

*Peace on Earth*  
*Froehliche Weihnachten*  
*Feliz Navidad*  
*Joyeux Noël*  
*Buon Natale*

**THE ROCKET**

*Winter 2015*

*Happy Holidays*





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### CURRENT MISSION

The mission of The ROCKS, Inc. is to strengthen the Officer and Senior Civilian Corps by serving as a world class organization that provides and promotes mentorship, coaching, scholarship, networking, leader diversity and professional development to maximize the use of talent and promote opportunities across the U.S. Armed Forces.

### STRATEGIC VISION

To be the premier mentoring, professional development, and networking organization to strengthen the U.S. Armed Forces Officer and Senior Civilian Corps (GS12 and above).

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- ❖ Meet the Grambling ROTC PMS
- ❖ ROCKS Board member promoted to the SES

### ROCKET STAFF

*Editor: COL Dorene Hurt USA (Ret.)*  
*Assistant Editor: COL Karen M. Wrancher USA*  
*Design & Layout: WSC Associates, LLP*





## Vice Chairman's Message



On behalf of our ROCKS National Chairman, BG (RET) Earl Simms Happy Holidays and warm greetings for the season! We hope that you will carve out time during this busy time of the year to spend quality time with family and friends.

This time of the year is also a good time to reflect upon why the Rocks, Inc. has existed for over 4 decades, and how we are helping to add value to the lives of our members and the communities we serve. As we move into 2016, we would like everyone to NEVER forget that our sole purpose is to support you, our members, in your journey of personal and professional development to ultimately, strengthen our officer and senior civilian Corps. Our Founding members were keenly aware of the fact that the US Army would be best served by a talented, competent, and diverse group of leaders at all levels. The ROCKS, Inc. is open to ALL eligible officers and senior civilians (GS 12 and above, regardless of creed, color or gender.

We are counting on you to help us internalize our unwavering commitment to Mentoring and Coaching throughout our organization. Although Coaching is clearly important, mentoring and professional development are the cornerstones and "center of gravity" for our organization. We must provide ongoing mentoring to the current and next generation of military and civilian leaders beginning in ROTC, OCS, or the Military Academies.

Given our volatile, complex world and the associated challenges that leaders must face, tough tasks lie ahead in dealing with issues and on and off the battlefield. Achieving ones personal and professional goals are more realistically attainable with a solid foundation of support. We always encourage you to submit suggestions and feedback that will improve the ROCKS, INC.

This is also the time of year that the ROCKS encourage Cadets to apply for scholarships. The ROCKS, Inc. will assist interested high school students in applying for Army ROTC Scholarships through Cadet Command. Additionally, at least \$20,000.00 in scholarships and stipends will be awarded in the Spring of 2016. Details are in this issue.

Membership is what sustains this organization. In order to accomplish our goals, we are counting on you to keep your financial membership status current at both the National and Local levels.

The proper use of social media can be a powerful communications tool for us. Please LIKE us (The ROCKS, Inc.) on FaceBook and visit our website at [www.therocksinc.org](http://www.therocksinc.org).

We urge you to plan now to attend our Biennial Leadership and Training Conference (April 21- 23, 2016) and the 42nd Annual ROCKS Spring Gala and Awards Ceremony (April 23, 2016). Both will occur at the Sheraton Pentagon City Hotel. The last two Annual Spring Galas sold out days in advance.

Stay safe in your travels doing this holiday season and during the winter months. Please keep our Service members and Civilians in harm's way and their families in your Prayers.

Sadly, we extend sincere condolences to BG Simms on the recent passing of his daughter and MG ( Ret) Nabors in the loss of his wife of 47 years, Valerie.

On behalf of BG Simms, and the National Board of The ROCKS, Inc. we wish you a Merry Christmas! Thank you all for what you do THROUGHOUT the year.

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

Colonel Conrado B. Morgan USA (Ret.)  
Vice Chairman  
The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc.



### WIN A FREE HOTEL STAY DURING THE CONFERENCE & GALA

**Register by 15 January 2016**

**The ROCKS, Inc.**

2016 Biennial Leadership & Training Conference  
April 21-23, 2016

42nd Annual Spring Gala & Awards Ceremony  
April 23, 2016

Register Today at [www.rocksync.org](http://www.rocksync.org)

## TOP STORIES

### Promotion for MG Najda West

It was announced this month that MG West's nomination for her third star and appointment as the Army Surgeon General and MEDCOM Commander was approved by Congress.

MG West will be the first African American to serve as Surgeon General /MEDCOM Commander, and first African American woman to attain LTG in the Army.



*Major General Nadja Y. West, COL (RET) Don West, & their children, Sydney and Logan West*



### HONORARY ROCK OF THE YEAR

**Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho**

**Relinquishes command of the U. S. Army Medical Command**

*Submitted by Mr. Kirk Frady (Army Medicine)*

FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS (Dec. 3, 2015) -- Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho passed the flag to Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Daniel Allyn during a ceremony at Fort Sam Houston today marking the end of her tenure as the Army's 43rd Surgeon General. Horoho assumed command of the United States Army Medical Command on Dec 5, 2011 and was sworn in as the 43rd Army Surgeon General on Dec. 7, 2011. She was the first female and first nurse to command the Army's largest medical organization.

During her remarks, Lt. Gen. Horoho said, "The men and women in formation today represent our remarkable command

and are a credit to our nation. Army Medicine is blessed to have such exceptional commanders, senior enlisted advisors and staffs." She added, "Thank you for your service and sacrifice, and most of all, for ensuring the readiness of the young men and women we send into harm's way in the name of democracy and freedom."



*Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho passes the flag to Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Daniel Allyn during the Relinquishment of Command Ceremony at Fort Sam Houston, Texas on Dec 3rd.*

Horoho added, "These past four years for me have been a continuation of the lessons I've learned as a Soldier and about trusting the values instilled in me from the day I took my oath of office - loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. The past four years were not about being the first of anything, but about only being the next Soldier called up.

She concluded by saying, "We're successful because we're American Soldiers and Department of Army Civilians, we're warriors and members of a team, we live the Army values, we place the mission first, we never accept defeat, we never leave a fallen comrade behind, we are experts and we're professionals, we are American Soldiers. Together, we have served to heal and have been honored to serve."

As Gen. Allyn reflected on Lt. Gen. Horoho's service, he commented, "Like so many other leaders in our Army today, Patty Horoho comes from a great lineage of service to our nation. Over three generations, the Horoho and Dallas families



have given a combined one-hundred and sixty-eight years of collective service to our nation."

He added, "She did this all with tremendous enthusiasm, vision and compassion. She provided continuously inspiring leadership to Army Medical Command. Throughout her tenure, Patty drove cultural change to shift Army Medicine from a disease focused, reactive healthcare system to a proactive program focused on sustaining Soldier health. She led the effort to make The Army Medical Department a high reliability organization enhancing the trust and confidence of our Soldiers, Retirees and Families."



*Gen Allyn and Lt. Gen Horoho render honors during her Relinquishment of command ceremony at Ft Sam Houston, Texas on Dec 3, 2015*

Horoho held every level of leadership in Army Medicine to include positions as Deputy Surgeon General; Chief of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps; Commander, Western Regional Medical Command; Commander, Madigan Army Medical Center; Commander, Walter Reed Health Care System and Commander, DeWitt Health Care Network; and as the Special Assistant to the Commander, International Security Assistance Force Joint Command, Afghanistan.

She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received her Master of Science degree as a Clinical Trauma Nurse Specialist from the University of Pittsburgh. She is a resident graduate of the Army's Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, where she earned a second Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy. The U.S. Army Medical Command is one of 11 direct reporting units in the Army. It manages a budget of more than \$12.8 billion budget and provides medical care for approximately 3.95 million eligible beneficiary's worldwide -- active duty service members, retirees, and their family members. The command also oversees graduate medical education, health

professional education, medical research and training of all combat medics.

Maj. Gen. Stephen L. Jones, will serve as the acting commander and Army Surgeon General until the new Army Surgeon General is confirmed by the Senate. Jones is currently Commanding General of the Army Medical Department Center and School.



## **Members of Congress Make Historic Visit to Detroit Arsenal**

*Submitted by Rae Higgins,  
U.S. Army TACOM LCMC Public Affairs*

WARREN, Mich. (Sept. 10, 2015) -- In a first-ever initiative of its kind, seven members of the 16-member Michigan Congressional Delegation visited the U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command (LCMC) Sept. 2 on its tour of Michigan's military installations.

TACOM LCMC is commanded by Maj. Gen. Gwen Bingham, and is located here at the Detroit Arsenal, the only active-duty Army installation in the tri-state area (Michigan, Ohio and Indiana.)

The bipartisan delegation included U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, U.S. Reps. Sander Levin, Fred Upton, Candice Miller, Dan Benishek, Bill Huizenga and Debbie Dingell, as well as members of each legislator's staff. Additionally, several members of the Army-Southeast Michigan Advisory Council joined the delegation.

"It's important for everyone, from members of Congress to residents across the state, to understand how our partners ... provide thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in procurement for Michigan businesses while playing a central role in protecting our military in the field," said Tammy Carnrike, Chief Operating Officer, Detroit Regional Chamber, and member of the Advisory Council. The council was formed last year and currently includes 12 members. It serves as a community champion for the TACOM LCMC by increasing support for the Army's efforts.

Stabenow is the force behind the unprecedented tour. Michigan's senior senator was elected in 2000 and is the ranking member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, as well as a member of the Energy, Finance and Budget Committees.

"Our delegation continues to work together on areas where we all have common interests, like supporting Michigan's military installations and missions vital to our nation's security," said

Stabenow. "This bipartisan tour gave members a unique opportunity to say 'thank you' to the outstanding men and women who serve us in defense of our country while learning about Michigan's impressive defense assets.

"We also recommitted ourselves to continue partnering to protect our current missions and identify new opportunities that will create jobs," the senator emphasized.



*Maj. Gen. Gwen Bingham, U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command commanding general, and U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) get set for a Stryker ride. (U.S. Army photo by Greg Pici)*

The visitors arrived via CH-47 Chinook helicopters by way of nearby Selfridge Air National Guard Base. Maj. Gen. Gwen Bingham, along with her LCMC executive teammates, welcomed the guests and provided an overview of the LCMC during a working lunch.

A global enterprise with 19,000 acquisition, logistics, contracting and technology professionals, the LCMC's mission is to develop, acquire, equip and sustain the world's most capable military ground and support systems. Approximately 7,500 are employed here.

Maj. Gen. Bingham explained the TACOM LCMC team focuses on Soldier and ground systems for the Army as well as the Joint forces. The delegation spent the day learning about TACOM's relevance to the Army, the Department of Defense, the state of Michigan and the nation.

"This team of teams researches, develops, manages, fields and sustains the vast majority of the equipment our Warfighters use," she said. "In fact, we are responsible for 65 percent of the equipment in an Army Brigade Combat Team.

"If a Soldier eats it, wears it, shoots it or drives it, TACOM LCMC provides or sustains it," she emphasized.

Indeed, the magnitude of the installation's importance spans five continents, encompasses approximately 500 acquisition

programs valued at roughly \$30 billion, and includes 3,200 product lines with 38,000 military equipment components.

Citing the Stryker Double-V Hull (DVH) program as just one example of how the team works together to support the Warfighter, the legislators learned about each element's respective roles in developing, producing, fielding and sustaining Stryker DVHs, and how Congress, the Defense Department, Headquarters, Department of the Army and industry support the effort.

The members of Congress then boarded Strykers for a trip across post. "Riding across the arsenal in a Stryker Double V-Hull platform not only gave each visitor the true feel of one of the Army's combat platforms, but it served as a key illustrator of the 'Team of Teams' working relationship we have here at the Detroit Arsenal," said Brig. Gen. David Bassett, program executive officer for Ground Combat Systems.

"It is a solid example of the successful coordination and cooperation between industry and defense that resulted in the rapid design, test, procurement and fielding of a much improved Stryker vehicle that has saved numerous Soldiers lives," he explained. "That kind of team approach will, no doubt, continue to be essential as the Army relies on our ability to maintain dominance and overmatch on the unpredictable battlefields of today and the future."

The visitors dismounted the vehicles to check out research and development capabilities organic to the installation. They learned about work underway on autonomous vehicles, power and energy, and Soldier survivability.

"TARDEC's engineers and scientists take great pride in bringing the most advanced, responsive and innovative capabilities to the Warfighter," said Tank-Automotive Research, Development and Engineering Center Director Dr. Paul Rogers. "We were honored to share those efforts with Michigan's Congressional Delegation to show them the impact our associates and collaborative partners make here in the state and to the Army."

Taking Strykers again across post to a high bay area, the members and their staffers met with subject matter experts manning equipment displays ranging from small arms and Soldier protective gear to combat and tactical vehicles.

There, the visitors also learned more about important acquisition efforts aimed at providing Soldiers significantly enhanced capability. Scott J. Davis, program executive officer for Combat Support and Combat Service Support, briefed the contingent on some of the systems in his portfolio. "Today represents a wonderful opportunity for the Army Acquisition Corps to showcase how their talents and teammates shape critical capabilities for America's Soldiers and value for America's taxpayers," he said.



"It was a privilege for them to meet our hardworking teammates and to see the future-focused systems we are actively moving into Soldiers' hands, like our new Joint Light Tactical Vehicle," Davis added.

The visitors concluded their visit with a media engagement. The media opportunity was designed for the members of Congress to share what they learned about the organization's importance to national security.

(Editor's notes: PEO CS&CSS, PEO GCS, U.S. Army Garrison – Detroit Arsenal and TARDEC Public Affairs contributed to this report. This story is reprinted from army.mil)



## Bison Battalion Host Second Annual General Officer Leadership Forum

*Submitted by Cadet Jacob Bennett, MSIV  
Howard University Army ROTC*



*Eleven General Officers serve as panel members, and are engaged in questions and discussions at the Senior Leader Mentorship Forum.*

For the second consecutive year, Howard University hosted the Army ROTC Senior Leadership Mentor Forum. More than 300 Cadets from Howard University, Morgan State University, Bowie State University, Hampton University, Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University, Georgetown University, George Mason Army ROTC programs along with JROTC Cadets from a local area high schools were in attendance for this momentous event. As a Cadet in Howard University's ROTC program, I take pride in being a part of this pivotal event. I say pivotal because being a Cadet in the program that is responsible for hosting an event where some of the highest-ranking officers in the Army shows the impact that the Bison Battalion is having across the nation. For the second year in a row, this event was a huge success and brought national

exposure to our program that highlighted our efforts of becoming one of the top ROTC programs in the nation.



*MG Alexander (Retired), BG Simms (Retired) and LTG Ferrell at the Senior Leader Mentorship Forum.*

One of the best moments of the day occurred before the forum even took place, while all of the Generals and visiting ROTC programs were arriving at our university to start the panel and we opened up with an ice-breaker event in the lobby of Cramton Auditorium. This was probably the most memorable and most impactful part of the event to me because it gave hundreds of Cadets, including myself, the opportunity to talk to officers like Major General Peggy Combs (Commanding General of US Army Cadet Command), Lieutenant General Robert Ferrell (The Army CIO/G-6), Lieutenant General Thomas Bostick (Army Chief of Engineers/Commanding General U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), Lieutenant General Gary Cheek (Director of the Army Staff) and many other successful officers on a one-on-one basis. The reason this is so important is because it gives young Cadets like myself the opportunity to gain insight and professional development on a more personal level in the span of thirty minutes to an hour. There's no other place that will afford you the opportunity such as the one that was provided to us, to talk to the Army's senior leadership and build relationships to help shape one's future. It's truly amazing how I was able to be a part of this event because usually you would have to pay to go to an event of this magnitude. However, Howard's Army ROTC program provided hundreds of Cadets from nearby states the opportunity of a lifetime. It's moments like those that will resonate with me as a Cadet because it serves as motivation to see where I want to be in the future as a successful Army officer.

After the icebreaker we all moved upstairs to conduct the forum, where the eleven General Officer panel members discussed their viewpoints and opinions on certain issues within the Army that can affect the future of our young men and women leaders. They also discussed their reflections on their careers as officers in the Army their individual journey to where they are today. Once the panel discussions were complete, the floor was opened for Cadet questions. This was actually exciting for me because I was able to inquire about topics I

wanted to gain knowledge about as far as my future in the Army and who better to ask than a three-star General! My questions were “What has been the most challenging aspect of your career? And what advice would you offer to overcome those challenges?” I received a lot of great feedback from this question and most of the responses from the panel were about persevering and knowing that when things get tough, one to the left and right of you are going through the same things and the only way to make it through is to lean on your battle-buddy and push them along as well. This stuck out to me because it caused me to realize how much of a team effort the Army truly is. I realize there are times when I don’t want to do something because it’s difficult, but if I am on a team, then I know that my teammates are going through hard times too. So this just means that I have to motivate my buddy and push them through, which in turn will motivate me and help me get through the tough times too.



*LTG Ferrell (Army G6/CIO) awards ARCOM to LTC Lyons (PMS, Howard University) for his efforts in conducting 2nd Consecutive Senior Leader Mentorship Panel at Howard University.*



*LTG Robert Ferrell (Chief Information Officer/G-6), speaks with Cadet Bridget Moreira from Howard University Bison Battalion.*

As a cadet I can say that I beneficated immensely from the Senior Leadership Mentor Forum this year. Not only was I able to receive great intellect from successful officers, but I was also able to build relationships and receive business cards along the

way to help build connections for the future. Howard University’s ROTC program continues to make great strides towards excellence and I believe that this forum demonstrated that. The amount of planning and execution it took from our Cadre and Cadets speaks great volumes to what our program is doing not only for our Cadets, but also for Cadets across the nation. Events like these are what will stick with me and motivate me through my career as an officer to be as successful as I can be so that I can impact a young man or woman’s life just as I was impacted.



*Howard University Army ROTC Cadets speak with General Officers during a one-on-one discussion at the icebreaker session.*



## Fun Christmas Facts

- ✚ Christmas carols began as an old English custom called “wassailing,” in which one would toast their neighbors to a long life. So when you sing Christmas carols, you’re bringing joy AND wishing good health to everyone you come across!
- ✚ In 1836 Alabama became the first state in the US to declare Christmas a legal holiday.
- ✚ It is said that candy canes were invented by a candy maker in Indiana. He wanted to use them to spread the name Jesus around the world.
- ✚ The popular Christmas song “Jingle Bells” was actually written for Thanksgiving. The song was composed in 1857 by James Pierpont, and was originally called “One Horse Open Sleigh”.
- ✚ Franklin Pierce was the first president to decorate an official White House Christmas tree.



## Chiles is Speaker at Veterans Day Programs

*Submitted by CW4® Farrell J. Chiles*

CW4 (Ret) Farrell J. Chiles partnered with Inter Valley Health Plan to honor Veterans at three of their locations in Southern California in the cities of Banning, Covina, and Victorville. Inter Valley Health Plan is a not-for-profit, Medicare Advantage health plan, providing health insurance products throughout Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Orange Counties.

In addition to speaking on the theme of Veterans Day, the program included the showing of a 31 minute interview that Chiles did for the Veterans History Project. The interview is on YouTube at: <http://youtu.be/geS9Ds71yhu>.

CW4 (Ret) Chiles is a frequent contributor to the ROCKET and the author of the book, “African American Warrant Officers...In Service to Our Country”.



*CW4 (Ret) Farrell J. Chiles speaking at Veterans Day Event in Covina, CA.*

## Why ROCKS?

*Submitted by LTC Kay Linda Emerson*

On a moonlit night in Camp Victory, Iraq, LTC Kay Emerson attended her first ROCKS meeting. The discussion topic was the Inspector General and Equal Opportunity Programs. As an individual augmentee, she deployed from Patrick Air Force Base where she was assigned as the Chief of the Senior Leader Training team at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute. LTC Emerson attended the meeting with the prospect of learning something, or sharing her experience. Then Colonel, now Major General, Barrye Price, the Multi-National Force Iraq J1-4-8 Director, was in attendance. The atmosphere was welcoming with non-attributional discussion.



*DC ROCKS LTC Emerson and MAJ Lea Dickson with original Tuskegee Airman, Major Anderson, at 2015 BEYA Stars and Stripes Dinner.*

When she redeployed, LTC Emerson reported to the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York. There she sought membership in the National ROCKS, Inc. organization. West Point has the Henry O. Flipper Chapter of the ROCKS and they added her to the email list. The chapter engaged in discussions on tough topics, mentored members, conducted service projects, and presented scholarships for college-bound students.

In 2013, then Brigadier General Price by-name selected LTC Emerson to serve as the Chief of Army Equal Opportunity Policy. Upon reporting to the Military District of Washington, she became a member of the DC ROCKS chapter. She found the DC chapter meetings were professionally and personally educational. LTC Emerson became endeared to the seasoned ROCKS whose retirements preceded her date of birth as well as the Howard University ROTC Cadets.

LTC Emerson volunteers at DC ROCKS events, celebrates ROCKS' promotions and retirements, and supports the chapter's outreach events, like mentoring sessions and Black Engineer of the Year Award (BEYA). It was at a BEYA Stars and Stripes Dinner, that she was asked, “why ROCKS?” She

answered sincerely, “I am a member because ROCKS is an organization that does what it says it does: mentors, supports, and serves.”



*LTC Emerson and LTC Jack Emerson at St. Barbara's Day Ball*

Her advice to chapters is to welcome potential members and call them by name. Welcome all as family. Her advice to those considering membership is to read the by-laws---don't just pay your dues---and get involved. ROCKS, Inc. is about maximizing the potential of others through mentorship, scholarship, networking, professional development, and fellowship. This is a living mission. By exercising the mind, body, and spirit of all of its members, ROCKS develops the leadership our Nation.

LTC Emerson's membership in ROCKS provides an outlet to share her 25 years of experience as an Adjutant General's Corps officer, an Army equity and diversity professional, a comptroller, and a dual-military spouse. ROCKS membership is important to LTC Emerson because it helps her connect to future Soldiers and Soldiers currently serving in units. ROCKS provides a nexus between those who are living history and history in the making.



### **News from (Y)our Membership Development Team**

*By COL Eric P. Flowers, USA*

As we embark on a new calendar year, it's customary for folks to speak of such things as resolutions, goals and/or objectives. This invariably holds true for organizations as well. Subsequently, since The ROCKS primarily operates on a

calendar year, it makes sense, in this version of the ROCKET, to expose members to some food for thought that re-energizes our core members and makes earnest overtures to our peripheral membership. An effective way to do that may be by expounding on the virtues of one's participation in ROCKS and what active, consistent participation does not only for the individual but, more importantly, for our profession as well.

From the perspective of an individual, The ROCKS serves as a test bed for personal leadership development. Through involvement in various committees and/or elected and appointed positions, an individual is able to refine one's interpersonal skills as well as one's project management-related competencies. The symbiotic relationship between what we do in our respective “work” assignments and the opportunities ROCKS affords us is enriching. What we utilize on our jobs, in many instances, is applicable to the responsibilities we embrace via our active ROCKS participation; and, the manner in which we fulfill our ROCKS duties has the ability to sharpen our on-the-job skillsets, regardless our respective functional area. Active participation in ROCKS hones (or should hone) one's professionalism, which, in turn, adds value to our national security.

By independently increasing one's professionalism, via activities and projects entailing planning, budgeting, execution, assessments and mentoring, we collectively advance the best interests of our profession of arms. Through ROCKS we learn what it takes to: run organizations; to develop the cadre of current leaders, and; to create a bench that will effectively sustain our profession's future. Participation in the organization does have personal rewards- as briefly alluded to earlier- but it's more about what it does from a BIG PICTURE perspective. At the macro level, active participation in ROCKS is about investing in the future of the Army and its mission. For the sake of the Nation, our Army must stay strong and that strength is not just attained by what we do in our respective assignments. It is achieved by those extra things we do... when the boss is not looking (or even around)... when we do things for which there is no compensation... and/or when

In short, the opportunities for active involvement in ROCKS simply represent the right thing to do for those in this profession. Active involvement personifies those 3Cs of commitment, compassion and concern that are indicative of a professional who is intimately involved with the preservation of American lives and the advancement of American values. As we enter into this new calendar year, please be mindful that your local ROCKS chapter needs your involvement and that is never too late to change an “I've been meaning to get more involved,” to “I've finally got more involved.” Let 2016 be that year of change!

I'll see you all in the trenches of ROCKS activities, and until our paths cross, please remember to...

***Be THE standard!!!***



## **Request for Nominations** **ROCK of the Year & Honorary ROCK of the Year**



*BG Simms, Chairman of the ROCKS, Inc. presents the 2014 ROCK of the Year award to GEN Vincent Brooks*

We are now accepting nominations for ROCK and Honorary ROCK of the Year. The deadline for nominations is **Monday, January 4, 2016 (no exceptions)**. Nominations must be submitted by a previous ROCK of the Year awardee or an active ROCKS Chapter.

The ROCK of the Year Award nominee is a member of the ROCKS who has made great contributions to the ROCKS, the Armed Services and the communities in which he or she served.

The Honorary ROCK of the Year is presented to an individual who has supported ROCKS members in their careers and advanced the goals of The ROCKS, Inc. to strengthen the military officer corps.

Narratives for nominations should be no more than 1 ½ pages. Nomination packets must be submitted to The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc., Attention: ROCK of the Year Committee, c/o WSC Associates, PO Box 47435, Forestville, MD 20753 or by email to [therocks@aol.com](mailto:therocks@aol.com).

Packets must arrive at ROCKS National Headquarters by **Friday, January 15, 2016**.

Should you have any questions, please contact the ROCKS office at 301-856-9319 or [therocks@aol.com](mailto:therocks@aol.com).

Arthur Gregg  
LTG USA (Ret)  
Chair, 2016 ROCK of the Year Committee

Never be afraid to fall apart because it is an opportunity to  
rebuild yourself the way you wish you had been all along.  
Rae Smith

## **Request for Nominations** **Colonel Robert B. Burke Award**



*BG Simms, Chairman of The ROCKS, Inc. presents the 2014 Colonel Robert B. Burke Award to LTC Clydea Prichard-Brown*

The Colonel Robert B. Burke Award Committee is seeking nominees for the 2016 Colonel Robert B. Burke Award. Nominations must be submitted by a previous Robert B. Burke awardee or an active ROCKS Chapter.

The award is bestowed upon members of The ROCKS, Incorporated whose contributions and achievement to the organization exemplifies the traits and characters embodied in the service of the late Colonel (Retired) Robert "Bobby" B. Burke. Colonel Burke served for 22 years before retiring at the rank of Colonel. He was a bright, affable person with an ever-present smile on his face, and he had an infectious personality that made people want to be in his company. If a problem needed solving, Colonel Burke always seemed to have a solution. Whenever someone needed help, be it concerning a job, friendly advice, or whatever, he was always there to lend a hand. He served as the catalyst, initiator, ultimate support pillar, and the inspiration to make the right things happen for the greater good.

Chapter nominations must be submitted no later than **Monday, January 15, 2016 (no exceptions)**. Nomination packets must be submitted to The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc., Attention: Colonel Robert B. Burke Award Committee, c/o WSC Associates, PO Box 47435, Forestville, MD 20753 or by email to [therocks@aol.com](mailto:therocks@aol.com).

Natasha S. Clarke  
MAJ, USA  
Chair, 2016 Robert B. Burke Committee

## **ROCKS ON THE MOVE**

### **Morgan State University Alumni Brigadier General Dingle Joins List of Morgan Army Generals**

*Submitted by COL Dorene Hurt USA Ret.*

On Thursday, Sept 3, 2015, Morgan State alum Raymond Scott Dingle was promoted to Brigadier General at Fort Myer, Virginia, making him the 16th General Officer to graduate from Morgan State University.

General Dingle, who is originally from Prince George's County, has served almost 30 years in the U. S. Army since his graduation from Morgan State in 1988. His overseas assignments include tours in Iraq, Afghanistan and, most recently, a command post in Germany.



*LTG Patricia Horoho (The 43rd Army Surgeon General) and Mr. Raymond Dingle (BG Dingle's Dad) promoting BG Dingle.*

Originally, General Dingle had no plans on serving in any branch of the armed forces. Growing up, he said his father, who served in the Air Force for 20 years and the Capital Police for another 20, would tell him, "You're going to West Point." Also a stellar athlete on the track and football field, General Dingle was recruited by Syracuse and Virginia Military Institute as his high school career came to a close.

He would eventually opt for Morgan State to the dismay of his father, but said "I made a promise to my dad and said let me go where I want to go and I promise I'll take ROTC."

However, the road to commissioning as a 2nd Lieutenant was not graceful for General Dingle. Even after signing up for ROTC, he wanted no part of the program. "I tried to do everything to get kicked out of ROTC," said General Dingle.

By the time General Dingle began to embrace his commitment to the Army, he was presented with a career shifting decision after his now wife Sonja became pregnant with their first child. He scratched his original plans of being a professional football player and an Army Reservist. With the help of his Professor of Military Science, he completed ROTC became an Active Duty Medical Service Corps upon commissioning. Brigadier General R. Scott Dingle is the first AME itinerant elder to be promoted to the rank of brigadier general in the United States Army.

Outside of his household, General Dingle cited his PMS as well as one of his former football coaches Vietnam veteran and Silver Star recipient Retired Colonel George Forest, as two pivotal collegiate influences that recognized his potential to get to his current status early on. "He had all the skills necessary," said Forest. "I was very impressed with him."

"I'm proud of him," said his father Raymond, who has only missed one promotion ceremony in General Dingle's career. "[The Army] made him a better man." Forest added, "Morgan was a springboard for a lot of people, but the Army helped mature [him] and helped him develop into the general officer that he is."

Brigadier General R. Scott Dingle holds a Master of Science degree in Administration from Central Michigan University, a Master of Military Arts and Science from the School of Advanced Military Studies and a Master of Science degree in National Security Strategy from the National War College.

In addition to the military and clergy persons who attended the ceremony was a large contingent of the brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Brigadier W. Scott Dingle is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.



*A few of the general officers and SESs take group photo with BG Dingle.*





## ROCKS Inc. Board Member Promoted to the Senior Executive Service



The National Board is excited to announce that longtime ROCKS Inc. National Board member, Diedre L. Windsor, has been promoted to the Senior Executive Service (SES) with the Department of Justice (DOJ), Executive Office for the United States Trustees (EOUST), U.S. Trustee Program (USTP) as the Deputy Director for Management.

In this new role Diedre is responsible for guiding and directing the USTP's mission support operations and services through Assistant Directors and a Chief Information Officer. Additionally, the role charges her with ensuring compliance with policies established by the Executive Office for U.S. Trustees and the Department of Justice. The position provides direction to U.S. Trustees in the areas of human capital management, budget planning and execution, acquisition, facilities management, personnel and physical security, information technology, workforce development, and planning and evaluation.

Major (Retired) Diedre L. Windsor, a native of Detroit, Michigan, enlisted in the United States Army as a Finance Specialist in 1986. Upon completion of basic training and AIT, she served two years in Neu Ulm, Germany and three years at Fort Bragg with the elite 82nd Airborne Division.

After her promotion to the rank of Staff Sergeant, Diedre applied for and was awarded an Army Green to Gold Scholarship. She graduated from Methodist University in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and was commissioned a Regular Army Air Defense Artillery Officer.

As a commissioned officer, Diedre's assignments spanned from Fort Bliss Texas to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. A product of the Army's Branch Detail Program, Diedre later transferred to the Adjutant General Corps and served in a myriad of assignments

to include Assistant Brigade S1, 1st Recruiting Brigade, Fort Meade, Maryland and Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 19<sup>th</sup> Theater Support Command, Kunsan, South Korea.

Diedre is a graduate of the Air Defense Artillery Officer Basic Course, Adjutant General Corps Advanced Course, Combined Arms Service and Staff School and Command and General Staff College. She holds a Master's Degree from Webster University in Human Resource Management.

Her awards and decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal (2OCL), Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge and the Parachutist and Air Assault Badges.

Major (Retired) Windsor resides in Chevy Chase, Maryland with her family.



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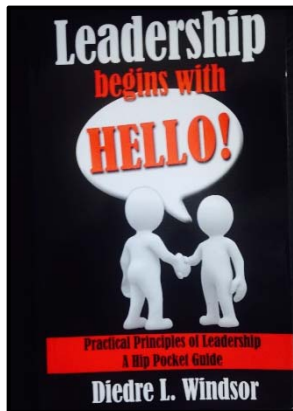
## Chiles Received Certificate of Recognition

*Submitted by CW4(R) Farrell J. Chiles*

ROCK Life Member CW4 (Ret) Farrell J. Chiles received a Certificate of Recognition for his service in Vietnam on Veterans Day at the Orange County (CA) Fair Grounds. The Department of Defense in conjunction Veterans + Labor presented all Vietnam Veterans, in attendance at the annual event on November 11<sup>th</sup>, a certificate of recognition and a lapel pin for their service in commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam War.



*CW4 (Ret) Farrell Chiles presented certificate by Bobby McDonald (right), Vietnam War Veteran and Chairman of the Orange County Veterans Advisory Council.*



Leadership Begins with Hello! Practical Principles of Leadership ~ A Hip-Pocket Guide" was recently published by our own Diedre Windsor. It is written from a practical experience perspective. The book focuses on practical principles of leadership and is intended to hone in on and offer repeatable behaviors that all of us have within our grasp to incorporate into our daily routines.

"Leadership begins with Hello!" is available for sale at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) via the link below:

[http://www.amazon.com/Leadership-Begins-With-Hello-Principles/dp/0692509313/ref=cm\\_sw\\_em\\_r\\_dpdp\\_n-rrwb0S9239A\\_tt](http://www.amazon.com/Leadership-Begins-With-Hello-Principles/dp/0692509313/ref=cm_sw_em_r_dpdp_n-rrwb0S9239A_tt)

Please support your fellow ROCK by considering purchasing the book and providing a review on [amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com). Also, please share with family and friends.

## CADET CORNER

### Introducing LTC Denise A. Moultrie Professor of Military Science Grambling State University Army ROTC



LTC Denise A. Moultrie is a 1995 graduate of Hunter College of the City University of New York, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. She holds a Master of Science degree as a Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Bethesda Maryland.

Her military education includes completion of the Army Medical Department Officer Basic and Advanced Courses; the Basic and Advance Nurse Leadership Courses; the Perioperative Nursing Course; the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College; Basic Instructor Training; US Army School of Cadet Command's Military Science Instructor Training and the University Senior Leader Course.

In 1997, LTC Moultrie was commissioned as a Nurse Corps Officer. Since then she has enjoyed a variety of assignments. They have included Nurse Med/Surg/Peds, Dwight David Eisenhower Army Medical Center; Staff Nurse, Brooke Army Medical Center; Perioperative Nurse, Brooke Army Medical Center; Clinical Nurse Officer in Charge, 127<sup>th</sup> Forward Surgical Team, Yongsan, South Korea; Clinical Nurse Officer in Charge Central Materiel Services, Tripler Army Medical Center; Director Perioperative (Operating Room) Nursing Course, Brooke Army Medical Center and the US Army Medical Department Center & School; Perioperative Clinical Nurse Specialist, Brooke Army Medical Center; Clinical Nurse Officer in Charge 115<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital, Camp Dwyer Afghanistan. Her last assignment prior to assuming command of Grambling State University's Army ROTC Battalion was Chief, Sterile Processing Department; Tripler Army Medical Center.

LTC Moultrie's awards and decorations include Meritorious Service Medal (2nd Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Commendation Medal (5<sup>th</sup> Oak Leaf Cluster), Army Achievement Medal (1<sup>st</sup> Oak leaf Cluster), Meritorious Unit Citation, Army Superior Unit Award, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal (2 Stars), Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (with numeral 3), and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Medal.



## History of Grambling State University

Grambling State University opened on November 1, 1901 as the Colored Industrial and Agricultural School. It was founded by the North Louisiana Colored Agriculture Relief Association, organized in 1896 by a group of African-American farmers who wanted to organize and operate a school for African Americans in their region of the state.

In response to the Association's request for assistance, Tuskegee Institute's Booker T. Washington sent Charles P. Adams to help the group organize an industrial school. Adams became its founding president.

In 1905, the school moved to its present location and was renamed the North Louisiana Agricultural and Industrial School. By 1928, after becoming a state junior college and being renamed the Louisiana Negro Normal and Industrial Institute, the school began to award two-year professional certificates and diplomas. In 1936, the curriculum emphasis shifted to rural teacher education; students were able to receive professional teaching certificates after completing a third academic year. The first baccalaureate degree was awarded in 1944, in elementary education.

In 1946, the school became Grambling College, named after P.G. Grambling, the white sawmill owner who had donated the parcel of land where the school was constructed. In addition to elementary educators, Grambling prepared secondary teachers and added curricula in sciences, liberal arts and business, transforming the college from a single purpose institution of teacher education into a multipurpose college. In 1949, the college earned its first accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).

In 1974, the addition of graduate programs in early childhood and elementary education gave the school a new status and a new name – Grambling State University. The university expanded and prospered between 1977 and 2000. Several new academic programs were incorporated and new facilities were added to the 384-acre campus, including a business and computer science building, school of nursing, student services building, stadium, stadium support facility and an intramural sports center.

### History of Army ROTC at GRAM

Cadets were first trained at North East Louisiana University in 1984. The university has since been renamed to University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM). ULM is now considered a partnership program. The host university was moved to Grambling State University in September of 1994.

### University Demographics

Enrollment by Level		Enrollment by Gender	
Undergraduate:	4,155	Male:	1,896
Graduate:	916	Female:	3,175
Total:	5,071	Total:	5,071
Percent Undergraduates:	82.0%	Percent Male:	37.3%

Enrollment by Ethnicity		Enrollment by Residency	
Black:	4,589	Louisiana	3,438
White:	112	Out-of-State	1,393
Other:	370	International	240
Total:	5,071	Total	5,071
Percent Non-Black:	9.50%	Percent Non-Resident	32.2%



## THE NATIONAL BOARD OF THE ROCKS, INC. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM INFORMATION

Professors of Military Science,

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

We ask you to encourage your top cadets to compete for one of our two awards/scholarships, LTG Edward Honor Leadership Award and the BG Roscoe Cartwright Award. The details for the submission of the application packets are contained in the attachments. Your personal letter of recommendation is a very important factor in our decision. Ask that you provide your personal touch to this document. Each application packet will include the following:

The completed application

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

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

A photograph in ASU or ACU

NOTE: all four documents will be submitted in **ONE PDF file** and emailed to [therocks@aol.com](mailto:therocks@aol.com) not later than **30 January 2016**.

If you have any questions, please call 571.332.3454.

Reuben Jones  
Major General, US Army (Retired)  
VP ROCKS (ROTC Programs)

## CHAPTER UPDATES

### Central Virginia Chapter ROCKS, INC

*Submitted by MAJ Byron Matthews*

On December 2, 2015 the Central Virginia Chapter, ROCKS, Inc. hosted an Officer Professional Development (OPD) session featuring BG Charles Hamilton at the Army Logistics University, Fort Lee, Virginia. BG Hamilton is the Commanding General for the Defense Logistics Agency, Troop Support. BG Hamilton began the OPD with Leader Responsibility and ended with Leader Expectations. This OPD was truly a monumental event facilitated by a phenomenal leader. The attendees included 6 DA Civilians and over 55 Officers ranging from 2nd Lieutenant to Lieutenant Colonel.



*“Christmas is the perfect time to celebrate the love of God and family and to create memories that will last forever. Jesus is God's perfect, indescribable gift. The amazing thing is that not only are we able to receive this gift, but we are able to share it with others on Christmas and every other day of the year.”*

**Joel Osteen**

### Buffalo Soldiers Chapter's First Quarter, FY16 Happenings

*Submitted by COL Norma Bradford*



*GEN Via spent over 2 hours mentoring and sharing his leadership thoughts with BSC members and some of the Battalion & Brigade Commanders attending the Pre-Command course. GEN Via allowed for questions and comments as well!*

The Buffalo Soldiers Chapter (BSC) has a unique situation with a blend of permanent party members and a significant number of students (attending CGSC/ILE, etc.) that become involved/introduced to ROCKS while in school. In the past, the students organized and ran the chapter once they arrived and when they left, there was no continuity for the next incoming class. To address this issue, we decided to elect permanent party leadership (mix of military and civilians, active & retired) and also, elect some Student Leadership to mirror the permanent party Executive Committee positions. This has allowed for total involvement by all interested parties and even an opportunity for more internal mentorship to the young Officers.



*Selected BDE Commanders mentoring some of the BSC members that could be possibly going to their Commands. This is what it is all about! Fantastic opportunity!*



**Oct-Dec 2015:** This quarter (in addition to administrative & housekeeping functions), we have provided a brief on “What is ROCKS” in conjunction with a membership drive & welcome brief (OCT); OPD on Social Media and the Professional Soldier (NOV), Thanksgiving Food Drive (NOV); initiated contact with the University of St Marys’ ROTC for future collaboration/mentorship opportunities (NOV); opportunity for BDE/BN Commanders to mentor their future staff (DEC), and host a dynamic Leadership OPD.



*BSC collected and presented nonperishable food items and toiletries to the Leavenworth Mission Community store & food pantry for the Thanksgiving holiday. COL Bradford pictured presenting to the pantry.*



## **Fort Bragg, NC All-American ROCKS Support Community Effort to End Homelessness Among Veterans**

*Written by Jeffery Melvin (Fayetteville Observer PAO) and  
MAJ Tanisha L. Currie*

For the second year in a row, the All-American ROCKS Organization of Fort Bragg, North Carolina participated in the Community Homeless Stand Down co-sponsored by the City of Fayetteville and the Fayetteville VA Medical Center Summer 2015. Recently thanks to efforts like the community stand down, Cumberland County became the first county in North Carolina to declare an end to homelessness among Veterans.

The stand down gave nearly 700 people – including about 350 Veterans – a chance to connect with agencies and services that could make a difference in their lives. Organizers aim to

provide resources to homeless Veterans or those who are at risk of becoming homeless – to help get them back on their feet and to provide them with the care they earned through their service. Health services, including HIV testing and blood pressure screenings, veteran services, including limited claims assistance, housing assistance information, job placement information and more was available during the two-day event.

“We showed up in our All-American ROCKS force and rolled our sleeves up to man the military surplus booth,” responded the ROCKS Team. FT Bragg, NC ROCKS participation in the Homeless Veteran Stand Down effort alongside 130 other community volunteers proved to be instrumental and inspiring to veterans of various ages and stages within their lives. The All-American ROCKS appreciates the experience, building on Fort Bragg’s community relationships, but most importantly making a difference through veteran assistance (providing basic needs to fellow military brothers and sisters in the local community).

Fort Bragg, NC ROCKS and All About Fitness members handed out clothes, supplies, and equipment such as blankets and undergarments to hundreds of people attending the stand down. Military surplus items like ruck sacks were distributed to homeless vets only.

“We love the rewarding experience of our touch time with the surrounding community (particularly the Veterans) and the ability to provide an encouraging word or swap stories on our military journeys,” the All-American Team expressed.



*For the second year in a row, All-American ROCKS Chapter members lend their support to annual Community Homeless Stand Down in Fayetteville, N.C. More than 700 people, including about 350 Veterans, attended this year’s event. (Photo by Jeff Melvin)*

According to the Fort Bragg, NC All-American ROCKS, the Homeless Veteran Stand Down, one of a number of events sponsored around the nation by the Department of Veterans Affairs, has made “significant and instant impacts in fulfilling the community’s needs. ...Our ROCKS family has been dedicated to this mission, and we hope to continue to be a part of this great community initiative for years to come.”

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



All-American ROCKS Chapter of Fort Bragg dispenses clothes and supplies to hundreds attending the Community Homeless Stand Down in Fayetteville NC. (Photo by Jeff Melvin)



All-American ROCKS Chapter members pose for a photo before the start of the Community Homeless Stand Down in Fayetteville NC. (Photo by Fort Bragg, NC ROCKS).



## MEDCOM General Gives Tips for Career Success

*Submitted by Jade Fulce*

The U.S. Army Medical Command general for operations spoke to the San Antonio Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc. during a leader professional development session Dec. 1 at the Fort Sam Houston Golf course.

Brig. Gen. Scott Dingle spoke to nearly 50 Soldiers and Department of Army civilians about career minefields and how to breach them, the importance of maintaining military bearing at all times, and being a team player.

“As you matriculate through your profession, connect and build the team,” said Dingle. “Come together as a team and set the right example and not the wrong one...[and] always stand for the Soldier and never waiver.”



The San Antonio Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. hosted a leader professional development session with Brig. Gen. Scott Dingle, deputy commanding general of operations for U.S. Army Medical Command Dec. 1. Dingle focused on readiness, mentorship, and having the right attitude. (Photo by Jade Fulce)

Dingle stressed the importance to everyone of finding and having mentors at all levels of your career. He gave credit to his mentor COL(R) Dorene Hurt, who was in the audience, for his success in his career. Dingle emphasized even as a one star general, he gets mentored by other senior generals.

During the presentation, Dingle gave some tips for career success:

1. Always prepare, so that doing your best is second nature
  - ❖ Read and understand
  - ❖ Ask questions
  - ❖ Ask to be shown how done
  - ❖ Get your hands dirty
  - ❖ Never back off from a hard task
  - ❖ Watch and learn from successful people
2. Ask for most challenging job
3. Manage your career
4. Ask your boss, how you are doing
5. Know what your Officer Evaluation Report/Civilian Evaluation Report really says – Seek mentor review
6. Be above reproach when dealing with subordinates
7. Have a Positive Attitude
8. Reflect on your performance and way ahead
9. Build a reputation of Excellence



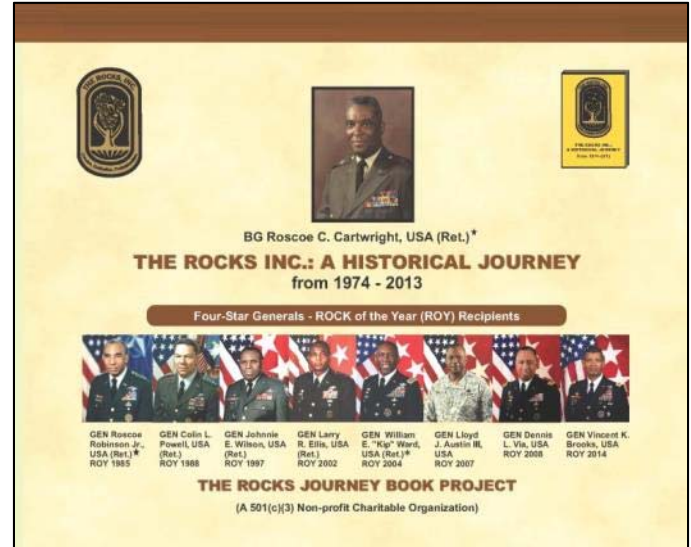
At the end of the session, Dingle quoted former President Theodore Roosevelt by saying “Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.”



Nearly 50 Soldiers and Army civilians attended, The San Antonio Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc. hosted a leader professional development session with Brig. Gen. Scott Dingle, deputy commanding general of operations for U.S. Army Medical Command Dec. 1. (Photo by Jade Fulce)



Dorene Hurt, the national chapter advisor for The San Antonio Chapter of the ROCKS, Inc., emphasized the importance of mentorship, building the bench, and talent management at the leader professional development session Dec. 1. (Photo by Jade Fulce)



## To All ROCKS' Members Your Support is Needed for The ROCKS Journey Book Project

We are in a “full court press” based upon the suggestion made by BG Von Richardson's request, made at the 2014 ROCKS Forum, that all (1,200) ROCK members pledge and contribute to making the Journey Book a success. The National Board accepted BG Richardson's recommendation and personalized emails and letters have gone out to all ROCK members and we ask that the below notice will be placed on all ROCKS website.

We need **your personal pledge and direct support** to help to get **all ROCK members** to pledge and make their payments in order to get the ROCKS Journey book published. The pledge can be made and paid in a one-time payment or by making a payment of \$10.00 per month for 12 consecutive months. One time payments can be made by check or credit card and partial payments, for your convenience, may be made by credit card. I and several other ROCK members have made their pledge and payment in a one-time payment of \$120.00. Now we need your direct help to get all ROCK members to do the same.

For those Rocks members that have made their Journey Book Project pledge and made their payment, thanks and please encourage other ROCK members to pledge. All chapters will benefit as the proceeds from the sales of the books will kept by the chapters to be used for their approved programs. We are a IRS 501(c) 3 non-profit charitable organization and your contribution to this project is tax deductible. Thanks.

*Christmas is the spirit of giving without a thought of getting. It is happiness because we see joy in people. It is forgetting self and finding time for others. It is discarding the meaningless and stressing the true values. --Thomas S. Monsoon*

## What is it that I do?

Col. Charles D. Allen, U.S. Army, Ret.  
*The Sentinel, September 13, 2015*

When people ask what I do in Carlisle and hear “on the faculty of the U.S. Army War College,” there is generally a pause, followed by two questions, “What is a War College?” and “What do you teach?”

To counter their flashbacks to the War Room scenes from the movie “Dr. Strangelove” or “How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb,” I have a mental script that begins with “The U.S. Army War College is one of DOD’s senior-level colleges and provides the capstone of joint professional military education for U.S. military officers...”

Our students are mostly in their mid-40s and with more than 20 years of service; these military professionals are high performers with extensive experience in leading and managing organizations. As a formal professional development program, USAWC seeks to provide them with a foundation for future high-level service. Like the other senior Service (Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force) colleges, the USAWC program is designed to equip graduates with critical thinking skills that facilitate analysis of strategic situations, enable them to provide sound assessments and advice to senior leaders, and prepare them to manage complex national security organizations.

As one would imagine, our students have been very successful in their careers and are understandably confident in their abilities. They, along with our new faculty members, might wonder what we can teach them that they don’t already know and have effectively demonstrated throughout their years of service. We caution students using the title of Marshall Goldsmith’s best-selling book, *What Got You Here Won’t Get You There*. The same applies to our faculty as we develop and present the curriculum. A quick look at the existing and emerging challenges across the globe would have us then look to theories, frameworks, and historical cases for lessons learned to guide our curriculum.

Our professional military education mission mirrors that of other educational programs. Pertinent to adult education, Patricia Shields reminds us of the tradition of classical pragmatism. She discusses the applicability of the four Ps: practical, pluralism, participatory, and provisional. Our USAWC should likewise be *practical* by demonstrating the link between theories and our students’ broad experiences. The diversity of our constituents within the U.S. government and across our society as well as the interdependence of policy and decision-making systems reveals *pluralism* in the realm of national security.

Developing a clear understanding of the global environment, defining the problem spaces, and offering potential approaches toward solutions requires the *participatory* engagement by myriad members of the national security enterprise. Lastly,

adopted policies are rarely “best” permanent solutions given the changing nature of the strategic environment. In our realm, all policies and practices are *provisional*.

My faculty colleagues continually examine how we should attempt to educate our USAWC students. Our commandant — the college president — projects a vision that includes “strategic leaders and ideas invaluable to the Army and Nation.” To do so, we are faced with several paradoxes: Our faculty must educate both broadly and deeply. We must not only expose our students to proven ways to address known challenges but also enhance their ability to adapt and create their own tools for new situations. We must encourage students to share their experiences while helping them to view situations through different lenses.

Each of these paradoxes presents a challenge to our faculty, who want to fully equip our students for the future while enabling them to perform effectively in their following assignments. One colleague called this “educating for certainty.” But we must acknowledge that we are unable to do that. The future provides both continuity and change. So our educational approach should account for both and accordingly prepare our students to operate in the strategic landscape they will encounter.

During the opening weeks of this new academic year, the USAWC faculty must also accept the challenge to get bigger and move away from our own areas of comfort. That is our professional obligation as much as it is for our students. We have to accept that we may not always have the right answer to provide to our learners to solve problems that have yet to materialize.

In designing courses and lessons, we should bridge the gap between preparing students for their next assignment and developing them for their roles in an uncertain future. The overarching goal is to provide our graduates with the best possible preparation for future service to the Nation through this educational experience. If we as faculty are successful, then graduates of our USAWC program will have learned “how to think” and pragmatism in collaborative planning and execution of strategies to support U.S. national security interests.

So if you still want to know what I do, be forewarned that it is more than just teach — we are developing strategic leaders

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

**EVERY BAD SITUATION HAS SOMETHING POSITIVE.  
 EVEN A DEAD CLOCK IS SHOWS THE CORRECT  
 TIME TWICE A DAY. STAY POSITIVE IN LIFE**



**We need your support!**

## **The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. Scholarship Programs**

Fellow ROCKS,

Your support is needed to make our scholarship goal of \$25,000! Please make a year-end donation to either the BG R.C. Cartwright Scholarship or LTG Ed Honor Leadership Award. These awards support our core mission of providing scholarships to our future Army officers and are largely sustained by your donations. So, please make your tax deductible donation today and help us maintain the viability of this program.

Thanks in advance for your support and best wishes for the holiday season!

Warm Regards,  
BG Earl Simms

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The ROCKS, Inc.  
43rd Annual Spring Gala & Awards  
Ceremony  
Saturday, April 23, 2015

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Arlington, Virginia 22204



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The ROCKS Journey Book  
ROCKS Operating Fund  
2016 Leadership & Training Forum



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Click on "Donations"



## SUPPORT THE ROCKS, INC. NEXT TIME YOU TRAVEL

The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. has partnered with Imagine, Inc. as a way to raise funds to support the operations of the organization. We are seeking your support as you begin your summer traveling.

Book your next hotel at [www.StayFaster.com](http://www.StayFaster.com) with the Promo Code **ROCKS**, the organization will receive **7% back** from every booking. Also, when a member from a local chapter books a reservation using the code, The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. will send a percentage of the 7% to the local chapter. *(Be sure to add or update your chapter affiliation in the online membership directory).*

Get started with four easy steps.

### 1. Search for Your Next Hotel on [www.StayFaster.com](http://www.StayFaster.com)

2.

### 2. Choose Handy Filters and Select Your Hotel

*Choose any special rates you qualify for as well hotel quality and amenities.*

### 3. Choose Your Room Type

*Do you prefer queen or king sized beds? See every room type available.*

### 4. [Create Your FREE Account](#), and Enter **ROCKS** as Your Promo Code

Hotel Information	Personal Information
<b>Courtyard Arlington Crystal City/Reagan National Airport</b> Address: 2899 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202 Check-in Date: Thu, Feb 26, 2015 Check-out Date: Fri, Feb 27, 2015 Guests: 2	Promo: <b>ROCKS</b> *Email: you@yoursite.com Title: *First:

*Enter your basic information with ROCKS as your promo code, continue booking, and confirm.*

**That's it! You're set.**

Enjoy your stay and happy traveling.



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CPT Lakecia Curffin USA  
MAJ Norina Jackson USA  
LTC Landis Maddox USA  
LTC Derrick Nunn ANG(AF)  
MAJ Damon Bennett USA  
Cadet LaRee Dedmond USAR  
2LT Robert January USA  
MAJ Jimmy McClain USA

LT Harrison Lewis USA  
BG Sylvester Cannon ANG(Army)  
MG Christopher Hughes USA  
Mrs. Delores Johnson Davis  
CPT Michael Bennett USA  
MAJ Christopher Williams USA  
LTC Elliott Caggins USA  
LTC Aaron Rodgers USAR

CPT Kelli Felder USA  
MAJ Adrien Humphreys USA  
CPT Fabias Uitenham USA  
LTC KEVIN HAMILTON USA  
CPT Walter Williams USA  
MAJ Angelo Kellum USA

*Joined 11/05/2015-12/22/2015*

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## *Dues, dues, dues... Yes, they are real.*

Team,

An opportunity to excel- in mighty ROCKS' fashion- lies before us. This offering falls in the area of national and local dues. Bottom line is that we need them, both of them, to be a progressive and efficient organization as we move forward.

Notwithstanding the very valid and real challenges confronting chapters when it comes to recruiting and sustaining consistently active members, the organization's best interests are served (on the local and national levels) via dues collection. From a programmatic perspective, dues enable relevant programming that helps members and those in the community with whom we outreach, and from a brand-equity perspective, dues preserve the caliber and exclusivity of offerings attainable only thru membership. Strategically opting to forego the collection of dues is sometimes convenient in the short term, but detrimental to the legacy and potential of this historic organization.

So, I heartily encourage ALL chapters to collect both National and Local dues from all members. As a reminder, National Dues are now due on 1 September of each year and the current dues structure, effective 1 May 2015, is: \$20 for cadets; \$33 for GS-12 & below, and; \$58 for O4/GS-13 and above. These fees are prorated based on when NEW members join the organization. As a reminder, a member must be financial with National before receiving recognition as financial at the local level.

Please feel free to forward me any questions- I look forward to working with you!

All the best!  
Eric Flowers  
VP, Membership Development

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## **The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. Online Membership Directory**

***Has your email, address, or phone number changed? Have you been promoted? Have you retired?***

Please take a moment to log in and review your membership profile and update any discrepancies. It is important that we have accurate information on file in order to keep you "in the know." You may even add a photo ☺

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