



## IMCOM CG tours post, recognizes efforts to upgrade training



The commanding general of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command (IMCOM) toured through Fort A.P. Hill, Sept. 24, to get a first-hand look at base operations and the improvements in the installation's training facilities here to support the nation's military forces.

Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson was accompanied by Russell B. Hall, director, IMCOM - Northeast Region and several members of his staff to determine how resources are being spent and whether they're adequate enough to ensure sustained high-quality training, ranges and facilities for service members, their Families and Department of the Army civilians.

The tour took Wilson and his entourage to the aircraft landing zone, the Military Operations on Urban Terrain facility, the Urban Assault Course, the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility, the Travis

Lake cabin area and the Wilcox Barracks where renovations are underway to correct ceiling and latrine deficiencies. In addition, the group toured through the Downtime Zone, a recreational facility equipped to provide Soldiers a place to kick back after a hard day of training.

After the tour, the general met with local area leaders to thank them for their continued support of the nation's military and Fort A.P. Hill.

According to Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, the garrison commander, Wilson was im-pressed by the staff's professionalism, commitment and dedication to doing what's right for the installation and the nation's military forces.

For the general to comment on the quality of our workforce here several times during the tour speaks volumes on what we do here, he said.



(Photos by David San Miguel)  
 Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson toured post, Sept. 24, to see first-hand the improvements being made here to support the nation's military forces.

John Hall, chief of the directorate of logistics, discusses plans with Lt. Gen. Wilson to expand the installation's ammunition storage capability to meet anticipated demands from units using the training facilities here.



## IMCOM leaders meet with area VIPs, praises their support

Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson, Installation Management Command (IMCOM) commanding general, and Russell Hall, director IMCOM-Northeast, meet with area community leaders during their recent visit to Fort A.P. Hill, Sept. 24.

The leaders were here to see the installation's base operations as well as the progress being made in bettering its training facilities.

(Photo by David San Miguel)



## Community gathers to remember 9/11 attacks, sacrifices of loved ones

In a somber ceremony held here Sept. 11, members of the Fort A.P. Hill community joined thousands who conducted similar ceremonies nationwide to remember the sacrifice and service of those loved ones lost seven years ago that fateful day.

Speaking at the dedication of the Pentagon Memorial in Washington, Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, said family members of those lost during the attack fear that future generations will forget their loved ones' sacrifices.

The ceremony offered the community here an opportunity to grieve and to remember these sacrifices.

For others, it served as a reminder of the country's resilience and of the sacrifices the nation's military continues to endure in the fight against terrorism.

Today, more than 4,500 U.S. military members have been killed fighting terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan, said Mullen. They are very much connected to the 3,000 people killed on 9/11.



(Photo by Christopher Joyner)

Members of the Fort A.P. Hill community gather to remember those who lost their lives during the 9/11 attacks and those who continue to serve in our nation's defense.



### Fort A.P. Hill

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Munson leaves legacy of achievement

## Deputy commander leaves for new assignment

**Story & Photo by David San Miguel**  
Staff Writer

The day Charles A. Munson walked through the door to building 112 on Fort A.P. Hill to assume his role as deputy garrison commander, he knew it would be different ... certainly more different than a lot of the other installations under which he had been accustomed.

“First, it didn’t have the military families to contend with,” he said. “Here, we could focus on construction, training and all that was necessary to support the mission.”

Second, the new deputy garrison commander was awestruck by the beauty of the Virginian forests and the abundant wildlife which seemed to freely wonder through all areas of the post.

Another perk in the midst of a seemingly serene post was the workforce.

Munson found the people he would lead for the next six years to be enthusiastic and willing to do everything they could to make the training experience here that much better for the thousands of active duty and Reserve Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and Airmen who would drive through the Fort A.P. Hill gate.

It was an employee work climate he attributes to his predecessors and to A.P. Hill’s break from a “sub-installation status” in 1999 to that of a full-fledge post, no longer competing with its “parent installation” for a limited availability of resources and training opportunity.

“I could see that when I walked through that door,” Munson said. “I was being given the opportunity to foster that growth.”

A growth he saw through fruition when the installation was selected as a finalist in 2003, then third place winner in 2005, 2006, 2007, followed by first place in 2008, in the Army Chief of Staff’s Army Community of Excellence competition conducted each year to recognize installations for excellence and service in meeting its mission.

“My next assignment at Fort Campbell (Ky.) will be a whole new different experience,” he said. “There, I’ll have to contend with the challenge of leading an employee workforce of more than 1,000 as compared to the 300 I lead here.”

In addition, Munson will have to address all the challenges associated with a large military family population and a complete school system there.

Lisa Skinner, the director of resource management, admits that Munson’s mentoring and leadership style honed her skills to become a better leader.

“Almost immediately after he took charge, he gave program directors an opportunity to take responsibility for their work,” she said. “He empowered us to do whatever we felt was necessary to run our programs.”

Skinner added that his leadership style was probably developed from his more than 30 years as an Army officer and his previous experiences as a garrison and deputy garrison commander in Europe.

“He came here with a well-rounded perspective,” she said. “Munson has the ability to pick out the things that are important and to let the lesser issues work themselves out.”

Elias O. Hall Jr., director of information management, said, “Munson sometimes came across as being a little gruff, but he’s truly professional – a great guy. He’s probably a genius ... maybe a workaholic too, but he really believed in the strength and growth of A.P. Hill.”

“He has a real good view of how we at Fort A.P. Hill fit in with the rest of Army,” Skinner said. “He’s really been a positive role model and a good leader. We’ll miss him.”



**Munson leaves for Fort Campbell, Ky., Oct. 10, after serving here for six years.**



**A group of well-wishers gather to talk with Munson during a luncheon held in his honor last week.**

## Welcome

**Jeffrey Brooks** – A resident of Woodbridge, Va., Brooks joins the Plans, Analysis and Integration staff as a management and program analyst.

He comes to Fort A.P. Hill after his second deployment in Iraq where he served with the 316th Expeditionary Sustainment Command responsible for all logistical activities in theater.

Of note, Brooks hopes to continue his 25-year career with the U.S. Army Reserves as a chief warrant officer assigned to the Surface, Deployment and Distribution Command based in Alexandria.

He's been married 22 years with Christine and has two daughters: Natascha, a junior at the University of Virginia in pursuit of a master's degree in education; and Julia, a junior at Woodbridge High School who aspires to follow in her sister's footsteps at the college but who plans to major in nutrition, health and fitness.

**Icebreakers:** Ask him if he'd like to car pool to and from Woodbridge.

**Jamar Wallace** – Wallace joins the Fort A.P. Hill family from the Navy Medical Clinic in Oceana Virginia Beach, Va.

Commuting to and from his home in

Richmond, Va., Wallace will serve here as a material handler at the property book warehouse. He previously served for the State Department of Taxation.

An avid sports fan, Wallace enjoys watching football and basketball.

**Icebreaker** – Ask him anything about the Washington Redskins.

**Jennifer Pilkinton** – Pilkinton joins the Fort A.P. Hill staff as the new Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) director.

She comes to Virginia by way of Central Michigan University where she looks forward to sharing some of the "Chippewa" excitement.

Not a stranger to government employment, Pilkinton began her career at Fort Carson, Colo., as a white water rafting guide and rock climber during her college internship there. That was followed by an assignment at Fort Eustis, Va., where she completed the MWR management trainee program.

Pilkinton married a former high school acquaintance from Sheridan, Mich., after he literally jumped out from the barn rafters to propose. The young couple landed at Fort Monroe, Va., where she and her husband of 12 and a half years,

Greg, have been blessed with a daughter, Cody, 12, and son, Eric, 7.

**Icebreaker** – If you want to start up a conversation with Jennifer just mention anything about beach volleyball.

**David San Miguel** – San Miguel comes to Fort A.P. Hill after a brief assignment at Fort McPherson, Ga., where he served as the assistant editor of the *Sentinel*.

Prior to working there, he served as a broadcast specialist at Fort Polk, La., where he produced and hosted television programs aired over the installation's command access channel and where he also produced radio spots which aired daily over the local radio stations.

A native of San Antonio, San Miguel has served in varied active duty U.S. Army and Army Reserve public affairs assignments to include tours in Alaska, Germany, Bosnia, Saudi Arabia as well as a myriad of other installations stateside.

He is joined here by Mary, his wife of 25 years, and his sons, Christopher, 6, and John Michael, 5.

**Icebreaker** – Ask him about his first impressions of life on Fort A.P. Hill and of the staff who serve here.

## Farewell

**Porter Motley** – Motley served 18 months as a range utilization technician for the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security at Fort A.P. Hill. He moves on to work for Evans Heating and Air Conditioning Company in Ladysmith.

**Jerri Newton** – Newton leaves Fort A.P. Hill where she served under the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security as a management assistant. She moves on to join her son, a student at Colonial Forge High School, and her husband, a career Marine serving at the Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

**David Hutchinson** – After a brief four-month stint as a firefighter under the installation's Directorate of Emergency Services, Hutchinson left Sept. 27 for another undisclosed assignment.



Dennis Hodges

## A Final Salute

### Soldier Patriot receives final orders

The Fort A.P. Hill community extends its most heartfelt condolences to the family, friends and co-workers of one of our fallen Patriots — Dennis Hodges.

A retired Soldier and long-time civil service employee, Hodges lost his battle with cancer, Oct. 1.

He last served as the Integrated Training Area Maintenance Coordinator and is remembered for his personal courage, dedication and love for black powder rifle.

Memorial services are set for today at 5 p.m. at the First Assembly of God, 25213 Ferndale Road, Petersburg, Va. 23885.

At the request of his wife, Cheryl, individuals may wish to contribute to the James River Black Powder, P.O. Box 411, Prince George, Va. or the American Cancer Society in lieu of flowers.



# Despite heavy rains, workers enjoy festivities, contests

Story & Photos by  
Christopher Joyner

Rain or shine, the 2008 Organizational Day proceeded as planned giving the Fort A.P. Hill staff an opportunity to have some fun and to compete for the coveted Commander's Trophy.

The remnants of Hurricane Fay threatened to dampen some spirits. Weather forecasters still couldn't agree on the certainty of rain. So, despite Fay and the "damned-if-you-do, damned-if-you-don't" predicament, Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, the garrison commander, decided it was "game on".

Bobby Thomas kicked off the day early and placed first in the installation

run.

Kay G. Hummel of the directorate of public works pleased the judges with her scrumptious apple pie for first place while Angie Young knocked off all the others with her punch bowl cake.

On the volleyball court, it was the directorate of logistics team taking first. Eight unanswered points by DOL knocked off the seemingly unbeatable Combined Team.

Then it was the directorate of plans, training, mobilization and security team who wiped out the competition in basketball where Ben Allen's youngest blew past players three times his age.

In an upset for DPTMS, the Combined Team defeated the reigning softball champs despite a late rally that threatened the grit of Graese's team. A graceful slide into home plate by yours truly put the win in the bag giving the softball trophy a new home in the garrison headquarters.

After the horseshoe and table tennis matches, biking and other contests, the one team that reigned true and stood above the others when it was all over, was yet again, DPTMS.

Hank Hanrahan graciously accepted the Commander's Trophy and earned bragging rights for yet another year.



Bill Hinson, traffic accident investigator with the directorate of emergency services, blasts past the DPTMS defenses.



Despite heavy rains which threatened to shut down the 2008 Organizational Day festivities, Fort A.P. Hill employees came out in force to compete and rally for their respective teams.

# Installation's woods home to protected plants

**By Jason Applegate**

Natural Resources Specialist  
Environmental Division, DPW

Under Fort A.P. Hill's biologically diverse 65,000 forested acres, lies a seemingly insignificant plant that warrants a significant level of attention.

The small whorled pogonia (*Isotria medeoloides*), is a federally protected orchid that grows under the canopy of mature woods in the eastern United States. It's listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act due to declines in its population and the number of active colonies.

Fort A.P. Hill is currently home to ten colonies of small whorled pogonia that harbor anywhere between one to 50 plants during any given season.

Since this is federal land, protection and conservation of these plants is a regulatory requirement under the Endangered Species Act. As such, the colonies are periodically visited by both installation staff and state biologists to determine population counts and to collect information on plant characteristics such as plant size and reproduction.

Generally only a few inches tall, the small whorled pogonia can easily be missed as one walks the woods.

Managing training areas that harbor threatened species requires a good deal of internal and external coordination by the Environmental Division of the Directorate of Public Works.

Internal coordination occurs routinely between the various land management "do-ers" such as the Roads & Grounds and Forestry branches.

Small whorled pogonia field surveys are conducted prior to any land disturbance activities (such as new construction or timber harvests) to ensure no previously unknown colonies occur in the footprint of the project areas.

External coordination occurs between the Environmental Division and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and/or Commonwealth of Virginia, Division of Natural Heritage to demonstrate Fort A.P. Hill's compliance and also to share results from the population surveys conducted on the installation.

Monitoring small whorled pogonia to track its population is difficult because the plant only emerges for a few months out of the year and can go dormant for anywhere between one to 20 years. Some plants may go dormant within a colony at any given time or the entire colony can go dormant altogether.

**Fort A.P. Hill is currently home to ten colonies of small whorled pogonia that harbor anywhere between one to 50 plants during any given season.**

The two oldest colonies of small whorled pogonia were discovered here in the early 1980s and appears to have peaked in the early 1990s. These colonies now appear to be entering a dormant period.

Despite all the attention this plant gets, the life cycle of the small whorled pogonia is not very well understood by biologists. The plant appears to be sensitive to sunlight and is reliant on a fungus that grows among tree roots to obtain its nutrients.

The Smithsonian Institute recently acquired funds to research and identify the plant's life cycle needs and has contacted the installation's Environmental Division to request a partnership in this research.

Currently, Fort A.P. Hill, Fort Belvoir, and Quantico Marine Corps Base are each working with the Smithsonian biologists on this project as all three have colonies of small whorled pogonias within their fencelines.

Though years away, the ultimate goal is the full recovery and de-listing of this species from its federally protected status thereby decreasing the regulatory requirements placed on Fort A.P. Hill and other federal lands that harbor the small whorled pogonia.



(Photo by Jason Applegate)

**The small whorled pogonia is a federally-protected orchid found in the woods at Fort A.P. Hill.**



(Photo by Kristine Brown)

**This species of orchid is easily overlooked because of its small size.**



# Wounded Warrior Unity Tour rides through Fort A.P. Hill



(Photos by David San Miguel)

Seventy plus cyclists converge at the Fort A.P. Hill entrance for some souvenir photos.



Cyclists from each of the military branches rode 200 miles to raise awareness and support of the Wounded Warrior Program. The tour was sponsored by the Armed Forces Cycling Association and the Walter Reed Medical Center Fisher House.



Madeline Mullin, six-year-old daughter of John Mullin, installation cultural resources manager, helps with the clean-up project.



Terry Banks clears some brirs from the trail leading to the work site.



John Mullin leads his children, Madaline, 6, and Joseph, 3, to the car for lunch. The children joined their father in a project to clear land near an archaeological site across Mill Creek. The volunteers conducted the project as part of National Public Lands Day, Sept. 27.



(Photos by David San Miguel)

Terry Banks and Tim Southard with the Fort A.P. Hill environmental and natural resources division join Tim Rensema, chief of the Business Operations Integration office in a project to clean-up an area adjacent to an ancient Indian village site.



# Morale, Welfare and Recreation

## Community Activities Center

Headquarters Area (Bldg. 106)

(804) 633-8219/8335 DSN: 578-8219

### Hours of Operation

Monday through Friday -- 6 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday -- 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

In the CAC, individuals will find a recreation room complete with pool tables, vending machines, air hockey, foosball, ping pong and satellite television for your entertainment.

### Other CAC features include:

#### Hammer Strength Room

Free weight-style equipment

#### Life Fitness Life Circuit

Strength training fitness machines

#### Cardio Room

Treadmills, exercise bikes, fitness training

#### Internet Café

Internet computers are available for free usage in the front office during regular CAC operating hours.

#### Information, Ticket and Tours

Individuals can purchase King's Dominion amusement park and Richmond International Raceway tickets with access to single and group local attractions, tickets and tours.

#### Equipment Rental

Recreation Equipment is available for rental on a sign out basis through CAC. Basketballs, footballs, softball equipment, horseshoes, coolers, volleyballs and volleyball nets are also available for checkout. Board games, Play Station, X Box, televisions, DVD players 9'x9' pop-up canopy tents and other items are available upon request. Super cookers are available for \$35 per day. Cooker transport requires a 1 ¼" ball hitch.

#### Outdoor Recreation Game Check

This office, located at building 390, is open now until Jan. 3. Outdoor sportsmen will find some of the best hunting and fishing offered here in the Atlantic region. No hunting equipment rentals are available on post. Call (804) 633-8244 or DSN 578-8244 for more information.

#### Car Wash

Located behind the CAC, the car wash is available for a nominal fee of \$1 for the wash and 75 cents to vacuum. Change is available.

## Picnic Area

Reservations for the picnic area located on Headquarters Road can be made through the CAC. This picnic site offers full restroom facilities, a sheltered pavillion, a softball field, horseshoe pits and a volleyball field for recreational events.

## Champ's Camp RV Park

Nestled in Archer Camp and named after Gen. A.P. Hill's horse Champ, this RV Park offers 49 full-hook up sites, as well as a full service center complete with showers, latrines, laundry center, wireless internet/digital satellite TV (inside the RV service center) and game tables. Monthly discounted Golden Age Passport discounts are also available.

## Champ's Camp RV camper rentals

Two 30-foot fully-equipped camping trailers to sleep six and two 27-foot fully-equipped camping trailers to sleep four are available for reservation. The 30-foot camper rents for \$35 a day while the 27-foot camper is \$25. Units are located in Champ's Camp and are not allowed to be transported off post. For reservations call (804) 633-8219 or DSN 578-8219.

## Down Time Zone

This new recreational facility, located at building 1663, is available for reservation and sign out only through the unit commander or a unit designee. This facility offers two large flat screen television sets equipped with DVD players, theater-style seating, pool tables, an internet and video game activity center as well as separate comfort areas for games and small group activities.



**FORT A.P. HILL  
HAUNTED HAYRIDE**

**Friday, Oct. 24th  
7 to 10 p.m.**

**NO BOO rides 6 to 7 p.m.**

**Admittance: DOD ID cardholders - FREE!  
All others: Adults (18 and over) - \$3.00  
Children (17 and under) - \$2.00**

Festivities include: Haunted hayrides, kids crafts, haunted maze, moon walk, and outdoor movie!

Join us if you DARE!

Inclement weather date: Oct. 25th

**(804) 633-8219**