



THE ROCKET
Winter 2014

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Fort Bragg, SC	All American Chapter	MAJ	Christopher	Buckley	USA	christopher.c.buckley.mil@mail.mil
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Fort Leavenworth, KS	Buffalo Soldier Chapter	MAJ	Bernard	West	USA	bwesthaven@gmail.com
Fort Lee, VA	Central Virginia Chapter	COL	Robert	Barnes	USA	robert.l.barnes30.mil@mail.mil
Fort Stewart, GA	Marne Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc.	CPT	Sidney	Carroll	USA	sidney.carroll.mil@mail.mil
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Fort Sill, OK	Fort Sill, OK	CPT	Tonyelle	Woody	USA	Tonyelle_Woody@hotmail.com
Jackson, MS	Mississippi National Guard	LTC	Christian	Patterson	USA	christian.patterson.mil@mail.mil
Kuwait	Kuwait	LTC	Alprentice	Smith	USA	alprentice.smith.mil@mail.mil

Chairman's Message



Happy belated Thanksgiving. I hope everyone was able to share time with family and friends. This is the time of the year when we pause to count our blessings then shift our focus to what we would expect in the coming new year. We as an organization are no different although we still have work to do on fully executing our foundational programs (Mentorship Training and Organizational Handbook).

As we focus on the coming year our initiatives will typically be tied to the above mentioned programs.

Speaking of this year, plans are well underway for this year's Gala we have heard your feedback and plan to incorporate your recommendations to make it better. We are also planning a virtual training session with a focus on the two above mentioned programs. Several other areas drawing our attention include innovative revenue generation initiatives plus the revitalization of the Senior Mentor program for Senior ROTC Programs. An exciting partnership with STAYFASTER is introduced in this issue. We encourage you to use it. Remember to use the ROCKS code! More details to follow.

Speaking of Senior ROTC, Major General (Ret) Bagby has done a superb job of reaching out to the PMSs' in our targeted programs either in person or virtually. The above mentioned Senior Mentor program will go a long way in enhancing our effort in this area.

We recently had the privilege of a being part of a mentoring program held at Howard University that included Senior ROTC Programs from Hampton, Norfolk State, Morgan State, Howard University, George Mason University, Georgetown University and Bowie State. The program consisted of a reception and a panel of Senior Army leaders.

The ROCKS board and the DC Chapter sponsored the reception. Senior members of the Army staff participated on the panel and provided insight into their areas of responsibility. The panel was organized and led by the Army's G-6 LTG Ferrell. The panel provided insight on mentorship and many topics important for cadets transitioning to the officer corps. The panel's presentation prompted more questions from cadets than the allotted time allowed. This was an excellent program which I would expect will be repeated in the future.

I recently had an audience w/ the Army's G1 & Dep. ASAMRA. The topics discussed included where and how the ROCKS could assist the Army from a diversity stand point. We also discussed our need for the most current information for sharing with our members.

We have been invited to join a small group that is building the Presidents My Brother's Keeper Program. More information will be forthcoming as our involvement matures.

As we close our 40th year of Service and our unwavering commitment to strengthening the officer corps, I wish each of you a safe, joyous and restful Holiday Season. Please keep our Soldiers who are in harm's way and their families in your prayers.

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

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



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ROCKET STAFF

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Saying Goodbye to An Old Friend & Army Nurse

By BG Clara Adams-Ender USA (Ret.)



BG(R) Adams-Ender (left) with COL(R) Bailey

In the last edition of THE ROCKET, there was an article about COL Margaret E. Bailey, retired Army Nurse, who died on August 28, 2014. In addition to being the first African American female to be promoted to lieutenant colonel and full colonel in the Army Nurse Corps, COL Bailey joined and was active in THE ROCKS, INC. for many years and was honored as a ROCK of the year.

With my 55 years of association with the US Army, I have come to embrace the fact that I know now much of the Army's history, because I was there to witness it! I am writing this article for two reasons: the first is to share some information with readers who may not have known COL Maggie (as I called her). The second reason is a personal one—it is my way of saying goodbye to an old and dear friend.

COL Maggie graduated from a diploma nursing school in Alabama. After graduation, she was unable to obtain employment because segregation was the law of the land in the South at that time. The one black hospital was not hiring and the white hospitals did not allow black nurses to care for white patients. Being young, impatient, needing employment and unwilling to wait for vacancies to occur, she left Alabama for New York City. She told me about her experiences as a new graduate nurse at Bellevue Hospital with its large patient loads and very sick patients in the mid-forties. One day, she heard that the Army was looking for “colored nurses” to join its ranks. She and two of her friends joined and, after basic orientation, were sent to an Army base in Iowa, where they cared for the “colored troops.” She didn't remember the units from which they came, but we were certain that they were the final troops of the 9th and 10th Calvary units or Buffalo Soldiers. After the Army was integrated by Executive Order in 1948, COL Maggie was soon reassigned and was sent overseas.

COL Bailey excelled as an Army Nurse. She was a hard worker, always pleasant and loved working with others. She soon chose psychiatric nursing as her specialty and won many

honors and awards as the leader of well organized and well operated nursing units. She often related to me how lonely she was in her off-duty time. As a leader and part of a team, as she saw it, she joined the officer's club and attended on a regular basis for dinner and other activities. She was often snubbed by other nurse leaders and but was not deterred. She refused to allow others to define her behavior and gradually, the white officers started to warm up to her and invite her to join their circles.

COL Maggie blazed trails not only for African American Army nurses, but for all Army nurses. She became Chief Nurse of a hospital in France, then had to orchestrate the packing of that hospital and moving it to Germany on very short notice. She told me many stories of establishing relationships with line officers without the benefit of the associations which come from having met them in junior or senior service schools. She and I laughed many times about the fact that her only expert knowledge was that she had been a psychiatric nurse for many years and understood human behavior!

COL Maggie eventually rose to the rank of full colonel and spent her final years on active duty on special assignment as Chief Nurse of the newly formed Job Corps. In the early 70s, she was recalled to active duty to assist with African American nurse recruitment for the Walter Reed Army Institute of Nursing (WRAIN). She and I spent 6 weeks together interviewing potential nursing students to enter the WRAIN program from Wayne State University, Detroit, MI. We were housed and had an office in the Howard Johnson Motel on Grand Avenue in Detroit. We got to know each other very well and I learned a lot from COL Maggie, both personally and professionally. We kept in contact after that, and she was one of the first people to congratulate me when I was promoted to general and became chief of the Army Nurse Corps.

In the last three years of COL Maggie's life, I was well into the habit of visiting her on a monthly basis at her retirement home in upper Rock Creek Park. We especially got together on her birthday, which was on Christmas Day. When I arrived there at about 1000 hours, she was always dressed, her hair beautifully done and ready for her “sweet potato pie.” I always asked her, “COL Maggie, are you going to eat this pie so close to lunch?” She would say, “Indeed I am, because I may not live till lunch time and I don't plan to die without eating my pie first!” We'd have a big laugh, she would eat her pie, then go to lunch.

COL Margaret Bailey was a great Army Nurse who enjoyed her time in service to the nation, mentored and guided many nurses along the way and led the troops with style and grace. When she died, she was in her 99th year, so she had a good, long life. COL Maggie, may you rest in eternal peace, because you did outstanding work and served people well while you lived. I shall always remember the proud lady that you were, your example of how to relate well to others and your cooperative spirit in all situations. Your legacy will always live on in those who knew and loved you. Goodbye, my friend, and farewell.

The Passing of Tracey Pinson, SES (retired) Office of the Secretary of the Army, Office of Small Business Programs

Published in The Washington Post on Dec. 17, 2014



Tracey Lee Pinson transitioned to eternal life on Sunday, December 14, 2014. She is survived by her loving husband of 23 years, Darryl Henri Dennis, her beloved and devoted daughter, Maya, mother-in-law Delores, brothers in law, Carlos and Albert (Sarah) and their three children, Swandala, Kadar and Blythe; sister in law, Pamela and her two children, Kyle and Joy, her step-sister, Wendie; Step-mother, Margo and Goddaughter, Zora, first cousin, Dr. Marion Pinson Hayes and Godfather, Dr. LaSalle Leffall Jr.(Ruthie), her Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Sisters and other relatives and friends.

Tracey Pinson was born in Washington D.C. on September 18, 1957. She was the loving daughter of the late Ms. Valerie F. Pinson and Dr. Thomas J. Pinson. She attended Tots Developmental School, Georgetown Day School and Woodrow Wilson High School. She received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science from Howard University and a Juris Doctor from Georgetown University Law Center. From 1982-1986, Tracey served as counsel to the Committee on Small Business, US House of Representatives, for Chairman of the House Small Business Committee, Congressman Parren J. Mitchell. From 1986-1995, Tracey served as Assistant to the Director, Office of Small Business Programs, Office of the Secretary of Defense.

In April 1995, Tracey was appointed by Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Togo West, as the Director, Office of Small Business Programs, Office of the Secretary of the Army. She was a principal member of the Army Secretariat and was the highest-ranking female civil servant in the Army acquisition career field.

Tracey retired from the Department of the Army in June 2014 and joined the Boeing Company in July 2014 as the Director of small/diverse business and strategic alliances for the Boeing Defense, Space and Security division.

A Memorial Service was held at the Howard University School of Law Dunbarton Chapel, 2900 Van Ness Street NW, Wash DC at 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 19, 2014. Preceding the Memorial Service, An Ivy Beyond the Wall ceremony commenced at 2:25 p.m. Please sign the guestbook at www.hinesrinaldifuneralhome.com.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in Tracey Pinson's honor may be made to: The Tracey L. Pinson Scholarship Fund, Howard University 2225 Georgia Ave, N.W, Suite 901, WDC 20059, Attn.: Nesta H. Bernard, VP Development & Alumni Relations. In lieu of flowers, gifts in Tracey Pinson's honor may be made to: The Tracey L. Pinson Scholarship Fund, Howard University 2225 Georgia Ave, N.W, Suite 901, Wash. DC 20059, Attn.: Nesta H. Bernard, VP Development & Alumni Relations.



Thank You

The Cade family wishes to thank Rocks Inc. for its presence at the interment of Florence Cade at Arlington National Cemetery on December 11 2014. It was a fitting tribute to a great woman who was a soldier's wife. Thanks again.

*Al Cade
BG US Army Retired*

ROCKS Members Serve on Congressman's Service Academy Review Board

By COL Dorene Hurt USA (Ret.)

Many may not be aware of the important process for obtaining an appointment to one of the military service academies.

Although not all members of Congress have formal processes in place for identifying the best candidates for consideration of a Military Service Academy appointment, Congressman Moran has been a strong advocate of Congressional appointments for many years.

Potential candidates submit their detailed packets to the Congressman's office by an established deadline. After that, appointed members of his Academy Review Board meet to review each application using an exhaustive objective process. Recommendations are then made to the Congressman who then must aggressively advocate for the candidates he believes deserve an appointment. Not all candidates who are recommended for an appointment will receive one because slots are limited.



Congressman Moran and his 2014 Service Academy Review Board members including ROCKS MG (R) Alexander, BG (R) Earl Simms, and COL (R) Dorene Hurt.

For the last few years, three of the Review Board members for those wanting to attend West Point have been Rocks members including BG(R) Earl Simms, MG(R) George Alexander, and COL (R) Dorene Hurt. We have been honored to do so as it is an important way to serve the community and continue to strengthen our officer corps.

The competition is extremely stiff because all applicants are high achievers both academically and physically. Most are scholar athletes who have excelled in school and contributed in their communities.

In addition to Congressional appointments, candidates can also apply for a Presidential and Senatorial appointments. Information on all of the categories and the application to apply can be found online. Please check out the info online and feel free to contact one of us if you have any questions.

Chiles Presented Veterans Award

By CW4 (Ret) Farrell J. Chiles, USA

CW4 (Ret) Farrell J. Chiles was presented a "Welcome Home" Award for his service in Vietnam from 1971-1972.

Chiles served as a military policeman/desk sergeant with the 630th Military Police Company at Cam Rahn Bay, Vietnam.

The presentation occurred at the Salute to African American Veterans Program on November 1, 2014 at the African American Museum of Beginnings in Pomona, California in celebration of Veterans Day.



L-R: Khalif Rasshan, founder/curator, The African American Museum of Beginnings and CW4 (Ret) Farrell J. Chiles

The award was presented by the Greater Orange County Chapter of Blacks In Government, a partner in the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Program. Information on the commemoration can be

found at www.vietnamwar50th.com.

CW4 (Ret) Chiles is a frequent contributor to the ROCKET. He is the author of the upcoming book, "African American Warrant Officers...In Service to Our Country". The book highlights the stories of unsung African American Warrant Officers who have served our country, both in and out of the military. It covers the period from World War II to present. The book is scheduled for release in January 2015.

Chiles was recently interviewed for the Veterans History Project. The 31 minute interview is on YouTube at: <http://youtu.be/geS9Ds71yhU>.

5 Things to know when working with your Assignment Officer

By MAJ Shermoan Daiyaan

This article is written to help educate junior officers on how to build a rapport with their assignment officer (AO) and use their knowledge to improve their career. MAJ Daiyaan has worked as an AO for the past year and offers the 5 ideas below to help you communicate and get the best out of your relationship with your AO.

1. Don't send mixed messages. Assignment officers receive emails/calls from officers stating that they really want to be considered for certain jobs, but two days later they might receive a 4187 application for a different opportunity that would make their first request unsupportable. It's hard to help you when you don't know what you want.

2. Don't complain about your assignment solely on the basis of location. My recommendation is to think more of the experience that you can gain or will miss by going to a certain location. So, a different way to get what you desire is to present an operational reason for your preference instead of

just a personal reason. For example, you may be from Texas and your wife really wants to move near your family. You could inform your AO that you desire to PCS to Fort Hood because you have completed a tour in light infantry and now want to gain mechanized infantry experience at Fort Hood. AOs receive emails and calls by hundreds of officers who have personal reasons why they want something, but very few officers present career enhancing or operational rationale for their desires.

3. Don't make your AO more important in your life than they should be. Your AO should not be your financial advisor or marriage counselor. For example, there have been officers who request the AO to send them an email to explain why the officer will be reassigned to a certain location so the officer will not get into trouble at home with their spouse. We have also seen officers ask to be assigned to a location for a number of years, so they can buy a house. When you ask the AO for something like this it places the AO in an awkward position and they will probably shy away from helping you.

4. Ask your AO for a file assessment long before your next board. Assignment officers are continuously evaluating files and can provide you with some valuable feedback on how you rate. When you get the assessment ask them for their rationale, so you can learn this process for yourself and teach others. One caution; don't ask, "Will I get promoted?" The AOs don't get a vote on the board, and are hesitant to give that type of feedback. Your goal is to know if you are on track and learn how to conduct your own assessment for yourself and others.

5. Call or email your AO about once or twice a year. Your goal here is to build rapport, and learn about any trends or opportunities that may be useful to you. This could be the time when you ask for that file assessment. Further, you could ask them to keep you in mind if your dream job or location opens up. AOs get short fused taskers all the time and if they know you will jump on a great opportunity you hit the "quick-call" list.

In closing, use your AO as career advisor and keep the lines of communication open throughout your career.

4-Year Army Scholarship



Greetings. As many of you know, the ROCKS, Inc. is able to facilitate interested candidates in applying for the U.S. Army Cadet Command 4-Year Scholarships. Detailed

information can be found on our website at www.rocksync.org on the Scholarship page.

The ROCKS, Inc. can assist in a limited number of 4-year Army ROTC scholarships to qualified prospective candidates attending Historically Black College/Universities

(HBCU) and all other schools having ROTC programs. To review the requirements and obtain other information, please visit: <http://www.goarmy.com/rotc/high-school-students/four-year-scholarship.html>

I ask that you widely circulate information on this program within your respective ROCKS Chapters and within your own circles -- Fraternities, Sororities, Churches, High School Administrators, influencers, et al -- to provide opportunities to qualified young men and women.

Please send to me any questions you may have. Thank you in advance for your support of this program and for all you do for the ROCKS, Inc. and our great Nation.

Byron S. Bagby
Major General, U.S. Army (Retired)
ROCKS, Vice President, (ROTC Programs)
Email: rocksrc@aol.com

The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. Scholarship Programs

Professors of Military Science,

Thank each of you individually and collectively for all you do for your respective ROTC Programs, your college/university campuses and, more importantly, America's sons and daughters who benefit from your leadership and experience.

We ask you to encourage your top cadets to compete for one of our two scholarships, LTG Edward Honor Leadership Award and the BG Roscoe Cartwright Award. The details for the submission of the application packets are located on our website at www.rocksync.com on the Scholarship page. Each application packet will include the following:

The completed application

A paper on any topic related to leadership or mentorship (one-page paper for the BG Cartwright Award, and two-page paper for the LTG Honor Award)

A one-page letter of recommendation from their Professor Military of Science

A photograph in ASU or ACU.

NOTE: all four documents will be submitted in ONE PDF file and emailed to therocks@aol.com not later than 30 January 2015.

If you have any questions, please call 301-856-9313.

Byron S. Bagby
Major General, US Army (Retired)
ROCKS, Vice President, (ROTC Programs)



Email: rocksrotc@aol.com

The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. will conduct a 2015 Meeting on **29 April 2015**. All Chapter officers will be providing Chapter Reports during this meeting.

Additionally, we will provide an update from the Army G-1, LTG James C. McConville. Specific details for this teleconference will be provided in January 2015.

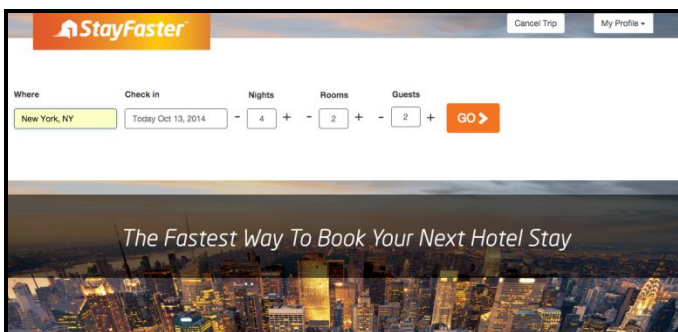
POC is Lillian A. Dixon, 202 461-0064.



We're Excited to Announce Our New Travel Partner, StayFaster!

When you book your next hotel room with StayFaster.com and enter code **ROCKS** into your account, The ROCKS, Inc. will receive **7% back** on every booking that will go towards supporting our organization. StayFaster offers unparalleled search capabilities and speed. You have the ability to search all hotels and brands, earn your reward points in 22 programs, cancel with one click, and receive an actual hotel confirmation number every time you book. They provide special rates like AAA and AARP, and they have 24/7 live US-based support whenever you need assistance.

Like to book on mobile? You can download [StayAtHand](#) in the [Apple App Store](#). Your account will work on both [StayFaster.com](#) and [StayAtHand](#). Cheers to better booking!



As an incentive to our Rocks Chapters, ROCKS Chapters in good standing will also receive an incentive refund from The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. when the Rocks code is used to book a hotel stay with StayFater.com. You do NOT have to be a Rocks member to use the code. Stay tuned for more details.

News from (Y)our Membership Development Team

By COL Eric P. Flowers USA



“So much to do...so little time.” This familiar refrain is oftentimes echoed by many of us as we valiantly juggle family and job responsibilities in fast-paced environments.

Interestingly, that phrase could be perceived in one of two ways. Based on the relevant context, an interpretation could be that this statement is one of exasperation- almost a concession that one has gotten in over his or her head. On the other hand, one could discern this statement as a declaration of optimistic determination; that the future is filled with beneficial opportunities for the taking! As for me, I am partial to the latter perspective, especially as it relates to my involvement with ROCKS.

When it comes to ROCKS, I- like probably many of you- am excited about the legacy and potential of our organization. This excitement keeps me engaged and prompts me to do things that contribute to the vitality of ROCKS. One thing I feel could positively enhance our organization is a challenge to the membership. Given this *Rocket's* late fall publication date, a membership challenge is fitting, as it is complementary to forthcoming resolutions, or goals, that many of us will make at the start of the new year.

To this end, I challenge all ROCKS members to:

- ✓ Devote at least sixty minutes (outside of time for monthly meetings) to a ROCKS event/activity each month;
- ✓ Get a mentor / mentee by April 1, 2015;
- ✓ Add to our profession's intellectual discourse by writing an article for publication in a professional journal during 2015, and;
- ✓ Cultivate an interest and/or skillset that is non-military related.

Accepting this challenge (and meeting it) will enhance both the individual and the organization, either at the local chapter level, or at the national level. In either instance, your efforts will help us improve as an organization and increase our standing as ‘value added’ to the Army and to the Total Force.

The underlying message behind my challenge, and the anticipated benefits from members' execution, is that this is OUR organization and the future is ours! Although we are all mortal, one surefire way we can help predict our future is by planning for it. Subsequently, as we realize the relative brevity of our military careers, coupled with the potential

impact we can (and should) have on the future direction of our profession, it should be quite obvious to us that time is fleeting and we have so much to do. We need to help each other (and this means individuals and the organization) whenever possible and realize that an unspoken request does not necessarily equate to a non-existing need; there is always something that can be done for ROCKS.

As you pursue the challenge I made earlier, you'll see this to be true. Hope this awareness brings you closer to ROCKS and closer to the folks that make up this great organization. Have a wonderful new year!

ROCKS ON THE MOVE

Life Member and Chartering Chapter Treasurer for the Marne ROCKS Chapter Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel

By LTC Timika M. Wilson

On November 7, 2014, Life Member of the ROCKS and chartering member of the Marne ROCKS Chapter in Ft. Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in Baltimore, Maryland. A significant milestone for any officer that was particularly special with the attendance of her family and guests that included Ambassador Howard Jeter. Presiding over the promotion was the USACE Baltimore District Commander, Colonel Trey Jordan.



*LTC Timika M. Wilson is pinned by her parents
Peggy Jean Wilson and SFC (Ret Army) Leon Wilson*

CADET CORNER

Bison Battalion Host General Officer Leadership Forum

*By LTC Crede Lyons,
Professor of Military Science*

It all began on the sidelines during Howard University's football home opener, where the Bison Battalion hosted the United States Army Parachute Team "The Golden Knights" as they executed a parachute jump demonstration from about 4,000 feet into Greene Memorial Stadium that included jumping in the game ball and presenting an honorary baton to Howard University President (Dr. Wayne A.I. Frederick).

It was then that Lieutenant General Bob Ferrell (Army G6/Chief Information Officer) and Lieutenant Colonel Crede Lyons (Bison Battalion's Professor of Military Science) developed a concept for a means for the Army's future leaders of tomorrow to be mentored by its current senior leaders by way of a senior leader mentorship forum. Since Howard University holds a prestigious reputation for academic excellence and a platform for discussions concerning global issues, it was decided that Howard would serve as the perfect venue for such an event to occur and hosted by the Bison Battalion.

Although the initial concept involved three ROTC programs within Cadet Command's Fourth Brigade, it wasn't long before this small concept blossomed into seven programs within the Maryland, D.C., and Virginia area involving over 300 Cadets and seven Army level Staff Directorates. The forum occurred at Howard University's Cramton Auditorium on November 6, 2014 consisting of an initial ice breaker, panel discussion, followed by a question and answer portion. The forum was a remarkable sight to see, primarily during the ice breaker session involving ROTC Cadets from various demographics and Military Science levels socializing with Army's senior leadership.

Once LTC Lyons provided a brief welcome and overview, the much anticipated forum was underway. LTG Ferrell led off with opening remarks and was followed by LTG Thomas P. Bostick (Chief, Corps of Engineers), LTG James C. McConville (Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1), LTG Flora D. Darpino (Army Judge Advocate General), MG Gary H. Cheek (Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3/5/7), MG Luis Visot (Chief of Staff, Army Reserve, COL Vinette E. Gordon (Deputy Chief, Army Nurse Corps, Office of the Surgeon General), and BG Peggy Combs (Commanding General of U.S Army Cadet Command). As each panel member provided brief remarks about their respective area and various perspectives on the direction of the Army, Cadets displayed looks of deep interest and intrigue.

Remarkably, the aisles filled up quickly with as many as 60 Cadets once the question and answer portion of the forum was

under way. The questions were well thought out with exceptional delivery, which led to a great dialog between the two generations of Army leaders.

"Words can't even convey the great gratitude I felt when seeing all eight senior leaders who took the time out of their busy schedules to answer our questions," said Cadet Patricia Goldman (MSII-HU).

"The panel gave me the strategy in order to successfully become a leader in the US Army," said Cadet Nasir Young (MSIII-HU). MG Richardson stressed to the Cadets: "Learn your craft, live your craft, lead like a craftsman".

"Networking with and receiving insight and knowledge from General Officers about military operations, their positions, and experiences was invaluable," said Cadet Michael Thompson (MSII-HU).

The leader panel finally concluded with closing remarks provided by Howard University's newly appointed President and former Provost, Dr. Wayne Frederick. The senior leader mentorship forum was well received by all in attendance and judging by the Cadets' comments, it would lead one to believe that there should be a frequency of events of this nature in the future, however, only time will tell.



LTC Crede Lyons, Professor of Military Science at Howard University, introduces eight Army senior leaders at Reserve Officer Training Corps professional development forum held at Howard University



Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadets from seven programs within the Maryland, D.C., and Northern Virginia participated in the leadership forum.



BG Peggy Combs, Commanding General of U.S. Army Cadet Command, speaks with Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadets during icebreaker session.

Senior Army Officer, VSU Graduate Returns to Share Career Advice with Fellow Trojans

By Cadet Milan Lincoln



Cadets at the Trojan Warrior Battalion of Virginia State University received words of encouragement, wisdom, and warning from Col. Charles R. Hamilton during his visit to the ROTC unit on November 6, 2014.

Colonel Hamilton, a VSU alumni, and distinguished officer currently serves as executive officer to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Army G-4, Logistics, in Washington, D.C. Prior to his current position, he served as Commander of the 101st Sustainment Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

The Colonel spoke to an audience filled with future officers during a candid question and answer session held in the Jesse Bolling Building on campus.

Pulling from his many years of experience, he shared several important tips designed to help aspiring officers start their Army careers off on the right foot.

Cadets eagerly took notes as Col. Hamilton shared advice that in his view will lead to a successful and fulfilling career.

“Most of your pressures as a Second Lieutenant are self-imposed, but normal,” he said.

According to the Colonel among the most important things cadets should do is to develop their personal style, or as he described, “Get your swag.” He also advised young leaders to stay out of their comfort zones. “Being uncomfortable is good,” he added. Finally, he urged cadets to work hard, “be prepared to put in the extra hours, and be good at your job.”

The colonel went on to stress the importance of a leader’s competence, especially in combat. “You must be extremely competent in order to lead troops into combat,” he said. “You won’t ever sleep the same or be able to get certain smells or images out of your mind.”

Taking a few moments to reminisce, the colonel shared highlights of his career, and more importantly the people and organizations who had the biggest influences on him. Among them was another VSU alum, General. Dennis Via, who according to Col. Hamilton, “always reached back to soldiers. He also credited VSU as being “understanding and personal.” He went on to thank his wife, who he described as “great,” and who helped him develop his time management skills, balancing an Army career with four children.

The colonel also drove home a sobering warning intended to help young lieutenants as they start their military careers. Sharing from the mistakes he’s seen others make over his career, COL. Hamilton warned specifically on the importance of personal discipline and respect for self and others. He advised them to be very careful of the potential pitfalls ahead. He also advised cadets to be mindful of their relationships, especially issues with sexual harassment. He also spoke poignantly about the dangers of drinking and driving. “SHARP offenses and DUI’s can “kill a career,” he added.

Closing his time with the cadets, COL. Hamilton answered a final question that struck a chord close to home. When asked what he would change about his career to this point, as always, he spoke frankly.

“I wouldn’t change much of anything with the exception of having a stronger focus on family,” he said. “The stress and strain of moving children from school to school and the many hours away can take a toll on families, especially on kids.”



Battle of the Bay - NSU/HU Cadets Competitive Military Skills Event

By LTC(R) Charles Holdon

On October 25, 2014, the Hampton Roads Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. supported two local universities’ ROTC programs, Norfolk State University (NSU) and Hampton University (HU) during the Battle of the Bay Competitive Military Skills Training event. The picture below shows representatives from HU, NSU, HRC Rocks, Inc., and the 11th Transportation Battalion.



Group Picture of HU and NSU Cadets and Instructor Staffs, HRC Rocks Members, and Representatives from the 11th Transportation Battalion

This was an Esprit De Corps competitive training event comprised of multiple military skill tasks. The event is normally held during the annual “Battle of the Bay” football game between NSU and HU. However, this year the event was held one week later due to conflicts in the cadets’ training schedules.

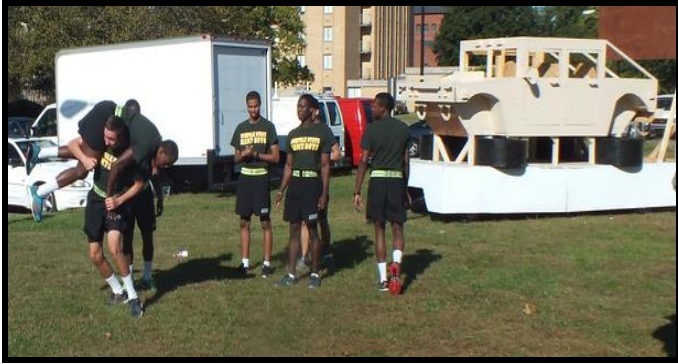
In the picture below, MG (R) Wallace Arnold, an HRC ROCKS member and HU alumni, offered some inspirational and heartfelt opening remarks.



MG (R) Wallace Arnold speaking to NSU AROTC Cadets

One of the competitive training events was the one-man-carry. Cadets from each university participated in each training

event. The picture below depicts cadets from NSU executing the one-man-carry.



NSU Cadets executing the One-Man-Carry

The cadets and Soldiers took advantage of the opportunity to engage leaders and fellow ROCKS members with questions and concerns about their future profession. “Informal” mentorship was the objective. The cadre and Soldiers were able to provide insight and guidance to assist the cadets in their endeavors as future Officers in the United States Army.

Officer’s and future ROTC cadets from the 11th Transportation Battalion, Fort Story, VA joined the festivities to interact with Cadre and cadets from their future alma maters. The 11th Trans. Battalion extends a special thanks to the Hampton Roads Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc., Norfolk State University, and Hampton University for allowing their warriors to participate in the event. They indicated their desire to continue to strive for excellence by supporting the local community, and mentoring and leader development events involving HRC ROCKS, Inc., NSU and HU cadets.



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.

Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

MG Steven M. Twitty Conducts Class on the “Strategies of Success as an Officer”

by CPT Tanisha L. Currie



Photo of MG Steven M. Twitty (center) with Fort Bragg, North Carolina's All-American ROCKS Organization Members

Commanding General of Fort Bliss and 1st Armored Division: MG Steven M. Twitty took front and center on November 4, 2014 as he captivated an audience of greater than 35 officers and students during an evening of professional development with the All-American ROCKS Organization on Pope Army Airfield, FT Bragg. He came with a bold mission to pass on knowledge concerning officer development and making the “right” decisions with integrity.

MG Twitty focused on three big corners during his visit: the value of individual self-assessment, personal and professional conduct, and keeping a competitive edge.

Individual self-assessment according to MG Twitty is a must in improving oneself. He articulated that we must be honest in our self-assessment and willing to make the necessary adjustments to achieve our goals. He emphasized that “leaders need to ask the right questions of their superiors, and be prepared hear to the answer.”

Moreover, MG Twitty spoke to the rising trend of officers failing to follow simple orders, and socially lacking foresight of negative behaviors that can affect an officer’s career. He relayed his astonishment, and emphasized his “strong desire to see young officers upward climbing by being good in their craft, doing the right things, and avoiding career-ending minefields.”

In further candid discussion with the audience, MG Twitty provided core realities of maintaining a competitive edge within today’s U.S. Army: enumeration is key; enumeration provides the ground truth to the board. Select a mentor for where you desire to go in the future, diversify your

assignments, be assertive with your quarterly counseling by asking if you are meeting the organization's intent?

Be the best, and seek to be on the "53 man roster." And lastly, first impressions are lasting impressions; don't allow your photo to be a discriminator. Take the time to ensure that you are appropriately groomed, and that your record reflects attention to detail. These nuggets of knowledge provided by MG Twitty left many of the officers and students in attendance lingering for more post discussion and networking.

The All-American ROCKS Organization of Fort Bragg, North Carolina (NC) led by MAJ Christopher Buckley (President), CPT Alvin Cavalier (Vice-President), and CPT Lakecia Griffin (Speaker Organizer) left a lasting impression on officer development with the invite of MG Twitty. The All-American ROCKS Chapter seeks to provide leadership enhancing opportunities for those who desire to learn and grow professionally and personally. In addition, Fort Bragg's All-American ROCKS has been aggressive within the North Carolina surrounding community through outreach initiatives such as the Homeless Veteran Stand-down that is held yearly with the Veteran's Association, a proud partner to The Great Oaks Boys Community Center whose mission is mentorship and scholastic excellence, staying physically fit for cause, and many other positive building of character and community projects. Lastly, the All-American ROCKS Organization of Fort Bragg, NC is always recruiting for great officer talent to join the team.

For more information on the All-American ROCKS Organization of Fort Bragg, NC please feel to email CPT Alvin Cavalier at alvin.t.cavalier.mil@mail.mil.

Phantom Warriors Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. Supports Wreaths for Vets

by COL Marjorie Grantham



Pictured from left to right: CPT Maria A. Lightfoot, CPT Brandon Brim, LTC Morris Wilder, and COL Marjorie A Grantham

On November 22, 2014, Fort Hood ROCKS officers joined hundreds of volunteers at the Killeen Special Events Center Wreaths for Vets event. They helped prepare 5,000 wreaths to honor fallen warriors, POWs, and MIA at the Central Texas

Cemetery this November 29th. Ten years ago, Wreaths across America encouraged laying of wreaths at all U.S. cemeteries each Thanksgiving. This led to the formation of Wreaths for Vets, who began the Central Texas wreath-laying ceremony each Saturday after Thanksgiving. From a start of 398 volunteers, wreath-laying volunteers numbered 1000 last year. Fort Hood ROCKS is honored to support the fallen, their families, and friends this year.

Team Bliss ROCKS Help Restore Homes for Female Veterans

by COL James Jennings



Team Bliss ROCKS members assembled on November 8, 2014 to perform volunteer work at a home that will become a place of refuge to displaced female veterans in El Paso, TX.

Several weekends per month, Team Bliss Rocks members volunteer their time and talent in support of the H.O.P.E. Institute. H.O.P.E. is an acronym for Healing, Optimizing, Perfecting, and Empowering and represents "The Beginning of Second Chances." The organization provides education, services, and support to female veterans who are economically disadvantaged and underserved within the El Paso, TX community.

Its Founder and President, Hope Jackson - Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired), received a vision from God over a decade ago that continues to provide the impetus for serving and making a difference in the lives of others.

In fall 2014, the H.O.P.E. Institute launched the Displaced Female Veterans Initiative designed to ensure every female veteran in El Paso County has affordable housing, education, and employment training to place them on a path to independent living. Accordingly, the organization purchased two properties dubbed "Houses of Peace." Restoration of these homes provides the Team Bliss ROCKS with opportunities to perform community service. The H.O.P.E. Institute is a non-profit; therefore, it depends on support and contributions from churches, businesses, clubs, local

government, military and other agencies to achieve its objectives.

The Team Bliss ROCKS certainly believe in giving back and are definitely making an impact within the El Paso, TX community. Learn more about the H.O.P.E. Institute online at www.theinstituteofhope.org.



Team Bliss ROCKS members pose with Hope Jackson (center), LTC/USA (Retired), Founder/President of the H.O.P.E. Institute during a home restoration project in El Paso, TX on September 27, 2014.



Team Bliss ROCKS members watch a "caring professional" install a light fixture at a H.O.P.E. Institute home restoration project in El Paso, TX.

ROCKS DC Members Support Community Efforts on Veterans Day *by LTC Kay Emerson*

Members of the Washington DC Chapter of ROCKS, Inc. volunteered in support of veterans on November 11, 2014. Chapter President, COL (Ret.) Conrado Morgan, also a member of the Pi Lambda Lambda Chapter, Third District, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. participated in 2014 Achievement Week Suit Drive at Ebenezer Baptist Church in

Woodbridge, VA. Chapter members donated 69 suits, 30 slacks, 82 shirts and 92 ties to provide business clothing for those in need. Mr. Lee J. Bennett took the lead in mobilizing donations and preparations at the suit drive. DC ROCKS member, LTC Kay Emerson, started the day early at Cherry Run Elementary School in Burke, VA.

The school Parent Teacher Association sponsored a "Donuts with Dad" and Veteran Recognition breakfast. Many of the more than 400 attendees were Service members, past and currently serving. They enjoyed dining on donuts, coffee and juice with their children and grandchildren before the school day started. Later in the afternoon, LTC Emerson spent time in Arlington National Cemetery, reflecting on the treasure of freedom and the souls of the protectors of that freedom.



Morgan and ladies of Ebenezer Baptist Church with a collection of donated suits.



Emerson with moms from Cherry Run Elementary.



"On December 4, 2014, MG Darryl A. Williams, Commanding General of US Army Africa (USARAF) and Southern European Task Force (SETAF) provided a lecture to students and faculty at the United States Army War College on his unit's contingency response efforts as the Department of Defense's Joint Task Force Headquarters for OPERATION UNITED ASSISTANCE (Ebola Emergency Response) in West Africa. Immediately following the lecture MG Williams took time to engage with members of the MG Charles C. Rogers Chapter at Carlisle Barracks."

New Leadership for MG Charles Rodgers ROCKS



Picture of the new chapter leadership for the MG Charles C. Rogers Chapter taken in front of Root Hall at the US Army War College at Carlisle Barracks PA. Pictured from left to right: COL(R) Chuck Allen - Faculty Advisor, LTC(P) Jason Kelly- Chapter Treasurer; LTC(P) Gavin Lawrence- Chapter President, LTC(P) Jeth Rey- Chapter 1st Vice President, & COL Randy White- Chapter 2nd Vice President.

Carlisle Rocks Embark Upon The Academic Year

by COL Gavin A. Lawrence

"Iron sharpens iron so one man sharpens the countenance of his friend." This verse certainly rings true for the ROCKS of the MG Charles C. Rogers Chapter at Carlisle Barracks, PA.

Comprised primarily of students and faculty assigned to the U.S. Army War College, many of the chapter's faces have changed due to academic year turnover but the mission remains constant.

The Carlisle ROCKS are dedicated to ensuring members receive the maximum opportunity to grow professionally while simultaneously providing mentorship to the next generation of leaders.

During this academic year it will be accomplished through a three-prong approach that focuses on the execution of internally led LPDs, outreach/mentorship to junior officers and students, and interaction with senior leaders. All will be done while simultaneously balancing the rigorous academic requirements of the U.S. Army War College.



COL Jeth Rey (front) and COL Gavin Lawrence (background) lay out chapter strategic for the 2014-2015 Academic Year.

Newly appointed leadership laid out the strategic plan for the chapter during an initial meeting in the fall. The desired end state is a group of strategic advisors armed with the tools to positively impact our military.



Members of the MG Charles C. Rogers Chapter of the ROCKS Inc. at Carlisle Barracks

Our nation's fighting forces face numerous challenges ahead. The ROCKS of the MG Charles C. Rogers Chapter are

dedicated to guiding our junior leaders through this period. Understanding available options, mentorship, and coaching remain critical to mission success. “Concern, Dedication, Professionalism” in line with national headquarters guidance remain the chapter’s hallmark.

Fort Bliss ROCKS Chapter Conducts Warrant Officer Mentorship Panel

by Ms. Antonea Evans and CW3 Roderick (Rod) A. Pickett

On October 17, 2014, the Fort Bliss ROCKS Chapter conducted its monthly luncheon where some of the installation’s Senior Warrant Officers (WOs) comprised a panel aimed at providing mentorship for officers and civilians in attendance.

The panel consisted of WOs in the rank of Chief Warrant Officer-3 through Chief Warrant Officer-5 (CW3-CW5) serving in leader-advisor positions across multiple units: CW5 Jeffrey Robinson, Senior Artillery Systems Technician, 32nd Army Air and Missile Defense Command; CW5 Jared McClinton, Senior Maintenance Technician, 1st Armored Division; and CW3 Roderick Pickett, Senior Maintenance Technician, 15th Sustainment Brigade.



Warrant Officer Mentorship Panel member, CW5 Jared McClinton (center) provides advice to professionally develop young Warrant Officers.

The panel’s discussion focused on warrant officer functional areas, command and leadership expectations, effective written and verbal communications, how to leverage warrant officers, and the importance of counseling and mentoring, as well as other subjects of interest to those gathered for this event.

Individuals posed questions to the group designed to gain a better understanding of how to nurture relationships with warrant officers and professionally develop them in a manner that is mutually beneficial to leaders, Soldiers, civilians, and the various organizations they serve.



The Fort Bliss ROCKS Chapter conducts its Monthly Luncheon and Warrant Officer Mentorship Panel on October 17, 2014.

Someone asked, “What are some best practices or strategies to assist exceptional NCOs who would greatly serve the Army as a Warrant Officer?” CW5 Robinson responded, “First, ensure they are assigned duty positions geared towards honing their military occupational skills. Next, ensure their NCO Evaluation Reports (NCOERs) are properly written. Finally, link them up with Senior Warrant Officers for guidance and mentoring.” Another inquired, “What if you are in a unit without a Warrant Officer but have a NCO that is interested in becoming one?” CW5 McClinton replied, “Well, the Fort Bliss ROCKS is a great start to networking and developing a rapport with Warrant Officers.”

Overall, the session was very enlightening and the panel successfully met its objective in providing “mentorship, professional development, and social interaction to strengthen the officer corps” – foundational and enduring principles of the ROCKS Incorporated.



Warrant Officer Mentorship Panel member, CW5 Jeffrey Robinson (standing) answers questions posed by individuals attending the Fort Bliss ROCKS monthly luncheon on October 17, 2014.

COL Roberson speaks at Professional Development Session with the Morning Calm Chapter of the ROCKS

Capt. Traun C. Moore



Korean Morning Calm Chapter ROCKS members pose for a group picture at the conclusion of the "Mentoring the Continuum" professional development session at USAG Yongsan on Nov. 22.

USAG YONGSAN, Korea – COL Arvesta P. Roberson, Commander, 1st Signal Brigade, lead a group discussion during a professional development session with members of the Morning Calm Chapter of the ROCKS at USAG Yongsan Nov. 22.

Roberson spoke to more than 20 attendees during the two hour gathering of service members and civilians from across the Korean Peninsula to promote professional and social interaction, as well as professional development in an effort to strengthen the Officer Corps.



COL Arvesta Roberson, Commander, 1st Signal Brigade, leads a group discussion during a professional development session with members of the Korean Morning Calm Chapter of the ROCKS at USAG Yongsan Nov. 22.

"The Mentoring Continuum" was the theme that was discussed amongst the leaders which ranged from company grade to field grade officers, as well as senior civilian representatives.

Roberson engaged the group in an open discussion, candidly answering questions and sharing his personal experiences as an officer, providing an outlook on a range of topics from a senior field grade officer's perspective.

Mentorship, social organizations and networking within the force were a few talking points that were highlighted during the leader's professional development session.

Professional Development Event - Leadership and Property Accountability

By LTC Charles Holden USA (Ret.)

On November 21, 2014, Hampton Roads Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. and the 11th Transportation Battalion partnered with Norfolk State University ROTC to assist in the development of competent and committed leaders with the skills and knowledge necessary to meet the challenges of the 21st Century. The picture below shows representatives from HRC Rocks, the 11th Transportation Battalion from Joint Expeditionary Base at Little Creek, cadets from NSU AROTC.



Group Picture of Representatives from Hampton Roads Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc., 11th Transportation Battalion, and Norfolk State University ROTC Cadets

This partnership allowed junior officers to reflect on past experiences, share lessons learned and reinforce the importance that leader development starts in pre-commissioning and is continuous throughout a leader's career.

Cadets were given hands on instruction on the daily duties of a platoon leader, Company Executive Officer, Detachment Commander, and Officer in Charge (OIC). This leader development and training event exposed the cadets to vehicles and weapons Preventive Maintenance process as well as provided an understanding of the importance of Command Supply Discipline. Cadets gained an appreciation of the fundamental principles used by Army leaders to care for their people, maintain and account for assigned equipment, and ultimately leading to the accomplishment of the overall mission.

The picture below depicts NCOs and Officers from 11th Trans Battalion instructing the Spartan Cadets on how to properly conduct inventories of property and equipment.

The cadets gained a shared understanding of the Army Profession and honed critical-thinking skills which will prepare them to lead the Soldiers of tomorrow's Army.



Major Terriel Cooke (left) discusses Leadership and Property Accountability with NSU cadets



NCOs and Officers from the 11th Transportation Battalion instruct cadets on Equipment Inventory and Accountability

Rock of the Marne Leaders Reenergizes the Marne Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. on Fort Stewart, GA

By MAJ Jennifer D. Vail

MAJ Christopher Wells, MAJ Shawanda Amerson, MAJ Eric Nelson, MAJ Jennifer Vail, and CPT Sidney Carroll (Chapter President) decided to hold an Interest Meeting on Fort Stewart, GA to regenerate the Marne Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. after an extended respite of activities, due to deployment

requirements of its members and participants, with a surprising response.

On November 14, 2014, the Marne Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. 24 Officers and Civilians attended. This was the first meeting of the Marne Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. after an extended break. Of the 24 attendees, which consisted of a mixture of warrants, civilians, active and reserve officers of all different nationalities, seven decided to commit to the organization and joined the Marne Chapter of the ROCKS. Many agreed to join in the coming weeks.



Marne Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. Interest Meeting held November 14, 2014, on Fort Stewart, GA. Names in alphabetical order: MAJ Allen, DeShaunda, MAJ Shawanda Amerson, LTC Atilano, John, LTC Vince Bailey, MAJ Terri Bayne, 2LT Sebastian Bonilla, 1LT Sherika Bradford, 2LT Ashley Callahan, CPT Russell Calloway, COL Mike Calvin, GS-11 Donnie Daughtery, MAJ Damian Douglas, MAJ Phoebe Flynn, MAJ Lamont Hale, CW3 Jimmy Hicks, 1LT Myra Lee, MAJ Eric Nelson, MAJ Alim Qasim, 2LT Sylvia Scott, 1LT Valerie Torres, MAJ Jennifer Vail, CPT Kristy Vulcain, MAJ Christopher Wells, and CW4 William Wharton.

The organization's rich history, mission/purpose, core competencies, national and local initiatives, and membership of the ROCKS, Inc were discussed. Also discussed was the importance of giving back to others, the community, and the military structure. My members of the Dog Face Soldier organization, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA. were introduced to the technique and professional tool referred to many as the Professional Book. The Professional Book has been used by many leaders to track professional growth, provided an opportunity to explore new horizons, and aid in taking calculated career risks.

BG Richard Dix introduced the Professional Book several years ago to Officers assigned to the U.S. Army Sustainment Command, Rock Island Arsenal, and IL where he served as Chief of Staff. Immediately, the benefits paid off.

When completing the Professional Book, one should be passionate and understand their career and environment so they can discover their "why". Wake up and discover the purpose and be inspired to serve. The professional book is both a tool and technique that can be a positive reflection of organizational skills, work ethic, attention to detail, and the leader.

The Professional Book was reintroduced to the members and attendees at the meeting. Listed below are the current initiatives for the Marne Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc.:

- Leader Profession Development
- Mentorship
- ROTC Mentorship
- Scholarship Program
- Community Outreach
- Fundraisers.

As the military continue to downsize its numbers, we all must remain relevant and current in our roles. This can be achieved through information sharing from superiors to subordinates and peer to peer mentorship, development of a mindset contagious to the next generation is paramount, and being willing to be the product of successful integration into the communities through volunteerism and ROTC involvement. The Marne Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. is looking forward to giving back and paying it forward, as we all continue on our professional journeys to succeed.

San Antonio Rocks Mentoring At Texas' Prairie View A&M University

By: Jade Fulce and LTC James Woods



CPT Jermaine Jenkins shares his experiences as an officer with ROTC cadets at Prairie View A&M University Oct. 23.

The San Antonio Chapter of the Rocks, Inc. hosted a mentoring session at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) Oct. 23, 2014 for ROTC students. This effort was in sync with the ROCKS Inc. mission to strengthen the Officer Corps by serving as a world class organization that provides and promotes mentorship, scholarship, networking, professional development, and fellowship.

According to Army Regulation 600-100 “Army Leadership”, effective mentorship will positively impact personal and professional development. Assessment, feedback, and guidance are critical within the mentoring relationship and should be valued by the mentee in order for growth and development to occur.

Prior to the mentoring session, LTC Trahon Mashack, the Professor of Military Science (PMS) at PVAMU, provided the SA ROCKS panel members with an overview of the ROTC Program at PVAMU and the recent changes to Army ROTC.

The panel consisted of two LTCs, one MAJ, one CPT, one 1LT, one retired COL, and one retired LTC. More than 40 cadets (MS1-MSIV) and the staff attended the session at the PVAMU ROTC Facility, which focused on the following:

- Branch insights and the impact on them as the Army transitions
- Expectations of Officers with a focus on those entering the service
- Personal experiences key to development as an Army Officer
- How Senior/Mid-grade Officers view of various Commissioning Sources
- Future and challenges of the Army
- What would you discuss with your son/daughter entering the Army?

LTC James Woods, President of the San Antonio Chapter of the Rocks, who led the panel, stressed the importance of finding and having mentors, professionalism and the expectations of all Officers to be professional at all times.

“Having mentors provided me with the ability to tap into more Senior Officers for guidance, counsel and direction.” He stated it was essential for his understanding and development as a leader. According to him, those frank and honest discussions with more Senior Officers were built on trust and the understanding of non-attribution in order to gain the true insights of leadership and expectations, as well as how to avoid the associated pitfalls.

1LT Jessica McGroom stated, “My biggest advice to the cadets is to come in with a willingness to learn and trust your noncommissioned and warrant officers”. 1LT McGroom went on to emphasize that having a college degree and attending ROTC, does not mean you know everything about the Army. She stressed the importance of listening to their NCOs since they have experienced.

Overall, the panel members emphasized that all expectations of Junior Officers are the same as they have always been and will continue to be. The bottom line is you are expected to lead; in any environment and in any situation. Set the standard, lead from the front and take care of America’s most precious resource.

The panel also emphasized the importance of Integrity, Commitment, Sacrifice, and Selfless Service are key to their success and to start living by the Army Values now in order to make it a seamless transition.

To learn more about the San Antonio Chapter of the Rocks, send an email to sarocksinc@gmail.com.

If you are going to achieve excellence in big things, you develop the habit in little matters. Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude. -- GEN Colin Powell

The ROCKS, Inc., Camp Arifjan, Kuwait Interest Group

By LTC Annette Dawson

On October 26 2014, the Kuwait ROCKS, Inc. conducted one of its premier monthly Officers Professional Development forum efforts on Career Planning "Are You On Path", which was presented by Colonel Anthony S. Cole.

He covered career planning, recent news, changes in today's military, profession of arms, and reaching your career goals. The forum covered career planning, which included a plan with three, five, ten and twenty year sub-plans. He also discussed social medial roundup of military Soldiers that are subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice even when off duty.

Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

By COL Artie Shelton USA (Ret.)

An Interfaith Prayer Breakfast Honoring America's Veterans was held at the Washington National Cathedral. The guest speaker was Admiral (ret) Michael G. Mullen. In attendance was the former Secretary of the VA/Secretary of the Army Togo West; COL (ret) Gregory Gadson, former Commander U.S. Army Garrison, Ft. Belvoir and LTG (ret) Max Noah



COL (Ret) Artie Shelton with former Secretary of the Army Togo West



LTG(R) Max Noah and COL(R) Artie Shelton

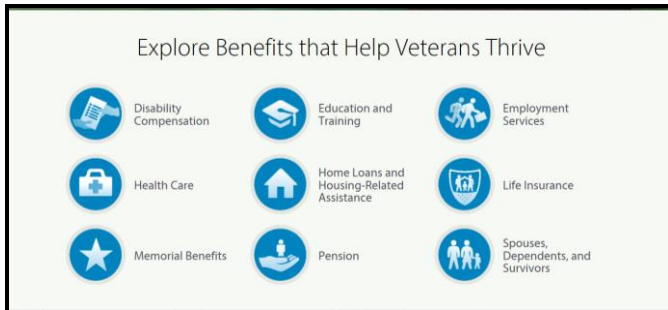


COL(R) Artie Shelton with COL (ret) Gregory Gadson, former Commander U.S. Army Garrison, Ft. Belvoir .

EXPLORE VA's NEW WEBSITE

Explore VA benefits and find out which ones you and your family may be eligible to receive. It's easy.

<http://explore.va.gov/>



Veterans Choice Program

About the Program

Many Veterans will now have the option to receive non-VA health care rather than waiting for a VA appointment or traveling to a VA facility.

Beginning November 5, 2014, the new Choice Program will begin to cover non-VA care for eligible Veterans enrolled in VA healthcare. Veterans are eligible if any of these situations apply to you:

- You have been told by your local VA medical facility that you will need to wait more than 30 days from your preferred date or the date medically determined by your physician
- Your current residence is more than 40 miles from the closest VA health care facility
- You need to travel by plane or boat to the VA medical facility closest to your home
- You face a geographic challenge, such as extensive distances around water or other geologic formations, such as mountains, which presents a significant travel hardship

Every Veteran will receive a letter and a Choice Card in the mail with details about the program. Veterans will be eligible for the program and receive cards in three phases:

1. Veterans who may live more than 40 miles from a VA facility.
2. Veterans who are currently waiting for an appointment longer than 30 days from their preferred date or the date determined to be medically necessary by their physician.
3. All remaining Veterans enrolled for VA healthcare who may be eligible for the Choice Program in the future.

To set up an appointment with a non-VA provider, call the VA at [866-606-8198](tel:866-606-8198) and they will work with you to ensure you are approved for care in your community.

Additional Program Information

- The Choice Program does not impact existing VA health care or any other VA benefit.
- If you are satisfied with your wait time at a VA facility and wish to continue waiting for VA care, there is nothing you need to do at this time.
- Non-VA care is only covered by VA for medical needs which have been approved by your VA physician. We can happily schedule an appointment for other medical needs, but we can only cover the cost of care related to your VA-approved health needs.
- The Veteran Choice Program is part of the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014 (VACAA).

Apply to Be a White House Fellow!

We are pleased to announce that applications are now open to be a 2015-2016 White House Fellow. Applications will be open until January 15, 2015 -- please help us spread the word!

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/fellows/application>

President Lyndon B. Johnson established the President's Commission on White House Fellowships 50 years ago, and over the course of nine presidential administrations -- four Democrat and five Republican -- the nonpartisan White House Fellows program has become the nation's premier fellowship for public service and leadership. The program's mission is to expose Fellows to first-hand, high-level experience in the federal government.

The program consists of a full-time work placement in the offices of Cabinet Secretaries, senior White House staff, and other high-ranking Administration officials. During their year in Washington, D.C., White House Fellows also participate in a robust education program designed to provide a behind-the-scenes look into the inner workings of the federal government. It is an extraordinary year that yields a lifetime of rewards.

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USDA/1890 National Scholars Program

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is currently accepting applications for the 2015 cycle. The deadline for applications is February 1st. This is a full scholarship program. Current high school seniors, and rising college sophomores and juniors are eligible.

The Award Scholarships are awarded annually and must be used at one of the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities. Each award provides full tuition, as well as room and board for the term of the scholarship. The scholarship may be renewed each year, contingent upon satisfactory academic performance and normal progress toward the bachelor's degree.

General Eligibility

To be eligible for the USDA/1890 National Scholars Program scholarship a student must:

- Be a U.S. citizen
- Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better (on a 4.0 scale)
- Have been accepted for admission or currently attending one of the eighteen 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities.
- Intend to study agriculture, food, natural resource sciences, or other related academic disciplines
- Demonstrate leadership and community service
- Submit an official transcript with the school seal and an authorized official's signature
- Submit a signed application (original signature only)

Who Should Apply

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is available to high school seniors entering their freshman year of college and rising college sophomores and juniors.

For more information and to download the fillable PDF applications, please visit:

<http://www.outreach.usda.gov/education/1890/index.htm>.

Charles Young (March 12, 1864 - January 8, 1922) is an unheralded military hero, whose rich life story is virtually unknown to most Americans. Some of his extraordinary honors include being the third black graduate of West Point, the first African American superintendent of one of our national parks, the first black U.S. military attaché, the first African American officer to command a Regular Army regiment, and the highest-ranking black officer in the Regular Army until his death.

For nearly thirty years, Charles Young was the standard-bearer for his race in the officer corps. Charles Young distinguished himself throughout his military career with the Buffalo Soldiers of the 9th and 10th Cavalries, and the 25th Infantry. He also served as Professor of Military Science at Wilberforce University, Ohio. Only serious medical problems discovered on the eve of the U.S. entry into World War I, along with racial prejudice, prevented him from becoming the first African American general.

Colonel Young was made an honorary member of the Omega Psi Phi in the early years of the fraternity's history. To commemorate his military and leadership achievements, the fraternity has established an International Award named in his honor. Recipients of this award are recognized for their outstanding leadership skills as demonstrated in their active duty military service to our great nation.



Members of Psi Alpha Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. from left to right: Philip Benjamin, Cedric Gaskin, Derrick Horsley, Marvin Chisolm (Chapter Basileus), Ray Buckner, George Davis Jr., and Craig Spraggins.

Colonel Charles Young – A great military leader and role model

by LTC Ray Buckner

On Tuesday, November 11, 2014, brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc gathered in Arlington National Cemetery at the gravesite of Colonel Charles Young. These brothers are from the Psi Alpha Alpha Chapter, which is chartered and supports Fairfax County, VA.

Colonel Charles Young is remembered and honored as a man of unique courage and inspiration. This was especially true for those of "goodwill", who knew him, and for those who followed him into battle. He stands honored both as an African-American and in the history of African-Americans in the U.S. military.



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The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. Scholarship Programs



We owe you a debt of gratitude for your generosity in supporting a number of The ROCKS Inc. programs. This is especially true of the RC Cartwright Foundation and the LTG Honor Leadership Fund. These programs recognize outstanding college students and young leaders from freshman to senior who excel in the classroom and ROTC programs. The future leaders of our Army and nation will come from this cohort. We are proud to report through your generosity since 2011 we have awarded \$93,500 in tuition assistance scholarships to 54 young men and women from 18 colleges and universities. (visit www.rocksync.org for the complete list of schools)

So we may continue this great work we once again seek your support for these two scholarships. Our goal this year is \$30,000 . As you plan your 2014 tax exempt donation, please designate R.C. Cartwright Scholarship Foundation and/or the LTG Edward Honor Leadership Fund

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- Current members** who are deployed personnel may send an email to therocks@aol.com to be exempt from membership fees during the period of deployment.