

FRONT & CENTER

A family affair

Just recently I had the honor of throwing out the first pitch during the University of Southern Mississippi's Military Appreciation Baseball Game. It was such an honor to be asked to represent the men and women in uniform. It was even more of an honor to pitch to my son, Kurt, who served as the catcher for the opening pitch.

Times like these with Family are so precious. I urge each of you to cherish time with your Family. Life is always full of changes, but the key values that I cherish most are God and Family.

Expected personnel changes are finally upon us. I urge each of you to take the skills you learned at Camp Shelby and utilize every available resource to challenge your potential and seek future career progression.

Resources are available to you here such as the Education Office, Hero 2 Hired program and the Veteran's Opportunity to Work/ Transition Assistance Program or VOW/TAP. These are just a few of the programs available to Soldiers to aid in the transition from military service back to the civilian workforce.

The Officer's Convention will be May 3-5, at the Natchez Convention Center. The point of contact for further information is Maj. Pat Lowery at 601- 467-1028.

Team, we continue the task of preparing service members for their mobilization missions as we welcome the 838th Military Police Company, Ohio Army National Guard; 278th Military Police Company, Georgia Army National Guard; 79th Infantry, California Army National Guard; 144th Military Police Company, Michigan Army National Guard; 184th Security Forces Assistance Team, California Army National Guard and the 133rd Engineer Company, Wyoming 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 850th Military Police Company, Arizona Army National Guard; the 972nd Military Police Company, Massachusetts Army National Guard; 152nd Military Police Company, Alabama Army National Guard; the 323nd Military Police Company, Ohio Army National Guard

and the 167th Infantry Battalion, Alabama Army National Guard. Thanks to all of you for your continued support and sacrifice during your deployment.

Remember safety in your mission preparation and daily activities. It is important to keep an emergency kit available at home for unexpected occurrences, including inclement weather that can present itself rapidly in the Pine Belt.

Always ensure you have your team's alert roster readily available at work and at home in the event of an emergency.

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



Col. Brad Smith

SOLDIERS FIRST!

SOLDIER

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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!

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. 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 email: John.junkins1@us.army.mil

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.junkins1@us.army.mil or visit the education center.

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.military-homefront.dod.mil/

Turbo Tap

Turbo Tap is Department of Defense's official website providing information for service members on transitioning from military service. This site is also supported by the Departments of Labor and Veterans Affairs. TurboTAP.org is intended to supplement the services offered by the Transition Assistance Offices and other groups. - <http://www.turbotap.org>

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 Poplaville. 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 Junkins at john.junkins1@us.army.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.junkins1@us.army.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.junkins1@us.army.mil

GoArmyEd

Family Members (Spouses) are encouraged to set up an education record in GoArmyEd. Although Federal Tuition Assistance is not yet provided there is a wealth of education information provided in the GoArmyEd system. There are 2,500 colleges listed, multiple scholarship sites and tutorial sites which are available for review and exploration. Visit or call the Camp Shelby Education Center at 601-558-2029 for more information, or email hannah.c.traphagan@us.army.mil or john.junkins1@us.army.mil

Engineer, Const. Camp

The Society of American Military Engineers (SAME)/US Army is hosting its annual Engineering and Construction Camp June 16-22 in Vicksburg, Miss. The camp provides high school students with a great hands-on experience in engineering and construction activities. Vicksburg's wide-ranging engineering

community provides a wealth of offerings in cutting edge engineering topics. The one-week program is supervised by professional engineers and volunteers from engineering organizations in the lower Mississippi Valley. The crewmates (campers) are exposed to a wealth of knowledge about the various career choices in the fields of engineering and construction, focusing primarily on water resources engineering. Applications are normally distributed to high schools in January for submission to the camp Student Affairs Committee by the middle of March each year. For more information and the application process, go to <http://samecamps.org/>

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 601-899-9058.



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Published every-other Thursday

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