

FRONT & CENTER

Embrace history....

On Dec. 13, 1945, the mighty 28th Infantry Division, the oldest continuously serving division in the United States Army, Headquarters location at Camp Shelby was deactivated following World War II.

The Pennsylvania Soldiers made a significant contribution to the war effort. They were referred to by the German Soldiers during the battle of the Huertgen Forrest as the “Bloody Bucket” Soldiers due to the unit’s patch, a red keystone, and the heavy amount of casualties experienced by U.S. troops and the 28th Infantry Division. U.S. casualties soared to over 34,000 during the five month battle at Huertgen Forrest.

On Aug. 26, the Adjutant General of the Pennsylvania National Guard, Maj. Gen. Wesley Craig, commissioned a permanent memorial to commemorate the military lineage of this decorated unit near the site of the original 28th Infantry Division’s headquarters located at Camp Shelby during World War II.

This ceremony celebrated the past heritage of the “Iron Division” as it welcomes home the “Iron Soldiers” of the 28th Infantry Division, the 55th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, Pennsylvania Army National Guard as they return from Afghanistan to complete their demobilization at Camp Shelby before going home to Family and friends. Thanks team for your coordinated effort that made this event an overwhelming success and preserves the history of many of our brave comrades in arms.

Team, we continue the task of preparing service members for their mobilization missions as we welcome the 1151st Vertical Construction Engineer Company, Alabama Army National Guard; 150th Horizontal Construction Engineer Company, New Jersey Army National Guard; 150th Engineer Company Detachment 1, Delaware Army National Guard; 133rd Engineer Battalion, Maine Army National Guard; 955th Engineer Company, Missouri Army National Guard and the 489th Engineer Battalion, Arkansas Army National Guard.

This month, we will welcome home members of the 55th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, Pennsylvania Army National Guard and the 268th Transportation Company, Puerto Rico Army National Guard. Thanks to all of you for your continued support and sacrifice during your deployment.

As school starts back for many, please be safe on the roadways. Wear your seat belts, obey the speed limits and traffic signs, yield for school buses and pedestrians in your local community and school zones and most importantly, do not text and drive.

Aug. 29, marks the eighth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, which is known as one of the deadliest hurricanes in United States history. This massive storm took the lives of a confirmed 1,833 people and caused an estimated \$108 billion in damages. Ensure you have a severe weather plan in place and emergency kits at the ready at home and at work.

Thanks team, for your dedicated support as we continue the mission of mobilizing and demobilizing America’s heroes in support of contingency operations around the world. It is an honor and a privilege to assist America’s finest patriots as they embark on their journey for the continued fight for freedom. Thank you for all that you do and keep up the good work.

May God continue to bless you, your Families, and this great country. “SOLDIERS FIRST”!



Col. Brad Smith

SOLDIER

Continued from Page 1

Security courses

The Department of Defense Defense Security Service (DSS) Center for Development of Security Excellence (CDSE) offers security education, training and certification. Courses offered by CDSE are available to U.S. government employees and military members. Some courses are also available to employees of companies that have government contracts. There is no charge for any CDSE course; however, some courses require purchase of textbooks. The American Council on Education’s College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT) has evaluated and recommended college credit for 13 CDSE courses. For more information, contact the Camp Shelby Education Center at 601-558-2029 or email: John.f.junkins.naf@mail.mil

DANTES changes

DANTES Subject Standardized Testing (DSST) will discontinue paper-based DSST testing at education centers effective Aug. 31. The decision to eliminate paper-based exams is based on a steady decline over the past year.

DSST exams will still be available after Aug. 31 at National Testing Centers. Soldiers interested in DSST testing at Camp Shelby Education Center before testing is discontinued should contact the Camp Shelby Education Office at 601-558-2029 or email John Junkins at John.f.junkins.naf@mail.mil

VOW requirements

Camp Shelby Soldiers transitioning from Active Duty must coordinate with the DPCA Plans/Ops Office and the ACAP counselor in Building 1441 to start their demobilization process as well in advance of the end of their orders as possible. Ideally that would be six months prior to the end of the order, but no less than 60 days from the order end-date.

The Veterans Opportunity to Work Act requirements may be completed online or in the classroom setting.

Soldiers may complete the requirements online or attend the classes which are held every Thursday in Building 1613 beginning at 7 a.m. Attendance to the classroom ver-

sion must be coordinated with DPCA Plans/Op and the ACAP Counselor prior to attendance. If you complete VOW via virtual means, you must schedule an appointment with the ACAP Counselor for review of the documents produced in order to be cleared to continue the demobilization process. For more information, call the Camp Shelby ACAP Office at 601-558-2298.

H2H

Are you, or is someone you know looking for a job? Hero2Hired (H2H) is a Department of Defense program created to help Guard and Reserve members find employment. In addition to searchable job postings of military-friendly employers all over the country, H2H provides many other valuable tools to find a job, all in one place. Visit www.H2H.jobs and sign up today!

SIFT testing available

The Selected Instrument for Flight Training (SIFT) has replaced the Army Flight Aptitude Selection Test (AFAST) and is now available at Camp Shelby Education Center. SIFT Testing requires a completed DA Form 4187 with verification of a GT score of 110. For more information contact John.f.junkins.naf@mail.mil

NRA Life of Duty

The National Rifle Association is offering free annual memberships for military service members, law enforcement officers and first responders through the Life of Duty program. For more information or to sponsor a membership, go to the NRA Life of Duty website at <http://www.nralifeofduty.tv/#/home>

Military HOMEFRONT

This is the official Department of Defense web site for reliable Quality of Life information designed to help troops and their Families, leaders and service providers. Whether you live the military lifestyle or support those who do, find what you need! - www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/

VWIP program

Oak Arbor, a division of Pine Belt Mental Health, has received a VWIP grant and is partnering with Pearl River Community College Workforce Development to provide services focused on enhancing the employability of eligible veterans within the Perry,

Lamar and Forrest County areas. The programs will be Pipefitting, Commercial Truck Driving, EMT, Electrical and Welding. Additional training will be offered in Forklift training and Microsoft applications. Those completing the respective program will also get a Career Readiness Certificate. ACT scores are not required; only high school or GED. CDL training doesn't require high school or GED. EMT, CDL and Welding will be in Hattiesburg. Pipefitting will be in Poplarville. The program will pay for tuition and supplies. The point of contact at Oak Arbor is Latibiyatta McLendon, at tbuckhalter@oak-arbor.com or 601-545-2925; at Pearl River CC POC is Deborah Hewitt at dhewitt@prcc.edu or 601-554-5503. For more information, contact John.f.junkins.naf@mail.mil

MS degree in....

A team from the USM Center for Logistics, Trade and Transportation delivered a presentation on the MS Degree in Logistics, Trade and Transportation earlier this year. This unique degree is in demand and could pave the way for a career on the Mississippi Gulf Coast and other areas. For more information on this and other educational programs, contact the Camp Shelby Education Office at 601-558-2029 or email John Junkins at John.f.junkins.naf@mail.mil

AARTS Transition

The Army/American Council on Education Registry Transcript System (AARTS) is in the process of transitioning to the Joint Services Transcript (JST). The JST will produce a FREE uniformed transcript of all military training and experiences to Service members from all branches. The new electronic transcripts will include Enlisted, Warrant Officer and Officer training, joint military training, and DANTES-funded standardized test scores. The transition to JST is expected to be completed by January 1, 2013. During the transition, the process of requesting an AARTS transcript via GoArmyEd or the AARTS website will not change. The AARTS Team will continue to provide updates on the more information contact John.f.junkins.naf@mail.mil or call 601- 558-2029.

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Courses offered by CDSE are available to U.S. government employees and military members. Some courses are also available to employees of companies that have government contracts.

There is no charge for any CDSE course; however, some courses require purchase of textbooks. The American Council on Education’s College Credit Recommendation Service (ACE CREDIT) has evaluated and recommended college credit for 13 CDSE courses. Additional information about CDSE including course descriptions and registration can be found at www.cdse.edu/ For more information, contact the Camp Shelby Education Center at 601-558-2029 or John.f.junkins1@us.army.mil

Park passes

Free 12 month passes are available for active military and their dependents at the Wiggins Forest Service Office. The passes allow free entrance to National Parks, Fish and Wildlife Refuges, and waiver of standard amenity fees at Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service sites. For more information, contact USFS Military Liaison Lisa Yager at the DeSoto Ranger District 601-528-6185 or email her at lyager@fs.fed.us

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College Credit Exams

The Camp Shelby Education Center has fifteen (15) college credit exams (undergraduate) which are available at no cost for Soldiers. Each exam is worth three semester hours. Online study guides are available through AKO and Petersons. For a listing of the exams and web site study guides, send an email request to John.f.junkins.naf@mail.mil

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