

# FRONT & CENTER

## Resolutions, goals, new beginnings

It is often expected that the new year holds a vast opportunity of new beginnings. Sure, we all make resolutions to eat better, exercise more and maybe even clean out the garage, but the truth is, we can get busy dying or get busy living.

You can get busy living by advancing in your faith, career, family life, challenging your profession and developing new opportunities through military schools and civilian education. Always challenge yourself to excel on the APFT and maybe this year you can achieve the standard of excellence that puts you in the '300 Club.' The choice is up to you.

What are your goals for 2013?

As we tackle mobilization training for the month of January, let us welcome the 1-623rd Field Artillery Battalion, High-Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HI-

MARS), Kentucky Army National Guard; the 203rd Forward Support Company, Kentucky Army National Guard; the 2nd Psychological Operations Detachment, Ohio Army National Guard and the 353rd Civil Affairs Detachment, New York Army National Guard.

This month we will welcome home members of the 1157th Transportation Company, Wisconsin Army National Guard; 1186th Deployment Distribution Support Battalion, Florida Army National Guard; 781st Transportation Company, Alabama Army National Guard; 1968th Acquisition Team, Maine Army National Guard; 1977 Acquisition Team, California Army National Guard; 244th Army Liaison Team, Illinois Army National Guard and the 181st Field Artillery Battalion (HI-MARS), Tennessee Army National Guard.

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.

Since January is the start of the next quarter, now is a great time to complete your quarterly counseling and evaluations that may be coming due soon. Ensure that your equipment is accounted for and operational. Equipment and personnel functionality are key elements to ensure your unit's success on and off the battlefield.

The University of Southern Mississippi is offering Soldiers the opportunity to take college courses at Camp Shelby with free textbooks. The Spring 2013 semester will offer three classes for Soldiers and Family members. I encourage you and your team to advance your career where available and continue to challenge yourself toward your personal and

professional education goals. For more information regarding the college courses offered by USM, contact the Camp Shelby Education Center.

As we embark on new challenges and opportunities in January, always remember safety and weather conditions. South Mississippi is known for the changing weather. We have recently experienced varying degrees of inclement weather from severe thunderstorms to tornadoes creating hazardous driving conditions and could affect training. Be aware of icy roads while traveling and training. Ensure your team's alert rosters are updated and an inclement weather plan is in place.

Thanks, team for your continued hard work and steadfast attitude for success. God Bless you, your Families and the United States of America!

SOLDIERS FIRST!



Col. Brad Smith

## SOLDIER

Continued from Page 1

### New weekend hours

The Camp Shelby AAFES Exchange is operating on a new weekend schedule. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Internet cafe hours

The Internet Café is now open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

### 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)

### Education Center...

Camp Shelby Education Ctr. is located in Bldg. 1813, 18th St., Camp Shelby. Phone number is 601-558-2029; email contact is [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.

### NRA Life of Duty

The National Rifle Association is offering free annual memberships for military service members, law enforcement officers and first responders through the Life of Duty program. For more information or to sponsor a membership, go to the NRA Life of Duty website at <http://www.nralifeofduty.tv/#/home>

### Book donations needed

The Camp Shelby Education Center is currently accepting donations of academic related books and materials! Please look around your home and bring those unused and no longer needed books and materials to Building 1813. All donated materials will be available for the use of Soldiers and their Family members. Help us to help Soldiers! Contact us at [john.junkins1@us.army.mil](mailto:john.junkins1@us.army.mil) or phone at 601-558-2029.

### GRE General

Soldiers required to take the GRE General as a prerequisite for graduate school may be eligible for a "One Time" reimbursement for the cost of taking the exam. For more infor-

mation, contact John Junkins at the Education Center in Bldg. 1813 or call 601-558-2029. Soldiers may also contact the Education Center via email at: [John.junkins1@us.army.mil](mailto:John.junkins1@us.army.mil)

### Military discounts

■ The Louisiana Sisters Café is offering a 20 percent military discount which includes civilian personnel with valid Department of the Army IDs working at CSJFTC. The café is located across Hwy 49 from the South Gate, and is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. They also feature free delivery! For more information, call 601-543-0779.

■ Pink's Presents located inside The Secret Gallery gift store at Newpointe Shopping Center is offering a 20 percent military discount on the purchase of "Survival Straps" bracelets. Proceeds benefit The Wounded Warrior Project. Call Susan Cucullu at 601-264-1322 or go to [www.survivalstraps.com](http://www.survivalstraps.com)

■ Buffets, Inc. is giving military Families a special place at the table with the launch of its new Military Appreciation Program. All six Buffets brands - Ryan's, Country Buffet, HomeTown Buffet, Old Country Buffet, Fire Mountain and Granny's Buffet - are extending a special 15 percent discount to active and reserve military service personnel, their spouses and children (up to a party of four) who dine at any of their locations. The offer is good year round.

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