

 FRONT & CENTER

A celebration of service....

I recently had the honor, along with Congressman Steven Palazzo (R-Miss. District 4), to celebrate the service of Cpl. Maybert Weir Titus Polk, a 90-year-old World War II veteran who served as a member of the Women's Army Corp from 1943-1945.

All veterans are unique in their service and it is always a special time to pay tribute to those who paved the way for future successes of our service men and women today.

Cpl. Polk did just that. Her strength and character assisted in the evolution of change in our military armed forces and her contributions helped to open doors of opportunity for women in the military.

Thank you, Cpl. Polk, for your service and dedication to the continuing efforts of our men and women in uniform.

Team, we continue the task of preparing service members for their mobilization missions as we welcome the 1/294th Infantry Battalion, Guam Army National Guard; the 3/116th Field Artillery Battalion, Florida Army National Guard; 222nd Military Police Company, New York Army National Guard; 1/214th Infantry Battalion, Georgia Army National Guard and the 1/214th Field Artillery Battalion, Georgia Army National Guard.

This month we welcome home members of the 508th Military

Police Company, New Jersey Army National Guard. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen for your continued support and sacrifice to a grateful nation during your deployment.

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.

During the month of March, we are observing Women's History Month with the theme, "Women Inspiring Innovation Through Imagination: Celebrating Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics." A special observance hosted by the 158th Infantry Brigade and the 177th

Armored Brigade will be held at 11 a.m. today at the Post Theater.

As we embark on new challenges and opportunities, always remember safety and mission preparedness. 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!



Col. Brad Smith

SOLDIER

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NCO Assoc. Conference

The Mississippi National Guard NCO Association Conference will be at the Whispering Wood Hotel and Conference Center, 11200 East Goodman Road, Olive Branch MS, April 19-21. We encourage everyone to attend this year's conference in support of our 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 in the association and ask that everyone please talk to your fellow Soldiers and Airmen about the NCO Association and the many benefits of association 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. Maj. Gen. Collins is planning on attending, as well as many other special guests/speakers. For more information, contact Keith Ales at 662-816-6452.

Practice GT Exam

The Practice GT exam will be offered at the Camp Shelby Education Center on the following dates:

- March 26
- Each exam begins promptly at 8:30 a.m.
- To register for the exam, contact the Camp Shelby Education Center at 601-558-2029 or via email at 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, March 5- May21, 6- 8:30 pm, St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, 3117 W. 4th St

■ Jackson: Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 19-April 25, 6- 8:30 pm, NAMI MS, 411 Briarwood Dr., Suite 401

■ Vicksburg: Mondays and Thursday, Feb 18-March 28, 6- 8:30 pm, Warren Yazoo MH Services, 3444 Wisconsin Ave

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

Services support

This portal (Joint Services Support) and its program sub-portals, is designed to give you a "one stop shopping" location where you can get important information on a variety of programs that have been created to support you - <http://www.joint-servicesupport.org>

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>

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 601545.2925; 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

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.

Veteran status

Mississippi Senate Bill 2461 was passed and signed by the governor during the 2012 Legislative Session. The bill amends Sections 63-1-35 and 45-35-3, Mississippi Code of 1972.

The bill authorizes the Commissioner of Public Safety to provide a "Vet" designation on driver's licenses and identification cards for eligible Veterans.

For assistance, veterans may contact the Mississippi Veterans Affairs Board at 601-576-4850 or toll free at 877-203-5632, or contact their local County Veterans Service Officer. Veterans are encouraged to visit the Mississippi Veterans Affairs Board web-site at www.vab.ms.gov

Enlisted Education

The Enlisted Education Program (EEP) provides an opportunity for entry-level Soldiers in Combat Arms MOSs in Career Management Fields (CMFs) 11 Infantry, 13 Field Artillery, 14 Air Defense Artillery, and 19 Armor to obtain an associate degree during their first term of enlistment. A list of participating colleges offering degrees through EEP is available at the Education Center. For more information, call 601-558-2029 or contact john.junkins1@us.army.mil

H2H – Find a job

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!

DSST tests available

DSST (Similar to CLEP) tests are available at the Camp Shelby Education Center. With DSST, you can earn college credits, and everything you need to know is a result of your life experience. College credits are available in 37 unique subjects. Disciplines include Business, Humanities, Mathematics, Physical Science.

From personal accounting to public speaking, from your health to law enforcement or ethics, there's a DSST subject you already know well. Most tests must be ordered but we currently have two exams; "Ethics in America" and "Introduction to World Religions" available for immediate testing. Each exam is worth 3 semester hours.

Information fact sheets, study guides and sample tests available! More information is available at the Education Center, Building 1813, 18th Avenue, Camp Shelby, 601-558-2029 or john.junkins1@us.army.mil

DANTES Testing

The Camp Shelby Education Center is now an authorized DANTES Testing Site. Proctoring services are available for the entire Camp Shelby Community to include Soldiers, family members, contractors and civilians.

If taking an online college course and a proctor is needed contact john.junkins1@us.army.mil or call 601-558-2029.



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