

FRONT & CENTER

A time of reflection....

Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.

—Steve Jobs

This month I am joining an elite club of which some of you are already members; my eldest son, Jake, is graduating from high school. Bittersweet as it may be, I am so blessed to have experienced the miracles and challenges that come with the responsibility of being a parent. What a treasure to watch him grow into the young, ambitious man that he is, ready to conquer the world and face the next challenge to further his education at the University of Southern Mississippi. I am very proud of you, Jake.

Congratulations to you and so many other accomplished high school seniors and college graduates as you transition into this next phase of your life. I am truly touched by the recent happenings associated with the tornadoes that devastated the city of Moore, Okla. Just three months ago on Feb. 10, Hattiesburg felt the wrath of a violent EF4 tornado and rebuilding efforts are still ongoing. It is my sincere hope and prayer that the community members of Moore embrace their neighbors to begin the healing and restoration process associated with the loss of loved ones, their community infrastructure and homes. A tragedy such as this is a constant reminder to update alert rosters, emergency kits, inclement weather plans and ensure that your Family and members of your team know what to do in the event of severe weather. This month, we have embraced

several opportunities to honor veterans and the military service of so many through community events. Thank you to all who participated in Retiree's Day, the Armed Forces Day Run, the Laying of the Wreath Ceremony, College Career Day and the Wellness Fair that was hosted by 177th Armored Brigade and 158th Infantry Brigade here at Camp Shelby. Team, we continue the task of preparing service members for their mobilization missions as we welcome the 203rd Transportation Company, Minnesota Army National Guard; 1174th Transportation Terminal Battalion, New York Army National Guard and 143rd Sustainment Command, Florida Army National Guard. These are just a few of the units that will be passing through our gates as they train and prepare for their upcoming missions supporting Overseas Contingency Operations.

This month we will welcome home members of the 508th Military Police Company, New Jersey Army National Guard; 130th Military Police Company, Tennessee Army National Guard; 1175th Transportation Company and 248th Engineer Support Company, Connecticut Army National Guard. Thanks to all of you for your continued support and sacrifice during your deployment. Summer Annual Training has begun. Let us welcome our comrades in arms from around the state as they complete their summer training at Camp Shelby. Welcome members of the Mississippi Army National Guard from the following units; 858th Horizontal Engineer Company, 168th Engineer Brigade, Headquarters 890th Engineer Brigade, Headquarters and Headquarters Company 223rd Engineer Battalion and from the Tennessee Army National Guard, Headquarters 2/278th Armored Combat Regiment.



Col. Brad Smith

Thanks, team, for your continued hard work and steadfast attitude for success. God Bless you, your Families and the United States of America!
SOLDIERS FIRST!

SOLDIER

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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 version 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 April 18. 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 Mr. John Junkins at John.f.junkins.naf@mail.mil

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

Free NAMI classes

The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Mississippi is offering free classes for Family members, friends, and other caretakers of adults with mental illness (such as serious depression, bipolar disorder, schizophrenia). The free 12 session course is designed to help Family members understand and support their ill relatives while maintaining their own well-being. Topics include: symptoms, treatments, strategies for handling crisis and relapses, coping skills, problem solving and more.

■ Hattiesburg: Tuesdays, through May21, 6-8:30 pm, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, 3117 W. 4th St

For more info and to register, call Ann Jensen at NAMI MS 601-89 or 1-800-357-0388.

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 progress of transition. For More information contact John.f.junkins.naf@mail.mil or call 601- 558-2029.



CS Reveille Public Affairs Staff

Col. Brad SmithCS Commander
Maj. Deidre MusgravePA Officer
Staff Sgt. Kenny HattenPA NCOIC
Staff Sgt. Michael Williams.....PA NCO
Spec. Nora StonePA Specialist
Dana Elise SmithVideographer
deidre.d.musgrave.mil@mail.mil
601-467-1064 601-558-2835

Hattiesburg Publishing Staff

David GustafsonEditor/Publisher
Beth Bunch.....Managing Editor
Missy AkinsAdvertising Manager
Sonya JamesOffice Manager

david@HubCitySPOKES.com
601-268-2331
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