

THE ROCKET

Winter 2007

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

What a great year 2006 proved to be! On behalf of the ROCKS Board, I extend my personal thanks for your contributions during what proved to be a very exciting year. ROCKS Chapters and many individual ROCKS made contributions that advanced our organizations' overall goals including our commitment to mentoring, leadership outreach to historically Black Colleges and Universities, and strengthening our Army officer corps. Several other senior ROCKS leaders and I were honored to have had the opportunity to participate in a number of events at ROCKS Chapters throughout our nation. I was particularly proud to witness your extraordinary commitment and focus on programs and events that translated into tangible benefits to your local membership, ROTC programs, your community, and the ROCKS, Inc. as a whole. It was very gratifying to see that despite an often crushing optempto, numerous deployments and limited resources, you remained steadfast in not only attaining, but exceeding your goals. A sense of camaraderie, collaboration, and pride was palpable, in addition to the fact that you actually had fun — an important ingredient in work that matters.

Eleven major contributions achieved during 2006 are listed on page 3 of this Rocket and represent the accomplishment of a host of our strategic goals. This information coupled with your knowledge about ROCKS history as described at the end of the Rocket, are powerful tools that you may use to clearly articulate how the ROCKS continue to ***Make the Difference that Counts*** within our Army, HBCUs, and our communities. Keep up the great work!

As we individually and collectively delve into the challenges of 2007 and beyond, I would like to convey our overall organizational priorities for 2007, priorities that I anticipate you will translate into an executable framework tailored to your Chapter or Interest Group. Our priorities for 2007 are: **1) Increase membership;** **2) Increase the sale of our Stiver's ROCKS Print;**

3) Align and enhance our Leadership Outreach Program; **4) Increase the number of participants at the 2008 Leadership & Training Conference;** **5) Strategically Engage the Army Leadership in a manner that educates them, garners their involvement and support, and conveys our added value to strengthening the officers corps;** **6) Develop a method for measuring mentorship within the organization;** and **7) Structure our Corporate Patron Program.** Additional information about the details of these priorities will be conveyed to you via designated ROCKS Board members as applicable. As always, I encourage you to contact us for any assistance, guidance or recommendations that you deem necessary.

Finally, the Rocket represents YOU the membership. I encourage you to contribute to the Rocket, and to provide feedback to the editor. You might notice some changes in future issues to include a "Best Practices" section that will focus on sharing successful methods used and programs in selected Chapters that you might find useful in your Chapter. Additionally, there will be a section that will allow you to "Sound Off," in a constructive way, by voicing your views on a variety of issues. Lastly, there will be a Cadet Corner that will serve as a literary conduit between the ROCKS, cadets attending HBCUs, and their cadre. Hearing what matters to them offers us unique opportunities to establish relationships with them well before their commissioning date, something that may prove invaluable to them as they transition to the officer corps.

Thank you again for your commitment to our ideals of Concern, Dedication, and Professionalism! We look forward to a 2007 that will be filled with a passion for excellence and even greater achievement!

Clara S. Adams Ender



The ROCKS, Inc.

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What do the ROCKS, Inc. Do For YOU and our Army? How Has the ROCKS, Inc. lived up to its core values of Concern, Dedication, and Professionalism and added value to our Army and the Department of Defense?

ROCKS, Inc. 2006 Contributions that Made the Difference that Counts:

*The R.C. Cartwright Scholarship Campaign raised over \$20,000 in 2006. These funds will provide critical assistance to students who are enrolled in ROTC programs at various Historically Black Colleges & Universities.

***ROCKS emphasized its commitment to active mentoring throughout the year** with special efforts mentoring company grade officers, majors, and LTCs. A number of significant professional development sessions throughout the organization reenforced the organization's total commitment to mentoring including company grade officer GWOT lessons learned panels; GWOT lessons learned panels by field grade officers deployed to the theater of operations; formal and informal discussions regarding compelling challenges in the present and future; professional development sessions with Human Resources Command representatives; mentoring of ROTC cadets; post-military advice and guidance from the Retired Military Officers Association, and individual mentoring sessions among ROCKS members.

*ROCKS overall **membership is steadily increasing and exceeded 1100 members in 2006.** Despite the challenge of maintaining viable ROCKS Chapters while executing high optempto and deployments, 5 new Interest Groups were added to include Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and our first Army National Guard organization. A new chapter was established in Atlanta and the Fort Hood Chapter was reestablished.

*Individual ROCKS Chapters **awarded numerous scholarships** to ROTC cadets attending HBCUs in addition to prospective ROTC Cadets, totalling thousands of dollars.

*ROCKS Chapters actively engaged in many **Leadership Outreach** efforts with a host of HBCUs to include Howard University/Bowie State, Morgan

State, University of Arkansas (Pine Bluff), Hampton University, Virginia State, and Norfolk State University/Old Dominion University. ROCKS members actively mentored and assisted Professors of Military Sciences Depts at HBCUs. ROCKS members also funded and hosted ROTC cadets at various formal and informal ROCKS events.

*An exceptional **ROCKS Leadership Conference** spearheaded by LTG(R) Edward Honor was held in March 2006 at Ft Belvoir. The conference featured a superb array of Senior Army leaders that provided active duty and retirees alike, the unique information on the Army's key challenges and the future of our force. Addresses included the Army G1; CG, Cadet Command; the former CG, Army Materiel Command; the Deputy CG, USA Europe; the CG, 1st US Army and CDR Joint Task Force, and the CG, Recruiting Command.

*ROCKS Members **assisted scores of prospective ROTC cadets with their ROTC scholarship applications,** providing important information to families, school counselors, and prospective cadets.

***ROCKS who made significant contributions to the organization were formally recognized** during the annual Spring Gala in Wash., DC. This event also highlighted honoring several Honorary ROCKS of the Year including the former Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen Reimer, and Gen Griffin, the AMC Cdr. These honorees are actively committed to the ideals of this organization and consistently demonstrated their commitment for sustained periods of time.

***ROCKS enhanced its community outreach endeavors** with other professional development and mentoring organizations to include AFCOMAP and NNOA. Other community outreach efforts include visits to VA medical centers, and community based volunteer work.

*ROCKS leaders made a concerted effort to enhance relationships with the Army Leadership.

*ROCKS conducted numerous annual, creative, and fun events which raised thousands to support its programs, with special emphasis on supporting HBCUs and ROTC cadets.

Reaching Out, Reaching Up

by Don Vaughan

February 2007 Military Officers Association of
America

(REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE
AUTHOR & MOAA)

For professional guidance and direction, black servicemembers need look no further than these mentoring groups.

As a successful Army officer, Col. Dorene Hurt has worked hard to earn the position she holds today: Chief of Staff of the Army Chair and assistant professor of military strategy and logistics at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, Fort McNair, Washington, D.C. But Hurt says she owes much of that success to the example and advice provided by her mentor, Lt. Gen. Julius W. Becton, USA-Ret.

"Foremost was seeing early on what good leadership looked like, and I saw that firsthand in Lieutenant General Becton," Hurt says. "When people who have integrity, [who] are caring, and who have paid their dues set the example for you, that influences you significantly."

For Becton, the relationship was all about taking a good soldier under his wing and helping her become the best she could be by offering career advice and helping her overcome potential obstacles. "Mentors provide guidance and direction through their actions and suggestions," Becton says. "And also by just being a friend."

Hurt is one of thousands of black servicemembers whose careers have benefited from a mentoring relationship. Today, she mentors others and helps promote the concept as vice president of communications for The ROCKS Inc., a national organization that offers advice and counsel to junior officers looking to make the military their career. For black servicemembers in the Navy or Air Force, The National Naval Officers Association (NNOA) and the Air Force Cadet Officer Mentor Action Program (AFCOMAP) offer similar career advice and support in the form of mentoring.

Rock steady

The ROCKS began in the mid-1960s as an informal meeting of Army officers assigned to the Command

and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, KS. The group initially met to help each other "survive" at Fort Leavenworth, and many members continued to meet after being reassigned to the Pentagon and elsewhere in the greater Washington, D.C., area. In the years that followed, the group grew. Realizing the need for a more structured organization, its members met Oct. 9, 1974, to formalize their organization. Those present decided to temporarily call themselves the "No Name Club" until another name could be decided.

"The leader of that organization was Brig. Gen. Roscoe Cartwright [known as Rock by his friends and colleagues]. He was assigned to the Pentagon, and he would walk the halls, meet minority officers, and tell them that they needed to check into his net," says Brig. Gen. Clara Adams-Ender, USA-Ret., who joined the organization in 1981 and now chairs its national board. "By that, he meant, 'You need to see me so I can talk to you about your assignment here ... and other things that are important for you to know and do.' He was one of the first [officers] to do that."

Cartwright died in a plane crash Dec. 1, 1974, the night the No Name Club met to choose a new name. Members voted to call the group The ROCKS as a tribute to Cartwright, Adams-Ender says, and its mission continues to follow his calling. Today, The ROCKS has 23 active chapters across the Army (including one in Iraq) and boasts a membership of more than 1,180.

"We provide a program of mentoring within the chapters and various interest groups," says Adams-Ender. "Junior officers are assigned to senior officers to discuss the things that are going on with them regarding their assignments and the goals and objectives that they have set for themselves in the Army."

The ROCKS also has a program called Leadership Outreach, in which members visit historically black colleges and universities and work with students enrolled in ROTC. Scholarships are available, and members offer information and insight into what students can expect when they come on active duty as an officer or go into a reserve unit. "We discuss issues ranging from personal finance to developing appropriate social skills," says Adams-Ender. "It's all about having a successful first

assignment within the Army, as well as a successful career.”

According to Hurt, organizations like The ROCKS strengthen the U.S. military as well as the individual. “We’re committed to reaching out not only to the community but [also] within the Army. That’s the bottom line,” she says. “And I think we have a better military for it.”

Seaworthy

NNOA has a simple mission - to support the sea services in the recruitment, retention, and career development of ethnic minority officers. “We are an essential element in maintaining operational readiness of the sea services,” says NNOA National President Capt. Bernard Jackson, USN, deputy chief of staff, Navy Enterprise, Pentagon. “We provide professional development and mentoring and support cultural diversity by establishing and maintaining a positive image of the sea services in communities and educational institutions.”

The organization began in 1970 when Lt. Kenneth Johnson, advisor for Minority Affairs at the U.S. Naval Academy, was charged with improving minority interest in recruitment efforts and participation in the Naval Academy Blue and Gold Program. At the time, says Jackson, there were fewer than 100 ethnic minority officers in the Navy, and fewer than 50 of them were black.

In 1971, Johnson met with fellow Navy officers Capt. Emerson Emory, CWO James Harris, Cmdr. Emmanuel Jenkins, and Capt. Claude Williams to discuss forming an organization to assist minority officer recruitment. A year later, in Annapolis, Md., they established the NNOA. The NNOA currently has more than 800 active members in 54 chapters internationally, and mentoring remains an integral part of the organization’s mission, says Jackson, who joined the organization in 1984.

“At each local chapter, senior officers engage in ongoing discussions about issues relevant to a specific career path,” he says. “Through these structured mentoring sessions ... members ... can reach out to NNOA board members with specific questions.”

Instructional opportunities also are provided at the NNOA’s annual national conferences. At the most recent conference, for example, sessions addressed career progression and development for O3s and below and O4s and above, Jackson says. “We also challenge our chapters to go out and expose the community to the sea services,” Jackson says. “One way we do that is by having the chapters provide scholarships to high school students who want to go to college. The scholarships aren’t necessarily tied to them going into the military - we also offer scholarships to young people who have demonstrated [a] strong academic performance.”

Lt. Col. Dawn Harrison, G1 Operations officer for Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., and the Marine Corps service representative to the NNOA, says joining the organization proved to be a wise move for her professionally. Today, she “pays it forward” by mentoring junior officers and encouraging them to join. “I tell them that they don’t have to come to every NNOA meeting or participate in every event,” she says, “but if they stay connected, it will benefit them in the long run and benefit the other Marines who work with them.”

Capt. Anthony Barnes, director of diversity at the Navy Recruiting Command in Millington, Tenn., and Navy service representative to the NNOA, agrees. “The [NNOA] provides mentors who understand the rules of the game,” he says. “[Being a member] gave me the ability to come to the chess match holding chess pieces instead of checkers. My mentor helped me understand the culture and the nature of the naval officer wardroom, which was something that many of us from diverse backgrounds don’t get in any other forum.”

The sky’s the limit

AFCOMAP was founded in June 1989 as a means to prepare Air Force cadets coming out of college for active duty. Its mission: To strengthen future Air Force leaders through mentorship. “At the college level, we mentor cadets about what it’s going to take not only to become successful officers but also successful professionals,” says AFCOMAP National President Brig. Gen. Ronnie Hawkins, commander, Air Force Officer Accession and Training schools, Maxwell AFB, Ala.

"We offer advice regarding their finances and their personal life - what they need to do on the professional side. Once they go on active duty, the focus shifts to the company grade officers and what it's going to take for them to become field grade officers or career airmen officers. We then start tailoring our program on a monthly basis to topics that are important for their success in the Air Force."

It's a program with a proven track record. "If you were to approach many African-American colonels right now, they would tell you that it's because of the [AFCOMAP] back when they were captains that they're sitting where they are right now," Hawkins says.

AFCOMAP has 12 active chapters at U.S. Air Force installations and between 300 and 400 members. In addition to giving career development mentoring to Air Force cadets and active duty airmen, it strives to boost diversity in the Air Force by providing mentoring even to middle and high schools.

"We have seen that there is a propensity for African Americans and other minorities not to go to college," Hawkins says. "If you're going to have a diverse Air Force, you need to make sure you have a good pool of candidates coming out of college, which means you need to get the right numbers going into college. Our middle and high school mentoring program is going to be a fundamental foundation [of that goal]."

Hawkins, who joined AFCOMAP in 1991 at the encouragement of one of his mentors, speaks from personal experience regarding the benefits of membership. "The biggest thing the organization did for me was make me cognizant of how important it was for my records to be properly written in order for me to be competitive," he says. "Let's face it, records get promoted, people really don't. So the mentorship tied to that was, I think, one of the critical keys to the success I enjoy today. [It] also taught me how to be a mentor to others. And as the people I mentor become mentors, the whole Air Force gets better and, quite frankly, I enjoy that success, too."

Organizations such as AFCOMAP provide a direct benefit to the military in general and the Air Force in particular, Hawkins says. "The biggest way is

[that] we prepare officers for the Air Force and the mission within the Air Force, which is tied to being an expeditionary airman," he explains. "All of our focus is toward that. So when you talk about readiness, we're telling our members that the best thing they could be doing is getting boots in the sand. That helps everyone."

SPECIAL NOTE:

*BG(R) Adams-Ender wrote a letter to the editor thanking MOAA for publishing the article about mentoring groups in its February 2007 edition. The article was informative, historical, and gave concrete examples of how officers are mentored with a purpose by these groups. She went on to inform the MOAA editor and its readers that **mentoring organizations like the ROCKS, AFCOMAP and NOAA are not exclusively for African American officers, which was an impression given by the captions.** She stressed that membership is open to all military officers and apologized to those Rock members who are not African American if they felt excluded. The ROCKS and the other organizations mentioned welcome EVERYONE for the diversity, shared values, and variety of experiences that they add to its programs. She ended by again thanking MOAA for helping our organizations to "get the word out" about mentorship in the military officer corps, emphasizing that our ultimate goal of mentoring is to improve the quantity and quality of experiences of protégés and all of its members in defense of our Nation.*

Did You Know?

General "Rock" Cartwright was inducted into the Booker T. Washington High School Hall of Fame on April 10, 2006. General Cartwright attended this high school located in Tulsa, Oklahoma, graduating in the class of 1936. His family really enjoyed the service and were proud to witness the occasion.



18th Airborne Corps Welcomes New Commander

FORT BRAGG, N.C. – Newly promoted Lt. Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III assumed command of the XVIII Airborne Corps from outgoing Commander Lt. Gen. John R. Vines in an 8 December 2006 change of command ceremony at Fort Bragg. About 600 corps Soldiers welcomed their new Commander and his wife, Charlene, as they bid farewell to Vines and his wife, Pamela.

Gen. Dan K. McNeill, Commander of U.S. Army Forces Command, presided over the event and praised both Vines and Austin for their service to Fort Bragg, the XVIII Airborne Corps and the U.S. Army.

McNeill provided some insight about Austin and his reputation as a Commander and a Soldier. "The Army made an inspired and enlightened choice to have Lloyd Austin and Charlene move back to Fort Bragg and command the XVIII Airborne Corps," said McNeill. "All one has to do is look at the record of this Soldier (Austin) and this family and then you will know it to be so."

The incoming Commander addressed the Soldiers of Fort Bragg and the XVIII Airborne Corps. "I cannot begin to describe how happy Charlene and I are to be back in the corps and amongst some of the greatest war fighters our military has ever seen," Austin said. He went on to say, "The greatest honor for any Soldier is to command the sons and daughters of America and obviously it is a very special honor to take command of the XVIII Airborne Corps."

He also took a few moments to thank the community for welcoming him back to the area with open arms. "Charlene and I would like to thank the leadership of the Fayetteville, Spring Lake and surrounding communities for the warm welcome that we received as we returned to Fort Bragg. Your kindness was very much appreciated, and will be something we will cherish for some time to come."

In an earlier ceremony at the Support Center's Memorial Hall, Austin was promoted to three-star general by Gen. John P. Abizaid, Commanding General U.S. Central Command. Austin comes to Fort Bragg after serving under Abizaid as Chief of Staff, CENTCOM in Tampa, FL. Abizaid and Austin were also in the same cadet company at West Point in the early 1970s. During his remarks, Abizaid said, "The greatest honor any commander can have is to promote somebody, especially somebody as talented and faithful as Lloyd Austin." He went on to say, "Lloyd Austin is a great Soldier. He is a great human being, a great American. I don't know how many different times I have served with him, here at Fort Bragg or other places, but I can't think of a finer Soldier who deserves to be promoted to the rank of lieutenant general and deserves to command this corps ..."

Austin, a Georgia native, graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in 1975 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the infantry. Although new to the XVIII Airborne Corps, this will not be Austin's first tour at Fort Bragg. Previously, he was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division where he commanded Combat Support Company, 2nd Battalion (Airborne), 508th Infantry and served as the Assistant S-3 (Operations) for 1st Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division.

Some of his other assignments include the Operations Officer for the U.S. Army Indianapolis District Recruiting Command and later a Company Commander in the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion. After his selection and completion of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College he was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y., where he served as the S-3 (Operations) and later executive officer for the 2nd Battalion, 22nd Infantry. He also served as Executive Officer for 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Div. and as the Commanding General of the 10th Mountain Div.

Austin earned a master's degree in education from Auburn University and a master's degree in business management from Webster University. He is also a graduate of the Infantry Officer Basic and Advanced courses, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College.

His awards and decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Defense Superior Service Medal; the Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with five oak leaf clusters, the Army Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Expert Infantryman Badge, the Master Parachutist Badge, the Ranger Tab, and the Joint Chief of Staff Identification Badge.

Leadership Outreach for the ROCKS All-American Chapter

*Written by CPT Quinton Leath
Leadership Outreach Chairman*

The All-American Chapter of The ROCKS Inc. conducted a mentorship luncheon hosted by Fayetteville State University's Air Force and Army ROTC programs on September 12, 2006. The guest speaker Brigadier General Rodney O. Anderson, Deputy Commanding General, 82d Airborne Division addressed the cadets as the future leaders of this country's Army and thanked them for their commitment and service to their country. CPT Quinton Leath of the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82d Airborne Division provided a presentation on Professional Military Education. CPT Leath and the members of the All-American Chapter encouraged the cadets to take full advantage of all civilian and military education that is offered. The closing remarks were made by LTC Conrado B. Morgan, President, All-American Chapter. CPT(P) Kerna McFarlin, Assistant Professor of Military Science thanked the All-American Chapter on behalf of the university and the cadets. Dr. Valentine James, Dean of the College of Humanity and Social Science was presented with an All-American Chapter's coin for his support to the ROTC programs at FSU by LTC Morgan.



BG Anderson addresses the ROCKS All-Americans and FSU cadets during an Outreach Event

ANNOUNCEMENT



General Gordon R. Sullivan, USA Retired, President of the Association of the United States Army [AUSA] announced that the Association has selected Lieutenant General Julius W. Becton, Jr., USA Retired as the 2007 recipient of the George

Catlett Marshall Medal. This is the Association's highest award and is given annually for selfless service to the United States of America.

General Becton selection was based on his outstanding military career, and his post military service, which included Director, United States Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance in the Agency for International Development, Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, President, Prairie View A&M University, Superintendent of the D.C. Public School System, and Commissioner on the American Battle Monuments Commission.

The Award will be presented to General Becton during the AUSA Annual Meeting in October 2007.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2007 ROCK OF THE YEAR AWARDEES

**LTG Lloyd J. Austin III USA
MG Jerome Johnson USA
BG Donald J. Delandro USA (Ret)
COL Raymond Bingham USA
COL Maxie L. Joye USA (Ret)**

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2007 HONORARY ROCK OF THE YEAR AWARDEES

**GEN David D. McKiernan USA
Mr. Clifford L. Alexander, Jr.**

Upcoming Events

33rd Annual Scholarship and Awards Spring Gala 24 March 2007 Fort Belvoir O'Club, Virginia

The gala includes presentation of both National and Chapter awards and scholarships. **LTG Lloyd Austin III**, Commander, 18th Airborne Corps will be the guest speaker. You can register for this event online at www.therocksdc.org.

RESERVATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN **MARCH 19**. AFTER THIS DATE PLEASE CONTACT THE ROCKS DC CHAPTER OFFICE AT (301) 669-9319 or info@therocksdc.org.

Washington, DC Chapter Monthly Membership Meeting

LTG Campbell, Director of the Army Staff will be the DC Chapter's Guest Speaker on 15 March at 7:00pm at the Ft. Myer Officers Club. All are invited to come out to support this very special event. It is important that you RSVP for this event at info@therocksdc.org no later than 12 March.



Hampton Roads ROCKS 5th Anniversary Celebration

The Hampton Roads Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc. (HRC) held its 5th Anniversary Celebration on November 18, 2006 at the Fort Eustis Club, Fort Eustis, Virginia. The theme for this formal event was "Celebrating Progress while Realizing a Vision". The purpose of the celebration was to recognize the chapter's growth, viability and contributions to its members and the community over the past five years.



Keynote speaker, LTG Michael Rochelle, Army Deputy Chief of Staff G-1

Distinguished visitors in attendance included the keynote speaker, LTG Michael D. Rochelle, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, United States Army, BG (Ret.) Clara Adams-Ender, Chairman, Board of Directors, ROCKS, Inc., LTG (Ret.) Edward Honor, Vice President Programs and Strategic Planning; Mr. Charles Allen, Vice Mayor for Newport News, Virginia, and BG (Ret.) and Mrs. Larry Gillespie. Also in attendance were fifteen Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) cadets from Woodrow Wilson High School and two cadets from Hampton High School.

The Mistress of Ceremony, Major Earline Nelson, directed the evening festivities that began with the invocation by the HRC Chaplain, LTC Pearlean Scott, and posting of the colors by the Woodrow Wilson High School color guard led by Cadet Major Senian Martin. Colonel (Ret.) Maynard Brown provided the audience a heart warming reflection on his past assignments and close association with BG Roscoe C. Cartwright

during earlier years in Germany. Major (Ret.) Hubert Becton then shared the history of the organization from its establishment as an interest group to its present day charter as a vibrant chapter.



Major Earline Nelson serving as the Mistress of Ceremony directing the evening's activities.

Following dinner, LTC (Ret.) Chuck Holden, HRC correspondence secretary and the 5th Anniversary Committee Chairman, introduced the keynote speaker, LTG Michael D. Rochelle. General Rochelle shared some interesting insights about the challenges and paths trodden by many ROCKS members such as LTG (Ret.) Honor and others. He commended the HRC on their many achievements over a short five year period and challenged the chapter to continue to mentor young officers and cadets, and give back to the community.

BG (Ret.) Adams-Ender was introduced by the HRC President, LTC (Ret.) Wendell Turner. BG Adams-Ender encouraged the HRC to continue their hard work and challenged the chapter to do more in the area of Mentorship. Following her talk, LTC Turner and LTC Holden presented BG Adams-Ender a check in the amount of \$1,200 as a HRC donation to the National Roscoe C. Cartwright Scholarship Fund.

HRC President, LTC (Ret.) Turner closed out the formal program with his remarks followed by the benediction by COL Lilton Marks.

The Gator Allmond band struck up tunes that allowed the young cadets to join in on the singing and performances as well as line dances that provided an opportunity for all to let their hair down.



LTC (Ret) Wendell Turner, HR Chapter President, and LTC (Ret) Chuck Holden, 5th Anniversary Committee Chairman, presenting to BG (Ret) Adams-Ender, on behalf of the Chapter, a donation to the Roscoe C. Cartwright Scholarship Fund.

Christmas Caroling at the Hampton Veterans Medical Center

*Submitted by LTC (Ret) Wendell Turner
President, HRC ROCKS, Inc.*

On December 16, 2006, the Hampton Roads Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc. (HRC) and the National Naval Officers Association (NNOA), along with family members, combined to bring cheer to the veterans of the Mid-Atlantic Veterans Medical Center located in Hampton, Virginia. The combined group of volunteer carolers numbered fourteen in total. This is the fifth year the HRC have taken this project on. Each year the visit has been more rewarding for members and patients alike.

The group met at the facility and after a brief invocation given by LTC Chaplain Pearlean Scott, the HRC Chaplain, went joyfully singing through the halls of the immense hospital complex. In addition to this year's traveling serenade, the HRC prepared over 100 goodie bags consisting of toiletries and sundry items as gifts for Homeless Veterans who call the VA Hospital dormitory (known as the DOM) their temporary place of residence.

Mr. Hubert Becton, HRC ROCKS Chapter Advisor, is a Pharmacist at the Hospital. Mr. Becton provided all of the coordination with each ward. Mr. Becton and wife, Sheila also packaged over 100 beautifully wrapped Christmas gifts presented to the homeless veterans.

Throughout the two hour visit the singing was spirited and the patients of the Spinal Chord Ward and Psychiatric Wards A&B received the members with smiles. Many of the songs were done in sing-along style and many of the vets joined into the choruses sung in prolonged stays in the respective day rooms. LTC Raymond Devoe delivered a solo of O' Holy Night, and many of the assembled vets also enjoyed, a very energetic rendition of Feliz Navidad by the friends and family members of the ROCKS, which included: Ms. Bernice Turner, Ms. Adia Charley, MS I Cadet Michael Turner of Hampton University Army ROTC, Ms. Kristen Turner, Mr. Wendell Turner III, Brianna Romney and Brendan Romney.

The event concluded with the visit to the homeless dormitory where the gifts were personally distributed to all in attendance. Special thanks to the Men and Women of the National Naval Officers Association of Hampton Roads for spreading the word of this great event and also coming out to support the HRC ROCKS once again.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!



COURAGE, DEDICATION, PROFESSIONALISM

The Hampton Roads Chapter Establishes High Water Mark in 2006 Scholarship Campaign

*Submitted By: Wendell H. Turner Jr.
President, HRC ROCKS, Inc.*

In retrospect, the year of 2006 provided myriad reasons for Hampton Roads Chapter of The ROCKS, Inc. (HRC) to be happy with "well enough". It hosted it's first successful Golf Tournament and enjoyed a record setting Masquerade Ball. But the most important success was the Chapter's 2006 capstone event, the Scholarship Banquet.

In 2006 the HRC awarded five, \$500.00 scholarships to area JROTC cadets from 30 schools that populate the entire Hampton Roads region. This includes High Schools on the Virginia peninsula, south Hampton Roads, and Gloucester County. 2006 was an all time high for scholarship dollars generated and awarded. This important event was only possible due to the success of the Masquerade Ball and Golf Tournament scholarship fund raisers.

Significant effort went into meeting all the milestones leading up to the Scholarship Banquet. Scholarship applications were crafted and delivered per an expert direction of a distribution strategy that was executed in phases by LTC Raymond Devoe, HRC ROCKS Scholarship Chairperson and the Scholarship Committee. The effort took a year to plan and execute. The effort garnered the committee special recognition at the banquet and selected members earned Chairman's awards for their extra efforts.

Approximately eighty people attended and all were motivated by the informative message by HRC member MG Montague Winfield, Commanding General of the United States Army Cadet Command at Fort Monroe, Virginia. This event was well planned and orchestrated by the event coordinator and Master of Ceremonies, MAJ Earline Nelson.

The Chapter received letters of thanks from students and parents for a job well done. Hats off to the scholarship committee, LTC Raymond Devoe, MAJ Earline Nelson, LTC Sherman Vines, LTC Weldon Harris, LTC (Ret) Wendell Turner, MAJ LaShonda Ellis-Ramsey and MAJ Rachel Hill for a job well done.



Pictured are: LTC Raymond DeVoe, ROCKS Scholarship Committee Chairman, Cadet Lalanti Antolin, Lake Taylor High School, Cadet Timothy Brown, Bethel High School, MG Winfield, Cadet Brent Noll, Frank W. Cox High School, Cadet Kandice Price, Hampton High School, LTC (R) Wendell Turner, and Cadet Porsche Uzzle, Booker T. Washington High School. Photo courtesy of LTC(Ret) Toney Mooney.

ROCKS SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

Its scholarship time again! The ROCKS will once again oversee 2 distinct scholarship efforts. Applications and information can be found at the ROCKS website: www.rocksync.org. There will be 8 RC Cartwright Scholarship offered for current ROTC cadets. These 8 will be broken out as follow: 3 Sophomores, 3 Juniors, and 2 for Seniors. Applications for the RC Cartwright Scholarship are due at ROCKS Headquarters by **2 Mar 07**. Winners will be announced on 7 Mar 07. Submit applications to: BG (Ret) Earl Simms, The ROCKS, Inc., P.O. Box 471212, Forestville, MD 20753, Fax:(301) 669-9407, therocks@aol.com.

Additionally, the ROCKS will facilitate the submission of a limited number of Army 4 year ROTC Scholarships for prospective ROTC cadets. Paper applications for the Army 4 year ROTC Scholarship must be cleared through ROCKS Headquarters, before they are submitted to Cadet Command. 4 Year Scholarship applications can also be obtained at the Army ROTC website: <http://www.goarmy.com/rotc/scholarships.jsp>. PLEASE disregard the information at this website about

where to submit the application and any deadline. Please submit 4 year ROTC Scholarship applications NLT **23 Mar 07** to: BG (Ret) Earl Simms, The ROCKS, Inc., P.O. Box 471212, Forestville, MD 20753, Fax:(301) 669-9407. The primary POC is: BG (Ret) Earl Simms telephone 571-213-2321 (cell) or 703-723-9197 (home), email fsimms44@yahoo.com, therocks@aol.com.

Tax Information from National's VP, Finance - COL(R) Lucretia McClenney

A new piece of tax legislation, the Pension Protection Act of 2006, was recently enacted into law. The new law contains many provisions having nothing to do with retirement plans. In fact, it makes some of the most important changes in the deduction for charitable donations that has ever been seen in years. For example:

As a general rule, deductions for charitable donations must be substantiated by cancelled checks or receipts from the charity. However, in the past, a log or other written record sufficed when cancelled checks or receipts were not readily available. So for example, if you dropped a \$20 bill in the Sunday collection plate or in a Christmas kettle outside of a department store, you could still claim a deduction as long as you kept a record of the donation. The new law eliminates this option starting in 2007. All charitable donations must be supported by bank records or receipts from the charities.

For more information about the new tax law, visit www.irs.gov or contact your tax advisor/preparer.

FALLEN ROCK



It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of Major Gloria Davis on 12 Dec 2006 in Iraq. MAJ Davis was an extremely dedicated and loyal Rock who served as the DC Chapter's Assistant Treasurer and was very active in a host of key ROCKS events. Many fellow ROCKS, friends,

family, & colleagues attended her memorial service and internment at Arlington National Cemetery. Sincere condolences from the ROCKS are extended to her Mother, Miss Annie; daughter, Candace; son, Damien; granddaughter, Kennedy and the rest of her family. LTC John McLeod, a dear friend and fellow ROCKS, participated in the memorial Service in Iraq and at Arlington National Cemetery, providing invaluable assistance to her family.

YOUR INPUT COUNTS!

Have a good idea for a Rocket article? Know of any deployed ROCKS whose story you'd like to share or who are willing to share it themselves? Simply email your suggestion to therocks@aol.com

The ROCKS, Inc. National Board of Directors

2006 R.C. Cartwright Scholarship Campaign

The National Board of the ROCKS, Inc. sincerely thanks everyone who donated to the R.C. Cartwright Scholarship Fund during the 2006 Campaign. You generously donated **\$20,615.00**, which will provide critical assistance to students who are enrolled in ROTC programs at various Historically Black Colleges & Universities.

Thanks for Investing in Our Future by Making a Difference That Counts!

Washington, DC ROCKS 2006 Happenings

West Hamilton Dinner Innovates, Again

The Washington DC Chapter's 31st Annual West Hamilton Membership Dinner continued a wave of program innovation while retaining the traditional soul food buffet, silent auction and dancing. Andrews Air Force Base Golf Club, its venue for over a decade, provided great service as usual. A great mix of Active, Reserve and Retired officers, their guests and senior Army ROTC cadets from local colleges enjoyed the evening. Presidents of the local AFCOMAP and NNOA Chapter and others from the Departments of the Navy and Air Force and the Coast Guard added a joint flavor to the evening.

The first of three innovations was to have an Honorary Rock, General Benjamin Griffin, Commanding General Army Materiel Command (AMC) as keynote speaker. GEN Griffin inspired the audience with information about AMC's personnel programs and his personal commitment to excellence. After, BG (Ret) Velma Richardson, Chapter President, presented him a Certificate of Appreciation with two chapter coins for his address. As the second innovation, COL (Ret) Andre' Barnes and COL Ralph Harris orchestrated the silent auction as a chapter auction for the first time since LTG (Ret) Edward Honor initiated and managed the auction as a National Board event. The presentation of chapter awards was the third innovation. BG (Ret) Richardson and LTC Rose Johnson, Chapter Awards Committee Chair presented the inaugural Washington DC Chapter Award for Professionalism to MG (Ret) James Klugh, for demonstrated mastery of 3 disciplines: Chemical Warfare, Logistics and Systems Integration. COL (Ret) Andre Barnes and LTC Bichson Bush received the first Chapter Volunteerism Awards for extensive and extraordinary service to the chapter and to mentoring. COL (Ret) Osborne, Chapter VP. Operations and West Hamilton Membership Committee Chair thanked the committee volunteers, participants and donors for making the event a social and financial success. The event netted over \$2,000.

The Washington DC Chapter Monthly Meetings delivered professional education, discussed the

chapter's business and provided an opportunity for mentoring in a social atmosphere. This is a summary of the speakers and programs:

September: MG Ronald Johnson, Deputy Commander U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, explained his organization's multiple missions, described their efforts before and after Hurricane Katrina and discussed reconstruction operation in Iraq. He also stressed the importance of mentoring.

October: Captain Ed Gantt, USN (Ret), President of the DC Chapter, NNOA, gave a tutorial on the organization, mission and culture of the Navy Department. He explained the special challenges required to enable officers to be viewed as capable flight leaders and how he overcame those challenges. Captain Gantt also explained the function of the National Naval Officer's Association, his service's counterpart to the ROCKS.

November: COL Casper P. Jones III, Chief of Staff, North Atlantic Regional Medical Command and the Walter Reed Health Care System spoke on medical support to combat operations and about the impact of the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) on medical care in the National Capital Region. COL Jones reviewed support to the Coalition and Iraqi Forces by the 86th Combat Support Hospital and Medical Task Force 86. He commanded the unit during the HBO filming of the Emmy Award winning documentary, 'Baghdad ER'. COL Jones also addressed many concerns about the impact of BRAC on Walter Reed and the National Naval Hospital (Bethesda).

December: At the General Membership Meeting and Holiday Social, COL (Ret) Younger, Chapter Chaplain offered a moment of silence for MAJ Gloria Davis, former Chapter Assistant Treasurer who died in the Iraq Theater. BG (Ret) Richardson presented the State of the Chapter, highlighting accomplishments in 2006 and challenges for 2007. Members and their spouses then enjoyed appetizers, tea, coffee, pastries and egg nog as they exchanged the greetings of the season.

In Iraq: many chapter members are serving in Afghanistan and Iraq, including LTC Quinton McCorvey, immediate past treasurer. Special prayers are with all ROCKS in harm's way.

News You Can Use

Depression in Americans Age 65 and Older

Depression is the nation's most overlooked and undertreated public health problem that affects nearly 20 percent of Americans age 65 and older. Here's what you should know.

Depression: Everyone feels sad or gets the blues now and then, but when these feelings linger more than a few weeks, it may be depression. Depression is a complex medical problem that can affect your mental, emotional and physical health. Depression is not a normal part of aging or a personal weakness, and it's usually not something you can just snap out of.

While there's no one cause for elderly depression, it can be triggered by numerous factors like: a side effect to a medication, a physical illness (heart disease, cancer, stroke, arthritis and more), a disability, loss of a loved one or friend, a major life change, stress, low self-esteem, alcohol abuse, isolation, or it can be genetically inherited.

Are you depressed? Recognizing depression can be very difficult because symptoms can be subtle and will vary from person to person. Here are some of the warning signs you should be aware of.

- A persistent feeling of sadness.
- Lost interest in hobbies or activities that you formerly enjoyed.
- Feeling worthless or hopeless.
- Inability to sleep or sleeping too much.
- Loss of energy or motivation.
- Not eating or eating too much.
- Trouble thinking, concentrating, and making decisions.
- Feeling anxious, restless or irritable.
- Thinking about dying or killing yourself.

Savvy fact: Seniors have the highest suicide rate of any age group in the United States.

Helpful resources: Unfortunately, only around 10 percent of older Americans with depression seek help, mainly because they either don't know they have it, they think they can handle it themselves or they're too ashamed to admit it. Today there are various online resources that offer seniors an inconspicuous way to understand and recognize depression and find help. The resources include:

- **National Mental Health Association:** Offers a free confidential online screening test for depression, information on symptoms and treatment options, and explains the different types of mental health professionals. Visit www.depressionscreening.org or call (800) 969-6642.
- **National Institute of Mental Health:** Offers a variety of free booklets, fact sheets and other information about depression. Call (866) 615-6464 or visit www.nimh.nih.gov/healthinformation/depressionmenu.cfm.
- **Geriatric Mental Health Foundation:** Provides a free Depression Recovery Tool Kit and can help you identify depression and locate help in your area. Call (301) 654-7850 ext. 100, or visit www.gmhfonline.org.
- **Screening for Mental Health:** Sponsors the National Depression Screening Day on Oct. 5, at more than 8,000 sites nationwide. This is a free service available to people of all ages. To find a site near you visit www.mental-healthscreening.org.

Treatment options: The first step in treating depression is recognizing that you are depressed. The second step is seeking help, beginning with your doctor. Once you seek help, you'll find that there are a variety of treatment options to help you get back on track such as antidepressant medications or professional counseling or a combination of both.

Most seniors improve dramatically with treatment. However, without treatment, depression can get worse and significantly increase your risks of cardiovascular disease and other illness and the possibility of suicide.

First Black Commandant Named at Chaplain School

Associated Press, Sunday, August 27, 2006

FORT JACKSON, S.C. - The new commandant at the Army's school for chaplains, whose father served in a segregated Army, says his selection as the first black person to lead the 88-year-old military institution is a reflection of America's diversity. "This has some significance, so it's pretty cool," said Chaplain Col. Clarke McGriff, 51.

Col. McGriff said he hopes to use his position at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School to make a difference in the lives of soldiers and their families. "This is a tremendous institution," he said in an interview.

He draws inspiration from the school's students, who have volunteered to become chaplains at a time when many know they are heading into combat. "I guarantee you, a good number of them will be in Iraq or Afghanistan before December. That's the reality of the time. They know that and they still come," Col. McGriff said.

The school, with its staff of 30 civilians and 73 teachers and administrators in uniform, trains chaplains who are ordained civilian clergy and seminarians to serve in the Army. It also conducts basic and advanced officer training for active duty and Army Reserve chaplains. Enlisted soldiers and noncommissioned officers can attend the school to become chaplain assistants.

In 2006, 1,278 students were trained at the school. Col. McGriff said there are 2,500 chaplains in the Army's active duty, Reserve and National Guard, representing 123 denominations. Because of the broad range of faith groups in the military, Col. McGriff said one of the most important lessons taught at the school is for chaplains of every denomination to learn to minister to soldiers and families of every faith. "We provide for the free exercise of religious freedom," Col. McGriff said. "Denominations fade because we work with so many soldiers with different faiths."

The new posting in South Carolina also gives Col. McGriff the opportunity to spend some time studying his family history. "Matthew Mark McGriff,

my great-great-grandfather, was a slave," born between 1845 and 1855, Col. McGriff said. His great-grandfather, grandfather and father were sharecroppers in Lancaster County, about 60 miles north of Fort Jackson. Family members are studying records back to the early 1800s to trace the family's roots, he said.

"I'm excited about it," Col. McGriff said. "We've been back for a short visit, and I want to go again." Col. McGriff's father left the sharecropping life and joined the U.S. Army during World War II.

Col. McGriff said he searched for his father's military record while serving at the Pentagon. His father never rose above the rank of private in the then-segregated service, and was never recognized with a commendation despite being wounded in combat. "I'm sorry I didn't talk with him about it," Col. McGriff said of his father's time in the military.

His father died in 1983. But Col. McGriff knows one thing: "He was very proud of me."



Former DC Chapter ROCKS President Zach Patterson was elected as the first Black Mayor of McComb, Mississippi in November 2006.

Deadline submission for Spring Issue of the ROCKET: April 28, 2007

HISTORY OF THE ROCKS, INC.

During the mid 1960s, a group of Army officers assigned to the Command and General Staff College (CGSC) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, began to meet informally in order to get to know each other better. Many of these officers had known each other in college or during other assignments. They, of course, had one additional thing in common at the time – how to “survive” at Fort Leavenworth. The group jokingly dubbed itself the “BLUE GEESE,” a term well known at CGSC as the vehicle used to convey a special assignment to a student officer. When the school year ended, the group discovered that many were being assigned to the pentagon and other places in the greater Washington area.

Upon reaching Washington, several informal meetings followed. However, the emphasis was modified to deal with survival in the National Capitol Region and to address other issues of interest to the members. During the years which followed, many officers were reassigned in and out of the Washington area so the group continued to grow. The need for a more structured organization was also seen, so a formal meeting was held on October 9, 1974, to get the group formalized. Those present decided to call themselves the “No Name Club.”

One of the later meetings was held on December 1, 1974, with the expressed purpose of naming the group. General Roscoe (Rock) C. Cartwright and his wife, Gloria, had been in Columbus, Ohio visiting their daughter and Rock was expected at the meeting. It was then that the group received the shocking news that the plane on which the Cartwrights were returning had crashed enroute to Dulles airport with no survivors. During the period of mourning, the Cartwright family requested that instead of flowers, a scholarship fund be established in the name of their parents. This resulted in the establishment of the Roscoe C. Cartwright Scholarship Fund to provide financial assistance to students who excel academically.

During the month of December 1974, at a special meeting following the funeral, the organization gathered and voted unanimously to administer the Roscoe C. Cartwright Scholarship Fund and to name itself the “ROCKS,” the name that we affectionately knew as one of our Geese and Charter member, Brigadier General Roscoe C. Cartwright.

**The ROCKS, Inc.,
Membership Application**

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Service: USA USN USMC USAF USCG Other Branch/Specialty: _____

Rank: _____ Status: Active Duty Reserve Retired Former est PCS: _____

Source of Commission: ROTC Service Academy OCS _____ Direct _____ Other _____

College/University Attended: _____ Degree: _____ Year: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Birth Date (Mo/Day): _____

Duty Station or Employer: _____

Business Mailing Address: _____

Telephone: Work: _____ Home: _____ Fax: _____

Preferred Mailings, please use my: Home Address / Work Address / Email: _____

Which Chapter is the Nearest: Atlanta Interest Group, GA / CA National Guard / Carlisle Barracks, PA / Germany / Hawaii / Hampton Roads, VA / Korea / San Antonio, TX Washington DC / Ft Bragg, NC / Ft. Bliss, TX / Ft. Carson, CO / Ft. Campbell, KY / Ft. Gordon, GA / Ft. Hood, TX / Ft. Huachuca, AZ / Ft. Jackson, SC / Ft. Leavenworth, KS / Ft. Lee Interest Group, VA Ft. Leonard Wood, MO / Ft. Lewis, WA / Ft. Polk, LA / Ft. Riley, KS / Ft. Stewart, GA

Other, please specify: _____

National Membership Fees:			Method of Payment: Check Visa MasterCard
<u>04 & Above</u>	<u>03 & Below</u>	<u>Life Member</u>	Credit Card Number:
1 Year: \$50.00	1 Year: \$30.00	\$450 Regular	Expiration Date:
2 Years: \$96.00	2 Years: \$58.00	\$650 Gold	Name as it appears on card:
3 Years: \$142.00	3 Years: \$86.00	\$850 Platinum	

***Payment plans are available. If you are interested, please email us.**

Sponsors Name: _____

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

Make all checks payable to “ROCKS, Inc.” and mail it to P.O. Box 471212, Forestville, MD 20753

Note: Local membership fees are not included.