

The Rocket
Summer 2021 Edition



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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.

Standards and Procedures for the Dissemination of Information to ROCKS, Inc. Membership

Purpose: To provide a formal process and guidance on the dissemination of information and announcements to our ROCKS Membership via National Board communication platforms.

Issue: The National Board lacks a comprehensive method for communicating approved messages to the membership. As a mentorship and professional development The ROCKS needs an approved method outlining the requirements for communicating current programs, events and announcements to the membership. The pandemic across the nation resulted in a significant increase in communications via our web, email and social media platforms. Over the last six months numerous communications were disseminated by various board members in a manner that undercut the effectiveness and significance of the other—information fratricide. Our communications require an approval and dissemination process that showcases the synchronization and deconfliction of our signature programs and events, in a unified manner that promotes collaboration and efficiency across the National Board and ROCKS organization.

Objective: To present a policy outlining a codified process to ensure all outgoing communications/ messages to the membership are reviewed by the Vice President of Communications and approved by the Chairman or Vice Chairman. More importantly, the objective of this policy is to ensure all National Board communications support our organization's mission and prior to dissemination, are properly coordinated, approved and synchronized to provide our membership with the most accurate and timely information at all times.

Policy Proposal: As a professional mentorship organization, all members are expected to submit requests for the

dissemination of a message in a *copy ready state* no less than seven (7) business days in advance of the desired dissemination date. The Vice President of Communications will review, vet and submit concur/nonconcurrency of the communication to the Chairman and Vice Chairman. The Chairman and/or Vice Chairman will review, vet and provide approval/disapproval to disseminate. Only the Chairman, Vice Chairman, the Vice President of Communication or the Secretary will be able to make changes to the National Board's website.

Scope: The terms of this policy is applicable to all members of the National Board, the Membership and any individual or organization who wants to disseminate a message or announcement to the members and/or chapters of The ROCKS, Inc. organization. Information for dissemination in addition to ROCKS program/event messages and announcements include but are not limited to promotion ceremony announcements, change of command announcements, website posts, political appointments/elections, retirements and death/funeral announcements.

Communication Criteria & Standards:

- **Lead Time Required for Submissions.** Requests to disseminate a message must be in print ready product format with basic 5Ws and include a photo ready flyer (in word, pdf or jpg format). Message and flyer must be sent to the Vice President of Communications for review no less than seven (7) business days prior to the desired date of dissemination via email, VPComms4ROCKS@gmail.com.
- **Standards for Promotions, Change of Command, Building Openings, & Retirements.** Announcements for Promotion, Change of Command Ceremonies, Building Openings and Retirements must be received fourteen (14) days in advance of event for dissemination to our

membership worldwide and posting on both the ROCKS, Inc. webpage and the African American Officer Facebook Page.



- **Save the Date Announcements.** Save the date announcements will at minimum have the name of the honoree or organization, the name of the event, the purpose of event/occasion, date of event and point of contact for addition information. We will not publish "coming soon" events without the Chairman or Vice Chairman's awareness and approval.
- **Website Content & Management:** Changes, additions and modifications to the website is the sole responsibility of the Vice President of Communications. Any ROCKS member or National Board member who wishes to have governance documents, Power Point presentations or any other products added to the National website, Facebook page or Resource Tab will send the product to the VPComms4ROCKS@gmail.com.
- **Flyers or Postings on the Website:** Flyers for events, announcements, or the sales of event tickets or products will be submitted to the Vice President of Communications seven (7) business days prior to posting for review and approval by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

- **Reports to the Board.** For quarterly National Board VP reports created to present information to the board, provide an update, present a proposal, or to present a proposal/issue for a vote will be submitted on time to the National Secretary or office manager IAW with the deadline as set forth by the Vice Chairman. Late reports received after the deadline (12:01AM) will be added to the reports received as a point of record; however, it will be at the discretion of the Vice Chairman as to whether or not the owner of the report will be allowed to present their report. The Vice Chairman may elect to have the report accepted and entered into record without discussion.



- **Funeral Announcements.** Funeral announcements will be disseminated only with all pertinent information: time, location of service and we will also include if provided a photo, link to a Tributes or In Memoriam page, information that family provides which addresses contributions to a charity or cause in lieu of flowers.

Desired Policy Implementation Date – This policy will go into effect immediately after presentation to the National Board and the motion passes. Thereafter, all teammates become agents of change by supporting the aforementioned measures that will formalize the dissemination and synchronization of messages and ultimately provides our members with the best situational awareness and support.

Consider This

Things to Consider When Sending a Message, Submitting an Article or Hosting an Event

What is the article or event about? Does it support ROCKS' commitment to mentorship or another leadership development topic? Does this event, announcement or article align the organization strategic plan, mission or any of the lines of effort? Will someone in another state or country benefit by learning something new or garner new information for your article as if they physically attended your event.

Date of Communication – When will it happen? This section is especially useful for gradual transitions that require a ramp-up period. Use this to map out key events that will call for communication.

Who is in Charge of Creating the Article or Communicate – Who is responsible for the article, communication and even virtual LPDs? Choose your communication lead based on their skill set and relationship to those receiving the communication...the readers/audience.

Audience – Who is the target audience? Design your communication to answer questions, like What's in it for me? (WIIFM) and What does it mean to me? (WDIMTM), for your intended audience.

Events or Actions That Require Communication – What needs to be communicated? Initial announcements, meetings, deadlines? Be ready to add action plans as needed to make your event success and then send us, the ROCKS, Inc an article on your great event. Planning is

helpful but adjusting your strategy along the way is imperative.

Reason for Communication – Why is it necessary? Why is it relevant? Why would people be interested in your article of message? You should know what the desired outcome for each article or engagement is before you initiate it. For example, a LPD event is designed to teach the audience something, while a meeting to discuss a sensitive topic is so members can ask questions, express concern or even for leaders to listen to get feedback chapter members.

Method of Communication – How will your message be communicated? Use multiple channels for communications, such as video demonstrations, social media platforms small team meetings, and internal chats. People like to receive information in different ways, so it's beneficial to use a variety of communication methods.

It takes a level of self love, of dedication and determination to live your greatest life. So, look within. Look at every area of your life and ask yourself these questions: Am I on course? Am I growing mentally, emotionally and spiritually? Anything that is blocking that, anything that is preventing you from living your greatest life, make the tough decision to let it go.



The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc.



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ROCKET STAFF

Editor: Ms. Karen M. Wrancher
Design & Layout: WSC Associates, LLP

The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc.
PO Box 47435, Forestville, MD 20753 | Phone: 301-423-5500
Website: ROCKSINC.ORG / Email: NationalROCKSBoard@Gmail.com
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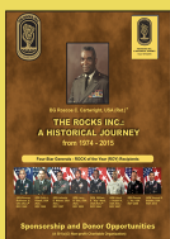
The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc.

Presents

THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS SERIES

LTG Les C. Smith

66th The Inspector General
of the United States Army



The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc.
Presents

THE BUFFALO SOLDIERS SERIES



SAVE THE DATE

Part 9 - Saturday, 31 July 2021

1000 – 1130 (EST) via Zoom

To register go to www.rocksync.org.

Registration Starts July 10th

The ROCKS, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit mentorship organization
supporting the professional development of Army Officers and Civilians with chapters around the globe.

Message from the Chairman



BG Lawrence Gillespie, USA, Retired

Ladies and Gentlemen, it looks very promising that as a nation, we might very well be extracting ourselves from the imposing anathema of COVID-19. For over a year, this virus has certainly been the dominate player in our lives: impacting the economy, testing federal and local government with the distribution of the vaccine and those who found themselves on frontlines battling the virus. Worldwide the virus has killed more than six million persons and severely impacted millions more. With the introduction of at least three vaccines, the United States may be on the precipice of looking at COVID-19 in the rear-view mirror.

I say the above only to put in context that even though we have had to change our living patterns, the ROCKS demonstrated their ability and tenacity by becoming a stronger, more innovative, more determined organization and prospering in the face of adversity.

The credit for these accolades deservedly belongs to the Chapters. The strong leadership displayed by the Chapters is directly responsible for the ROCKS improved communications with our Army and its leadership. We have touched the leadership of nearly every significant Army Command with such notable examples as the former Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff of the Army and

retired General and former Secretary of State Colin Powell. Also included on this list of honor are retired four-star Generals Wilson, Ellis, Brooks, Via and the current Commanding General of FORSCOM, General Mike Garrett. These examples do not begin to tell the story of the LPDs conducted by the various Chapters. Their efforts and events also tell the story of how the ROCKS are interfacing with the leadership of the Army and how the Chapters are discussing with the Army leadership the pertinent issues facing the organization.

I want to share with the Chapters and the Chapter leadership of how proud and grateful I am for your tremendous contributions to the ROCKS organization. I also want to sincerely offer that the National Board stands ready to support the Chapters in any way that we can. Additionally, we cannot rest on our laurels, and we have to maintain and improve our OPTEMPO in the months ahead.

To each and every ROCK, I want to thank you for your dedication and commitment to our organization.

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



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

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
DONATE TODAY.**

Message from Our National Board Chaplain

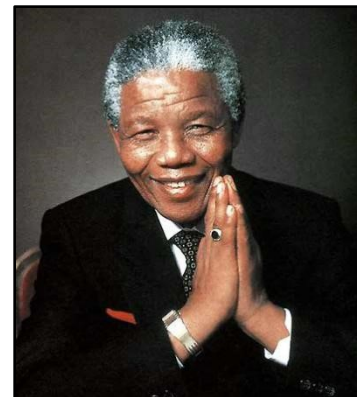


“Infinite Hope, a Sustaining Element!”

By Dr. B. Gregory Edison

To hope is to cherish a desire with anticipation -- to want something to happen or be true. Hope is a feeling of expectation and desire for a certain thing to happen favorably. Hope is the strong belief that circumstances in the future will get better.

Dr. Charles Stanley, In Touch Ministries, defines hope as “the desire for something good and the expectation that you and I will receive it.” He goes on to say, “The stronger our desire, the greater our hope, the more tenaciously we hold on to what we hope for.”



Nelson Mandela, anti-apartheid revolutionary and philanthropist who after 27 years of imprisonment under Apartheid rose to become the President of South Africa.

Like anything else in life, hope has an enemy, hopelessness! People's belief in hope is being challenged daily and often rapidly deteriorating. The global pandemic, COVID-19, suicide attempts, political injustices, mass shootings, disparities in health care, economic inequality, and global crises are a few illustrations that can deflate a person's hope, plague our nation, and erode trust in our Armed Forces.

Infinite hope is a sustaining element. It motivates and inspires. People need something to grasp, some glimmer of hope that the old order will be replaced by a new order. Hope is an energizer. It causes people to take action.

The 1994 classic film, "Shawshank Redemption" shares a great quote on hope: "Hope is a good thing, maybe the best thing, and no good thing ever dies."

Hope is a source of strength and courage in the face of life's hardest trials. Some of the world's greatest leaders have recognized the value and power of infinite hope.

In order to ensure the nation's future against prejudice and inequality, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. transformed the fatigue of despair into the buoyancy of hope. "All the darkness in the world cannot obscure the light of a single candle" (February 16, 1960).

Hope allowed Nelson Mandela to survive twenty-seven years of imprisonment and gain victory over the diabolical system of apartheid in South Africa and later become president. His brilliant mind and great heart are a testament to the sustaining power of hope and the spirit to transcend.

Retired Colonel Greg Gadson is an American actor, motivational speaker and former commander of the U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Belvoir, VA. He is also a bilateral above-the-knee amputee. He was injured by a roadside bomb in Baghdad on the night of 7 May 2007.

During a speech, several years ago on suicide prevention, Colonel Gadson delivered a message of hope when he said, "Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in our nation, which is very concerning, because it doesn't need to happen. As a society, we have to look at ourselves and ask: why are people giving up, why is there a lack of hope and support, and, quite honestly, why, amongst us, are we allowing someone to slip through? You cannot drag the invisible anchor of yesterday through your life, lamenting and complaining about what happened to you, because nobody here can change that. And, we can't live our lives looking over the horizon, thinking about some day. Put all of your energy into today. That's what resiliency is about. It's about being your best and living up to be the best you can be, every day. You cannot do that, if you are not present."

Hope is contagious, it needs to be perpetual! We must rise above life's greatest challenges. We must believe that in this confused and chaotic world that our future, and our circumstances will get better. Infinite hope is a sustaining element even in the fog of despair. Hope ushers in victory, even when it appears all is lost.



Colonel (Retired) Gregory D. Gadson former commander of U.S. Army Fort Belvoir garrison, a motivational speaker made his acting debut in Battleship, 2012 science fiction naval war film



I'M TOO BUSY
WORKING ON MY
OWN GRASS TO
NOTICE IF YOURS
IS GREENER



ROCKET DEADLINES

FALL EDITION
17 SEPTEMBER 2021

WINTER EDITION
10 DECEMBER 2021

TOP STORIES

US Army's FY22 Budget Backs Modernization, Cuts 'down into bone' of Legacy Fleet

By Jen Judson



Soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division use a prototype of the Integrated Visual Augmentation System during a trench-clearing exercise in October 2020 at Fort Pickett, Va. (Bridgett Siter/U.S. Army)

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Army is taking a hit in the president's fiscal 2022 defense budget request compared to the other military services, but the land force continues to staunchly guard its ongoing modernization efforts intended to provide overmatch against adversaries like China and Russia by 2035, according to documents released May 28.

The Army's budget request of \$173 billion for FY22 represents a \$5 billion reduction compared to last year's request of \$178 billion. Congress enacted \$176.6 billion in FY21.

Different this year is the lack of wartime funding — also known as the overseas contingency operations account — that, for the first time since it was created, is rolled into the base budget. The OCO account is now referred to as direct and enduring contingency costs. That was reduced by \$5 billion from FY21, Army comptroller Lt. Gen. Thomas Horlander told a small group of reporters.

From FY21 to FY22, the base budget of \$154.5 billion has a slight uptick of \$1.4 billion, he added, which is a "hair less" than a 1 percent increase. The direct and enduring contingency funding request is for \$18.4 billion.

The Army accommodated the sizable reduction in wartime funding and the small growth in its base budget by protecting readiness and modernization but cutting from its research and development as well as its acquisition portfolios, Horlander said, which equates to roughly \$4 billion less than what was enacted in FY21.

The \$4 billion reduction is almost "entirely driven by a reduction in Middle East requirements," acting Army Secretary John Whitley told reporters before the budget request release.

The Army will hold its end strength at 485,000 active-duty soldiers. The FY21 enacted end strength was 485,900. The request allows for 336,000 Army National Guardsmen and 189,500 Army Reserve personnel.

As the Army shifts its focus to stronger operational capability in the Pacific, it is requesting \$1 billion to contribute to the lethality of the joint force, which is meant to deter Chinese aggression in the region. Within that deterrence initiative, the Army is asking for \$239.6 million in missile procurement and \$699 million in research, development, test and evaluation.

Operation and maintenance

The service is asking for \$54.6 billion for operation and maintenance, which includes \$5.1 billion in direct war costs and \$5.3 billion in enduring costs.

About \$3.2 billion of the reduction in operation and maintenance comes from force-structure reductions as the U.S. withdraws from Afghanistan. Another \$200 million reduction comes from adjustments to the European Deterrence Initiative.

The budget request funds the maintenance of 21 brigade combat teams, five security

force assistance brigades and 11 combat aviation brigades, and it calls for the support of 20 combat training center rotations.

The service will continue to invest in its multiyear campaign of learning, dubbed Project Convergence. The Army is requesting \$106.8 million total (\$33.7 million in operation and maintenance funding and \$73.1 million in research, development and testing) for the now-yearly exercise that will take place for the second time this fall.

Modernization

Army leaders are concerned the service will be unable to continue protecting priority programs and key enabling capabilities in upcoming budgets after FY22, but modernization efforts remain untouched in the request.

Some programs considered critical to the future are already "on the edge of viability," Lt. Gen. James Pasquarette, the Army G-8 in charge of equipping, said May 13 at the McAleese & Associates conference.

The Army's equipping peg had to cut roughly \$1.6 billion from its budget in the FY22 request, Pasquarette told Defense News in an interview ahead of the budget release.

The Army wrapped its arms tightly around a set of 35 priority modernization programs to include efforts in long-range precision fires, next-generation combat vehicles, the network and future vertical lift while at the same time bracing for future budget cuts.

And it has identified another 30 systems, not among the top priority programs, but those that are considered key enablers because without them the top modernization programs won't reach their full potential. The service has roughly \$24 billion invested in key enablers.

One example is the Q-53 radar, which is needed in order for the Army's future Extended Range Cannon Artillery system to see out to targets at its 70-kilometer

range. Without a capable radar, the ERCA system would not reach its full potential. The Army is requesting \$88 million for the radar.



The autonomous system Origin prepares for a practice run during the Project Convergence capstone event at Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz. (SpC. Carlos Cuebas Fantauzzi/U.S. Army)

Other key enablers include the Tactical Intelligence Targeting Access Node (\$83.3 million requested), Family of Weapon Sights-Individual (\$85.4 million), Vehicle Protection System (\$104.5 million), the Improved Turbine Engine Program (\$29.5 million), Terrestrial Layer System (\$18.4 million), and Cannon Delivered Area Effects Munition (\$6.5 million).

Sentinel radar, the High Mobility Artillery Rocket System and Excalibur are also key enablers.

Pasquarette said that of the roughly \$35 billion inside the equipping portfolio he manages, 47 percent of the funding is allocated to advance the top 35 modernization priorities plus the 30 other key enablers. The other 53 percent is everything else, which covers roughly 500 other programs.

In the next five years, the priority programs will be funded closer to 50 percent, he added.

While modernization priorities are well funded, the Army is asking for \$1.3 billion less than what was enacted in FY21 — a total of \$12.8 billion in FY22 — in research, development, test and evaluation money.

Roughly 74 percent of the Army's science and technology dollars will be spent on its modernization priorities.

The FVL budget request is \$1.12 billion in FY22, which includes a \$270 million boost for the service's future long-range assault aircraft expected to be fielded around 2030, according to Pasquarette.

The Long-Range Hypersonic Weapon would receive \$412 million in FY22 to support live-fire tests as well as fabrication and assembly of the glide-body prototype.

The Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense capability — the radar that will replace the current Patriot air and missile defense sensor — would get \$328 million in FY22. The Army's new medium-range capability missile would get \$286 million in FY22 if approved.

The Rapid Capabilities and Critical Technologies Office would also receive \$244 million to push development efforts in directed-energy, long-range precision fires, air and missile defense, cyber, artificial intelligence, signals intelligence, unmanned aircraft systems, and counter-UAS capabilities.

At this point, according to Pasquarette, the Army is "down into bone" when it comes to cutting from non-priority programs. If budgets continue to decline, he added, the Army will have to start slicing into the muscle of untouchable modernization programs.

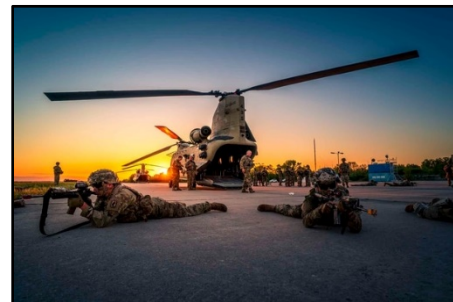
Procurement

The service plans to spend \$2.8 billion less than what was enacted in FY21 in procurement, asking for \$21.3 billion. The Army wants to buy less aircraft and combat vehicles in the legacy fleet than originally planned in FY22.

The aircraft procurement budget request of \$2.8 billion is \$1.3 billion less than FY21 enacted dollars.

After building 42 UH-60M Black Hawk utility helicopters in FY21, the service will build half that in FY22 with plans to roll just 24 off the production line.

The Army will also remanufacture 30 AH-64E Apache attack helicopters and buy six MH-47G Chinook helicopters for Army special operators.



U.S. Army soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade rehearse exiting CH-47 Chinooks of the 12th Combat Aviation Brigade in preparation for night air-assault missions during exercise Swift Response 21, part of the DEFENDER-Europe 21 series of exercises at Chech Airfield, Bulgaria on May 11, 2021. (Maj. Robert Fellingham/U.S. Army)

The service is not requesting CH-47F Block II Chinooks for the active force after deciding not to purchase any several years ago, but it is including some of those aircraft in its unfunded requirements list, which has yet to be delivered to Congress, Army Chief of Staff Gen. James McConville told reporters just ahead of the budget request release. Congress restored funding to begin an initial buy of CH-47F Block II aircraft in the FY21 spending bill.

The Army also plans to upgrade 187 Stryker combat vehicles compared to 254 in FY21, and will only upgrade 70 Abrams M1 tanks compared to 102 last year. The request includes funding for 25 Paladin Integrated Management howitzers. The service received funding for 31 in FY21.

Less short-range air defense systems will be procured in FY22 — 37 total. The Army is funded to buy 59 SHORAD systems in FY21.

The Precision Strike Missile, Integrated Visual Augmentation System and Next-Generation Squad Weapon are all seeing boosts as procurement ramps up for the programs as they begin fielding.

Weapons and tracked combat vehicle funding is boosted slightly in FY22: The request asks for \$3.8 billion over the \$3.6 billion approved in FY21.

Continues on page 31.

Biden Signs Bill into Law Making by Kate Sullivan and Maegan Vazquez

President Joe Biden said that signing legislation into law on Thursday establishing June 19 as Juneteenth National Independence Day — a US federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States — will go down as "one of the greatest honors" of his presidency.

"I have to say to you, I've only been president for several months, but I think this will go down, for me, as one of the greatest honors I will have as president," Biden said at the White House during a signing ceremony.

"I regret that my grandchildren aren't here, because this is a really, really, really important moment in our history. By making Juneteenth a federal holiday, all Americans can feel the power of this day and learn from our history -- and celebrate progress and grapple with the distance we've come (and) the distance we have to travel," Biden said.

The ceremony, which took place in the East Room, included some 80 members of Congress -- including members of the Congressional Black Caucus, local elected officials, community leaders and activists. The President specifically noted that Opal Lee, the activist who campaigned to establish Juneteenth as a federal holiday, was in attendance.

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union Major General Gordon Granger announced the end of slavery in Galveston, Texas, in accordance with President Abraham Lincoln's 1863 Emancipation Proclamation. Only a handful of states currently observe Juneteenth as a paid holiday.

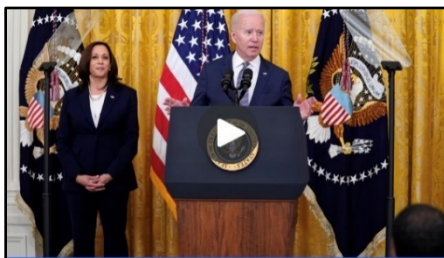
Biden, speaking at the White House alongside Vice President Kamala Harris, repeated the sentiments he relayed when he commemorated the Tulsa race massacre earlier, that "great nations don't ignore their most painful moments."



"They embrace them. Great nations don't walk away. We've come to terms with the mistakes we made and in remembering those moments, we begin to heal and grow stronger," the President said.

During the ceremony, the President said it was not enough to commemorate the holiday, but to use it as a day of reflection and action. "We can't rest until the promise of equality is fulfilled for every one of us in every corner of this nation. That to me is the meaning of Juneteenth," Biden said.

Biden also underscored how his White House agenda is working to deliver equality and emphasized that the promise of equality is not going to be fulfilled "so long as the sacred right to vote remains under attack." The President specifically pointed to restrictive voter laws in some states, calling them "an assault that offends our very democracy."



The holiday is the first federal holiday established since Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983 and becomes at least the eleventh federal holiday recognized by the

US federal government. The US Office of Personnel Management announced Thursday that most federal employees will observe the holiday on Friday since Juneteenth falls on a Saturday this year. The legislation, which was passed by Congress on Wednesday, gained momentum following Black Lives Matter protests sparked by the police killing of George Floyd last year. It was also spurred after Democrats won the White House and control of the House of Representatives and the US Senate.

The bill passed the House on Wednesday with a 415-14 vote after the Senate unanimously passed the legislation the day before. The bill had bipartisan sponsors that included Democratic Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas, Republican Sen. John Cornyn of Texas and Democratic Sen. Ed Markey of Massachusetts. At the White House on Thursday, Biden lauded members of Congress for the bipartisan effort, saying, "I hope this is the beginning of a change in the way we deal with one another." Lee told reporters ahead of the final passage of the bill, "what I see here today is racial divide crumbling, being crushed this day under a momentous vote that brings together people who understand the value of freedom."

The 14 Republicans who voted against the bill were Reps. Thomas Massie of Kentucky, Mo Brooks of Alabama, Scott DesJarlais of Tennessee, Andy Biggs of

Arizona, Tom Tiffany of Wisconsin, Doug LaMalfa of California, Tom McClintock of California, Mike Rogers of Alabama, Matt Rosendale of Montana, Ronny Jackson of Texas, Ralph Norman of South Carolina, Andrew Clyde of Georgia, Chip Roy of Texas and Paul Gosar of Arizona.

Wisconsin Republican Sen. Ron Johnson had previously blocked the bill in 2020, saying that the day off for federal employees would cost US taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. But Johnson dropped his objection this week despite his concerns, which paved the way for the bill's passage in the Senate.



New Army Secretary Sends First Message to the Force

By Adam Morey



Then-Defense Undersecretary for Policy Christine Wormuth testifies before the House Armed Services Committee on Islamic State-related issues, March 3, 2015. (Gabriella Demczuk/Getty Images)

Newly confirmed Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth released her first message to the force Tuesday, saying that quality of life initiatives and personnel issues will remain a priority.

The first woman to hold the top civilian Army role also promised to usher along the Army's modernization efforts, which have been closely guarded in recent budget battles. Wormuth's predecessor and current Army leaders have championed modernization programs, like long-range precision fires and future vertical lift, as key to competing against

adversaries like China and Russia in the coming decades.

"The Army must be manned, trained, equipped, and modernized to be ready to fight today, but also to meet the demands of an uncertain and unpredictable future," Wormuth wrote. "Seeing our modernization programs through successfully will remain a top priority so that the Army is ready to meet future challenges."

But to maintain readiness in the force, Wormuth added, the Army needs to eliminate harmful behaviors that undermine it.

"There is no place in our Army for sexual harassment and assault, domestic violence, extremism, or racism," she wrote.

Wormuth comes into the Department of the Army with less connection to the ground service than secretaries Ryan McCarthy and Mark Esper, both former soldiers. Still, she has a significant background in policy making.

Wormuth was a member of the Biden administration's Pentagon transition team and also served as undersecretary of defense for policy — the Pentagon's top policy role — from 2014 to 2016 during the Obama administration.

But Wormuth's tenure will be marked by a reduction in resourcing, at least in the near-term.

President Joe Biden's fiscal year 2022 budget cuts the Army's top line funding by \$3.6 billion, and trims the Army's end-strength across all three components, with a requested total reduction of 1,800 troops.

Wormuth is also coming into the Army's top civilian post after her immediate predecessor, McCarthy, dealt with troubling revelations about Fort Hood's sexual misconduct response program and its CID detachment, both of which have had implications across the force.

Managing those issues and implementing a litany of suggested reforms will be at the top of the docket for the new secretary.



Buffalo Soldiers Taught Horsemanship at Segregated West Point. Soon A Statue Will Honor Their Service



In his studio in Lubbock, Tex., Eddie Dixon demonstrates how he adds details to the eyes of a sculpture. He designed a Buffalo Soldier for the U.S. Military Academy. (Brad Tollefson/The Washington Post)

LUBBOCK, Tex. — Late into the night, in his studio on Avenue X, surrounded by props and tools and diagrams of the human form, sculptor Eddie Dixon worked on the Buffalo Soldier's face.

It was the hardest part of the equestrian statue he was making for the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. The only pictures he had of the late Sgt. Sanders H. Matthews Sr. were photos of him as an elderly man, or with a smile.

So, before he began to sculpt in clay, Dixon, 73, sat down in his converted firehouse here and began to sketch. He eliminated Matthews' smile, and de-aged his face until he had the image of a serious-looking African American soldier in his prime.

Dixon went on to complete his model of Matthews, believed to be the last known Buffalo Soldier to serve at West Point.



U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Sanders H. Matthews Sr., who was the model for the Buffalo Soldiers statue at West Point. (Courtesy of Dr. Aundrea Matthews)

And one day early this month, he paced his studio in a dark baseball cap as an expert from a foundry began slicing it apart with a razor and a pipe saw.

It was one of the final steps in the project to get a bronze version of the model ready for installation this summer at West Point. There, it will honor the little-known unit of Black soldiers that taught horsemanship to generations of White Army officers amid the harsh racial oppression of the time.

Portions of the model had to be cut apart to make individual molds for the 1,800 pounds of molten bronze that will go into the statue, said Tommy Ladd, owner of Schaefer Art Bronze Casting, the Arlington, Tex., foundry where the work will be done.

If all goes as planned, the 10-foot-tall piece — depicting Matthews on horseback with a cavalry flag — will be taken on a flatbed tractor trailer to West Point in late August and unveiled in early September, project organizers said.

The statue is a gift to the academy from the Buffalo Soldiers Association of West Point, which raised roughly \$1 million for the project, said retired Army Maj. Gen.

Fred Gorden, who headed the fundraising effort.

It will be erected on West Point's Buffalo Soldier Field, near where the old stables once stood.

Most people have no idea that Buffalo Soldiers were at West Point, Gorden said. "They served ... quietly, confidently, skillfully," he said. "They were standard-bearers."

Dixon, the sculptor, and his assistant, Ralph Chilton, have been working on the piece since January, checking with West Point officials to make sure they were getting the details right.

The model was built on an inner structure of carved foam, over which Dixon spread a layer of light brown clay.



Tommy Ladd, owner of Schaefer Art Bronze Casting, uses playing cards to mark the areas where the statue will be cut and molded. The statue is taken apart before being cast in bronze at the foundry. (Brad Tollefson/The Washington Post)

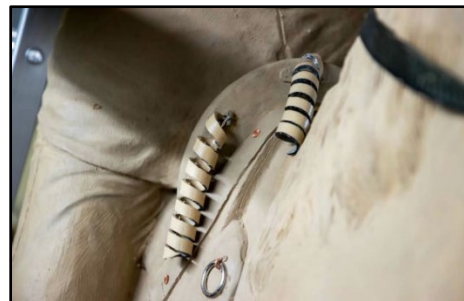
Buttons, buckles, and insignia were carefully made out of wax or resins. Chilton made the model of the flag, with a wave in it, out of metal. He crafted the rider's sword, using picture-hanging wire to imitate decorations on the handle. Dixon ordered old pieces of equipment such as an Army hat, cavalry spurs and leather leggings from military suppliers so he could copy them accurately in clay.

Pieces of automobile radiator hose were used to mimic saddle straps.



Medallion details are displayed on the statue of the Buffalo Soldier by Dixon. Buttons, buckles and insignia were made out of wax or resins. (Brad Tollefson/The Washington Post)

At one point, Dixon said, the West Point historians pointed out that the style of bit in the horse's mouth predated the 1907 arrival of the Buffalo Soldiers by four years. "I wanted to kick myself," he said. He knew the difference but had mistakenly focused on an image he saw on a re-enactor's horse. He corrected the mistake.



Leather strap details are visible on the statue of the Buffalo Soldier. Dixon ordered old pieces of equipment from military suppliers so he could copy accurately. (Brad Tollefson/The Washington Post)

The leggings were made to look like those worn in 1907, said David M. Reel, director of the West Point Museum, who assembled a team of historical advisers. The saddle had to be the 1885 McClellan style, and the flag anchor in the rider's right stirrup from 1904. Chiefly members of the Black 9th and 10th U.S. cavalry regiments, the Buffalo Soldiers are known for fighting Native Americans in the American West in the late 1800s.

Continues on page 29.

Understanding The Neurological and Psychological Effects of Covid-19

By William A. Haseltine

More than a year into the Covid-19 pandemic, the subject of “long Covid,” the symptoms of the disease that go on for weeks or months, is gaining in prominence and importance. Of particular interest are the neurological and psychological complications that can linger on in Covid-19 survivors long after they’ve left the hospital and returned to their homes.

Reports of long-term fatigue, “brain fog,” and post-traumatic stress disorder are increasing in number, but still lacking in clarity as far as underlying mechanisms are concerned. Some of these neuropsychiatric effects, like the loss of taste and smell, are transient, appearing as the disease progresses and subsiding once the virus clears. But others are more persistent—and potentially, even lifelong, like damage from stroke.

Though neurological and psychological complications can be collapsed into one category, the more evidence that emerges, the more imperative it becomes, for the purposes of care and treatment, to distinguish between the two. Neurological symptoms pertain specifically to damage the virus causes, whether directly or indirectly, to the nervous system, while psychological symptoms encompass behavioral, emotional, and cognitive impairments.

Neurological Covid-19 symptoms in particular have been difficult to round up and pin down due to their variability. Milder forms include fatigue, headaches, and the now infamous loss of taste and smell, while severe symptoms range from strokes and seizures to encephalopathy (brain disease), encephalitis (brain inflammation). And it may happen rarely, but some Covid-19 patients develop either an autoimmune condition known as Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) or acute

transverse myelitis—inflammation of the spinal cord. About two percent of patients experience ischemic stroke, which occurs when clotting blocks the flow of blood to the brain.



Woman with headache holding her head

Psychological complications, on the other hand, are not just wide-ranging, but more ubiquitous. It is common for patients who end up in the ICU—those with severe Covid-19 certainly, but other emergencies as well—to at some point experience delirium due to the acute stress of invasive procedures like surgery and intubation. Many who leave the hospital after being treated for critical illness go on to develop post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Even Covid-19 survivors who only had mild cases of the disease might struggle with “brain fog,” the term attributed to the muddledness in memory and mental clarity that can linger on months after the virus has cleared.

What is certain is that strokes big and small could either damage the brain permanently or create blood clots that resolve over time and induce brain fog. The vascular systems of critically ill Covid-19 patients also produce a wide variety of inflammatory cytokines—the namesake of the cytokine storm, an immune reaction capable of sending the body into hyperdrive and inducing damage so pervasive, it reaches the brain. Our brains are so vascularized that tiny blood vessels known as capillaries surround almost every single neuron. If these capillaries are made leaky and more permeable by extensive inflammation and clotting, that could leave the door open for extensive neurological damage.

One of the biggest questions up for debate is whether or not SARS-CoV-2, the virus

that causes Covid-19, can directly enter and infect the brain. Its ability to do so depends on the presence of ACE2 receptors in our neurons—the most fundamental unit of the nervous system—and our astrocytes, star-shaped cells that populate the brain and spinal cord and serve many protective and communicative functions. Some researchers have observed ACE2 expression in laboratory-grown cell cultures and deemed this enough evidence to substantiate the hypothesis of direct infection. But at least one brain autopsy report, compiled by neuropathologists at Columbia University, ruled against the possibility when no virus was detected in the brains of 41 patients who lost their lives to Covid-19 during their respective hospitalizations.

More studies that distinguish between neurological and psychological symptoms but examine them in conjunction are needed for us to understand how they coalesce and interact. One of the largest studies to examine both, a retrospective assessment published in *The Lancet* earlier this month, pooled the health outcomes of almost 240,000 Covid-19 patients—reported over a period of six months—and cross-analyzed them with survivors of other respiratory infections. Compared to the flu, the researchers found their subjects were 44 percent more likely to develop neurological or psychiatric complications. Most of these patients had mental health conditions like depression or anxiety, while those with severe illness experienced a greater share of dementia and stroke.

As the NYU study, reflecting the opinions of Dr. Steven Galetta, makes clear, it can be difficult to distinguish between the long-term neuropsychiatric effects normally seen in patients who have spent extended periods of time intubated or in intensive care. In any case, the effects Covid-19 has on the brain are too apparent to be negligible, even if we don’t know exactly why or how they manifest. Physicians caring for Covid-19 patients must allow the evidence amassed so far to inform their clinical practices and recommendations for care. Significantly

more research is also needed to understand how neuropsychiatric Covid-19 symptoms work and how to treat them. Last but not least, those of us lucky enough to have evaded Covid-19 infection must take note and take caution as more infectious variants of SARS-CoV-2 spread far and wide. This virus only continues to surprise us with its capabilities—no need to learn about them the hard way.



Eat the Rainbow Colorful Fruits and Vegetables = A Healthier You

By Jennifer Yario



We all know fruits and vegetables do our bodies good. Still, healthy eating is a challenge for a lot of us. And if you've been at home the past few months because of the coronavirus, grabbing some Halloween candy from the cabinet instead of a baby carrot from the fridge may be much more appealing.

But creating and maintaining healthy eating habits is important – especially now. “Studies show that eating a variety of fruits and vegetables boosts your immune system,” says Kathy Stanislawski, registered dietitian at St. Alexius Medical Center in Hoffman Estates, IL.

They have lots of other benefits too, Stanislawski said. Eating fruits and veggies “adds texture and appeal to your plate, fills you up with fiber for a healthy digestive system, and provides little

calories.” They're also rich in vitamins and minerals.

Different colors of fruits and vegetables have specific health benefits. By including a variety of them on your plate – called “eating the rainbow” – you can make sure you're getting the illness-fighting nutrients you need to help your body function at its best.

Red

Fruits and vegetables rich in red color contain the antioxidants lycopene and ellagic acid. Antioxidants help protect your body's cells from the free radicals that play a role in the development of heart disease, diabetes and even cancer. Tomatoes, red peppers, red apples, cherries and strawberries are just a handful of the foods you can eat to get these disease-fighting benefits.

Orange

We all need Vitamin C. Orange-colored fruit is packed with it, as well as carotenoids, including beta-carotene. Your body converts beta-carotene into vitamin A, which promotes healthy vision. Orange is also the color of many citrus fruits, which can help increase your blood flow and reduce your risk of having a stroke. And don't forget to indulge in pumpkin, sweet potatoes or carrots. You can find these benefits in peaches, cantaloupe and, well, oranges, too.

Yellow

Eating the yellow part of the fruit and vegetable rainbow gives you many of the same benefits as eating foods that fall under the orange layer – vitamin C and carotenoids. Brighten up your plate with some sweet corn, yellow bell peppers, pineapple, squash or lemons.

Green

We've all heard how important “leafy greens” are to our diet. That's because they're some of the healthiest foods we can put in our mouths. The benefits are many: They have vitamin K, which is

essential for our blood and bone health. They're packed full of antioxidants and folates. Kale alone has as much calcium as milk. Broccoli boosts your immune system and helps block cancer-causing properties. Other greens you can add to your diet include cucumbers, spinach, grapes, avocados and edamame.

Blue

Help lower your blood pressure naturally by helping yourself to some blue-colored foods. Did we mention that these foods have anti-aging properties? Grab a handful of blueberries and help slow the march of time on your body. Other blue-colored foods to add to your plate include the deceptively named blackberries, which actually are a dark blue shade, and some you might not realize come in the color blue, such as corn, potatoes and carrots.

Purple

They're at the bottom of the rainbow, but that doesn't mean they're less important. Purple fruits and vegetables share similar benefits to blue-colored foods: Both groups have anthocyanins, which are strong antioxidants that help protect our cells from damage and, like their red-colored friends at the top of the rainbow, help reduce our risk of cancer, stroke and heart disease. Plums, prunes and grapes are some purple-colored fruits. Going the veggie route, you can pick from purple cabbage, radishes and eggplant, among other options.



A Buffalo Soldier Series Moment: Lieutenant General Gregg Shares His Journey & 93rd Birthday Surprise

By Ms. Karen M. Wrancher



Lieutenant Arthur J. Gregg - The first African American Joint Chiefs of Staff Director of Logistics (J4) and first African American Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics.

The National Board of ROCKS, Inc. has hosted a series of discussions called the Buffalo Soldiers for our Army's senior leaders and trailblazers to share their story, both the moments of triumph as well as the challenging situations they faced and how they rose above them. On May 8, close to 100 individuals joined the ROCKS, Inc. for Part 8 of the Buffalo Soldiers Series as the first African American Joint Chiefs of Staff, Director of Logistics (J4) and first African American Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Lieutenant General (Retired) Arthur J. Gregg shared moments about his storied career which spanned close to four decades and over the course of three wars: World War II, the Korean, and Vietnam Wars.

General Gregg was a Chicago College of Medical Technology graduate receiving his certification as a laboratory technician in November 1945. Immediately following graduation, he was hired by the Michael

Reese Hospital in Chicago but was later informed by Department Chief who returned from vacation, that he would "be confined to the laboratory and attending Black patients". Gregg resigned from the hospital and returned to Newport News, VA. There he reconnected with his high school friend, Ivan McEachin, and the two of them joined the Army in January 1946. The two friends headed to the Medical Training Center at Camp Crowder, Missouri for Basic Training. Following basic training, he was deployed to Germany stopping first at the Replacement Center in Bamberg, Germany. There Gregg would face an assignment problem similar to that he previously faced in the civilian sector. There were no openings for Black Medical Laboratory Technicians. After three weeks at the Replacement Center, a Lieutenant looking for soldiers for the 3511th Quartermaster Transportation Truck Company extended an invitation for him to come to his unit in June 1946.

Acting on the invitation of First Lieutenant Withers, a company executive officer, the future Lieutenant General Greg would leave the replacement unit to serve as the Supply Sergeant of the 3511th Quartermaster Transportation Truck Company, Staffelstein, Germany. After five months, Gregg was transferred to the newly formed 510th Military Police Platoon in Mannheim, Germany. He was appointed the unit Supply Sergeant and soon promoted to Staff Sergeant. The two Supply Sergeant assignments would be his introduction to logistics and continued commitment to supply excellence that would eventually lead to him rising to the rank of lieutenant general.

In July 1949, he applied to and was accepted to Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a Quartermaster Officer in May 1950. General Gregg recalled with razor sharp specificity and to the amazement of the audience, the precise dates and geographical locations of previous assignments even recounting with pinpoint accuracy the distance "in kilometers" between various locations from his days he served as a supply sergeant in Staffelstein and Mannheim,

Germany to his days as the Commander of the Army and Air Force Exchange System, Europe and later the United States Army Europe (USAREUR) G-4.

More than 60 years later in 2005, LTG Gregg would read a story in the Wall Street Journal about a transportation truck company which befriended two Jewish boys who were picked up near a German concentration camp and eventually migrated to the United States. Upon closer examination of the article, Gregg realized it was the lieutenant who helped him in Germany. After reaching out, General Gregg and his wife reconnected with Mr. Withers and his spouse who then lived in Maryland. He found out that Withers had a very successful career in the Agency for International Development. He had served as Director leading operations in several African and Asian countries.

Following graduation from OCS in 1950, Lieutenant Gregg briefly served as an Assistant Platoon Leader in a Quartermaster Service Company at Fort Lee, Virginia. He then attended the Quartermaster Basic Officer Course. Upon graduation in November 1950, he was assigned to the Quartermaster Leadership School of the Quartermaster Replacement Center. His last two assignments were in a completely integrated environment. He taught methods of instructions for one year, leadership for one year, and became the company's operation's officer for his final six months with the company. Gregg stated mentorship was not a formalized relationship, but he relayed to the audience it was having an individual pushing you to be better, providing you opportunities to develop and an individual intentionally providing those opportunities for you to be noticed by supervisors and superiors. It wasn't something that was necessarily discussed but there were definitive actions which deliberately taken to help an individual during the course of their Army career.

Continues on page 30.

Army Inspector General Puts 'People First' at Fort Drum

By *1LT Richard Jacobs*

On March 9th, 2021, the 10th Mountain Division hosted the Army's 66th The Inspector General Lieutenant General Leslie Smith and Sergeant Major Larry Orvis Jr. for a scheduled visit as part of a circulation around Army installations. During their visit to Fort Drum, General Smith and Sergeant Major Orvis conducted multiple sensing sessions with different levels of Soldiers and leadership. General Smith and Sergeant Major Orvis also led a Professional Development brief with the Climb To Glory ROCKS Organization, where they shared the Department of the Army's intent, insight, and progress on "People First" and "This is my Squad" initiatives.



Lieutenant General Smith and Sergeant Major Orvis with Climb To Glory ROCKS members

"People First" and "This is my Squad" are not new concepts. In fact, during a separate Climb To Glory ROCKS Professional Development brief, General (Retired) Kip Ward recalled his time in command of the 10th Mountain Division's Second Brigade Combat Team from 1992-1994, where the Brigade motto was "People First, Winning Matters." This motto harnessed a culture within General Ward's Brigade that was solidified when the unit deployed to combat in Mogadishu; a conflict distinctly rooted in heroism, resiliency, tenacity, and strength. Even though these initiatives have long existed, it is beneficial to re-ignite the Army's focus on care for Soldiers. Leaders often say good units have always

practiced these methods of care for their people. However, it is important to constantly assess the efficacy of all commands and climates, hence the purpose of General Smith's visit to Fort Drum and other Army installations.

An article in the Army People Strategy highlighted "The Army is one of the most diverse organizations in the world." With such a diverse population across the force, leaders must utilize every individual, from every walk of life, and from every background. This will win the Nation's wars – the very essence of the Army. General Smith's brief to the Climb To Glory ROCKS emphasized the importance of inclusion from both diversity and cohesion perspectives. He also emphasized that it is paramount that cohesive leaders understand the importance of how diversity enables resolve, and, in-turn, success both on-and-off the battlefield.

A common misconception is that these initiatives impede training and erode overall readiness. On the contrary, General Smith outlined during his ROCKS brief and his visit to Fort Drum that the Department of the Army's intent is to focus on more efficient training. Furthermore, General McConville's sees these initiatives and execution of more efficient training as an opportunity to increase total-force readiness in order to prepare for, fight, and win the Nation's wars. Leaders across the Army must accept this as a challenge to hone their skills on time and training management.

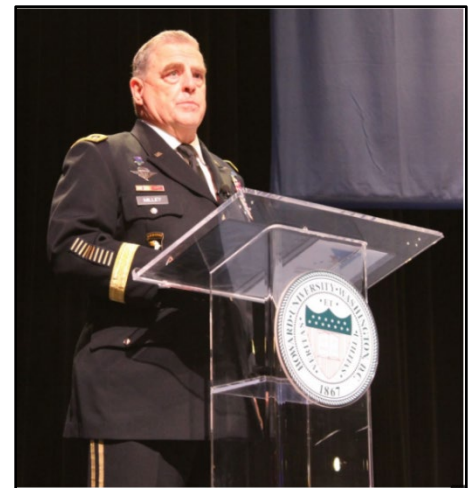
"Our people are our greatest strength and our most important weapon system" General McConville stated when he outlined the future mindset and culture of the Army in the Army People Strategy. As a learning and thinking organization, it is extremely important for Soldiers and leaders across the Army to understand the magnitude of this statement and how it applies to the warfighting functions and readiness. In order to win the future fight, the force must not be dependent on systems and technology, but on the power harnessed by the attributes, experiences, cultures, characteristics, and backgrounds of its people.

CADET CORNER

CJCS serves as Keynote Speaker for HOWARD's ROTC Commissioning Ceremony

By: *LTC Creyonta West*

On May 5th, Howard University's Reserve Officer Training Corps had the distinct pleasure of having the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (CJCS), General Mark A. Miley, serve as the guest speaker for Howard University's Joint Ceremonial Commissioning Ceremony. Although Howard has had many distinguished military guests visit and speak at the campus, including General (Retired) Colin Powell, who serves on Howard's board of trustees, this was the first time in Howard's history to have the acting CJCS visit the "Mecca."



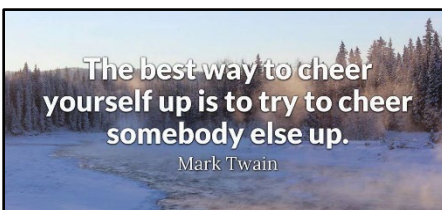
General Mark A. Miley

The Howard ROTC programs commissioned nine Army cadets and eleven Air Force cadets to solidify the comradery of both programs, guided by Lieutenant Colonel Creyonta West and Lieutenant Colonel Redahia Person. As Gen. Milley indicated, "we are strong as a nation and strong as a nation when we act together as one team." These students



represent the future of our nation's might and a path towards building greater diversity within the military. "Opportunities must be reflective of our diverse talent in order for us to stay strong," expressed Gen. Milley.

As frustration and division continue to weigh on the nation due to the Covid pandemic and social unrest, it was a great pleasure to have these cadets stand in solidarity to defend the nation. Their commissioning represents a four-year grueling process to vet, test, and train the best and brightest cadets that will serve in our military. A man FAR GREATER than Abraham Lincoln stated, "a house divided against itself cannot stand." These newly commissioned 2LTS are now charged with defending the House. And not just any House, but the House of one of the GREATEST Nations in the World. As service members, they are the constancy throughout the chaos. The opportunity to serve in our great military is not given to everyone. It is reserved for those that embody the character, competence, and commitment to serve. God's speed to these newly commissioned officers.



All American Chapter Hosts LPD for Cadets from FSU and Methodist

By LTC Tonya Maddox



All American Chapter President, MAJ Deirdra Johnson addressing Cadets

On Friday, April 16, 2021, the All American Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc. held an LPD for Cadets from Fayetteville State University and Methodist University at the Pope Soldier and Family Readiness Center on Fort Bragg, titled Standards and Expectations of Newly Commissioned Officers.

The Soldier and Family Readiness Center provided an informative video and talk on Army Community Service and its programs.

The Cadets then met with Active Duty and Reserve Component Army Officers in the branches they are planning to serve in. There were five small groups of Cadets

with 2-4 Active Duty mentors in each group.

After the small groups, the Cadets received Leader Professional Development from LTC Roger A. Wang, Jr. 5-73 CAV Squadron Commander, 3rd BCT, 82nd Airborne Division. LTC Wang spoke of his unique career opportunities and shared career challenges and advice for a successful Army Career. LTC Wang wrapped up his LPD with a short Question and Answer session where the Cadets asked many questions, mostly about expectations of new Lieutenants and leading.



Small Groups with Army Leaders

Lastly, LTC Tonya Maddox discussed the SHARP program, and the dangers of mixing alcohol and intimate contact when it comes to consent. She went over the differences between black-out and pass-out as well as discussed some true life cases that she's experienced as a Sexual Assault Medical Forensic Examiner and Expert Government Witness.



Army Community Service Information Session

The chapter received very positive feedback from the Cadets, who asked that we do this more frequently. They found it extremely helpful and were thankful to get some of their questions answered and see what a day in the life of an Army Officer in their chosen fields really looks like.

Howard University Pins Nine Commissioning ROTC Cadets

By COL (Ret) Dorene Hurt



Howard University ROTC Bison Battalion New 2LTs Celebrating with hardworking and devoted PMS LTC Creyonta West and Cadre after the formal pinning Ceremony at WIMSA on May 6, 2021.

One day after an historic address by General Milley, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to Commissioning U.S. Air Force and U.S. Army Cadets at Howard University, the actual pinning ceremony was held on May 6th at the Women in Military Service for America Memorial (WIMSA) in Arlington National Cemetery.

The pinning of a new Second Lieutenant as an officer is a time honored ceremony made even more significant with the participation of the new officer's family. The Army ROTC Bison Battalion Cadets were thrilled to stand tall in front of and with their families who helped pin on their new rank. In addition to receiving their new rank and a first salute by a person who they chose, the new Second Lieutenants received an envelope with the name and contact information of their new mentors, courtesy of the ROCKS, Inc.

Committed to the success of new officers joining the Army ranks, the ROCKS, Inc. have long been supporters of ROTC programs, especially at HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities). This was the first year that the Howard University's Bison Battalion senior advisor, Major General (Retired) George Alexander, MD. was absolutely determined to ensure that every

Commissioning Cadet would have a mentor by Commissioning Day.



Howard University ROTC Bison Battalion Cadets Fahie, Stewart, Taylor, and Tyus await pinning of their 2LT bars by family and their first official salute as an Army officer at Arlington National Cemetery's Women in Military Service for America Memorial on May 6, 2021.

Special thanks are extended to ROCKS who helped to identify outstanding and willing Army officers who'll serve as mentors to the new officers. Those who took the time out of their already packed schedules to help invest in future leaders were Major General Charles Hamilton, Colonel Deborah Ellis, and Lieutenant Colonel Ed Moten. The goal is to help prepare these new Second Lieutenants not only for BOLC, but for their first assignments. In doing so, the intent is to help build a solid foundation of professional excellence and leadership, and hopefully, a career long relationship with the ROCKS, Inc.



Hampton Roads Chapter Presents Outstanding Student Awards

By MG (Ret) Frank E. Batts

The Hampton Roads Chapter (HRC) continued its tradition of awarding Outstanding Student Awards this spring to JROTC Cadets at ten Hampton Roads Virginia area high schools. The HRC's Outstanding Student Award is open to area high school JROTC students who demonstrate exceptional achievement in the areas of leadership, academics,

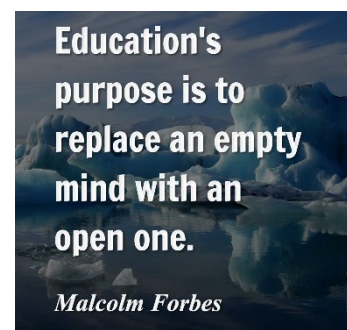
community service and extracurricular activities. The program was established in January 2002, shortly after the Chapter was chartered, in support of the National Board of the Rocks Leadership Outreach Program that provides for professional career development and guidance to ROTC students. Because of COVID 19 restriction, all award program except for two were held virtually.



MG (Ret) Frank Batts (center) poses with JROTC Cadets from Smithfield High School in Smithfield VA after presenting them HRC Outstanding Student Awards. Pictured left to right are, Cadet Captain Riley McMillen, Cadet Sargent Lauren Read, Cadet Corporal Summer Fruchey, and Cadet Private First Class Hunter Manley.

Not only does the Outstanding Student Award recognize and promote leadership and good citizenship, it also allows visibility of the HRC at the high school level. This year a total of thirty-eight cadets were awarded certificates of achievement, recognizing them as HRC JROTC Outstanding Students. Senior Military Instructors who nominate cadets for the awards are pleased that one HRC award can be awarded to a cadet at each grade level, freshman through senior.

Chapter members who served as presenter for this year's awards were CPT Anderson Peoples and MG (Ret) Frank E. Batts.





ATTENTION Professors of Military Science

SUBJECT: The ROCKS, Inc. 2020 -2021 Scholarship Submission Information

1. On behalf of Retired Brigadier General (BG) Lawrence Gillespie, Chairman of The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc., we would like to announce the opportunity for you to consider nominating your cadets for The ROCKS, Inc. 2021 -2022 Scholarships. The purpose of The ROCKS, Inc. scholarships is to provide recognition and inspiration to deserving ROTC cadet leaders who display good character through example; and who inspire others to enter the military as a commissioned officer.

2. The ROCKS, Inc. will award scholarships to freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The ROCKS, Inc. provides several annual monetary scholarships in recognition of the late Retired Lieutenant General (LTG) Edward Honor and the late Retired Brigadier General (BG) Roscoe C. Cartwright, to ROTC cadets throughout the United States.

3. Applications for the 2021 ROCKS, Inc. BG Roscoe C. Cartwright and LTG Edward Honor Scholarships must be received by ROCKS Headquarters no later than **03 January 2022**. The ROCKS, Inc. National Scholarship Selection Board will take place **24-28 January 2022**. The winners will be announced no later than **07 February 2022**. All parties will be notified via their Professor of Military Science.

4. Applicant Attributes: Annually, the LTG Edward Honor and BG Roscoe Cartwright selection Committee (Scholarship Board) convenes digitally to select new recipients for Scholarship Leadership Awards. During the selection process, the following attributes are considered:

- a. Nominating Official's Endorsement Letter from ROTC Professor of Military Science.
- b. Minimal GPA (2.5 - 4.0)
- c. Academic Accomplishments (Academic Honors, Honor Societies, and Academic Clubs, etc.)
- d. Community Service and Awards (Volunteer Service, Coaching, and Mentoring)
- e. Leadership (ROTC/Community/Organizations/University-College)

- f. Military Uniform Photo (Military Service Uniform-ASU /OCP-ACU) – Waist-up or full-length photo (Professional Appearance). No civilian attire photos.
- g. Extra-Curricular Activities (Student Government/Athletics/Clubs)
- h. Physical Fitness (180 to 300 APFT)

5. Scholarship application packets will consist of the following:

- a. A completed scholarship application.
- b. A one-page paper on any topic related to leadership or mentorship (single spaced).
- c. A written recommendation from the Professor Military of Science, not longer than one page in length.
- d. A photograph in military dress, service, or operational camouflage pattern uniform.

6. **NOTE:** All four documents must be included in **"ONE"** PDF file. Enclosed is a paper copy of the application for your convenience. Electronic copies may be obtained online at **www.rocksync.org** on the Scholarship webpage.

7. Please submit applications by email to **rocksnationalboard@gmail.com**. Again, applications are due to ROCKS, Inc. by Friday, **03 January 2022**.

8. If you have questions, please contact our office at 301-423-5500 or via email at rocksnationalboard@gmail.com or vprotcandscholarshiprock@gmail.com (Attention: 1) Colonel Michael McLendon and 2) Sean Lanier. We look forward to your submissions and recommendations.

Very Respectfully,

Michael G. McLendon

Michael G. McLendon
Colonel, USA
Vice President, ROTC Programs
National Board of the ROCKS, Inc

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



BG(R) Roscoe "ROCK" Cartwright



Burke



Brooks



Cade



Chambers



Collins



Francois



Hazelwood



Mann



Miller



Wyatt

Shown above:

COL Robert B. Burke

MG Harry W. Brooks Jr.

BG Alfred J. Cade

LTG Andrew P. Chambers

COL Harold Collins

COL Frank Francois III

COL John E. Hazelwood

LTC John E. Mann Sr.

COL Clarence A. Miller

COL James E. Wyatt

**Do you know their names? These men comprised the "Blue Geese".
They are "*The Journey*". More details to come later in 2021.**

CHAPTER ARTICLES

Memorial Day 2021 at Lincoln Cemetery

By COL Kandace Daffin



COL Kandace Daffin, US Army War College Class of 2021 graduate and member of the MG Charles C. Rogers Chapter of ROCKS at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania gives Memorial Day remarks.

Memorial Day is a day of national awareness and solemn reverence; a day for us to honor the military men and women who paid the ultimate price and gave their lives in defense of our nation, its values, our freedoms, and our liberties. Memorial Day was first observed after the Civil War and called "Decoration Day" because families typically remembered their loved ones by decorating gravesites with flowers or flags. We continue to uphold that tradition across America today.

For almost a century, from 1804 to 1905, Lincoln Cemetery served as the final resting place for at least 650 Black Carlisle citizens, including more than 50 U.S. Colored Troop members and Civil War veterans, representing a multitude of different regiments and outfits. While we are in perpetual appreciation of all who serve, today we pay special tribute to the men and women who have paid the ultimate price.

We gratefully and reverently stand in the presence of our veterans who served in units such as the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, a volunteer Union regiment organized in the American Civil

War. Its members became known for their bravery and fierce fighting during combat engagements. Only the second all-Black Union regiment to fight in the war, the 54th is best known for its service leading the Union assault on Battery Wagner, a Confederate earthwork fortification on Morris Island, on July 18, 1863. This was one of the first major actions in which African American soldiers fought for the Union in the American Civil War. The courage of the soldiers in the 54th during this time prompted many politicians and Army officers to not only acknowledge but value their contributions, generating the further enlistment of black soldiers.

Because of the valor shown by the men of the 54th, the US Army increased the number of black enlistments so that by 1865 almost two hundred thousand African Americans had served from 1863-1865, comprising roughly ten percent of the American soldiers who served in the US Army during the Civil War. The 54th Massachusetts Regiment not only fought in the field, they also took up the call for equal pay and fought against discrimination from the US government.

It was from the 54th Massachusetts that officers Norwood Penrose Hall and Alfred Stedman Hartwell were promoted and mustered in as Colonel and Lieutenant Colonel, respectively, to lead the newly formed 55th Massachusetts Infantry regiment, another unit in which some of our own Carlisle veterans served. Both the 54th and the 55th regiments were mustered in at Camp Meigs in Readville, Massachusetts, and were trained there in that camp. The two regiments ultimately brigaded together, fighting and dying side by side during the campaign at Honey Hill, South Carolina, on November 30, 1864.

In her 1995 article 'History of the 55th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry', Civil War historian Katherine Dhallé stated the following: "The war that had taken so many lives had also seen fit to form many survivors into the leaders of a new, reunited country. Despite frustrations, disappointments, obstacles, and restrictions, the men of the 55th bore their

military office well. Instead of retreating in the face of adversity, whether it be the enemy, their fellow officers, or their own government, they continued in their quest to promote freedom and preserve the Union at all costs. For this they deserve our unending respect and admiration. As well, the brave men of the regiment, both black and white, who fought side by side, and lived through the inequities of a discriminatory government, deserve to be remembered as the heroes they are. Nothing less would be acceptable."

These are just two of the units represented here at Lincoln Cemetery, and in hallowed grounds all across our country lay individuals who all have a story to tell. Some of those stories, sadly, unfortunately, we will never know. Nevertheless, the loss of these brave men and women throughout our nation's history are felt as deeply in our Army as they are in families and communities across this great nation. They are loved. They are cherished. They are not forgotten.

In the Army, we consider our greatest asset to be our people. Our all-volunteer Armed Forces is a credit to Americans of all races, genders and creeds; and our common commitment to defense and love of country binds us together and unifies us. That goes to the heart of what it means to be an American.

This Memorial Day, I hope that we can remember the link we have with all the generations that have gone before us who selflessly served our country and paid the ultimate price. From the recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq back to the American Revolution, our Service members have continuously put the welfare of the nation, their service, and their fellow Service members before their own. It is a reminder of the true cost of war, and a reminder to honor those who died while answering the call to serve our nation.

Today—across our great nation—we will honor them by participating in the National Moment of Remembrance, a call to voluntarily and informally pause at 3:00

PM to reflect on and remember those Americans who died in service to our nation. We will fly our flags at half-staff from sunrise until noon, then raise them briskly to the top of the staff until sunset, in honor of our battle heroes. The National Moment of Remembrance on Memorial Day honors and respects all Americans who have died for freedom. Our nation is indebted forever to our fallen Soldiers and we owe a debt of gratitude to survivors.

In reflecting on this debt, I will offer up words stated by President Barack Obama during his 2015 Memorial Day speech, "It is a debt we can never fully repay. But...it is a debt we will never stop trying to fully repay. By remaining a nation worthy of their sacrifice. By living our own lives the way the fallen lived theirs – which is a testament that "Greater love has no other than this, than to lay down your life for your friends."

For us, let these words not be those solely of sorrow, but also of optimism and positive action. Let them shape how we love each other and this world that we share. Let these words inspire us to continue the powerful legacy of our brave veterans so that their lights continue to shine.

Again, thank you for your time and attention today. God Bless you, our fallen Soldiers, our survivors, and God Bless our wonderful nation.

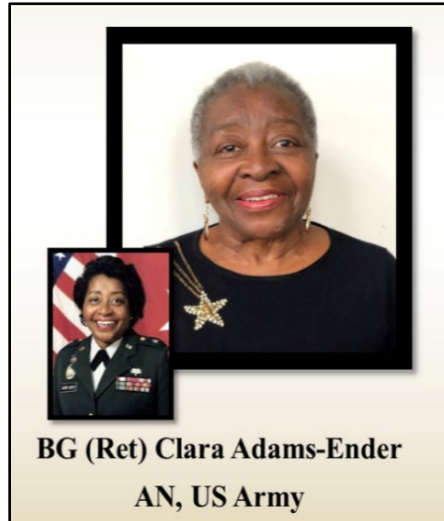


**No man will make a
great leader who
wants to do it all
himself or get all the
credit for doing it.**

Andrew Carnegie

Alamo ROCKS Celebrates Women's History Month

By CPT LaDonna Tolbert



The Alamo Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc. had the pleasure of hosting BG (Ret) Clara Adams-Ender during the Women's History Month LPD celebration entitled "Learning from Our Past to Develop Our Future". BG (Ret) Adams-Ender is the 18th Army Nurse Corps Chief and a past Chairman of the Board of Directors of The ROCKS, Inc. She is currently a volunteer for the Medical Reserve Corps of Virginia, administering the COVID-19 vaccine to the local community.

BG (Ret) Adams-Ender started her presentation by reciting a quote from Dr. James Emman Kwegyir, "If you educate a man you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman you educate a whole nation". This quote resonates the impact that women have in many facets of life. Women have excelled as the keepers of the home while in many cases, becoming a predominant figure in the workplace as well.

BG (Ret) Adams-Ender gave us a walk down memory lane by highlighting several prominent women that have made a significant impact in history. Some of these women include:

Althea Gibson, tennis player, first African American to win a Grand Slam title; has won 58 national and international titles
Ella Fitzgerald, American Jazz singer, known as the First Lady of Song and Queen of Jazz; won 14 Grammys and awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Pearl Buck, novelist, Pulitzer Prize for the novel "The Good Earth", First American woman to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Fanny Lou Hamer, civil rights activist, advocate for voting rights; inducted in the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Delores Huerta, labor leader and civil rights activist, founder of National Farmworkers Association; advocate for immigrants, workers, and women's rights; First Latina inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame, received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

My favorite part of BG (Ret) Adams-Ender's presentation was her capture of women in support of the armed forces. In the early 1990s, women worked in harsh conditions with little to no pay. Initially male physicians refused to work with females. It took a while for women to gain respect in the workforce. Women have shown strength and perseverance throughout history to gain recognition and equality. The first woman promoted to the rank of Brigadier General was BG (Ret) Anna Mae Hayes, US Army Nurse Corps in 1970. Almost 40 years later, the military would see its first female four star general, Gen (Ret) Ann Dunwoody, Quartermaster Corps. With the recent inclusion of women in to combat arms, I cannot wait to see the future contributions of my female counterparts!

Women continue to make monumental moves. We have received our first female Vice President of the United States. Even though ceilings are being shattered, there are many bridges that need to be built and crossed. Continue to protect women and advocate for equal pay and equal rights. We still have a long way to go!

Wood Mills: The Training Range Cemetery

By CPT Chaney D. Brooks



Woods Mill Cemetery

Memorial Day – a day normally reserved in the minds of Americans for one specific reason: the remembrance of fallen U.S. military men and women who gave their life serving our country. Veterans and their families have held steadfast in ensuring the meaning of the day does not get lost in the midst of barbeques, retail sales, and discounts. However, for one family the day is not only for remembrance of veterans but also of their community almost long forgotten.



Vice-President Operations, LT Jeron Draine solemnly observes as CH (CPT) Harry Ross renders a prayer.

Fort Drum located in Jefferson County, New York is home to the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry). A mass of training sites, observation posts, and long winding dirt trails are the legacy of the Lieutenant General Hugh Drum after whom the division is named. Yet tucked away a few miles into the dense tree lines and training ranges lies a small remnant of history: Woods Mills Cemetery. This cemetery was established in the mid 1800s when the area was a village then known as the Woods Settlement of Lewisburg. Established by Johnathan Wood – along with several other villages – it belonged to a conglomerate of settlers who established

themselves in the wooded region far away from the expanding city life.

Every year descendants of Mr. Wood and the town's residents embark on a journey through the maze of training ranges – normally closed off to civilians – to pay tribute to their deceased veterans and once established farmlands. What is left of the Woods Settlement is only a fraction of what the community once was. For one former resident the day brings both comfort and sadness. "I was born here and lived here until I was three," recounted Janice Pitts-Rodriguez, "I remember coming up and my mother crying because her whole life was here. She was born in the area. She married and lived in the area."

Mrs. Pitts-Rodriguez remembers the time when the U.S. Army retained the land during the height of World War II. During the 1940's the United States had a demand for land to further expand military training and lethality in order to effectively combat a then near-peer threat. Unfortunately for the residents of Woods Settlement, the U.S. enacted rapid land acquisition known as eminent domain and their settlement was at the center of the planned expansion. While the settlement's sacrifice was the catalyst in training the very Soldiers who victoriously fought the decisive Battle of Riva Ridge, the forced uprooting still presents a cognitive dissonance for some, especially Mrs. Pitts-Rodriguez. "My great-grandfather that served in the civil war and my father was in World War I. We come up here because my grandparents are buried here, my brother, and some nieces and nephews. It's good that we can come and visit our relatives. It's sad to see what's happened to the cemetery."



Family and community members participate in the Memorial Day Observance

The patriarchs and matriarchs gather the family to line up at the site and pay tribute not only to the history of their home but also to the service of their veteran family members. This year, with the help of Climb To Glory ROCKS in conjunction with the Carthage American Legion Post 789, family member stood as the names of their veterans were remembered and the honor of Taps was played through the light sounds of American flags and trees fluttering in the wind. The small Cultural and Natural Resources staff from Fort Drum's Public Works' Environmental Division and descendants of the area have preserved the cemetery for 80 years. Descendants visit grave sites of family member buried at Woods Mill Cemetery



Celebrating Women's History in March and Beyond

By Dr. Janice M. Gravely

The Climb To Glory ROCKS chapter in conjunction with the National ROCKS hosted a dynamic panel of five African American females for the March Buffalo Soldier Series with a lead in from the oldest living African American General Officer – BG (R) Clara Adams-Ender.

The five panelists included LTG (Retired) Gwendolyn Bingham (The second African American female to attain the three-star rank; The Honorable Lillian Anita Dixon, the first female and African American to serve as the District of Columbia Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Colonel (Retired); Colonel (Retired) Karen M. Wrancher who served as the first female Proponent Chief in the Quartermaster Corps' history and CASCOM history. She was also the inaugural Command Inspector General for Combined Joint Force - Operation Inherent Resolve; Colonel Deborah Ellis who completed a fellowship at MIT in the Security Studies Department and MIT's Lincoln Lab in the Biotechnology and Human Systems Division; Lieutenant

Colonel Bridgette Bell who is a contributing author for the West Point Leadership, an interactive e-textbook recently published for junior-level Cadets at the United States Military Academy; and Lieutenant Colonel Promotable Katresha Bailey who served as the Battalion Commander for the 210th Brigade Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Infantry Division (LI).

In October 2007, the Congressional Black Caucus issued two press releases directed at examining diversity and female representation in military ranks. The General Officer Management Office records highlight that 20-30 females are selected or promoted in the general officer ranks annually, and 30 – 40 African American Males are selected or promoted to the general officer ranks Annually. However, in the 246 years of the Army's

Brigadier General (retired) Velma Richardson (Signal Corps) – 2001

Brigadier General (retired) Sheila Baxter (Medical Service Corps) – 2003

Brigadier General (retired) Belinda Pinckney (Finance) – 2004

Lieutenant General (retired) Nadja West (Medical Corps) – 2013- MG; 2015 LTG)

Lieutenant General (retired) Gwendolyn Bingham (Quartermaster) – 2011-BG; 2013-MG; 2015-LTG

Major General Donna Martin (Military Police) – 2016-BG; 2018-MG

Major General Telita Crosland (Medical Corps) – 2017 – BG; 2019-MG



In Retrospect 2021: MG Charles Rogers Chapter and US Army War College

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 leaders. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the graduation our chapter namesake MG Charles C. Rogers with the US Army War College Class of 1971. It is also the 20th 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 US Army War College (USAWC). COL Mark Denton departed USAWC as the Director, Theater Intelligence in the Department of Military



These trailblazers highlighted the listed accomplishments above, but additional areas in which they have broken the glass ceilings to enable future generations to accomplish even greater heights. They shared how they effectively balanced work and personal life; traits that positively impacted their professional careers, and historical accomplishments that are not readily captured in a history book. One key notable historical nugget was Colonel Dixon's reflections as the last active duty military team member to sit down for negotiations with Fidel Castro. Over 100 people registered and participated in this event. Many commented on the tie in from the old guard focusing on Brigadier General Adams-Ender historical overview of her accomplishments, to the current guard who highlighted the barriers they have overcome and their discussion of their efforts to prepare the next generation of African American female leaders.

existence, only 11 African American women have attained the rank of general officer. It was not until 2013, that an African American female attained the rank of Major General. The resolve and resilience of the hidden figures throughout the Army is inspiring and the legacies that have opened the door will continue to grow. Below are the 11 officers who have attained the general officer distinction.

Brigadier General (retired) Hazel Johnson- Brown (Army Nurse Corps) – 1979 Deceased 2011

Brigadier General (retired) Sherian Cadoria (Military Police) – 1985

Brigadier General (retired) Clara Adams-Ender (Army Nurse Corps) – 1987

Brigadier General (retired) Betty Simmons (Army Nurse Corps) – 1995

Strategy, Planning, and Operations to assume command of 207th Military Intelligence Brigade. COL Okera Anyabwile departed as the Chief, Strategic Simulation in the Department of Strategic Wargaming of the Center for Strategic Landpower to become the Director of Wargaming Center for USSOCOM. Colonel (Retired) Randy White continues Deputy Director, Army Strategic Education Program (ASEP). Colonel (Retired) Sylvester Brown as well serves as the 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). We welcomed COL Fredric Maddox to DCLM as the Director of Force Management Studies. COL Shawn Goldwire is the USAWC G-6 and MAJ Eddie Rogers serves as the Executive Officer to the Commandant.

US Army War College ROCKS Student Chapter Achievements

Student members of the ROCKS participated in prestigious programs during the course of the USAWC Academic year: COL Shari Bennett and COL LaCher Campbell were in the Advanced Defense Management Program; LTC(P) Vernon Jones was in the Advanced Strategic Arts Program; LTC(P) Chika Ihenetu was in the National Security Policy Program; and LTC Rena Henderson-Alailima, COL Rebecca Connally, Lt. Col Axia Dones, and COL Adisa King were members of the Eisenhower Series College Program. Students were fortunate to have professional development opportunities with various senior leaders, that included LTG Laura Potter (HQDA G2), MG Xavier Brunson (CG, 7th Infantry Division), MG Gary Johnston (CG, INSCOM), and BGen Lorna Mahlock [USMC Director Information, Command, Control, Communications, and Computers (IC4)], who shared sage leadership advice on mentorship with members and guest attendees.



MG Charles Rogers Chapter members gather prior to US Army War College graduation. COL LaCher Campbell receives print from Prof Chuck Allen provided by the US Army War College Foundation for her leadership as chapter president.

The chapter co-sponsored a Black History Month Program with the Carlisle Barracks and USAWC, with ROCKS members leading the discussion panel, offering their personal experiences on the Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity and gleaned insights from the numerous contributions made by African-Americans throughout history to the nation and its military. The USAWC and ROCKS also recognized talented middle school-age students for their achievements in an essay writing competition.

On 31 May 2021, 11:30 am, the ROCKS supported the Memorial Day 2021 Remembrance & Rededication Ceremony at Memorial Park Lincoln Cemetery, 149 West Penn Street. The event was sponsored by the Haines-Stackfield American Legion Post 826, Borough of Carlisle, and Cumberland County Historical Society. COL Kandace Daffin, Resident Student, USAWC Class of 2021 provided a Memorial Day message that highlighted national awareness and solemn reverence as depicted in the historical traditions of remembering loved ones by decorating gravesites with flowers or flags. The Memorial Day message also highlighted the valorous actions of units such as the 54th and 55th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, just two of the military units representing more than 50 US Colored Troops and Civil War veterans buried at Lincoln Cemetery in Carlisle. The speech encouraged all those in attendance to remember the link with previous generations who selflessly served the country and paid the ultimate price.

US Army War College Graduation

Members of the MG Charles Rogers ROCKS Chapter were among the more than 380 senior U.S. and international military officers and civilian leaders recognized during the USAWC graduation ceremony on June 11, 2021, for their academic achievements and professional excellence.

GEN James McConville, Army Chief of Staff served as the keynote speaker. He issued the challenge to the USAWC graduates to remember "People First," "Winning Matters," and "Relationships Matter." Additionally, he cited the value of diversity and 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 2021 is ready to meet those responsibilities. ROCKS members of our MG Charles Rogers Chapter are more than ready to not just meet the expectations put forth by GEN McConville, but to exceed them.



MG Charles Rogers Chapter members gather for end of year social.

Feed Our Vets Community Service

By Jeron Draine



Members of the Climb to Glory Rocks Chapter Inc gather for a picture during the Feed our Vets community service event

Having the pleasure to lead and take care of Soldiers is undoubtedly an exhilarating experience for an Army Officer. Giving back to military veterans who paved the way for future generations of Soldiers has left many with an unconditional feeling of service that cannot be articulated into words. This feeling was even more validated last month when the Climb to Glory Chapter of the ROCKS Incorporated had the distinct pleasure of serving groceries to thousands of veterans and their families in the local Watertown community through a program called Feed Our Vets.

The Climb to Glory Chapter partnered with other local military leadership organizations, enhancing the feeling of camaraderie for all parties involved during the event. Before volunteers distributed the groceries to veterans and their families, volunteers sorted and packaged groceries into different bins to aid in distributing groceries to each family. The size of each family indicated how many items they would receive when they pulled around in their vehicles. The process of serving each family was speedy and efficient as over two hundred vehicles waited patiently until it was their time to receive their free groceries.

The atmosphere was genuinely remarkable during the course of the event. Soldiers both young and old, retired and still on active duty, were able to share their experiences about the military. The conversations were insightful and inspiring to hear from veterans, who spoke about some of the adversities they had to overcome during their military service. Whether it was a war story or simply a story about life in the garrison environment, it served as a constant reminder of how the military has progressed over the last few decades.

Being able to serve and give back to the community (who sacrificed so much for this country) in any capacity as a leader in the United States Army is a rewarding experience. Without these individuals (who defend/defended the Constitution of the United States of America), life, as we know it today, would not exist. When opportunities present themselves to give back into the lives of those who have served bravely, take the time to give back because the experience will honestly be rewarding while providing a sense of gratitude.



Alamo ROCKS Supports 2021 "West Point & U. S. Army Cadet Command Virtual LEADS Workshop"

By LTC Michelle A. Jefferson

San Antonio –How does one become inspired to make that decision to become an officer in the U.S. military i.e., the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) or the U.S. Military Academies, and be a part of the 1% who volunteers to serve the United States of America? Through strong community outreach and increased partnerships, the San Antonio "Alamo" Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. will strive to help meet the National ROCKS, Inc. Chairman goal towards 500 ROTC scholarships.



LTC (Ret) Jerry Cheatom, Director, Army Instruction, San Antonio Independent School District facilitates West Point LEADS (San Antonio) (Photo credit: Ms. Tamisha Norris)

The Alamo ROCKS supported its first virtual West Point (WP) Leadership Ethics and Diversity in STEM (LEADS) Workshop after COVID-19 social distancing requirements. The WP LEADS held a two-day workshop on April 7 and April 13, 2021, that impressed upon the local San Antonio area JROTC students the importance of ethical leadership in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) professions while building their essay writing and interviewing skills, ACT test preparation, the ROTC scholarship application and service academy admission process with VIP Guest Speakers i.e., the ROCKS, Inc. San Antonio "Alamo" Chapter member and 1980 graduate of West Point, GEN (RET) Vincent K. Brooks, the 60th Superintendent of U.S. Military Academy, LTG Darryl A. Williams, and the San Antonio Independent School District (SAISD) Superintendent, Mr. Pedro Martinez. Additional speakers included, Alamo ROCKS' members MAJ (RET) Chana Mason, Chapter ROTC Outreach Chair, and Ms. Tamisha Norris, Chapter President, who provided overviews of The ROCKS, Inc. and AUSA missions and partnership, and Dr. Michelle A. Jefferson who shared her personal story as a veterinary pathologist and military officer.

Thomas Jefferson High School JROTC Class of 2020 and the 2020 ROCKS, Inc. San Antonio "Alamo" Chapter \$500 scholarship recipient, MIDN Gabrielle Cleveland USNA Class of 2024, stated "LEADS showed me the characteristics of a leader and the personalities of cadets. These things helped me determine that I would be a good fit for a military academy. Seeing their work ethic and

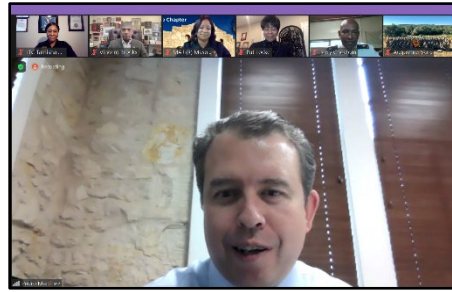
ability taught me that if you care enough and are willing to put in the work, you can succeed in a military academy and maintain the lifestyle.”



SAISD presents the \$1000 check to the 2021 JROTC WP LEADS 1st Place Honorable Living Essay Winner, Jeremiah MacDonald from the Young Men's Leadership Academy in San Antonio, TX. LTC (RET) Jerry Cheatom from the San Antonio "Alamo" TX Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. and SAISD (far right) (Photo credit: SAISD)

During the two-day WP LEADS event, SAISD hosted The Honorable Living Essays workshop, and encouraged students to participate in the Honorable Living Essay Competition. The judging was coordinated and led by MAJ (RET) Chana Mason and consisted of both members of the San Antonio "Alamo" Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. and members of the local Alamo Chapter of AUSA given their partnership together in the community. The judges were AUSA member: Rex Pierce, VP, Community Partners, and Alamo ROCKS' members: Dr. Michelle A. Jefferson, Monica Santoyo, William Wallace, and Jeremiah Owoh. There were 15 essays where each student developed an ethical dilemma inside an everyday life scenario that are informative about how students think today about honor, ethics, and values. Honorable Living Competition awardees: First Place - Jeremiah MacDonald from Young Men's Leadership Academy received: \$1,000 donated by Seeds of Humanity Foundation, Second Place - Emily Garcia from Highlands High School received \$600 donated by SAISD Foundation; Third Place - Justin Torres Highlands Highschool received \$250 donated by San Antonio "Alamo" Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. and Fourth Place, Maria Martinez from Brackenridge High School received \$100 donated by AUSA. AUSA also donated \$700 to 35 students

via Amazon gift cards for various other team and individual competitions throughout the two-day WP LEADS workshop.



Closing Remarks conducted by SAISD Superintendent, Mr. Pedro Martinez. (Photo credit: Ms. Tamisha Norris)

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

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



Sharing is the Heart of Leadership

By COL (Ret) Charles D. Allen

After a year of academics, our U.S. Army War College students are anxious to graduate and get back in the "real" Army or their parent military service.

After reading, studying and writing about strategic leadership in the development of national policy and supporting military strategies, they are ready to put their knowledge into practice. At this point, many students know their next assignments and duty postings and they are mentally preparing for the transition ahead.

One can imagine the reception into new organizations that these new War College graduates will receive. Some will command brigades; others will lead staffs and serve as advisers to senior civilian and uniformed leaders. Expectations are high for each of them.

As career military officers, their professional histories have been read aloud with each promotion and assumption of command during the attendant ceremonies and organizational "hails and farewells." The leaders' past assignments, operational deployments, schools and postings become public knowledge and under scrutiny. This is part of our military culture and tradition — a statement that our leaders have had the right jobs, performed well enough, have the right education, and demonstrated the potential required for the next rank and position of responsibility.

Beyond their professional experiences, it is up to the leaders to share their personal stories to motivate, educate and mentor others in their organizations. The more successful leaders I have observed do not tell stories of their great accomplishments, but rather of their personal and professional challenges that they have faced. They tell stories of how others taught, coached and inspired them to overcome obstacles throughout their careers — fellow officers, NCOs and enlisted service members, friends and family members. The stories of these senior leaders demonstrate self-reflection, reveal a sense of humor and humility, and show their empathy, compassion and humanity.

It has been said that leadership is simply the process of influencing others. While followers may be impressed (or not) by the history of their new leader, the real influence may result from the ability of the leader to communicate and develop a trusting relationship through their words and deeds.

Our U.S. Army War College graduates will face a national security environment full of challenges. Their value will be in connecting and leading others.

That will take more than knowledge. It will require heart.

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

Buffalo Soldier continued from page 14.

The Cheyenne and Comanche named them for what they saw as a similarity of the soldiers' hair and skin color to that of the American Bison, historians say. "They looked like buffalo," Dixon, who is Black, said.

But starting in 1907, a detachment of Buffalo Soldiers was posted at segregated West Point to instruct the cadets in the fine points of horsemanship — and to do menial work across the campus.

The training had previously been done by a White cavalry outfit, which suffered from poor morale, indiscipline, and low reenlistment rates.

The arrival of the Black soldiers solved the problem "pretty much overnight," Army reports showed. Buffalo Soldier morale, discipline and reenlistment rates were all high, according to historian Brian G. Shellum.



Buffalo Soldiers at the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. in the 1940s. (National Archives and U.S. Military Academy)

The Buffalo Soldiers served at West Point until 1947; the next year, the Army was racially desegregated, Shellum has said. Meanwhile, as Dixon watched Ladd dismantle the model in the old brick firehouse, the sculptor talked.

He quoted from a Carl Sandburg poem, discussed the ancient warrior queen Tomyris and related a folk tale told by his grandmother. He condemned the attitude of President Woodrow Wilson toward African Americans, recounted the story of the World War I Black aviator Eugene



Dixon's completed statue of a Buffalo Soldier modeled after Matthews, is shown in his studio. (Brad Tollefson/The Washington Post)

Bullard and told of his own failed attempt to avoid the draft during the Vietnam War.

He wound up serving two tours of duty in Vietnam, and he wears a baseball cap that says "Agent Orange Health Club, Life Member."

Dixon thinks exposure to the substance used as a defoliant in Vietnam caused his chronic cough and respiratory problems. "They sprayed it over us," he said. "Nobody said, 'Get out of the way.'"

An amiable man, he said he has made many Buffalo Soldier sculptures over the years for museums and other sites. And he feels an affinity. "Naturally, you would feel an empathy toward soldiers, for the simple fact that I was one," he said.

Plus, "I'm creating unsung heroes," he said.

"For this moment in time, people will know about them," he said. "They'll know that these people actually existed. When I was coming up ... we didn't have any heroes. Our heroes were [people like] John Wayne. How could I relate to John Wayne?"

The West Point sculpture is the culmination of a project that was started by Sanders Matthews before he died at age 95 in 2016.

When his 23 years of service, most of it at West Point, ended in 1962, he became the first African American police officer in nearby Highland Falls, N.Y. He then returned to West Point as a campus bus driver, according to the Buffalo Soldiers Association, an organization he founded in 2008. He and his wife, Cora, who were married for 74 years, are buried in the West Point cemetery.

Matthews had long dreamed of a suitable monument honoring the Buffalo Soldiers of West Point, said his granddaughter Aundrea Matthews, cultural arts director for the academy's Corps of Cadets and president of the Buffalo Soldiers Association.

In 1973, the academy installed a Buffalo Soldier memorial plaque on a rock on campus and renamed a sports field for the outfit. The gesture appeared fitting for the time, but almost 50 years later, the plaque seemed inadequate.

"It was obscure," said Gorden, who in the late 1980s was the first Black commandant of cadets at West Point. "It was in a corpse of trees. ... It was not accessible. And there was nothing there to indicate that that rock was anything more than a rock."

Sanders Matthews wanted something better. And Dixon received the assignment.

But Matthews did not know he would be the model, his granddaughter said.

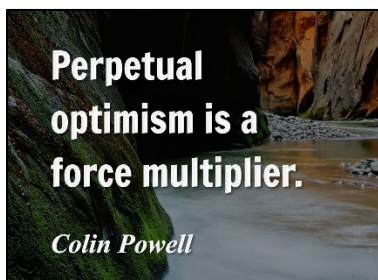


Sergeant Saunders H. Matthews Sr., a Buffalo Soldier, at West Point. (Courtesy of Dr. Matthews)

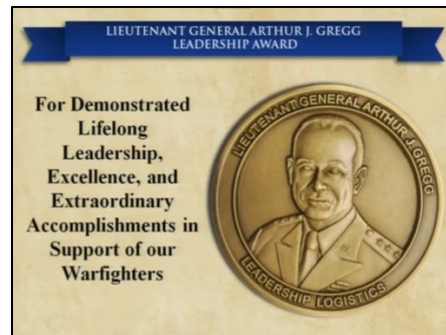
"He did not ask for that," she said. He was mostly concerned with the accurate depiction of the horse. "After we got the horse right, he didn't care, 'Whatever you want to do.'"

She said she is hoping the statue can be escorted by well-wishers on its journey from Texas to West Point this summer and that an unveiling ceremony can be attended by VIPs.

"My grandfather was an icon both at West Point and in the community," she said. "Everybody knew [the statue had to depict] him. He's been the one leading the charge. ... Even to the day he died that has been ... his battle cry."



LTG Gregg continued from page 17.



During the Vietnam War, when Lieutenant Colonel Gregg was asked whether or not he wanted to take a unit which was at "C-4 Readiness" status to Vietnam or wait to improve equipment and personnel readiness in the United and deploy later. Lieutenant Gregg elected the first option. Initially deploying with two companies to Cam Rah Bay, Vietnam, his battalion would later increase to eighteen companies and eight detachments. These additional companies and detachments were attached to his battalion, having been sent to Vietnam with no higher headquarters and lacking adequate personnel to support a provisional battalion. As a 96th Supply and Service Battalion commander in Vietnam, he was responsible for over 3600 Soldiers, a brigade size element by today's standards. The then Lieutenant Colonel Gregg later transferred eight companies (including two Airborne companies) to a colleague and QM Advance course classmate, Lieutenant Colonel Kay L. Wieland who had arrived in Vietnam with a battalion headquarters without any companies.



General Dennis L. Via shakes hands with Lieutenant General (Retired) Gregg after presenting him the first Lieutenant General Arthur J. Gregg Leadership Award at the 2016 AUSA Global Force Symposium and Exposition.

Lieutenant General had a distinguished career with numerous accomplishments, but he was particularly pleased with the impact he and his team made in supporting Soldiers and their families in 1972 when he was the AAFES, Europe Commander. When the value of U.S. dollar against the German Mark exchange rate proved to be less advantageous for families overseas, it was an opportunity to increase products provided and improve the speed at which these products were delivered to AAFES locations throughout Germany, United Kingdom, Spain, Italy, Greece, and Turkey. AAFES under then Brigadier General Gregg's leadership significantly increased the merchandise provided to Soldiers and their families when shopping "on the economy" became expensive providing items ranging from small items like cassette tapes with latest songs flown into Giessen, Germany and taken to the newly established "sound centers" to larger end items like furniture. They even hosted special events like Steak Night when Soldiers and their families could visit their local AAFES and enjoy a nice, pleasant dining experience with table settings and special lighting. General Gregg's culminating assignment after serving as the Joint Chiefs of Staff Director of Logistics (J4) was serving as the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics (formerly the DCSLOG, now DCS, G4) retiring in 1981.

General Gregg stated mentorship is important because it provides an opportunity to learn and grow allowing individuals to network and develop a sense of belonging. The ROCKS he stated presents us with an opportunity to learn from others and we become better officers as a result of those interactions.

It was difficult, in fact, almost impossible to not be stirred with some emotion as General Gregg shared with the audience how even today, he honors the memory of his wife, Mrs. Charlene Gregg daily and visits her grave in Arlington. With continued warmth and tenderness, he stated that his wife without a doubt a key dynamic behind his success and being the great man and officer, he became over the course of his career and life.



Lieutenant General Gregg addresses the audience during the Quartermaster Wall of Honor dedication ceremony in honor of him and the late Mrs. Charlene Gregg.

He also reflected the honor he felt when he attended the dedication of Lieutenant General and Mrs. Arthur J. Gregg Quartermaster Wall of Honor at Fort Lee, Virginia. This digital interactive wall housed in the Quartermaster Museum at Fort Lee, Virginia has historical facts including the names and biographies of Quartermaster Hall of Fame honorees. When asked what's next? General Gregg stated with a bit of a chuckle, "to work myself out work and projects" and stated in the past year he relinquished his last board position.



*Birthday cake presented to Lieutenant General Gregg during Zoom event
(Photo provided courtesy of Delicate Creations, www.mydelicatecreation.com)*

As he peered into the Zoom camera during the discussion, the moderator asked him to look over his right shoulder. He turned around to see his daughter, Mrs. Alicia Gregg Collier bringing in a birthday cake. LTG Gregg, ever the gentleman, reacted being pleasantly surprised and stated, "Oh my goodness!" The audience sang a rather unharmonious rendition of Happy Birthday (with delays in sound with a geographically dispersed audience) but General Gregg's delight remained unabated. Over the course of next ten minutes individuals from General Larry Ellis, General Dennis Via, and General Vincent Brooks to those still serving like Major General Charles Hamilton extended their birthday wishes and appreciation for what General Gregg has done for our Army and trails he blazed for others to follow.



Budget continued from page 11.

The request also includes \$287 million to begin low-rate initial production for the Army's Mobile Protected Firepower capability.

The Armored Multipurpose Vehicle is also receiving a boost in the request: The Army wants \$105 million in FY22 compared to \$63 million in FY21 as production ramps up.

The Army has also cut back its Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles to \$37 million after receiving \$181 million in FY21, while the Family of Heavy Tactical Vehicles budget increased to \$64 million. The FY21 approved funding for the latter was \$7 million.

The service will also procure less Joint Light Tactical Vehicles, planning to spend \$575 million in FY22. The Army received \$884 million in FY21 for the vehicles.

The Army National Guard's Humvee modernization effort will receive no funding in FY22 compared to \$100 million in FY21.

Reform

After three years of budget deep dives the Army has called "night court," it has found less dollars to move to modernization priorities each year. The Army plans to cancel just seven programs after canceling 93 programs in FY20 and 41 in FY21.

Programs that are being eliminated include Aviators Night Vision Imaging System and Hellfire Missile Launchers. They will both move into sustainment with existing capability and stockpiles at adequate levels.

Joint Technology Center/Systems Integration program will be discontinued and transitioned to sustainment, and procurement of the 2.75-inch Hydra rocket launchers will be canceled along with the Lightweight Counter Mortar System. Replacement capability is not required for either the launchers or the mortar system, according to Army documents. The Spider Networked Munition System is being terminated "in favor of less costly alternative," the documents read.

The Army is shifting \$12.2 million to elsewhere in the budget by canceling Multi-Function Electronic Warfare system procurement as well. But according to Army officials, the research and development effort will continue, and the effort can "re-compete" for procurement funding in future budgets.

The service is also reducing funding for another 37 programs, Army officials told reporters prior to the budget request release.

Whitley, the Army's acting secretary, told reporters ahead of the budget request release that it is getting "progressively harder to find lower-priority programs to realign" modernization priorities. The service has found roughly \$9.1 billion in funding to move across its FY22-26 five-year plan in the last round of night court, compared to \$22.4 billion in the FY20-24 plan and \$13.5 billion in the FY21-25 plan.

New Members

W • E • L • C • O • M • E

Joined 03/18/21 – 06/28/21

COL Leonardo Adams USA
 1LT Kimberly Alfaro USA
 MAJ Lemija Allen USA
 CPT Chavonda Andrews USA
 COL Okera Anyabwile USA
 LTC(R) Lorraine Babeu USA
 COL John Baskerville USA
 MAJ Mark Beaman USAR
 COL Christina Bembenek USA
 MAJ Zachary Bock USA
 MAJ Margaret Brainard Bland USA
 1LT Leanna Buford USA
 Mr. Joseph Butler
 COL Christopher Byrd USA
 1LT Kiera Clark USA
 COL(R) Jacqueline Cumbo USA
 Mr. Carlos Delva
 MAJ Darryl Diltz USA
 CPT Tameka Edmonson USA
 CPT Erick Erinna USAR
 BG Andrew Gainey USA
 BG Julius Gamble USA
 Mr. Phillip Greer USA
 CPT(R) Alicia Gregory USA
 LTC Lekesha Hance USA
 1LT Cody Hand USA
 LTC Dr. Renata Hannah, Ph.D. USAR
 CPT Amy Hashimoto USA
 CPT Kyle Hashimoto USA
 COL Jordan Henderson USA
 COL Nancy Henderson USAR
 1LT Natalie Herbert USA
 MAJ Donovan Herron USA
 COL Erica Herzog USAR
 LTC Calvin Hoover USA
 2LT Scottie-G Huggins USA
 CPT Robert January USA
 MAJ Mary Johnson USA
 CPT Christopher Johnson USA
 MG Mitchell Kilgo USA
 CPT Adisa Lewis USA
 LTC Aaron Lockhart ANG(Army)
 LTC(R) Ken Long USA

WO3(R) Joseph Magee USA
 MAJ Michael Maxwell USAR
 LTC(R) Quinton McCorvey USA
 LTC Kirsten McFarland USA
 LTC(R) Cornell McGhee, Ed.D. USA
 MAJ Jamail McGlone USA
 COL Tracie McMillian USA
 CPT Cherise Monroe USA
 CPT LaTondra Moultrie USA
 CPT Warren Nickson USA
 COL Bridgette Payton USA
 CPT Kellee Pearson USA
 Cadet Preston Penn Jr USAR
 LTC Michael Pope USA
 CPT Christopher Powell USA
 CPT Jonqwel Prioleau USA
 CPT Kirsten Redmon USA
 CPT Gentry Redmond USA
 Mrs. Angela Reed-Johnson USA
 MAJ Jairus Roberts USA
 CPT Nell Robinson USAR
 BG Beth Salisbury USAR
 MAJ(R) Alex Sanders USAR
 LTC Michael Schulte USA
 LTC Octavia Scott USA
 COL Jason Seery USA
 CPT Jovan Smallwood USA
 MAJ Tifani Summers USA
 CPT Janay Taylor USA
 1LT Malayna Taylor USA
 Mr. Kendalynn Thomas
 CPT Henry Washington USA
 CPT Marqui Washington USA
 MAJ(R) Karen Watts USA
 CPT Renee Webb USA
 LTC Samuel Williams USAR
 Ms. Terri Williams
 CPT Kasey Wilson USA
 MAJ Sambriddhi Winkler USA



National Caesar Salad Day
 July 4



July 7

International Kissing Day
 July 6



National Sugar Cookie Day
 July 9

Information from
www.Nationaltoday.com





Crafting a Communications Plan for Your Chapter

By Ms. Karen M. Wrancher



After you have held your chapter elections, installed your Executive Board and come to a consensus on what LPDs and activities your chapter will host and execute in the coming year, it's time to create your chapter's communications plan. Your communications plan is a strategy that you will develop to identify your target audience, to communicate to them the events and initiatives that your chapter will host. You will need this information to share it with your target audience (units, leaders and other organizations). The best way to prepare to disseminate this information is to create a comprehensive communication plan which will be your road map. It will be a road map to identify what are the key messages you want to deliver to what audience and will ensure that the message is clear, specific and achieves measurable results. Having a communication plan allows your team to have a documented strategy to identify what they want to say and ensures that your collective message is delivered to the right people, in the right

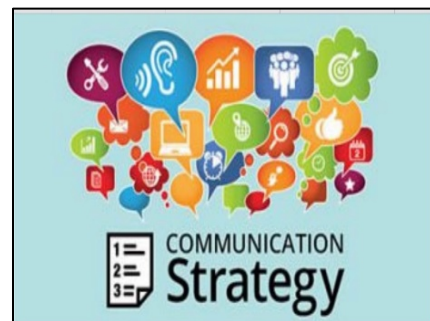
way at the right time to meet your chapter's organizational goals.

Communication itself is the exchange of ideas, messages or information through speech, in a written form or utilizing mass media platforms. Having a great communications plan can assist your chapter in promoting its brand, strengthening relationships/partnerships within your local community and can assist in increasing the number of members in your chapter. Failure to have a clear communications plan can lead to missed opportunities to increase your brand or presence in your local community not to mention missed opportunities to grow your membership. Creating a communication policy also provides an opportunity for team collaboration and creating a consensus on what the key objectives and planned activities should be amongst your teammates within your chapter. Having a communication strategy can also alleviate stress, avoid confusion as to what the key messages, objectives and even future events should be, increases productivity and strengthens the teambuilding within the chapter. A good communication plan can support marketing, in the form of promoting your chapter at your local installation by identifying who are the key stakeholders and even possible future members in your area.

To develop your communications plan you and your team need to identify some key pieces of information:

- the chapter's goals and objectives,
- the key messages you want to send to help meet your chapters goals and objectives,
- the people you need to communicate these key messages to,
- when or what is the timing or the timeframe to deliver these key messages,
- who is your target audience?
- members/non-members
- related organizations, possible community partners
- possibly local college or university ROTC cadre/cadets
- possibly your local AUSA Chapter

- what platform is the best way to reach your target audience



In order to deliver your messages to your identified audience effectively, it is important to identify the mass media channels or platforms (local newspaper, a website, Facebook, Instagram, etc.) you will use to disseminate your message. Additionally, to achieve your communication objectives, you need to identify when or how often you will disseminate your messages by planning in advance the timing for the dissemination of your key messages to achieve the best results. Based on the research that you and your team conducted and by developing a solid timing strategy, it will help enhance the execution of your communications plan.

Developing a communication plan will take some time and effort but it is well worth it when you consider the possible benefit of reaching an expanded audience at your installation. A communication plan is one of the key factors for successfully delivering your messages to the target audience at your installation and invites the opportunity to increase your membership. Additionally, having a communication plan opens up the opportunity to create beneficial partnerships within your local community. A written communication plan invites the opportunity to increase teamwork within your chapter among your executive board, achieve your chapters objectives and maximize your chapters performance. Communications and having a solid communication plan is always a great tool to have. Go ahead and invest in time well spent with your team and develop a tailored plan in the near future!

Sample Communications Checklist:

- Executive Summary/Introduction
- Set-up/Define Tasks
- Decide on The Type and Purpose of Communications Plan
- Examine and assess your current communications plan
- Establish organizational goals
- Confirm the communications budget
- Define Your Audience
- Understand who you are communicating to
- What is important to that respective audience
- Define Your Key Messages
- Establish what you need to say or convey
- Ensure that team knows those key messages
- Decide When to Communicate
- Determine the frequency of your messages
- Establish a Timetable
- Decide How To Communicate
- List preferred media platforms
- Identify preferred media platforms
- List potential risk, challenges and issues
- Identify which media platforms your chapter will use
- Write-up Plan
- Write-up Plan
- Disseminate Plan to the Team
- Implement the Plan
- Measure Results
- Define Success (and How It's Measured)
- Evaluate Plan
- Did plan meet the team's objectives?
- Were areas that did not go as planned?
- What are the practices or areas of the communications plan that worked well that should be replicated or repeated?

Karen Wrancher started as a member of the Rocket Team in 2013 and has served as the Vice President of Communication for over four years. A retired Colonel with over thirty years of Army service, she presently works for the 4th largest bank in the nation, Wells Fargo in an Audit Manager role.

It's a Team Effort!

By Eric P. Flowers, VP Finance



A promising way to facilitate The ROCKS' ascent to a high performing organization is for us to refrain from accentuating differences between non-profit and military operations. Granted, structural differences do exist, yet at the end of the day, in either instance, it is all about taking care of business. A commonality in each environment is the utility of inclusive awareness.

Many -if not all of us- can easily recall a tactical operating center's enduring governance principle of *who else needs to know*? From early in our careers, we were taught/trained to instinctively ask ourselves this question to ensure everyone who needed to be aware of critical information was "in the know." As our careers have progressed, this concept remained applicable whether in the field, in garrison, on a flag officer's staff, or working on an interagency committee. It is a good way of doing business and should not be pushed aside when conducting the affairs of a non-profit organization.

As ROCKS, our world is VERY similar to many aspects of a military staff. Many of our offices/positions in our organizational hierarchy can easily be regarded as equivalents to the functional staff sections on a G-staff. Subsequently, the value of sharing pertinent information thoroughly and quickly is immeasurable- it is a key component for ultimate success. To this end, we serve our best interests by embracing a way of doing business that

reinforces our leadership team members' interdependency.

To elaborate, there are very few ventures we shall undertake, where involvement from the finance, membership development, mentoring and communication teams will not be involved. If a situation ever arises with the potential that an organizational effort is about to commence without those entities, it makes prudent sense to pump the brakes and bring them into the fold. We endanger our healthy development as a Tier I organization by subconsciously sustaining operating procedures that come across as a clique within a clique. Information must and should be shared to maximize the potential of achieving logical, comprehensive, and meaningful policy & programming from diverse experiences and perspectives.

As the US military drives forward with a more nuanced diversity equity and inclusion (DEI) mindset, we can follow suit and ensure that we adhere to a DEI-type way of doing business that mitigates the emergence and persistence of "functional silos" and selective participation based on personalities. In short, as we move forward, we can accomplish so much more as an organization if we accept the notion that what we do touches upon *many* corners of our organization, and that we shortchange ourselves when we fail to make conscious (and somewhat common sense) decisions to be inclusive and participatory as possible when it comes to program development and execution matters.

So, let us resist inexplicable tendencies to exacerbate moderate differences between non-profit and military operations and make sincere efforts to always remember what we have been taught. When we consistently seek to figure out *who else needs to know*, we are setting ourselves up for matchless success!





Transitioning Leadership Membership Development

By COL Angie Hemingway USA (Ret)

Congratulations to the ROCKS' Chapter Presidents who are transitioning to another phase in your life. Some of you are moving to new military or civilian assignments and some are transitioning as Soldiers for Life. During your transitioning, remember to set the incoming leadership up for success. Provided the National Board with the names and contact information for incoming leadership. Additionally, ensure important historical information has been shared with the incoming leadership and National Board. This prevent a total redo in the event the chapter has to be reestablished. So, what happens if a chapter has to be reestablished or if there is interest in establishing a chapter?

Re-establishing a chapter requires that the POC communicate with the VP, Membership Development about the intent to re-establish the chapter. Chapters must have 10 members who signify they will comply with the requirements to re-establish the chapter. Some of the requirements to re-establish the chapter may include filing/updating the appropriate Nonprofit Corporation paperwork, updating email and permanent addresses, among other requirements to function as a chapter. If chapter leadership has not kept historical documents such as the chapter's EIN,

chapter bylaws, Articles of Incorporation, or the Chapter's Charter, check with the VP, Membership for these documents.

Establishing an interest group requires some work. The POC must be in good standing as an active member of the ROCKS. The POC will write a letter to the VP, Membership Development requesting the National Board of ROCKS, Inc., approve the initiation of the interest group (ten active members required). The goal of the interest group is to move to chapter status. An executive committee is established until officers are elected by membership. With an executive committee in place, the interest group can move to chapter status by obtaining the EIN, the Articles of Incorporation, bylaws, and a budget among other things. Moving from an interest group level to chapter status is not for the faint at heart. Fort Drum, Climb to Glory Chapter of the ROCKS became a chapter on June 16, 2020. Dr. Janis Gravely and her chapter members believe bringing a professional mentorship organization to Fort Drum and being etched in ROCKS' history was a driving factor in standing up their chapter. The Tampa Interest Group and the Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA Interest Group are well on their way to becoming chapters. In my observation, it is the leadership and the drive of the members that determine if an interest group survives. Establishing a chapter is not for the faint of heart.

Thanks, and best of luck to the following outstanding, outgoing Presidents who notified The National Board they were PCSing:

LTC Tamisha Norris - Alamo Chapter, San Antonio, TX; Incoming: LTC Michelle Jefferson

MAJ LaDarrell Willis - All American Chapter, Fort Bragg, NC; Incoming: MAJ Deirdra Johnson

COL LaCher Campbell - MG Charles C. Rogers Chapter, Carlisle Barracks, PA; Incoming: TBD

ILT Serah Ladipo - Fort Polk, LA; Incoming: MAJ Quincy Lamar

LTC (R) Janice Gravely - Fort Drum, NY; Incoming: CPT Gregory S. Hacker

LTC Bernard House - Fort Knox, KY; Incoming: TBD

Thanks for the honor to serve you. I am reachable through the national website at angiehemingway@hotmail.com.



You Can Support The ROCKS, Inc.

- Volunteer to serve on the Leadership Outreach and Cadet Enhancement Team.
- Attend chapter meetings.
- Be accessible and become a mentor.
- Volunteer to address chapters (General and Senior Officers are especially needed).
- Serve as a resource for referrals on branch peculiar and other professional development issues.
- Encourage mentoring/coaching for all officers and set the example.
- Volunteer to lead and/or participate in Committees.
- Donate to our scholarship funds and sponsor a cadet to attend various events.
- Volunteer to provide your expertise and guidance in assisting officer transitioning from military service.
- Volunteer to provide your expertise and guidance in assisting current and transitioning civilian members.
- Become a Corporate sponsor.

ROCKS ON THE RISE

Major General Gaskill Celebrates his 90th Birthday

*By Brigadier General (Retired) Clara L.
Adams-Ender and Colonel (Retired)
Angie Hemingway*



*Group photo of guests attending
MG Gaskill's birthday luncheon*

On August 11, 2021, a special group of guests gathered at the Hilton Garden Inn in Woodbridge, VA for a luncheon in honor of MG Robert Gaskill, Sr., U.S. Army, Retired.

MG Gaskill has been a stalwart supporter of the ROCKS, Inc. MG Gaskin along with his mentor LTG (Retired) Arthur Gregg and friend Colonel (Retired) Fountain Foster often carpool together to monthly DC ROCKS meetings providing tremendous and continuous support to ROTC cadets by inspiring them toward careers in the Armed services. MG Gaskill has served as the DC ROCKS Liaison to the Howard University ROTC program and has been an excellent example to young aspiring officers.

The luncheon was hosted by his children, Robert Jr., Cheryl Foster, Juli Henderson and Vivienne Porter. There were guests who were close friends of General Gaskill gathered at the Hilton and another large contingent of guests attended via Zoom from San Antonio, Texas. The guests enjoyed a tasty meal followed by dessert and coffee. Afterward, the program began with Robert Jr. as master of ceremonies.

He showed photos of family events throughout the lives of the children growing up in many locations around the world. His memory of the places and the jobs that his father was involved in at the time was most impressive. He gave a very moving tribute to his Dad that was heartfelt and compelling. The flow of emotion among the children as they recalled the memories from growing up together also demonstrated the love and respect that they still hold for their father, mother and each other. It was most evident that they are a closely knit family, along with the addition over the years of sons-in-law, daughter-in-law, children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and great grandchildren. We were able to see many of them during the Zoom call.

The 90-year-olds were the super special guests at the luncheon. In addition to General Gaskill, others present were LTG (Ret) Art Gregg, and COL(Ret) and Foster Fountain. Long ago, I learned that there is a distinct pecking order among the older genarians and I was never old enough to speak! We gave them all a standing ovation and felt blessed that they were in attendance.

The birthday cake was served. The guests gladly sang a rousing chorus of "The Birthday Song." The guest of honor was presented with a box of birthday cards from family and friends and some other gifts. General Gaskill got the last word. He gave a marvelous speech about having arrived at the wonderful age of 90, and how blessed he was to have such great family and friends. As we said our goodbyes and farewells, one could observe that "A good time was had by all."



*MG Gaskill and BG Adams-Ender pose together on
his 90th birthday.*

81-Year-Old Retired Army Nurse Is Fighting COVID- 19 By Administering Vaccines

*By COL Lawanda Warthen
Published originally as
a www.army.mil article, May 9, 2021*



*Former ROCKS Chairman and ROCKS Legend
Brigadier General (Retired) Clara Adams Ender
supporting COVID-19 vaccination efforts in
Prince William County, Virginia*

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (May 10, 2021) – At 81 years of age, retired Brigadier General Clara Adams-Ender, the 18th Chief of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, has volunteered to combat COVID-19 by vaccinating her community, bringing individuals one step closer to normalcy. She serves on the frontline at Pediatric Care Northern Virginia, Manassas, Virginia. She is putting her 60-plus years of experience as a nurse, leader, and professional to work to make a difference in people's lives.

When Adams-Ender was on the Board of Medicine in the Richmond, Virginia, area, she and her peers discussed with the Medical Reserve Corps of Virginia the need for a reserve of healthcare professionals consisting of physicians, nurses, dieticians, and other healthcare professions willing to give their time and skills during an emergency situation. The pandemic offered the opportunity to make this vision a reality.

One of the first steps was to pass all the proper protocols and follow the steps to include that licenses were current.

Adams-Ender explained that she believes in the science behind developing a vaccine to address this virus. She has met and communicated with scientists at Johns Hopkins, Baltimore, Maryland, about control studies on the vaccine and whether people of color and “seasoned” adults like herself were part of their control groups. People of color often have reservations about taking the vaccine, she said. So, she has shared information about the studies with people of color, older adults, and people who have questions.

Adams-Ender received the Pfizer vaccine but is also knowledgeable about Moderna and J & J (Janssen) vaccines and is confident that all are safe and effective. When it was her turn to get the vaccine, she gladly rolled up her sleeve, especially given the millions of individuals have succumbed to the virus. She stated that this communicable disease is her priority and she hopes that it is everyone’s priority as everyone wants to get out of the house, see family and friends, and get back to eating out, traveling, and doing enjoyable activities.

Her passion for serving others is all part of her outgoing personality, her love for talking to people, and her concern for others, as evidenced through education. While on active duty, she instituted strategies to recruit and retain military nurses through programs such as the Army Nurse Candidate Program, the Accession Bonus Program, and the introduction of incentive pay to address the critically low numbers of certified registered nurse anesthetists. She also developed the AMEDD Enlisted Commissioning Program and expanded Reserve Officers’ Training Corps scholarships.

In addition, Adams-Ender staunchly defended the notion of the baccalaureate degree as the minimum entry standard for Army nurses. She testified every year before Congress, placed Army Nurse Corps fellows in various Congressional offices, and supported the creation of innovative organizational configurations to enhance hospitals’ efficiency and quality of care. She noted that, since January 2021, about 40% of Americans

have been vaccinated. Each day we get one step closer to herd immunity. She believes that we need to get to 80% because standards can be relaxed for large gatherings, masks, and staying 6- feet apart.

Adams-Ender recommends that any individuals looking for accurate information on COVID-19 and the vaccines use the CDC, public health, and local health department websites. These websites share many frequently asked questions to combat mis- and disinformation. She also highlighted the importance of our service members getting the vaccine as it is important to be ready for deployment at any time. She also encouraged other medical professionals to volunteer in order to give back while shedding the “COVID pounds” by becoming more active.

COL Lawanda Warthen is a fellow ROCK and the AMEDD Public Affair Office Chief.



ROCKS Member Colonel Andrew Gainey Pins his First Star

By MG Byron S. Bagby, USA (Ret)

One May 24, 2021, Colonel Andrew C. Gainey, a native of Columbia, SC, was promoted to Brigadier General. General (Retired) Vincent K. Brooks officiated the ceremony held in front of the 1st Infantry Division Headquarters at Fort Riley, KS. The ceremony was held before family members, friends, mentors, and many leaders from the 1st Infantry Division, including the Division Commanding General, Major General D. A. Sims. General Gainey is currently assigned as the Deputy Commanding General (Maneuver) for the 1st Infantry Division, Big Red One.

Attending this promotion were members of General Gainey’s family: wife, Colonel (Retired) Sophie Gainey; daughters,

Chanele and Princess; mother, Ms. Lucy Gainey; mother-in-law, Ms. Gladys Kelly; sister, Ms. Nichelle Gainey; brother and sister-in-law, Mr. William and Ms. Lourdes Gainey; and uncle, Mr. Clifford Hall.



BG Andy Gainey

This promotion was historic because Brigadier General Gainey and his brother Major General Sean Gainey are the second African American siblings to serve as Generals in the Army. The first pair is General (Retired) Brooks and his brother Brigadier General (Retired) Leo Brooks, Jr.

Also attending the ceremony were ROCKS Life Members Major General (Retired) Byron Bagby and Colonel (Retired) Monique Hale Bagby, and Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Victor Holman, who was General Gainey’s Professor of Military Science at the University of South Carolina.

Upon graduation from the University of South Carolina, General Gainey was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Field Artillery. He served in the 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized) in Bamberg, Germany. He commanded Bravo Battery, 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery, 18th Field Artillery Brigade at Fort Bragg, NC. General Gainey was assigned to PERSCOM as a Field Artillery Captains Assignment Officer and Aide-de-Camp to the PERSCOM Commanding General. General Gainey deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as an Assistant Fire

Support Coordinator in the 82nd Airborne Division. While assigned to the 1st Armored Division, he deployed to Ramadi, Iraq as the S3 of 2nd Battalion, 3rd Field Artillery. After a tour to Human Resources Command as Majors and Lieutenant Colonels Assignment Officer, he commanded 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery, 1st Infantry Division, leading that unit in a deployment to Baghdad, Iraq.



Chanele Gainey, Lourdes Gainey, William Gainey, Nichelle Gainey, GEN (R) Brooks, BG Gainey, COL (R) Gainey, Gladys Kelly, Clifford Hall, Lucy Gainey, and Princess Gainey

General Gainey served as a Military Assistant in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. After commanding the 17th Field Artillery Brigade at Joint Base Lewis-McCord, WA, he was Military Assistant to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, then Executive Officer to the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. He has attended every level of professional military education including the Army Command and General Staff Officers Course and the Marine Corps War College.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit (with one Oak Leaf Cluster); Bronze Star Medal (two Oak Leaf Clusters), Combat Action Badge; Parachutist Badge, Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge and the Army Staff Identification Badge.

Beginning in late June, General Gainey will serve as Commanding General of 1st Infantry Division (Forward) in Poznan, Poland as Atlantic Resolve Division Headquarters, leading a contingent of 6,000 regionally allocated Soldiers. Rotational units conduct bilateral, joint,

and multinational training events across more than a dozen countries. Atlantic Resolve is funded by the European Defense Initiative, which enables the United States to enhance deterrence, increase readiness, and demonstrate its commitment to NATO allies and partners.



GEN (R) Brooks, BG Gainey, and MG (R) Bagby



First Black woman to Command Carthage American Legion

By Lexi Bruening



Dr. Janice M. Gravely is the newly elected commander of the Carthage American Legion Bassett-Baxter Post 789

CARTHAGE, N.Y. (WWNY) - There's a new commander in town and her name is Janice Gravely. On Saturday, she'll be sworn in as head of the Carthage American Legion - the first Black person and woman to receive that honor in the post's 101-year history.

"Nothing is given to you. You have to earn it," said Gravely.

The wall in Carthage American Legion Post 789 is covered with faces of commanders of the past. On Saturday, Gravely's face will join them.

"In small-town Carthage, population less than 3,200, where most people have lived here all their lives, the fact that they're entrusting me as the commander, it's just beyond words," she said.

Janice Gravely will be the first Black person and woman to head the post.

"It epitomizes Martin Luther King's dream, that people judge you based on the content on your character not on the color of your skin," she said.

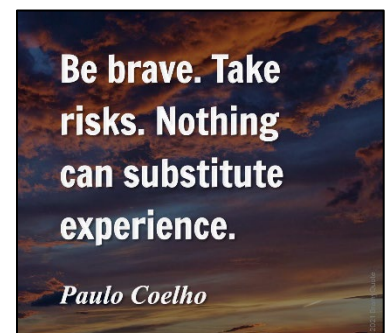
But Gravely says it has never been about color or gender. It's about brother and sisterhood.

"It's not about being Black, White, woman, it's about what you contribute to the organization, what you're willing to do, and people recognize that and they will reward you accordingly," she said.

Gravely served in the Army for 28 years working in cyber defense. After retiring in 2018, she joined the legion. Gravely has worked as a historian and is in the process of writing a book about the legion's past members.

With her new title, she plans to organize community events for the legion to host as COVID restrictions ease.

"Things to let the community know that we are not just a place for people that want to drink. We do do things to support the community," she said.



SOLID ROCK: 41st Signal Battalion Commander Overcomes Challenges Amidst Pandemic

By COL (Ret) Dorene Hurt



LTC Tilisha Lockley, (5th on the 2nd row), with her team in Korea after a R2 Team Building Event. The 5-foot-4 inch tall lieutenant colonel commands the 41st Strategic Signal Battalion in the Republic of Korea (ROK). The 41st Strategic Signal Bn is the largest operational Signal Bn in the U. S. Army (Photo Credit: Marc Ayalim)

Before the thought of joining the U.S. Army ever crossed her mind, LTC. Tilisha Lockley learned to deal with adversity and leading in uncertain environments. When she started college, she was paying out of her own pocket and helping her grandmother, mother, and two sisters make a living around the Outer Banks of northeastern North Carolina. During her junior year of college, Lockley made the decision to join the North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program. The lessons she learned balancing work, going to school, and helping her family continue to inform her as a battalion commander.

Fast-forward decades later, she commands the 41st Strategic Signal Battalion (Bn) in the Republic of Korea (ROK). Her Bn is the Army's largest operational signal Bn. LTC Lockley's responsible for all communications, to include the transport of network circuits, satellite communications, voice and data security for the entire South Korean Peninsula. She commands over 900 Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, Local Nationals, Korean Augmentation to the United States Army (KATUSA) and Contractors dispersed across the Korean Peninsula.

For Lockley, a career signal officer, inheriting an organization of this size came with new challenges. "We faced a new set of challenges commanding a geographically dispersed organization with a small battalion staff in an uncertain environment, supporting the communications requirements of a four-star, three-star, and two-star command," Lockley said.

Lockley attributes her organization's success to the balance of command and control, requirement prioritization and the technical expertise of her entire military and civilian workforce - which ensured that the entire organization had the same strategic understanding and scope of the mission.

Lockley continued to command a bn and provide communication services during the COVID-19 pandemic with her personnel working remotely and 40% of her workforce (over 2,000 years of collective service within the bn) being furloughed and not allowed to work until a new Special Measures Agreement was signed. "This is by-far, the most challenging mission I have encountered since being in the Army," Lockley said.

She and her team overcame challenges by balancing the safety and health of older individuals, mission and emergency essential workforce, and ensuring the network was sustained for warfighter support. Despite these challenges, Lockley and her reduced workforce still accomplished the mission during COVID-19 operations. Lockley attributes mission accomplishment to amazing leadership and teamwork from every member of the organization and by building trust with the workforce early on. Recently selected, to the rank of colonel she will soon become the Military Assistant to the Secretary of the Army in the Pentagon. In retrospect, an Army career was not something Lockley saw herself doing, even though she came from a military family.

Lockley is the second of three daughters, born to a single mother. She and her older sister grew up living mostly with her grandparents. Her great grandfather,

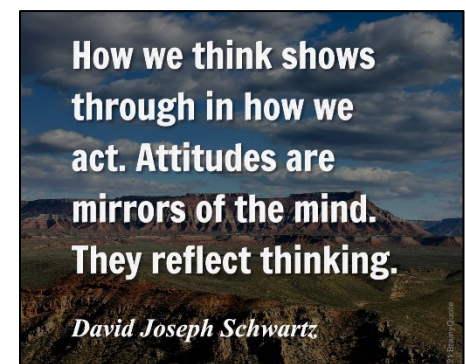
grandfather, and uncles all served in the military. Though she admired the uniform and even found curiosity in what her uncles did during Operation Desert Storm, she still did not think joining the military was in her future.



LTC Tilisha Lockley

"Growing up, life was about the essentials and not luxuries, things like food and clothes, which is why my sister and I lived with our grandparents," Lockley said. "We were poor and I just didn't want to struggle and I wanted to go to college and take care of myself, my family, my grandmother and my mother who took care of me." As Lockley departs for her new position, she proudly reflects on her assignment in Korea.

(Please note: Original article by Marc Ayalin June 10, 2021(Edited Article and photo source: https://www.army.mil/article/247419/41st_signal_battalion_commander_overcomes_challenges_amidst_pandemic)



**THE ROCKS, INC.
ACTIVE CHAPTERS
As of July 2, 2021**

Alamo Chapter

San Antonio, TX

LTC Tamisha Norris, USA
tamishanorris@gmail.com

All American Chapter

Fort Bragg, NC

MAJ Deirdra Johnson, USA
abnrocks1@gmail.com

Aloha Chapter of the ROCKS

Oahu, HI

MAJ Tamara DaSilva, USA
aloharockschapter@gmail.com

Buffalo Soldier Chapter

Fort Leavenworth, KS

LTC Michael Sturdivant, USA
bscrocksteamftlvn@gmail.com

Central Virginia Chapter

Fort Lee, VA

LTC Daphne Dixon-Reed, USA
cvcrocksinc@gmail.com

Climb to Glory Chapter

Fort Drum, NY

LTC Janice Gravely, USA
gijanrocks@gmail.com

El Paso ROCKS Chapter

Fort Bliss, TX

MAJ Michelle Cutts
mcutts1984@gmail.com

Gator ROCKS

Fort Polk, LA

1LT Serah Ladipo, USA
serah.t.ladipo.mil@mail.mil

Gold Vault ROCKS

Fort Knox, KY

LTC Bernard House, USA
Bernard_house@yahoo.com

Hampton Roads, VA

LTC Joseph Harris, USA

Jahj1911@gmail.com;
tcmoney@cox.net

Morning Calm, Korea

MAJ Nina Copeland, USA

morningcalmrocks@gmail.com

MG Charles C. Rogers Chapter

Carlisle Barracks, PA

COL LaCher Campbell, USA
chertnt2017@gmail.com

Patriot ROCKS

GA National Guard

Forsyth, GA

LTC Alicia Smith, USA
Smith_hd@comcast.net

Phantom Warrior ROCKS

Fort Hood, TX

CPT Herman Lockhart, USA
hclockhart@gmail.com

Screaming Eagles

Fort Campbell, KY

MAJ Samatha Agee, USA
sagee2013@gmail.com

The Henry O. Flipper Chapter

West Point, NY

LTC Winston Williams, USA
winston.williams@usma.edu

Washington, DC ROCKS

LTC Leon Rogers, USA

llrmba2@gmail.com

