

FRONT & CENTER

Always give your best...

"If a man does his best, what else is there?"
- General George Patton Jr

So many times in life things happen that are out of our control. It can be a challenge at times keeping up with the requirements of a demanding military career and Family obligations for the ones we love. Balance by design is not easy to achieve. Continue to give your best in everything you do, and success will surely follow. There will be an opportunity to celebrate our service during the upcoming National Guard Association of Mississippi Officer and Enlisted Officer conventions.

The enlisted officer convention will be held April 19-21 at Whispering Wood Hotel and Conference Center, Olive Branch. The point of contact for further infor-

mation is Keith Ales at 662-816-6452. The Officer's Convention will be held May 3-5 at the Natchez Convention Center, Natchez. 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; 437th Military Police Company, Ohio Army National Guard; 3/114th Infantry, Texas Army National Guard; 79th Infantry, California Army National Guard; 204th Movement Enhancement Brigade, Utah Army National Guard and the 128th Joint Assessment Team, Min-

nesota 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 1/181st Field Artillery Battalion, Washington Army National Guard; 19th Special Forces Group, Utah Army National Guard and the Alpha Company 3/20th Special Forces Group, Florida Army National Guard. Thank you, team, for your continued support and sacrifice during your deployment to a grateful nation.

April is sexual assault awareness month. Camp Shelby has dedicated resources and personnel on staff that are here to assist Soldiers in need. Contact Stephanie

Dillon at 601-558-2396 or via the Camp Shelby Safety Awareness Resources Change or SARC representative hotline at 601-467-1030 for resource information and assistance.

Remember safety in your mission preparation and daily activities. It is important to keep an emergency kit available at home for the unexpected 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!

SOLDIERS FIRST!



Col. Brad Smith

SOLDIER

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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 will deliver 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. The presentation will be held from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. in building 1813, Camp Shelby Education Center. Reservations are being accepted. POC is 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

■ Jackson: Tuesdays and Thursdays, through April 25, 6- 8:30 pm, NAMI MS, 411 Briarwood Dr., Suite 401

For more info and to register, call Ann Jensen at NAMI MS 601-899-9058 or 1-800-357-0388.

Military One Source

Whether its help with child care, personal finances, emotional support during deployments, relocation information, or resources needed for special circumstances, Military OneSource is there for military personnel and their Families... 24/7/365! <https://www.militaryonesource.com/skins/MOS/home.aspx>

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.junkins1-@us.army.mil or call 601- 558-2029.

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 John.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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