



Photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Williams, CSJFTC Public Affairs

ASH WEDNESDAY... Father Godfrey Andoh, a priest at St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Hattiesburg leads an Ash Wednesday service for Catholic worshippers at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center's Greer Chapel Feb. 13. Capt. Rodrico Vargas, assigned to 177th Armored Brigade, participates in Ash Wednesday services. Vargas and several other Soldiers attended the service.

Line of Duty – “Document the Injury”

By LT. COL. JENNIFER COLLINS
CSJFTC IG

National Guard and Reserve members are covered for injury, illness or disease (IID) incurred or aggravated in the line of duty. This includes injuries sustained when traveling directly to or from the place of duty. Guard and Reserve members must document any illness, injury, or disease received while serving on active duty.

The line of duty (LOD) process is not a rubber stamp for disability determination. LOD status must be determined. Line of duty determinations (LODD) are essential for protecting the interest of both the individual concerned and the U.S. Government where service is interrupted by injury, disease,

or death. AR 600-8-4 prescribes policies and procedures for investigating the circumstances of disease, injury, or death of a soldier. It provides standards and considerations used in determining line of duty status.

Line of duty investigations (LODI) are conducted essentially to arrive at a determination of whether misconduct or negligence was involved in the disease, injury, or death and, if so, to what degree. The LOD determination is extremely important for Reserve and Guard members for two reasons: first, so they do not incur out-of-pocket expenses for medical care; and second, so those seeking care for physical and psychological concerns will receive needed attention. Depending on the circumstances of the case, an LOD investigation

may or may not be required to make this determination. LODs investigations are either informal or formal.

Documentation for an informal LOD investigation typically consists of DA Form 2173 completed by the MTF and the unit commander and approved by the appointing authority, State AG, or higher authority. The final determination of an informal LD investigation can result in a determination of "in LD" only, except as provided in paragraph 4-8(c)(1) of AR 600-8-4.

A formal LOD investigation is a detailed investigation that normally begins with DA Form 2173 completed by the MTF and annotated by the unit commander as requiring a formal LOD

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COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR’S CORNER

Disaster strikes; mission ongoing

Sunday, Feb. 10, at approximately 5:30 p.m., an EF-4 tornado, that had up to 160 mile per hour winds, touched down in Hattiesburg and traveled through Petal. On that day, more than 300 lives were uprooted.

Roofs were ripped off homes, trees snapped like toothpicks and fell into homes, local schools and churches suffered severe damage.

No matter what damage you have sustained, the one thing that comes to mind is that we all are “blessed.” Continue to lend a helping hand or even donate needed items to the victims of this disaster.

In the military, February has been designated as African-American History Month. The Civil Rights Acts of the 1960s were great breakthroughs. Not only did they afford African-Americans legal rights that every American should have, they provided for enforcement of the anti-discrimination laws of the federal government. By the early 1970s, the military had instituted directives, policies and training on



Cmd. Sgt. Maj Steven Chancellor

race relations and equal opportunity.

Today, a Black History Program was held at the post theater by the 158th Infantry Brigade and 177th Armored Brigade and was arranged by their Equal Opportunity advisors. I cannot speak highly enough about the program and all who participated and organized the event. A job well done on educating everyone.

As we get ready to enter the month of March, remember that it is National Traumatic Brain Injury Awareness month. Medical Task Force Shelby will

host events and seminars throughout the month. I encourage you to participate and educate yourselves on TBI and who it can effect. TBI not only affects military personnel, but it can also affect those who play sports such as football. So, educate yourself and get screened.

The Education Center is still working hard to support the educational and career needs of the Camp Shelby community. If you haven’t made your way over to visit with them yet, I encourage you to make time to do so.

Education is a vitally important part of your career progression, both in civilian and military life, so take full advantage of every benefit that you have earned.

Education is a force multiplier, and helps us maintain our well-deserved reputation as the most highly trained and proficient Army in the world.

May God continue to bless you, your Families and all our brothers and sisters in arms, wherever they may be.

SOLDIERS FIRST!



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