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Photo by Dana Elise Smith, CSJFTC Public Affairs
Sgt. Tamika Stinson is the awards and casualty NCO at CSJFTC. She was presented the Army Commendation Medal from Lt. Col. Timothy Herrington, director of DPCA, Jan. 31.

Meet NCO Tamika Stinson

By **DANA ELISE SMITH**
CSJFTC Public Affairs

PERSONNEL PROFILE ENLISTED

Sgt. Tamika Stinson is the awards and casualty assistance NCO in the Directorate of Personnel and Community Activities at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. She was recently awarded the Army Commendation Medal.

“I feel like the people in DPCA have become an extension of my own Family. The environment is great and the people are friendly. I feel that CSJFTC is a great place of employment and I have enjoyed working here,” said Stinson.

The Hattiesburg native is a member of 106th Brigade Support Battalion headquartered in Crystal Springs. She has served in the military for five years as a combat medic and an administrative NCO. She deployed to Iraq with the 155th Heavy Brigade Combat Team unit in 2009. While deployed, her duties were to provide medical support if and wherever needed.

Stinson is currently pursuing a bachelor’s

degree in business administration with a concentration in finance from Colorado Technical University online.

Before mobilizing here in 2010, Stinson worked as a department manager at a Wal-Mart Supercenter.

Stinson said her passion is to become a physician assistant in the military.

“I enjoy working in the medical field and would like to expand my knowledge in the field,” she said.

In her spare time, she enjoys playing basketball, reading books and writing poems. She also enjoys being with her Family which includes her husband, Allen Stinson, and five children, Keoka, Tmisht, Tamia, Allen II and Chaise. Stinson also enjoys attending Tmisht and Tamia’s basketball games at Forrest County Agricultural High School in Brooklyn.

Free tax services offered

By **CAPT. RAYMOND EDWARDS**
Chief, Legal Assistance

The Camp Shelby Office of the Command Judge Advocate will offer free income tax services for the 2012 tax year with the opening of its Income Tax Assistance Center on Monday, February 4, 2013. This service provides free personal income tax return preparation to all active duty personnel and retirees. Due to reduced staffing levels, priority will be given to mobilizing, demobilizing and CSJFTC Soldiers.

The Income Tax Assistance Center will operate out of the legal offices in Building 1485 on Lee Avenue and will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 0900 to 1400. Due to the nature of the assistance, the Income Tax Assistance Center will operate on an “appointment-only” basis and will take appointments through April 11, 2013. The 2013 Federal Income Tax filing deadline is Monday, April 15, 2013.

The Income Tax Assistance Center is a satellite program of the IRS VITA program and is supervised by a judge advocate and staffed by military members and contract employees trained to the standards required by the IRS for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program. The VITA program is controlled by the IRS therefore the individual filing the return is legally responsible for the return’s content and accuracy once the return is signed. If filing a married-filing-joint tax return electronically, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.

VITA training includes instruction to address military-specific tax issues. However, tax assistance will be limited to the 2012 tax year and will not include preparation of certain tax schedules, e.g., Schedule E (rental property) and Schedule C (capital gains/losses).

Please dial 601-558-2190 to schedule an

appointment. Initial appointments will be scheduled for an hour and include a review of the client’s tax information. Typically, tax returns are projected to require 3-5 business days of processing time to be finalized. To properly complete each tax return, the following items must be presented at the initial appointment:

- Proof of identity (e.g. driver’s license, military ID)
- Social Security Cards for you, your spouse, and all dependants
- Birth dates for you, your spouse, and all dependants
- Current year tax package if you received one
- Wage and earning statement(s) (Form W-2, W-2G, 1099-R) from all employers
- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1098, 1099)
- A copy of last year’s federal and state returns if available
- Bank routing numbers and account numbers for direct deposit

NOTE: Military OneSource is once again offering a free, electronic tax filing service. If you are eligible under the Military OneSource program, you can complete, save, and file your 2011 federal and up to three state returns online free with the H&R Block At Home® tool.

To access this free version of H&R Block At Home®, you must start your return from the Military OneSource H&R Block At Home® link. Once you click the link you will be required to log in to Military OneSource. From the login page you will be directed to a site containing additional information on tax preparation, including the link to the Military OneSource free H&R Block At Home® service.

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