

ROCKS chapter outreach helps community

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Outreach support from Army War College ROCKS chapter reaches through community

June 5, 2009 -- Over the 2009 Academic Year, members of the Carlisle Barracks Chapter, the ROCKS, Inc., provided outreach support to 16 local and international programs. Members of ROCKS consist of Army War College students, staff and faculty, and garrison personnel.

"We looked at organizations that had a need," said Col. Xavier Stewart, student, and ROCKS chapter president. "It lets you appreciate how much you have in life when working with the underserved populace."

This year ROCKS achieved their goals of supporting command and community programs, providing mentorship to students in local schools, providing scholarships to local deserving students and providing emergency relief support to individuals within the community.

Outreach support benefits many organizations

- \$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
- 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 canned goods for the Harrisburg Food Bank
- Donating to the American Cancer Society to support the nutrition and smoke cessation educational programs
- Supporting Martin Luther King Day events in several communities

- Providing volunteers for the Carlisle Christian Academy, Hamilton Elementary and Moreland Elementary Reading Programs
- Supporting the Child Abuse Awareness Month assistance
- Providing two \$500 scholarships to academically deserving students—Alia Khan, and Corey Lee Henneghan, seniors at Carlisle High School
- Donating \$300 for the purchase of 200 blankets for those in need as a result of disasters throughout the world through the United Church of Hummelstown Blankets+ program through World Church Services
- Providing volunteers for the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation
- Donating to the Purple Heart Club
- Donating to the American Lung Association to support their smoke cessation educational programs
- \$1,250 for the HEIFER program for purchasing milking cows for sustainability of African villages

"The ROCKS Chapter embarked on the most aggressive outreach program thus far in its short history," said retired Col. Charles Allen, USAWC Faculty and ROCKS member. "Under the leadership of Col. Stewart and Navy Cmdr. Carolyn Owens, the chapter membership supported a wide array of activities that extended beyond local Carlisle programs to Harrisburg and linked with other national and international organizations." "Col. Stewart as a Pennsylvania Army National Guard officer and local resident was able to tap into several established programs with his network. He has set a high bar for the next year's incoming ROCKS members," said Allen.

After graduation on June 6, Stewart will return to the Pa. Army National Guard as the Director of Military Support to Civil Authorities, and as Deputy Director of Intelligence and Operations.

"I will be working to have the Pennsylvania Army National Guard prepared to support civil authorities in any emergency event for Pennsylvania and nationwide," said Stewart. "I will also be working closely with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency."

Concerning his future involvement with the CBks Chapter of ROCKS, Stewart said that he plans to

work with ROCKS, and if members from the USAWC Class of 2010 want, he will maintain the continuity of the programs.

"As president of ROCKS, It has been enriching and rewarding working with students with diverse and ethnic backgrounds. It teaches you how to be more humble, how to be a better leader and mentor," he said.

"I will strongly encourage the 2010 Class to join this worthy organization and to continue the legacy established by the 2009 Class," said Stewart.

The organization

Established in 1974 and headquartered in Washington D.C., with chapters throughout the U.S. and its territories, the organization was named in honor of Brig. Gen. Roscoe C. Cartwright, a charter member of the organization prior to his death in a plane crash.