



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
INSTALLATION MANAGEMENT COMMAND, ATLANTIC REGION  
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON, FT CAMPBELL  
39 NORMANDY BOULEVARD  
FORT CAMPBELL, KENTUCKY 42223-5617**

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

Public Affairs Office/IMAR-CAM-PA

13 January 2014

MEMORANDUM THRU U.S. Army Installation Management Command, ATTN: (IMWE-PAO)  
FOR Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, Washington, DC 20310-1500

SUBJECT: Nomination for Ms. Yvette Smith as Keith L. Ware Journalist of the Year.

Yvette Smith is a consummate professional whose professional acumen is above reproach. Her abilities as a staff writer and photographer for the Fort Campbell Courier are much more than consistently outstanding. They are continually improving and raise the standard of excellence of this award-winner publication with each issue. She is a gifted writer whose innate creativity and understanding of mission enable her to inform, entertain, educate and evoke emotion from those who read her exceptional work.

Ms. Smith came to her position from the installation Directorate of Public Works via the IMCOM Employee Priority Placement Program. She had no prior journalistic experience prior to the Courier. However, as a career Soldier she earned a Masters of Business Administration Degree and developed keen skill sets in interview techniques; accuracy, brevity and clarity in reports; and strong interpersonal interaction, which have been a foundation she continues to build on. Currently, she is midway through the non-resident Basic Journalism Course with the Defense Information School.

Despite a limited background and with only six months on the job, Ms. Smith earned a second-place award for best sports article in the 2012 HQ IMCOM Keith L. Ware competition. She also earned a second-place award for graphic design in the 2012 Kentucky Press Association Excellence in Kentucky Newspapers competition.

In November 2013, a two-part series written by Ms. Smith about retired Command Sgt. Maj. Dayton Herrington of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division (Air Assault) was noted by NBC Nightly News, who picked up the story from [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil). Terri Pickerard, a producer with NBC Nightly News, is interested in doing a piece on Herrington based upon Ms. Smith's engaging human interest story. Another stand-out piece by Ms. Smith includes a feature series on a cadet's day-to-day experiences as a student at the Sabalauski Air Assault School, which was also featured on [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil) and was shared by the U.S. Army and numerous others on multiple social media platforms, as are so many of her articles and photographs. Additionally, during the year, Ms. Smith averaged nine byline articles and photo packages a month, as well as contributing more than a dozen original graphic designs and layouts for the Courier.

Yvette Smith is not only a top flight professional among professionals, she possesses human qualities of thoughtfulness, concern and compassion. She is often sought out for advice and guidance from more seasoned contemporaries. Ms. Smith is a devoted

mother and wife and volunteers as a Motorcycle Safety Foundation certified Rider Coach, teaching the Basic Motorcycle Safety Course on weekends. She also helps raise funds for local charities through work at the Tennessee Titans LP Field concession stands

Ms. Smith is no “diamond in the rough” in terms of her short career history as a journalist. She is a proven, battle-tested, “head and shoulders above” performer who is keenly insightful; abundantly productive; a prolific writer and engenders self development. Her stories, photographs and graphic designs genuinely touch and inspire her readers and her contemporaries. Yvette Smith has my absolute strongest endorsement as the Keith L. Ware Journalist of the Year. She is most deserving of this special recognition and honor.

Should you have any questions regarding Ms. Smith, please feel free to contact me by calling (270) 798-9961 or on my Blackberry at (931) 220-7993. My email address is [robert.n.jenkins.civ@mail.mil](mailto:robert.n.jenkins.civ@mail.mil).

Sincerely,

E-Signed by JENKINS.ROBERT.NORRIS.1113841130  
VERIFY authenticity with ApproveIt

JENKINS.ROBERT.NORRIS

Robert N. Jenkins  
Director of Public Affairs



## **Biography for Yvette Smith**

Yvette Smith has been assigned as a journalist for the Fort Campbell Courier since June 2012.

On Jan. 24, Smith is scheduled to be awarded first place in the 2013 Kentucky Press Association Excellence in Kentucky Newspapers contest.

Smith was recognized for her efforts in 2013 when she earned a second-place award for best sports article in the 2012 HQ IMCOM KLV competition after only six months as a journalist. Her work has been published numerous times on the U.S. Army website, [www.army.mil](http://www.army.mil), and was shared by the U.S. Army and numerous others on multiple social media platforms.

Smith also earned second-place for graphic design in its 2012 Kentucky Press Association Excellence in Kentucky Newspapers contest.

In November, 2013, NBC Network News initiated contact with the Fort Campbell Public Affairs Office to express interest in contacting Ret. Command Sgt. Maj. Dayton Herrington after seeing the story series produced on Herrington by Smith. NBC News is interested in doing a piece on Herrington later this year.

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y. and military retiree, Smith began her career as a Soldier in 1987, assigned the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, N.C. where she served as a unit supply clerk. While assigned there, she deployed with her unit to Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

After four years at Fort Bragg, Smith was reassigned to Vicenza, Italy as a property book officer. She returned to the states in 1994 and spent two years at Fort Carson, Colo., where she was assigned to the 43rd Area Support Group. During her time there, she deployed as an S-4 NCO with her unit to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in support of Operation Sea Signal.

Smith departed Fort Carson in 1996, returning to Fort Bragg, this time assigned to the 1st Battalion, 17th Cavalry, 82nd Airborne Division, where she served as S4 NCO.

In 1999, Smith was selected to attend the Drill Sergeant School and was reassigned to the Defense Language Institute English Language Center at JBSA Lackland, Texas after graduating.

After serving three years as a drill sergeant, Smith was reassigned as the property book officer for the 314th Military Intelligence Battalion, San Antonio, Texas.

In 2005, Smith was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 101st Airborne Division, as a division Equal Opportunity Advisor and Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. She deployed to Iraq shortly after arrival and earned a Bronze Medal.

Smith retired as a Master Sgt. in 2010 and worked within the Fort Campbell Department of Works before being assigned to her current position, public affairs specialist, in 2012.

Smith earned a bachelor's degree in Resource Management from Troy University in 2008. In December 2010, she received her Master of Business Administration from Liberty University. Smith also graduated from the Art Institute of Tennessee in 2010 with a diploma in Digital Image Management.

Smith's military schooling includes all required professional development courses, Drill Sergeant School, Airborne School, Equal Opportunity Advisor's Course, and more. Awards include the Civilian Service Achievement Medal.

Smith is currently attending the DINFOS Basic Public Affairs Course and is scheduled to graduate in April.