

REVELLE

April 4, 2013

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Hey, Soldier:
Did you Know?

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.

Tuition assistance

The Senate and House advised each Service Chief (Army, Navy, USAF and USMC) to restore Tuition Assistance (TA). The restoration is being worked by each Branch, but has not been completed. As of this message "TA is still Suspended". It is anticipated TA will be restored, but no definitive dates. For more information about TA and other educational benefits available to servicemembers and their Families, contact the Camp Shelby Education Center at 601-558-2029 or email john.junkins1@us.army.mil

NCO Conference

The Mississippi National Guard NCO Assoc. Conference will be at the Whispering Wood Hotel, 11200 East Goodman Road, Olive Branch April 19-21. Everyone is encouraged to attend the conference in support of the association. With membership dropping, we need to make every effort to sustain our membership and search for ways to make it grow. We need full involvement and ask that everyone talk to your fellow Soldiers and Airmen about the NCO Assoc. and the many benefits of membership. This is going to be a great event, featuring bowling, fishing and golf tournaments, as well as ceremonies honoring our NCOs/Soldiers of the Year and outstanding Airmen.

For more information, contact Keith Ales at 662-816-6452.

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U.S. Army photo by Spc. Karen Sampson
The Florida National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery Soldiers perform a Casualty Evacuation exercise March 24. The 3rd BN, 116th FA are training with 177th Armored Brigade, 1st Army Division East for their final validations before deployment.

Fla. N.G. prepares for Qatar mission

BY SPC. KAREN SAMPSON
177th Armored Brigade PA

Florida National Guard Soldiers of 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery are in the final training phase of the unit's mobilization. In a matter of weeks they will begin deployment for a security operations mission in Qatar.

Capt. Justin B. Baxter, native of Tampa, Fla., and Company Commander for Security Force Alpha, 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery is confident that his Soldiers are ready to provide security force support in the area.

The 3rd BN, 116th FA accomplished pre-mobilization training thru monthly drills, as well as completing an additional 60 days of training (which is equivalent to

three 20-day annual trainings) in one year to qualify the battalion for this deployment. The battalion was very successful at accomplishing the requirements before they arrived to Camp Shelby for post-mobilization training. The unit participated in a culminating training exercise designed by Trainer/Mentors (TMs) assigned to the 177th Armored Brigade, 1st Army Division East.

"The biggest challenge we faced was preparing for deployment in a short time frame," said Sgt. Thomas F. Lloyd III, native of Port Charlotte, Fla., Assistant Operations Noncommissioned Officer and Battalion Historian. "We started our pre-mobilization training early in 2012."

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U.S. Army photo by Spc. Lam Phi Nguyen, 3rd BN 116th FA
The Florida National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 116th Field Artillery Soldiers participate in range qualifications March 22. The 3rd BN, 116th FA are training with 177th Armored Brigade, 1st Army Division East for their final validations before deployment.

Women's History observance marks 100 years

By SGT. VANNESSA JOSEY
158th Infantry Brigade PA

Women's History Month was celebrated and observed during a ceremony attended by both the 158th Infantry and the 177th Armored Brigades at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. This year's theme was "Women Inspiring Innovation through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics."

"We have so many reasons to be proud of our heritage as women," said Maj. Sequin Mosley, medical officer with the 158th Infantry Brigade. "It is important to celebrate our diversity as Americans and as Soldiers."

Master of Ceremonies, Sgt.

1st Class Corey Abel, 158th Infantry Brigade finance non-commissioned officer, kept the audience entertained and informed about the history of the women's work for equality. Maj. Olivia Taplin gave the history of how Women's History Month came in to existence.

The guest speaker, Jerry Holifield, vice president of Channel Merchants, Hattiesburg, spoke about how he was inspired by his mother's strength and how she influenced him. He told a story about his mother, who worked as a waitress. On his 16th birthday, he walked home from school to find a \$10 bill taped to the refrigerator with a note from his mother.

"It's not much, but it is all I have," the note said.

"My mother worked hard for that money, and she gave me all she had," said Holifield. "That is the moment I began to appreciate my mother and women more and more every day. Only a woman would give her last like that."

The Soldiers also marked the 100th anniversary of the March 3 march for equality on Washington with a march across the stage showing all as those who represent the fruits of the women's suffrage movement.

"It takes endurance, persistence, and absolute belief in what you are standing for to make a difference," said Master Sgt. Maranda McCorvey, Equal Opportunity advisor for 158th Infantry Brigade. "We look back and see all the women in

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U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. Vanessa L. Josey
Master Sgt. Maranda McCorvey, Equal Opportunity Advisor for 158th Infantry Brigade, Sgt. 1st Class Corey Abel, Master of Ceremonies and Finance NCO for 158th Infantry Brigade and Ebony Wilson, Brigade Office Manager for the 158th Infantry Brigade take a moment to pose after the Women's History Observance.