

# UP AND DOWN THE HILL

SERVING THE FORT A.P. HILL COMMUNITY

## Post recognized at Pentagon ceremony

By Jason B. Cutshaw  
*Up and Down the Hill*

Fort A.P. Hill was recognized for its third place finish in the Army Communities of Excellence program in a Pentagon ceremony May 3.

This marked the third consecutive year Fort A.P. Hill was called to center stage in the Pentagon's Auditorium to accept the award.

Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, Fort A.P. Hill commander and Billy Cecil, Fort A.P. Hill's 2006 Wage Grade Employee of the Year, accepted the award on behalf of the military and civilian workforce. Nearly 20 members of the Fort A.P. Hill community attended the event. Also supporting the installation in attendance was Caroline County Board of Supervisors' Chairman D.M. "Maxie" Rozell.

The Army Communities of Excellence program recognizes excellence in installation management and encourages and rewards installations that optimize their environments and demonstrate a commitment to excellence in facilities and services. It measures Army installation management processes against the Army Performance Improvement Criteria, adapted from the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award criteria.

"This is a great opportunity to recognize those who support our nation's warriors on a daily basis," said Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson, U.S. Army Installation Management Command commanding general.

Wilson and Brig. Gen. John A. Macdonald, IMCOM deputy commander, presented Graese and Cecil with a trophy, a streamer for the post's Army Communities of Excellence flag and a check for \$750,000.

"This award shows that Fort A.P. Hill has been able to design and implement many leading business processes that continue to pay off where it counts the most – enabling success for our nation's warriors," Graese said about Fort A.P. Hill's continued excellence.

"The fact that we were able to sustain our success



*Brig. Gen. John A. Macdonald, (right), U.S. Army Installation Management Command deputy commander, congratulates Billy Cecil, Fort A.P. Hill's 2006 Wage Grade Employee of the Year, at the Army Communities of Excellence Awards May 3. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)*

in the face of an exceptionally challenging year, resources and personnel-wise, speaks volumes for the caliber of this installation's work force and its dedication to its vision of providing the best training and support anywhere," Graese added.

This year's winner was U.S. Army Garrison Japan, which earned the top prize of \$2 million dollars. Fort Meade, Md., finished second and was presented with a check for \$1 million. The Minnesota Army National Guard wins the Special Category Award for the National Guard, and the 88th Regional Readiness Command is the Special Category winner for the Army Reserve.

**"As a nation, we have made our share of mistakes, but we have always corrected our course. That is why this country remains the most powerful cause for good ... (and) why we will continue to be a beacon for all that is good."**

-- Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates

*“Commander’s Call”*

# Commander recognizes team effort

Team,

It has been another busy two weeks on Fort A.P. Hill. Of course, I believe the highlight was picking up the trophy at the Army Communities of Excellence recognition ceremony.

I was so proud, as I’m sure Billy Cecil was, to represent this super Army team. I congratulate you one more time for reaching this sustained level of excellence.

The senior leadership of Fort A.P. Hill is currently holding a Corporate Board meeting. Originally planned as an off-site at Fort Story, we made it an “on-site” to meet the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army guidance to limit spending and travel.

Many great discussions and necessary adjustments to our strategic action plan are taking place.

I am confident this plan will continue to posture us for excellence.

The combination of an effective Corporate Board and team dedicated to meeting our vision and mission

go a long way to making Fort A.P. Hill special.

I also want to recognize the entire Morale, Welfare and Recreation team for the successful grand opening of Brookwood Farms BBQ in Tucker’s Tavern. If you haven’t tried it yet, I encourage you to give it a shot; the food is very good.

MWR is working diligently to provide quality services for warriors and civilians alike. Let them know what you like and areas you would like to see addressed.

Finally, please be careful and look out for each other as temperatures increase.

This and other safety challenges associated with summer will be addressed at the upcoming Fort A.P. Hill safety day.

Hooah!

V/R,  
 Michael S. Graese  
 LTC, AD  
 Commanding



*Members of Fort A.P. Hill represent the post May 3 at the Army Communities of Excellence award presentation ceremony held in the Pentagon Auditorium. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)*



*Soldiers of 23rd Quartermaster Brigade undergo a training exercise at Combat Village during the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Council tour.*



*Col. Paul N. Fortune, 23rd Quartermaster Brigade commander, talks to members of the FRCC MAC during a training exercise May 1 at Combat Village. (Photos by Jason B. Cutshaw)*

## Fort A.P. Hill hosts MAC roundtable

By Jason B. Cutshaw  
*Up and Down the Hill*

Nearly 40 people came to Fort A.P. Hill May 1 to be a part of the first roundtable meeting between local military and business leaders.

This was the first such roundtable of the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Council and sets the standard for future visits by council members to Marine Corps Base Quantico and Naval Surface Warfare Center Dahlgren.

Kicking off the day was a breakfast held in Romenick Hall followed by an opening presentation by Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, Fort A.P. Hill commander, covering what the post does daily for America's warriors.

After leaving Romenick Hall, council members were taken on a tour of post.

Tour stops included the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility, drop zone, the modular military operations on urban terrain site and Combat Village.

At Combat Village, visitors witnessed Soldiers of the 23rd Quartermaster Brigade in action, observing part of the Log Warrior exercise, and training relevant to "real-world" theater scenarios.

After departing Combat Village, the tour got to observe a live-fire exercise with members of 767th Ordnance Company and also watch a landmine explosives demonstration.

After the tour, council members talked about their visit.

"The Commander and staff of Fort A.P. Hill coordinated an exceptional event for the chamber's Military Affairs Council members," said Susan Spears, FRCC Programs and Community Development executive director.

"The Commander's presentation, filled with enthusiasm and pride, made it very clear why the post is such an economic asset to our region," she said. "The experience of viewing several base operations – both in size and intensity – was truly profound.

"It was important for our members to see the post in person, to meet the leadership

and to gain a more comprehensive understanding of Fort AP Hill's important role in not only our national security, but in our region," Spears added.

Reflecting on the day's events, Graese spoke of the impact he hoped the roundtable had on those attending.

"The goal of the roundtable was to impress upon local business leaders the importance of the Fort A.P. Hill mission and the impact on the local community and the nation as a whole," Graese said.

"Based on the attendees' feedback, I believe we met the goal," he added.

Council members echoed the commander's sentiment.

"We've received overwhelmingly enthusiastic feedback from our members about their experience," said Ty Schieber, MAC chairman. "We are glad our relationship with Fort A.P. Hill remains strong and look forward to working closely with you and your staff in the future to support the interest of the military, military families, the local defense industry and the region as a whole.

# Gates visits 'amazing' Army rehabilitation center

by Elaine Wilson and Norma Guerra  
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office

FORT SAM HOUSTON, Texas – Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates visited here May 3 to meet wounded warriors and take a firsthand look at the Center for the Intrepid, the Army's state-of-the-art physical rehabilitation center.

"Amazing," Gates said, summing up his opinion of the center with one word.

The \$50 million facility, built thanks to the generosity of 600,000 Americans, is dedicated to the nation's military heroes wounded in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. The facility, designed with the latest generation's interests in mind, includes an indoor running track, firing range, wave pool, climbing wall, prosthetic center, gait lab and a computer assisted rehabilitation environment known as CAREN.

As Gates toured the 60,000-square-foot center, he stopped to thank each wounded warrior he met along the way for their service and sacrifice, and presented each with a secretary of defense coin.

During a tour of the therapy gym, amputee Spec. Robert Price demonstrated the two-story rock wall, then had a challenge for Gates.

"Sir, it's your turn next," Price said.

Gates laughed as he declined the offer, but did present Price with a coin.

At the wave pool, called The Flowrider, Spec. Patrick Moore and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Derek McGinnis rode "boogie boards" to demonstrate how the pool strengthens core muscles and improves balance.

Gates followed up his visit to the center with a tour of one of two new Fisher Houses adjacent to the rehab facility. Fisher Houses serve as a home away from home



*Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates, left, speaks with wounded Pfc. Patrick Moore, right, Marine 1st Lt. Kelly Bowman, center, and Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Derek McGinnis during a visit to the Center for the Intrepid at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, May 3. (Photo by Norma Guerra)*

for families of patients receiving medical care at major military and Veterans Affairs medical centers. The additional houses, which opened Jan. 29 in conjunction with the center, bring the on-post total to four.

The 21-room homes are built in the newer Fisher House style with a sprawling 16,800 square feet. Each home is equipped with a full-service kitchen, formal dining room, sitting rooms and bedrooms equipped with DVD/VCR systems and flat-screen TVs.

Gates said he was impressed by their size and capacity and called the Fisher Houses "a great service for the families."

At the tour's conclusion, Gates thanked the Fisher House staff for all that they do for the service members and their families.

Shortly after visiting the Fisher House, Gates met with the Commission on Care for America's

Returning Wounded Warriors.

The president established the commission March 6 to conduct a comprehensive review of military medical care at both Department of Defense and Department of VA hospitals and outpatient facilities.

Bush asked its members to recommend ways to improve the transition to other military service or civilian life, ensure high-quality services for wounded troops and increase their access to benefits and services.

To that end, the nine-member committee, co-chaired by former Kansas Sen. Robert Dole and former Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, had earlier in the day met with service members, family members, health care providers and other interested parties at BAMC.

Gates concluded his trip to Texas May 4.

# Housing office welcomes internet site

Whether it's looking for a one-bedroom apartment, or searching for a roomy house, finding a place to live just got a little easier.

It's an old story with a new ending: The Fort A.P. Hill Housing Welcome Center is implementing the new internet-based Automated Housing Referral Network to overcome the problem, and it's called AHRN.com.

AHRN.com is a nationwide, joint service, Department of Defense-sponsored website that offers a continuous, single source of available housing to incoming military members and their families.

It directly connects service members with local property managers via the internet often facilitating a door-to-door move that saves time, expenses and headaches.

"This housing referral network is a quantum leap forward from the process we use in our office

and the word-of-mouth (sponsor) method," said Linda Wax, Fort A.P. Hill housing manager. "With the internet, incoming personnel are able to reach out from anywhere and get an updated list of available housing, from a much larger pool of diverse properties that will be available upon their arrival."

The idea behind AHRN.com is simple. It is free of charge and local property managers and military members can register their available properties on the site, often several months before the property will be available, she said.

These properties are then easily visible to incoming personnel when they search the site for available housing.

"It's our job to promote the site to all local stakeholders to ensure that it builds momentum and synergy," Wax added.

The Fort A.P. Hill Housing

Welcome Center is looking to expand its housing program by encouraging local property managers to register in the AHRN system.

"The larger the database, the more useful it will be to people searching for places to live," Wax said.

To make registering properties a worry-free proposition, the website incorporates several layers of privacy protection, and in return for registering their properties, it provides property owners with a consistent resource of quality tenants.

"It's a win-win for everyone who uses the site," Wax said.

For more information about the local AHRN.com website, call Wax at (804) 633-8445, or visit the website at [www.ahrn.com](http://www.ahrn.com) to list a property, or search for one today.

*Information provided by the Fort A.P. Hill Housing Office.*

# Army car finishes 17th in Richmond

RICHMOND - In perhaps their toughest race, Mark Martin and his Army teammates refused to give up during Sunday's Jim Stewart 400 Nextel Cup race at Richmond International Raceway.

Martin battled an ill-handling Car of Tomorrow for most of the 300-mile event. He went a lap down halfway through the race and fell as far back as 26th on the three-quarter-mile oval. Still, the team never lost confidence as the hard-driving Martin fought his way back to the lead lap with just 23 laps remaining.

He went on to claim a 17th-place finish.

Despite the result - his worst of the seven races he has competed for Ginn Racing in 2007 - Martin gained three spots in the driver standings and currently stands in 14th place.

In the owner point standings, the 01 Ginn Team is ranked sixth.

"We weren't really able to get a grip on our Army Chevrolet today," Martin said, who averaged a 6.16 finish in his first six races. "We had a hard time with the car's handling, especially how it rolled through the center. But we kept soldiering on.



*Mark Martin finished 17th in the Jim Stewart 400 Nextel Cup race at Richmond International Raceway Sunday. (Photo by U.S. Army Racing)*

"Ryan (Pemberton, crew chief) and this Army team were like our Soldiers - they never quit. They kept on battling and we were able to fight our way back to the lead lap and to a respectable finish. I'm so proud of these guys," he said.

*Story provided by U.S. Army Racing.*



Many items can be found at the Fort A.P. Hill Post Exchange. (File photo)

## PX takes care of Fort A.P. Hill patrons

by Jason B. Cutshaw  
*Up and Down the Hill*

Nearly 70,000 warriors train at Fort A.P. Hill every year, and one store helps take care of them all.

The Post Exchange, located at Wilcox Camp, is open to most people who work and train on Fort A.P. Hill, and provides goods such as food, uniform items and various conveniences.

“The PX is here for those who need items and don’t have time to go off post,” said Sylvia Ramirez, PX branch manager. “I think people will find, once they have been here, that we have a lot of items they didn’t think we would have in stock.”

Ramirez, who has been working for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service for nearly 13 years, came from Fort Belvoir’s military clothing sales in April to begin the next chapter in her life and in the life of the PX.

“I needed a new challenge in life, and this seemed like the perfect place to begin that challenge,” Ramirez said. “This may not be one of the biggest stores I have worked at but, hopefully, soon it will be one of the best.

“I enjoy working with the troops, and one of the best ways to help them is to give them what they want and need on a daily basis,” she added. “Our main objective is to serve our customers and make sure they get what they need so they can do their job.”

Both military and civilian personnel assigned to Fort A.P. Hill can shop at the PX; the only items limited to active-duty personnel are military clothing, cigarettes and alcohol.

Food and drink items can be purchased by the civilian workforce, contractors working on post and campers.

“We carry just about everything convenient stores outside the gates carry,” Ramirez said. “We are limited in our in some of our merchandise, but we are working on getting what the people are asking for.

“We try to stay fully stocked on what we have so people can depend on some consistency from us,” she added.

Various items available at the exchange include soft drinks, snack food, bread, milk, drink coolers, shirts, sleeping bags, magazines and movies.

Also located in the exchange is a small food court, open 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

The small eatery serves breakfast sandwiches in the morning and pizzas, burgers and other sandwiches in the afternoon.

There is also a small dining area with a TV to watch while eating.

The store also has an ATM machine and a barber shop. For more information on barber shop hours, check with the PX.

Although not many people outside of post know about the store, the management is hoping to get the word out for people coming onto Fort A.P. Hill.

“A lot of people who come on post do not have a clue we are even here,” said Dannette Jackson, PX store supervisor.

“A lot of campers who come here are not even aware that we are open, and have to go off post to buy items they could get right here,” she added.

Store hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. For special circumstances, store hours can be extended.

For more information, call (804) 633-4618.

# New BBQ restaurant opens for lunch

by Jason B. Cutshaw  
*Up and Down the Hill*

Once again, lunch is served.

Nearly 100 Fort A.P. Hill community members gathered at the grand opening of Brookwood Farms BBQ restaurant Friday at Tucker's Tavern. The crowd enjoyed more than 20 menu items in the newly opened restaurant during the event.

The restaurant's specialty items include pork, chicken, ribs and beef brisket platters served with two side items and corn bread. The restaurant offers five distinct types of barbeque sauce, which allows patrons to season to his or her individual taste. Also on the menu are various sandwiches, soups, salads and chicken and turkey wraps. Side items include corn bread, beans, coleslaw, green beans and hush puppies, among others.

"This is what the south is known for...BBQ and sweet tea," said Cheryl Buzard of Human Resources

Brookwood Farms normal business hours are Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

"This is unique, something different than the typical McDonald's or Burger King you find on other installations," said Heather Casey, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security. "You have to drive over half an hour to get any decent BBQ. I live on post so this is great. The food is tasty and it's convenient."

After enjoying their meals, some customers talked about the menu's diversity.

"Everything was better than I expected. There's enough variety so you can eat here everyday," said Debbie Moore, Human Resources. "I think it's going to be a nice kick for the installation."



Patrons enjoy the Brookwood Farms grand opening Friday at Tucker's Tavern. (Photo by Ken Perrotte)

According to their Web site, for more than 25 years, Brookwood Farms has been slow cooking authentic North Carolina BBQ over an open pit of charcoal. After 10 hours, the meat is removed

from the barbeque pits and hand pulled or chopped to the desired texture.

This time-proven method produces the genuine old-fashioned barbeque flavor.

# MWR hosts Youth Fishing Tournament

by Jason B. Cutshaw  
*Up and Down the Hill*

A recent fishing tournament went swimmingly as children attempted to deplete the trout population of Fort A.P. Hill.

Nine children, ranging from ages 8 to 15 years old, participated in the annual Youth Fishing Tournament April 28 at Beaver Dam Pond.

"It was a lovely day for a tournament," said Marsha Randolph, recreation assistant with the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation. "The weather was almost perfect, and everyone had a good time.

"The children seemed to enjoy themselves and said they looked forward to coming back again," Randolph added. "This is what makes my job enjoyable."

The winner for biggest fish caught was Alex Aucoin, and winner for total weight of fish caught was Thomas Kitta.



Andrew Scott Hicks, 6, casts his rod during the Youth Fishing Tournament at Beaver Dam Pond April 28, as his grandmother, Linda Greer, looks on. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)

Both winners received \$25 gift certificates to Dick's Sporting Goods. All contestants were given souvenir bags containing hats, shirts and coloring books.

"I can't think of anything else better to do today," said 11-year-old Matthew Hicks. "I am glad I got to come, I just wish I could catch more fish."



Dr. L. Bruce Barnes stands next to his old parking spot at the post heritage center April 23. Barnes was the post dentist from 1955-1957. His office was located near the present-day museum. He was traveling on his way to Gettysburg, Pa., and stopped by to see how much the post has changed. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)

## Health and Safety Day

Fort A.P. Hill will be hosting the annual Summer Health and Safety Day May 22 at the Community Activity Center 8 a.m.-noon. For more information call 633-8269.

## Asian-Pacific Heritage Month

Fort A.P. Hill is celebrating Asian-Pacific Heritage at the Community Activity Center during May. Visit the CAC and see the display recognizing Asian-Pacific heritage.

## Ping Pong tournament at CAC

The Community Activity Center will host a ping pong tournament May 16 starting at 4:30 p.m.. For more information call 633-8219.

UP AND DOWN THE HILL is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of this publication are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or Headquarters, Fort A.P. Hill. This newsletter is published biweekly by the Public Affairs Office, Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, 22437-3114. For information about this publication, call (804) 633-8120 or e-mail: jason.cutshaw@belvoir.army.mil.

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