

Up and Down the Hill

Serving the Fort A.P. Hill Community

Graese Assumes Command of Post

By Ken Perrotte
Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs Office

Pledging to "always give you the best that I have in order to take Fort A.P. Hill to even higher heights in our effort to deliver the best training and support anywhere," Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese assumed command of the installation on a warm, humid morning Friday.

An Air Defense Artillery officer, Graese's most recent assignment was Chief of Operations in the Joint Intelligence and Operations Center, Operations Directorate (J3), United States Central Command, MacDill AFB, Fla., and Camp Asilayah, Qatar.

He succeeds Lt. Col. James M. Mis, who commanded the post for two years and is moving to U.S. Southern Command, where he will be Chief of Joint Operations in Special Operations Command South.

Prior to the change of command ceremony, Mis was awarded the Legion of Merit by Maj. Gen. Guy Swan, Fort A.P. Hill's senior mission commander and the commander of Joint Forces Headquarters, National Capital Region and the Military District of Washington.

Diane M. Devens, director of the Installation Management Agency's Northeast Region, presided over the ceremony.

Both she and Swan lauded Mis' work during his tenure in command, noting that the training performed at Fort A.P. Hill has broad impact nationally on the ability of American military forces to succeed in their operations.

Devens charged Graese to "provide top quality care and support to the missions, service members, and families of Fort A.P. Hill; continue working closely with the local and regional communities to ensure that Fort A.P. Hill remains a first choice for our nation's Warrior Training activities; and support the Army's Transformation by continuing to improve services, seek efficiencies and ensure the best stewardship of scarce resources."

A reception for the new commander followed the ceremony, which was well attended by garrison partners and regional community leaders and government officials.

Graese has been immersed in preparing for his command, meeting daily with staff officers and other members of the installation team.



Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese accepts the Fort A.P. Hill guidon from Diane Devens, director of the Installation Management Agency's Northeast Region. Photo by Ken Perrotte

Note: To see Lt. Col. Graese's biography, go to www.aphill.army.mil/sites/commander/biography.asp

New Visitor Control Center Opens Near Gate



The Visitor Control Center is scheduled to be open Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

A new Visitor Control Center that will be the focal point for all people needing temporary passes to access Fort A.P. Hill opened this week.

The small brick building is adjacent to the vehicle inspection point inside the post's main gate.

According to Deputy Director of Emergency Services John Polis, the VCC will

be the place where everything from vehicles, to pets, to weapons are registered.

The center will soon be able to produce photo identification cards, including cards for hunters buying A.P. Hill permits.

These are provided at no charge to hunters expected to be here longer than three days," Polis said.

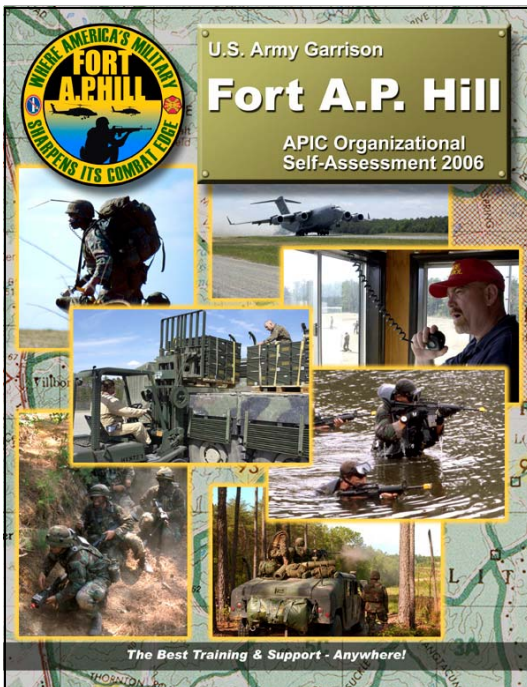
The number to the VCC is 633-8585.

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A.P. Hill's Hat Again in Ring for Communities of Excellence

By Ken Perrotte
Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs Office

Fort A.P. Hill's detailed Organizational Self-Assessment answering the Army's Performance Improvement Criteria (APIC) was submitted to the Installation Management Agency July 14 for consideration in the next Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) award program.

Fort A.P. Hill has finished in third place each of the last two years. Fort Stewart, Ga., was last year's top winner.

The assessment package is a thorough look at how the installation conducts its strategic planning, measures

and analyzes data and business results, designs its business processes, and understands and supports its customers. It also explores the post's leadership focus and its human resources focus.

The package is now reviewed at both the regional and headquarters level of IMA, with a board of senior examiners determining which installations will receive weeklong site visits from a team seeking to "verify and clarify" information in the nomination.

According to an ACOE process timeline provided earlier this year, site visits could occur by early November.

Beaverdam Pond Training Facility has Grand Opening for Town Hall

The long-awaited grand opening of the new training building at Beaverdam Pond came July 7 as Ron Green, of the Directorate of Public Works (assisted by Jean Schofield and former Commander Lt. Col. James Mis) sliced apart the ribbon using a large Bowie knife.

The opening of the facility, which was built using funds won in 2003 via competition in the Army Communities of Excellence awards program and cost approximately 750,000, had been plagued by construction delays.

The facility is tentatively scheduled to be named Romenick Hall, after the late Joe Romenick, a military veteran and longtime A.P. Hill employee who died several years ago.

Designed to accommodate nearly all of the installation's workforce under one roof, the building will soon feature a modern presentation system and be able

to support conferences or similar gatherings. Mis staged his final Town Hall meeting from the new facility.

An annex building designed for smaller group breakout sessions during workshops and conferences is scheduled for construction across the road from the new building. It, too, is being constructed with funds won during the 2005 ACOE competition.

Scheduling of the new facility will be primarily managed by the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security. Scott Kittle of DPTMS has the lead in finalizing written standard operating procedures for the new building's use.

Pending completion of that effort, some standard guidelines apply for usage. The first priority for use will be garrison administrative training or functions such as Town Hall meetings or official celebrations and events.



Ron Green, center, uses a Bowie knife provided by Lt. Col. James Mis instead of scissors to cut the ribbon on the new training building. Jean Schofield also lends a hand. Photo by Ken Perrotte

It may also be used for military unit administrative training or functions. Tactical or operational training will not be allowed in the facility, according to Kittle.

For more about scheduling the newest facility on Fort A.P. Hill, call DPTMS Scheduling at 633-8333.

News Shorts

Fort A.P. Hill welcomes Inez Jeter, a desk clerk in the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, to the post.

The following employees have left Fort A.P. Hill during July:

Keith Brewer, DPTMS; John Coley, DOL; Rickey Polk, John Munsey and Woodfin Straughan, DES.

Any directorate or office with an individual who has received an award or other accolade can provide that name to the Public Affairs Office for recognition in the next "Salutes" section of Up and Down the Hill.