

A warm, autumn-themed still life. In the center, a white mug filled with orange pumpkin soup sits on a dark wooden tray, garnished with a cinnamon stick. To the left and right are small, orange pumpkins. In the foreground, an open book with text on its pages lies on a light-colored surface, with a nut resting on it. The background is a textured, brown fabric, possibly a blanket, with string lights and more pumpkins. The overall mood is cozy and inviting.

THE ROCKET

Fall 2022



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Message from the Chairman



BG Lawrence Gillespie, USA, Retired

I sincerely hope you all had a wonderful summer and were able to dodge the scourge of COVID-19. My family and I had a wonderful vacation on the island of Puerto Rico. While there, I also met with the island's military leadership to formulate a strategy to begin the process of eventually establishing a new chapter at the University of Puerto Rico. At the request of the new president, we have also begun the process of establishing a chapter at Hampton University. We are researching the possibility of a stand-alone chapter with the core leadership coming from the university ROTC program and Hampton's military alumni. The development of these two programs will take time, but I am hopeful they will serve as a model that other universities can follow.

On 8 September, my wife and I had the pleasure of attending the promotion and change of command ceremony for General Gary Brito, the new Commanding General of Training and Doctrine Command. It was a historic ceremony with many Army Senior Leaders in attendance. It should also be noted that General Brito is a ROCK.

We are very proud of the ROCKS Inc. legacy; however, we can not afford to rest on our laurels. Our Army is in a state of transition that requires the rapid acquisition and utilization of new technologies and skill sets. My sense is that the U.S. Army Cyber Command and Army Futures Command will be the focal point for the integration of the emerging Army modernization priorities across the war fighting force.

I believe that we have to be on the forefront of understanding how future technologies will shape the Army. Understanding the methodology and utilization of changes, in my opinion, will play a key role in command selection and promotion opportunities. Mentoring our junior members on these changes is the challenge before us. I urge you to delve into the available publications addressing Army technology infusion and develop a path that ensures you keep pace with the changes.

Lastly, I want to thank all of you for your support of the ROCKS mission. The chapter professional development sessions have been outstanding and continue to play a key role in drawing the Army and the ROCKS Inc. closer together.

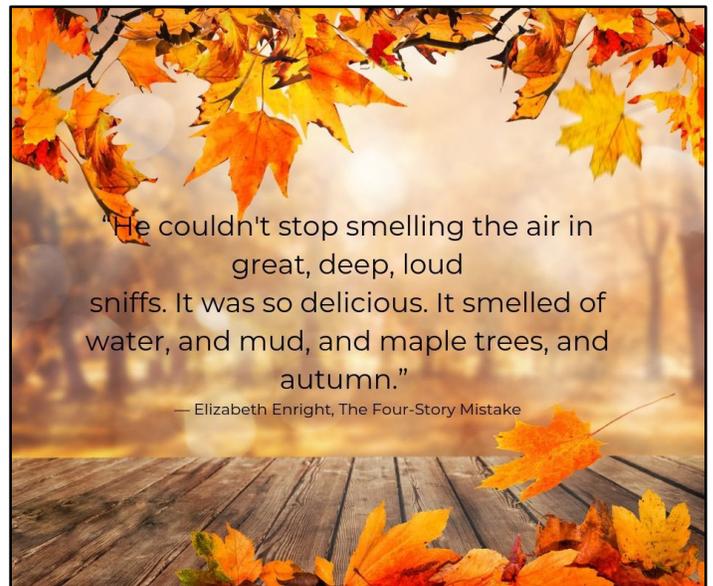
Army Strong!

BG(Ret) Lawrence Gillespie
Chairman, ROCKS, Inc.



**NATIONAL BOARD OF THE ROCKS
INC.
CFC# 60959**

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DONATE TODAY.**



Message from Our National Board Chaplain



“The Benefits of Adversity”

By Dr. B. Gregory Edison

The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc., Chaplain

Adversity will reveal our strengths and weaknesses.

God, through an Angel, called Gideon to lead Israel to a military victory over the Midianites, who had dominated Israel for seven years. When the Angel of the Lord appeared to him, and said, “The Lord is with you, you mighty man of valor!” Gideon’s response was not one of acceptance or excitement, but a response of weakness in the face of adversity. “O my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happen to us?” The Lord has forsaken us (Judges 6:12-13).

Gideon missed the clue in the Angel’s message because his fear obstructed his comprehension. Gideon’s strength, in victory, lies in the Lord and not himself or the people of Israel. The Angel said, “**The Lord is with you...**”

When the Lord calls you strong, don’t declare yourself weak!
When the Lord says you are forgiven, don’t dwell on your sins!
When the Lord says you are righteous, don’t see yourself as guilty!
When the Lord says you have valor, don’t see yourself as defeated!

A second dialogue between the Angel of the Lord and Gideon again revealed Gideon’s insecurity and disbelief (Judges 6:14-16). God does not give up easily and once again reassured Gideon that He would be with him and that he shall defeat the Midianites (Judges 6:16). Keep in mind that God has invested interest in His people!

Have you ever felt like Gideon? With certainty, you know that God has called or purposed you for a specific task or season, but fear made you a coward. Like Gideon, it is ok to acknowledge

your limitations, but don’t dwell in the valley of despair. I encourage you to quiet your fears and embrace that your strength does not reside in you, but in God.

God’s timing is perfect. God called Gideon at an appointed time to led Israel in victory against the Midianites. God knew the fear, insecurity and concerns of Gideon, and calculated these variables in the timing of Gideon’s calling and success.

I encourage you to uproot the seed of fear and doubt, and plant the seed of favor and victory.

Gospel recording artist, William Murphy, has a song titled, ‘It’s Working.’

The lyrics read: “this is my season for grace for favor; this is my season to reap what I have sown; see...I haven’t been perfect, but I sure have been faithful; see...God has a purpose and I know He’s able; I’ve got a seed in the ground, that He is blessing no more stressing; everything is working together for my good; God is leaning in my direction; this is my season for grace for favor; this is my season, to reap what I have sown; I’ve got a seed in the ground; And I don’t care what your circumstance says, it’s already getting better!



ROCKET DEADLINES



**Winter Edition
November 28, 2022**

TOP STORIES

Record Pay Increase Likely for Disabled Veterans and Military Retirees in 2023

Veterans receiving disability pay from the Department of Veterans Affairs and military retirees will likely get record monthly check increases for 2023 thanks to the pace of inflation, according to a new estimate.

The annual VA disability pay and military retirement cost-of-living pay adjustment, known as COLA, is typically tied to the Social Security rate change, which will likely be announced in October. An early projection based on national inflation data by The Senior Citizens League (TSCL), a nonpartisan senior advocacy nonprofit, estimates rates will rise by 8.7%.

That's slightly lower than the 9.6% estimate made by officials at TSCL in August. Estimates are based on year-to-date data released by the Department of Labor.

Despite the slight dip in estimates the increase is the highest for veterans and seniors since 1981 when COLA went up 11.2% in response to inflation, according to TSCL.

If the 8.7% materializes for 2023, military retirees would see an average increase of more than \$219 in their monthly retirement checks. Veterans receiving disability compensation from the VA also would also see their monthly disability payments increase, with the average monthly amount going up by more than \$136.

The VA says nearly 5.2 million veterans receive disability compensation, with an annual benefit of \$18,858 as of 2021. According to the Defense Department, there are around 1.87 million military retirees, who had an annual average retirement payment of \$30,265 in 2020.

The annual Social Security COLA increase is based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which is measured by the Department of Labor. The department takes a snapshot of the costs of a select group of goods and services and compares those costs to the previous year. If there is an increase, retirees and many others receiving government benefits see a bump in their monthly payments for the upcoming year. If those costs go down, the government payments will remain the same in the upcoming year.

TSCL's estimate is based on the CPI through July. But with several months left to go, the ultimate increase could vary slightly from the projection. For example, if inflation continues to increase, the COLA raise could be as high as 10.01%, they said. If inflation falls below the recent average, the increase could dip.

The anticipated record increase would be the second year running of such bumps. For 2022, the raise was 5.9%, which followed an average 1.5% increase over the 10 years prior.

Editor's Note: This story was updated Sept. 23, 2022, after new estimates for the upcoming disability and military retirement compensation were released by The Senior Citizens League, which showed slightly lower projected increases.

-- Amy Bushatz can be reached at amy.bushatz@military.com.



Examples of True Patriotism

*Written by COL (Ret) Charles D. Allen
(The Sentinel, September 11, 2022)*

Sunday marks the 21st observance of Patriots Day as the National Day of Service and Remembrance, following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. My annual reflection notes on that day, nearly 3,000 people were killed at the World Trade Center in New York City, at the Pentagon and in a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. The victims were not only those in the planes and buildings targeted for attack; they also included first responders from police and fire departments. Crisis response and emergency medical teams answered the call of service to others in that time of chaos. The diverse collections of first responders did not care about the nationality, ethnic background, race or religion of those in need. In fact, 372 non-Americans from more than 90 countries perished in the 9/11 attacks.

The Oxford Dictionary defines "patriot" as "a person who vigorously supports their country and is prepared to defend it against enemies or detractors." To be a patriot requires the understanding that our country — the United States of America — has its founding principles clearly presented in the preambles of two documents.

From the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their creator, with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." and the U.S. Constitution begins, "we the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice,

insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

A true American patriot embraces the values of our nation, which are based on “unalienable rights” of individuals, irrespective of their origins. A patriot seeks “justice” in accord with the rule of law and strives for the “general welfare” of those who pursue life, liberty and happiness in our society.

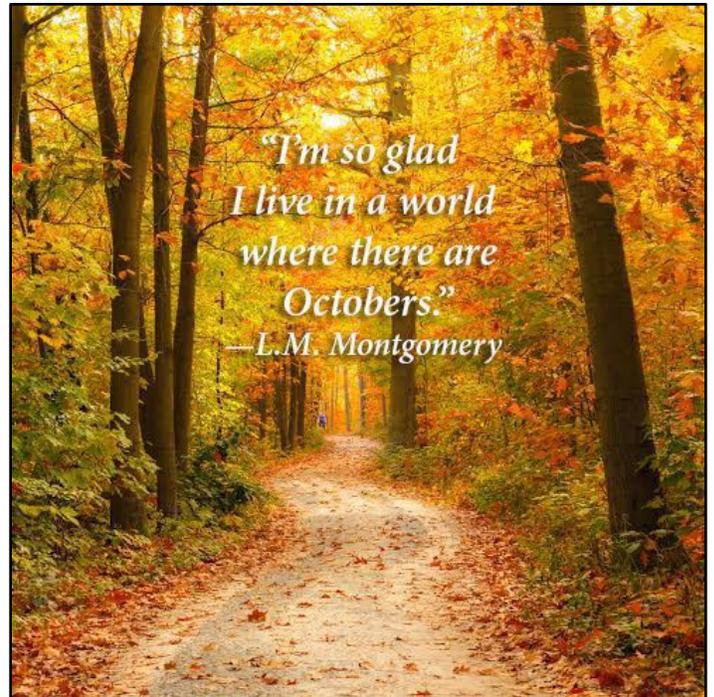
As I contemplate events of the past two years, I have seen and heard of many who claim to be patriots. With the pandemic and the still unfolding consequences of COVID-19 and its variants on the American population, the U.S. military has been there from the beginning to facilitate the development, production and distribution of the medical response.

In August 2021, U.S. service members, when called, rushed “towards the sound of chaos” for the non-combatant evacuation operations of over 120,000 people from Afghanistan. A look at the names and the faces of the 13 service members who fell performing a duty our nation asked of them, reminds us of the diversity of those who serve at home and in foreign lands.

We, as Americans, have endured seasons of wildfires, floods, tornadoes and hurricanes over the years since 9/11. Gratefully, we are witness to true patriotism displayed by first responders, as well as members of the U.S. military (active and reserve components with members of the state National Guard) as they provide defense support to civilian authorities. Across our nation, we have compelling examples of patriots, who without official titles or credentials, are integral to search and rescue operations during natural and man-made disasters, and they are essential to recovery operations. Regardless of their state affiliation, American citizens or not, they are vigorously supporting those in need and are prepared to defend our country.

Throughout the land, we will pause for moments of silence this Sept. 11. In remembering the victims of that horrific day, consider how you will be a “patriot” and, through your service to others, enact the values upon which our nation was founded.

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



BOARD ARTICLES



A New Membership Year

By COL Angie Hemingway USA (Ret)

Evidence of summer ending includes the sun setting earlier, many military families moving to another duty station, and children returning to school, among other things. In addition, many of us are embracing the new norm for doing business after the COVID Pandemic. While COVID often requires the mitigation of all situations and circumstances, we march on. We remain vigilant that another wave of the enemy virus may be lurking around the corner. As you stay alert, ensure you are doing things that bring joy to you and your loved ones. Stay connected by emailing, phone calls, or sending a handwritten note to say hello. You can also stay connected with other ROCKS members by making it a priority to renew your national and chapter memberships.

The new membership year started 1 September. If you forgot to renew your membership, please continue it quickly to avoid a gap in membership years. Your membership plays an essential role in facilitating mentoring, coaching, networking, scholarships, and the professional development of officers of all grades, Service components, Warrant Officers, ROTC Cadets, Academy Cadets, and Senior Civilians.

Your membership provides information on Members-only upcoming events, mentorship programs, Board Members, and other Resources. In addition, The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc., now offers digital membership cards. You may download the image on your smartphone or print your card.

As a member of the ROCKS, you can participate in Chapter meetings. Chapter meetings are held virtually and in person. I encourage you to take an active role in your chapter by running for a leadership position. Join a committee or help your chapter where help is needed. Don't forget to bring a friend to your meetings, and just as important, bring

someone who does not look like you.

For those inquiring about Life membership, this category of membership is suspended effective 1 May 2020. At the time of suspension, the Board voted that when the suspension ends, members may apply for life membership after achieving ten (10) consecutive years of regular membership (inclusive of the years when the program was in a suspended state). Therefore, this suspension is another good reason to keep your membership active.

Let us hear from you on this issue. Why should Life Membership be restarted? I am reachable through the national website at angehem9@gmail.com.

Let us know if you need help. I am reachable through the national website at angiehemingway@hotmail.com

“Autumn leaves
don't fall, they fly. They
take their time and
wander on this their
only chance to soar.”

DELIA OWENS



New Members

W • E • L • C • O • M • E

Joined 04/30/2022 – 10/18/2022

CPT Desentrie Allen
 MAJ Cheryl Alserhan
 2LT Rickey Anderson Jr.
 1LT Jennifer Atis
 CPT Derek Bailey
 CPT Harrison Barber
 LTC Anece Baxter-White MAJ
 Brandon Benson
 CPT Shimar Brown
 1LT Sean Burno
 LTC Sonya Carter
 1LT Aubrey Casey
 LTC Michelle Chillis
 LTC Torrance Cleveland
 LTC Antonio Coffey
 COL Sharon Cole
 LTC JJ Conway
 CPT Eric Dancy Jr.
 LTC Kirk Daniels
 LTC Carlos Davis
 Mr. Jesse Deberry
 2LT Lawford Domineck
 MAJ Clarence Dossie
 LTC Joel Elston
 CPT Albert Farley
 MAJ Elijah Fennell III
 1LT Damar Fletcher
 MAJ Gregory Ford
 MAJ Jonathan Foster
 CPT G'Nelle Franklin
 CPT Gamal Gittens

CPT Ryan Glenn
 COL Dena Goble
 CPT Nikia Goodwin
 MAJ Wayne Griffin
 CPT Olivia Haigler
 MAJ Glenda Hanna
 COL Earnest Hansley
 CPT Donmanique Hardy
 BG Richard Harrison
 LTC Glenroy Haskins
 2LT Roman Hatcher
 COL Lisa Hendrick
 CPT Micah Hill
 CPT David Homer
 CPT Terell Hurdle
 1LT Karona Hutchinson
 MAJ Jennifer Jackson
 CPT Shandricka Jackson
 2LT Allen Jemison
 LTC Timothy Johnson
 MAJ Taneshia Johnson
 2LT Dashaun Jones-Griffin
 COL Danye Jordan
 Mr. Frederick Joyce
 COL Scott Kindberg
 MAJ Llewingtina King
 CPT Anthony King
 MAJ Kelsey Kornegay
 2LT Samia Ladner
 CPT Darryl Lassic Jr.
 CPT Crystal Lattimore
 1LT Maya Layne

CPT Alexander Lee
 MAJ Nikkia Lee
 MAJ Adhana McCarthy
 CPT Lawrence McElrath
 MAJ Jamar Middleton
 MG Duane Miller
 COL Cornelius Morgan
 COL Jesse Newborn
 COL Alexis Perez-Cruz
 CPT Jeff Pierre-Louis
 Mr. Kenneth Puryear
 Mrs. Kevona Rodriguez
 Mr. Reginald Shuford
 CPT Veronica Simmons
 Mr. Nick Sleister
 LTC John Smith
 LT Kimberly Smith
 LTC Crystal Tate
 COL Franyate Taylor
 CPT Selman Temel
 CPT James Thomas
 COL Seena Tucker-Williams
 Mr. Stephen Valentine
 LTC Claude Vann III
 LTC Dwayne Wade
 Ms. Sharon Walker
 MAJ Reuben Washington
 MAJ Timmy Watts
 LTC Donna Whittaker
 2LT Renita Williams
 MAJ Hortordo Wilson
 MAJ Christina Worth



Why I serve: Capt. Terrisia Templeton

By 2nd Lt. Claudia Stephens



FORT SILL, Okla. (July 19, 2022) – In the heat of an Oklahoman afternoon, Alpha Battery, 2nd Battalion, 4th Field Artillery Regiment, 75th Field Artillery Brigade, executed a firing mission at Fort Sill. Among the ranks stood Capt. Terrisia Templeton, the first female, African American firing Battery Commander in the brigade.

Born and raised in Dallas, Texas, Templeton resembles all good leaders in how she serves out of selflessness and the desire to impact those around her.

“The reason I serve is to make a difference,” Templeton said. “I’m a firm believer in servant leadership. I think the Army gives me a chance to do that. I bring some of my creativity and some of my background, to different people around the world. I think that’s the great part – meeting different people. You get to influence lives.” “I think field artillery is a very fluid branch, where you can do something different every day,” Templeton continued. “What I’ve enjoyed about being a field artillery officer is how I’ve been able to work with a myriad of military occupational specialties. I’ve been able to work with infantry and engineers... and more. Every job is a little bit different. With each job, you learn a little bit more... So, I think that’s a great aspect of being a field artillery officer.”

When asked why being the first female, African American firing battery commander is special to her, Templeton reflected on timeliness and how women seldom remain in combat arms roles.

“I think it’s special to me [because] it is 2022. It’s crazy that I’m the first to do it,” Templeton said. “I think my year group was the first big [population] wave of females in the branch but a lot of us don’t stay in field artillery as a career field.

That might be why [I’m the first], but we desperately need that representation in the branch.”

Yet, despite not only finding success in her field, but also being a trailblazer for women in combat arms, Templeton continues to look forward, honing her skills and shaping her ambitions to continue a life of service.

“I aspire to have the best firing battery in the 75th Field Artillery Brigade. That’s my short-term goal,” Templeton said. “Long-term? Maybe I’ll be the first female field artillery Battalion Commander one day...What other job is going to pay you to be fit, change lives, and visit places all-around the world?”



“We Have Come a Long Ways ... We Have a Ways to Go”

Col. Dwayne Wagner, U.S. Army, Retired

During the Civil War, Frederick Douglass used his stature as the most prominent Black American social reformer, orator, writer and abolitionist to recruit men of his race to volunteer for the Union army. In his “Men of Color to Arms! Now or Never!” broadside, Douglass called on formerly enslaved men to “rise up in the dignity of our manhood and show by our own right arms that we are worthy to be freemen.”
—Farrell Evans, History.com

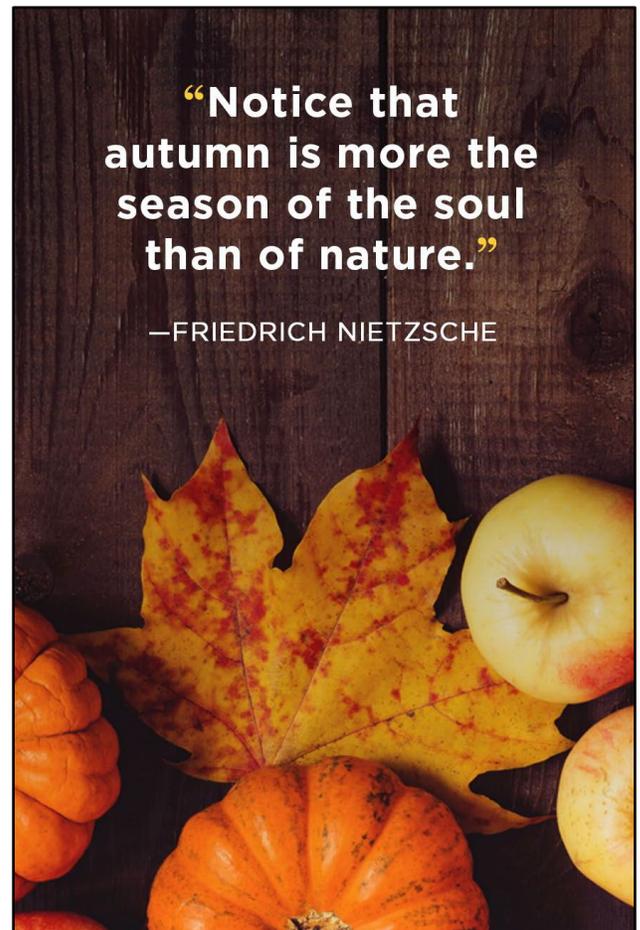
Little did Frederick Douglass know that Black Americans would continue to serve in every subsequent war for America and return home. to face racism, bigotry, and second-class citizenship. So, when someone asks if the Army has changed regarding the treatment of Black or African American soldiers, I answer this question using the same phrase my father used in the 1960s and 1970s: “We have come a long ways... we have a ways to go.” After answering this question, the follow-on conversation typically is reflective of the person’s race. Black friends and associates spend more time trying to convince me that “we have a very long way to go” as they focus on the glass that is half empty: personal encounters with racism or bias, discrimination, or statistics tied to selection rates for battalion and brigade command or senior service college. My White coworkers or lifetime friends reflect on legal and cultural changes since the 1960s and believe that the Army “has come a very long way” in embracing African Americans. Can both voices be right? Each voice then asks, “How do we know when we are?” Let me use my journey since 1956 to try to respond to both voices. As an Army officer (1978–2008), an Army civilian (2008–2021), and the son of a soldier (1956–1978), I have sixty-four years of watching Army race relations morph, sometimes forced by society and other times leading social change due to our Army values.

The 1950s: The Cold War and Desegregation

“President Harry S. Truman signed an executive order in 1948 ending segregation in the military and in the federal workforce. Executive Order 9981 said, ‘There shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin.’ Truman’s support of civil rights was an abrupt change from his early thoughts on the black community, as shown by many of his letters to friends and family that used racist language. He later changed his ways, writing a friend to say, ‘I am not asking for social equality, because no such thing exists, but I am asking for equality of opportunity for all human beings and, as long as I stay here, I am going to continue that fight.’ While Truman was struggling with decisions of race, my grandfather and father worked as sharecroppers in East Texas amid the virulent racism of the 1930s and 1940s. My father left sharecropping at the age of nineteen and joined the Army in 1949 because he had no other options as a poor Black American male during this era. Our family land that belonged to his grandfather was stolen by Whites who used a rigged tax system to steal land from Black landowners. This was an institutionalized practice in the early 1900s through the 1950s; some remnants remain today. The U.S. Department of Agriculture continues to address historical institutional racism’s impact on Black farmers today by establishing a program designed to compensate for historical discrimination. The Outreach and Assistance for Socially Disadvantaged and Veteran Farmers and Ranchers Program is part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and specifically includes Black farmers or families penalized by earlier institutional discrimination.

Learn more at:

<https://www.armyupress.army.mil/journals/military-review/online-exclusive/2021-ole/wagner/>



CHAPTER ARTICLES

Diversity of Thought in the Army

Written by Maj. Gen. Anthony R. Hale, USAICoE and Fort Huachuca commanding general

Fort Huachuca's mission is to produce trained and educated intelligence professionals who are fit, disciplined, and trained in the Intelligence Warfare functional competencies to help win future wars in large scale combat operations in multi-domain environments. To ensure we deliver the best intelligence professionals we can, it is imperative that the Army builds and maintains a diverse workforce.

Diversity enhances the perspective of our national identity. To achieve optimal results, we must sustain a culture of respect, trust, and discipline where everyone takes care of each other. Although we can be divided by many labels such as race, language, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status, there is a fabric of identity that is woven through the lives of every one of us; that is our deep commitment to the Constitution of the United States of America.

One of my duties as the Commanding General for the Intelligence Center of Excellence is to manage the diverse talent of our people. This management includes the development and retention of the talent that we already have. Military Intelligence (MI) professionals must be critical thinkers who are adaptable, competent, and dependable leaders. These characteristics must be deliberately shaped within every Soldier through mentorship, sponsorship, advocacy and professional development. Beyond managing our current talent, we must find new talent that gives the MI Corps a competitive advantage against our adversaries. This means we must engage more with future leaders. Specifically, the cadets of Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) programs, and our military academies. I firmly believe that early engagement with future leaders sparks interest in our profession as we compete against other career fields for this same diverse talent. Quoting the Chief of Staff of the Army, "we are in a war for talent."

After taking a long look at what has impacted diversity in the MI Corps, we found a significant underrepresentation of African Americans. Starting at the root of the problem, we cannot have more diversity if we do not recruit, promote, and retain diverse populations through messaging and attraction to the MI Corps. With that in mind, I began by visiting Historically Black Colleges and Universities to increase interest in the MI branch amongst future leaders. I'm going to schools to tell the cadets why we do - what we do. This is my blueprint for increasing the diversity of thought, perspective, and life experience that the MI Corps needs to shape the future. We never know the depth one interaction will inspire and illuminate the importance that perspective makes not only in

in an individual cadet but to all underrepresented communities. As we begin to fill the ranks, it is equally important that we guide those leaders as they mature. Therefore, we formed the Fort Huachuca Rocks Chapter. We now have a venue at the edge of the frontier where young officers can listen and learn about lessons learned from thirty-plus-year professionals to help them avoid mistakes and make improvements on their legacies.

Although diversity enhances organizational capabilities, without a positively engaged leader, a diverse organization can become consumed by conflict and internal strife. As leaders, it is essential to remember that diversity can also be a source of discomfort and possibly mistrust. Therefore, you must consistently message the value of diversity to your team. I would like to leave you with this: positively engaged leaders ensure a diverse organization and have the ability to lead an organization to new heights. When individuals see others like them in the workplace, it builds an environment where all people can achieve their goals and leads to an organization that thrives.



In Retrospect 2022: MG Charles Rogers Chapter and US Army War College

Written by COL (Ret) Charles Allen

Members of the MG Charles Rogers Chapter of ROCKS, Inc at Carlisle Barracks continue to make a difference in contributing to the education and development of our nation's strategic military and civilian leadership. This year marks the 51th anniversary of the graduation our chapter namesake MG Charles C. Rogers - US Army War College Class of 1971. It is also the 21th anniversary of the chapter receiving its official chapter from the National Board of ROCKS, Inc. The legacy of MG Rogers is strong and ROCKS Steady!

US Army War College Staff and Faculty

This was another year of transition and stability for our senior members at Carlisle Barracks and the U.S. Army War College (USAWC). COL Shawn Goldwire departed and was replaced by MAJ Eddie Rogers (who previously served as the Executive Officer to the Commandant) as the USAWC G-6. COL Fredric Maddox will depart as the Director of Force Management Studies to attend Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University as a Chief of Staff of the Army Senior Fellow.

Colonel (Retired) Randy White continues Deputy Director, Army Strategic Education Program (ASEP) with Ms. Litrena Gordon as Program Analyst. Colonel (Retired) Sylvester Brown serves as a Civilian Title 5 Academic Executive Officer in DDE.

In the Resident Education Program, Professor Chuck Allen remains as the Professor of Leadership and Cultural Studies in the Department of Command, Leadership, and Management (DCLM). COL Orlando Ortega joins as the Director, National Guard Affairs. We also welcome 1LT Christin Peters to the USAWC G-2 section.

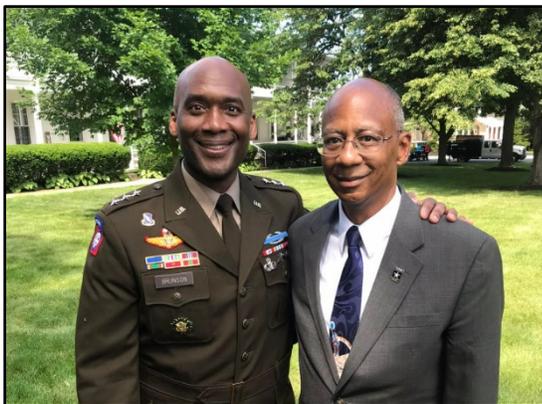
US Army War College ROCKS Student Chapter Achievements

Student members of the ROCKS participated in several prestigious programs during the course of the academic year: Lt Col James Neville (USMC) was in the Carlisle Scholars Program; COL Quintina Smiley, Ms. Damelsa White, and COL Reginald Williams were in the Enterprise Management Program; LTC Rosanna Mae Clemente was in the Advanced Strategic Arts Program; COL Michael Jones was in the National Security Policy Program; and LTC Mike Burns, LTC Brian Dudley, COL Kevin Payne, and COL Ricky Taylor were members of the Eisenhower Series College Program.

Students were fortunate to have professional development opportunities with various senior leaders. LTG Gary Brito (HQDA G1) shared his sage leadership advice on talent management and mentorship with members and other USAWC attendees.

The chapter co-sponsored a Black History Month Program with the Carlisle Barracks and USAWC, with ROCKS members offering their professional thoughts and personal experiences on the Black Health and Wellness.

US Army War College Graduation



LTG Xavier Brunson, Commanding General, I Corps, provided the US Army War College graduation keynote address. A past Chapter President and AY2014 USAWC graduate, met with Prof Chuck Allen following the ceremony.

Members of the MG Charles Rogers ROCKS Chapter were among the 380 senior U.S. and international military officers and civilian leaders recognized during the USAWC graduation

ceremony on June 11, 2022, for their academic achievements and professional excellence.

LTG Xavier Brunson, Commanding General, I Corps served as the keynote speaker. He offered recommendations to USAWC graduates for the future—to have a bias for actions, to follow guiding personal principles, and to speak truth. Additionally, he cited the importance the network established over the Army War College year across the Joint Force with US government partners and foreign military allies. He expressed confidence that the USAWC Class of 2022 is ready to meet those responsibilities. ROCKS members of our MG Charles Rogers Chapter are more than ready exceed the expectations put forth by LTG Brunson!



MG Charles Rogers Chapter members gather after US Army War College AY2022 Resident Education Program graduation.

US Army War College AY2023 Cohort

Each academic year the ROCKS chapter regenerates with the incoming student body. Many members of the USAWC Class of 2023 have diverse experience with The ROCKS in previous assignments. Some learn about the ROCKS for the first time and seek the opportunity to join during the year ahead. It is fitting that our first organizational meeting featured GEN (Ret) Vincent Brooks who did a superb job setting expectations for professional development and mentorship — aligned with The ROCKS, Inc. mission.



MG Charles Rogers Chapter members gather with GEN (Ret) Vincent K. Brooks and Commandant MG David Hill following the opening Leader Professional Development session for US Army War College AY2023

Former United States Secretary of Defense Ashton B. Carter
Submitted by COL (Ret) Dorene Hurt

Source: <https://www.defense.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3199082/statement-by-secretary-of-defense-lloyd-j-austin-iii-on-the-passing-of-former-s/>



On 24 October 2022, former Secretary of Defense Ashton B. Carter died in Boston, Mass. suddenly. The current Secretary of Defense, Lloyd J. Austin, III, extended condolences on his passing and the monumental loss of a trusted advisor and one of our Nation's most influential and dedicated leaders. Secretary Carter was the 25th Secretary of Defense (SECDEF).

It is important to understand that the Department of Defense is the successor agency to the National Military Establishment created by the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 401). It was established as an executive department of the Government by the National Security Act Amendments of 1949 with the Secretary of Defense as its head. The enormity of the position can't be overstated. The Secretary of Defense is sixth in line to the United States presidential line of succession.

The 28th Secretary of Defense, Lloyd Austin's press release on the death of former SECDEF Ash Carter follows:

I was deeply saddened to learn of the untimely passing of former Secretary of Defense Ash Carter. Today, the entire Department of Defense mourns the loss of a towering intellect, a steadfast leader, a devoted mentor to countless public servants, and a great patriot who devoted his life to strengthening the security of the country that he loved.

Secretary Carter was a scientist, a scholar, and a strategist. He understood that the United States was, as he put it, "the most important provider of security to the world." And he dedicated his long and storied career to fortifying our republic and strengthening what he loved to call "the finest fighting force the world has ever known."

On his road to becoming the 25th Secretary of Defense, Ash Carter served in many capacities at the Pentagon, from setting policy to managing acquisitions. After the fall of the Soviet Union, he helped to remove nuclear weapons from former Soviet republics. During the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, he made it a departmental priority to procure cutting-edge military capabilities, such as the Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected Vehicle to help keep our warfighters safe.

He served under 11 Secretaries of Defense, under administrations of both parties, before being nominated for the job himself by President Barack Obama. As Secretary, he was a key player in the fight to defeat ISIS. He was a prescient strategic thinker who was early to grasp the growing significance of the Indo-Pacific, the challenges from the People's Republic of China, and the necessity of deeper U.S. investments in the region's security. He also worked tirelessly to strengthen NATO after Russia's aggression against Ukraine in 2014. And he tore down barriers to service when he made the decision to open all U.S. combat positions to women and announced that transgender Americans could openly serve in the U.S. military.

A brilliant scholar in his own right, Secretary Carter constantly pushed the Pentagon to "think outside our five-sided box." He understood early the importance of innovation and technological progress to the overall U.S. defense enterprise. He forged vital new relationships with Silicon Valley, and his legacy continues today in institutions that he started, such as the Defense Innovation Unit and the Strategic Capabilities Office.

In his farewell to the men and women of the department, Secretary Carter reflected that raising one's hand to serve is "the noblest thing that a person can do with their life: that is, defend this magnificent country and make a better world for our children." After his tenure, he continued to serve, including service on President Biden's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and the Department's Defense Policy Board. I always deeply valued his wise counsel. He served as the Director of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, at Harvard University. He also returned to his roots as a teacher and helped inspire countless students to pursue their own careers in public service.

Secretary Carter was a defense intellectual and a skillful policymaker who tirelessly sought a more secure America in a more just world. On behalf of the Department of Defense, I send my deepest condolences to his wife Stephanie, children Ava and Will, and the entire Carter family.



Secretary Austin is the 28th Secretary of Defense and first African American to hold this Cabinet level position; he is also a ROCK.

**ROCKS INC. 4TH ANNUAL JOINT FOUNDERS DAY
ROCKS NATIONAL BOARD & WASHINGTON DC CHAPTER 22 OCT 2022**

PART ONE: LAYING WREATH AT THE CARTWRIGHT GRAVESITE, ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY!



BG (Ret) Gillespie, ROCKS National Board Chair and COL (Ret) Shelia Flowers advance to lay the wreath at BG (Ret) & Mrs. Roscoe "ROCK" Cartwright's gravesite.



ROCKS pay their respects to the Cartwrights with BG (Ret) Gillespie, BG (Ret) Adams-Ender, COL (Ret) Flowers and Founder COL (Ret) Frank Francois, III.



BG (Ret) Gillespie assists Founder COL (Ret) Frank Francois, III as BG (Ret) Adams-Ender and other ROCKS look on.

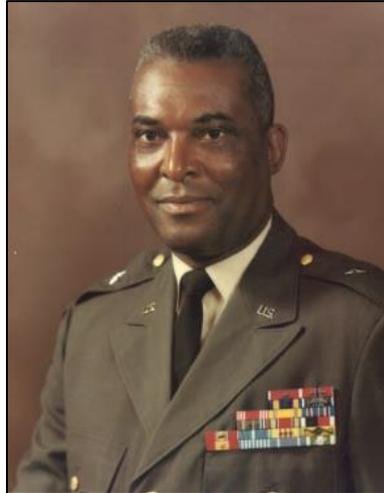
PART TWO: CELEBRATION AND FELLOWSHIP AT PENTAGON CITY



Founders COL (Ret) Clarence Miller, Jr. & COL (Ret) Frank Francois, III cut the cake.



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



BG(R) Roscoe "ROCK" Cartwright



Burke



Brooks



Cade



Chambers



Collins



Francois



Hazelwood



Mann



Miller



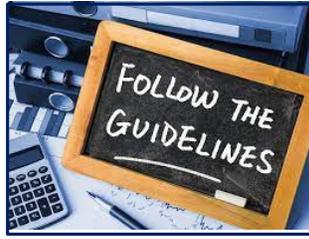
Wyatt

Shown above:

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

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

Do you know their names? These men comprised the "Blue Geese".



ROCKET SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

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

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

Note: We do not accept podcasts or videos as stand alone submissions for this written publication. However, we do have other media platforms available to disseminate or distribute video or podcast material.

As of October 18, 2022

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