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FIRST TO STRIKE



"Recruiters' NewSsssss..."

March 2024

Hattiesburg Native Graduates Top of Class in U.S. Army Basic Training

HATTIESBURG, Miss.— Pvt. Odell Scott Jr. completed Army Basic Training with a near-perfect score.

Officials said the rare accomplishment is a sign of the Hattiesburg native's dedication.

Before enlisting in the Army, Scott faced many challenges, including dropping out of high school.

Scott still found his way by pursuing welding through Job Corps. He also earned his high school diploma.

At the end of Job Corps, Scott met Sgt. 1st Class Harvey McCuiston, an Army recruiter. McCuiston told Scott that the Army would be a perfect fit for the young man.

"My expectation of him was not for him to be the top undergrad, but to join the Army and better himself," McCuiston said. "Through it all, he persevered and he ended up being the distinguished undergrad at basic training, which is a testimony of what he believed in and his faith in God and his family"

As a Distinguished Honor Graduate, Scott said this accomplishment makes him optimistic about his future.



"The feeling that you get is like adrenaline," Scott said. "It's like a rush throughout your body to be able to say that you graduated at the top of your class. I'm not a person who likes to boast about myself being a certain type of way, but it feels really good to be able to say I did that."

Scott now serves as a 13M Multiple Launch Rocket System crew member.

"Everything I've done up until now, it paid off," Scott said. "I try my best at everything I do to be my best. To be able to do something that most people couldn't do, it makes me feel real happy,"

Currently, Scott is in Oklahoma awaiting overseas orders.



[WATCH FULL INTERVIEW>>>](#)



Army STEM Thrills at NOLA Air Show !

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Other News...

Drones, Dogs, Robotic Systems and More! as Army Showcases at NOLA Air Show

NEW ORLEANS— A range of U.S. Army Soldiers—Special Forces, Engineers, Military Police and working dogs—showcased state-of-the-art technology and equipment at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base (NAS JRB), for the 2024 New Orleans Air Show, March 23-24.

“Our [Army] attendance at the 2024 New Orleans Air Show is no happenstance...we wanted to entertain and engage the culture-rich residents of NOLA and give them an idea of how the Army conducts operations,” Capt. Matthew Gimenez, New Orleans Recruiting Company Commander, said. “This is why we showcased STEM-related and tactical equipment, both alongside recruiters... to really show how the Army is invested in America’s future.”

Soldiers from Fort Johnson representing the: 705th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company (EOD), 1st Battalion of the 509th Infantry Regiment, 46th Engineering Battalion (EN), and 519th Military Police Battalion (MP) were along NAS JRB’s flightline demonstrating Army technology and equipment to thousands of participants.

Army Technology & Equipment on Display

- Off-Road Light Tactical Vehicle
- Small Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (Drone) and pilot
- Heavy-Duty Route Clearance Vehicle
- Common Robot System-H (CRS-H)
- Family of Medium Tactical Vehicles (FMTV)
- High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV)
- Military Working Dog & MP Handler



News You Can Use...

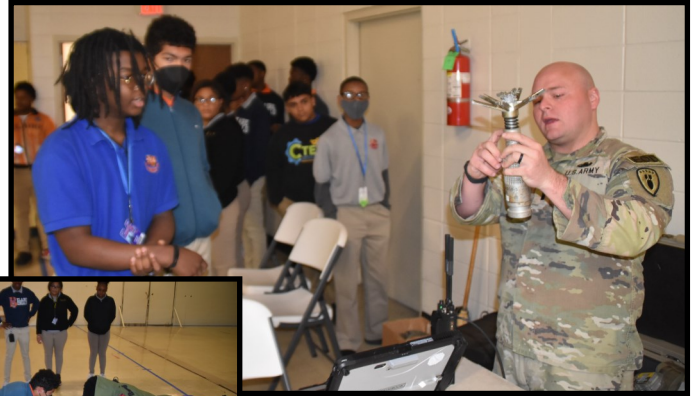


U.S. Army Special Forces Visit BR High School

BATON ROUGE, La.—The U.S. Army's 705th Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Company, a special forces team, engaged guests for the LA Sportsman Show at the Raising Cane's River Center, March 1-3.

The three-man EOD team visited students at Belaire High School for a Robotics class and an Engineering class.

"Our unit [705th Ordnance Company (EOD)] regularly visits local high schools to engage with students," L'Esperance, EOD Platoon Leader, said. "We decided to bring some of our most exciting equipment to keep students' attention, relate to their curriculum topics and explain how the Army uses STEM."



Future Soldier is Now 3x State Champion, Record Breaker

LUTCHER, La.— Lutcher High School Senior, Malaya Mitchell, recently won her third State Championship title in Powerlifting. Mitchell competed in the Deadlift, Squat and Bench Press at the Cajundome in Lafayette, LA.

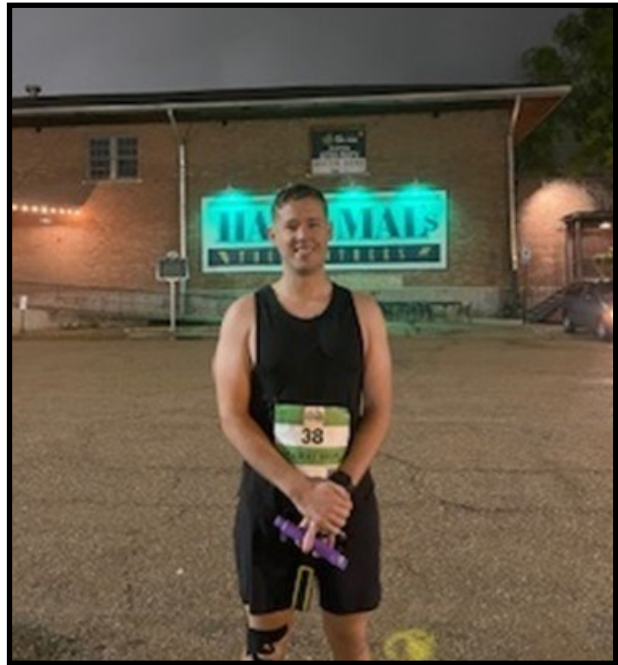
Here, she broke the girls' LA State record with a 225 pound Bench Press. Last year, Mitchell placed 2nd at Nationals and 1st at the North American Championships held in the Cayman Islands.

"Competing at an elite level is exhilarating and challenging," Mitchell said. "You find something inside of you that you didn't know exist and that feeling sticks with you and pushes you to more, even outside of sports."



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Recruiters on the Battlefield: 1st Lt. Collin Cushing



JACKSON, Miss.—1st Lt. Collin Cushing ran the “Run the Rainbow” Marathon, an event by the Army’s Jackson Recruiting Company, and finished with a noteworthy time. Cushing’s efforts helped show the City of Jackson the Army cares about Mississippi’s youth, helped establish new connections to community leaders. Cushing ran 26.2 miles nonstop to support Mississippi’s only children’s hospital. Cushing coordinated Jackson Company’s logo on official T-Shirts and Banners; this race saw more than 1,500 participants with hundreds of shirts being sold.

Check Out Our Upcoming Events!:

- JROTC National Drone Championship 4/6 *Batesville, MS*
- Rajun’ Cajun Crawfish Festival 4/21 *Memphis, TN*
- Double Decker Arts Festival 4/26 *Oxford, MS*
- Louisiana Pirate Festival TBD *Lake Charles, LA*
- Memphis in May BBQ Cookoff 5/13 *Memphis, TN*
- Freedom Fest 5/25 *New Orleans, LA*
- Louisiana FFA Convention 6/5—6/8 *Alexandria, LA*
- Watermelon Festival 6/21—6/24 *Farmerville, LA*
- Mississippi Comic Con 6/22—6/23 *Jackson, MS*
- The Needham Jones Bootcamp 7/8—7/16
- Red River Ballon Rally 7/12—7/13 *Louisiana Downs, Bossier City, LA*

① Want to see the Army at your **school** or **event**? [Contact Us](#)

*Ask about our interactive trailers with state-of-the-art technology showcasing STEM-related fields in the Army

