

Encouraging use of ACAP a must

By **BRYAN THARPE**
ACAP TSM

"The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in a war, no matter how justified, shall be proportional to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

—George Washington

From the beginning, our founding fathers saw how perceptions shaped our military and our ability to defend our nation. The statement made by George Washington is no less true today than it was when our nation was first established. Most of us can recall when the Vietnam veterans returned home from war and how badly they were treated upon their arrival. Those returning vets did not deserve such a devastating return.

Thousands of military men and women gave their lives and many thousands of others were wounded because they were asked by our government to go fight in Vietnam and surrounding countries.

The men and women of the U.S. military never ask why; they just go and do their duty. They gave all they had and served with honor and valor, but they were still seen by some as vigilantes.

Fortunately, generations later, our brave young men and women still feel the call of duty and are willing to go whenever and wherever needed to serve our nation. But that might

not always hold true.

Little things that show appreciation for their selfless service mean a lot to our current and future Soldiers.

According to Maj. Gen. Sean J. Byrne, Former Commanding General, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, "Our nation and our Army owe a debt of gratitude to those Soldiers who volunteer to serve our country. Often that gratitude is best expressed when unit leaders give transitioning Soldiers the time they need and deserve to take advantage of the robust services that the Army Career and Alumni Program (ACAP) offers."

"All Soldiers deserve the best possible start in the civilian world when the time comes to leave the Army, and ACAP provides the knowledge and skills to smooth the way. There is no better recruiting influence in the community than a retiree or veteran whose Army experience includes being treated with respect and being supported even after making a decision to transition to civilian life," said Byrne.

President George W. Bush, during his inauguration speech in 2004, praised the men and women who voluntarily serve in the military during a time of war, calling them heroes that Americans could look up to.

He said in part, "... We see America's character in our military, which finds a way or makes one. We see it in our veterans, who are supporting military families in their days of worry. We see it in our young people,

who have found heroes once again..."

Although today, while most Americans perceive all Soldiers to be heroes, some Soldiers in the supervisory chain don't always see it that way.

Some supervisors, unfortunately, use the ACAP program only as a tool for rewarding good behavior, instead of as an earned benefit given by Congress and the Department of Defense to help all eligible Soldiers.

Therefore, some Soldiers are not allowed to take full advantage of the ACAP program to help them transition from the military successfully. Consequently, not all Soldiers have an equal chance for success when they leave the military.

Likewise, they don't leave with a favorable impression of the Army and chances are good that they won't help recruit other young men and women who are yet to become heroes.

Supervisors, please help all your eligible Soldiers by giving them the benefit of using the ACAP program to the maximum extent possible before they transition. It will reflect well on future generations of Soldiers; besides, under the VOW Act, it's the law!

Encourage them to call the Ft. Rucker ACAP Center at 334-255-2558, Camp Shelby, Miss. ACAP Office at 601-558-2298, or the Eglin A&FRC at 850-882-9060 or log on to <https://www.acap.army.mil> to register for and sign up for ACAP provided services.

PERSONNEL PROFILE OFFICER

Sumrall earns Masters

By **DANA ELISE SMITH**
CSJFTC Public Affairs

Maj. Craig M. Sumrall serves as a mobilization officer at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. His job is to manage the CSJFTC Mobilization Operations Center 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"The mobilization center integrates Soldiers into the mobilization station and prepares them for training and deployment to do their mission overseas," said Sumrall.

The Ellisville native recently graduated from The University of Southern Mississippi with a master's degree in Logistics, Trade and Transportation and a Certificate in Economic Development. He also earned what is known to be the premier credential in the transportation and logistics industry, and a Certificate of Transportation and Logistics from the American Society of Transportation and Logistics.

Sumrall has served in the military for 23 years. He

said his father, retired 1st Sgt. Michael Sumrall, inspired him to join the National Guard.

Sumrall deployed three times in support of missions overseas. He deployed to Iraq in 2004, and then deployed to both Kuwait and Iraq in 2005. Lastly, he deployed to Afghanistan from 2010 to 2011.



Sumrall

"I returned from my last deployment in 2011, so I am now well adjusted and enjoying life," he said.

Sumrall and wife, Jill, have one daughter, Jade, 16, and two sons, Bryson, 13, and Jake, 10.

"I am very proud of my family and appreciate their attitude and support towards my livelihood," he said. "My wife and I enjoy watching my daughter dance. She is becoming a young lady with a vast amount of leadership potential. We enjoy watching, Bryson play baseball and stand up for his beliefs. We enjoy watching Jake play the box drum. He is a well-versed thinker for his age."



FREEDOM
to WORSHIP

BATTERY WORLD

10% MILITARY DISCOUNT!

QUICKCABLE \$59.95

VARTA \$12.95

STREAMLIGHT \$64.95

601.264.4448

6152 Hwy 98W (across from Target) • Hattiesburg

Monday-Friday 8:30a-6:00p • Saturday 9:00a-5:00p

www.batteryworldonline.com

River Oak Dental

William E. Tolbert, D.M.D.

(601) 582-2578

4301 Lincoln Road • Hattiesburg, MS

www.riveroakdental.com • E-mail: info@riveroakdental.com

Giving You More Reasons to Smile

HOOTERS **Wing-a-Ding** **DING!**

MAKES YOU HAPPY!

HOOTERS MILITARY LUNCH PUNCH
M-F 11 AM - 3 PM
Complete card for FREE Sandwich or 10 piece Wings

1 2 3 4 FREE

Buy 10 Wings... GET 10 Wings FREE!
Dine in only. One coupon per table. Traditional or Boneless

DOUBLE PUNCH ON TUESDAYS!

101 Carlisle St. (next to Outback Steakhouse) Hattiesburg

601-268-6600

ATTENTION SOLDIERS!

Did you know you are eligible to place **FREE** classifieds in Reveille?
(20 word limit) Ads must be placed by the Friday prior to publication date.

CALL 601-268-2331