



# FRONT & CENTER



## *A resilient community*

The local Hattiesburg area recently survived a horrific natural disaster. The EF-4 tornado that swept through South Mississippi on Feb. 10 did massive damage and destruction to this community and surrounding areas.

Even through a time of great struggle, our community and our neighbors are resilient. The message echoed by so many is, 'that regardless of the challenges, we are all truly blessed.'

There were reports of hundreds of homes damaged and numerous Families displaced, but through it all, thanks and glory to God for

the lives he has spared and the resilient community we are blessed to be a part of. I encourage you to help your neighbors and team members in need to continue in the cleanup efforts and the resiliency of our community.

Team, we continue the task of preparing service members for their mobilization missions as we welcome the 1st Battalion 294th Infantry Battalion, Guam Army National Guard; the 144th Military Police Company, Michigan Army National Guard and the 2nd Battalion 20th Special Forces Group, Mississippi Army National

Guard.

This month we will welcome home members of the 1st Battalion 19th Special Forces Group, Utah Army National guard and the 1st Battalion 181st Field Artillery Battalion, Tennessee Army National Guard. Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, for your continued support and sacrifice during your deployment to a grateful nation.

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.

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 could 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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### 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>

### 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, you'll find what you need! - <http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil/>

### Turbo Tap

This 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

VETERANS WORKFORCE INVESTMENT 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 programs 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](mailto:tbuckhalter@oak-arbor.com) or 601.545.2925; at Pearl River CC POC is Deborah Hewitt at [dhewitt@prcc.edu](mailto:dhewitt@prcc.edu) or 601.554.5503. For more information, contact John Junkins at [john.junkins1@us.army.mil](mailto:john.junkins1@us.army.mil)

### ATM machine...

The Billeting Office at Bldg 6606 no longer has an ATM machine, but ATM machines are still available at the Exchange, Camp Shelby Federal Credit Union and the All Ranks Club.

### 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 DANES-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](mailto: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](http://www.vab.ms.gov)

### Community Support Spec.

Pine Belt Mental Healthcare Resources, a behavioral healthcare company with more than 500 employees and over 40 facilities in South Mississippi, has an immediate opening for a full-time Community Support Specialist position. This position will serve Southern Mississippi from the City of Jackson, south to the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Veterans families from the PBMHR service area (Covington, Forrest, Greene, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Lamar, Marion, Perry, and Wayne Counties) will be primarily targeted; however, referrals from other counties will be included.

Applicants are encouraged to visit

[www.pbmhr.com](http://www.pbmhr.com) to apply for the open positions. Open positions can be found under the "Employment Opportunities" tab. Applicants may also apply in person at the following address:

Pine Belt Mental Healthcare Resources  
Human Resources  
4100 Mamie Street, Hattiesburg 39402  
Telephone: (601) 264-2111

### National Park passes

Free 12-month passes to national parks 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](mailto:lyager@fs.fed.us)

### 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](mailto:john.junkins1@us.army.mil)

### Change to benefits

Beginning Aug. 1, 2013, all Soldiers who transfer education benefits to Family members will incur a four-year additional service obligation! This is regardless of their total service time or if they are eligible for retirement. Currently, Soldiers may qualify for 0, 1, 2 and 3 year additional service obligation based on their total service but on or after Aug. 1, 2013, these will expire and all Soldiers will incur a four-year obligation. Soldiers who are considering transferring benefits should contact the Veterans Administration or Education Center to obtain the facts as soon as possible!

### 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:john.junkins1@us.army.mil) or call 601-558-2029.

**ATTENTION SOLDIERS!**

Did you know you are eligible to place FREE classifieds in Reveille?

(20 word limit) Ads must be placed by the Friday prior to publication date.

**CALL 601-268-2331**

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