

Get letters of recommendation now....

By BRYAN THARPE
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Sometimes an employer will make the decision about who to hire based on how well applicants present their work backgrounds. Most employers know that if a person is a good worker, reliable and dependable in other jobs, probably they can expect the same job performance.

Of course, an interviewer can call all past supervisors and ask about the quality of an applicant's work and work ethics. But a smart job hunter will save the prospective employer that trouble. He will get letters of recommendation from supervisors as he (or they) move on.

Getting letters of recommendation will serve dual purposes. An applicant will have letters to give to the employers (and they may not want to contact the supervi-

sor). The applicant will also know the quality of the recommendations as well as the written skills of a possible reference.

This is especially important to military applicants. One problem military people face is employers who don't always know why military members hold jobs for such a short time—an average of about two years. Is it because of poor work habits? Another problem is that military applicants often want to find jobs totally different from those they did while in the military. In that case, the must show the employer their abilities, which are more important than what they did in the military.

A third problem is that military personnel are tran-

sient; job seekers may not be able to provide employers with a current address or telephone number of former supervisors. Letters of recommendation can solve all of these questions to an employer's satisfaction. Even if there is a problem with a boss, it may still be possible to draft a letter that is mutually satisfactory and truthfully states the worker's talents and accomplishments.

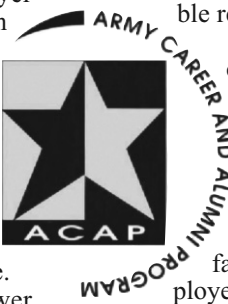
Sometimes a supervisor will ask a service member to write his or her own letter of recommendation for the supervisor's signature. If that happens, the writer should not be modest.

The first paragraph of the letter should state the purpose of the letter: to recommend the applicant for a position as ... (whatever type of job you are seeking.) The next paragraph should make general statements about your duties and responsibili-

ties, perhaps mentioning your most impressive abilities. The third paragraph should be filled with glowing remarks about your talents and accomplishments. This is the place to use all those adjectives that can't fit onto a resume; it is especially important to mention ways you will be an asset to the organization.

With the job market the way it is today, the wise job hunter will use every means at his disposal to make his qualifications well known. Presenting a folder of letters of recommendation at the interview is a sure way to impress the interviewer with your high qualifies.

For additional information about letters of recommendation or any other job search related topic, please contact the Ft Rucker ACAP Center at 334-255-2558, the Camp Shelby ACAP Office at 601-558-2298, or the Eglin A&FRC at 850-882-9060.



DRM AWARD... The Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Directorate of Resource Management's Travel Voucher Office received a certificate of recognition from the 56th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's Security Forces Advise and Assist Team for excellence in customer service. The DRM Travel Voucher Office processed more than 400 Soldiers of the SFAAT team as part of their ongoing support for overseas contingency operations worldwide. Pictured at the presentation ceremony August 13, from left to right, are Col. Anthony Woods, Maj. Ethan Lowe, Staff Sgt. John Pennock, Sgt. Russell K. Sills, Command Sgt. Maj. Darrell Clendennen, 1st Lt. Bryce Wade and 1st Sgt. Michael Johnson.

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR'S CORNER

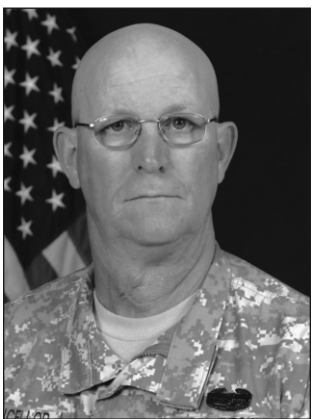
Remembering back to Katrina....

Recently, the 28th Infantry Division, Pennsylvania Army National Guard, held a rededication ceremony here near the original site of the 28th ID's headquarters site at Camp Shelby during World War II.

Maj. Gen. Wesley Craig gave a heartfelt speech and I was glad to be a part of that historic moment. As Soldiers of the 28th Infantry Division continue to return from Afghanistan, I encourage you to take a trip to visit the memorial and the area that has been cleared for it.

On Aug. 29, the anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, coastal residents will reminisce on what was the deadliest and most destructive Atlantic hurricane that was ever recorded.

During the aftermath of Katrina, Camp Shelby had dual roles. The mission here was still to mobilize and train Soldiers in support of the overseas contingency operations. In conjunction with their mobilization, Sol-



Cmd. Sgt. Maj Steven Chancellor

diers helped with cutting down trees and removing tents that were blown down. Also, we became the headquarters for the disaster recovery response for Hurricane Katrina.

Military units, FEMA, MEMA, Red Cross and other disaster recover agencies set up their work stations here during the aftermath. It was chaotic, but we pulled through to accomplish the mission.

However you remember it, Mobilization Center

Shelby or Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, we have made history, we have and still are touching people's lives and we have made a name for ourselves during the country's wartime operations.

Congratulations to Maj. David Alexander on becoming the new Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Range Control Officer-in-Charge. Col. Smith made a great choice for the position. There were a lot of great applicants, and I know he picked the right Soldier for the job.

Labor Day is around the corner as it is observed on the first Monday in September. Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers. The United States pays tribute to you for your hard work and determination. Be safe and enjoy your time with Family and friends.

There was a job fair at Keesler AFB this past Thursday. I hope many at-

tended. Representatives such as Trinity Marine, Northrop Grumman, Gulfport Police Department, Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks and a few more were on hand to answer any questions Soldiers and Airmen had and were taking resumes.

These job fairs are meant to help military personnel who are transitioning out of the military and are seeking civilian employment. I encourage you to attend these fairs and many more will become available.

The command staff is here to help you. If we don't know the answer, we will find someone who does.

Continue to work hard; your work has not gone unnoticed.

Remember there is never the right time to do the wrong thing. May God continue to bless you, your Families, our brothers and sisters in arms and this great country we live in.

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