

# FRONT & CENTER



Col. Steve Parham

## Enjoy holiday season with loved ones...

The cool weather is finally here, the leaves are falling and the holiday season is under way. Thanksgiving is upon us and Christmas is right around the corner, so be sure to take time and enjoy this season with your Families.

The 168th Engineer Brigade is back from a successful deployment to Afghanistan. Let's give them a big Camp Shelby welcome as they get ready to return home to their Families.

The 278th is ramping up for their mobilization, and by all accounts, we are as ready as we

can be for them. Let's give them the outstanding level of support that units have come to expect from Camp Shelby, and send them on their way to another successful tour in country.

There is a lot of new construction going on around the installation, and this is a good time to remind everyone to use extra caution in and around these areas. There will be road closures in some areas, and it's a good idea to factor in possible delays when you're headed to or from work. If you have work to do in these areas,

remember to use proper protective equipment and follow all safety guidelines.

As we celebrate Thanksgiving and prepare for the upcoming Christmas season, let's all remember to be thankful that we live in a country of endless opportunity and that it is made so by the efforts and sacrifices of our service members both here and abroad.

God bless you, your Families and the United States of America.

### By Sgt. Kenny Hatten

CSJFTC Public Affairs

First Lt. Christopher White is currently assigned as a range coordinator at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center Range Control. His responsibilities include ensuring that training is properly scheduled, issued and conducted with safety in mind at all times. He also ensures that personnel in the Range Control office are operating in accordance with regulations and standard operating procedures.



Prior to mobilizing at CSJFTC, White was the executive officer and a platoon leader for B Company, 1-111th Aviation Battalion in Meridian. His responsibilities there included ensuring that training for the company was executed in a safe and timely manner.

"Our mission in B Company was to transport troops and supplies where warranted, and we operated under strict guidelines and without haste," said White. "I conducted personal leadership to all my

## PERSONNEL PROFILE OFFICER

personnel that I am in charge of through OER's (Officer Efficiency Reports), NCOER's (Non-Commissioned Officer Efficiency Reports) and sometimes just in an attentive ear," he said. "My goals were simple - execute our mission to the best of our abilities and return with all of our personnel at all times."

White has served for nearly 17 years in the Mississippi National Guard. "I was an enlisted Soldier for 11 years serving in the POL (Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants) section," said White.

"In 2003 I went to Officer Candidate School through an accelerated program offered by MSARNG. I also went to Fort Rucker, Ala., for flight school from 2005 to 2006, and I am an aviator of the CH-47D Chinook helicopter based in Meridian. I have been in Co B 1st-111th AVN for all of my military career."

White said he was influenced by his family to join the military. "My family has a rich military history," said White. "My father served in World War II in an artillery unit out of Decatur, Miss., and my two brothers have served in the military. One is currently serving in the Georgia Air National Guard. My brothers and I have served in the aviation field while serving our country. It just felt like the natural thing to do."

"I chose the National Guard because of the college benefits, but it has turned into so much more."

"I haven't been deployed overseas yet, but we are slated to go in 2011. I did serve on a humanitarian mission to Vinton, La., after Hurricane Ivan in 2008. Our mission was to plug broken levees with 6,000-lb sandbags and bring supplies to people in need. It was a very gratifying mission to

help the people that really needed it," he said.

In civilian life, White graduated from West Lauderdale High School in 1987. He attended Meridian Community College, then Delta State University.

He is currently finishing his bachelor's degree in Aviation Technology from Thomas Edison State College by taking classes at William Carrey University in Hattiesburg.

At home, White enjoys spending time with his family. "I have been married for 14 years to Sandy, and we have two boys, Dylan, 13, and Jase, 10," said White. "They are all the apple of my eye, and I could not be where I am today without them."

White describes himself as a "run-of-the-mill guy," but in addition to work and family life, he finds time to volunteer in the community. "Last summer I helped with the State Games of Mississippi in soccer," he said.

"I am going back to college to finish my degree so that takes up a lot of my time here and at home. At home I am usually doing some type of sport with the family, football, baseball, soccer, cross country running."

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U.S. Army photo by Sgt. David Landrum

**NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DISPLAY** - A Native American exhibit sits in the Mississippi Armed Forces Museum at Camp Shelby JFTC in honor of Native American History Month. The exhibit will stay at the museum throughout the month of November.



**BEST THEMED DISPLAY** - The month of November is National Native American Heritage Month. Units of the 177th Armored Brigade held a competition for the best themed display. The winner was the 2/305th Field Artillery Regiment, whose display included a life-sized "teepee" set in a woodland scene, complete with a fire pit and stuffed deer. Also included in the display were woven baskets, arrowheads, children's toys and a recording of some authentic American Indian music. The concentration of the display was on the three most famous Mississippi American Indian tribes - the Chickasaw, Choctaw and Biloxi.



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