

ASF announces scholarship awards for 2007-08 academic year

JEFF GAULT

Army Scholarship Foundation

SPRINGFIELD, Va. – The Army Scholarship Foundation announced Aug. 1 the award of seven scholarships to deserving children of United States Army Soldiers and veterans and spouses of active-duty enlisted Soldiers. Scholarships for the upcoming 2007-2008 academic year were awarded to Jennifer Cheek of Fayetteville, N.C., who is attending the University of North Carolina Greensboro; Janay Cheek of Fayetteville who is attending North Carolina A&T State University; Ashley Wright of El Paso, who is attending the University of Texas at El Paso; and Kevin Northcutt of Niantic, Conn., who is attending Stonehill College in North Easton, Mass. In addition, a scholarship was awarded to Army spouse Amy Garlick of Clarksville, Tenn., who is attending the Miller-Motte Technical College of Clarksville. Garlick's husband is Sgt. Robert Garlick, who is assigned to the 101st Aviation Regiment at Fort Campbell, Ky.

The Capt. Jennifer Schaffer-Odom Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Deleshia Youngblood of Fort Campbell, who is attending the University of Louisville in Kentucky. She is the daughter of Sgt. 1st Class and Mrs. John Youngblood. Youngblood is assigned to the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell. Jennifer Shafer Odom grew up on a dairy farm in Knoxville, Md. After graduating first in her class at Brunswick High School, she entered the Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and graduated as a member of the Class of 1992. She became an Army aviator and served tours of duty in both the U.S. and Europe, where she supported both the Kurdish refugee and Bosnia missions. While serving with the 204th Military Intelligence Battalion at Fort Bliss in 1999, her aircraft was reported missing while flying intelligence and counter drug missions over Columbia, South American. She and her crew were lost.

The Lt. Scott Love Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Riana Wade of Cliffwood, N.J., who will attend Johnson Smith University in Charlotte, N.C. Wade's father was killed in action in 1991 while serving in Operation Desert Storm. Scott Love was an "Army brat" who was born at Fort Campbell and graduated from high school in Huntsville, Ala. He graduated from Florida State University in 1996 and enlisted in the Army in 1999 as a military intelligence specialist. In 2003, he attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga., and was subsequently assigned as a platoon leader with 2nd Bn., 6th Inf. stationed at Baumholder, Germany. His unit deployed to Kuwait in November 2005 with Scott's platoon assigned as part of Task Force 1st Bn., 35th Armored Regiment, when he was killed at Ar Ramadi, Iraq.

The Army Scholarship Foundation was founded in 2001 by concerned Army veterans who desired to continue their service to the nation and to support and assist families of Army Soldiers. To learn more about the Army Scholarship Foundation, visit www.ArmyScholarshipFoundation.org.

Bonuses

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augment the recruiting force; and

- Requesting general-officer assistance to help the recruiting effort in communities across America through speaking engagements in their hometowns, schools and colleges and at events.

Bostick noted that despite the tough environment, nearly 70,000 men and women have joined the Army this year, and those in the Army are reenlisting at record rates. He also defended the quality of the recruits, pointing out that in fiscal 2006, 81 percent of the regular Army and 89 percent of the Army Reserve were high school graduates. Also, 85 percent of the recruits who shipped to basic training that year joined without any waivers.

"Regardless of their education credentials or test scores, every applicant we enlist is qualified to serve," Bostick said.

The Army is growing its end strength to meet the demands of its new structure, and despite a historical low of 16 percent for youth propensity to serve in the military, the Army is still on target to achieve its year-end recruiting goals, he said.

New chief of staff working to facilitate Bliss transformation

MELISSA HOUSE

Monitor Staff

Fort Bliss' new Chief of Staff Col. John Rossi sat down Friday to talk about his role in the post's future. Rossi, who arrived last month after a tour in Korea, took over for Col. David L. Mann last month.

Rossi said his vision for the future of Fort Bliss is going to be consistent with that of Maj. Gen. Robert P. Lennox, the post commander, and he plans to help facilitate those things that will help set the conditions to make the post one of the Army's premiere installations.

High on his list is helping the post make a smooth transition from an air defense artillery-focused installation and make a place Soldiers and families want to come.

Rossi said the growth and changing face of the installation in the two years since he was here last is "amazing," especially in construction of new facilities and housing.

"Ten to twelve years ago, the 3rd [Armored Cavalry Regiment] was here with their tanks, and then the ADA came in," Rossi said. "Now the ADA is dispersing because Soldiers asked for it and the maneuver face is coming back."

The transition, he said, is complex and complicated and he is still learning the extent as he settles into his new position.

"The biggest thing I hope I can help General Lennox do is communicate," he said. "If we can keep people on the same page, it will absolutely help the commander and absolutely help tenant units. Hopefully, I can serve

as some sort of glue, be a team player, be fair and keep everything above board for everybody."

He feels the biggest challenge will be in keeping things synchronized for the various commands that have an interest in the transformation and transition – from the Fort Bliss garrison, the command and the tenant units.

"This is Ph.D.- level work for all the Soldiers and civilians out there who are putting this all together," he said.

Rossi said the young Soldiers joining the Army today have his thanks for "stepping up to the plate" at a difficult time for the nation and for taking the "harder right" during a dangerous time.

"I hope they'll all do a few tours and try to look long term," he said. "There's nothing like the teamwork in the military. It's all about Soldiers ... and all about people."

The New York native said he is glad to be back at Fort Bliss, where he began his Army career in 1979 and where he met his wife.

"This is my third time in El Paso," he said. "Our three children were born here, so I've always felt part of the Fort Bliss team. I enjoy working with Soldiers and that's what keeps me in [the Army]. I just really enjoy what I do and my family enjoys what I do."



Col. John Rossi

OER, NCOER submission procedures changing

CRYSTAL L. MERRITT

Fort Bliss Adjutant General Human Resources

The Evaluation Reporting System currently used for noncommissioned and officer evaluations will be experiencing some significant changes through September. The current method in place for processing NCOERs and OERs will begin to phase out quickly over the next few months. Brigade and battalion personnel officers, along with the senior raters, will be responsible for ensuring reports are processed and received on time to Headquarters, Department of the Army.

Currently, reports are being submitted through their unit personnel channels and delivered to the evaluations section, where they are reviewed and sent either by digital upload or mail for processing at DA. The new method that has already begun for OERs, and will begin for NCOERs in September, is with the "Send to HQDA" function in the Forms Content Management Program located in the user's AKO account. This function electronically sends the final report directly to HQDA for processing. This program, along with Pure Edge and Approve It software, will replace the need to submit reports to an evaluations section for processing.

The FCMP will replace the Form Flow program by 2008 and can be found on any user's Army Knowledge Online account. It is accessed by selecting the My Forms icon in the upper right corner of the AKO home page. Users are guided through simple, easy-to-follow steps to ensure almost error-proof submissions. The database of forms includes counseling, leave submissions, award recommendations, NCOERs and OERs.

The system contains a routing system that allows forms to be elec-

tronically signed and sent to other AKO users. Electronic submissions will be required when submitting OERs and NCOERs by the end of this fiscal year. Users will need the Pure Edge program and Approve It software in order to successfully submit reports.

The Army has already implemented Phase I and II of the electronic submission process. Regular Component OERS can be submitted using the "Send to HQDA" function, per MILPER Message #07-043, dated March 1, 2007. Phase II consolidated the Senior Rater Profile for tracking of Regular, Reserve, and National Guard Soldiers, per MILPER Message #07-102, dated June 5, 2007.

The senior rater profile, more commonly known as the "Dash-2" report, is designed to track the number of Soldiers an individual senior rates by grade and component and includes information pertaining to the number of on-time and late evaluation report submissions. Currently, HQDA reports evaluations as being late if they are received 90 days after the "Thru" date of the report. It is HQDA's intention, in the near future, to begin posting these reports onto the senior rater's Official Military Personnel File and will be considered during centralized DA selection boards when reviewing an individual's record for promotion. This consideration could adversely affect individuals if they have a large number of late submissions showing on their profile. A senior rater can designate an alternate individual such as their executive officer or unit-level personnel officer to manage their profiles for them. The senior rater must request that HQDA send the designated individual a copy of their report, or

they can provide a copy themselves to that individual.

For information about senior rater profiles, visit www.hrc.army.mil/site/Active/TAGD/MSD/OER_Branch/OER_Main.htm.

These changes are being implemented to prepare rating chain members and units for the final phase of processing, which will be a completely electronic evaluation reporting system using the FCMP system. Once finalized, senior raters will be responsible for ensuring that the reports they senior rate are submitted through the FCMP system on time and without errors. These changes will drastically affect the way we submit and process NCOERs and OERs. It will allow users to obtain signatures from all rating chain members more efficiently by using digital signatures, significantly increase on-time submissions and greatly reduce the amount of errors and re-submissions.

Overall, by fiscal 2008, the days of the personnel officer submitting reports to the Evaluations Section will be obsolete. Unit personnel officers will be charged with designing standing operating procedures to ensure the timeliness and proper submissions of electronic reports to deter duplicated submissions, and senior raters will have to ensure proper maintenance of their profile.

Units can coordinate on-site training to learn about the FCMP system, Pure Edge, and the Senior Rater Profile through Wayne Beckner at 568-4352. More information is available at www.hrc.army.mil. For information about FCMP, visit www.hrc.army.mil/site/Active/TAGD/MSD/ESOP/FCMP_Webpage.htm.