



# ***The ROCKET***

## **March 2008 – Special Edition**

### **Chairperson Message**

The primary purpose of this *Rocket Special Edition* is to encourage your participation in two key Rocks events in April. The Rocks, Inc., will host its 6th National Leadership and Training Conference at Fort Belvoir from 3-5 April at the Fort Belvoir Officers Club. Every two years, the Rocks host an incredibly informative leadership and training conference that is a DoD supported event. Why should you attend and encourage others to do the same? Whether you are a junior, senior, former, or retired officer, or a ROTC cadet, the conference has something for you. From the superb and insightful presentations by senior Army and DoD leaders, including Gen "Kip" Ward, the new AFRICOM Commander, to a Lessons Learned panel discussion with those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, to the sharing of information and best practices between Rocks Chapters and Interest Groups, there are enormous opportunities for professional and personal growth.

How about you mentors or mentees/protegees out there? In addition to the formal opportunities to learn and discuss topics that will make you a more informed mentor and mentee/protegee, there are countless informal opportunities throughout the conference to do the same including a 4 April Mentorship Social hosted by the DC Chapter. Don't have a mentor? You are not a mentor or mentee? This is your chance to lay the foundation to become one, or even both. Want to connect with people who have gone through many of the challenges that you are facing? Again, this is your chance to benefit from those who have paved the way for you. Since senior officers can learn an incredible amount from junior officers as well, this is also a wonderful opportunity for younger officers to share their experiences and get those "burning questions" answered.

The conference weekend will culminate in the Rocks DC Chapter's annual Spring Gala, also being held at the Fort Belvoir Officers Club the evening of 5 April. This is one of the DC Chapter's "flagship" events, and it is the singularly most important event in recognizing deserving ROTC cadets with scholarships. It is also the primary fundraiser which

generates the support to make these scholarships possible. The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. will award additional scholarships to deserving ROTC cadets at this event. Details on registering for all of these events are in this issue. Hope to see you there!

In addition to updating you on the activities of several chapters, and Rocks and Army initiatives, there are two more reasons for this special edition. One is to welcome MAJ Gill, our new Associate Editor for the Rocket, and the other is to inform you of a Valentines Gift that you may not have known that you received. No matter where we were or what we were doing on 14 February, we all got a special gift that day as LTG Lloyd Austin III assumed command of Multi-National Corps-Iraq at Camp Victory in Baghdad, Iraq. An unwaveringly supportive Rock, LTG Austin continues to excel, blazing trails and making history with each challenge that he is given. Congratulations, LTG Austin, and best of luck to you! We are extremely proud of not only what you've done, but what you will do.

Wishing you and your families the very best and remember ----- To Whom Much is Given, Much is Required! You CAN make the difference that Counts!

**BG Clara Adams-Ender USA (Ret)  
Chairperson  
National Board of the ROCKS, Inc.**



## National Board of the ROCKS, Incorporated

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### CHAPTERS AND INTEREST GROUPS

Name	Point of Contact	Email Address
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Atlanta, GA	COL Maurice Buchanan	maurice.buchanan@us.army.mil
Carlisle Barracks, PA	LTC Andre Wiley	andre.lamont.wiley@us.army.mil
European Officers, Germany	COL Rodney McCants	rodney.mccants@us.army.mil
Fort Benning, GA	CPT Tiffiney Dimery	tiffiney.dimery@benning.army.mil
Fort Bragg, NC (All American)	LTC Rafeal Boyd	rafeal.boyd@us.army.mil
Fort Hood, TX (Phantom Warrior)	CPT Karel Butler	karelb1911@msn.com
Fort Jackson, SC (James Webster Smith)	COL(R) Maxie Joye	maxiejoye@yahoo.com
Fort Leavenworth, KS	CPT David Woods	davidwoods1@us.army.mil
Fort Lee, VA	COL Oliver L. Norrell, III	oliver.norrell@us.army.mil
Fort Leonard Wood, MO (Harry Truman)	LTC Oliver Saunders	oliver.saunders@us.army.mil
Fort Polk, LA (Gator ROCKS)	MAJ Michael Peeler	michael.peeler@polk.army.mil
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Iraq Interest Group	MAJ Edgar Terry	edgar.terry@balad.iraq.centcom.mil
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Please provide Chapter Information and POC updated information to [THEROCKS@aol.com](mailto:THEROCKS@aol.com)

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## 2008 National ROCKS, Inc. Leadership and Training Conference

The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. will host its 6<sup>th</sup> Leadership and Training Conference, from 3-5 April 2008 at Ft. Belvoir VA Officers Club.

The Chief of Staff of the Army and selected members of his staff have been invited. General Kip Ward, Commander AFRICOM and an unwaveringly supportive Rocks member, will speak at the conference. The conference is designed to meet the needs of officers from all components. Officers who serve as mentors are highly encouraged to attend to refresh their knowledge of current and future Army initiatives. Active duty members will have a unique opportunity to interface with policymakers, senior leaders and mentors. (See registration form on page 9.)

DoD has sanctioned this conference as an official training conference. That letter may also be found on our website.

The Washington, DC Chapter of The ROCKS Inc. meeting and Mentorship Social will be held on Friday, 4 April 2008 at the Fort Belvoir Officers Club at 1830 in the Belvoir Room. MG Ronald Johnson, Chairman of the DC Chapter's Mentorship Committee, cordially invites EVERYONE to attend what promises to be a great event. Hor d'oeuvres will be served.

On the evening of 5 April, The Washington, DC Chapter will host their Spring Gala, where National Scholarship and awards will be presented.

Your ideas and input will be solicited on a number of issues. The point of contact for the conference is LTG (Ret) Ed Honor (edwardhonor532@msn.com). The Schedule of Events as currently planned may be viewed on our website.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference!

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## LTG Lloyd J. Austin III Assumes Command of Multi-National Corps-Iraq, 14 Feb 2008

**BAGHDAD** – Army Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III assumed command of Multi-National Corps-Iraq during a transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Victory's Al Faw Palace Feb. 14. His predecessor, Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno, is scheduled to become the U.S.

Army's next vice chief of staff. Army Gen. David Petraeus, Multi-National Force Iraq commanding general, spoke highly of Odierno's accomplishments and leadership as commander of III Corps and MNC-I.



*Public Affairs Office, Camp Victory, APO AE 09342 Article and photo by Sgt. Laura M. Bigenho, Multi-National Corps – Iraq PAO*

Austin said he looks forward to working alongside the Iraqi security forces, who share ideals similar to those of Coalition Forces. "Iraqis, like the Coalition soldiers by their sides, believe that there are ideals and responsibilities that transcend the individual, and they are denying the terrorists the freedom to launch their attacks from their neighborhoods," Austin said. "Every day, Iraqis are getting involved with the government." Austin previously served in Iraq from in 2003 as assistant division commander (maneuver) of 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized). Other assignments include commander of Combined Joint Task Force



*Gen. Petraeus, Multi-National Force Iraq commanding general, Army Lt. Gen. Ray Odierno, III Corps commander and Army Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III, Multi-National Corps-Iraq commander salute the colors during a playing of 'The National Anthem.'*

180 during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and, most recently, chief of staff for U.S. Central Command. He took command of XVIII Airborne Corps in December 2006. Austin said he plans to help Iraqis promote progress. "We will help the Iraqi government integrate local volunteers into the Iraqi Security Force and other employment opportunities that will promote progress for this great country," he said. The Iraqis' evident choice of peace over sectarian violence will be key in continuing to make progress, Austin said. "It is clear that the Iraqi people have a new confidence in tomorrow and in their future," he said. "With will, determination and focus, together we can achieve lasting security and give all Iraqis a future of hope."

### **"Reflections from Afghanistan"**

*Written by 1Lt Alexis Johnson, USAF*



Performing daily inspections and visiting job sites with my construction managers, reviewing designs and floor plans with my engineers, teaching the local national engineers the American engineering standards, and talking with contractors through an interpreter - these are only a few of my daily routines as the FET's (Facility Engineering Team) Chief of Engineering at Bagram AFB, Afghanistan. It is a strenuous, yet rewarding assignment as an Air Force officer in an "in lieu of" tasking with the Army. Not only were there challenges walking into a position slotted for a Major, but there was also a challenge working for a different branch of service. This is a unique challenge that I wish all would experience because of the knowledge you will gain from others, the appreciation of those serving in other branches, and the friendships that will endure for a lifetime.

As a young officer, you strive to improve yourself daily so you can lead others as you move up the ranks. While at Bagram AFB, I continuously search for that mentorship needed as a young officer. Not only do you need to be guided at your home station, but you also need guidance in a war time environment. I was invited to a ROCKS, Inc., meeting not knowing what to expect. However, what I experienced was something gratifying and valuable. It was a professional development type of atmosphere full of mentorship, networking, and fellowship. From Warrant Officers, other Lieutenants, all the way up to the General, there were experiences, knowledge, and advice to gain.

They welcomed me into the organization with open arms and there are no words to describe the gratitude I felt because of their generosity. The mentorship I have gained mentally and spiritually not only helped me in my personal life, but also in my position as Chief of Engineering.

ROCKS, Inc. has made an enormous difference in my life during this deployment. The professional development I have achieved has expanded my horizon on how to overcome obstacles, attacking any job with full force, dedication, professionally, briefing ranking officials and VIPs, bettering those around me, and overall becoming a well rounded officer. The designs and construction work that is ongoing at this time will be felt in the years to come, and eventually transform Bagram AFB into an enduring base. The invaluable mentorship, knowledge, and experiences I have gained will be felt by those I will encounter in my lifetime, and eventually be passed on to the future young officers in the United States military.

### **SAVE THE DATE**

The Washington, DC Chapter of the ROCKS will be hosting its Annual Golf Tournament on Friday, June 27, 2008. Please visit their website for more details, [www.therocksdc.org](http://www.therocksdc.org).

### **Fort Lee ROCKS' President, COL Oliver Norrell, Participates in the Historical Event of Pinning on the New Branch Insignia.**



*Photo – CPT Seneta Burns – Secretary ROCKS, Fort Lee, VA*

FORT LEE, Va. - Commissioned officers from Ordnance, Quartermaster and Transportation branches in the ranks of Captain through Colonel are now united under the Logistics Branch. Upon completion of the Captains Career Course, all officers transfer to the Logistics Branch. Officers exchange

their Quartermaster, Transportation and Ordnance insignia for the new Logistics Branch during the Jan. 9, 2008 ceremony at Fort Lee, Va. Maj. Gen. Mitchell H. Stevenson, Combined Arms Support Command and Fort Lee Commanding General, initiated the pinning ceremony followed by all others in attendance from each branch as they exchanged their insignia to that of the newly established Logistics Branch (LG).

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### Welcome the newest member of the ROCKET Editorial Team



MAJ Glenda A. Gill, a ROCKS, Inc. is a new member of the ROCKET Publication Team. Assigned in Europe, she currently serves as the Battalion S3 of the 302D Brigade Support Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division. MAJ Gill earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and a commission in the

U.S. Army's Transportation Corps from the University of Alabama in 1994. Prior to her current assignment, she served in a variety of command and staff positions including: Platoon Leader, 104<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company, Fort Benning, Georgia; Platoon Leader, 233<sup>rd</sup> Heavy Equipment Transport Company, Fort Benning, Georgia; Battalion Adjutant (S1), 13<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 36<sup>th</sup> Engineer Group, Fort Benning, Georgia; Battalion S4, 702<sup>nd</sup> Main Support Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, Camp Casey, Korea; Commander, Bravo Company (Transportation Motor Transport), 702<sup>nd</sup> Main Support Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Division, Camp Nimble, Korea; Training with Industry (TWI) Officer at the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES), Dallas, Texas; Operations Officer, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, Fort Eustis, Virginia; Ground Logistics Officer and later Coordination Officer, Component Command – Land Headquarters (NATO) G4 Division, Madrid, Spain.

Her military education includes the Transportation Officer Basic Course, the Combined Logistics Captains Career Course, the Support Operations Course, the Air Deployment Planning Course and Intermediate Level Education (ILE) at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

Major Gill holds a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ and a Masters Degree in Military Arts &

Science from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS.

#### 1. *What does being a ROCK means to you?*

When I was introduced to the ROCKS years ago, I decided I wanted to be a part of an organization that would provide professional development and an opportunity to interact with other African-American Officers. When I've reported to various duty stations, I have found I am the only African-American officer/female officer in the organization. It has been beneficial to meet peers and Senior Leaders in an environment, where we can talk and share experiences.

#### 2. *How has being a ROCK impacted you personally and professionally?*

Being a part of the ROCKS has had a positive impact, both personally and professionally. Personally, I have benefited from the opportunities to network and build social connections. Professionally, I have benefited from the knowledge gained in the numerous OPDs I have attended over the years. I have always been impressed with the ROCK OPDs because of the level of leadership involved and the opportunities to discuss a variety of topics in a "low-threat" environment.

#### 3. *How have you used your ROCK experience to impact others in a positive way?*

I have used my experience to mentor Junior Leaders and Soldiers. When a Leader takes an interest in the career of Junior Leaders and Soldiers, it can change their lives in a positive way. My goal is to share my knowledge and experiences in a way that will make Junior Leaders and Soldiers want to make the Army, a career.

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### All American Chapter Visits the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics

*By LTC Rafeal Boyd*

On Saturday, February 8, 2008, the ROCKS Inc. All-American Chapter had the distinct pleasure of visiting the impressive North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (NCSSM) in Durham, NC. The visit served as a means to introduce and open mentoring opportunities for the All American Chapter leadership and company grade officers to the African American students and staff. The African American student population is 65 of 650 students, truly representing the

“talented tenth” of 90 of the 100 counties within North Carolina. These students and the academy have a reputation of unparalleled academic integrity and scholastic excellence.

The student ambassadors kicked off the visit with introductions of their representatives, their majors and hometown followed by a detailed and informative tour of the campus at which they addressed questions about living conditions, course workloads, the African American presence and interaction with other students.

The event continued with an 1 ½ hour question and answer session moderated by All American chapter vice-president LTC Probyn Thompson (R) USAF. LTC (R) Thompson asked intriguing questions to the panel of officers ranging from leadership principals, university selection and recommendations for them to share with students and staff. Light refreshments followed as a capstone to a very impressive visit.

The All American chapter president, LTC Rafeal Boyd accepted the “Torch Bearer” award from the student group on behalf of the ROCKS and thanked the students and staff for their attendance, attentive and thought provoking questions and feedback. The Rocks vowed that chapter representatives will continue to visit the campus in an effort to support and offer mentoring opportunities.



Ms Letita R. Mason (left), Director of Admissions, NC School of Science & Mathematics joins LTC Rafeal Boyd (fifth to the right) and other members of the All American Chapter of ROCKS Inc at the original lunch counter from the Durham North Carolina Woolworth’s which is now located in the student lounge at NCSSM. The counter was donated to the school as a tribute

and reminder of those that fought for equality during the Civil Rights era.

The picture in the foreground shows the visit to the store lunch counter by Dr. M.L. King Jr. and Dr. Ralph Abernathy on 16 February 1960. The visit to the NCSSM almost 48 years later to the day by military officers of African American descent and members of the ROCKS Inc, is further tribute to those that paved the way.

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### **Great Opportunity for Our Youth**

Mark Robbins, Dean of Syracuse University's School of Architecture is desperately seeking young men and women of color interested in pursuing a five year professional degree in Architecture.

He is deeply committed to bringing diversity to his field and has Scholarship money set aside to fully cover education costs for 10 students. He says that Latino enrollment in the school has increased substantially, but it's harder to attract Blacks.

Syracuse University's School of Architecture has a great reputation and this seems like a terrific opportunity, so please pass this on to everyone you know.

<http://soa.syr.edu/index.php>

Contact:

Mark Robbins

Dean School of Architecture

Phone: 315 - 443 - 2255

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### **ARMY INITIATIVES**

The \$2K Referral Bonus Program allows Regular Army, Army Reserves, and Army National Guard soldiers, Army retirees and DA Civilians the opportunity to assist with U.S. Army2 recruiting efforts. A bonus of not more than \$2,000 will be paid for referring persons for enlistment in the Army, Army Reserve, or Army Nation Guard. The person referred must subsequently enlist and complete Initial Entry Training. Currently, there is no limit on the number of referrals. To register, visit [www.2k.army.mil](http://www.2k.army.mil)

Partnership For Youth Success (PaYS) - The Partnership for Youth Success (PaYS) is a recruiting initiative developed by the United States Army Recruiting Command (USAREC) to appeal to young

people interested in obtaining a quality civilian job after serving in the Army. This unique program is part of the Army's effort to partner with America's business community and re-connect America with the Army. The intent of the PaYS program is to provide an additional recruiting incentive to increase the Army's ability to man the force. Having a job with a leading employer using a skill learned in the Army makes the PaYS program attractive to young people.

**Benefits to Employers:** Companies will gain employees who have developed professional work habits and have been held to the highest standards. These future employees will be professionally trained and experienced in their specific job skill. Employers will save precious training and human resource recruitment dollars. For additional information, log on to <http://www.armypays.com>

**Opportunities For College Graduates:**

**Officer Candidate Course:** College graduates can apply for the Officer Candidate Course through any local recruiting station. Process takes less than two months to determine eligibility/acceptance.

**Student Loan Repayment Plan:** College Students can also enlist and sign up for the student loan repayment plan. The Army will repay up to \$65,000 for Soldiers on active duty (three – six year commitment required). The Army will repay up to \$20,000 for Soldiers enlisted in the reserves (eight year commitment). Officers do not qualify for this initiative.

**You Are Invited to The Washington, DC of the ROCKS, Inc. 34th Annual Spring Gala & Awards Ceremony**

The Washington DC Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc. will host its 34<sup>th</sup> Annual ROTC Scholarship and Awards Spring Gala on Saturday, 5 April 2008, starting at 1800 at the Fort Belvoir Officers' Club. This event is for all Warrant, Company and Field Grade Officers, Active Duty, Reserve Component, and Retirees alike. ROCKS membership is not required to attend.

The ROCKS, Inc. is a non-profit organization comprised of active duty, reserve, retired and former commissioned officers of all U.S. Uniformed Services, and selected others. The organization provides professional development, mentoring, and social interaction to strengthen the Officer Corps. The ROCKS actively support Army ROTC Programs

throughout the United States and award numerous financial scholarships to ROTC-bound, and current ROTC students attending colleges and universities.

During this event, The ROCKS will award numerous financial scholarships to ROTC-bound, and current ROTC students attending colleges and universities around the nation. Recognition will also be given to members of the organization for their contributions and to members of the Army Leadership that support the tenets of the organization - Concern, Dedication and Professionalism.

More details can be found at [www.therocksd.org](http://www.therocksd.org) or call the Management Office at 301-669-9319 or 1-877-762-5732.

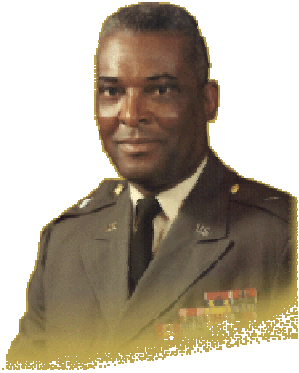
There are three ways to make reservations:

- 1) Online at [www.therocksd.org](http://www.therocksd.org)
- 2) Fax completed form to 301-669-9407
- 3) Call the management office at 301-669-9319 or 1-877-762-5732 .

**HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO TELL YOUR STORY!**

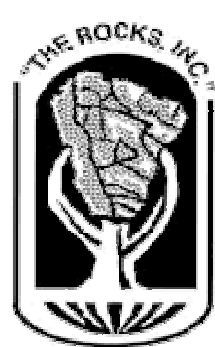
We are soliciting your candid feedback regarding the benefits and challenges of mentoring in general, or a mentoring relationship that you are currently in, or had in the past. Why not share your experience so that it might encourage, enlighten, or benefit others? Please submit your input for the next ROCKET to: [therocks@aol.com](mailto:therocks@aol.com) no later than 18 April 2008.





This is an advanced notice about the publication of a Historical Pictorial of the Legacy of the ROCKS. This history journal has been approved by the Board of Directors of the ROCKS and is scheduled for publication in the spring of 2009. It is requested that anyone who may have pictures and or military stories about

ROCKS, that they would like to be considered to be included in the journal, please send them to Sharene A. Cook of WSC Associates, LLP, at P.O. Box 471212, Forestville, MD 20753. You can also Email them to [www.wscassociates.com](http://www.wscassociates.com). Although individual submissions are welcome, Rocks Chapter and interest groups are highly encouraged to provide input on Chapter historical events and pictures of past presidents and officers. All pictures and stories will be logged in, copied for use in the journal and if requested returned to the senders. It is estimated that the price of the journal will be \$50.00 and its pictures will be in color and black and white. The journal will be a ROCKS fundraiser and we hope that every ROCK member, their friends and interested organizations and groups will purchase one or more journals. The ROCKS' Historian, Col. (Ret.) Frank Francois, III is the project director and if there are any questions he can be contacted at [goldenpin@aol.com](mailto:goldenpin@aol.com).



Courage, Dedication, Professionalism



**NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ROCKS, INC.**

**2008 NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
3 -5 APRIL, 2008  
RESERVATION FORM**

**COST: \$130.00**

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Active or Retired:

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State:

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**Please fax completed form to 301-669-9407 no later than Monday, March 31, 2008 or bring completed form to the conference and register on-site.**



National Board of the ROCKS, Inc.
Membership Application

Branch/Specialty: Rank: Status: Active Duty Reserve Retired
Name:
Spouse:
Address:
City:
State: Zip:
Phone:
Email:
Service: USA USN USMC USAF USCG Other:
Former est PCS:
Source of Commission: ROTC Service Academy OCS Direct Other
Duty Station or Employer:
Business Address:
City:
State: Zip:
Phone: Fax:
College/University Attended:
Degree: Year:
Graduate College/University Attended:
Degree: Year:
Chapter Affiliation:

National Membership Fees (circle one)

Table with 4 columns: Years, 1, 2, 3. Rows include 04 & Above, 03 & Below, and Life Membership with Regular, Gold, and Platinum options.

Method of Payment: Check Visa MasterCard
Credit Card Number:
Expiration Date:
Name as it appears on card:

ALL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS AND FEES MUST BE SENT TO NATIONAL!!

Make all checks payable to "ROCKS, Inc." and mail to:
ROCKS, Inc.
c/o WSC Associates, LLP
P.O. Box 471212
Forestville, MD 20753

Note: Local membership fees are not included.
Deployed personnel are exempt from membership fees during the period of deployment.