**SOLDIERS FIRST**

**April 26, 2012**

Hey Soldier, Did you Know?

**Mil. App. Softball**

The USM Golden Eagle Softball team is honoring our troops with a military appreciation game on the weekend of April 28-29, featuring the Lady Eagles and the Eagles of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Saturday’s events are scheduled for 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., and Sunday’s event is scheduled for 1 p.m. at the USM Softball Complex. Tickets for the game are $2 for military personnel and Family members with valid ID. For more information, call 601-796-5398, 601-796-5387, or 601-796-5396.

**Williams, CSJFTC MWR, at information, call Staff Sgt. LaTasha Williams, CSJFTC MWR, at 601-558-2050 or USM Athletics at 601-266-5419.**

**Dixie Thunder hunt**

The Dixie Thunder Run’s first major event of the year is May 12. Registration for the Dixie Thunder Treasure Hunt starts at 9 a.m. at the Lone Star Steakhouse, 442 Riverwind Drive, in Pearl. The event features $500 in cash prizes and the chance to win door prizes, with all prizes awarded at the end of the run. Registration is $20 per participant, and there are T-shirts for the event. Proceeds will go to Operation First Response and self-help type of ride. For more information, contact Master Sgt. David Spencer at 601-603-7054 or Sgt. 1st Class Tony Shackleford at 601-682-6560. You can also find more information at www.dixiethunderrun.net.

**Dixie Thunder ride**

The Dixie Thunder Run Memorial Day Ride is set for May 26, registration starts at 9 a.m. at the BancorpSouth Arena, Tupelo. Register to win a 2012 Harley Davidson Street Glide for $10! Tickets go on sale Monday. For more information, contact Master Sgt. David Spencer, 601-603-7054 or Sgt. 1st Class Tony Shackleford, 662-687-2460. More information at www.dixiethunderrun.net.

**APFT approaching**

The CSJFTC Bi-Annual Army Physical Fitness Test is set for the following:

May 8, 7 a.m., 2 p.m., Walkers
May 9, 7 a.m., Walkers
May 10, 7 a.m., 2 p.m., Runners
May 15, 7 a.m., 2 p.m., Runners
May 16, 7 a.m., Walkers
May 17, 7 a.m., Walkers and 2 p.m., Runners
May 22, 7 a.m., Runners
May 23, 7 a.m., Walkers
May 24, 7 a.m., Runners
More information, call 601-558-2752.

See SOLDIER, Page 2

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**Farewell ceremony held for retiring colonel**

BY STAFF SGT. MICHAEL WILLIAMS

CSJFTC Public Affairs

On April 10, Family, friends, colleagues, associates and subordinates gathered to thank retiring Col. Robert “Steve” Parham, outgoing Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center commander, for his service and sacrifice.

During his retirement ceremony, nearly 200 CSJFTC personnel, some of whom were there to present gifts, gathered on the drill hall floor of the Headquarters Building to watch the ceremony and bid farewell.

“This is overwhelming,” said Parham. “I want to thank everyone here, including my Family, friends and my Camp Shelby Family.”

“If you don’t think this is your Family, then figure up all the time you spend at work and at home. That means a lot.”

Throughout his more than 25 years of military service, Parham displayed absolute passion as a Mississippi Army National Guard officer in 1987, he attended Officer Candidate School. In 1988, as a second lieutenant he began his career in the 4th Battalion, 114th Field Artillery. In 1991, as a first lieutenant, he became the range officer with the Army National Guard Training Site-Camp Shelby. As time progressed throughout his career, he became the director of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security in 2005 at the rank of lieutenant colonel.

“One day sitting at my desk, I received a call from Gen. Freeman about being the commander. Truth of the matter is, I tried to talk him out of it.”


See FAREWELL, Page 12

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**Change of command...**

Col. William Smith takes command of CSJFTC

Soldiers, Families, friends and distinguished guests gathered at the headquarters building of Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center as outgoing Installation Commander Col. Robert “Steve” Parham passed the torch to incoming Installation Commander Col. William “Brad” Smith on April 13.

“I stood in this exact spot three years ago and committed Camp Shelby’s continued support to the mobilization mission. I hope that today you could say that I kept my promise,” said Parham.

“Today the relationship between First Army Division East, the great 177th and the great 158th are strong and healthy relationships.”

Parham recently retired after more than 25 years in the Mississippi Army National Guard, holding a variety of positions throughout his distinguished career, culminating with his three-year tenure as CSJFTC installation commander. Under his leadership, Camp Shelby processed more than 53,000 Soldiers in support of Overseas Contingency Operations around the world.

“The last three years have truly been the best three years of my military career,” said Parham.

“I wish the same on you, Brad. And I want you to enjoy every minute of it.”

As the mantle of responsibility passed to Smith, the incoming installation commander stressed the importance of teamwork and esprit de corps. “This day is not about me,” said Smith. “It’s about the Soldiers and civilians that make it happen every day.”

Smith’s career in the MSARNG began when he enlisted in 1981, and was commissioned through the Reserve Officers Training Program in 1985. He served in a variety of positions during his career, including a tour as the garrison commander of Al Qayyarah, Iraq, during his deployment with the 155th Brigade Combat Team in 2010. After his return, he resumed his position as deputy commander for mobilization at CSJFTC.

The new installation commander said he is very proud to have been chosen to lead the Soldiers and civilians of CSJFTC in support of Overseas Contingency Operations. “It’s just an awesome opportunity and an honor to serve,” said Smith. “To me, it’s like a test I have studied for my entire career and now it’s time to take the test. I’m very excited about this opportunity.”

See COMMAND, Page 10
It is an honor to serve as your new installation commander for Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. I want to start off by saying ‘thank you’ to Col. Steve Pathum for his guidance and efforts as he paved the path to guide us to Camp Shelby’s future and back to you and your Family in your upcoming endeavors. I want to thank Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Chancellor, the troops of Headquarters and Head- quarters Detachment as well as everyone who played a role in the coordination, planning, and execution of the Change of Command Ceremony on April 13. My Family and I are grateful for the warm welcome and I am looking forward to my time as your command- er.

I want to take the opportunity to welcome one of the Commanders of Installation, Lt. Col. Michael Honeycutt. He is our team from Headquar- ters, 154th Regimental Region al Regional Support Group. He will be a great asset to our team. Please continue to give your support and will take the CSJFTC Command Team as we embrace change and forward for mission success.

As we start this new journey to- gether, I want that you are the experts in your field. I expect every Soldier and leader, down to the lowest level, to embrace the ‘BE, KNOW, DO’ concept in Army Leadership.

I want every Soldier to strive to set the standard down to the lowest level by completing battle drills and knowing the regulations that govern our missions.

The demobilization process is almost complete for members of the 284th Support Group Team, 558th Engineers, Minnesota Army National Guard; 1186th Distribution Support Battalion, South Carolina Army National Guard and 21st Regional Support Group, Agri- culture Development Team, Georgia Army National Guard. Thank you comrades, for your service and sacrifice during the past months as you served your country, state and community with honor and distinction during ongo- ing Overseas Contingency Opera- tions.

Join with me in welcoming the 1980th Military Police Company, Air National Guard, the 1977th Armament Control Team, AMOT, Alabama Army National Guard; the 1184th Transportation Battalion, Alabama Army National Guard and the 21st Military Police Company, Georgia Army National Guard. Team, remember safety during your deployment, come home from deployment and always obey all posted speed limits.

May God bless you, your Families, and this great country that we are so lucky to have the honor to serve.

‘SOLDIERS FIRST!’

SOLDIER

Continued from Page 1

Practice GT tests

The CSJFTC has scheduled practice GT sessions at 8:30 a.m. Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Contact information is as follows:

* SGT Finley 601-558-4190
* MSG Lee 601-558-2944
* CW4 Morales 601-558-4199

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FOOD SERVICE

Ronald McBay at 601-558-2192.

are the same. The point of contact is Maj. Mr Reid 601-558-2877

* SGT Finley 601-558-4190

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Ronald McBay at 601-558-2192.
CSJFTC upgrades improve training and morale

By SGT. BELYNDA FAULKNER
177th Armored Brigade Public Affairs

Significantly improved ranges, upgraded training facilities and improved living conditions await mobilizing and demobilizing Soldiers at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, Miss.

Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, along with First Army Division East’s operations and training brigades worked hand-in-hand to make the upgrades and improvements to training and quality of life facilities used by mobilizing and demobilizing Soldiers.

“We have made significant upgrades all over Camp Shelby,” said Master Sgt. Timothy Plunk, noncommissioned officer in charge of CSJFTC Department of Public Works. “For the Soldiers, the most notable would be the changes in the barracks and repaving all of the roads.”

Within the last year CSJFTC opened the new Post Exchange, Military Clothing and Sales and the barracks facility. Currently, renovations are also taking place at the post gym and the All Ranks Club.

“I am glad they have a PX that is finally large enough to accommodate the number of mobilizing Soldiers that come through here,” said Sgt. Kirk Kinamon, an ammunition specialist with the 177th Armored Brigade. “The new building is great, and they keep it well-stocked.”

To enhance the training for mobilizing units they have added two live fire shoot houses, upgraded ranges not only for small arms training, but also lanes for armored vehicles to maneuver and fire, according to Eddie Middleton, CSJFTC Department of Public Works. “We are able now to house entire units at the Combat Operation Locations,” said Middleton. “They are able to train in an environment similar to where they will be deployed.”

With the focus now being on the Afghanistan war front, one of the most notable changes is the simulated villages of Trebil and Slayer.

“They are the first at Camp Shelby that replicate what service members will see on ground in Afghanistan,” said Maj. Jill Moss, 177th Armored Brigade. Capt. Enrique Loy, 177th Armored Brigade, was involved with the village upgrade project from its conception.

“We wanted to improve the villages that would create the biggest influence on the quality of training available to Soldiers,” said Loy. “These two villages were the ones picked by the trainer/mentors as their most useful villages that would really affect the quality of training available.”

The village upgrades were a joint effort between First Army Division East, the 177th Armored Brigade, CSJFTC Department of Public Works. Lt. Col. Rex McCullough, 177th Armored Brigade, not only assisted in the improvements, but has enjoyed the benefits. McCullough recently completed training at Camp Shelby in anticipation of a deployment as a Security Force Assistance Team member.

“The villages we have been training in are outstanding,” said McCullough. “It is exactly what Soldiers will see overseas and that will benefit the Soldiers greatly, especially those heading over on their first deployment.”

“The mindset of a Soldier is altered when you are no longer looking at a shipping container, instead you feel as if you are standing in the middle of a village in Afghanistan. The change in appearance of the villages is monumental which is only going to help our trainers give Soldiers the best quality training available in the Army,” explained Loy.

First Army Division East, which has eight brigades located across the eastern United States and its territories, mobilizes, trains, validates and deploys Reserve Component units at CSJFTC to support overseas military operations. Along with Reserve component units, the division’s trainer/mentors prepare and deploy sailors and airmen, along with selected members of the interagency and intergovernmental departments, to provide trained and ready forces across a full-spectrum of operations to regional combatant commanders worldwide.

For information, contact 177th Armored Brigade Public Affairs, audrey.dmattews@us.army.mil or 601-554-3724.
Army tightens rules on hair, tattoos and makeup

By LANCE M. BACON
Army Times Staff writer

Senior leaders are putting the final touches on 17 grooming regulations changes that cover everything from tattoos and makeup to cellphone and civilian attire. And soldiers will likely face punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice if they fail to get squared away.

The pending changes include:
- Shorter sideburns.
- Soldiers must be clean shaved on and off duty, even during leave. 
- Women will be allowed to put hair into ponytails during physical training.
- Men will be prohibited from wearing cosmetics, to include nail polish.
- Women may wear cosmetics “conservatively.” That means no unnatural or exaggerated appearance, and no more fake eyelashes. Nail polish will only be worn in service, mess or dress uniforms.
- Women’s fingernail length will not exceed a quarter of an inch. Unnatural or exaggerated appearance “must be conservative.” That means no “pushing the envelope” with nail polish or acrylics. Sleeve tattoos will be prohibited. (This rule may be grandfathered.)
- Soldiers will not eat, drink, smoke, or talk on cellphones while walking.

Army Combat Uniforms will not be commercially pressed; only hand ironing will be authorized. 
- Bags worn over the shoulder must be black or the color print of the uniform, without logos.
- Hair grooming standards will become more restrictive and better defined.
- No visible body piercings will be allowed on or off duty. Males will not be allowed to wear ear rings at any time. Ear gauging will be unauthorised.
- Civilian clothes standards, both on and off post, will be better defined.
- No dental ornamentation or gold teeth will be authorized.
- Soldiers will be authorized to wear authorized ballistic eyewear in garrison.
- Officers will be authorized to wear non-subdued rank on their headgear in garrison.
- Men will be authorized to carry a black umbrella with the Army Service Uniform.

The pending changes are part of a comprehensive review of Army Regulation 670-1 led by Sergeant Major of the Army Raymond Chandler. While some soldiers have voiced opposition to such changes, Chandler has reiterated that his goal is to project a uniform and professional Army.

"You chose to join the Army," Chandler said. "The Army didn't choose to join you."

Final tweaking will take place later this month when Chandler meets with his board of directors, which is composed of key command sergeants major. Final approval must come from Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno and Secretary John McHugh. The chief is aware of all proposals, and his questions and comments will be considered on the issue of enforcement, Chandler said.

The new rules are neither a pardoning nor a tool of attrition, the sergeant major said. Instead, this is a concerted effort to project professionalism in the Army uniform and brand, and give Soldiers the tools they need to execute troops and enforce the standards.

Administration and legal changes are occurring on the last for legality and context. Chandler said changes can be feasible, affordable and reasonable. Some changes are not clear, as leaders have yet to determine what a rule is needed, or regulations can instead be better defined.

Sideburns are one example. Some Soldiers have “pushed the envelope” with ponytail and mutton chops that would make Elvis envious. Leaders responded with a new regulation that would not allow sideburns to extend below the spot where your ear connects with your head. Chandler wants to know whether that extreme is necessary, or whether clarity and stronger enforcement of the current regulation could solve the problem.

Other changes are easier to define. Chandler gave an example of a senior sergeant major who dyed her eyebrows blond. She was black, and this was clearly not her natural hair color. Another Soldier tried to convince the SMA that her purple hair was actually a natural color — and therefore acceptable. This much is certain. The Army will demand greater education and enforcement of the rules, new and old.

"Tattoos in the spotlight"

Rules regarding civilian attire are also under scrutiny. New regulations could move the "Marines" example and put defined rules on what you can — and must — wear when off duty. Or the Army could frame this matter as professional development, and thus convey an expectation of how a soldier should look.

But you can expect, at the least, tighter restrictions on what you wear on post.

"Bathing suits and midriffs are not OK in the post exchange and commissary," Chandler told a gathering of 600-700 Soldiers at Fort Jackson, S.C., earlier this year; "I don’t want to see all that." He has been equally vocal on the issue of tattoos, especially those above the neck line or containing vulgarities.

"The presence of tattoos detracts from a uniformed service," Chandler told the Fort Jackson Soldiers. "The uniformed services, we all generally look the same. Now, if you look at one soldier who draws attention to himself, you have to ask the question, are you a person who is committed to the Army? Because the Army says you are part of the same organization. We all generally look the same. And we do not want you to stand out from the rest of the Army. You want to set yourself apart and do great things and so on, but that does not mean tattoos. You yourself or doing other extreme things that draw attention to you, the individual. You are part of something altogether."

Chandler listed a number of examples of inappropriate tattoos he has seen in the past nine months. Every one was on a noncommissioned officer who was inked while on active duty.

While waivers allowed some people to enter with tattoos of this nature, soldiers have never been allowed to get them while on active duty.

"Even worse in Chandler’s eyes is the fact that none of the Soldiers he used as examples were counseled for their error. Chandler, and many other senior leaders, say these tattoos should be removed if the Soldier wants to re- main in uniform.

Whether the leaders have a legal leg to stand on remains to be seen. But Chandler said these tattoos could face punitive action if a new policy is not grandfathered.

Army tightens rules on hair, tattoos and makeup

By STAFF SGT. KENNY HATTEN
Army Shelby Public Affairs

The Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Education Services Office is working with local colleges and universities to bring college programs to the installation.

"The Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Education Services Officer John F. Humphries, and the interests of the people completing the survey. The Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Education Services Office is working with local colleges and universities to bring college programs to the installation.

Enrollment data can be identified and offered here on post. Typically, a post wide education survey is used to gather pertinent education data to determine what types of degrees (Business, Criminal Justice, etc.) and at what levels (Associate’s, Bachelor’s, Master’s) are needed. This enables Soldiers and their Families to enroll in DEERS to ensure they are getting the benefits to which they are entitled.

Humphries said that the opportunities for different expe- riences inspired his interest in the military.

"It is a very friendly work environment, and it is filled with a lot of hard working and knowledgeable person- nel. CSJFTC is by far one of the best MOB and DEMOB stations I have been through and had the privilege to work with,” said Humphries.

He is a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 1st Battalion, 328th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, stationed at Fort Hood in Newton. He spent four years serving in Regular Army as a Patriot missile system fire control enabled operator and main- tainer before joining the MSAQNG as an Early Warning System Operator two years ago. During his career, he has to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait and Baghdad, Iraq.

Humphries said that the opportunities for different expe- riences inspired his interest in the military.

"The Guard has a closer relationship with one another, and it is more like a Family,” he said. He does not have much spare time, but when he does, he enjoys spending it with his wife, Lauren, and two children, Kailey Dru, 2 and Bradden, 7 months.

Survey results help education center

The Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Education Services Office is working with local colleges and universities to bring college programs to the installation.

"Our goal is to help provide the types of programs and courses expressed by survey returns and the interests of the people completing the survey, and it should be noted that each college course requires a minimum number of people in order for the course to successfully be approved," said CSJFTC Education Services Officer John F. Humphries, Jr. "Different colleges require different numbers to hold a class, so if there are enough people who want a certain class, we will request that the college to hold the class on the installation. In order to bring college programs/courses to an installation, the first requirement is approval and endorsement by the installation commander. The second requirement is to determine the academic interests of the community, to include Soldiers, Family members and civilians serving on the installation.

Education data from the target population is critical to establishing any type of postsecondary or academic program," said Humphries. The reason for education surveys is to gather information from the community so that programs and college courses can be identified on post. Typically, a post wide education survey is used to gather pertinent education data to determine what types of degrees (Business, Criminal Justice, etc.) and at what levels (Associate’s, Bachelor’s, Master’s) are needed. This enables Soldiers and their Families to enroll in DEERS to ensure they are getting the benefits to which they are entitled.

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Awards replaced for distinguished veteran

By STAFF SGT. KENNY MATTHEW
CSJFTC Public Affairs

On behalf of Maj. Gen. Augustus L. Collins, the Adjutant General of the State of Mississippi, representatives from Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center presented a Gulf Coast veteran with replacements for his medals and certificates that were lost during Hurricane Katrina.

Col. William "Brad" Smith, CSJFTC installation commander, presented the awards to a 94-year-old retired Capt. William Joel Blass, a veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict, during a ceremony in Blass’s Pass Christian home on April 6.

“It’s an absolute honor to be able to do this,” said Smith, as he presented the awards and certificates to Blass. Blass said that he considered it an honor to be recognized for his service, and was especially pleased to have Smith presenting the awards.

“I’m honored to be here with Col. Smith today,” said Blass. “The Smith name means a great deal to me because my mother was a Smith from Pearl River County.”

Blass served in the European Theater of Operations with the Third Army from 1942 until VE Day, earning the Bronze Star, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal and the World War II Victory Medal, ending his service in 1946 with the rank of Captain. He later returned to service for the Korean Conflict, serving from 1950 to 1951.

“I wish every American veteran could have the expression of regard that I have had today,” said Blass. “It lifts my soul and my belief in the American people that they have such regard and affection for their faithful veterans.”

Blass served in many capacities over the years as a lawyer, teacher, Soldier, statesman and judge, and was renowned for his honesty and integrity throughout his lifetime of service to his country, state and community.

“What I received today, every American veteran deserves,” said Blass, “because there’s nothing extraordinary in it but a faithful application to our duty, and I’m grateful for this recognition.”

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR’S CORNER

Welcoming a great leader...

Even though this dynamic leader is not a stranger to Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, it is fitting to welcome Col. Brad Smith as the newly-appointed garrison commander of Camp Shelby. As we continue to work side-by-side, I know we will continue to provide the necessary support for mobilizing units before sending them abroad in support of Overseas Contingency Operations. Also, I would like to welcome LT. Col. Michael Honeycutt to the command section as the deputy commander of installation Godspeed to Col. (ret.) Steve Parham and his Family, as they transition into a new chapter of their lives.

To all who helped with the Change of command ceremony, I personally say thank you. It is not an easy task to organize a change of command, which is a ceremony that is renowned and rich in history. From the DOIM section helping out with audio to JVB coordinating special guests and dignitaries, every moving part counts for something. It went smoothly and the ceremony was a success.

As I stated in my last corner, the Army Physical Fitness Test is just round the corner. Don’t wait until the last minute to start training and preparing yourself. Trust me, you don’t want to be one of those Soldiers listed as a PT failure. The standards for height, weight and Soldier fitness are clear and they apply to every Soldier and they will be enforced. There are no discriminations or excuses.

Be prepared for additional changes to AR 670-1. Higher officials are putting the finishing touches to 37 grooming regulations that may affect you. Pending changes vary from tattoos and making of telephones and civilian attire. According to Sgt. Maj. of the Army, Raymond Chandler, these changes are part of a broad review that is concentrated on professional appearance while in the Army uniform. Regardless of what the changes are, as Non-commissioned officers, it is our duty to enforce the rules.

The New York Army National Guard’s 27th IBCT has accomplished their mobilization training and the majority of them are in route to Afghanistan to support the ongoing mission of the Overseas Contingency Operations. The majority of the 1st IBCT “Raging Bulls,” Minnesota Army National Guard, have completed their portion of the demobilization process. As you see them around Camp Shelby, congratulate them on a job well done, and extend them a heartfelt welcome home!

Help me to commemorate the “Days of Remembrance” for victims of the Holocaust. To recognize the犹太 community and all minority groups that were affected, the Army memorializes these victims during a Holocaust Remembrance Day Observance which began on April 23 and continues through April 30.

For some of you, this will be your first time hearing about this. If so, then you will need to march on over to the library and educate yourself. But for others, you may have heard stories or read books about the Holocaust. No matter what category you fall under, the important thing is that we must remember.

Last weekend, the Mississippi NCO Association Conference was held in Jackson and what a sensation it was. I highly encourage you to participate in the association as your membership counts. I say that because the Mississippi National Guard NCO Association exists for you – the enlisted men and women of the Mississippi National Guard. We absolutely need your continued membership, so our state and federal legislators will hear our voice as our achievements will grow by the day. Our goal is to strengthen the MSNG through improved personnel benefits, better equipment, modern facilities and increased relevance. Come and be a part of this dynamic organization.

Lastly, continue to remain positive, continue to look professional and always keep your military bearing. Continue your progression in military and civilian education for advancement in your military career. And in everything you do, do your best – Soldiers First!”
McCoy serves as YCA director

By DANA ELISE SMITH
Camp Shelby Public Affairs

Retired Col. Steven W. McCoy is the director of the nationally-recognized Mississippi National Guard Youth Challenge Academy located at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center.

He has worked at YCA since July 1994 as a cadre member. Later, he served as deputy director before becoming the director in January 2012.

He is responsible for the overall planning, administering and reviewing all aspects of the operational rules, regulations and policies for employees and cadets. His job includes conferring with parents as well as ministry, professional and military groups and organizations to discuss the purpose and programs of the YCA.

“This is the most rewarding work I have ever done in my life. I love seeing kids learn to believe in themselves because too many of them have been told that they can’t,” said McCoy.

“A common comment from people is, ‘You work with those bad kids.’ They are not bad kids. They are just kids. It frustrates me that people think that,” said McCoy.

“Each cadet comes here either searching for purpose or to find meaning for their life and future that they have not found through the traditional educational environment. We are much more than just a GED program for those cadets willing to change their past poor habits and behaviors, and strive to become successful,” McCoy said he works with a great team of co-workers.

“It takes a special kind of person to work at YCA. We have a fabulous staff that love working with kids,” he said.

McCoy retired from the MSARNG in 2009 with more than 31 years of service. Throughout his career, he has been a platoon leader, troop executive officer and observer/controller. In 1994, he transferred to the Installation Support Unit at Camp Shelby as the unit training officer. Other assignments at ISU (now Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center) include management analysis officer, finance and accounting officer, and director of resource management. His assignments have included serving as the commander of the 210th Finance Battalion, MSARNG, from October, 2003 through March 2007. He returned to his spare time, McCoy enjoys hunting, reading and spending time with his wife, Brigit and four children – Matthew, 16, Calah, 15, Joshua, 13, Britney, 10. They reside in Hattiesburg where they attend Central Baptist Church.

COLOR GUARD AWARDS... Members of the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Color Guard were recognized for their outstanding service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom at a ceremony April 10 at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. The Color Guard team provided support for a variety of events at CSJFTC and in the local community, and always maintained the highest standards of excellence and professional bearing as representatives of the Army, the State of Mississippi and CSJFTC.

By DANA ELISE SMITH
CSJFTC Public Affairs

Retired Chief Warrant Officer Ginger Smith won second place in a student art show at the University of Southern Mississippi on March 29.

In her retirement, Smith is now pursuing a degree in Specialist of Education in Elementary Education at USM. She submitted some artwork for the Dept. of Art and Design Annual Student Show and was fortunate to have one piece featured in it.

The art show is a juried exhibition featuring work from studio courses in art foundations, drawing, painting, printmaking, photography, ceramics, sculpture and graphic design.

Smith’s winning art piece was created for a Drawing I class and is titled “Chair Draped in Black and White.”

She said she did not expect to win. “I was really shocked, but also delighted. I was
The origin of “Taps”

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

The following worship opportunities are available through Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center.

ON POST

General Protestant
Sunday, 9 a.m., Greer Chapel
Sunday, 12:30 p.m., Greer Chapel
Catholic Mass
Saturday, 2 p.m., Greer Chapel

OFF POST

*Transportation provided for Jewish, Episcopal, Lutheran, Muslim services ONLY (due to time scheduling). Units are responsible for arranging transportation by calling 601-558-2622.

Lutheran
Sunday, 8 a.m., St. John Lutheran Church, 2901 Hardy Street, 601-583-4898.

Latter-day Saints
Friday at 6 p.m.

Muslim
Contact Post Chaplain
Episcopal
Sunday, 4 a.m., Trinity Episcopal, 509 West Pine St., 601-544-5551

CAMP SHELBY AREA WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The origin of “Taps”

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Chaplain (MAJ.) Steve Yarber
177th Armored Brigade Chaplain
John 14:1-3 - “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, trust also in me. (2) In my Father’s house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. (3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”

In training units deploying downrange, a requirement is a full dress rehearsal of a mock memorial ceremony. Often, the deploying unit will choose to honor a real Soldier from the past who fell in the line of duty. Towards the end of the ceremony “Taps” is played. The origin of Taps reportedly began in 1862 during the Civil War when Union Army Capt. Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison’s Landing in Virginia. The Confeder ate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.

During the night, Capt. Ellicombe heard the moans of a Soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate Soldier, the capt. decided to risk his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach, the captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate Soldier, but the Soldier was dead. The captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the Soldier. It was his own son.

The boy had been playing music in the South when the war broke out, and without telling his father, he had enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, heartbroken, the father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial despite his enemy status.

His request was only partially granted. The captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral, but the request was turned down since the young Soldier was a Confederate. However, out of respect for the father, they did permit him to have one musician play for the memorial service.

The captain chose a bugler, and he asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found in a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth’s uniform. This wish was granted, and the haunting melody we now know as “Taps,” traditionally used at military funerals, was born.

Thornton has been at CSJFTC since ‘06

Anthony John Thornton is the head program coordinator at the Self Help center at the Training Aids Support Center at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center where he has been working since 2006.

Thornton is a Hattiesburg native and a member of the Mississippi Army National Guard.

“...as a Soldier, I feel my military experience allows for understanding when working with other Soldiers,” he said. Thornton served in the MSARNG and received the Purple Heart for injuries sustained while deployed with Battery C, 2nd Battalion, 114th Field Artillery during Operation Enduring Freedom III in 2003.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Southern Mississippi in 2007 and a master’s degree in American Government at the American Military University located in Charleston, W. Va., in 2009. He is a Hattiesburg native and a member of the Mississippi Army National Guard.

Aside from his job and military service, he is highly involved in the community. He takes part in many Hattiesburg organizations to include the VFW, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Jaycees and the Volunteer Fire Department.

He spends his spare time with his wife, Sarah, and their two children, Braeden, 5 and Kaylee, 3.

Activities they do together include yard work, fishing, going to church and riding four-wheelers. He also enjoys playing the guitar and drums and many sports.

Art

Continued from Page 6

happy to just have a drawing in the show, and I would have been happy to get an honorable mention. To actually win second place was like a dream come true,” she said.

Smith already holds a bachelor’s degree in English and a master’s degree in Special Education from USM. She is now fulfilling a lifelong dream to take classes in art, something she was not able to do before.

“I always wanted to take art classes, but I had to make practical choices about the classes I took,” said Smith. “I knew that I could do well in English, so I earned a degree in teaching English while also earning a commission as a second lieutenant through the ROTC program. When I went back for a master’s degree, I chose to study special education because that enabled me to increase my teacher’s pay by obtaining an AA teacher’s license.”

Smith served nearly 30 years in the Mississippi Army National Guard and was mobilized at CSJFTC from 2004 through November 2010 when she retired.
Gardening series
Mississippi State University Extension Service offers adult education programs throughout the season at no charge every third Thursday of the month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. The workshop begins at 9 a.m. and will be taught by area Master Gardeners. Pre-registration is required for each session. Contact the Lumberton Extension Office for more information.
Topics include:
- June 21 – “Native Plant Propagation” – when you cannot find native plants for your yard.
- July 19 – “Grapes and Muscadines for Mississippi” – learn about recommended cultivars, varieties, growing climate, pruning and harvesting.
- Aug. 16 – “Drying and Preserving Fridge...” – enjoy your summer garden’s bounty while you still can.

Sept. 20 – “Minor Fruits for Missi...”

Crawfish boil
Wesley Manor Retirement Community is hosting a Memory Screening Clinic during the month of May. The clinic will be open from noon until 5 p.m. Pre-Marathon screening is available by calling 601-584-0940. If you want to find out if you may have a memory problem, Wesley Manor can help. Their memory, language skills, thinking ability, and other intellectual functions. It can indicate whether you might benefit from early intervention by your healthcare professional. Call 601-270-1054 to schedule an appointment.

Band reunion
A reunion of anyone who was in the Hattiesburg High School Marching Band will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, April 27, at the Elfa Club in Hattiesburg. Owner of the Elfa Club, George Moreland, is inviting the alumni of band members from 1963 to 1973, the heyday of the Hattiesburg High School Marching Band. Reunion organizers want to contact all band members who cannot attend the reunion also contact him so that former band members who cannot be contacted will be included in a Tiger Band Directory.

Revival
Dublin Baptist Church in Lumberton is hosting a Revival April 27-29 at the church beginning at 7 p.m. nightly. The Revival will be held at Brad Britt’s Olive Baptist Church and Saturday with Ed King of Hill Baptist Church and Ed Pastor of Lumberton Baptist Church. The church will be open at 9 a.m. Friday, April 27, and Sunday service will begin at 11 a.m. on Sunday. To find out more information, contact Tom O’Neal at tom.oneal@att.net or call 731-353-2976.

Crawfish boil
The William Carey University College of Health Sciences’ Student Osteopathic Medical Association (SOMA) is hosting a second annual Crawfish Boil Fundraiser in conjunction with the Osteopathic Medical Association (OMA) from 1-5 p.m. Saturday. The Crawfish Boil Fundraiser will benefit our student organization SIT (SOMA in the community) and will be held at the University of Southern Mississippi in D’Iberville in the GRS Community Center.

Furl Ball
Dublin Baptist Church is benefitting the Southern Pines Animal Shelter, will be held from 7-10 p.m. Friday, May 3, at the Cape Canaveral Civic Center at 900 Miami Trace in Purvis. The event will feature music from the Ada Thompson Singers and crockpot silent auction and an open bar. Tickets are $20 in advance or $25 at the door. Advance tickets are available until April 20. For more information call 601-351-8815 or 601-468-0550. Ticket sales are at the door.

Fun with Wii
Fun with Wii will be held at the Lumberton Library. Free Wii games are available for ages 6 and up. Wii games include bowling, bowling, tennis, and others. For more information call 601-254-0165 or e-mail vaelis@heart.org.

Relay for Life
The Lumberton Relay for Life will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, May 5, at Hinton Park, the former home of Lumberton High School. The event will feature music from the Ada Thompson Singers, Crockett Bass, and Mike Russell and the Dublin High School Jazz Band. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with a 9 a.m. opening ceremony, 10 a.m. kickoff, and 5 p.m. closing ceremony.

Mendehall in May
Third annual Mendehall in May is set for May 11-12 in Mendehall. Mendehall in May is a free, family-friendly, family-focused event. Mendehall in May will include a 5K Run/Walk, a Den & Pottery competition, children’s activities and much more. Mendehall in May will be held at the Mendehall Community Area of Commerce. For more information, call 601-847-1752.

Ligget Field Day
The Forrest-Lamar Forest (FLF) is hosting its Ligget Field Day on Saturday, May 19, at the Missis...
Camp Shelby Reveille

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Library exhibit examines moonshine tradition

The American folk tradition of making moonshine has been synonymous with the white hillbillies of Appalachia. But an exhibit at The University of Southern Mississippi makes the point that the role African Americans played, along with their white counterparts, in its production and subversion of the laws of prohibition in South Mississippi.

“Black White Lightning: Mississippi Moonshine, 1900-1966” opened April 23 on the first floor at Cook Library’s Learning Commons, and is the work of Southern Miss history professor, Dr. Shane Hand of Birmingham, Ala. The exhibit runs through May 25.

Since 1900, South Mississippians have made their own home-made liquor under the light of the moon, which was considered much better in quality than those produced by Appalachia’s moonshiners. Mississippians in Kiln, Miss. allegedly produced enough “white lightning” in the last century to serve customers all along the Gulf Coast and as far north as Chicago.

Hand’s research, based on oral histories, newspaper articles, photographs and artifacts, adds to knowledge in this line of work to bring this story to light.

For more information, contact Shane hand@eckerd.edu.

Nominations sought for Governor’s Awards

The Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) is seeking nominations for the 2013 Governor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts. The awards, presented annually by the Arts Commission and the Governor’s Office, recognize individuals and organizations whose work on behalf of the arts has significantly contributed to the growth and development of the cultural life of Mississippi.

 Previous winners have included Mose Allison, John Grisham, Charley Pride, Sela Ward, Morgan Freeman, Eudora Welty and Willie Morris. A complete list of previous winners is available on the agency website at www.arts.state.ms.us.

A panel of judges representing all aspects of the arts will select the recipients from the submitted nominations, and the awards will be presented at an annual public ceremony to be held in February 2013.

To obtain a nomination form, visit the Governor’s Awards for Excellence in the Arts section of the agency’s website at www.arts.state.ms.us. For more information or to request the nomination form, call 601-359-6031.

The nomination form and supplementary materials must be postmarked or hand-delivered by 5 p.m. on Friday, June 29. Nominations may also be made by that date to Mississippi Arts Commission, 501 North West Street, Suite 110A, Mississippi Building, Jackson, MS 39201.

The MAC is a state agency, funded by the Mississippi Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters, The Hardin Foundation, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Mississippi Foundation, Mississippi’s Miss. En. Dev. for Arts at the Community Foundation of Greater Jackson and other sources.

The agency serves as an active supporter and promoter of arts in community life and in arts education.

Passions of Palate set for April 30

The University of Southern Mississippi – College of Business, Hospitality and Tourism Management has all the necessary preparations for the 8th Annual Passions of the Palate from 5-9 p.m., April 30 at the Lake Terrace Conference Center in Hattiesburg.

The featured event will be Vin&Chez, a All-Chicago to South Mississippi as David Burke’s Primehouse Executive Chef Rick Gresh delights guests with a unique five course tasting menu. David Burke’s Primehouse redlines the modern American cuisine by pushing the envelope of culinary creativity.

Gresh was named a “Rising Star of American Cuisine” by the James Beard Foundation in 2011 and, in 2012, was awarded the “Chef of the Year Award” by Plate magazine. Gresh can be seen hosting “Chef’s on the Kitchen” streaming on Watch312.com, a new Chicago based website spearheading internet programming. Gresh’s unyielded experience only compares to the most highly acclaimed chefs. Today he continues to document his adventures on the website www.rickgresh.com.

Primehouse will host the evening with Chicago food lover Amanda Puza who has been recognized as a leader in the hospitality, event and public relations industry in Chicago as the EVP of YA. The Experiential Agency Puza was the managing partner of Spago Restaurant and also the two time Emmy Award winning host of “Chow’s Please” on WTTW Channel 11.

Prior to being seated, guests will have the chance to enjoy hors d’oeuvres while watching the wine auction prizes including Napa in New Orleans, the Gulf Coast and much more. Proceeds benefit University of Southern Mississippi scholarships.

Tickets are priced at $50 per person or $100 per table of 4. Donations of $500 or $1000 (limited seating available) will allow guests to purchase a Primehouse Executive Chef Rick Gresh’s five course meal.

Turn up the beat in Bay Springs

Notable jazz musicians turn up the beat in Bay Springs Saturday, April 28, for Jazz in the Grove, Mississippi’s premier jazz festival.

The event, now in its 16th year, features Tommie “T-bone” Pratt, The Four Freshmen, The Tatiana Mayfield Quintet and the Northwest Rankin High Band under the direction of associate director, Jerry Pickering.

“we’re excited about the spectacular lineup of jazz artists we’ll have on hand this year,” said Joseph D. Fail, event founder and TEC president. “As Mississippi’s premier jazz festival, we hope to have another great turn out of jazz aficionados from across the state.”

Downtown Bay Springs’ shaded grove, located at 27 South Second, will be the backdrop for Jazz in the Grove.

Making most out LemonAid stands

The Salvation Army has a wonderful opportunity for your business, customers and children to get involved with this summer! As you know, the Salvation Army provides many services to thousands of needy children.

This year, The Salvation Army is all- lowing the help of children to help children through LemonAiD stands.

For more information or to reg- ister your child or group please call or email Katie Tate at 601-544-3694 or Katie.Tate@salvationarmy.org.

Spring Garden Day to grow April 27

Noting the opening ceremonies begin at 10:30 a.m., and the first musicians begin at 11 a.m., continuing until 5 pm. The Northwest Rankin group kicks things off at 11 a.m. followed by the Four Freshmen at 12:15 p.m., The Tatiana Mayfield Quintet round out the afternoon at 1:30 p.m.

Admission is free. Excellent food, shopping and children’s activities will also be available.

No pets, ice chests or alcoholic beverages are allowed, but lawn chairs and quilts are welcome. In the event of rain, the event will be held at Bay Springs High School Auditorium at 515 Highway 18.

Jazz in the Grove, presented by TEC and Omnibank, is held annually the last Saturday in April.

Crawfish boil is April 28 – 29 in Hattiesburg

The William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine (WCUCOM) will be hosting its second annual Crawfish Boil Fundraiser in conjunc- tion with the Mississippi Osteopathic Association (MOA) and the MOA’s Annual Convention. The event will begin at 5-9 p.m., and feature food, live auction and entertainment.

Tickets will be on sale in the Neuh building beginning Monday, April 16. Tickets are $15 per person or $50 per table of 4. For more information, call 601-544-6632 or email wcucom@wcarenes.edu.

Monthly gardening series is underway

Mississippi State University Extension Service is offering a monthly gardening series at the North Mississippi 4-H Center the second Thursday of each month, beginning April 19th. The interactive video sessions will be available on Facebook and will be taught by area horticulture agents. To register for a session, contact the Loman County Extension Extension Office at 601-794- 3991.

Topics will include:

May 17 – “You Garden Irrigation” – learn how to apply water efficiently and economically to your landscape and garden.

June 21 – “Nurturing Your Pro- pagation” – when you cannot find natives for your landscape, grow your own.

July 19 – “Growing Mus- cadines for Mississippi?” - learn recommended cultivars and how to grow in your home vineyard.

Aug. 16: “Drying and Preserv- ing Fruits” – Common fruits you can grow. For more information, contact Lisa Badler, 601-794-3910, lbadler@msstate.edu.

Furl Ball scheduled May 13 in Hattiesburg

The Furl Ball, benefiting the Southern Pines Animal Shelter, will be held from 7-10 p.m., May 4, at the Canebrake Country Club in Hattiesburg.

The event will feature music from the Adam Douce band, hors d’oeuvres, live auction and an open bar. Tickets are $50, or $100 for two at the Spay & Neuter Clinic, 1304 South Hardy Street in Hattiesburg. You may also purchase online at www.southernpinesani- malshelter.org, or by clicking on the PayPal link and putting “Furl Ball” in the comment section.

Tickets are $50 per couple or $500 per individual. For more in- formation, call 601-544-6382 or email vwatchman@cmac.net.
Smith said he is looking forward to being a part of the future development and mission success of CSJFTC as the installation continues to support the mobilization and training needs of deploying units from across the country. “Actually the most appealing thing to me is the opportunity to continue what has been going on here for quite some time and to see this place continue to grow,” he said.

Parham expressed his strong faith in the new commander, and said that he was leaving the installation in the very best of hands as he prepares to enjoy his retirement. “Of course leaving Camp Shelby is bittersweet because of the retirement coming with that, but I can tell you that the last three years as commander of Camp Shelby have definitely been the best three years of my career,” said Parham. “Camp Shelby is a great institution and it’s a huge part of Hattiesburg and the community and I’m proud to hand over my command to Col. Brad Smith, who is going to carry the torch, carry the flag and is going to do a fantastic job for the Mississippi Military Department, the State of Mississippi and the local community.”
it, because I felt others deserved it,” said Parham, as he addressed the crowd. “But then he told me that he needed someone who knew Camp Shelby and I couldn’t argue with him on that.”

Gift cards, plaques of appreciation and even reading books on retirement were some of the many gifts that were presented to Parham, but there was one gift that stood out from others. Every directorate pitched in to purchase Parham an engraved Kimber stainless Custom II 1911A1 pistol in .45 ACP.

“I heard someone say that many of us live to work, but in fact what we should be doing is working to live,” said Col. Brad Smith, who is now the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center commander. “We hope that this will assist you in your retired life.”

For Parham, it was an emotional day as he said goodbye to friends, leaders and co-workers.

“Everybody in here has been a part of my military career,” said Parham. “It’s about you and giving up this uniform. Not seeing you every day and giving up this uniform is what I’m going to miss.”

Col. Parham will be promoted to brigadier general effective May 31.

Survey
Continued from Page 4

Master’s, etc.) should be offered to the community being asked for education input.

“The Soldiers, Family members and community members decide (based on the survey instrument) what type of education programs, courses they want and need,” said Junkins. “The data is reviewed by the education staff and tabulated in a pre-determined format and utilized to negotiate with colleges to bring programs and courses reflected by the survey results.”

In addition to degrees and levels, days, times and scheduling information needs to be collected to determine when college programs, courses should be offered and time frames which will be convenient for mission and people schedules. Delivery methods are a critical element in the education survey...classroom, on-installation, etc.

“The current survey is designed to collect data in support of on-installation college programs/courses,” said Junkins. “Data include types and levels of the degrees; best times for classes in conjunction with mission and work requirements, and best delivery methods.” With new and established on-post college courses, even the public-not-for-profit colleges generally require a certain number of students to apply in order to make a course successful. Therefore, the number of people responding to a survey is an important determining factor in establishing college courses on the installation.

“The Camp Shelby Education survey instrument is a critical and effective factor in negotiating with colleges to establish college programs, courses at Camp Shelby,” Junkins said. “Those people completing and submitting a valid survey will directly contribute to these efforts.” Education surveys are available via email or on a walk in basis at the education center. Surveys are available via email at Sandra.j.henderson@us.army.mil or john.junkins1@us.army.mil. The surveys are fillable, that is, just use the tab key and move from field to field.

The current survey will be on-going and continuous,” said Junkins, “however, the more expeditious the collection, tabulation and interpretation of data, the quicker college programs, courses can be identified and made operational.”

Farewell
Continued from Page 1

Col. Steve Parham addresses the crowd during his retirement ceremony.

Photos by Staff Sgt. Michael Williams, CSJFTC Public Affairs

Col. Steve Parham, the former commander of Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, watches and listens as colleagues and subordinates address him with words of encouragement during his retirement ceremony.

Col. Steve Parham will be promoted to brigadier general effective May 31.