

UP AND DOWN THE HILL

SERVING THE FORT A.P. HILL COMMUNITY

Class is a blast for EOD warriors

By Jason B. Cutshaw
Up and Down the Hill

Explosive ordnance technicians from throughout the country are getting a charge out of learning what makes bombs tick.

Working in concert with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives at the National Center for Explosives Training and Research at Fort A. P. Hill, is the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization. The goal is to train military explosive ordnance disposal experts how to conduct post-blast analysis from Improvised Explosive Devices so they can gather information on how to defeat them.

"This program is designed to help teach all of our EOD personnel, who train here before they deploy into theater, how to do post-blast analysis," said Col. Michael Mahoney, JIEDDO chief of operations. "You don't just blow it (an IED) up and leave, because then you leave all of the forensic evidence behind. Whether it's of value today, a week from now or 20 years from now, the information we gather is still going to be valuable.

"The purpose of the Joint IED Defeat Organization is to bring all of our country's assets together to help defeat IEDs, which are the number one source of casualties for our Soldiers on the battlefield," he added.

Mahoney said, since JIEDDO was formed in 2006, American and allied forces have significantly improved the find rate and the survivability rate of the troops in



Air Force Staff Sgt. J.T. Bibberston, left, and Air Force Tech. Sgt. Sean Gray conduct post-blast analysis of a vehicle at Fort A.P. Hill July 12. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)

the field

"The key to the success of JIEDDO has been the support of Congress, the administration and the Department of Defense," he said. "We have organized ourselves along three lines of operation; to attack the network, defeat the device and train the force.

"The component we train at Fort A.P. Hill is critical for attacking the network," Mahoney said. "You've got to determine who did it and you also have to determine how they did it, because it allows you to both attack the network and defeat the device."

He also said one of the best parts of the course is that military members who specialize in the explosive ordnance disposal field

get the chance to learn from their civilian counterparts, and vice versa.

"Fort A.P. Hill has been fantastic," Mahoney said. "The classroom facilities are second to none. We also have ranges where the students can go out and train like they are in theater and collect the appropriate evidence and information they need. They can then simulate collecting data and send it through their chain of command to determine what happened."

The class is mandatory for all Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel preparing to deploy to a combat zone. Students are not

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*“Commander’s Call”***Feedback shows post’s outstanding service**

Team,

I recently had the opportunity to catch up on reviewing AARs (After Action Reviews) from Warriors training at Fort A.P. Hill and I want to share some of those comments.

Why did you choose Fort A.P Hill for this training?

Response: A great base that asks, “What can we do to help your training? Awesome attitudes.”

Response: “By far the best training facility in the entire East Coast”

Response: “Fort A.P. Hill is by far one of the best training installations in the Army. Resources, land, training, live fire and most, but not least, the personnel that work here is what make it so successful!!!!”

Response: “Excellent training site. Soldier service is outstanding”.

“Everyone here is much easier to deal with than at Fort ZZZ.”

Response: “Best facility with excellent training areas. Always have an excellent facility that is able to accommodate all our types of training”.

Response: “I have been training at facilities for 30 years. Your staff overall is the friendliest, most

concerned about our training needs and overall success of our mission I have encountered.”

Response: Staff is excellent all the way around. Everyone was so helpful and courteous. Thank you so much!”

Response: “Because it’s the best training site in the USA.”

These are the types of comments that make me believe we our meeting our vision of “The Best Training and Support - Anywhere!”

As I’ve stated numerous times, we are blessed with great resources, land, equipment and location to name a few, but as I pointed out to both Maj. Gen. Richard J. Rowe and Brig. Gen. (P) John A. Macdonald this week, our “Ace in the hole” is **You!**

I encourage you to continue to find resourceful ways of meeting our mission and vision and exceeding Warriors expectations.

Thank you for your continuing excellence.

V/R,

Michael S. Graese
LTC, AD
Commanding

ATF *(Continued from Page 1)*

just military members, but also members of civilian agencies and other countries as well.

The students also appreciated the size of Fort A.P. Hill, which gives flexibility while training EOD personnel.

“This is a great class and we have some great facilities here,” said Navy Cmdr. Craig Fehrle, U.S. Navy Reserve from China Lake, Calif. “It is nice to be able to come to a place where you have the ability to train for this type of mission.

“The training will allow us to inform our intelligence personnel on the tactics and weapons used by the bad guys and hopefully save the lives of our warriors,” he added.

Another aspect of the training is that all students will be trained in the same manner as the classes before them and after them.

“The uniformity of training definitely will increase our ability to deal with the IED threat,” Fehrle said. “This is just like a football team. If everyone is using the same playbook, they can work together more efficiently rather than if everyone has a separate playbook, trying to work independently.”



Another advantage of the class is that EOD professionals get to learn how the devices are made, which can lead to ways of countering them in the future.

“This program is designed from the ground up,” said Steve Beggs, chief of ATF explosives training. “We start by teaching the components of an explosive device because they need to recognize the type of devices terrorists are using, and be certain of what they are investigating.

“It may take a while to figure everything out, but once they know what they are looking for, they usually don’t forget it,” Beggs said.

Post accepts ICIDS security system

By Jason B. Cutshaw
Up and Down the Hill

Fort A.P. Hill took another step in its ability to protect its facilities by accepting the newest upgrade in intrusion detection.

Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, post commander, formally accepted the Integrated Commercial Intrusion Detection System, version III, July 13.

ICIDS is used by security and law enforcement agencies at DOD facilities throughout the world to provide a standard intrusion detection capability for DOD resources, to include nuclear and chemical facilities.

"The Intrusion Detection System is an automated guard overwatching exterior openings and the interior of selected facilities," said Mark George, Directorate of Emergency Services physical security specialist.

"The ICIDS software constantly

pulses each IDS component for anomalies which would indicate a suspected unauthorized breach," he added.

With Fort A.P. Hill coming online with ICIDS, 54 out of 184 Army installations from Fort Greely, Alaska, to Fort Benning, Ga., are using the system.

ICIDS includes intrusion detection equipment, closed circuit televisions, a data authentication system, entry control equipment, remote area data collectors and an uninterruptible power supply.

"The ICIDS III has streamlined access control processes for personnel utilizing alarmed facilities, saving an average of 5-10 minutes per opening/closing for the user and police desk officer," George said. "The system also captures detailed actions of the user and ICIDS components, a feature that not only facilitates system administrative duties, but also provides detailed timelines

of suspected criminal activity for investigative agencies."

It provides a means for commanders to detect, assess, and respond, as necessary, to unauthorized entry or attempted intrusion into their facilities.

The system is used for monitoring conventional arms ammunition and explosive storage sites; arsenals and depots, and the security of vital and sensitive military resources and materials at military installations.

The \$1.3 million conversion replaces the 20-year-old Joint Services Interior Intrusion Detection Systems.

"The JSIIDS, though 20-plus years past forecasted replacement, performed well for the installation. Our Directorate of Public Works deserves all the credit for keeping this legacy system functioning with good preventive maintenance for years past its expected life cycle," George said.

Range 32 receiving overhaul, upgrades

By Jason B. Cutshaw
Up and Down the Hill

Fort A.P. Hill's Range 32, a Modified Record Fire range, is undergoing a complete overhaul to upgrade its capability to support warriors training here.

Members of Range Control and the Directorate of Public Works started working together on the upgrade July 9, with a project completion date targeted for Sept. 15.

"We are doing a complete overhaul of the range's targeting systems," said Lorry Speare, Range 32's primary operator for the past five years.



Fort A.P. Hill team members from Range Control and the Directorate of Public Works are currently upgrading Range 32. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)

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Best of the best:

Post hosts NCO, Soldier of the Year competition

By Jason B. Cutshaw
Up and Down the Hill

Warriors came from far and wide to Fort A.P. Hill to see who would be named the best at the Joint Forces Headquarters - National Capital Region Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the year competition.

Spec. Stephen Lester, 289th Military Police Company, and Staff Sgt. Jason Seifert, A Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, took top honors at the four-day experience. Both are stationed at Fort Myer.

During the event, 16 Soldiers and 23 NCOs performed tasks ranging from an Army Physical Fitness Test and marksmanship qualifications to an air assault on an objective, to a Soldier's formal board.

"As always, Fort A.P. Hill has put on a fantastic competition," said Command Sgt. Major Jeffrey Greer, JFHQ-NCR and Military District of Washington command sergeant major. "The competition was close and everyone who competed was a winner.

"The Soldiers and NCOs came here ready to go to battle and they were prepared for everything we sent their way," he added. "Also, the support staff who helped make this happen were among the best I have seen in my career. They made this one of the best competitions, by far, the Army has ever seen."

The Soldiers and NCOs came from various commands, such as; Installation Management Command, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command, the Military District of Washington, White House Communications (Defense Intelligence System Agency, U.S. Military Academy at West Point and the Army Test



Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Greer, Joint Forces Headquarters - National Capital Region and Military District of Washington, center, is with Spec. Stephen Lester, 289th Military Police Company, left, and Staff Sgt. Jason Seifert, A Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment, Lester and Seifert were named the JFHQ - NCR Soldier and NCO of the year Thursday. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)

Evaluation Command.

Upon arrival Sunday, they took a written exam and wrote essays on subjects such as the new Army Service Uniform and the Warrior's Ethos.

Monday, contestants performed an Army Physical Fitness Test and went before a formal Soldier board, where they answered questions about the Army posed for a panel of command sergeants major.

Tuesday was range day, and all competitors qualified with their weapons; performed reflexive fire, where Soldiers fire at targets from several different positions that simulate actual scenarios seen

in combat; and negotiated a land navigation course near Wilcox Camp.

On Wednesday, each contender performed an air movement to objective bravo at the Military Operations in Urban Terrain site. There, they conducted warrior task training and also performed several "mystery events," including searching detainees, processing captured materials, performing first aid and interacting with the media.

After tallying the scores, Lester and Seifert surfaced as the best of the best. Their leaders told of

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Warriors compete to be named top Soldier



Staff Sgt. Chad Webber, 404th Military Intelligence Company, qualifies at the range during the Joint Forces Headquarters National Capital Region Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year competition Tuesday. (Photos by Jason B. Cutshaw)



Warriors competing in the Joint Forces Headquarters National Capital Region Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year competition board a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter Wednesday as they prepare to move to their next objective in the contest to decide who moves on to the Army-wide NCO and Soldier of Year competition at Fort Lee in September.



Up and away

Soldiers take a ride in a UH-60 Blackhawk while competing in the Joint Forces Headquarters National Capital Region Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year competition. For some of the Soldiers competing, this was their first time flying in a military helicopter. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)

Competition (Continued from Page 4)

their perseverance and commitment to excellence.

“The competition was very close,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph Paul, INSCOM. “The Soldiers were very good and they came prepared to win. The NCO board was very close, as some competitors didn’t miss a question.

“I think the land navigation course was one of the hardest of the events, but overall, there was a great variety of events to challenge and teach them Soldiering skills they can use for the rest of their careers,” he added.

After being named the winner and representative for the JFHQ – NCR, Lester said it was honor to compete with the fellow Soldiers who never let him quit and motivated him to continue to strive for excellence.

“This was one of the best experiences I have had in the Army,” Lester said. “It was hard, but I learned a lot. I am only



Spec. Jarrod Bailey, U.S. Army Garrison, Hoffenfels, Germany plots a map during the Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year competition Wednesday. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)

going to grow from this and I will remember it always.

“The tasks were difficult, but they were a great learning tool,” he added. “The post was hot as usual but there is no place I would rather be.”

After learning he had won NCO of the Year, Seifert thanked all who were present and told them how much he appreciated all they had done for him.

“I just want to thank all who

helped me get here,” Seifert said. “I could not have made it this far without the support of my unit and all those who helped get me to this point.

“This is one of the best challenges I have ever experienced,” he added.

Both Lester and Seifert will represent JFHQ - NCR at Fort Lee in September to compete during the Army-wide NCO and Soldier of the Year competition.

Geren named 20th Army Secretary

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

The Honorable Pete Geren became the 20th Secretary of the Army July 16, following his nomination by President George W. Bush and confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

As Secretary of the Army, Geren has statutory responsibility for all matters relating to the U.S. Army: manpower, personnel, reserve affairs, installations, environmental issues, weapons systems and equipment acquisition, communications and financial management.

He leads a work force of more than one million active-duty and reserve-component Soldiers, 230,000 Department of the Army civilian employees and 280,000 contracted service personnel.

Caring for Soldiers and their Families has been Geren's top



The honorable Pete Geren became the 20th Secretary of the Army July 16. (Courtesy Photo)

priority since his days serving as the 28th Under Secretary of the Army.

"My year as Under Secretary of the Army taught me much - my four months as Acting Secretary of the Army taught me much more,"

he said. "I have been inspired by the selfless service of our Soldiers, and humbled by the sacrifice of their Families."

Geren was the Under Secretary of the Army until Feb. 21, 2006. He was named Acting Secretary of the Army March 9.

Geren joined the Defense Department in September of 2001 to serve as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Defense with responsibilities in the areas of inter-agency initiatives, legislative affairs and special projects. He also served as Acting Secretary of the Air Force from July to November 2005.

Before joining the Defense Department, Geren was an attorney and businessman in Fort Worth, Texas.

From 1989 until his retirement in 1997, Geren was a member of the U.S. Congress, representing the Twelfth Congressional

Panel studies military and community relationships

The topic of compatible land uses around military installations was on the agenda at the National Association of Counties annual conference the week in Richmond.

Thousands of local government leaders from throughout the United States were at the event, which featured hundreds of exhibitors, and dozens of informative sessions covering issues facing legislators and county staff professionals.

A panel presentation Sunday afternoon titled "The Mission is Not Impossible - Counties and Military Bases Can Achieve Compatible Land Use" examined land use case studies around military installations.

Caroline County's Chairman of the Board of Supervisors D.M. "Maxie" Rozell and Fort A.P. Hill's Chief of Public Affairs Ken Perrotte were part of the panel looking at how military installations and their surrounding communities can work together to achieve compatible development.

Other panelists included Fred Engle, a sustainable range program consultant for the Department of Defense, Thomas Thompson of the Savananna, Ga., Metropolitan Planning Commission, and Kenn Gardner, the moderator and a Wake County, N.C.,

commissioner. Terry Banks, chief of Fort A.P. Hill's Environmental Division, also attended the workshop.

Rozell and Perrotte outlined the long history of cooperation and information sharing employed adjacent to Fort A.P. Hill, as well as some of the specific initiatives designed to promote compatible growth.

Programs such as the Army Compatible Use Buffer program, installation participation in local comprehensive planning efforts, technical review of rezoning proposals, and more were highlighted.

Fort A.P. Hill is situated on 21.5 percent of Caroline County's land mass, but the noise effects from military training can impact neighboring citizens, resulting in calls to modify or halt training. Additionally, development outside the post can increase night sky brightness affecting the ability to test or train with night vision devices.

Development that shuts off contiguous wildlife corridors also can serve to transform an installation into an "island of biodiversity," with the potential for endangered or threatened species to consolidate on the installation, creating training restrictions.

Commentary:

Football season prepares for kickoff

By Jason B. Cutshaw
Up and Down the Hill

Baseball season has reached the half-way point, another year of basketball is behind us and the National Football League is preparing to begin anew.

As a football enthusiast, and a Kansas City Chiefs fan, I look forward to going home after work and checking out what my team did in training camp that day.

Oh what a happy day it will be when my beloved Chiefs depart for River Falls, Wis., July 26 and

begin their first day of practices July 27. All other NFL teams will be departing for their training camps at approximately the same time frame.

Each year, training camp marks the beginning of a new football preseason.

It's the beginning of championship team, a losing season or something in the middle.

It brings new hope and a new dream for each football fan. It is the time when old rivalries spark up and the best of friends become

the worst of enemies.

It will pit Kansas City and Oakland, Washington and Dallas, and Miami and Buffalo fans against each other.

Next week is when my heart becomes aflutter with the possibility my Chiefs will become Super Bowl champions.

I look forward to meeting at local sports clubs and trash talking with other fans.

For all the football fans out there, good luck and I hope you do well, unless you play the Chiefs.

Bring on the football.

Range (Continued from Page 3)

Speare said the old system was pneumatic, using air to pop up targets. The new stationary infantry target system is electronic and expected to be more durable and reliable.

The new targets will be "hardwired" to the control center. Feedback data recording hits to the target, though, will be transmitted via radio frequency to the range tower.

Speare also explained Range 32 is important to Fort A.P. Hill's operational tempo of training warriors.

"Bringing it back online is a high priority," he said.

No August Newsletter

Due to the editor's impending temporary duty at the Defense Information School, Up and Down the Hill will not be published in August.

The next publication date is scheduled for Sept. 13.

Submit ideas for post newsletter

Any reader can submit for consideration story ideas for Up and Down the Hill. Simply call (804) 633-8120 or send an E-mail to jason.cutshaw@us.army.mil.

"These ranges are heavily used by the Army and Marine Corps for M-16 and M-4 weapons qualification. Once we improve the range, our ability to train the warriors will be upgraded significantly."

"Those staff members who have been assigned to overhaul the range from DPW and Range Control have done an outstanding job," Speare said.

"If they keep up this pace, we should beat our scheduled completion timeframe handily. We started earlier this week and should be completed by the end of September," Speare said.

Post, community mourns loss of MWR team member

Fort A.P. Hill team member Lisa Knode, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, passed away July 17. She is survived by her husband, Bill, and four sons.

Knode's funeral is 11:30 a.m. Saturday at Tabernacle Baptist Church in King George

Volleyball tournament to start

A summer volleyball tournament is expected to be organized soon. For details, call the Community Activity Center at (804) 633-8219/8257.

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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