

Building The Next Generation of Leaders

# THE ROCKET



Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

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## Chairman's Message



Another Summer has passed and the days are getting shorter, My how time flies! I hope each of you have found time to take a vacation and recharge your batteries. We have many things yet to accomplish so I will be looking for folks who are well rested and raring to go. ☺

Even though the summer has been quite fast paced with numerous important activities taking place, one item has captured the center of attention here in Washington; a recent article in USA Today regarding the lack of a sufficient number of Blacks in the pipeline to fill the senior most leadership roles in the Army. A portion of the article is included in this edition of the Rocket.

There are no quick solutions to the issue raised in this story, Colonels and Generals are not grown in a day. What can the ROCKS do to assist the Army? From our perspective we need not wring our hands nor look to reinvent the wheel but start by doing what we do best, MENTOR. We will need the Army's support in redefining what a successful career looks like. Once we have that we can map the tools that are needed. We understand that certain keys for success have not changed, starting with hard work. The 120% rule has and still applies. Since mentorship will be crucial for our success, we must be sure we follow the protocol we have established for our program. We will develop a How To Tools Kit in collaboration with the Army that will cover a series of topics from Hints on Successful Command to what a strong file should look like plus many other topics. We should take advantage of every opportunity we have to address this topic with both peers and subordinates. We will provide talking points so that we speak with one voice. Much more to follow on this initiative. Your feedback on this topic would be greatly appreciated.

Clear communications are the key to all well run organizations. We want to ensure that is true with our organization. Feedback is the only way we can determine that our communications is working so I am asking you to provide us feedback on any means you have available to you. We recently held a combined ROCKS Board/Chapter teleconference; there were 11 chapters and 9 board members on line. Topics included discussions about the recently fielded Handbook and its application, the status of the mentorship program at the chapter level, and ongoing programs unique to each Chapter. I felt it was a great exchange of information. We will continue to do these about every three months.

A hearty congratulations are in order for several Change of Commands. MG Stephen Twitty assumed Command of 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division and Ft. Bliss. MG Gwen Bingham assumed Command of TACOM Life Cycle Management Command. COL James Jennings assumed Command of the 15<sup>th</sup>

Sustainment Brigade. COL Arvesta Roberson assumed Command of the 1st Signal Brigade in Korea. LTC Jeanette Martin assumed Command of the 15<sup>th</sup> Special Troops Battalion. CPT Ylonda Singleton assumed Command of Company Command at Fort Belvoir. Our soldiers are in the care of some of our Army's finest

I and several members of our Board had the distinct pleasure of participating in a ceremony that recognized the ROCKS as a Commemorative Partner of The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration. LTG(R) Claude M. Kicklighter presided over the ceremony. We will participate in several events that will honor our Vietnam Veterans and their families. We look forward to honoring these heroes of freedom and their families.

As I close, let's remember that we still have Service Members in harm's way. Join me in offering a prayer for their safe return and their selfless service.

Remember.....Concern, Dedication, Professionalism.

BG Earl Simms USA (Ret.)  
Chairman  
The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc.



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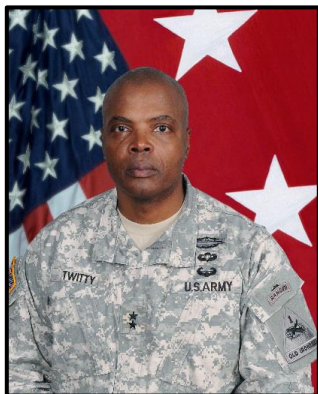
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## Fort Bliss Receives New Commanding General

by Ms. Antonea Evans and COL James Jennings



*MG Stephen M. Twitty, Commanding General, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division and Fort Bliss*

August 5, 2014 Major General Sean B. MacFarland relinquished command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division and Fort Bliss to Major General Stephen M. Twitty. MG Twitty returned to Fort Bliss, TX after serving as the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7, U.S. Army Forces Command. He

served two prior tours at Fort Bliss, during which he was the Commander of the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division and Deputy Commanding General (Operations) for the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division.

MG Twitty is responsible for leading, training and caring for over 30,000 Soldiers and 10,000 Civilian employees and supports nearly 200,000 people including family members and veterans. Fort Bliss is also the Army's largest mobilization platform, has the largest training area, and is host to the Army's largest modernization efforts.

MG Twitty's intent for the "Iron Soldiers" of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division is to "Be Ready." As the Commander of America's only armored division, he is committed to developing "a fit and cohesive team led by skilled, versatile and agile leaders focused on continuing the Division's legacy whenever called upon."



*Outgoing 1<sup>st</sup> AD Commander, MG Sean MacFarland; III Corps Commander, LTG Mark Milley; and Incoming 1<sup>st</sup> AD Commander, MG Stephen Twitty troop the line at the 1<sup>st</sup> AD Change of Command ceremony on August 5, 2014*

MG Twitty is a native of Chesnee, South Carolina and has served our Nation with distinction as an Army Infantry Officer

for nearly three decades. He holds a Master of Science degree in Public Administration from Central Michigan University and a Master of Science in National Security Strategy from the National Defense University. MG Twitty is a 1985 Distinguished Military Graduate from South Carolina State University, was selected as one of the university's Distinguished Alumni in 2004, and was inducted into its ROTC Hall of fame in 2009.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division and Fort Bliss are proud to welcome home MG Twitty and his family.



*MG Stephen M. Twitty accepts the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division unit colors from LTG Mark Milley, Commanding General, III Corps*

## Colonel James Jennings Takes Command of the 15<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade

by LTC Jeanette Martin

Another milestone has begun with Colonel James Jennings assuming command of the 15<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade located at Fort Bliss, TX on June 19, 2014. COL Jennings, a U.S. Military Academy Class of 1992 graduate, is the fifth commander of this unit under the modular support brigade concept. With more than 2,200 Soldiers, the brigade is comprised of the 15<sup>th</sup> Special Troops Battalion, 142<sup>nd</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 72<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Support Battalion, 93<sup>rd</sup> Military Police Battalion, and 31<sup>st</sup> Combat Support Hospital.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade has a proud legacy of distinguished service and support to warfighters in past and present conflicts. During his change of command speech,



COL Jennings thanked God for blessing him with another opportunity to serve others. He accepted his duties with “deep gratitude and great humility” and pledged to do his best in caring for Soldiers and Families. COL Jennings is well-prepared to lead the “Wagonmasters” given his multi-functional logistics background and contingency deployments over a 22-year career span.



COL James Jennings accepts the 15<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade unit colors from MG Sean MacFarland, Commanding General of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division

## Army Commanders: White Men Lead A Diverse Force

Tom Vanden Brook, USA TODAY 4:39 p.m.  
EDT September 11, 2014



Gen. Raymond Odierno, left, and Gen. Martin Dempsey both held combat commands before rising to four-star rank in the Army. (Photo: Jack Gruber, USA TODAY)

WASHINGTON — Command of the Army's main combat units — its pipeline to top leadership — is virtually devoid of black officers, according to interviews, documents and data obtained by USA TODAY.

The lack of black officers who lead infantry, armor and field artillery battalions and brigades — there are no black colonels at the brigade level this year — threatens the Army's effectiveness, disconnects it from American society and

deprives black officers of the principal route to top Army posts, according to officers and military sociologists. Fewer than 10% of the active-duty Army's officers are black compared with 18% of its enlisted men, according to the Army.

The problem is most acute in its main combat units: infantry, armor and artillery. In 2014, there was not a single black colonel among those 25 brigades, the Army's main fighting unit of about 4,000 soldiers. Brigades consist of three to four battalions of 800 to 1,000 soldiers led by lieutenant colonels. Just one of those 78 battalions is scheduled to be led by a black officer in 2015.

Leading combat units is an essential ticket to the Army's brass ring. Gen. Raymond Odierno, the Army's chief of staff, commanded artillery units; his predecessor, Gen. Martin Dempsey, led armored units, and is now the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"The issue exists. The leadership is aware of it," says Brig. Gen. Ronald Lewis, the Army's chief of public affairs. Lewis is a helicopter pilot who has commanded at the battalion and brigade levels and is African-American. "The leadership does have an action plan in place. And it's complicated."

Among the complications: expanding the pool of minority candidates qualified to be officers, and helping them choose the right military jobs they'll need to climb the ranks, Lewis says.

To be sure, there are black officers who have attained four stars. Gen. Lloyd Austin, an infantry officer, leads Central Command, arguably the military's most critical combatant command as it oversees military operations in the Middle East. Another four-star officer, Gen. Vincent Brooks, leads U.S. Army Pacific, and Gen. Dennis Via runs Army Materiel Command, its logistics operation.

The concern, however, is for Army's seed bed for four-star officers — the combat commands from which two-thirds of its generals are grown. They're unlikely to produce a diverse officer corps if candidates remain mostly white.

"It certainly is a problem for several reasons," says Col. Irving Smith, director of sociology at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Smith is also an African-American infantry officer who has served in Afghanistan. "First we are a public institution. And as a public institution we certainly have more of a responsibility to our nation than a private company to reflect it. In order to maintain their trust and confidence, the people of America need to know that the Army is not only effective but representative of them."

Black officers at the top ranks of the brass show young minority officers what they can achieve. Their presence also signals to allies in emerging democracies like Afghanistan that inclusive leadership is important. Diverse leadership, research

shows, is better able to solve complex problems such as those the Army confronted in Iraq and Afghanistan, Smith said. "It comes down to effectiveness," Smith said. "Diversity and equal opportunity are important, but most people don't point out that it makes the Army more effective."

### THE PROBLEM

The Army's — and the Pentagon's — main ground fighting force remains the Army's infantry, armor and artillery units, although aviation and engineering units are also considered combat arms. Many of their names have become familiar to the American public after more than a decade of war: The 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division; the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division; the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division.

They share a proud history of tough fights and multiple deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. They also share a lack of black leaders. In all, eight of 10 of the Army's fighting divisions do not have a black battalion commander in their combat units.

(For now, they also lack women. The military plans to open combat roles to women in 2016.)

USA TODAY obtained the Army's list of battalion and brigade commanders. Several officers familiar with the personnel on them identified the black officers, which the Army refused to do. The paper considered officers in infantry, armor and field artillery — the three main combat-arms branches.

The results: In 2014, there is not a single black commander among its 25 brigades; there were three black commanders in its 80 battalion openings.

In 2015, there will be two black commanders of combat brigades; and one black commander among 78 battalions openings.

"It's command. If you don't command at the (lieutenant colonel) level, you're not going to command at (the colonel level)," says Army Colonel Ron Clark, an African-American infantry officer who has commanded platoon, company, battalion and brigade level. "If you don't command at the (colonel) level, you're not going to be a general officer." Captain Grancis Santana, 33, knows about the long odds he faces as an artillery officer hoping to become a colonel.

He found few black officers in his specialty — about two of 20 when he was a lieutenant, and about three of 30 when he made captain.

"It's not a good feeling when you're one of the few," Santana said. "There was no discrimination; there are just not a lot of people like you."

A key reason is the paucity of black officers graduated by the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, its ROTC programs and Officer Candidate School.

For instance, the newly minted officer classes of 2012 and 2013 in combat arms remained mostly white, according to data released by the Army. Of the 238 West Point graduates commissioned to be infantry officers in 2012, 199 were white; seven were black. At Officer Candidate School, which accepts qualified enlisted soldiers and graduates with four-year degrees, 66 received commissions as infantry officers — 55 were white, none was black. The figures remained nearly unchanged for 2013.

The downsizing of the Army is having a disproportional effect on African-American officers. From the pool of officers screened, almost 10% of eligible black majors are being dismissed from the Army compared with 5.6% of eligible white majors, USA TODAY reported in early August. The Army is cutting 550 majors and about 1,000 captains as the Army seeks to reduce its force to 490,000 soldiers by the end of 2015.

### THE CAUSES

Two forces seem to reinforce the lack of black officers in combat command. For decades, young black men have tended to choose other fields, including logistics. With fewer role models and mentors in combat specialties, those fields have been seen as less welcoming to African-American officers. Irving Smith remembers his parents being "heartbroken" that he chose infantry.

"African Americans have historically used the armed forces as a means of social mobility," says Smith, who joined the infantry, has risen to the rank of colonel and now is professor and director of sociology at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. "That is certainly true for African Americans who have used the armed forces as a bridging opportunity (to new careers)."



*Gen. Lloyd Austin leads U.S. Central Command.  
(Photo: Maxine Park, USA TODAY)*

Parents, pastors and coaches of young black men and women considering the Army often don't encourage them to join the combat specialties.

"Why would you go in the infantry?" Smith says of a common question. "Why would you want to run around in the woods and jump out of airplanes, things that have no connection to private businesses? Do transportation. Do logistics. That will provide you with transferable skills."

Developing marketable skills has been a key motivation for many African Americans, said David Segal, a military sociologist at the University of Maryland. That has often meant driving a truck, not a tank.

"There has been a trend among African Americans who do come into the military to gravitate to career fields that have transfer value — that pretty much excludes the combat arms," Segal said.

Clark, who now works at the Pentagon, wasn't encouraged initially to join the infantry. His father enlisted in 1964 and had an Army career in food service.

"He grew up in a small town in southern Louisiana in the middle of Jim Crow South," Clark says. "He was tired of having someone telling him where to sit on a bus, which water fountain to drink from and which bathroom he could use."



*A diverse group of soldiers is sworn in as U.S. citizens in a 2006 naturalization ceremony in Iraq. (Photo: David Furst, AFP/Getty Images)*

At age 11, the younger Clark remembers climbing on a tank when the family was stationed in Grafenwoehr, Germany. The U.S. invasion of Grenada in 1983 sealed the deal for him: He wanted to be infantryman.

"I wanted to be an Airborne Ranger in a tree," Clark says, "and my dad was not having it. He said, 'Nope, you are not going following my footsteps. I want you to go to college.'" The compromise, after his father had him speak with an African-American brigade executive officer named Larry Ellis, was to enroll at West Point. Ellis went on to become a four-star general, and Clark graduated from the academy in 1988.

Clark and Irving remain exceptional cases.

The downsizing of the Army is having a disproportional effect on African-American officers. From the pool of officers screened, almost 10% of eligible black majors are being dismissed from the Army compared with 5.6% of eligible white majors, USA TODAY reported in early August. The Army is cutting 550 majors and about 1,000 captains as the Army seeks to reduce its force to 490,000 soldiers by the end of 2015.

### THE ARMY'S RESPONSE

The problem has attracted attention at the Army's highest ranks. In March, Army Secretary John McHugh and Odierno, the chief of staff, issued a directive aimed at diversifying the leadership of its combat units.

USA TODAY obtained a copy of the memo, which notes that the Army historically has drawn the majority of its generals from combat fields, specifically "Infantry, Armor and Field Artillery." For at least two decades, however, young minority officers have selected those fields in the numbers necessary to produce enough generals.

"African Americans have the most limited preference in combat arms, followed by Hispanic and Asian Pacific officers," the memo states. While black officers make up 12% of Army officers in all competitive specialties, they make up just 7% of the Army's infantry, armor and artillery officers. For junior officers, that figure is lower, 6%.

Minority groups need a "critical mass" of about 15% to feel they have a voice, Smith says.

The Army's plan calls for enhanced recruiting and mentoring for minority officers, particularly in combat fields, tracking their progress and encouraging mentorship.

Mentors needn't be of the same race, Clark and Lewis say. Lewis noted that several of his closest mentors were white officers, including retired general Richard Cody, who retired as Army vice chief of staff. Cody advised him to spend time at the Army's National Training Center, in the California desert. It paid off, Lewis says.

"Everyone does not have to look like you," Lewis says. "You have to be able to receive mentorship, leadership. And you have to follow some of that. You may have to spend some time at a really hard place for a bit."

Byron Bagby, a retired African-American two-star artillery officer, applauds the Army for acknowledging the problem and taking steps to address it. He cautions progress will be slow. Bagby retired in 2011 from a top post with NATO in the Netherlands.

"We're not going to solve this tomorrow, or a year from now," Bagby says.

Smith has another suggestion for the Army. Ask an in-house expert: him.



The brass could also stop by his office for a chat, he says. "I've never had anybody from the Department of the Army come to me. I'm a sociologist. I've studied these issues for six years."



*Army Brig. Gen. Ronald Lewis, left, talks with the widow of a fallen serviceman at a 2013 ceremony in Tennessee. (Photo: Alan Poizner, Gannett)*

## Lieutenant Colonel Jeanette A. Martin Takes Command of the 15th Special Troops Battalion

*by COL James Jennings*

Lieutenant Colonel Jeanette A. Martin assumed command of the 15<sup>th</sup> Special Troops Battalion, 15<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, Fort Bliss, TX on June 16, 2014. She is responsible for leading, training, and caring for over 500 Soldiers and Civilians assigned to a Headquarters and Headquarters Company, a Financial Management Company, a Signal Support Company, and a Human Resources Company. LTC Martin's battalion performs and oversees Defense Management Pay, tactical communications, personnel accountability and strength reporting, casualty, and postal operations for the 15<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division, and Fort Bliss installation. She also provides command and control of the Division's Heavy Equipment Transport assets task organized underneath her unit for home station training and Combat Training Center operations. LTC Martin's Army career started in 1993 as an enlisted Soldier at Fort Jackson, SC. After achieving the rank of Sergeant, she transitioned into the Army Reserve and enrolled into the Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program at Fort Valley State University, Fort Valley, GA. She attained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Adjutant General's Corps in 1996. She later earned a Master of Arts degree in Human Relations from Oklahoma University, Norman, OK in 1998.

LTC Martin has extensive experience in personnel, administration, and human resources management at all levels, both in combat and non-deployed operating environments. Prior to assuming command of the 15<sup>th</sup> Special Troops Battalion, she served in key positions in the 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA and Operation New Dawn; Human Resources Command, Alexandria, VA; and The Joint Staff – J1, Washington, D.C. LTC Martin is a proud recipient of the Adjutant General's Corps' Gold Regimental Award, which she was awarded for her outstanding leadership and exceptional achievements in her career field.

As she was welcomed to the "Wrangler" team, LTC Martin expressed how privileged and honored she is to serve with the Soldiers of the 15th Special Troops Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division.



*LTC Jeanette A. Martin delivers Change of Command acceptance speech at Fort Bliss, TX on June 16, 2014*



As you consider making an end-of-the-year donation to a charitable organization, we hope you will favorably consider giving to The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. Your donation will assist with our scholarship giving and will be most appreciated. Thank you.



## Someone You Should Know: Vivian Mildred (Millie) Corbett Bailey

by BG George Price USA (Ret.)



*BG Price with Mrs. Bailey*

Vivian Mildred (Millie) Corbett Bailey began her life of service when she was born on February 3, 1918 in Washington, DC. Her mother left Oklahoma to give birth in Washington, DC because her father was deployed in the military service in World War 1.

They subsequently returned to Oklahoma and settled in

Muskogee, where they lived until they moved to Tulsa. They were not living in Tulsa during the infamous riots of 1921. Millie attended elementary school in Muskogee. After her family moved to Tulsa she attended George Washington Carver Junior High School and Booker T. Washington High School. Millie was older than Roscoe C. Cartwright (Rock) even though they knew each other. She recalls that the Cartwright family ran a business in Tulsa. Her relationship with Rock in High School was more on the order of the hierarchy of the day; seniors did not socialize with students in lower grades.

After graduating from high school Millie considered all of the options available and decided to stay home and work until she could make the burden of college a little lighter. When she learned about the opportunities available in the military service she decided to enlist in the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. She recognized that this would be a difficult path to walk on but felt confident she could succeed. It suffices to say that minorities were not welcomed in the mainstream of the military with open arms. Add to the equation, the fact that she was a female and it is documented that the challenges drove many people away from this option.

Millie served in the army from 1942 until 1946. She took her basic training at Ft. Des Moines, Iowa and after basic training was selected to attend Officer Candidate School (OCS). She attended Officers Candidate School at Fort Des Moines, IA. She was one of the two minority candidates in the class. She rose to the difficult and demanding challenges of OCS and after graduation was assigned to Fort McClellan, AL.

It was during this assignment that she was able to observe up close and personally the inefficiencies of segregation and discrimination. For example, she recalls that she and the one other Negro WAC officer were assigned a spacious house to live in and they could request a car or a car with a driver whenever they needed transportation. They had a special

allocation of food so they would not have to go to the military facilities or have any social interaction with their peers. As a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. she was 2<sup>nd</sup> in command of the WAC detachment. In September 1943 the name of the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps was changed to the Women's Army Corps (WAC).

Upon completing her assignment at Fort McClellan, AL she was assigned to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> in command of the WAC Detachment at Fort Benning, GA. This detachment was composed entirely of Negro women. Some of her social burden was relieved when she discover that a school mate of hers, Yauncy Williams from Tulsa, OK, was training to become a Tuskegee Airman.

One significant experience she had was when she was assigned to attend the Adjutant Generals School at fort Sam Houston, Texas in November 1944. The post was segregated but the Commandant of the AG School would not have segregation in his unit. Therefore, Lt. Corbett was assigned to an integrated unit on a segregated post. After AG School she returned to Ft. Benning, and was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. and became the Commanding Officer of WAC Detachment Number Two. The same issues that she experienced in her other assignments pertained at Ft, Benning. Despite the encumbrance of segregation she had a very successful command tour at Fort Benning. She successfully completed all training and schools she attended while on active duty in the army from 1942-1946. She was honorably discharged from the Army at Fort Bragg, NC in January 1946. She then moved to Chicago and began working in the Veterans Administration (VA) where she had a successful career before she changed agencies in 1952. She began her career with The Social Security Administration in Chicago where she was a claims authorizer and was later promoted to Assistant Branch Chief.

Millie was married to William Bailey whom she first met in 1943 when she attended OCS. He was employed as a chemist by the State of Iowa. They were married in 1950. They remained in Chicago until 1970 when they moved to Columbia, MD where Millie started working for The Social Security Administration in Baltimore. First as a Deputy Division Director and later as a Division Director (GS-15) of a division with 1100 employees. She retired from The Social Security Administration while serving in this position.

Millie has a philosophy that you should make every place you live a little better because you have been there. She is one of the most recognized citizens in the State of Maryland. Her tributes, awards, and decorations do not begin to describe her contribution to our nation, the state and her community. She remains active to this day supporting her neighborhood Elementary School (Running Brook) and sending packages to our deployed services members. She is a role model for all to whom she has been exposed. At the age of 96 she continues to participate in the full range of activities she has supported for years. She truly believes that we can all make a difference if we are willing to work for the common good.

## ROCKS DC Chapter Hosts 23rd Annual Five Mile Run

by LTC Shawn Hawkins, Race Director



*Runner Get Ready!*

On Saturday, 13 September 2014, The Washington, D.C. Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc hosted its 23rd Annual 5-Mile Run/2-Mile Walk at Burke Lake Park in Fairfax, Virginia. With over 223 runners and walkers, including ROTC cadets from George Mason University, Norfolk State University,

James Madison University, Virginia Military Institute, Hampton University, Howard University, Morgan State University and Bowie State University with excellent running weather, this year's event was a stunning success!!

The run committee, led by LTC Shawn Hawkins, included COL (R) Andre Barnes, COL (R) Al Schencke, COL (R) Ken Younger, LTC (R) Rob Gary, CPT Rowan Pruitt, a squad of cadets from Howard University, the George Mason University Color Guard, and Ms. Sharene Cook, along with her team from WSC Associates.



*BG Frank Muth gives pre-race motivational speech*

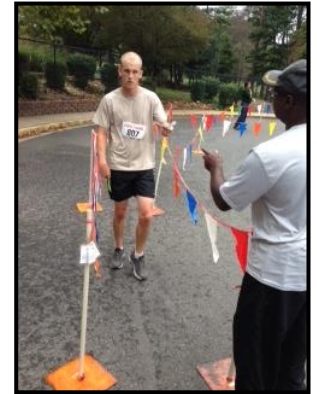
Brigadier General Frank M. Muth, Director of the Army Quadrennial Defense Office, not only was the guest starter, but he also was a runner. He took home second place honors for his age group!!

Special thanks and great appreciation also goes out to Mark Russell and the staff at Metro Run and Walk for

providing run support and use of their facility for race packet preparation and pick-up, Randy Skovrinski and his team from 'You Start I Finish' for start/finish line operations and race results, the Burke Volunteer Fire Department, and the staff at Burke Lake Park for their outstanding support and use of the park facilities. The race has steadily grown in size over the last three years and we are looking forward to an even larger turn-out next year.



*1<sup>st</sup> Place Runner – Jon Lopacki*



*2<sup>nd</sup> Place Runner – Kyle Jacob*

### Overall 5-Mile Run Winners

1st Place Jon Lopacki

2nd Place Kyle Jacobs

3rd Place Michael McQuera

Overall 2-Mile Walk Winners

1st Place William Sellers

2nd Place Courtney Gaines

3rd Place Angela Mosely

ROTC Challenge

1st Place Team George Mason University

2nd Place Team Howard University

3rd Place Team James Madison University

### ROCKS

1st Place Male ROCK Runner Crede Lyons

1st Place Female ROCK Runner Brenda Crutchfield

1st Place Male ROCK Walker Williams Sellers

Full Race results can be found at [www.youstartifinish.com](http://www.youstartifinish.com)  
(click on 'Events')



*Virginia Military Institute*



*James Madison University*



## News from (Y)our Membership Development Team

by COL Eric P. Flowers, USA



As with many organizations, the ROCKS' lifeline is its members. Subsequently, our best interests are served when we make deliberate efforts to enhance the membership experience, either at an individual or collective level. For this ROCKET issue, please consider the following food for thought regarding membership development from the individual perspective.

When we think of membership (as it relates to the individual), there is value in recognizing- and accepting- the notion that membership not only has its perks, it also has its responsibilities. As leaders within this profession of arms, concept of responsibility is one that is neither foreign to us, nor one that should be prone to dismissiveness. Responsibility latches itself to us as a shadow does to our bodies from sun up to sun down. As national security professionals, responsibility is ever-present with us, whether we are on duty or of... whether we are in a Table of Organization entity or in a volunteer-based organization like ROCKS.

The responsibilities we embrace as members of ROCKS are based, in part, on values rooted in courtesy and consideration, as well as on our charter as a mentoring organization. If we were to apply this to things we do within and for ROCKS, there probably would be undisputed consensus on a basic list of expectations that we hold for ourselves and for each other. Some of those things would probably include, but not be limited to: responding to members' e-mails and/or forwarding requested information in a timely manner, i.e., 24 hours; recruiting new members; reclaiming old members, and; seeking & accepting opportunities to mentor and/or to be mentored.

Superficially, those things appear easy to do on a consistent basis. However, as we tangle with the daily demands of our respective jobs, there can be an overwhelming temptation to slip in our commitment to adhere to those responsibilities as a ROCKS member. Since we are all human, it is a natural tendency; it is going to happen from time to time. Our challenge to ourselves (individually and collectively) is to make a consistently deliberate effort to minimize the times when we fall prey to that temptation when it comes to handling ROCKS business. We owe it to ourselves as professionals intent on constantly improving ourselves as dependable leaders and we owe it to fellow ROCKS members brought together for making beneficial contributions to our professions.

We benefit from symbiotic strands associated with our professional affiliation with the Army and our membership in ROCKS. What we do on our jobs in communicating with others should shape the way we interact with each other in ROCKS, and- if we are on our game- the way we interact with each other in ROCKS should enhance the way we interact with others in our respective jobs. Maintaining productive and responsive lines of communication, and promoting growth and development opportunities are crucial in our ascendancy as professionals and as an international mentoring organization.

Simply put, ROCKS is a dynamic organization that provides benefits to its members. To reach our true potential as an organization, the organization greatly benefits from its members' conscious and consistent push to satisfy the implicit responsibilities of membership. The organization (and its membership) depends on you.

Thanks to everyone for all you have done to date and please continue to actively look for ways to help the organization move forward as it relates to living up to your responsibilities as a dynamic member!

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## The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. Welcomes its Newest Member



On July 26, 2014 BG (R) Simms and the National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. welcomed Ms. Maria R. Drew as the newly appointed representative for Civilian Affairs. Ms. Drew is currently serving as a Department of the Army Civilian (DAC), GS 15. She is a career Soldier and civil servant with more than 27 years of service with the Department of Defense as an Information Technology specialist.

She is a native of Enterprise, Alabama and a graduate of Florida A&M University with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Business Administration. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Georgia Southern University, and a Masters Degree in Counseling and Leader Development from Long Island University, Tactical Officer Education Program, USMA, West Point. Ms. Drew has completed the Senior Leader Seminar (SLS) sponsored by the Army War College. She is a resident graduate of the Command and General Staff College and a Senior Service College selectee. Ms. Drew most recently completed the Harvard University Program for Senior Executive Fellows (SEF) in Government, May 2014. Ms. Drew looks forward to using her years of experience and lessons learned to develop a strong Civilian mentorship, networking and professional development outreach opportunities commensurate with the ROCKS, Inc. mission, vision, and values.

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## COL Conrado Morgan, USA Retires

Colonel Conrado B. Morgan, USA, Retired on June 30, 2014 at Lincoln Hall Auditorium, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C.

Three hundred individuals: Dr. Phyllis D. Morgan (wife), Miss Cayla Morgan (daughter), Blanche Morgan (Mother) and a host of other family members), friends (The ROCKS, Inc.) (Norfolk State University), fraternity Brothers (Omega Psi Phi, Fraternity, Inc.) and coworkers from the United States Army, National Defense University, United States Army Center of Military History and the Office of the Administrative Assistant to the Secretary of the Army were in attendance. Mr. Robert J. Daslessandro, Senior Executive Service, Director, United States Army Center of Military History was the host, Chaplain (Colonel) Thomas C. Waynick gave the invocation and benediction, Lieutenant Colonel Margaret Thomas, USA, Retired was the MC and Lieutenant Colonel Dea Prichard-Brown sang the National Anthem.

The retirement ceremony was followed by a reception that lasted into the early evening. Mr. Steve Bolden (DJ) played the music at the reception and Certified Chef Antonio Price and team (Sonny DeLight Catering) prepared and served the food.



*GOs and SESs at COL Conrado B. Morgan's retirement L to R: BG Earl Simms, USA, Retired; MG Byron Bagby, USA, Retired; LTG Kip Ward, USA, Retired; Mr. Gerald O'Keefe, SES; MG Marcia Anderson, USA, COL Conrado B. Morgan, USA, Retired; Mr. Steve Redman, SES; Mr. Robert Dalessandro, SES; MG Reginald Clemmons, USA, Retired; LTG Mike D. Rochelle, USA, Retired; MG Hawthorne Proctor, USA, Retired.*

### SPECIAL QUOTE

"We learned about gratitude and humility - that so many people had a hand in our success, from the teachers who inspired us to the janitors who kept our school clean... and we were taught to value everyone's contribution and treat everyone with respect." *Michelle Obama*

## TACOM LCMC Welcomes Its First Female Commanding General

*by Bill Gattie, TACOM Life Cycle Management Command Public Affairs*

The TACOM Life Cycle Management Command welcomed its 34th and first female commanding general, Maj. Gen. Gwen Bingham, at a change of command ceremony June 25 at the Detroit Arsenal. More than 600 people witnessed the ceremony, officiated by Gen. Dennis L. Via, Army Materiel Command commanding general, between outgoing commander Maj. Gen. Michael J. Terry and Bingham.

### **Bingham spent time gaining Army experience**

Bingham, a native of Troy, Alabama, began her Army career by earning a Reserve Officers' Training Corp scholarship and graduating from the University of Alabama with a degree in business management in 1981.



*Maj. Gen. Gwen Bingham addresses the audience after assuming command of TACOM LCMC.*

Although Bingham was the daughter of a two-decade Army veteran, she never intended to have a long career in the Army.

"My intent was to do four years to pay the Army back for funding my education and get out of the Army to pursue a career in business," said Bingham.

She said she was intrigued by the idea of going into business partially as a result of helping her father with his photography business.

But after six years, while she was stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, her plans changed.

"I felt like a kid in a candy store," she said.

Her change of heart and decision to begin an Army career was the result of people she met, teamed with and got to know.

She has traveled to 28 countries during her career and, at the same time, loved what she was doing and felt she was making



a difference. That is something she does not believe she would have been able to do as easily had it not been for the Army.

For example, while she was stationed at Fort Bragg, she was assigned temporary duty as part of a food warehousing operation in Honduras. She said she enjoyed working with a variety of people on that particular assignment, including members of the Coast Guard, Army personnel from various locations and local nationals.

Bingham said those experiences provided by the Army have challenged her, built and broadened her, and they gave her confidence in areas she never thought she could do.



AMC Commander Gen. Dennis L. Via hands over the TACOM colors to incoming TACOM Commander Maj. Gen. Gwen Bingham.

While she recognizes the fact she is the first woman to command the TACOM LCMC, as has been the case with several of her other assignments, she does not focus very much on it.

"I don't go into these jobs looking at it from the standpoint of trying to be the first," she said. "I really don't see myself any differently than my male counterparts; we're all sisters and brothers in arms."

#### **Bingham accepts a new position**

Having served in many locations during her Army career, both in the U.S. and overseas, Bingham says she is very excited about coming to Michigan, despite some of her friends noting that she is going from the desert of New Mexico to the "frozen tundra of Michigan."

She says the people she has met since coming here, both on the job and in the community where she lives, have welcomed her and been very supportive.

Bingham intends to spend the first 30 days or so of her command assessing where we are at this point, and then she will move on to establishing some specific goals.

She believes strongly in the importance of professionalism, being good at what we do and being caring.

In her closing remarks at the change of command ceremony, Bingham expressed her feelings about taking command of the TACOM LCMC.

"To the Soldiers, civilians, and fellow teammates of the TACOM Life Cycle Management Command in its entirety, I am honored and humbled to join your ranks and to be your commanding general," she said.

## **ROCKS, Inc. National Board Recognized As Commemorative Partner of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration**

*by COL Lucretia McClenney USA, Ret.*



On June 9, 2014, LTG (R) Claude M. Kicklighter, Director, Office of Commemorations presented The ROCKS, Inc. National Board with Commemorative Partner materials (flag, seal and certificate) at the AFSC Headquarters Conference Room, Arlington, VA. Members in attendance: BG (R) Earl Simms, Chairman, BG (R) Velma Richardson, COL (R) Lucretia McClenney, COL (R) Austin Bell, and Ms. Sharene Cook.

As Commemorative Partners we will endeavor to plan and carry out at least two events each year during the commemorative period of 2015-2017 that will recognize, thank and honor our Vietnam Veterans and their families. It is important that our events meet at least the first of the five Congressionally-mandated objectives of the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration: *"To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans."*

The members of The ROCKS, Inc. are honored to serve as Commemorative Partners in support of the United States of

America Vietnam War Commemoration. Many of our members are Vietnam veterans who welcome the opportunity to participate in and/or conduct commemorative events that will thank and honor their fellow veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.

For additional information:

[http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/commemorative\\_partners/](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/commemorative_partners/)



Members of the National Board with LTG Kicklighter (center); L to R—BG(R) Velma Richardson, BG(R) Earl Simms, COL(R) Lucretia McClenney, and COL(R) Austin Bell

## Extraordinary History Project

The National Board of the ROCKS Inc. approved the publication of a book entitled *The ROCKS Inc.: A Historical Journey From 1974 – 2013*. The revenue from the sales of this book will be the major fundraiser for The National Board, its chapters and interest groups.

This extraordinary project will capture the legacy in pictures, biographies and short stories of ROCKS members. The book will also display ROCKS activities such as the Biennial Conference and Annual Spring Gala and many other contributions made by our members.

We are currently in the fundraising phase of this project and we request that you favorably consider pledging \$10 per month for 12 months for \$120 or make a one-time payment of \$120 to support the Journey project. Upon receipt of your pledge a small ROCKS gift will be forwarded to you with a letter of thanks.

There are three ways for you to participate:

- Make a one-time payment of \$120 online at [www.rocksync.org](http://www.rocksync.org) (Click on "Donations"), or
- Download the Pledge Form located on the home page of our website at [www.rocksync.org](http://www.rocksync.org) and mail it with your \$120 check/money order/credit card information, or
- To set up automatic monthly payments of \$10, download the ROCKS Journey Pledge Form, select "I hereby

authorize The ROCKS, Inc. to charge my credit card for \$10 per month for 12 months beginning \_\_\_\_\_ (mm/dd/yyyy) and ending \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ (mm/dd/yyyy).", fill in dates, billing information and return to our office either by fax, email, or regular mail.

Thank you in advance for your participation and support.

## African-American Students in the Distance Education

Program of the US Army War College The Buffalo Scholars of Academic Year 2014 initially gathered with Professor Chuck Allen at Buffalo Wild Wings after the completion of the First Resident Course. Members of the Class of 2014 also gathered at the same location for fellowship and networking for the future prior to their Distance Education Program graduation on July 25th."





## FALLEN ROCKS

### H. Minton Francis Sr., Retired Army Colonel and Howard University Administrator Dies

by Bart Barnes



H. Minton Francis Sr., a retired Army lieutenant colonel and former administrator at Howard University, died July 7 at a Washington hospice. He was 91 and lived in the District.

The cause was cardiac arrest, said his daughter, Marsha Francis.

COL Francis served 21 years in the Army before retiring in 1965, including command of artillery units in World War II and the Korean War. He was deployed in Vietnam in the early 1960s just as the U.S. involvement in the Southeast Asian war was escalating. His final military assignment was staff officer for the Comptroller of the Army and Secretary of Defense.

Between 1980 and 1990, COL Francis was a Howard University administrator, serving alternately as special assistant to the president, director of governmental affairs and director of the office of planning. After 1990, he was a Howard consultant.

Henry Minton Francis, a fifth-generation Washingtonian, was born on Dec. 23, 1922. He graduated from Dunbar High School in 1940 and from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1944.

Following his military service, Col. Francis was director of the planning, programing, and budgeting systems group in the office of the secretary of Housing and Urban Development from 1966 to 1968. He was deputy assistant secretary of defense for equal opportunity from 1973 to 1977. He was active in District Republican politics.

His first marriage, to Doris Hall, ended in divorce. In 1982, he wed Alicia Garcia Dawson.

Besides his wife, of Washington, survivors include five children from his first marriage, Marsha A. Francis of Chevy Chase, Md., Dr. Henry M. Francis Jr. of St. Croix, Virgin Islands, Peter M. Francis of Detroit and Morya K.F. Ferris and John H. Francis, both of Atlanta; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

## ROCK OF THE YEAR FOR 2000 The Honorable Henry Minton Francis

*U.S. Army, Retired*

Information from [www.rocksync.org](http://www.rocksync.org)

H. Minton Francis was a fifth generation Washingtonian. He attended public schools in the District of Columbia where he graduated from the formerly famous Paul Laurence Dunbar High School. Educated at the University of Pennsylvania and the United States Military Academy, he also attended Syracuse University, where he earned a MBA degree with honors and was elected to Beta Gamma Sigma. Following graduation from West Point in 1944, Mr. Francis served the nation as an officer of the Regular Army for twenty-one years. He was a member of the Army concept Team in Vietnam; a commander of artillery troops in the Korean Conflict and in World War II; and staff officer for the comptroller of the Army and the Secretary of Defense.

Subsequent to his retirement from the Army, he worked both in government and the private sector. As deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Mr. Francis was in charge of the Defense Human Goals Program guaranteeing protection of the rights of, and equal opportunities for, women, minorities and the disabled of the all races, ethnic groups and religions. His program embraced the now famous Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI) at Patrick Air Force Base in Florida, the first of its kind anywhere in the United States. Mr. Francis was awarded the Distinguished Civilian Service Medal for his exceptional service in the Department of Defense.

On leaving Federal Service, Mr. Francis accepted appointments at Howard University as Director of University Planning; Executive Director of the University-Wide Self-Study Task force; Executive Secretary of the Presidential Search committee in 1989; Special Assistant to the President; and Director of Governmental Affairs.

In December 1992, he was appointed President of the Black Revolutionary War Patriots Foundation. The Foundation is authorized by the U.S. Congress to erect a memorial on the National Mall in Washington to the more than 5,000 African Americans who supported (and fought and died for) the American Revolution. The foundation will unveil the monument on the 230<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 2006.

For fifteen years, he served as a Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, a voluntary office without compensation in which the incumbent (there are more than fifty, representing each State and Territory of the United States) carries the Army's message and image to the American people.

As a Human Resources consultant to the Secretary of the Army, he traveled to Europe at his own expense to investigate

and report on the command climate, with respect to race and gender relations, in the U.S. Army units stationed in Germany. He performed a similar service for Army installations in the Midwestern United States. The report produced by his group led to major changes in the program.

Mr. Francis was a volunteer for the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, serving at The Shepherd's Table in Silver Spring, Maryland, and on the Board of Directors of SHARE, as well as working as a volunteer in the SHARE warehouse in Bladensburg, and speaking to church congregations on behalf of Catholic Charities of Washington to encourage cash donations.

Mr. Francis was a Life Member of Disabled American Veterans, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a Trustee Emeritus of the Association of Graduates of the United States Military Academy, a former member of the Washington Institute of Foreign Affairs, the Board of Managers of the Historical Society of Washington, DC, and the Board of Directors of Metropolitan USO in Washington. He was a volunteer member of the Board of Directors of the Carroll Publishing company of the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington. He holds memberships in the National Press Club and the Army and Navy club of Washington. He is a life member of The ROCKS, Inc.

## The Passing of COL (R) Bailey



Colonel (Retired) Margaret E. Bailey died August 29, 2014. Services were held on Tuesday, September 9, 2014 at 19<sup>th</sup> Street Baptist Church, 4606 16<sup>th</sup> Street N. W. Wash. D.C.

Colonel Bailey was the first Black Nurse to achieve the rank of Colonel; was a pioneer in efforts to work for equal opportunities for black personnel in the Army and civilian community. She was an active member of The ROCKS: served on the ROCKET committee and was very instrumental to secure membership for women officers in The ROCKS, Inc.

### FAMOUS QUOTE

The secret to success is good leadership, and good leadership is all about making the lives of your team members or workers better. *Tony Dungy*

## Handling Anger Management Within Your Ranks”

by CPT Jannelle Allong-Diakabana

On 24 July 2014, the Fort Campbell Kentucky Rocks Chapter attended a professional development session on handling anger management amongst service members. The session was led by Army CPT Phillip G. Gable (Ph.D. MSC Psychologist) from the Adult Behavior Health department from Fort Campbell, KY.

With the recent rise in active shooters, suicides, and anti-government sentiments of military personnel, it is critical for today's military leaders to understand the underlying causes and factors that lead American Soldiers to take the most extreme and deadliest of actions against themselves, family members, DoD personnel, and fellow servicemen.

CPT Gable addressed the side-effects of anger in operational environments and the different courses of actions leaders can take to contain anger and manage any risks. He also discussed the early detection signs of anger as well as the signs of unproductive conflict. Young military leaders who attended the session were also provided with the “5 R's of Anger Management.”

One of the most important ideals extracted from this session is the strong correlation between anger and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). How does PTSD, contribute to anger, and how do young Soldiers deal with their anger in their unit? High risk behavior and violent acts are unfortunately too often are the tools used to deal with anger.

During the session, CPT Gable identified three variables that must be present in order for an individual to commit suicide. They include the following; (1) thwarted belonging, (2) perceived burdensomeness, (3) acquired lethality.

Gable defined thwarted belonging as the individual “lacks and has lost previously meaningful relationships.” Perceived burdensomeness is when an individual sees themselves as a liability or burden to those around them. Acquired lethality is when the individual has become desensitized to the anticipation of pain and fear that is associated with the actual suicide. Being able to identify the signs of violence is a challenge itself. Providing the resources to all soldiers is a separate challenge.

According to CPT Gable's research, units with higher levels of cohesion and camaraderie displayed lower levels of PTSD. With increased insider threats and terrorists attacks there are more than enough resources and tools at the disposal of leaders who seek to prevent the worst. Units are equipped with Antiterrorism Officers and Force protection personnel, law enforcement is readily available, medical providers can provide treatment to Soldiers in need, and commanders and other leaders can point high risk Soldiers in the right direction.



CPT Gable currently serves as a clinical psychologist for Adult Behavioral Health at Blanchfield Army Community Hospital (BACH). While deployed, he conducted weekly battlefield circulation to provide Traumatic Event Management for Soldiers confronted with traumatic events.



*CPT Gable leading the discussion on anger management and best practices that reduce anger in the workplace and at home*

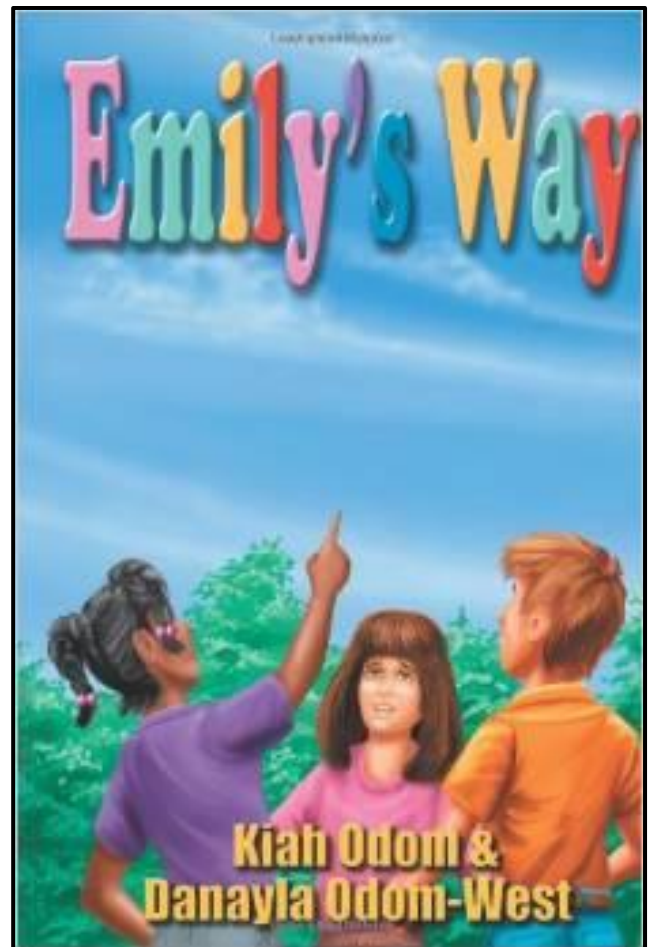
## **My Godsister, My Hero, and the Values She Inspired**

*By Danayla K. Odom-West*

My godsister Emily is one of my many heroes. Emily J.T. Perez, the first female minority Cadet Sergeant Major in the history of the United States Military Academy at West Point, the first female graduate of West Point to die in the Iraq War, the first West Point graduate of the "Class of 9/11" to die in combat, and the first female African-American officer to die in combat. My godsister Emily deployed to Iraq in December 2005 as a Medical Service Corps Officer. She was killed when a makeshift bomb exploded near her Humvee during combat operations in Al Kifl, near Najaf, at the age of 23. She was full of life and had a love for people.

Incidentally, when my godsister was a cadet at West Point, my mother, Master Sergeant (Retired) Willette R. Odom was stationed there, working in the hospital as a pharmacy technician. This provided me the opportunity to bask in Emily's presence on a regular basis. I would often see her on the weekends when she came to our house to do laundry, since we lived on post. Emily also sang in the West Point Choir, so I attended many of the events at West Point to hear her sing; we attended the same church on post, too. It was a sad day when we received the devastating news of her death. In fact, on the day she went home to be with our Lord and Savior, my godmother Vicki Perez was visiting my aunt, Lieutenant Colonel Lawanda D. Warthen, and her best friend, Ms. Patricia Vines, in Europe. On that day we did not wear black, but white, because Emily was full of life; we knew she had gone home to glory. We did not have flowers, because flowers are given to a person during life. But we offered a celebration of her life.

Her life and legacy inspired me to write a children's book with my sister, Kiah Odom, titled "Emily's Way" to honor and perpetuate the memory of her. Emily was an honor roll student, she was active in her community, she was athletic, and she stood for what was right. She enjoyed helping others and giving back to her community. I try to live by those values today. I am a junior at Northeast High School in Clarksville, Tennessee. I am an Advanced Placement (AP) Honor student and I too am athletic; I play tennis, golf, and basketball for my school. I am an Ambassador for the United States Dwight D. Eisenhower People to People Program, through which I went abroad to Wales, Ireland, and London. I have participated in the Wereth Eleven Wreath Laying Ceremony, a ceremony that honors the life and legacy of 11 African-American men killed during the Battle of the Bulge in Wereth, Belgium. I too strive to give back to the community by feeding the homeless at my church and working in the love kitchen. I have been surrounded by individuals like my godsister, Emily; my mother, MSG (R) Willette R. Odom, and my aunt, LTC Lawanda D. Warthen, have demonstrated these qualities too. They have both shown me what it means to serve and give my very best at all times. These three outstanding women have touched my life in a profound way.





This children's story is about a young woman named Emily J. T. Perez, a West Point graduate who was killed in Iraq during combat operations.

She was full of life and love for people, and the story you will read illustrates those qualities that endeared her to all who knew her.

It is hoped that children who read about this outstanding young woman will try to emulate her life and strive always for excellence.



Kiah Odom is a 19 year-old sophomore at Norfolk State University in Virginia majoring in business administration. She has many treasured memories of being with Emily at West Point where her mother, who is in the Army, was stationed while Emily was a cadet.

Danayla Odom-West is 14 and lives in Clarksville, Tennessee, with her mother, who is currently stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. She plays basketball and is an honor roll student at Northeast Middle school.



## Colonel Roberson Becomes 1<sup>st</sup> Signal Brigade's 30<sup>th</sup> Commander

*by SPC Gregory T. Summers*

USAG YONGSAN, South Korea – The 1<sup>st</sup> Signal Brigade held its Change of Command ceremony at USAG Yongsan's Knight Field July 16.

Families, Soldiers, Brigade leaders and civilians of 1<sup>st</sup> Signal Brigade and United Nations Command, Combined Forces Command, United States Forces Korea, the Republic of Korea Army and Eighth Army bid farewell to outgoing commander, Col. Paul H. Fredenburgh III, and welcomed Col. Arvesta P. Roberson as the 30<sup>th</sup> Commander of the "Voice of the ROK."

The ceremony was a silent one in which all commands to the formation were executed using visual communication aides. Adopted in 1914, the Signal Corps Flag Signaling System is a communication system in which a Soldier signals with two hand flags to relay information. Though no longer used in

today's modern Army, it is still a proud tradition of the Signal Corps.

Roberson, born in San Diego, Calif., is a Distinguished Military Graduate of the University of West Florida. He holds a Bachelor's of Science in Electrical Engineering and a Master's of Arts in Telecommunication Management and Information Systems from Webster's University.

His military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Airborne School, the Bradley Fighting Vehicle Commander's Course, the Signal Corps Transition and Advanced Courses, Mobile Subscriber Equipment Systems Controller Course, COMSEC Custodian Course, Combined Arms Services Staff School, and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.



*Col. Roberson receives the 1st Signal Brigade colors from Lt. Gen. Champoux during the Change of Command Ceremony.*

Roberson has served at The Pentagon, the Republic of Korea, Germany, Bosnia, Fort Hood, Texas and a deployment to Kuwait. His awards and decorations include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Bronze Order of Mercury.

"Col. Roberson brings a wealth of experience to the team," said Lt. Gen. Bernard S. Champoux, Commanding General, Eighth Army, who oversaw the passing of the colors for the change of command ceremony. "As an integral part to the mission, given the uncertainty to the North, your leadership is key to leading us into the future. You come to us with a great reputation for selfless service and leadership. You are a great addition to the team and we know you will continue to strengthen the alliance."

Roberson, as the new commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Signal Brigade said, "First, I am grateful and honored to be standing here before you. In the rich history and importance of this brigade, I am truly humbled. I know of no other place I would rather be serving than with the 1<sup>st</sup> Signal Brigade."

"General Champoux, thank you for the opportunity to serve as a commander under your leadership. I look forward to leading



and learning under your mentorship. Col. Fredenburgh, I truly appreciate your briefings, the superb staff engagements, and the tremendous warfighter capability you've turned over to me," Roberson added. "To the members of the 1<sup>st</sup> signal brigade, I challenge you to live beyond your values, exude the warrior ethos, and always be ready to fight tonight. As a team, I am confident we will confront challenge, conquer adversity, and soar to excellence."

Roberson is a lifetime member of the ROCKS Inc. organization and is an active, committed member of the Republic of Korea Chapter.



Col. Roberson, 1st Signal Brigade Commander, stands in front of the Brigade alone in front of his formation at the Change of Command Ceremony.



(From left to right) Col. Willadsen, Col. Roberson and Maj. Gen. Brock aboard a UH-60 Black Hawk.

#### VETERANS DAY – 11 NOV 14



We would like to say Congrats to COL Perry J. Seawright on his promotion today at the Pentagon. A Norfolk State University graduate and financial alumnus, A ROCKS member and a brother of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



#### QUOTES ON STRENGTH, RESPECT & LEADERSHIP

Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will.

*Mahatma Gandhi*

We gain strength, and courage, and confidence by each experience in which we really stop to look fear in the face... we must do that which we think we cannot.

*Eleanor Roosevelt*

Permanence, perseverance and persistence in spite of all obstacles, discouragements, and impossibilities: It is this, that in all things distinguishes the strong soul from the weak.

*Thomas Carlyle*

Don't be afraid to give your best to what seemingly are small jobs. Every time you conquer one it makes you that much stronger. If you do the little jobs well, the big ones will tend to take care of themselves.

*Dale Carnegie*

Women are like teabags. We don't know our true strength until we are in hot water!

*Eleanor Roosevelt*



## SPOTLIGHT ON Captain Ylonda Singleton

Captain Ylonda Singleton was born in Vero Beach, Florida and graduated high school in Lampasas, Texas in 1995. She was awarded an Associate's Degree in General Studies from Temple College in 1997 and a Bachelors Degree in Business Management from Texas Lutheran University in 1999. In February 2000, CPT Singleton enlisted into the United States Army and began her career as a Personnel Systems Information Management Specialist (42F). She attended Basic and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina in August 2000. In January 2008, CPT Singleton was commissioned to Second Lieutenant in the Medical Service Corps. She holds a Masters Degree in Business Management with a concentration in Healthcare Administration.



*CPT Singleton addresses the audience*

CPT Singleton's previous assignments include Warrior Transition Brigade, National Capital Region, Bethesda, MD; California Medical Detachment, Presidio of Monterey U.S. Army Health Clinic, Monterey, CA; Charlie Company, 307th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB), 1st Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, NC; 18th Soldier Support Group (SSG), Fort Bragg, NC; Charlie Company, 90th Personnel Services Battalion (PSB), Kaiserslautern, GE; and Bravo Company, 90th PSB, Bad Krueznach, Germany. She honorably served in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) 04-06 and OIF 09-10.

CPT Singleton's military education includes the Basic and Advanced Officers Course, Operational Response to Mass Casualty Incidents, Emergency Preparedness Response Course, Unit Movement Officer, Airborne School, and Lean Six Sigma Yellow Belt. Aside from her duties, she is a member the Washington DC Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. and an avid volunteer within her community.

CPT Singleton's awards and decorations include the Joint Services Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation

Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Navy Unit Commendation Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Iraq Campaign Medal with Bronze Star device, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Ribbon, and Meritorious Unit Commendation. CPT Singleton has earned the Expert Field Medical Badge and the Basic and German Armed Forces Parachutists Badge.



*Outgoing/Incoming with Battalion Commander conducting guidon exchange*

## Chief Warrant Officer Five David Williams – The “First” Army Staff Senior Warrant Officer (SWO)

*by CW4 (Ret) Farrell J. Chiles, USA*



Earlier this year, on March 14, 2014, General Raymond T. Odierno, the 38<sup>th</sup> Chief of Staff, United States Army, in an email announced, “I have created a new position for an Army Staff Senior Warrant Officer (SWO). The ARSTAF SWO will provide me subject matter expertise on all aspects of warrant officer training and development. The ARSTAF SWO will communicate with commanders and warrant officers throughout the Total

Army to ensure their concerns and recommendations are considered in decisions that will impact the future of the warrant officers corps. I have selected CW5 David Williams to serve as ARSTAF SWO.”



Chief Warrant Officer Five (CW5) Williams entered active duty with the United States Army in July 1977. During his tenure as an enlisted Soldier he served as a Personnel Administrative Specialist, Medical Specialist, and a Counterintelligence Special Agent.

He completed the Warrant Officer Candidate School and Army Flight Training in 1987. As an Army Aviator, CW5 Williams served with the 237<sup>th</sup> Medical Detachment (Air Ambulance), Fort Ord, California; 17<sup>th</sup> Aviation Brigade, Korea; Commandant, Military District of Washington Air Assault School, 12<sup>th</sup> Aviation Battalion, Fort Belvoir, Virginia; Executive Officer, C/159<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment, Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and Operations & Executive Officer, Fort Belvoir Regional Flight Center, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

CW5 Williams also served as the Commander and as the Senior Training, Advising and Counseling (TAC) Officer at the Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS); Small Group Instructor (SGI), Advanced Studies Branch, Warrant Officer Career College, Fort Rucker, Alabama; Program Manager, Warrant Officer Training Programs and Chief, Army Training Requirements and Resources System, Leader Development Division, Human Resources Command, Alexandria, Virginia; and Officer Education System (OES) Branch Chief, HQDA G-3/5/7, Pentagon, Washington, D.C.

CW5 Williams is a graduate of the Fixed-Wing Qualification Course, CH-47D Aircraft Qualification Course, Rotary Wing Instrument Flight Examiner Course, Tactical Operations Course, Naval Post-Graduate School Safety Officer Course, UH-1 Instructor Pilot Course, Warrant Officer Staff Course, and the Warrant Officer Senior Staff Course.

His combat tours include serving as the Senior Warrant Officer and Warrant Officer Advisor to the Multi-National Force-Iraq Commanding General; Multi-National Corps-Iraq Tactical Operations Officer, and Aviation Tactical Operations Officer for the Operational Support Airlift Command.

Mr. Williams' awards include the Bronze Star Medal; Meritorious Service Medal (3 OLCs); Air Medal; Army Commendation Medal with (6 OLCs); Joint Service Achievement Medal; Army Achievement Medal with (4 OLCs); Army Good Conduct Medal, Third Award; National Defense Service Medal, Second Award; Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Service Ribbon with Numeral Two; Army Service Ribbon and Overseas Ribbon with Numeral Three. He is also authorized to wear: Department of the Army Staff Badge, Expert Field Medical Badge, Parachutist Badge, Master Army Aviator Badge, Pathfinder Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.

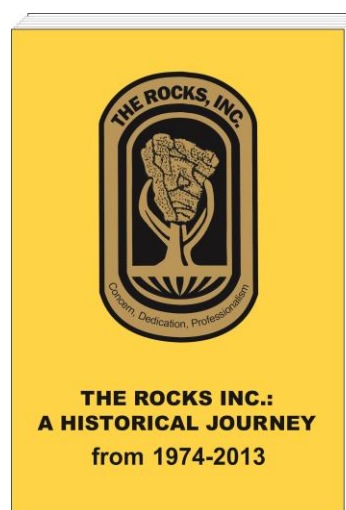
During a visit to Fort Sill, Oklahoma in May 2014, CW5 Williams said, "General Odierno wanted to have eyes and ears within the warrant officer ranks to improve things. So, I serve as his warrant officer adviser to deal with day-to-day issues, from training, promotions -- everything dealing with warrant

officers." Mr. Williams is focused on ensuring that warrant officers receive sound professional military education, the right technical training and proper leadership development.

Speaking before a gathering of warrant officers at the U.S. Forces Command headquarters at Fort Bragg in June 2014, Williams said, "The opportunities for our warrant officers are numerous, whether they involve education or positions. If I could stress one thing, it would be professionalism in the cohort. We want our chiefs to have confidence, competence and character."

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## The ROCKS Journey Book Project



The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. has launched a major fundraising campaign. The ROCKS, Inc.: A Historical Journey, 1974-2013 will tell the ROCKS story and commemorate major contributions made by our military officers and chapters/interest groups to strengthen the US Officers Corps and nation. Money raised from the fundraising effort will be used to fund The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. mentorship,

outreach, scholarship and charitable programs. In addition, funds will be provided to each of the ROCKS Chapters and Interest groups to help fund their programs.

This historical book project has been approved by the Board of Directors of the ROCKS and is scheduled for publication in 2014. It is requested that anyone who may have pictures and or military stories about the ROCKS, mail them to National ROCKS, Inc., c/o WSC Associates, LLP, PO Box 47435, Forestville, MD 20753. You can also email them to [therocks@aol.com](mailto:therocks@aol.com). Please include photo captions.

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

The ROCKS' Historian, COL (R) Frank Francois, USA III is the project director and can be contacted at [goldenpin@aol.com](mailto:goldenpin@aol.com).

## CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

### West Point Henry O. Flipper Chapter Passes Down the “Keys to the Castle”

*by Captain Bryant L. Watson*

Freshmen Cadets newly trained from Cadet Basic Training and just two weeks into their first year classes, met with the Henry O. Flipper Chapter of the ROCKS to learn how to achieve academic excellence. The “Keys to the Castle” event held on 26 August, 2014 commenced with a welcome from LTC Eric McCoy who reminded Cadets that “resources are here to set you up for success; you’re not alone.”

Indeed many of those resources were seated in that very room. Instructors from the Mathematics, English, Physical Education, Behavioral Science and Leadership, History, and Chemistry departments and the Center for Enhanced Performance lined the front row waiting for their turn to impart knowledge. Seated to the Freshmen Cadets left and right were upper-class Cadets who were there to encourage the Freshmen Cadets to seek their guidance and mentorship as well as share their own experiences. Of course, with close to forty Freshmen Cadets in attendance, their greatest resource was each other. The instructors reminded them to use their resources – get additional instruction from their instructors after class; link up with Cadet Tutors, many of whom are seated in that very room; and partner with their classmates to both fortify their own strengths and shore up each other’s weaknesses.

The Freshmen Cadets listened eagerly with a few jotting down notes or formulating their plan for the academic year. Wry smiles flashed across their faces when they were reminded to get adequate sleep, though the instructors undoubtedly garnered the Plebe’s admiration when they offered strategies on how to get that sleep. CPT Nicole Miner campaigned for the use of a long-range planning calendar, while MAJ Tyrek Swaby from the Chemistry department advised “never leave class with an unanswered question.” Dr. Candice Price reminded the Cadets to learn how to use their newly-issued laptops to crunch complex mathematics problems. LTC Thomas Veale – recalling a 2007 study which found that Cadets sleep an average of 5.1 hours per day – urged Cadets to “read with the end in mind,” and to start the process of “pre-writing, writing, and re-writing” early in the semester. He hinted that following this advice would help them avoid sleepless and ultimately ineffective cram-sessions.

Following the brief, Freshmen Cadets spoke one-on-one with staff and faculty, upper-class Cadets, and their peers. Determined to do well, many asked how to best prepare for the quizzes, essays, and tests which loomed ahead. Once satisfied they had received the “Keys to the Castle”, the Freshmen Cadets trickled back to their barracks more prepared for the academic year, likely strategizing how to use their

newfound resources and daydreaming about the sleep that the “Keys to the Castle” would one day bring.



*LTC Thomas Veale addressing Freshmen Cadets, West Point Staff and Faculty, and the Henry O. Flipper Chapter of the ROCKS.  
Photo taken by Ms. Kathleen Eastwood.*

### Hampton Roads Mentoring Organizations 9th Annual Joint Cookout

*by LTC (Ret) Charles “Chuck” Holden  
Photography by LTC (Ret) Toney Mooney*



*Presidents of organizations speaking to their organizations mission and purpose*

The Hampton Roads Mentoring Organizations (The Urban League of Hampton Roads (ULHR); the Hampton Roads Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc (HRC Rocks); Tidewater Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen Inc. (TAI); and the Tidewater Chapter of the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) held their 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Joint Cookout on 16 August 2014 at the Hampton YMCA, Hampton, VA 23669. ULHR had the lead for coordinating the cookout this year.

Approximately 80 members from all four organizations attended the event. Festivities began at 12:00 noon with an



introduction of the organization, and each President or representative giving a short talk on the origin, mission and purpose of their organization. Each organization expressed the importance of having this Joint Cookout to network, socialize and share resources respective to scholarship programs and mutual supporting community activities.



*COL (Ret.) Julius Coats and LTC Kirk Callaway in a lively discussion*

After the introductions and the blessing of the food, attendees were allowed to go through the serving line where the Caterer, Mr. James Swann, presented them with the following menu: Fried Fish, Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, BBQ Chicken, Tri Colored Spiral Pasta, Baked Beans, Green Bean Casserole, Homemade Apple and Peach Cobbler, Iced Tea, Lemonade, and Water. As you can imagine, everyone enjoyed the food and there were plenty for seconds. Following the meal, attendees participated in a raffle for gift cards to local restaurants and socialized until the Joint Cookout ended at 4pm.

As in past years, all in attendance had a great time socializing, sharing ideas about mentoring and scholarship programs and activities of their respective services. The Joint Cookout was a family event.



*MAJ (Ret.) Charlotte Hazelwood (far right) leads members through the serving line.*

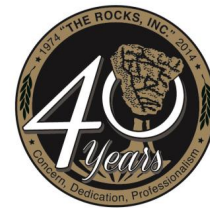
## ROCKS, Inc. Unified 2014 Veterans Day Effort

**Veterans Day 2014. Calling all ROCKS TO SERVE!** As part of a unified ROCKS, Inc. effort, all chapters & interest groups are asked to extend your service individually or collectively in support of veterans on Tuesday, November 11th. No selfless act is to small and all are appreciated.

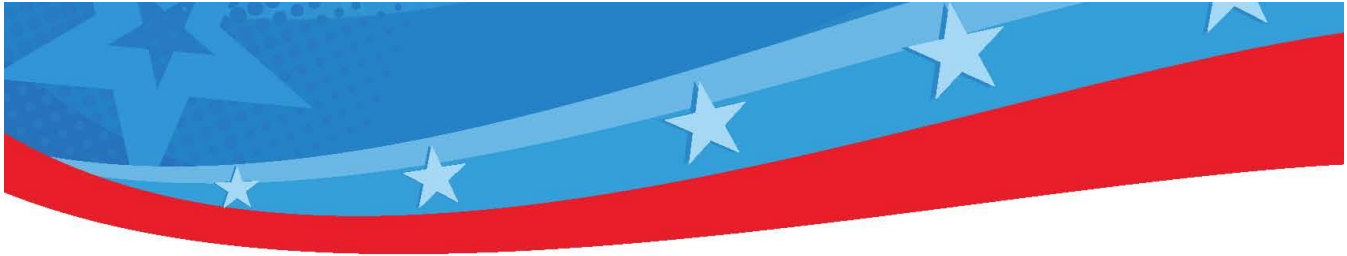
Please submit captioned photos and a brief narrative of your activities for publishing in the December 2014 **ROCKET**. Let's make a difference that counts in a Vets life. Thanks for your support!!

The **Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)** is committed to caring for the needs of Veterans who have lung and other health conditions possibly related to their deployment to the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations. [The Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry](#) will enable VA to better assess the health of Veterans exposed to burn pits and other airborne hazards. The registry launch was postponed to allow adequate time to develop and test the software and hardware as well as to ensure data security and accessibility. Now that it is available, Veterans may participate and need not be enrolled in VA's health care system to do so, because a registry is an epidemiological research tool and the receipt of a registry examination(s) and tests does not constitute the receipt of care. VA encourages all Veterans who served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Djibouti, and the Gulf War to participate in the registry. Veterans should sign-up now for a Department of Defense Self-Service Logon (DS-Logon) in preparation for the launch of the registry. DS-Logon can be found at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/dsaccess>

This registry will enhance our understanding of any identified long-term adverse health effects of exposure to burn pits and other airborne hazards during deployment—ultimately leading to better health care.



**THANK YOU ROCKS MEMBERS  
FOR ALL YOU DO!!!!!!**



# Troops to Teachers



*Transitioning military personnel to new careers as public school teachers*

## Counseling and Referral Services:

All current and former members of the U.S. Armed Forces are eligible to participate in the Troops to Teachers (TTT) program. The last period of military service must be characterized as honorable. TTT provides counseling and, for those who are eligible for hire as teachers, referral services to assist with the transition to the classroom.

## Financial Assistance:

In addition to counseling and referral services, service members who qualify under one of the Active Duty or Reserve Component categories listed, at right, may also be eligible for financial assistance, pending the availability of funds. **The TTT registration process must be completed before being hired as a teacher or for consideration for financial assistance.** Financial assistance may be available as (A) a stipend of up to \$5K for teacher certification expenses for which individuals must teach for three years at an "eligible" public school (the stipend may not be available to those who are eligible for the Post-9/11 GI Bill) and/or (B) a bonus of up to \$5K to teach for three years in an "eligible" public school or (C) a bonus of up to \$10K to teach for three years in a "high-need" public school. The maximum amount available through any combination of financial assistance is \$10K. *Other conditions may apply. Contact your TTT state office for additional information, [www.proudtoserveagain.com](http://www.proudtoserveagain.com).*

## Education Requirements for Financial Assistance:

Service members interested in receiving financial assistance must meet the following education requirements. For **academic licensure or employment**: must hold a Baccalaureate or advanced degree from an accredited institution. For **career-technical licensure or employment**: must either meet state career-technical teacher requirements, or have the equivalent of one year of college with six years of military experience in the vocational or technical field.

## Military Service Requirements for Financial Assistance:

### ACTIVE DUTY

- Retired from active duty.
- Active duty member with approved date of retirement with one year or less remaining before retirement.
- Separated for a service-determined physical disability on or after January 8, 2002. **Must register within three years after separation.** *Note: Physical disability must be noted on service separation documentation not a VA determination. Medical discharge is not the same as discharge due to physical disability.*

### RESERVE COMPONENT

- Retired from the Selected Reserve.
- Currently serving in the Selected Reserve with six or more years of creditable service towards retirement and commit to serving an additional three years, or until eligible for retirement.
- Separated from the Selected Reserve due to a service-determined physical disability on or after January 8, 2002. **Must register within three years after separation.** *Note: Physical disability must be noted on service separation documentation not a VA determination. Medical discharge is not the same as discharge due to physical disability.*
- Individuals transitioning from active duty on or after January 8, 2002, and have served four years on active duty immediately before separation, and execute a contract for three or more years with a Selected Reserve unit. **Must register within three years after separation.**

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**REGISTER ONLINE**  
[www.proudtoserveagain.com](http://www.proudtoserveagain.com)

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**R.C. Cartwright Scholarship Fund  
LTG Edward Honor Leadership Fund  
The ROCKS Journey Book  
ROCKS Operating Fund  
2016 Leadership & Training Forum**

# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CPT Kwansah Ackah USA  
MAJ Aaron Allen USA  
1LT Jacquelyn Bailey USAR  
CPT Tiffany Batiste USA  
MAJ Gwyneth Bradshaw USA  
CPT Katrina Brinkley USA  
BG Gary Brito USA  
1LT Kevin Claiborne USA  
MAJ Belinda Cole USAF  
Mr. Quacey Davis  
CPT Ashley Edwards USAR  
CPT Alexys Hare USA  
CPT Louis Hare USA  
COL Kenneth Hubbard USA  
2LT AnnieMarie Incontro USA  
CPT Alexis Jackson USA  
MAJ Ratasha Jackson USA

CPT Mary Johnson USA  
MAJ Luther Johnson USA  
COL Karen Jordan USA  
LTC Jason Kelly USA  
LTC Gavin Lawrence USA  
CPT Jarah Lindo USAR  
CPT Darrell Lyles USA  
CDT Siafa Massaley USA  
WO Ketura Mosley USA  
Mrs. Alexis Motley USA  
CPT Quinlan Motley USA  
WO Christopher Nickerson USAR  
CPT Dianna Pegeuse USA  
CPT Najuma Pemberton USA  
WO RODERICK PICKETT USA  
CPT Jennae Pitts ANG(Army)  
1LT Jelani Pritchett USA

COL Charles Simmons USA  
CPT SL Simpson USAR  
CPT Angela Somnuk USA  
MAJ Darren Spears USA  
WO Meoshay Stanley USA  
LTC Senodja Sundiata-Walker USA  
2LT Lenell Thompson USA  
CPT Corey Tisdale USA  
CDT Benson Uche USA  
LTC Joseph Williams USA  
LTC Garvey Wright USA  
CDT Nasir Young ANG(Army)  
LTC Henry Young USA



## REMEMBER TO UPDATE YOUR MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

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

To gain access to the Members Only section of the website, you will need your login name and password. If you have not received or have misplaced your login information, Passwords can be reset and usernames retrieved by click on “Member Login” then “Forgot My Username/Password”. Usernames can be edited by the member after log-in.

After you have logged in, please be sure to check your email and mailing address for accuracy.

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

Thanks in advance for your timely consideration.

Mrs. Sharene A. Cook  
Director of Administration, ROCKS HQ  
[www.rocksync.org](http://www.rocksync.org)



The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc.

# Membership Application

Mail or Fax or Apply Online at [www.rocksync.org](http://www.rocksync.org)

Post Office 47435, Forestville, Maryland 20753

Phone: 301-856-9319 / Fax: 301-856-5220

Email: [therocks@aol.com](mailto:therocks@aol.com)



PLEASE SELECT ONE: ☐ NEW MEMBER ☐ RENEWAL SPONSORED BY \_\_\_\_\_

Rank: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Branch/Specialty: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

College/University Attended: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree/Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate School Attended: \_\_\_\_\_ Masters/Year: \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Dues

### 04, GS13 & Above (incl. SES)

☐ 1 Year - \$50

☐ 2 Years - \$96

☐ 3 Years - \$142

### 03 & Below, GS12

☐ 1 Year - \$30

☐ 2 Years - \$58

☐ 3 Years - \$86

☐ Cadet Member – 1 Year = \$20

☐ National Life Member = \$650

Payment Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ National Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment: ☐ Check/Money Order ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ AMEX (OR pay online at [www.rocksync.org](http://www.rocksync.org))

Credit Card Number															

Expiration Date				CV # (from the back of the card)

Make all checks payable to "National ROCKS, Inc." and mail to:

ROCKS, Inc.

c/o WSC Associates, LLP

Post Office Box 47435

Forestville, Maryland 20753

## NOTES

- Local membership fees are not included.
- Life members are still required to pay local chapter dues.
- Current members** who are deployed personnel may send an email to [therocks@aol.com](mailto:therocks@aol.com) to be exempt from membership fees during the period of deployment.