lieutenant. The only difference is the experiences leaders gain.

One of the general’s major points was that leaders need to ensure that their personnel file is always up to date and correct. “Always keep your DA Photo up to date. By the way, the Army’s new standard for the dress uniform is the ASU (Army Service Uniform), so your photos should reflect the same.” Officers’ files are always under review for opportunities and looked at by others and an old photo or outdated ORB reflects negatively on that officer.

In response to a question, General Via encouraged leaders to ensure they have a diverse range of assignment locations and not “homestead” in one location. He believed that if he spent the majority of his career in one location, he may not have been afforded the opportunities that were presented. More importantly, he would not have gained the experience across the spectrum of tactical, strategic and garrison-based communications by remaining in just one force structure (airborne, light, mechanized, special operation & etc.). The Army needs leaders that have diverse backgrounds within their specific career fields.

Lastly, General Via enlightened enthusiastic All-American members and guests on DoD’s upcoming changes in the J6 and proposed budget cuts and its effects on the Army.

LTG Via was recently confirmed by the US Senate for reappointment to the rank of lieutenant general and assignment as the Deputy Commanding General/Chief of Staff, US Army Materiel Command, Redstone Arsenal, Alabama.

Henry O. Flipper Chapter Update

Written by MAJ Vashaun A. “Tony” Wrice USA

The Henry O. Flipper Chapter has been busy since the beginning of the year. While this year’s Martin Luther King Jr. luncheon with guest speaker Ms. Patricia Sowell Harris, Diversity Officer for McDonald’s Corporation was cancelled due to weather, chapter members such as COL Irving Smith, MAJs Crystal Hills, Darren Spears, Mike Burns, and

Dr. Michelle Craddock were instrumental in coordinating behind the scenes to ensure that this year’s event would have been a phenomenal success.

A second event for the chapter was the annual Henry O. Flipper dinner in which they commemorated the sacrifices, perseverance, and dedication of Henry O. Flipper, the first African-American cadet to graduate from the United States Military Academy. This year’s guest speaker was LTG Bostick. LTG Bostick’s speech was inspiring as he reminded cadets, staff, and faculty that they are all role models whether they know it or not. He illustrated how Henry O. Flipper served as a role model for he knew that other African Americans would be judged based on his actions. He provided other examples of how Flipper served as a role model through his successful contest and fight to regain status after being wrongfully discharged from the Army.

Next, members of the chapter were instrumental in the planning and execution of the academy’s Black History Month program. Specifically, members of the African American Arts Forum, overseen by chapter member MAJ Crystal Hills, and members of the Cadet Gospel Choir, overseen by chapter member Darren Spears, were just a few of significant contributors to this amazing event.



COL Irving Smith, HOF Chapter President, presents a proud Cadet Candidate, with his mother by his side, his appointment letter to the Class of 2015.

ROCKs members COL Irving Smith, COL Mike Endres, COL Bernie Banks, MAJ Mike Burns, and MAJ Darren Spears participated in the Directorate of Admissions panel for minority candidates providing valuable information to West Point candidates and

their parents(see picture). Lastly, the chapter asked member LTC Donald Outing and staff and faculty member Dr. Erika Rovira to brief the general body on their educational initiatives. LTC Donald Outing runs the academy's Center for Diversity and Leadership in STEM. And during his briefing, he described in great detail how his center plans to provide outreach to communities across the country and promote diversity among STEM fields at the academy.

Furthermore, Dr. Rovira discussed her Excel initiative which will push underrepresented cadets to accomplish high academic achievements and apply for and earn the highly competitive scholarships offered throughout academia. These first couple months of 2011 have been very productive for the Henry O. Flipper chapter and they are looking forward to many more.

New Leadership and Revitalization for ROCKS, Central Virginia Chapter Golf Scramble & Fundraiser Planned

Written by LTC Vaneada S. Terrell, PhD

The Central Virginia Chapter of The ROCKS is making significant strides to ensure higher levels of community visibility, while lobbying for increased membership. Over the next few months, the Central Virginia Chapter is executing a self-imposed project called "The Central Virginia ROCKS Revitalization." The purpose of this revitalization effort is to emphasize and aggressively execute ROCKS traditions of mentorship, scholarship, and community service. Long-term, the desired result is to guarantee collaborative efforts and close ties to Fort Lee and community leaders, while promoting membership, mentorship, scholarship, and community outreach.

On-going community activities and mentorship have been strong suits for the small, but hard-working Central Virginia group. Habitual relationships with Virginia State University, Petersburg High School, Area Middle Schools, Reading Projects, Big-Brother/Big Sister, and Habitat for Humanity represent some of the community activities. On the mentorship side, officer professional development (OPD) sessions with military officer leadership schools proved to be the most helpful venue for

multicultural exposure. Over the past year Central Virginia chapter conducted OPD sessions on topics ranging from finance to NCO utilization. Central Virginia is actively electing to emphasize implementing strategies to promote a positive image.

A prime strategy currently being executed facilitates membership. Central Virginia plans to boost membership and awareness with an upcoming "Open Season" initiative. The Chapter agreed to allow any new member a "special advantage" for joining the Central Virginia Chapter. New members will receive a free one-year local membership; providing they can validate paid membership to the National Chapter. This "Open Season" event is happening on Fort Lee but serves as a platform for advertising the first community outreach fundraiser event of the year. An Ice Breaker luncheon and membership drive occurred on February 17th at the Regimental Club to welcome interested parties.

On April 22nd, Central Virginia ROCKS will sponsor a Golf Scramble off post at the Dogwood Trace Golf Course in Petersburg. This fundraising event will afford the Central Virginia Chapter a golden opportunity to provide donations while simultaneously supporting community outreach. Proceeds will benefit enlisted soldiers of the 59th Ordnance Brigade, as donations will be presented to the unit to assist in covering expenses for soldiers interested in attending the military ball. A portion of the proceeds will also be used to enhance the Central Virginia chapter's scholarship fund. A raffle will be hosted as well (with donated merchandise), and monies will be applied to the ROCKS local chapter scholarship fund.

There is no doubt that Central Virginia is on the move. The change in active membership for Central Virginia ROCKS facilitated a need for internal change. The previous chapter President, CPT Seneta Burns, is now in the process of fulfilling military mission requirements, but was very methodical in transferring records for chapter planning. Thanks to input and guidance from Senior Chapter Advisor COL (Ret) Alexander Davis, Executive Committee members were prompted to carry out sound plans for future operations. Advisor CW4 (ret) Chester Morris was consistent in establishing dedicated meeting focus, while LTC Vaneada Terrell volunteered to fill whatever void existed for the sake of synergy. Veteran member and former chapter Vice President

MAJ Dominique Chatters provided clarity and imparted useful knowledge on historical operating procedures.

LTC Ross Johnson, newly installed Central Virginia Chapter president, is already making a difference. He is clearly passionate about facilitating positive ROCKS growth for the Central Virginia Chapter. Timing is on-time and leadership is certainly on-target. It is the intent of the Central Virginia members to present the new President at the upcoming ROCKS Gala at Fort Belvoir in April. The Central Virginia Chapter of the ROCKS is soaring to new heights.

MG Abe Turner Meets with MG Charles C. Rogers ROCKS Chapter at Carlisle Barracks

Written By COL Richard "Flip" Wilson USA



Serving as a mentor during the recent Army War College Strategic Decision Making Exercise (SDME), Major General Abraham J. Turner leveraged his time there to engage the MG Charles C. Rogers Carlisle Barracks Rocks Chapter on March 8, 2011. Major General Turner is the Chief of Staff, United

States Strategic Command, Offutt Air Force Base, Neb. He is the principal advisor to the commander and deputy commander, United States Strategic Command, and directs the activities of the command staff by developing and implementing policies and procedures in support of the command's missions. He chairs numerous boards, oversees the command corporate process, and serves as director of the commander's staff.

General Turner earned his commissioning into the Army as an infantry officer through the South Carolina State University ROTC program in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Music. While attending the U.S. Army War College, he earned a master's degree in Public Administration from Shippensburg University, Penn.

Prior to his current assignment, General Turner was Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, Fort Monroe, Va. Other previous assignments include serving as Commanding General, U.S. Army Training Center and Fort Jackson, Ft. Jackson, S.C.; assistant Chief of Staff, C-3, Coalition Forces Land Component Command, Camp Doha, Kuwait; assistant Division Commander (Operations), 82d Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.; and Chief, House Legislative Liaison Division, Office of the Chief, Legislative Liaison, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.

General Turner's combat experiences include a combat jump into Panama during Operation JUST CAUSE; a deployment during Operations DESERT SHIELD and DESERT STORM; and most recently, deployments in support of Operations IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM. His many awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merits with two oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star Medal with oak leaf cluster, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters.

MG Turner focused his comments and the discussion around three central topics: Mentorship and outreach and the importance of leading the way; ROCKS engagement to junior leaders and peers; and senior leaders as role models. He re-emphasized their responsibilities, identified some challenges, and left them inspired.

Fort Leavenworth Update

Written By Mr. Charles Darden

Fort Leavenworth, KS - The Civil War was one of the most amazing four years in African American history, said retired Brig. Gen. Clara Adams-Ender, and Fort Leavenworth played an important role. BG(R) Adams-Ender, Rocks National Board Chairperson, the first woman in the U.S. Army to qualify and be awarded the Expert Medical Badge and first woman to earn a Master of Military Art and Science degree from the Command and General Staff College, spoke at a Black History Month luncheon Feb. 17.

"There's a lot of rich African American history in this state," BG(R) Adams-Ender said. A former chief of

the Army Nurse Corps, BG(R) Adams-Ender was responsible for inspecting Munson Army Health Center when it was a hospital. She was in Kansas in 1992 when Fort Leavenworth dedicated the Buffalo Soldier Monument in honor of the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments, two African American Army units formed after the Civil War. BG(R) Adams-Ender said there were many reasons America had a Civil War, but ending slavery was a result. "Many people still think the main cause of the war was to free slaves and I'm here to tell you, that is not so," she said.



Charles Darden and BG(Ret) Adams-Ender sitting in the chapel lounge just minutes prior to the BH celebration



Garrison Commander, COL Wayne Green's spouse (Tara Green) sitting with BG (Ret) Adams-Ender at the head table during the BH celebration at the chapel.

BG(R) Adams-Ender said the war began as a split between states rights versus federal rights, economic differences between the states and the growth of the abolitionist movement. "It is still one of the deadliest wars ever fought in American history," she said. "The unexpected result was that it served as a catalyst for

ending the brutal regime of slavery," she said. The U.S. government first offered freedom to slaves owned by Confederate soldiers.

BG(R) Adams-Ender said about 180,000 African Americans served in the Army and about 19,000 served in the Navy. There were 80 noncommissioned officers. Although BG(R) Adams-Ender said it wasn't the intention of the U.S. Army to have African American NCOs at the time, she said they were promoted because they stepped up into the role when needed. By the end of the war, 16 African American Soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor. After distinguishing themselves in military service, President Abraham Lincoln began to realize the need for granting more rights to African Americans, she said. BG(R) Adams-Ender said during the Civil War, African American Soldiers in the Union Army were paid \$10 a month, with \$3 deducted for clothing. White Soldiers were paid \$13 a month with no deductions. In 1864, the Army realized this was unfair, reversed their policy and made the action retroactive, BG(R) Adams-Ender said



BG (Ret) Adams-Ender speaking at the BH celebration in the chapel.

BG(R) Adams-Ender said she served 34 years in the Army, rising through the Army Nurse Corps, where she eventually became chief executive officer for 22,000 nurses and director of personnel for the Army Surgeon General, and vice president for nursing at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

BG(R) Adams-Ender published her memoir, "My Rise to the Stars: How a Sharecropper's Daughter Became an Army General," in 2001. Currently, she is the

executive director of a nonprofit organization, Caring About People with Enthusiasm, which helps students of modest means achieve a college education.



Ms Phyllis Bass-Director, Richard Allen Cultural Center, Leavenworth, KS gives BG (Ret) Adams-Ender a tour of the Center in Leavenworth, KS.

U.S. Army War College Chapter Activities Update

Written By COL Richard "Flip" Wilson



Above, MG(R) Dorian Anderson and MG Charles C. Rogers Chapter of ROCKS, Inc following their January, 2011 Senior Leader Mentorship Program session.

The MG Charles C. Rogers Chapter of Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania and the U.S. Army War College has been actively pushing an agenda anchored in education, mentorship, and community outreach. Although this quarter is a challenging period for our student chapter members as they complete their Strategic Research Projects, assume leadership roles during the Strategic Decision Making Exercise, and complete the core curriculum in Defense Enterprise Management, their members stepped up in typical fashion. Below is a summary of Chapter Activities.

Senior Leader Mentorship Program

Monthly, the MG Charles C. Rogers Chapter of ROCKS, Inc hosts senior leaders to speak to the chapter in a non-attribution environment on a range of topics to provide mentoring to its members. The guest speakers have provided their personal insights on leadership, balance, fitness, community service, faith, leader development, combat stress, giving back, and the challenges that face our profession in the 21st century to list a few.



March 8, 2011 MG Abe Turner and the War College ROCKS, Inc.

Serving as a mentor during the recent Army War College Strategic Decision Making Exercise (SDME), Major General Abraham J. Turner leveraged his time there to engage the MG Charles C. Rogers Carlisle Barracks Rocks Chapter on March 8, 2011.

Black History Month Program



COL Jonathan Johnson (JJ) reads the Presidential Proclamation

The MG Charles C. Rogers Chapter of Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania and the U.S. Army War College participated in the garrison's Black History Month Program in a significant way. COL Jonathan Johnson served as the master of ceremony and read President Barak Obama's proclamation for this year's event. COL Robert Barnes, COL Terrence Murrill, and COL Fletch Fletcher performed musical selections as entertainment for those in attendance.



LTC(P) Rob Barnes performs

The ROCKS also hosted COL(P) Barrye Price, Deputy Commanding General U.S. Army Cadet Command as the guest speaker. COL(P) Price, who holds a doctorate degree in history, spoke on the importance of the celebration of Black History and the Black History facts that are not often present in the history text books used to educate students.

Black History Month Reading Program



COL Richard (Flip) Wilson reads to kids at Letort Elementary School in Carlisle, Pennsylvania

The MG Charles C. Rogers Chapter War College ROCKS, Inc supported Carlisle Barracks Black History Month Reading Program to provide education in Black History at local area elementary schools. This community outreach effort was extremely rewarding to those who participated, and well received by the students and faculty from each school.

Upcoming Events

April 4, 2011

Dickinson College Outreach/Mentorship Panel

March 29 2011

Senior Leader Mentorship session w/ MG(R)
Hawthorne Proctor & BG(R) Velma Richardson

CUSTOMS, COURTESIES, AND TRADITIONS

Written by CPT Avon D. Cornelius, Publicity Chair
Morning Calm, Korea Chapter

On February 12, 2011, Morning Calm Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc. held its monthly meeting at the 1st Replacement Company Conference Room in Yongsan, Korea. The feature of the meeting was a Professional Development PD session entitled "Customs, Courtesies, and Traditions." CPT Raven A. Cornelius, Commander of 38th Chemical Detachment and former Protocol Action Officer for U.S. Forces Korea, was the speaker.

Customs are established practices which include positive actions, things you do, and taboos, things you avoid. All established arts, trades, and professions, races of people, nations, and even different sections of the same nation have their own practices and customs by which they govern parts of their lives. Many Army customs compliment procedures required by military courtesy, while others add to the graciousness of garrison life. Violations of other Army customs; however, will bring official censure or disciplinary action.

The customs of the Army are its common laws. Courtesies among members of the Armed Forces are vital to maintain discipline. Military courtesies mean good manners and politeness in dealing with other

people. Courteous behaviors provide a basis for developing good human relations. "Military courtesy," said CPT Cornelius, "is not a one-way street. Enlisted personnel are expected to be courteous to officers and likewise for officers. From courtesy, respect evolves." Common Army courtesies include: rendering the hand salute, standing at Attention or Parade Rest, or even addressing others by their rank.

Traditions are customary patterns of thought, action, or behavior help by an identifiable group of people. They come in the forms of information, beliefs, and customs handed down by words of mouth or by examples from one generation to another without written instruction. She said that "Military traditions give Soldiers feelings of pride to understand just why we do things the way we do. Traditions are expressed in the things done, the uniforms worn, and the things said."

Her main reference was the Army Officer's Guide. From it, she shared some things to remember.

- Note Taking: Always have a pen and paper to take notes, one never knows when someone tells him or her something important.
- Social Functions: Unit social functions are command performances, it is clear that the presence of officers is expected even if not mandatory. Mingle with all races. Toasts are considered a mandatory part of social functions; drinking is not. Do not be the first to leave.
- Places of Honor: Officers and NCOs should always know their places around seniors and subordinates. The place of honor is to the right even in casual conversation.
- Mistakes: Shortcomings are inevitable, never make excuses for them; officers earn respect by admitting and taking the responsibility for their mistakes.
- Other Services: The Armed Forces consist of different Departments. Know and understand the workings of each Department. Learn the ranks of other services; a CAPTAIN in the Navy is an O6 not an O3.
- Names: Remember names; learn the correct pronunciation and spelling. It shows respect especially with tricky names.
- Mentors: Mentors give Officers and Soldiers valuable insight; seek them out. Have more than one mentor, one who is in a desired position and someone within a current profession with whom to grow.

REFLECTIONS OF A STALWARK ROCK AS HE PINS ON HIS EAGLES

Written By COL Richard "Flip" Wilson

Why be a ROCK? This organization truly develops you professionally as much as you want to be developed. The journey starts and ends with your passion and commitment to the motto: "*Concern, Dedication and Professionalism.*" As a company grade officer I honestly thought every answer was in correspondence courses (the Yellow Books for those of you who have been around for a while), Army Regulations, Field Manuals or experiences from our Combat Training Centers. This simply was not the case then, nor is it today. Soldiers have focused on solving problems, designing plans and leading Warriors where we strongly believe in having the resources and tools instantly upon request. The ROCKS have developed other skills that are critical to us as leaders - not just technical and tactical but interpersonal and conceptual skills as well. The last two skills are developed throughout years in our military career and can neither be measured nor physically observed. These benefits are intangible!

Personally, the ROCKS has encouraged the value of diversity and encouraged me to develop meaningful relationships beyond my immediate "circle of friends." This means as leaders we must gain insights from all professionals who serve throughout the Department of Defense in each of the warfighting functions: movement and maneuver, fires, intelligence, sustainment, protection and command and control. It is "Too Easy" to reach out to a fellow Warrior. We must remain cognizant of from "whence we came" but to further enrich our lives in reaching out to unfamiliar professionals who have so much to offer for the benefit of our Army, our Families and our Ranger Buddies!

Professionally, as a ROCK, it is great to continuously sharpen your sword and intellect through self-study and development with the OPTEMPO of our daily commitments. As a fellow ROCK, either a junior or peer, not just a senior can contribute to your development. This here is the baseline for further growth and another way to a broadening leader development experience. Professionally, junior officers must have access to seniors so they too can develop a balance for implementing the fundamentals

of Comprehensive Soldier Fitness. As peer to peer, *The ROCKS* is an organization where you must be comfortable in maintaining collaboration among fellow professionals committed to a similar cause. This extends way beyond “your class mate,” “your Year Group,” “your branch” – to a wider network. There is nothing stronger than enabling a collaborative network such as this one. Furthermore, there are several opportunities to gain broader to strategic perspectives from senior officers. You will learn in panel discussions involving current events, the Army’s future and the observations, insights and lessons learned of our senior leaders. Membership with the ROCKS consistently fosters an environment for intellectual dialogue which results in informal coaching and over time may develop into mentorship relationships.

In closing, it is you and your personal concern, dedication and professionalism that will define why it is so important to be a member of The ROCKS, Inc. Each contribution made by a member is so unique and valued that you will never be able to compare your contribution to another as we promote the future of our officer corps. Our future starts and begins with you and your commitment not for yourself but to the cadet corps (the pipeline), company and field grade officers, and our Army. The senior officers whom you may interface with will treasure your service, your commitment and your reflections. This is your reward and the true fruit of your volunteerism in this organization.

About COL Wilson: Colonel Wilson is married to the former Relisa C. Seldon (FAMU Alumnus and former Army Nurse Officer). They have four daughters, Reanna (9), Regan (7), Robyn (6) and Renee (6).

He was born in Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies. He graduated from New York University (NYU) and cross-enrolled in ROTC through the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute of New York. He received his commission as an Infantry Officer.

Colonel Wilson has served in Mechanized, Light Infantry and Stryker Brigade Combat Teams. He has served in leadership positions ranging from platoon leader, company commander and battalion commander in infantry formations.

He has also served in multiple staff positions at battalion/brigade/division/corps level in the Operating

Force. He has conducted contingency and combat deployments in Panama, Bosnia and Iraq. He has further served in the Generating Force as Director, Chief of Infantry (TRADOC), HQDA G-3 Staff Officer (Pentagon) and Chief, Joint Operations (USAF Warfare Center, Air Combat Command). He is currently attending the Army War College.



COL Flip Wilson with family (Spouse – Relisa; Daughters – Left to Right: Regan, Robyn, Renee and Reanna)

Cadet Spotlight



Congresswoman Terry Sewell, AL 7th Congressional District, admires the medal received by cadet LaBrille D. May during the recent awards/promotions ceremonies held at Concordia College-Selma. Army ROTC Cadet May was awarded the National Leadership Award from the Military Order of the Purple Heart. The award is presented annually to the cadet who has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities during the school year.

South Carolina State ROTC History

Written by 1LT Nathaniel T. Taylor Jr.
SC, 151st ESB, RNOSC Battle Captain
Camp Liberty, Iraq

South Carolina State University graduates came together to conclude 'Iraqi Freedom' and initiate 'New Dawn'. The three SC State Bulldogs, all Signal Corps officers, were commissioned at the historically black university (HBCU), ranked second only to West Point in producing African-American officers.



SC STATE UNIVERSITY graduates come together to conclude Iraqi freedom and initiate New Dawn.. LTC Mickel Sawyer USF-I J6 Plans Deputy, MAJ Stephanie Gray Royal USF-I J6 Joint Communications Campaign Planner, 1LT Nathaniel T. Taylor Jr. Regional Network Operations and Security Center Iraq Battle Captain

The South Carolina State University Department of Military Science was established at SC State in 1947. The first graduating class in 1949 consisted of six cadets: five received Regular Army commissions and one received a Reserve commissioned Since the establishment of ROTC at South Carolina State University, 2035 students have received commissions in the Armed Forces as of December 2010 including LTC Mickel Sawyer in December 1983, Major Stephanie Gray Royal May 2001 and 1LT Nathaniel T. Taylor Jr. in December 2007.

The Army ROTC program was initially branch material, producing only Infantry officers. The program was supplanted in 1954 by the General Military Science Program enabling graduating cadets to select the branch of the Army in which they were most interested and qualified. From 1947 until 1968,

enrollment in the ROTC program was mandatory for all able-bodied freshman and sophomore male students.

A cross-enrollment program was initiated in 1968 to permit students from other local institutions, which do not have a ROTC program to receive training at South Carolina State University, without transferring from the institution of their choice. To date, South Carolina State University has a cross-enrollment agreement with Claflin University, Voorhees College, Denmark Technical College and Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College.

During School Year 1972-73, the Department of the Army initiated, on a trial basis, a five-year program of enrolling women in ROTC. South Carolina State University was one of the ten institutions selected nationwide to participate in this program. The first females graduated in 1976. Since the enrollment of females, South Carolina State University has commissioned 266 females, like Major Stephanie Gray Royal.



Current Bulldog Battalion

To date, 14 SC State alumni have achieved the rank of General Officer with twelve commissioned through the Army ROTC Program: Brigadier General (Retired) George B. Price, '51; Major General (Retired) James R. Klugh, '53; Lieutenant General (Retired) Henry Doctor, Jr., '54 (deceased); Major General Arnold Fields, '68, (United States Marine Corps); Major General George F. Bowman, '69, (United States Army National Guard); Brigadier General Julius J. Lawton '69; Brigadier General Clifford L. Stanley, '69, (United States Marine Corps); Brigadier General Harold L. Mitchell, '72

(United States Air Force); Major General Larry Knightner '72 (United States Army Reserves); Brigadier General Nolen V. Bivens, '76; Brigadier General Frederick J. Johnson, '76; Major General Abraham J. Turner, '76; and Brigadier General Stephen M. Twitty, '85. Also, Brigadier General Amos M. Gailliard began his distinguished military career at South Carolina State University Army ROTC program, '51, (United States Army National Guard).



From left to right Howard University Cadre and Cadets at the Black History Month Program at Fort Myer Memorial Chapel Service (MAJ Tyra Seller, Cadet Deidrick Nagle, Cadet Kendra Marshall, Cadet Robert Gorham, Cadet Tiffany Vaughn, Cadet Jasmine Smith, Cadet John Perez, Cadet Ebony Mingo, Cadet Kyra Davenport and CPT Brian Sansom)

BISONS TAKE PART IN HONORING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Written By Cadet Kyra Davenport

The service labeled African American History Month: Our Family, Our Church, and Our History took place at Fort Myer, Virginia. The service honored the legacy of those who paved the way for Cadets like those at Howard University and honored those presently serving the community. Bison Cadets served as ushers during the gospel service and stood tall and proud as they ushered guests to their respective seating. Distinguished guests such as Leslie Foster of WUSA Channel 9, White House representative Michael Blake, and President and Chief Executive Officer Elise Scott of the Congressional Black Caucus were honored with the Keeper of the Community Award. "As a leader you should always take advantage of the opportunity to serve," said Professor of Military Science Major Sellers. The guests delivered words of encouragement about service to the community and inspiring leadership. Fallen heroes were also honored

and the legacies of the Buffalo Soldier and Tuskegee Airmen were commemorated. Following this exceptional ceremony Bison Cadets fellowshiped and shared a meal with honorees and other members of the service. Not only was this an opportunity to serve, but it was also an opportunity for Cadets to meet educated professionals and leaders of the community who can serve as mentors in the future.

BISON HONORS THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Written By Cadet Diedrick Nagle



John Morgan , Tuskegee Airman, and C/Captain Kyra Davenport

Their stories would remain as unknown history, until February 16, 2010 when the Veterans' History Project (VHP) provided a venue that led us deeper into the lives of these unsung heroes-- men of honor, integrity and selfless-service. Army ROTC Cadets Nagle and Davenport, several Air Force ROTC cadets, and a number of notable students at Howard University worked in conjunction with VHP and Ms. Copeland at Howard's WHUTV Station to interview veterans from a number of wars and conflicts across American history. Coming from diverse backgrounds and sectors of the military (Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines), they all have unique stories to share of their military service and life thereafter. Mr. John Morgan, a Tuskegee Airman, was interviewed by Cadet Davenport and needless to say she was ecstatic about the opportunity to hear his story. Another veteran, Mr. McRary, was a prior enlisted soldier who served in both Okinawa and Korea. These two honorable veterans, among many others, are the reason we have the luxuries we do today and it is important that we recognize that. The mission of this project was to increase awareness and appreciation for our veterans and give them the opportunity to tell their compelling stories. It is necessary for Cadets and future leaders to

take our veterans' contributions seriously. We cannot truly appreciate and value our freedom until we understand and appreciate those who walked before us.

All-American Promotion Boards

Written by MAJ Clydellia Prichard-Allen &
LTC John McLeod, Jr.

Major Clydellia Prichard-Allen provided Fort Bragg's All-American Chapter in-depth briefings on the Promotion and Special Boards process during the February and March meetings. The meetings drew large audiences of over 65 officers each month and were well received by the chapter and guests and promoted a lot of discussion. She educated the All-Americans on the promotions and selections process as well as assisted many in getting their files on track prior to boards. She also covered some of the do's and don'ts, myth busters, a basic understanding of the board process to keep everyone on track and maybe even ahead of their peers.

One of the chapter's goals is to provide each officer with the tools and guidance that are needed for successful careers. Several points to keep in mind are:

- **UPDATE YOUR PHOTO:** Your DA Photo provides the first impression and depicts your fitness level, weight, ASU or Class A and etc. The Army Service Uniform or ASU is the Army's new uniform standard and could make a difference. It is a small investment to help your career. Have your Senior NCO Mentor (platoon SGT, 1SG or CSM) to spot-check your uniform. No mustaches/beards. It's ok to be pregnant in a picture. Update your photo prior to deployment. There is no excuse for not having an updated photo.
- **Keep your ORB (Resume) updated** often (at least each time you have something significant happen to you (i.e. award, school, deployments)
- **Get a Mentor:** Provides guidance, understanding and recommendations to assist with your career. Have a mentor review your OERs for guidance on your Rater and Senior Rater comments.
- **Performance:** Do your best at each job you are in. Great performance is the key to success

- **Honesty:** Be brutally honest with yourself: are you doing a great job or just doing your job? Is your performance in your mind in-synch with your rater's/Sr. rater's perspective?
- **Talk with your Rater and Senior Rater** to get their recipe for your success; make sure they know your tasks.
- Become familiar with **DA PAM 600-3** It gives you a career path of the jobs you should consider at each rank for your AOC/specialty area.

Finally, each officer is the best steward of their career so get to know and understand the promotions and selections process.

MG Rodney Anderson, Deputy Commanding General, XVIII Airborne Corps, and a regular attending member, provided closing comments and points:

- Your photo is the most important document in your board file.
- Do your job well and be good at what you do.
- Keep your file straight and up to date.

MAJ Clydellia Prichard-Allen is the S1, 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade. She is a former HQDA Secretariat Board Recorder for selection and promotion boards at HRC.

Report: Too many whites, men leading military

By Pauline Jelinek - The Associated Press
NAVY Times Posted : Monday Mar 7, 2011 15:10:55 EST

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military is too white and too male at the top and needs to change recruiting and promotion policies and lift its ban on women in combat, an independent report for Congress said Monday. Seventy-seven percent of senior officers in the active-duty military are white, while only 8 percent are black, 5 percent are Hispanic and 16 percent are women, the report by an independent panel said, quoting data from September 2008. One barrier that keeps women from the highest ranks is their inability to serve in combat units. Promotion and job opportunities have favored those with battlefield leadership credentials.

The report ordered by Congress in 2009 calls for greater diversity in the military's leadership so it will better reflect the racial, ethnic and gender mix in the armed forces and in American society. Efforts over the years to develop a more equal opportunity military have increased the number of women and racial and ethnic minorities in the ranks of leadership. But, the report said, "despite undeniable successes ... the armed forces have not yet succeeded in developing a continuing stream of leaders who are as diverse as the nation they serve."

"This problem will only become more acute as the racial, ethnic and cultural makeup of the United States continues to change," said the report from the Military Leadership Diversity Commission, whose more than two dozen members included current and former military personnel as well as businessmen and other civilians. Having military brass that better mirrors the nation can inspire future recruits and help create trust among the general population, the commission said. Among recommendations is that the military eliminate policies that exclude women from combat units, phasing in additional career fields and units that they can be assigned to as long as they are qualified. A 1994 combat exclusion policy bans women from being assigned to ground combat units below the brigade level even though women have for years served in combat situations.

"If you look at today's battlefield in Iraq and Afghanistan, it's not like it was in the Cold War, when we had a defined battlefield," retired Air Force Gen. Lester L. Lyles, the commission's chairman, said in an interview. "Women serve — and they lead — military security, military police units, air defense units, intelligence units, all of which have to be right there with combat veterans in order to do the job appropriately."

Because they are technically attached to, but not assigned to, combat units, they don't get credit for being in combat arms, something important for promotion to the most senior ranks. Lyles said the commission consulted a panel of enlisted women on the issue. "I didn't hear, 'Rah, rah, we want to be in combat,'" Lyles said. "But I also didn't hear, 'We don't want to be in combat.' What they want is an equal opportunity to serve where their skills allow them to serve."

Stretching the definition of diversity, the report also said the military must harness people with a greater range of skills and backgrounds in, for instance, cyber systems, languages and cultural knowledge to be able to operate in an era of new threats and to collaborate with international partners and others.

Editor's Note: LTG (R) Julius W. Becton, Jr., a ROCKS life member, is the commission's vice chairman. The final report for the Military Leadership Diversity Committee is available at <http://mldc.whs.mil/>.

Leadership Lessons of Land Navigation

Written by 1LT Andrew Brown USA (Ret)



Land navigation teaches one the following, "The race is given to the one who charts their life using a map, endures the challenging terrains of the course, and trust their compass."

During LT Brown's military tour as an Army Medical officer, he was confronted with a defining moment. He survived a near fatal accident and the loss of a fellow comrade. He also received an unfavorable diagnosis after recovering from a 3 day coma and spending 3 and a half weeks in intensive care. At this time he realized that the physical and mental aptitude that propelled his 14.5 year military career would be the resource guiding him as he attempted to walk and talk again. His rehabilitation revealed the intrinsic assets that Land Navigation provided and how they characterized his recovery and life.

This experience demonstrated how leaders often think they should know all the answers, but that is not true. By seeking answers, the leader's ability to be coachable is vital to his peers and other who have mastery in key areas. A leader learns from those he influences, which yields value and self-worth for others. Land Navigation necessitates collaborative team work. Learning and recognition from team members provides an atmosphere of humility for growth and development. Land navigation teaches leaders about geographical terrain, and it develops

their character to trust in themselves and their teammates. Working well with others means learning the terrain.

Resources for the Journey

The key to land navigation: reading the map, pointing the compass in the direction needed, and taking off running - spirited, focused and on course. One day during therapy, the 1LT Brown was inspired to go to the forest preserve to practice walking with crutches. While outdoors, nature provided a unique energy. Memories of Army field exercises provided the motivation. Leaders are confronted with difficult situations that might make one think about quitting. Instead, they persevere and mentally commit themselves to winning.

A compass, determines the right direction. The map visualizes the desired destination and resources needed for the journey. The pace count determines the time it will take to reach the objective.



*Andrew L. Brown, 1LT (R), Medical Service Corps,
United States Army*

The terrain features display the kinds of obstacles that are in the way (i.e. hill, valley, saddle, hilltop, ridge, depression or cliff.) Leaders have to deal with the obstacles of life: personal and professional development, finances, family dynamics and support.

There are seven things about terrain features that will facilitate a leaders' success.

Hill –Leaders strive to reach the highest point of their potential. A hill, a high point, reflects a new job, a promotion, continuing education and skill enhancement, or recovering from a traumatic injury or

event. Overcoming these obstacles requires intestinal fortitude in order to navigate circumstances and conditions. The apex of one's potential awaits their presence.

Valley – A valley necessitates going beyond one's comfort zone and expanding their bases of knowledge. Older model ribbon type writers were impacted by the development of the computer. Technology improved typing speeds and proficiencies, while providing unique resources to elevate written communication. Adapting and adjusting to these challenges, allows one to move beyond the valley while understanding the value of growth and development.

Saddle – You can form a model of the saddle with your knuckles when you make a fist. The ridges of your knuckles represent the peaks of mountains. The soft area represents the sloping valley, or "saddle" between each mountain.

These ridges and valleys are similar to the up and down seasons of life. The saddle reveals mental processes and the understanding of one's beliefs. The saddle is compared to a financial portfolio and the start of a loving relationship. Neither situation is sure. The saddle reveals what kind of risks one can handle, and their ability to endure turbulent times.

Hilltop and Ridge – The hilltop and ridge represents the enjoyment felt after accomplishing a dream. Leaders who venture into the unknown in order to redefine themselves will experience, the challenges of triumph, the growth of significant relationships, and a new peace of mind. As one walks along the ridge, gazing over the horizon, there is a realization of being a small part in a larger picture. The story of a leader's accomplishments will inspire another to climb to higher heights and stay focused on their course.

Depression – A depression is a feature that is lower than normal land elevation. When one approaches a depression during land navigation, they see a huge dip in the terrain. Organic plant life thrives in a depression - confirming the divinely orchestrated nature of life. Looking at nature's depressions, reminds one of depressions that are man-made, designed to build something (i.e. Drainage area.) Workers removing the land venture to the depths of the unknown with a purpose in mind.

Growth is necessary at life's lowest point; consider positive growth strategies for the journeys you envision.

Cliff - A cliff is a steep face of a rocky outcropping over-looking a lower level. Cliffs have hidden dangers, and pose a threat to the novice and experienced traveler. The geographical location does not matter. The "cliffs of life" present the same majesty and threat to one's personal development.

When leaders approach the "cliffs of life," they must understand that a higher level vision is necessary and that there are no shortcuts to success. They must develop a sense of swift execution. A clear mind constrains external distractions.

Land navigation posses a unique perspective for refining the leader within oneself. Finally, do not forget these three things that will help sustain your inspiration: 1. Make sure your canteen is full of fresh water. 2. Remember to bring a fresh pair of socks, and 3. Always remember, "...Your Dreams Matter!!!"™

Andrew L. Brown is a former Army Medical Service officer. He is the founder of Decision To Destiny™, a leadership development firm, and the author of, Overcome Adversity...Your Dreams Matter!!!™ Send comments and inquires to windycityrocks@andrewbrownbooks.com or visit: www.decisiontodestiny.com.

Signal Soldiers Change Stride

Submitted By 1LT Karen C. Derrickson
Fort Hood Chapter

A Company, 57th Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB), 11th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade (TTSB), is on standby, to respond to any CBRNE Consequence Management Response Force (CCMRF) mission. Within A Company, the signal equipment includes Joint Network Nodes (JNNs), Command Post Nodes (CPNs), Satellite Transportable Terminals (STTs), and Lines of Sight (LOS Antennas). The company has over 170 Soldiers. These Soldiers and equipment support the Warfighter and Peace missions. This enables Soldiers and Civilians to communicate using Secure Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNet)

and Non-classified Internet Protocol Router Network (NIPRNet) voice and data.



Pictured L to R: CPT Ron King and SGT Ebony Dunn of A, Co 57th ESB

A Company is commanded by Captain Ronald King and his First Sergeant is Dhorta Harrise. CPT King is a distinguished honor graduate of the ROTC program of Southern University and a lifetime member of Kappa Alpha Psi. He and his company returned from multiple areas in Afghanistan, with a few days of block leave, and immediately began preparing for the CCMRF mission. Units normally have 180 days to reset their equipment and reintegrate with families from being away while deployed. The official start date for their mission was 1 October 2010. To prepare for this mission, all of their signal equipment went through a series of checks and tests, which include Reset, Validation Exercise (VALEX), Technical Certification (TEHCERT), Switch Exercise (SWITCHEX), and Field Training Exercise (FTX), over the course of several weeks.

CPT King and 1SG Harrise approached their Soldiers to explain their next mission. Although, many were expecting more time to recuperate from the previous deployment of OEF 09-10, A Company received this mission with little complaints. They knew the importance of protecting Americans on their own soil and returned from block leave as if they were prepared to deploy again.

The CCMRF mission is a little different than deploying to Afghanistan. The mission is to respond to a CBRNE event or natural disaster to augment the consequence management efforts of the first responders, which includes the local government. The request of these assets would come from the governor. CCMRF includes well-built command and control, comprehensive decontamination of personnel and equipment, hazardous material handling and disposal,

air and land transportation, aerial evacuation, and sustainment. A Company would arrive, wherever needed in the CONUS area, to help reduce the catastrophic results that would likely overwhelm the civilian authorities' response capabilities, by allowing them to have voice and data communications.



SGT Ebony Dunn, left, poses during her inspection of SPC Stephanie Sharpe, right, during the set up of a generator.



SGT Ebony Dunn, right, inspects SPC Stephanie Sharpe, left, when solving problems over the phone, during an exercise.

The main concern for CPT King and 1SG Harrise was the change of a wartime mission to reacting to a peace time mission so abruptly. Their Soldiers will not show force or react in an uncivilized manner. This mission requires everyone to observe the Posse Comitatus Act. This act prohibits most members of the military, when called upon, from exercising law enforcement functions, in CONUS. In order to accomplish this, A Company, has been training on reacting to many peace-time situations. This is conducted in briefings, questions and answer sessions, and testing the Soldiers' knowledge during FTXs, while continuing their goal of providing voice and data communications.

These Soldiers have not been called upon as of yet, but rest assured, when the time comes, they will

respond within a very limited time. 57th ESB is commanded by LTC Patricia S. Collins, located at FT Hood, Texas.

Pittard addresses El Paso Rocks

Written by Ms. Marcie Wright
Fort Bliss Public Affairs



(L-R) BG LaWarren Patterson, CG, 7th Signal Command; MG Dana J.H. Pittard, CG, Fort Bliss; and BG Stephen Twitty, DCG, Fort Bliss.

The El Paso chapter of The ROCKS Inc. resurrected recently when the post's officers met at the Fort Bliss and Old Ironsides Museum Feb. 9. The event served as a reactivation meeting and an officer professional development session.

The El Paso chapter, charted in 1998, lay dormant from 2002 until now. With the post having three times the amount of officers since then, the chapter is projected to grow in participation.

Chapter objectives include professional development, mentorship and service. Through meetings, fundraisers, spouse-centered activities, community service and scholarships, the El Paso chapter plans to meet these goals.

In attendance were long-time ROCKS members Maj. Gen. Dana J. H. Pittard, Fort Bliss' commanding general, and Brig. Gen. Stephen Twitty, Fort Bliss' deputy commanding general.

"I'm here because I believe in [the] ROCKS," said Pittard. "I believe in the idea of mentorship." Pittard

was the featured speaker at the meeting and allowed a look into his personal life.

He shared leadership lessons with more than 50 officers and their guests. In that, he gave the five C's of success, and shared how he displayed each core.

"You must be competent," he said. "You must know your business. ... Be candid – be candid with yourself, as far as a self-assessment, and be candid with others. ... Courage," he continued. "Then there's that other C, that C of competence. I'd also say collaboration – there is nobody that I feel I cannot work with. ... The last C that I'll mention is competition. But, compete against a standard, not other people and other units."



Rocks Officer Professional Development Session, Feb. 9, 2011 at the Fort Bliss & Old Ironsides Museum. Guest speaker: MG Dana J.H. Pittard, Fort Bliss Commanding General

Col. Leonard Wells, deputy garrison commander for transformation, came to the meeting because he knew Pittard would be there. Not yet a member, he made plans to register.

"It speaks volumes if the most senior officer on this post takes time out of his busy schedule to come here and meet with us," said Wells. "And to really hear and understand his experiences with ROCKS, serves as a living example. It's helped shape him, and it gives us hope."

Through sharing his success story of climbing the Army ladder, Pittard related to attendees and offered mentorship. He connected with the junior officers in attendance by reflecting on his memories of duty in 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment during the Cold War.

"For me it means a lot," said 1st Lt. Zandra Cole of Pittard's openness. "For him to have the rank that he has and still be so humble, it kind of gives you a little

shock ... to know that you won't be penalized for speaking [your mind]."



Pittard mentors two lieutenants

Cole is a treatment platoon leader with 125th Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division. As a new lieutenant, she said she values the mentorship offered here.

"I got a lot of good information," said Cole. "It really gave me some direction and some basis on ... what I needed to do to continue to progress, or learn, or mold myself to be better in a leadership role."

"I think it's important to have organizations to improve somebody personally and professionally," said Wells. "Any organization with a positive focus is extremely important."

In the weeks ahead the organization is focused on re-certifying with Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation and conducting additional officer professional development sessions and membership drives.

Military History



First African American General Officer -- On Oct. 25, 1940, Benjamin O. Davis Sr. became the first African American to serve as a general officer in the U.S. Army.

Visit rocksinc.org for more historical facts!

The Rocks, Inc Facebook Page Update

By MAJ Sherdrik Rankin, Rocket Staff

Wow!! The Rocks Facebook page continues to grow at a fast rate. Since its inception back in August 2010, the page has grown to 448 members. In the past month the page has had over 12, 812 page views. The page has members from the US, Germany, South Korea, Iraq, Kuwait, Canada, and Italy. Members have searched and found our page from several sources that include Google, Bing, Yahoo, AOL, and Verizon. There are also members on the page from our sister services that are enjoying it as well. The page has been a great venue to feature ROCKS ON THE MOVE, senior leader promotions and assignment changes, Black History facts of military pioneers, Rocks chapter highlights, employment opportunities, and professional development messages.

Some recent views have shown the Black History observance at Fort Leavenworth that BG(R) Adams-Ender hosted, assignment postings for MG Pittard, MG Brooks and LTG Via and the idea of a Rocks Recommended Reading List. It has been a great way for officers PCSing to find out about ROCKS chapter information at their new installation. Anyone on the page can post info related to ROCKS at their location. The Rocks page will begin posting topics related to the new changes in the Army featured in the recent speech by the SecDef at West Point, CJCS new National Military Strategy and the updates related to personnel drawdown.



The ROCKS, Inc Facebook page can be found at <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/rocksinc>

Please be sure to visit our website at www.rocksinc.org to remain current on ROCKS programs, activities, news, and more.

As a ROCKS member, you are able to login to the website and update your personal information, search for members using the membership directory, review available job opportunities, and much more.

Facebook Scam Alert

POC for this message is the 2nd Signal Center (C-TNOSC) Operation Center at DSN 879-6798.
Toll Free: 800-305-3036

ctnosc.situational.awareness@conus.army.mil

There is a new Facebook wall post scam advertised as "RIP Charlie Sheen found Dead at his House". This scam involves a wall post link within Facebook. If you click on the wall post link, you will open a FbVideo page that is designed to look like a YouTube channel. If you click anywhere on the screen, your Facebook account will be "click-jacked" and you will be spreading the spam message via your Facebook news feed. Clicking to play the video will open a security check screen asking you to please complete a 30 second survey to verify that you are human. The screen will also have the following wording "Customize Your Facebook With a Theme". Clicking on this page in any way will post the same message you clicked on to your Facebook wall and download/install malware on your system.

1. Preventive Measures:

- a. Ensure that users are informed and are aware of this threat
- b. Ensure that Anti-Virus definitions are up to date

2. How to Deal with the Scam:

- a. If you did make the mistake of clicking on the scam message and completing the survey scam, you will need to check your news feed and ensure you are not spamming the message to your friends. If you are, you need to remove the item from your wall by clicking the small "x" in the top right hand corner of the post.
- b. If you downloaded any software at all from the scam site, you need to update and/or install anti-virus software on your computer and run a complete scan. There is a good possibility that your system is now infected with a virus, Trojan, or some other malware.
- c. If you have your Facebook feeds going to your cell phone and you clicked on the wall post link from there, then you should contact your carrier immediately to keep any charges from happening.

ROCKS INC. RECOMMENDED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT READING LIST

Written by MAJ Shederick Rankin

Last month on the Rocks Facebook page an idea was proposed that the Rocks should initiate a Professional Reading List. This list would empower officers with a history of their profession, assist in their daily duties as platoon leaders, executive officers, company commanders, and staff officers, and get them familiar with readings that they could see again later in the advance course, CGSC, and other schools. After all the responses, the following bibliography is the suggested list of recommended books for the professional development of company and field grade officers.

Company Command: The Bottom Line

This is the book that shows you how to start off running when you take command * Identify and complete your most important tasks * Find help and avoid mistakes * Make a winning leadership team with your first sergeant * Solve training, supply, personnel, maintenance, and military justice problems * Set new directions for your company * Build confidence and command authority with practical tips, realistic "War Stories," and advice from "The Brass."

Success for Dummies

This book has proven recommendations for Understanding what you really want out of life *Setting clear, realistic goals *Getting motivated and maintaining a positive outlook *Developing a strategic plan and putting it into play *Measuring your progress with ten benchmarks *Achieving and maintaining optimal physical, emotional, and spiritual health *Developing friendships and networks *Building better employer/employee relationships *Making success a lifelong habit

Attack

Rommel's Attack is a great first person account on the activities of a junior military officer, trained on the concept of problem solving and overcoming the obstacles that he finds as he accomplishes the task that

present themselves to him during combat in the Great War. This book is a great account on one military officer's utilization of his leadership ability, coupled with the effective incorporation of those around him into an effective fighting organization.

A Message to Garcia

The clear message is very relevant in today world. I.e. Good manager give a clear Objective (E.g. Send a message to Garcia), and the person who is in-charge shouldn't giving excuse, no delay, and no "blaming why me". Ask question if there is anything you need further clarification. (In Rowan's case, no) Then Figure it out on how to accomplish it.

Now day, there are too many people like to say this is not accomplishable and that's not workable without having a try, without even "a Think". Many are giving too much of excuses.

Colin Powell: My American Journey

This book allows you to take a more personal look at American leadership. It shows how Powell became an educated man, a commissioned officer of the United States Army, was refused service in restaurants, and discriminated in others ways. It is a credit to Powell, how he rose above narrow-minded bigotry and focused on the positive; resisting the temptation of "victimization" to become one of the most powerful and respected men in the country.

Once an Eagle

America's fighting men have turned to *Once an Eagle* as a sourcebook for the military's core values since its publication at the height of the Vietnam War. The novel, following the careers of virtuous Sam Damon and opportunistic Courtney Massengale, it is required reading for all members of the United States Marine Corps and frequently taught in leadership courses at West Point.

**Books can be dangerous.
The best ones should be labeled
"This could change your life."
~Selen Exley**

The Washington Post

Posted at 6:00 AM ET, 02/24/2011

Government shutdown: Facts and figures

By Ed O'Keefe

Despite assurances from the Obama administration and congressional leaders that they don't want a [government shutdown](#), each day closer to March 4 without a final agreement makes the suspension of government services more likely.

So let's review some of the basic shutdown facts published in the [newest Congressional Research Service report](#) on the issue, sent to lawmakers late last week and obtained by The Federal Eye late Wednesday.

How long do shutdowns last?

Six shutdowns occurred between fiscal year 1977 and fiscal year 1980, ranging from eight to 17 full days, according to the report. From fiscal 1981 to 1995, nine shutdowns occurred, lasting no longer than three full days.

In fiscal 1996, the first budget impasse led to a five-day shutdown from Nov. 13-19, 1995. The second shutdown, the longest in U.S. history, stretched 21 days from Dec. 15, 1995 to Jan. 6, 1996.

How many federal workers are impacted by shutdowns?

The first Clinton-era government shutdown led to the furlough of about 800,000 federal employees, according to CRS. The second shutdown furloughed about 284,000 federal employees. An untold number of federal contractors were also impacted. The federal government doesn't track the number of contractors employed by agencies.

What kind of work can continue during a shutdown?

According to federal guidelines established in the 1980s, agencies should continue activities that:

- 1.) Provide for the national security, including the conduct of foreign relations essential to the national security or the safety of life and property.
- 2.) Provide for benefit payments and the performance of contract obligations under no-year or multi-year or other funds remaining available for those purposes.

3.) Conduct essential activities to the extent that they protect life and property, including:

- a.) Medical care of inpatients and emergency outpatient care.
- b.) Activities essential to ensure continued public health and safety, including safe use of food and drugs and safe use of hazardous materials.
- c.) The continuance of air traffic control and other transportation safety functions and the protection of transport property.
- d.) Border and coastal protection and surveillance.
- e.) Protection of Federal lands, buildings, waterways, equipment and other property owned by the United States.
- f.) Care of prisoners and other persons in the custody of the United States.
- g.) Law enforcement and criminal investigations.
- h.) Emergency and disaster assistance.
- i.) Activities essential to the preservation of the essential elements of the money and banking system of the United States, including borrowing and tax collection activities of the Treasury.
- j.) Activities that ensure production of power and maintenance of the power distribution system.
- k.) Activities necessary to maintain protection of research property.

How have shutdowns impacted the general public?

The suspension of various government service impacted Americans in several ways during the 1995 and 1996 shutdowns, according to CRS:

- **Health:** The [National Institutes of Health](#) couldn't accept new patients for clinical research and didn't answer hotline calls regarding diseases. The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) stopped disease surveillance and toxic waste cleanup projects at 609 sites were reported stopped, causing the furlough of 2,400 Superfund workers.

- **Law Enforcement and Public Safety:** The [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms](#) delayed the processing of alcohol, tobacco, firearms, and explosives applications. Work on more than 3,500 bankruptcy cases reportedly was suspended. The U.S. Border Patrol canceled the recruitment and hiring of 400 new agents and various delinquent child-support cases were delayed.

- **Parks, Museums, and Monuments:** The [National Park Service](#) shuttered 368 sites, resulting in the loss of about 7 million visitors and revenues to local communities. The closure of national monuments and other museums resulted in the loss of about 2 million visitors.

- **Visas and Passports:** Up to 30,000 applications by foreigners for visas went unprocessed each day and 200,000 applications for U.S. passports went unanswered. Both moves resulted in millions of dollars in losses for tourism-dependent industries and U.S. airlines.

- **Military veterans:** Health, welfare, financial and travel services for veterans were curtailed.

- **Federal contracts:** Of the \$18 billion in contracts in the Washington region, about 20 percent -- or \$3.7 billion -- was impacted.

Community Outreach: "Growing and Empowering Future Leaders" Teaches Leadership and Life Skills.

Written by Amicita Maloon-Gibson

National Black History Month celebrates, recognizes and honors the accomplishments and contributions of African Americans. This year's National Black History Month theme was, "African Americans and the Civil War."

ATIC & MG Center For Excellence (Amicitia Maloon-Gibson, Founder) Partnered with "I'm Redeemed Outreach Ministry (Sylvia Smith-Outreach Minister, Founder) to empower youth during National Black History Month on Feb 19, 2011, about American History, the history and legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen Incorporate and "African Americans and the Civil War."



Shown with only half of the group of Youth-ages 4-16 and their four mentors. These are "Our Future Leaders" don't quit or give up on them! Reach back in your community and be the difference you want to see.

Both of these Outreach Non-profit organizations have similar goals and objectives. Sylvia and Cita both have a passion for reaching out to young people especially those that are labeled "disenfranchized" and the family unit. They have planned activities for them every week, month and several group annual events.

Different people have difference needs. Each child is reached at their level taking the holistic approach. They look at the whole child and family unit on social, emotional, economic and some have physical challenges and special needs. Both non-profit organizations teach life skills and mentor youth in basic "stepping stones" for them to become successful and grow an become productive citizens in their communities and attend college or serve in the military. Both of the organizations are operating through faith, prayer, personal donations of their own resources, and limited donations from people like the Rocks. They are in dire need of two passenger vans to support their outreach efforts. Yes, we they take a used van that past a safety test as they are transporting children. You may call Sylvia at 321.639.0879 or Cita at 321.537.5002. If you would like to sponsor one of our annual events please call us - no donation is too small. The annual event for at least 10 of the children is May 21, 2011 to attend the The Legacy Luncheon of the General Daniel "Chappie" James Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen Inc, Central FL. They would love to take more. If you can help call them. A table for 10 is \$350.00. Thanks in advance. You may visit www.mgc4e.org for more information on empowering youth our future leaders.

WE NEED YOU!! We are looking for 1-2 LTs-CPTs who are interested and willing to join the ROCKET publication team. *We are committed to having the ROCKET reflect your achievements, interests and concerns.* There is no requirement to be in the MD/VA/DC area since most of the coordination is done electronically. Won't you join us? Please contact the ROCKS administration office at therocks@aol.com or call 301-856-9319 / toll free: 888-762-5747. We look forward to hearing from you!

Info You can Use

Websites for nearly 1800 VA Facilities & Other Key Items

1. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) website: www.va.gov. Current events, includes all benefits and services.
2. The 2010 edition of the Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors is available online at www1.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp
3. Review 239 Vet Counseling Centers by State: <http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/vetcenter.asp?isFla sh=0> or www.vetcenter.va.gov.
4. Mental health website: www.mentalhealth.va.gov. Summary of mental health services.
5. VA/DoD/DoL National Resource Directory: www.nationalresourcedirectory.gov.
6. The link will show you VBA Letter 20-02-34 where they outline the 20 full-time Homeless Veteran Coordinators and their locations: <http://vbaw.vba.va.gov/bl/21/outreach/Home/index.htm>.
7. See Guard and Reserve items on website on the Military Family Network: emilitary.org
8. Directory of National Veterans Service Organizations: www.va.gov/vso.
9. VA Health Services Research & Development website: www.hsrp.research.va.gov.
10. Homeless Veterans Program: <http://www1.va.gov/HOMELESS/index.asp>
11. HR-Veteran Statistics: <http://vssc.med.va.gov/HR/Veteran.asp>.
12. Information for Reservists Called to Active Duty: <http://www.va.gov/ohrm/reservist/>
13. National Center for PTSD www.ncptsd.va.gov
14. Transition Assistance Program (online): www.turbotap.org. See active duty, Guard and Reserve programs.

15. Returning OEF/OIF service members: <http://www.oefoif.va.gov>.
16. VA Advisory Committees www.va.gov/advisory.
17. VA Benefits for Veterans of Enduring Freedom-Iraqi Freedom: <http://vaww.va.gov/oa/pocketcard/oefoif.asp>.
18. VA Center for Veterans Enterprise & Business: www.vetbiz.gov. Veterans going into business.

Great Opportunity for Anyone 18 - 24 Years Old interested in IT

Free IT Training for 18-24 year olds who live in the San Francisco Bay Area, DC, MD, or VA, Providence, Boston, Chicago, Rhode Island, New York City, Atlanta.

If you know any one with a high school diploma or a GED who are between the ages of 18-24 yrs old and have an interest in IT Refer them to this site <http://www.yearup.org/> < <http://www.yearup.org/> > to learn more about this free program. This program asks for a 1 year commitment between the hours of 8:30 am and 5:00 pm. They provide the student with a stipend and after six months, internships at companies such as Freddie Mac and AOL to name a few. Check out the website. www.yearup.org <http://www.yearup.org/>

About Year Up Year Up is a one-year, intensive training program that provides urban young adults 18-24, with a unique combination of technical and professional skills, college credits, an educational stipend and corporate apprenticeship. Success of their graduates -- enabling them to move on to full-time employment and higher education Year Up is about providing opportunities for urban young adults to demonstrate their true potential. We have achieved excellent results to date:

- * 100% placement of qualified students into apprenticeships
- * 83% student retention
- * 90% of apprentices meet or exceed apprenticeship partner expectations
- * 87% of graduates placed in full or part-time positions within 4 months of graduation
- * \$15/hr average wage at placement

Welcome New National ROCKS, Inc. Members

Rank	First Name	Last Name	Joined	Chapter
2LT	Darrell	Hampton	3/26/2011	
COL	Andrea	Gardner-Ince	3/24/2011	Washington, D.C.
1LT	Anita	Brooks	3/24/2011	Fort Irwin, CA (High Desert Chapter)
1LT	Brad	Gregory	3/24/2011	Hampton Roads, VA
COL	William	Wiggins	3/23/2011	
CPT	Darlene	Haywood	3/22/2011	Fort Lee, VA (Central Virginia)
1LT	Eric	Williams	3/18/2011	Fort Bliss
LTC	Curby	Scarborough	3/17/2011	
CPT	Sylvia	Johnson	3/17/2011	Fort Lee, VA (Central Virginia)
LTC	Don	Moses	3/16/2011	Hampton Roads, VA
LTC	James	Woods	3/15/2011	
CPT	Tasha	Dyer	3/15/2011	
2LT	Rashad	Gross	3/14/2011	Fort Hood, TX (Phantom Warrior)
BG	Aundree	Piggee	3/14/2011	Morning Calm (S. Korea)
1LT	Anthony	McBride	3/11/2011	
MAJ	Cornelius	Pope	3/10/2011	Fort Drum Interest Group
CPT	Brian	Holloway	3/10/2011	The Henry O. Flipper Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc.
CPT	Joy	Johnson	3/10/2011	Fort Bliss
CPT	Javita	Facion	3/9/2011	
CPT	Drewry	Brown	3/9/2011	
CPT	BRYAN	HARVEY	3/3/2011	Fort Bliss
WO4	Jeffrey	Robinson	3/3/2011	Fort Bliss
LTC	Douglas	Osborn	2/17/2011	
CPT	Beattrice	Charles	2/17/2011	Fort Bragg, NC (All American)
LTC	Kirsten	Brunson	2/17/2011	Fort Bragg, NC (All American)
1LT	Trina	Thompson	2/17/2011	Fort Bragg, NC (All American)
CPT	Terri	Bayne-Murray	2/17/2011	Fort Bragg, NC (All American)
CPT	Pamela	Reeves	2/17/2011	Fort Bragg, NC (All American)
LTC	Omar	Thondique	2/17/2011	Fort Bragg, NC (All American)
CPT	Elizabeth	Cantrell	2/17/2011	Fort Bragg, NC (All American)
LTC	Tawanna	Thondique	2/17/2011	Fort Bragg, NC (All American)
1LT	Marie	Malvoisin	2/11/2011	Fort Bliss
MAJ	Robert	James	2/10/2011	
LTC	Litonya	Wilson	2/5/2011	
1LT	Lauryn	Anderson	2/4/2011	Fort Bliss
LTC	Rossie	Johnson	2/3/2011	
COL	Samuel	Piper	2/2/2011	Camp Victory (Iraq)
1LT	Latonia	Taylor	1/23/2011	
MAJ	Rachel	Hill	1/16/2011	Washington, D.C.
LTC	Maria	Summers	1/14/2011	
CPT	Jason	Davis	1/10/2011	Fort Benning, GA (Follow Me Rocks)
1LT	Jennifer	Glover	1/7/2011	Fort Bliss
CPT	Charles	Bell	1/7/2011	Morning Calm (S. Korea)
CPT	Mark	Awad	1/4/2011	
MAJ	Tara	Lee	1/4/2011	Atlanta, GA
LTC	Geri	Robertson	1/3/2011	



Careers, Dedication, Professionalism

On Behalf of
**THE WASHINGTON D.C. CHAPTER
OF THE ROCKS, INC.**

You are cordially invited to attend the
**37TH ANNUAL SPRING GALA
AND AWARDS BANQUET**

Saturday, April 16, 2011
1800 - Reception / 1900 - Dinner

***“THE ROCKS: Shaping Leaders for
Today and for Tomorrow”***

LOCATION

Fort Belvoir Officer's Club, BLDG #20
5500 Schulz Circle
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MENU

Mixed Green Salad w/Vinaigrette
Dressing
Sliced Beef Tenderloin w/Truffle Sauce
Baked Salmon w/Dill Sauce
Vegetarian Plate
Green Bean Almandine
Oven Browned Potatoes
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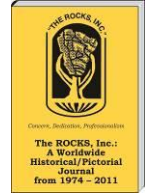
Reservations must be postmarked no
later than 8 April 2011. After 8 April
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THE NATIONAL BOARD OF THE ROCKS, INC

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Join The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. in supporting a major fundraising campaign. The ROCKS, Inc.: A Worldwide Historical/Pictorial Journal from 1974-2011 will tell the story of our organization and commemorate the heroic military officers who have been a part of our ranks. Funds will be used for The ROCKS scholarship, outreach and mentorship programs, support of the chapters and their charitable projects as well as publication of the journal.

If you have stories or photos about The ROCKS, Inc. please send them to The ROCKS, Inc. c/o WSC Associates, LLP, 7700 Old Branch Ave., Suite A202, Clinton, MD 20735, or email therocks@aol.com.

ROCKS Chapters, interest Groups as well as individual submissions are highly encouraged to provide input on Chapter historical events and pictures of past presidents and officers. All pictures and stories will be logged in, copied for use in the journal and if requested returned to senders.

If you pre-purchase your copy of the journal, the cost is \$50.00 plus shipping and handling. To pre-purchase a journal, you may:

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- Pay via customer service by calling 301-856-9319 OR toll-free at 888-762-5747

For questions, please contact COL(R) Frank Francois, III at goldenpin@aol.com.

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News Release

PRESS OFFICE

EMBARGOED Noon EST, Dec. 15, 2010

Release Number: 10-72

Contact: David J. Hall (202) 205-6697

Internet Address: <http://www.sba.gov/news>

SBA Announces New Initiatives Aimed at Increasing Lending in Underserved Communities

*Mills names Hughes to chair new council to advise agency on
expanding opportunities for entrepreneurs in underserved communities*

WASHINGTON – With small business owners and entrepreneurs in traditionally underserved communities continuing to face challenges accessing capital, the U.S. Small Business Administration today announced two new initiatives aimed at increasing SBA-backed loans to small businesses in these markets.

SBA Administrator Karen Mills also today named Catherine L. Hughes, chairperson and founder of Radio One, Inc., and a former SBA borrower, to chair the agency's new Advisory Council on Underserved Communities.

SBA and U.S. Department of Commerce studies have shown the importance of lower-dollar loans to small business formation and growth in underserved communities. With that in mind, the two new loan initiatives – **Small Loan Advantage** and **Community Advantage** – are aimed at increasing the number of lower-dollar SBA 7(a) loans going to small businesses and entrepreneurs in underserved communities. The agency's most popular loan product, 7(a) government-guaranteed loans can be used for variety of general business purposes, including working capital and purchases of equipment and real estate.

In conjunction with the implementation of these two new Advantage loan initiatives by March 15, the agency will end its existing Community Express pilot loan program on April 30.

"Over the last two years, we've seen lending to all small businesses tighten up, and that tightening has been even greater in traditionally underserved communities, including among minorities, women and in rural areas," SBA Administrator Karen Mills said. "These new Advantage initiatives are aimed directly at getting more loans into these markets so these small business owners can get the capital they need to start or grow their business and create good paying jobs in local communities across the country."

Built on what the agency refers to as its "Advantage" platform, both Small Loan Advantage and Community Advantage will offer a streamlined application process for SBA-guaranteed 7(a) loans up to \$250,000. These loans will come with the regular 7(a) government guarantee, 85 percent for loans up to \$150,000 and 75 percent for those greater than \$150,000.

Small Loan Advantage will be available to the 630 financial institutions across the country in the agency's Preferred Lender Program (PLP). Under PLP, which includes most of the agency's highest volume lenders, SBA delegates the final credit decisions to lenders.

With Community Advantage, the agency will expand the points of access small business owners have for getting loans by opening SBA's 7(a) loan program to "mission-focused" financial institutions, including Community Development Financial Institutions, Certified Development Companies and non-profit microlending intermediaries. Community Advantage will

leverage the experience these institutions already have in lending to minority, women-owned and start-up companies in economically challenged markets, along with their management and technical assistance expertise, to help make their borrowers successful.

“These two new loan initiatives tackle a couple of factors we know exist when it comes to the challenges small business owners face,” Mills said. “First, to add more incentive for lower-dollar loans in these communities, we are providing a streamlined process for lenders along with the regular 7(a) government guarantee. Second, we are taking steps that will increase the number of places small business owners in underserved communities can go to get loans. And also, with Community Advantage, we are making sure that the additional assistance some borrowers may need through counseling and technical assistance will be available.”

Mills added that the new loan initiatives are in line with the agency’s core mission of supporting small business growth and job creation, and goals of the new **Advisory Council on Underserved Communities**, announced today. The Council will provide input, advice and recommendations on how SBA through its programs can help strengthen competitiveness and sustainability for small businesses in underserved communities.

“Many entrepreneurs and small business owners across the country have enormous potential to drive economic growth and create good-paying jobs in their local communities, but too often they face barriers in fulfilling that potential,” said Hughes, who will chair the council. “I’m excited to be a part of this effort to strengthen the link between these entrepreneurs and the SBA’s wide variety of resources. SBA assistance played a critical role in my success, and I’m eager to do all I can to help make sure others have access to these same opportunities.”

The agency’s new Advisory Council on Underserved Communities will consist of 20 members from across the country. Over the next few weeks, the SBA will accept nominations for members to serve on the CUC. Members will provide a critical link between SBA and small businesses in traditionally underserved communities. It is anticipated that members will reflect a variety of key sectors, including business owners, banking and finance, community development, nonprofit and academia. Member nominations can be emailed to underservedcouncil@sba.gov.

A Nebraska native, Hughes began a career in radio in 1969 at KOWH, a small black-owned radio station in Omaha. She came to Washington, D.C., as a lecturer at Howard University’s School of Communications, and worked at several local radio stations before she and then her husband purchased a small D.C. station and turned it into Radio One. Later, Hughes bought out her husband and became sole owner, at one point moving into the station to make ends meet. Today, Radio One owns 52 radio stations in major markets across the country, making the company the largest black-owned radio chain in the nation. In January of 2004, Hughes launched TV One, a cable television channel targeted at the African American community.

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National Board of the ROCKS, Inc.

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