

UP AND DOWN THE HILL

SERVING THE FORT A.P. HILL COMMUNITY

Fort A.P. Hill again recognized in prestigious Army-wide competition

By the Fort A.P. Hill PAO

Fort A.P. Hill is once again the third place winner in the annual Chief of Staff of the Army's Communities of Excellence competition, the Installation Management Command announced this week. This marks the third consecutive year that Fort A.P. Hill has finished in third place in this Army-wide competition.

This year's winner was U.S. Army Garrison Camp Zama, Japan. Second place this year went to Fort Meade, Md.

The ACOE awards are presented annually to installations for their exemplary efforts in providing support to Soldiers, civilian employees, retirees and their families. The award recognizes continuous business process improvements, individual innovation, groundbreaking initiatives and dedication to efficiency and customer care.

"I am very proud of the hard work and effort of the entire Fort A.P. Hill team," said Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, A.P. Hill's commander, upon hearing of the recognition and the repeat finish among the top three installations. "The 2007 ACOE recognition reflects the extreme level of dedication of the personnel at Fort A.P. Hill to meet our vision of providing the best



Trophies from Fort A.P. Hill's past Army Communities of Excellence finishes. (File photo)

training and support, anywhere.

"Placing in the competition once is significant, but to sustain this excellence over three years is exceptional," he added. "The bottom line is we know this excellence saves lives on the battlefield and makes our fighting forces as lethal as possible."

The first place winner receives a monetary prize of \$2 million, with second place collecting \$1 million. Fort A.P. Hill has been an Army finalist for the award in each of the four years it has entered the competition since 2002. The installation will receive \$750,000, making a total of \$2,750,000 won since the Caroline County post

began competing. Each winner also receives a trophy and a commemorative flag.

Minnesota Army National Guard and the 88th Regional Readiness Command were also winners in special categories of the competition.

The announcement concludes a rigorous selection process that saw Fort A.P. Hill advance through the competition, which included a weeklong site visit by a team of evaluators to each finalist's location, followed by a detailed scoring assessment by a senior panel of judges.

(See Award, Page 2)

"The test of success is not what you do when you are on top. Success is how high you bounce when you hit bottom."

-- Gen. George S. Patton

Commander's Call: *Deputy commander talks about heroes*

Lt. Col. (Michael S.) Graese is on leave and his absence gives me the opportunity to do something I haven't done in the past 15 years; comment in the Commander's Corner.

Because this opportunity does not happen often, I decided to be selfish and write about a subject important to me. Heroes

Heroes are important to me and I hope to you, as well. They are people we look up to and want to emulate. I have many heroes as I am sure you do.

My heroes include my parents, Generals Marshall, Patton and Powell, Reverend King, Madeleine Albright, Rosa Parks and my wife.

Tom Brokaw in his book, "The

Greatest Generation" told us why he believes our parents and/or our grandparents are heroes.

Like Mr. Brokaw I have a group of people I believe are heroes. You are that group of people.

You are my heroes. You are awesome.

From Paul at the waste water treatment plant to our security force to Shirley in Real Estate to our DOL crew and "Gunny" at range control, all of you make problems disappear.

You face all sorts of challenges and conquer them. You not only adapt to change, you make change.

Eight years ago Fort A. P. Hill was a sub-installation of Fort Belvoir.

Today, our post is not only a "full service" garrison; it is one of the three best garrisons in the Army--an awesome achievement.

You are the envy of others and they certainly want to copy your achievement.

Your dedication to the warrior and our nation is evident in your superb efforts to host the Boy Scout jamborees, the quartermaster school's warrior training, all the warrior units that train here, and our own resident partners.

You ARE Fort A. P. Hill and you are providing "The Best Training and Support ... Anywhere".

You are my heroes.

Charles A. Munson
Deputy to the Commander

Award

(Continued from Page 1)

An awards presentation is scheduled for May 3 at the Pentagon.

To compete, Army installations complete a detailed organizational self-assessment package that responds to questions posed in the Army Performance Improvement Criteria, which are nearly identical to the standards applied for the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award.

The assessment is a thorough study of how business processes are designed and deployed, and

how the installation fares in its business results across a variety of performance areas.

The criteria cover areas such as leadership, strategic planning, process management, customer focus, human resource management and business results.

"We are still examining suggestions provided by the workforce on how to utilize the 2006 ACOE Award money," said Mike Brandt, Plans, Analysis and Integration.

"There were 22 individuals who submitted suggestions. The

corporate board is reviewing this list in order to determine how we can legally and feasibly use these funds," he added. "Hopefully after the next corporate board meeting in May we will reach a consensus and announce our decision."

Fort A.P. Hill is part of the Installation Management Command's Northeast Region.

Known as "The Place Where America's Military Sharpens Its Combat Edge," every branch of the Armed Forces trains at Fort A.P. Hill, honing their skills in combat and combat support operations specialties.

Post, community mourns loss of DPW team member

Fort A.P. Hill team member Samuel P. Alexander, Directorate of Public Works, passed away

March 23. He is survived by his wife of 23 years, Carol Alexander. He is also survived by two sons,

Joshua and John, and two daughters Cathy and Becky, along with three grandchildren.

"On Feb. 22, 1967, what U.S. Army paratroop brigade made the only mass combat jump of the Vietnam War's American phase?"

-- The 173rd Airborne Brigade

Casey becomes 36th chief of staff

by J.D. Leipold
Army News Service

FORT MYER - Gen. George W. Casey Jr. today became the 36th chief of staff of the Army Tuesday, assuming the position from Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker.

Casey was the first commander of the Multi-National Force-Iraq, a coalition of more than 30 countries, until February. He had served as Schoomaker's vice chief of staff before deploying to Iraq in 2003 to assume command of the coalition.

Guest speakers at the ceremony included Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates and Acting Secretary of the Army Pete Geren, both of whom praised Schoomaker for his accomplishments and the positive changes he made to the Army after being called from retirement in 2003 to assume the top uniformed Army position.

Geren, who hosted the ceremony, called Schoomaker a great teacher and Soldier, and honored him for nearly four decades of active service characterized by sacrifice, courage and devotion to duty.

"It's been a privilege to work alongside this extraordinary leader, this great teacher, a man who has given so much for his country and the Army he loves," Geren said. "Pete Schoomaker is a patriot, a man who has always put the country first and always answered the call to duty."

Gates also expressed his gratitude to Schoomaker, thanked him for his vision and leadership.

"Challenging times require extraordinary vision and leadership, and Pete has shown both those qualities," Gates said. "He has entirely changed the manner in which our Army is trained, deployed and organized."

In his parting words, Schoomaker reaffirmed that today's Soldiers are still the Army's



Gen. George W. Casey Jr. became the 36th chief of staff of the Army Tuesday at a Fort Myer, Va., ceremony. Casey took the reins from Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker (at left). (Photo by J.D. Leipold)

greatest strength, because war will continue to be fought in the human dimension.

"While technology has changed our Army, there can be little doubt that when you look into the eyes of our warriors today, as I have in the last four years, I see the same patriotism that George Washington must have seen at Valley Forge," Schoomaker said about the Soldiers. "I have looked into the eyes of today's warriors and I am proud to report they continue to exceed every expectation for courage, dedication and selfless service - they are the heart of all we do, they are our future, and they demonstrate strength, compassion and warrior ethos."

Casey spoke last and thanked both secretaries, the president, Congress and Schoomaker for their faith in his abilities to lead the Army.

"I'm proud to be taking charge

of an Army that's regarded as the best in the world at what it does," Casey said. "I have watched the men and women of our Army in action in the most demanding combat environment.

"I take great pride in the courage, the confidence and the commitment of our Soldiers and civilians to both the ideals that have made this country great and to making a difference in our world. They epitomize what is best about America," he said. "They and their families carry heavy burdens in today's war with a hard road ahead, yet their willingness to sacrifice to build a better future for others and to preserve our way of life is a great strength for our nation."

"We are Army Strong and I could not be more proud today to be a Soldier and to stand shoulder-to-shoulder during this time of danger and uncertainty," Casey added.

General's portrait hangs in local courthouse

by Jason B. Cutshaw
Up and Down the Hill

To see a painting of Fort A.P. Hill's namesake, all one has to do is go to court.

Bowling Green has one of the latest paintings of Confederate States of America Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill. The portrait was dedicated Nov. 11 at the Caroline County Circuit Courthouse and hangs alongside numerous people who have added to the history of Caroline County and the nation.

"He wasn't born in Caroline County, but the post was named for him and I think it is appropriate that he is here," said local historian Herbert Collins. "Fort A.P. Hill was formed in 1941, so he has been a part of the history of Caroline County for so long that I figured people who come to visit would wonder what he looked like."

Besides the portrait of Hill are paintings of Caroline of Ansbach, whom Caroline County is named after; Edmund Pendleton, "Caroline's Most Distinguished Son;" Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall"



Portrait of Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill in the Caroline County Circuit Courthouse. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)

Jackson, who died May 10, 1863, at Fairfield; John Penn, signer of the Declaration of Independence; William Clark, Soldier, explorer and statesman who was the partner of Meriwether Lewis; Col. George Armistead, defender of Ft. McHenry, Md., and several others.

"I think those who come here should know something about the statesmen who have been in

Caroline County and have played a role in the history of the nation," he said. "I feel the portraits help tell a small story of the great history of this great county."

Collins wryly noted even though Jackson and Hill fought for the confederacy, they were not friends. Collins said he hoped they got along better in the courthouse.

"I didn't mean to hang his portrait by Stonewall Jackson's on purpose because I didn't know at the time they didn't get along with each other," Collins added. "But I hope there is no animosity at night between the two of them here in the courtroom."

While most people only see the painting of Hill while they are with a tour group or appearing in court, one court official said most people are enthused and moved by the portrait of one of the South's greatest leaders.

"Most people enjoy the painting of Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill," said Ray S. Campbell Jr., clerk of the circuit court. "The painting is a fine addition to the collection Mr. Collins has provided to the court house."

Post to capture oral history of area prior to 1941

Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, is beginning an oral history project designed to document and preserve first-hand accounts of the social and environmental conditions of the portions of Caroline and Essex counties that were incorporated into the military reservation.

Researchers with Fort A.P. Hill's Environmental Division will collect information from individuals who lived or worked on the nearly 76,000-acre property prior to U.S. Army acquisition circa 1941. Other individuals who may have knowledge about the land and communities are also encouraged to participate.

Additionally, individuals are

encouraged to share historical photographs or objects that help to tell the story of this area prior to the development of Fort A.P. Hill. Photographs from personal collections can be digitally scanned and saved electronically.

"Documenting the former communities in this area of Virginia through the words and images of the people who once lived here will help to preserve a portion of history that may otherwise be considered too informal to save, and will provide data that can be used to further our understanding of similar communities throughout the Commonwealth," said Fort A.P.

Hill's Cultural Resource Manager John Mullin.

People wanting to participate in the oral history project, or having other information relative to the history of the land and communities prior to 1941 can call Mullins at 804-633-8761/8255.

Mullin also will be available to talk in person about the oral history project at Fort A.P. Hill's Earth Day Celebration April 20. The event, from noon to 3 p.m. at the installation's Romenick Hall will include exhibits, demonstrations, and opportunities to participate in ongoing environmental projects.

By the Fort A.P. Hill PAO

Health Clinic supports training warriors

by Jason B. Cutshaw
Up and Down the Hill

While units training here prepare for their worldwide missions, medics on post ensure that America's fighting men and women continue to be fit to fight.

Fort A.P. Hill's Lois E. Wells Health Clinic located in Wilcox Camp provides basic sick call Monday – Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. for all military personnel training on post.

"It is great serving here at Fort A.P. Hill," said Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence L. Lehr, Lois Wells Health Clinic noncommissioned officer-in-charge.

"The post commander and command sergeant major are really supportive and the directorates are friendly and share their knowledge," he added.

Even though the clinic doesn't normally see civilians, except in extreme emergencies, the clinic averages between 10 and 15 Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines daily.

"Primarily we are here to support training and we're here to support the warriors," Lehr said. "We will be getting a little busier with the quartermasters coming up to train from Fort Lee. We will have rotating health care providers until we can get a full-time provider stationed here."

Lehr talked about how the Fort A.P. Hill team has supported him and the troops he helps care for.

"This is one of the best places to be," he added. "The community is very supportive and we hope to provide the best warriors in the world with the best care available."

Also serving at the clinic are health care providers who rotate from Dewitt Army Community Hospital at Fort Belvoir. Many of them have served all over the world and are impressed with the



Col. Todd Dombroski of Dewitt Army Community Hospital, right, and Spec. Marcello Buckner, medic, apply "skin glue" for a laceration to Spec. Edward Lartey, 275th Military Police Company, at the Lois E. Wells Health Clinic April 2. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)

small, but efficient clinic and its staff.

"Having served with a battalion, brigade, division and task force, and having served in a lot of places, I can honestly say this is an excellent facility," said. Col. Todd Dombroski, Dewitt Army Community Hospital. "The clinic has a very good NCOIC along with some outstanding medics.

"We are doing a lot of great and wondrous work here with the support of Dewitt Army Hospital," he added.

Dombroski talked about his duties and noted that even if the clinic can't meet the specific needs of the troops, they can always get them what they need to have and where they need to be.

"I see the sick call patients and make sure the troops who need further medical attention can get to the local hospital," he said. "Also, if we can't provide the medications they need, we will send them to the local pharmacy and they can get what they need.

Dombroski said the Fort A.P. Hill team has made him feel welcome and made his transition a pleasurable one.

"Because it is a small community, you certainly get to make friends really quick," he said. "It is a very nice, homey atmosphere and it is a pleasure to come here and work."

To contact the health clinic, call 633-8339, or in the case of emergencies or after hours, call 633-8911.

Officials emphasize zero tolerance

by Carmen L. Gleason

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON D.C. - Sexual assault is a crime that is incompatible with military values and will not be tolerated within the Defense Department, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness said here Tuesday.

David S.C. Chu kicked off the month-long DoD observance of sexual assault prevention during a ceremony at the Women in the Military for America Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery.

"Sexual assault is devastating to the individuals it victimizes," Chu said. "It weakens trust and creates strife within our units. It undermines the state of readiness of the armed forces as a whole."

Statistics show one in every six women and one in every 33 men will be the victims of rape or attempted rape in their lifetime.

"Sexual assault remains a troubling issue in America," Chu said. "Since the military reflects the society it serves, the issue faces the Department of Defense as well."

This year's campaign is promoting a climate of respect that encourages every servicemember to join in an effort to end sexual violence, said Kaye Whitley, director for the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office.

SAPRO is the Defense Department's single point of accountability for sexual assault policy matters. The organization develops policy and programs to improve prevention efforts, enhance victim support and increase offender accountability by collaborating closely with each military branch.

Whitley said the goals of this year's campaign are three-fold: fostering awareness of the impact of sexual assault on victims, encouraging community-wide prevention, and facilitating awareness of the availability of health services to care and support victims.

The Defense Department has changed reporting options for sexual assault victims. Beginning in 2005, victims were given an option of restricted or unrestricted reporting.

When filing a restricted report,

victims could receive medical care and counseling for assaults without alerting their chain of command or triggering an investigation.

DoD officials attribute a 65 percent increase in reporting to this change.

In 2006 there were 756 restricted reports of sexual assault, Chu said.

After receiving initial medical treatment and counseling, Chu added, 86 of those changed their reports to unrestricted status, allowing the pursuit of those who acted against them.

DoD officials continue to focus on providing education and training for its more than 1 million active-duty servicemembers.

During a worldwide conference this year, more than 350 troops were trained to be "first responders" for victims.

"We believe that the numbers of reports will continue to rise because we are changing a culture," Whitley said. "While these numbers make an initial rise, we hope to see a leveling off and eventual elimination of assaults within the department."

Army launches wounded Soldier hotline

At the direction of the Acting Secretary of the Army and Army Chief of Staff, the Army will open its newly created Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline March 19.

The purpose of the hotline's call center is twofold: to offer wounded and injured Soldiers and family members a way to seek help to resolve medical issues and to provide an information channel of Soldier medically related issues directly to senior Army leadership.

"We have designed this call center to be able to collectively hear what the Soldiers say about their health care issues, so as

issues are raised, we can identify systemic faults or problematic areas and senior leaders can better allocate resources," said Maj. Gen. Sean J. Byrne, U.S. Army Human Resources Command commanding general. "It's all about serving our wounded and injured Soldiers and their families. If we can find a way to improve our system, we will. It's that simple."

The Army is committed to providing outstanding medical care for the men and women who have volunteered to serve this great nation.

In certain cases, the Soldiers' chain of command could have done

a better job in helping to resolve medically related issues.

The Army's intent is to ensure wounded and injured Soldiers and their families that they receive the best medical care possible.

The "Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline" can be reached from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday, at 1-800-984-8523. As additional personnel are trained to receive calls and refer them to the proper organization, the hotline hours of operation will expand to 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

From a U.S. Army news release

Easter festivities make post ‘hoppy’

by Jason B. Cutshaw
Up and Down the Hill

Children of all ages hopped to Fort A.P. Hill Saturday in search of Easter eggs.

The Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosted the annual Easter Egg Hunt. More than 30 children and their families attended the event.

Due to weather conditions, the children gathered inside the Community Activities Center as they received their final instructions. The Easter eggs were hidden throughout the CAC to challenge the children hunting for them.

“It was a very successful day,” said recreation specialist Judy Collins. “I was really pleased with the whole event and we had more children than the two previous years combined. It was a great day.”

On the command of “Go!” the kids were on the hunt. Participants searched for eggs filled with candy as well as special eggs filled with other surprises. Two eggs, one silver and the other gold, contained prizes for those lucky enough to get them.

“I like going on Easter egg hunts and eating all the treats you get,” said 5-year-old Grace Mack.



The Easter Bunny gives out candy at the Community Activity Center Saturday. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)

“Today has been super fun and I am so happy I got to come.”

Sharing her sister’s sentiment, 9-year-old Sarah Mack also talked about a couple of other reasons she enjoyed the holiday.

“I like Easter because it is the day Jesus rose from the dead,” she said. “Easter is occasionally on my birthday. Once every seven years I get two holidays in one. It is a great day.”

Every child there received a prize bag that included a raccoon puppet and book, an MWR hat and safety pamphlet.

As the children began counting their eggs, the Easter Bunny arrived to hand out candy and also sat for pictures with parents and children alike.

“It’s all about children,” said the Easter Bunny as she handed out treats and sweets. “To see the kids smile makes this day worth the wait. Other than Christmas, this is the best holiday of the year.”

The event ended with several children and parents playing games and enjoying treats as they mingled and talked about what a “Hoppy” day it was.

FEEDBACK: *What is your favorite thing about Easter?*



Emily Mack, 7

“That Jesus rose from the dead.”



Jeffrey Smith, 5

“It’s all about the eggs.”



Deyon and Dayon Coleman, 8

“We get lots of chocolate and candy.”



Christopher Butler, 4

“I get to find eggs and get lots of chocolate.”

Baseball is here and I plan to be there

by Jason B. Cutshaw
Up and Down the Hill

Well, the boys of summer are at it again, and I couldn't be in a better place than at Fort A.P. Hill to cure my baseball fever.

As one of the newest residents of Caroline County, I am centrally located to have a summer filled with Hot Dogs and Cracker Jacks.

Within a 90-minute drive, I can catch the Orioles in Baltimore, the Nationals in Washington D.C. and also the minor league Richmond Braves. Life is good.

This also means I could potentially see every Major League Baseball team and player in America.

If I want to see players in the National League, I can go watch the Nationals play against the Atlanta Braves, New York Mets and world-champion St. Louis Cardinals. I could witness players such as Barry Bonds, Albert Pujols, Chipper Jones, Randy Johnson

and possibly Quinton McCracken, because I think he has the best last name of any athlete.

And if I want to see players from the American League I can go to Baltimore and watch them play the New York Yankees, Boston Red Sox or Detroit Tigers. As a fan, I could see players like Derek Jeter, Coco Crisp, Daisuke Matsuzaka and Vladimir Guerrero.

To see the newcomers, all I have to do is drive to Richmond and see the "R-Braves" play. I have learned that minor-league games are sometimes as much fun, if not more so, than major league games because they are less expensive and the crowds are as entertaining as the games.

As I look into the upcoming season, I foresee an interesting year filled with some controversy and many surprises.

First off, Barry Bonds will break the all-time home run record held currently by Hank Aaron. Although most people will criticize this due to allegations of steroid

use, it will be Bond's record for all time.

Secondly, Ken Griffey Jr. will be knocked out of half the season with an injury he sustains while watching an episode of "24."

Another prediction is Alex Rodriguez, "A-Rod," will never win a World Series. Although he will tell everyone who doubts him that they are just jealous of how pretty he is, he will never win one, and will always be referred to as "Derek Jeter's little brother."

The Braves will win the World Series this year. (Hey, it is my commentary and I can hope, can't I?) Although this is probably the only time I will be able to say that, I have dreams. Go Braves.

Heaven only knows who will actually make it to the playoffs this year, but this is one of the most even years among teams in a long time.

It should be a great season and I look forward to making it to a few games this summer.

Hopefully you can too.



Members of the Directorate of Public Works go up against the Caroline County Sheriff's Department at the Community Activity Center Tuesday during the post volleyball tournament. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)

Summer fun at discounted costs

The Community Activity Center has Kings Dominion amusement park tickets at a discounted prices:

1-Day passes -- \$28
Jr./Sr. 1-Day passes -- \$24.95
Season Passes -- \$67.95
Jr./Sr. Season Passes -- \$49.95



For more information, call Latasha Woolfolk at 633-8219.

Youth fishing tournament coming

The Fort A.P. Hill Youth Trout Fishing Tournament will be held rain or shine April 28 at Beaver Dam Pond. For more information call 633-8219

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