

Up and Down the Hill

Serving the Fort A.P. Hill Community

Downtime Zone Gives Wilcox a Fresh New Look

By Christopher B. Joyner
Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs Officer

There was no champagne, wine or cheese but the oversized gold scissors in the Garrison Commander's hands was proof that something big was about to happen.

On a picture perfect warm Friday in July, Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese ceremoniously opened the Down Time Zone facility at Camp Wilcox with a ribbon cutting and a welcome to the first unit to utilize the facility. The 324th Military Police Battalion was the first unit to use the Down Time Zone as the unit's commander; Lt. Col. Ralph I. Martin assisted Graese in the ribbon cutting detail.

"The facility is good because it builds soldier morale", said Sgt. Nina Beamon of the 324th. Beamon made a "B" line for the television area and quickly found a comfortable space to kick back. Beamon, a combat veteran, confirmed the importance of "down time facilities" due to the current tempo of training around the Army.

"We want a facility where soldiers can feel at home, so to speak", said Brian K. Poe, recreation chief of Morale Welfare and Recreation MWR. Poe acknowledged that the Down Time Zone project has been two years in development, but was quick to point out the benefits of a detailed deliberate plan that resulted in the facility soldiers now enjoy. "I think we can be proud of what we have done", added Poe.

The Down Time Facility has two large flat screen televisions equipped with DVD technology, ultra comfortable seating, two pool tables and separate comfort areas suitable for games and small group activities. According to Poe, there are plans to bring high speed internet capabilities to the facility. The facility became operational on July 11.



Hunter Advisory Board Meets



Fort A.P. Hill, Va. – The 2008 Hunter Advisory Board conducted their yearly meeting here on June 30 to talk about matters concerning the upcoming season.

The meeting was held in Romenick Hall in an open format where hunters discussed concerns with the Garrison Commander and others with responsibilities associated with hunting on the installation.

Items discussed in the meeting were current deer herd health and population, previous year's harvest and projected physical conditions of the resident game species. No significant change to hunting regulations was established and most installation guidelines still mirror Virginia and Caroline County hunting regulations.

Military District of Washinton & National Capital Region Commander’s Take a Look At Fort A.P. Hill

Fort A.P. Hill, Va. – Army officers of the Military District of Washington conducted a site visit here on June 24 in order to gain a greater awareness of the training opportunities available.



The group of Army officers evaluated FAPH’s training possibilities against their current and future needs throughout a base tour led by the Garrison Commander.

Scott T. Kittle directs Maj Gen. Rowe towards new training equipment during a June visit to Fort A.P. Hill. *(Photo by Christopher B. Joyner)* is helpful because it allows me a chance to plan training opportunities for my unit,” said Capt. Erik B. Salus, 212nd Military Police company commander. According to Salus, the training facilities are very comparable to conditions faced by warriors during combat in Iraq. Salus expressed his appreciation of how Fort A.P. Hill provides realistic training to meet today’s needs.

The training capabilities were highlighted by Scott T. Kittle, deputy director of Plans, Training, Mobilizations and Security. “We want all the administrative bureaucracy of our facilities to be transparent to our warriors”, said Kittle. According to Kittle, there are significant challenges to getting a range opera-

tional and keeping it that way. “The Warrior doesn’t need to know all that; we are going to continue providing realistic and relevant training so our warriors are prepared for combat.”

The group from the Military District of Washington toured the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility CACTF as Kittle pointed out significant accomplishments and challenges. “Never thought we’d get this stuff in the Army”, said Maj. James M. Ashburn, planning officer 12th Aviation Battalion. The training here is very relevant to engineers attached to the 12th according to Ashburn.

The tour continued through multiple training areas and ended with a visit with the 29th Infantry Division ID of the Virginia National Guard.



Greg Celesky explains to Maj Gen. Rowe the capabilities of our training during a June visit to Fort A.P. Hill. *(Photo by Christopher B. Joyner)*

Commander of the Joint Force Headquarters, National Capital Region and Military District of Washington Maj. Gen. Richard J. Rowe, met with Virginia National Guard senior personnel while touring

the 29th ID. The 29th ID presented Rowe with an example of their tactical operations capabilities along with future plans.

Around the Hill



A summer storm builds towards Essex County *(Photo by Christopher B. Joyner)*



Soldiers from the Virginia and Maryland National Guard refuel a Blackhawk Helicopter, July 12, on Fort A.P. Hill. *(Photo by Christopher B. Joyner)*



A buck pauses from dinner for this photo at 400 meters away *(Photo by Christopher B. Joyner)*

What's That Smell?!

By Mark W. Indseth
Wildlife Biologist

Fort A.P. Hill is home to a very diverse crowd of animals. One might think that with all that goes on here, like the training of our Armed Forces, there wouldn't be much wildlife. The truth is that wildlife, flora and fauna abound here due to the habitat and the management efforts of the Environmental and Natural Resources Division.

One of the common mammal species that you may see, but hopefully don't come into contact with, is the skunk, also known as the polecat. There are at least two different skunk species that can be seen on the installation. The most common and the largest of the two is the Striped Skunk – *Mephitis mephitis mephitis*, and the other smaller but more agile skunk is the Eastern Spotted Skunk – *Spilogale putorius putorius*.

The Striped Skunk is not only common on the installation but is the most common skunk in North America. It has 13 subspecies but only two occur in Virginia. One of the two subspecies is the *Mephitis mephitis nigra* and the other is the *Mephitis mephitis elongate*. The *M. m. elongate* is found in the western portion of Virginia in the Piedmont and Mountainous areas while the *M. m. nigra* is more prevalent to the East on the Coastal Plain. The Striped Skunk is most often found to be colored black with two broad white stripes on its back that converge on its head, but this skunk's coloration may vary greatly from mostly black to mostly white. Striped Skunks are basically the same size as a house cat, with the male skunk being about 15 percent larger than the females. This skunk can breed the spring after its birth with the average litter size being five – eight young. The young are weaned at about 8 weeks after birth. A neat sight to behold is the mother taking the young on a hunting trip; the young will follow the mother in single file.

The Eastern Spotted Skunk is small and not as wide spread as the Striped Skunk but it is still possible to see one in this area. This skunk is black with horizontal white stripes on neck and shoulders, irregular vertical stripes and elongated spots on its sides. It also has white spots on top of its head and a tail with a white tip. Due to its size, this skunk is faster and more agile than the larger skunks in the area. The Eastern Spotted Skunk will often flee up a tree to evade predators and to forage.

The life history of both of these skunks is very similar as they both occupy the same habitat. They live in many different types of habitat which include, old fields, forests and cropland. They are often found on Fort A.P. Hill living in beaver maintained habitats. Skunks are not normally social animals but they will share the den sites with other skunks and animals in the winter. They will use the burrows and dens of other animals before they will make one of their own. The skunks normally occupy the underground den sites and burrows of other animals in the winter and then move to above ground dens in the summer time. They are not territorial except when raising their young, at other times they just wander around in search of food and they will den down wherever convenient. Skunks are omnivores and will eat anything from



Skunks like this one can be found most anywhere on Fort A.P. Hill. This one has been spotted outside Department of Logistics many times. (Photo by Christopher B. Joyner)

small mammals to insects, snakes, bird eggs, nestlings, turtles and their eggs, and an assortment of fruit and crops in season.

The main predator of skunks is the Great Horned Owl, but mortality also comes in the form of humans, other owls, coyote, fox, bobcat, and domestic dogs. Skunks are not without reproach and they do have a defensive mechanism that we all know about and that is their scent. Skunks use their anal glands to spray their scent 10 to 15 feet away but the smell can sometimes be smelled up to a mile away. The skunk scent spray is not only odoriferous but also has the ability to cause sudden and painful temporary blindness. The only real way to get rid of the smell is to use ammonia or tomato juice, carbolic soap and water to wash the skin. Skunks are not aggressive and want to be left alone. Skunks will use their defensive mechanism if they feel threatened, so it is always best to leave skunks alone!

It might seem that after learning all of this, that there is no value to the skunk other than it's occupying a place in the food chain, but that is simply not true. Skunks do have both an economic and commercial value. Economically, skunks are important in that they eat insects that could negatively impact crop production such as cut worms and grubs. Commercially, skunks have been hunted and trapped for both their fur, (the Eastern Spotted Skunk has the finest and silkiest fur of the skunk furs), and their musk. Skunk Musk, once its odor is removed, is used as a perfume base due to its clinging quality.

Skunks are normally more active during the night, but that doesn't mean that you won't see them during the day. Any skunk that is seen should be avoided due not only because of their scent, but also because they are one of the more common carriers of rabies. With that, any skunk seen acting unusual or trying to make contact with anyone should be reported to the pest controller at 633-8457.

Did you Know?

Many animals have a nictitating membrane which is a transparent or translucent third eye lid used to moisten and protect the eye while still maintaining sight. Humans even had a nictitating membrane at one time. Woodpeckers have a nictitating membrane which they close just before their beak strikes the trunk of the tree; this keeps their eyes from popping out of their sockets. Pretty cool isn't it? Skunks eyes lack a nictitating membrane.

H a i l s a n d F a r e w e l l s

W e l c o m e

The following have joined Fort A.P. Hill's staff since June 1, 2008.

Greg Celesky joins our team as the Supervisory Range Officer. Celesky has served in every enlisted leadership position in Armor and Cavalry units. He retired from the Army with 20 years of active service. Celesky is married and has seven children, two of which serve in the United States Army. Celesky is accompanied by his wife Rachel and three youngest children Gregory J., Sierra, and Alexandria. Celesky's hobbies are fishing and hunting.

Icebreaker: Talk about hunting and chocolate labs.

Don't mention: The Remington 1100 shotgun that remains at the bottom of Mattoon Creek after a duck hunting adventure.

Jerri L. Newton joins our team as a Management Assistant in DPTMS. She joins our team from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Newton is a Marine who enjoys sports.

Icebreaker: Talk to her about sports.

Don't mention: Don't ask her about snorkeling.

Christopher B. T. Joyner originally from Rocky Mount, NC joins our team from the North Carolina National Guard. Joyner's 10 year service with the Carolina Guard culminated as a full-time National Guardsman holding the position of Deputy State Public Affairs Officer.

Joyner is an Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran and remains in the Army National Guard. He currently holds the rank of Captain. Joyner holds two graduate degrees from Appalachian State University. Joyner's hobbies are rock fishing and turkey hunting. He is accompanied by his black lab Spooner.

Icebreaker: Ask, how's Spooner?

Don't mention: The northern pike that took Joyner's favorite rod during a fishing trip last year in Alaska.

Stanley K. Pauley enters the position of Director of Emergency Services leaving his assignment as Chief Detective at Fort Bliss, Texas. He retired from the US Army with 30 years of service. His career culminated in the assignment of Command Sergeant Major of the 89th MP Brigade and Provost Sergeant Major of Fort Hood, Texas.

He is a graduate of Class 46 of the US Army Sergeants Major academy and he holds a dual track Master of Arts Degree in Management Leadership and Human Resource Development from Webster University. He has been married for 31 years to his wife Clara. His daughter Karla is a graduate of the University of Texas. Pauley has served the government for 36 years and is proud to continue his service and contributions to the war on terror. His hobbies include fishing, hunting and he enjoys military history.

Welcome Part Time Summer Hires

Steven B. Cecil Summer DPW
 Alex P. Spangler Summer DOIM
 Bryan T. Kelly Summer DPW
 Quandra L. Holmes Summer DPW
 Brittany N. Johnson Summer DHR/CMD HQ
 Bobbie B. Harris Summer DPW

F a r e w e l l

Farewell Josh Gwinn. Josh, an Air Force brat, is leaving for a position with the Soldier Program Directorate. as the Deputy Director of Soldier Programs / Chief all Army Sports.

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Employee Recognition

Town Meeting 2008 brought recognition to our family



Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, garrison commander Fort A.P. Hill, recognizes Doug Treblic for his Loyalty to the Army, Fort A.P. Hill, and his coworkers.



Marsha Randolph is recognized for her continued emphasis on Duty to the Fort A.P. Hill workforce.



Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, garrison commander Fort A.P. Hill, recognizes Mary Arcand for her level of Respect to others.



Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, garrison commander Fort A.P. Hill, recognizes Patrick Byers for his selfless service to the Fort A.P. Hill community.



Cathy Brooks is recognized for Honor she shows to the Army and Fort A.P. Hill family.



Allan Chenault is recognized for his Integrity by Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, garrison commander Fort A.P. Hill.

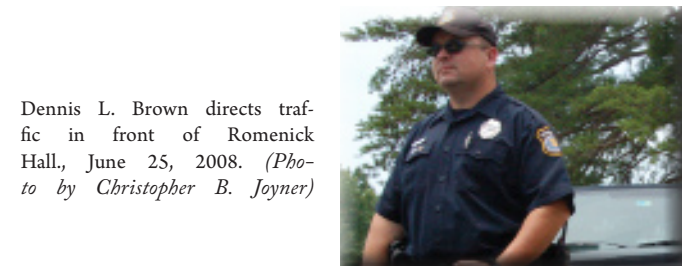


Heroes of the Hill

Louis V. "Vic" Atkins troubleshoots a target on range 34, July 15, 2008
(Photo by Christopher B. Joyner)



John Fasulo, "Big John", explains demolitions to visiting commanders. *(Photo by Christopher B. Joyner)*



Dennis L. Brown directs traffic in front of Romenick Hall, June 25, 2008. *(Photo by Christopher B. Joyner)*



Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, garrison commander Fort A.P. Hill, recognized Dennis Hodges for his Personal Courage in fighting advanced stages of cancer. Hodges wasn't able to receive that recognition during the Town Meeting. This picture was taken a few weeks after the meeting.

M o r a l e W e l f a r e & R e c r e a t i o n

Community Activities Center

Headquarters Area
Building 106
804-633-8219/8335
DSN: 578-8219

Hours of Operation

Monday thru Friday
0600– 1900
Saturday and Sunday Recreation Room
Pool Tables, Vending Machines, Air Hockey, Foosball, Ping Pong and Satellite Television.

F e a t u r s

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 CAC operating hours

Information, Ticket and Tours
On hand King's Dominion amusement park tickets, Richmond International Raceway, 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. 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 rental. Super Cookers are \$35.00 per day. Pick-Up requires a 1 3/4" ball hitch.

HQ Picnic Area

Located on Headquarters Road
The picnic area offers restrooms, shelter, softball field, horseshoe pits and a volleyball field for recreational events.

Outdoor Recreation

Game Check—Bldg 390
DSN 578-8244 Commercial (804) 633-8244
Open September – Jan 15, April – mid May.
Some of the Atlantic regions best hunting is here at A.P. Hill along with outstanding fresh water fishing!!! No hunting equipment rental available on Post.

Car Wash
Located behind the CAC
Car Wash is \$1.00, Vacuum is \$0.75
Change is available at CAC

Swimming Pool
Hours of Operation
1200-2000 Fri-Sat, Sun 1300-1700, Tues 1700-2000 weather permitting, Memorial Day – Labor Day
Located beside the CAC

Picnic Area
Located on Fort A.P. Hill Drive,
The picnic area offers restrooms, shelter, softball field, and a volleyball field for recreational events.
Please contact front desk for availability

Champ's Camp RV Park
Nestled in Archer Camp and named after General A.P. Hill's horse Champ, this RV Park offers 49 full-hook up sites, as well as a service center equipped with showers, latrines, laundry services, wireless internet/ D-TV (Inside RV service Center) and game tables. Monthly discounted Golden Age Passport discounts are available.

Champ's Camp RV camper rentals. Two 30' fully equipped camping trailers, sleep six and two 27' fully equipped camping trailers, sleep four are available for reservation. 30' camper daily fee is \$35.00 and the 27' camper daily fee is \$25.00. Units are located in Champ's Camp and are not allowed off post. For reservations call 804 633-8219.

Down Time Zone

Bldg 1663 available for reservation and sign out to unit commander or designee only.
Recreational lounge area with theater style seating, two

C o m m a n d e r ' s N o t e s



Team,

It has been a long time since the last Up and Down the Hill was published, ten months to be exact. The loss of the previous editor writer and the PAO were factors in this delay. The bottom line is it is great to have the paper being republished. Once the new editor writer is hired, it will occur again on a regular basis.

Many great events have occurred over the past ten months, not the least of which was the Army's recognition of Fort A.P. Hill as this

year's Community of Excellence winner. People not in the know may think this was a one-year focus, when in fact it was the result of many years of dedication and work by the entire Fort A.P. Hill team. You should be justifiably proud of your individual and team contributions to this goal. It is an outstanding accomplishment.

Also in the past ten months, we've seen many other key events occur at Fort A.P. Hill. These included hunting season, the signing of the Army Family Covenant, Installation Planning Boards, the U.S. Army Soldier Show, two Safety Days, many holiday events, two Corporate Boards, numerous Emergency Operation Center exercises, Town Hall meetings, Lean Six Sigma efforts, Congressman Wittman's visit, and the awarding of the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award, just to name a few. Frankly, this small list only scratches the surface of what has been accomplished. The one constant through it all has been YOU and your focus on excellence and ensuring "The Best Training and Support...Anywhere!"

As we head into the "Dog Days of Summer" I ask you each to ensure safety is paramount in all your thinking. Stay hydrated and keep your head on a swivel as you interact with each other and the Warriors training here at the best installation in the Army.

I'll see you around "The Hill." Until then, thank you and keep up the great work and dedication. Hooah!

Farewell Josh

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Josh has only been at Fort A. P. Hill for a year and a half but has made an incredible impact to the quality of life for Warriors on the facility.

An easily identified teammate at 6-foot-6-inches, Josh is leaving us for the Alexandria area. "He's overall good people to be around and work with", said Brian Poe, FMWR chief of recreation.

According to those he works with, his smile and kind attitude will be missed as well as his incredible basketball talents.

Josh, good luck at your next assignment and be sure to step by when you are passing through.



Up and down the Hill is the official Newsletter for Fort A.P. Hill and is produced by the Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs Office. This newsletter is for the internal distribution of information for the Fort A.P. Hill community. Please direct any concerns to Chris Joyner, FAPH Public Affairs Officer at christopher.joyner@us.army.mil or 804 633-8324.