

Up and Down the Hill

Serving the Fort A.P. Hill Community

Ceremony Marks Signing of Historic Conservation Pact; Purchase of Easement

Fort A.P. Hill formalized its partnership with five organizations dedicated to conservation around the installation during a signing ceremony Dec. 19 at Romenick Hall. The ceremony also celebrated the first conservation easement placed on a property adjacent to the installation via the partnership.

Dozens of leaders from the State of Virginia, local communities surrounding the post and senior officials from the Department of Defense and Army gathered for the event.

Formed under the auspices of the Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) program, the partnership links The Trust for Public Land, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the DoD.

The first easement, the 1,320-acre Portabago Creek tract, is

strategically located, bordering nearly 3 miles of Fort A.P. Hill's eastern boundary and close to important firing ranges and the impact area.

The easement transaction for this first parcel was secured by The Trust for Public Land, which worked with the landowners to develop the terms of the easement. The Virginia Outdoors Foundation will hold the easement.

Financial contributions came from the Department of Defense, the Army, and the state of Virginia.

"In itself, this 1,320-acre conservation easement is a major achievement, and TPL is glad to have played a role in partnership with DoD, the Army, the Commonwealth of Virginia, local government, and community and conservation leaders," said

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Participants in the Dec. 19 ceremony pose with a commemorative poster from the event. From left: Dr. Craig College, Tad Davis, Preston Bryant, Reggie Hall, Alex Beehler, Denise Schlener, Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, David Phemister, Bob Lee, Joe McCauley, Richard Myers and Gene Barbour. Photo by Rick Cole

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News & Info Shorts

Salutes, Hails & Farewells

Lisa Skinner, director of Resource Management, Mike Brandt, acting chief of Plan, Analysis and Integration, and Terry Banks, chief of the Directorate of Public Work's Environmental Division, were graduated Friday from the Army Management Staff College's Sustaining Base Leadership and Management Course.

The trio has been taking the course, a mix of in-residence and at home study for nearly a year. A number of installation employees traveled to Fort Belvoir to witness the graduation.

Farewell to Louis Scott, information technology specialist, Directorate of Information Management, effective Dec. 23. He has accepted a promotion with Defense Commissary Agency at Fort Lee.

Farewell also to Jimmy Salisbury, supervisory general supply specialist; Ed Thornton, supervisory logistics management specialist; Jerry Frye, food service technician; and Mary Lewis, supply technician. All are from the Directorate of Logistics and are retiring after many decades of federal service. Sonja Johnson, a DOL supply technician, is leaving for a job at Fort Belvoir, Va.

The Directorate of Public Works also bids farewell to the Utilities Shop's Charles "Chuck" Davis, general equipment mechanic, who retires after 25 years of service, and to Ray Balderson of Roads and Grounds who is departing to Dahlgren for a promotion.

New employees include Police Officer Dennis Brown and Mila Peterson, a custodial worker in the Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

A review board met this month to evaluate nominations for employee Quality Salary Increases. The following individuals were selected for QSI's: Mark George, Directorate of Emergency Services; Stacy Petry, Directorate of Public Works;



Fort A.P. Hill's gridiron greats traveled to Dahlgren Dec. 2 to do battle with the Navy in flag football's own scaled back version of the Army-Navy Game. The final score, 30-6, ended up in Navy's favor. Army coach Brian Poe, Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, said the game was actually closer than the score and execution of a couple key series of downs was key in the final outcome. Participants included: (kneeling from left) Billy Briggs, Bonnie Williamson, Sgt. 1st Class Larry Lehr, Betty Mayfield-Currington, Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Chase and Fire Chief Daniel Glembot. (Standing from left) Dan Chiapetta, Jason Melby, Ben Allen, Gary Seibert, Brian Poe, Jesse Clements, Tim Allen and Matthew Duke.

James Locklerr and Tracy Rowles, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security, and Debbie Moore, Directorate of Human Resources.

Correction

Lt. Tom Grejda of the Directorate of Emergency Services pointed out that Police Officer William Westerfield's name was omitted as a Category 1 nominee for Employee of the Year in the last Up and Down the Hill. Salute to Officer Westerfield on his nomination.

Up and Down the Hill regrets this inadvertent error.

Police Officer has Eagle Eye for False ID Cards

Spotting bogus identification cards takes a trained eye and sharp attention to little details.

When Fort A.P. Hill police officer Kenneth Delano was conducting a perimeter patrol late last month, he saw three people walking around — inside and outside — the Villeboro Gate area.

Delano asked for identification and their reason for being on the post. The officer detected something fishy and, after coordinating with the police desk, he learned two of three people had provided false identification cards and the third was a contractor hired to clear foliage around the gate.

The contractor was charged with transporting illegal immigrants and the two employees were charged with possession of felonious documents in federal magistrate's court in Richmond.

It was Delano's third such discovery since August.

Numerous contractors are working on Fort A.P. Hill on any given day, whether they are building new training facilities, ranges, providing services and more.

"It is up to the contractors to ensure that their employees are in and working in the country legally," said Mike Lytle of the post contracting office.

David Vaughan, director of Emergency Services, explained that the post's police officers have received training on identifying fraudulent identification documents and that 100 percent checks of all ID's is the norm upon entering the post. Officer Delano is setting up additional training to share his expertise with fellow officers.

Individuals found with bogus identification are transported to the Provost Marshal's office for processing. Local authorities are notified and the suspects are either taken to jail or released to appear in court at a later date.

Note: Police Officer Tim Casey contributed to this article.



Going All Out for Wounded Warriors

For the 2nd consecutive year, Fort A.P. Hill hosted wounded warriors in rehabilitation at Walter Reed Army Medical Center for a two-day deer hunt and some deserved R&R .

The men, two Soldiers, two Marines and one sailor, were wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Installation employees, supported with donations by the Fort A.P. Hill Employee Morale Committee and the Rappahannock-A.P. Hill chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army, assisted the guests during the MWR-sponsored visit Dec. 4-6.

Therapist Barry Yancosek, who accompanied the men said such outdoor activities and the down time away from the hospital regimen is therapeutic.

Each hunter had opportunities to take deer and they enjoyed home-cooked venison dinners at the Lodge on Travis Lake.



Photos, counterclockwise from top:

1. Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese talks with Sgt. Dennis Cline, wounded while serving with 10th Mountain Division in Afghanistan;
2. Barry Yancosek and Marine Lance Cpl. Kade Hinkhouse prepare to use a hydraulic "Huntmaster" stand. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries provided two stands for the hunt;
3. Guests were provided licenses, shotguns and assistants during their visit. A familiarization and safety session was held before hitting the woods;
4. Wounded warrior guests pose with some members of the Fort A.P. Hill support team before heading back to Walter Reed. Standing, from left: Sonny Zarecki, Joe Dougher, Armando Flores, Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, Russell Harvey, Dennis Hodges, Sgt. Dennis Cline, Ken Perrotte, Boe Satterwhite, Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Chase, and Barry Yancosek. Front row: Lance Cpl. Kade Hinkhouse, Lance Cpl. Corey Smith, Staff Sgt. Luke Murphy, and Petty Officer Chad Kueser.



Photos by Ken Perrotte and Maria Perrotte



Commander's Holiday Letter to Team FAPH

Fort A.P. Hill Team,

As we close out the calendar year, it is inevitable to reflect on the past 12 months.

From my perspective, it has been a challenging and greatly productive year for Fort A.P. Hill and all of the Warriors training here. Ultimately, their success hinges on how we individually and collectively accomplish our mission. You all have been magnificent and, as I mention on a regular basis, I am proud to serve as commander of this unique post.

During the holidays, I encourage all team members to maximize leave while still supporting the mission. The number of Warriors training in this timeframe is low compared to the rest of the year and so it is logical to take leave during the

holiday season.

As I mentioned, you all have tremendous accomplishments to be proud of this year and deserve "down time."

Please enjoy time with your family and/or friends.

On a safety note... **Be Safe, Be Safe, Be Safe!** You are the most precious resource of the Army.

No piece of machinery, land, or plan can replace your esprit and sense of duty to the Warriors training here at Fort A.P. Hill. Please apply composite risk management in everything you do at work and at home.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Michael S. Graese
LTC, AD
Commanding



Conservation Pact...from page 1

Alan Front, senior vice president of The Trust for Public Land.

A statement provided by Senator John Warner regarding the event stated, "This partnership will create an important buffer for Fort A.P. Hill, and will add to the conservation of open spaces across the Commonwealth. This is truly a 'win-win' for Virginia and the Army."

Preston Bryant, Jr., Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources, hailed the partnership and the first easement calling it an example of the type of partnerships Virginia needs as the state pursues Gov. Tim Kaine's stated goal of preserving 400,000 acres of land during his term in office.

Alex A. Beehler, assistant deputy undersecretary of defense for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health, noted he was glad the Commonwealth of Virginia had made preserving a buffer around Fort A.P. Hill a priority, adding that the 1,320-acre easement was the first of its type in the Chesapeake Bay region.

"There will be more to come," he said.

Tad Davis, deputy assistant secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health, said, "These buffers let us protect this precious resource we have...the land where we establish facilities and train. Our actions today will help preserve those lands so that America's sons and daughters called to defend this nation will have a place to go and train."

Davis said the real work of the Army goes on at places like Fort A.P. Hill and that programs such as ACUB support the Army's sustainability strategy.

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Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, post commander, acknowledged Soldiers, Marines and Sailors in the audience who represented the military units from all branches of the armed forces that train annually at Fort A.P. Hill.

"From Fort A.P. Hill's standpoint, these men represent those who are the true beneficiaries of this conservation partnership. Their ability to train their units under realistic conditions will be preserved as this initiative grows," Graese said.

Urban and suburban encroachment has become increasingly problematic for military installations nationwide. Incompatible land uses - primarily residential developments - close to an installation's boundary interfere with training and other military operations. Usually, noise from the installation is the main concern for residential or commercial activity nearby.

The Fort A.P. Hill Compatible Use Buffer Coalition represents a unique partnership between the Department of Defense and non-governmental conservation groups working together to preserve open lands surrounding Fort A.P. Hill through the purchase of conservation easements from willing landowners.

Conservation easements limit future land use and development options and ensure parcels are permanently protected for conservation and open space. The landowner retains legal title to the land and the ability to maintain its current use. The military assists with funding for the easement with the conservation organization then serving as the easement holder.