

# **ROCKS provides support to locals, internationals**

Suzanne Reynolds, Army War College Public Affairs Office

## **Local group provides support to local, international communities**

Jan. 23, 2009 -- A local volunteer organization made up of Army War College students, staff, and faculty has raised more than \$2500 for local and international charities.

Noncommissioned officers and officers of all Services and components comprise the Carlisle Barracks Chapter of ROCKS, Inc. Named for Medal of Honor winner Maj. Gen. Charles C. Rogers, the chapter was established in 2000 and was formed with the mission of providing fellowship, professional networking and mentorship.

"The organization provides a rich environment to meet professionals who aspire to help others in need who are less fortunate from life's circumstances," said Col. Xavier Stewart, president of the Carlisle Barracks chapter. "It is a venue for me to learn from, grow, develop and share my talents, time and treasures with the membership at large and the Carlisle community."

Providing community and world-wide support is an important mission of the organization.

Outreach support to date includes:

- \$1,000 for the United Church of Christ in the CROP Walk/Run Campaign for the World Church Services with one-third of the money going to the food bank in Harrisburg and two-thirds to Africa for the purchase of water, blankets, goats and laying hens
- \$1,250 for the HEIFER program for purchasing milking cows for sustainability of African villages
- Supporting 30 families in the Harrisburg area through the Angel Tree program, providing Christmas gifts for children whose parents are incarcerated
- Providing volunteers for the Carlisle Salvation Army

- Providing volunteers for the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation
- Providing canned goods for the Harrisburg Food Bank

The chapter is currently accepting applications for two \$500 scholarships for the 2008-2009 academic year. The purpose of the Maj. Gen. Charles C. Rogers Achievement Scholarship is to provide recognition, inspiration and encouragement to aspiring minority high school seniors who are interested in pursuing a college or technical degree.

"I am extremely impressed with how the organization reaches out to the local community," said Col. Randall Cheeseborough, ROCKS member. "Numerous volunteer hours have been invested to provide great service to our community."

The non-profit organization also provides mentorship, scholarships, and outreach to active and retired commissioned officers, reserve component officers, warrant officers and ROTC cadets.

"Success today is contingent on one's ability to effectively network and build friendships," said Lt. Col Terrance Fields, ROCKS member. "Through the ROCKS we can share stories, develop skills and build coalitions that can propel us personally and professionally."

### ***History of The ROCKS, Inc.***

Army officers attending the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., began to meet informally in order to get to know each other better. Many knew one another from college or other military assignments and also had something else in common – how to "survive" at Fort Leavenworth. Jokingly they named themselves "Blue Geese" a term well known at CGSC. After departing from CGSC, many of the officers were assigned to the Pentagon and the D.C. area where they continued to meet informally.

In the following years the group continued to grow and many of the officers were reassigned in and out of the D.C. area. The need for a more structured organization was recognized and a formal meeting was held on Oct. 9, 1974. Resulting from that meeting, officers present decided to call themselves the "No Name Club."

A meeting was held on Dec. 1, 1974, for the purpose of naming the group when shocking news was received that one of their Geese and Charter member, who was expected to attend the meeting was killed in a plane crash. Brig. Gen. Roscoe (Rock) C. Cartwright and his wife Gloria were returning from visiting their daughter in Columbus, Ohio, when the plane crashed enroute to Dulles Airport.

Following the Cartwright funeral, a special meeting was called in which organization members voted

to administer the Roscoe C. Cartwright Scholarship Fund and to name the organization "ROCKS" in honor of Brig. Gen. Cartwright. (The Rocket, The ROCKS, Inc., Winter 2007)

Headquartered in Washington, D.C., The ROCKS, Inc., has chapters throughout the U.S. and its territories.

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