

Up and Down the Hill

Serving the Fort A. P. Hill Community

Special Forces Officer Commands Post

Story by Debra Bingham
Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs Office

Fort A. P. Hill welcomed a new commander July 12 during a change of command ceremony. Col. James B. Balocki passed the command guidon to Lt. Col. James M. Mis.

Mis is a Special Forces officer whose last assignment was at Fort Bragg, N.C. He most recently served as deputy director of the joint validation directorate, Joint Special Operations Command.

Balocki took command of the installation Aug. 9, 2002. His next assignment is at the Pentagon, where he will serve as executive officer for the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works.

Balocki called his time commanding the post “a privilege” and assured the incoming commander the post’s dedicated staff would make him feel the same way.

“The great team of people who work here have committed themselves to excellence in service unlike anywhere I’ve ever seen. I salute you, I applaud your efforts and am humbled by your dedication to the great fighting men and women of our nation,” Balocki said.

Diane Devens, the Installation Management Agency’s Northeast Region Director, awarded the Legion of Merit to Balocki. His wife, Marie, received the Commander’s Award for Public Service.

Maj. Gen. Galen B. Jackman, commanding general of the U.S. Army Military District of Washington, also spoke during the ceremony. He praised Balocki for his management abilities and outstanding performance and wished him luck on his move to Washington, D.C. Jackman is Fort A.P. Hill’s senior mission commander.

Mis said it was an honor for him to “accept the colors of Fort A.P. Hill.”

“It may be hard to imagine that what takes place at Fort A.P. Hill, near quaint Bowling Green, Va., in the heart of lovely Caroline County, has any effect on



Photo by Ken Perrotte

Col. James Balocki hands the command guidon to Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Carr (right), relinquishing command of Fort A.P. Hill. Lt. Col. James Mis (center) waits to accept the guidon. Diane Devens, Director, IMA’s Northeast Region observes the symbolic exchange during the change of command ceremony.

battlefields in Afghanistan, Iraq or other lesser known areas of operation. But I can assure you—as a recipient of your dedication to that mission—yes it does!” Mis said during the ceremony.

Mis’ numerous deployments during his career include such countries as: the Sinai, Egypt; Panama; Ghana; Haiti; Cote D’Ivoire; Bosnia; and Afghanistan. He trained a Fort A.P. Hill when he was assigned to the 3rd Special Forces Group, based at Fort Bragg, N.C.

“With our nation at war, your selfless service continues to hone the skills of America’s most precious treasure—its sons and daughters. We do not rest until we are convinced that we have done everything for our comrades who are, or soon will be, in harm’s way,” Mis said.

Commander Shares Command Philosophy

by Lt. Col. James M. Mis
Fort A.P. Hill Commander

The mission of Fort A.P. Hill is to provide realistic joint and combined arms training, logistics and support, enabling America's Defense Forces to win on 21st Century battlefields. This support will be dynamic and ever-present. This memorandum outlines my philosophy on the role and vision of Fort A.P. Hill.

Mission. The defense of our nation begins at the gates of Fort A.P. Hill. The organizations training here defend the freedoms inherent in our nation and its people. We will provide the Soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines, and other governmental organizations that train at Fort A.P. Hill, with unsurpassed support; tirelessly ensuring that no valid request is ever left unfulfilled. We will maintain a 'deployed' mindset because the security of our nation cannot 'wait until tomorrow.'

People. The greatest asset that Fort A.P. Hill maintains is its people. All supervisors at every level, to include myself, must ensure our greatest asset is taken care of. Every member of the Fort A.P. Hill Team is an Ambassador of this post. As we interact with the personnel who train here, our family members who live or enjoy our facilities, and the surrounding communities who are our partners, be proud of this post and ensure that they feel welcomed and are fully satisfied.

Future Vision. We must balance our current operations with a strategic vision for Fort A.P. Hill. Providing superb support today, while improving the performance of all aspects of Fort A.P. Hill is an ever-constant endeavor. Doing things because 'that's the way we've always done it' is a formula for failure. All members of Fort A.P. Hill are empowered to find and implement systems within their sphere of responsibility that improve the capabilities of our post. The end-state is for Fort A.P. Hill to be the Department of Defense's premier power readiness platform.

Stewardship. Ensuring the viability and readiness of Fort A.P. Hill is essential to the current and future mission of this post. This extends from the maintenance of all equipment, to the protection of our environment and natural resources, and



Lt. Col. James M. Mis
Fort A.P. Hill Commander.

"The value of an individual's worth should not be judged by his proximity to the battlefield."

to people, as we develop Fort A.P. Hill's and the Army's future leaders. Negligence in any area has a reverberating effect across the full-spectrum of our mission.

Ethics. There is no gray area with ethics. It is either right or wrong. Rules and regulations are not guidelines but are directives in the execution of our mission. This is most critical in the area of safety, where deviation costs lives. Ethics, whether in the area of fiscal accountability, safety, or training, will be maintained to the highest standards.

Force Protection. Protection of Fort A.P. Hill's team members, families and customers against terrorism and criminal activity can never lapse. The 'defense' of Fort A.P. Hill and its people is in depth – outside the post in partnership with local law enforcement, at the gates, inside the post, and into an individual's immediate area. It is the alertness and professionalism of the Fort A.P. Hill Team that makes our post secure.

The Fort A.P. Hill Team has always been a leader in contribution to national defense because of the people who display selfless service, dedication to duty and foresight. This contribution will continue as we prepare for the 'next fight.' I am proud to command this post and lead the Army's premier training team.

The Best Training & Support - Anywhere!

Top MDW And IMA Soldiers Compete

Story and Photos by Debra Bingham
Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs Office

It was a long day for Sgt. Roman Cortez; starting before dawn, lasting past midnight and ending after a long trek through the dark, damp woods.

Cortez wasn't alone; other Soldiers brushed aside fatigue and pushed themselves to finish the land navigation course—and the day.

Another two days of physical and mental challenges lie ahead for the 20 Soldiers competing in the Military District of Washington (MDW) and Installation Management Agencies' (IMA) Soldier and NCO of the Year competitions held July 11-15 at Fort A.P. Hill, Va.

MDW, known as the "Guardian of the National Capital Region," is a multifaceted command with responsibilities focused primarily in the National Capital Region, which includes five military installations.



Sgt. Matt Tovar, an administrative specialist from Fort Huachuca, Ariz., uses a radio to request a medical evacuation. The Soldiers are tested on their knowledge of the military and proficiency at a variety of combat survival skills.



Sgt. Roman Cortez, a firefighter from Fort Wainwright, AK, sets up a Claymore mine during the Installation Management Agency's Soldier and NCO of the Year competition at Fort A.P. Hill, Va. Winners move on to the National Capital Region board, where they compete for a chance to advance to the Department of Army level competition.

IMA manages Army installations worldwide and provides a myriad of functions supporting readiness, caring for personnel, facilities and the environment. The agency has 4 regional areas in the U.S., plus regions in the Pacific, Europe and Korea.

Cadre from MDW organized the competition and both organizations provided judges to conduct and score the events. Soldiers and NCOs earning the most points go on to the National Capital Region Board (NCRB) being held at Fort A.P. Hill July 26-30.

A win at the NCRB earns Soldiers a shot at the coveted Department of Army-level competition, said Sgt. 1st Class Rick Karnes, Headquarters, IMA. Karnes helped plan and run the CTT, or common task testing, portion of the competition.

"When you add it all together it is a very challenging competition. They woke up early for an APFT (fitness test), did day land navigation, went to the range and did night land navigation," Karnes said.

During the competition, Soldiers accumulate points for performance on a physical fitness test,

Competition From Page 3

weapons qualification range, and land navigation courses. A 10-station CTT event assessed the Soldiers' combat survival skills with challenging hands-on testing. Soldiers also completed a written examination, an essay, and face a board of senior enlisted members who quiz them on their military knowledge and bearing.

Hours of mental and physical training go into preparing for the competition, which recognizes exceptional performers and fosters the development of future leaders, said Fort A.P. Hill's Command Sgt. Maj. Gary Carr.

"The competition distinguishes top quality NCOs in the U.S. Army. It also gives the younger Soldiers role models," Carr said.

Sgt. Roman Cortez, a firefighter from Fort Wainwright, Alaska, wiped sweat from his face as he talked about the nighttime land navigation course he completed the day before.

"All day yesterday was a challenge. We were up from 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. The night land navigation was probably the hardest thing so far," Cortez said.



Sgt. David Watson (right) helps a Soldier adjust his chemical suit during one of ten common task training stations. Soldiers were evaluated on topics such as map reading; first aid; and decontamination procedures. Competitors also faced two challenging "mystery" tasks.



Sgt. Hope Busby, a chaplain's assistant from Fort Campbell, Ky., examines a map overlay to identify terrain features and grid coordinates during the CTT portion of the competition.

Pfc. Justin Moon, a chaplain's assistant from Fort Polk, La., said it was "fun to learn new things and test his skills." He was still smiling after completing most of the 10-station CTT course, but wasn't pleased with his performance on the land navigation course.

"The terrain is very different here from Fort Polk, with the hills and woods, which makes it difficult to find the points. The weather also plays a significant part, since it's rainy and hot outside all day," said Moon.

"I didn't do too good on the land navigation. I just couldn't get it. I tend to drift to the right," said Sgt. Matt Tovar, an administrative assistant from Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

When the points were tallied, Staff Sgt. John Thompson, a military police officer with the 80th Area Support Group at Chievres, Belgium, took home IMA's NCO of the Year title. Spc. Kyle Deatherage, a firefighter from Fort Wainwright, Alaska, was named IMA's Soldier of the Year.

MDW's top NCO was Sgt. Tianthony Roby, 3d Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard.) Pfc. Karen Antonyan, 12th Aviation Battalion, captured the title of MDW Soldier of the Year.

The four Soldiers face another week of long days and challenges at the NCRB and that's fine with them.

Future Leaders Grown At Camp Success

Story and Photos by Debra Bingham
Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs Office

Great things can happen with a positive attitude and teamwork. That's what hundreds of JROTC students learned during Camp Success.

More than 700 high school students from across Virginia., West Virginia., Maryland., and Washington, D.C., took part in the annual event held during June at Fort A.P. Hill, Va.

The camp provides students with physically and mentally challenging training designed to build confidence and leadership skills. A staff of 125 JROTC adult leaders organizes and conducts the camp.

The camp brought students from 60 different schools with diverse backgrounds together for a week of training. They lived in military barracks, rose at 5 a.m. for physical fitness training and spent each day immersed in training.

Cadets completed a land navigation course, made their way through a confidence or obstacle course, and rappelled down a 30-foot tower. They also expanded their math and science skills through specialized activities and classes.



Command Sgt. Maj. John McConnell, a JROTC instructor from St. John's College High School, tells cadets what to expect during land navigation training. McConnell retired after serving 30 year in the Army. It is his third year with the Camp Success program.



Brittany Becker, a 15-year old student from Wythe County Technical Center School, stands in formation during Camp Success. Over 700 high school students from Va., W. Va., Md., and Washington, D.C., took part in the annual JROTC event held at Fort A.P. Hill, Va.

"Oh, that water is going to be so cold. It is just too early in the morning for this," said an apprehensive cadet at the post pool.

Cadets jumped into the cold water for a class on drown-proofing. They learned how a pair of BDU pants can be used as a flotation device by filling the legs with air. It was one of many survival skills cadets learned during the camp.

Col. Richard Walker, a JROTC instructor from Benedictine High School in Richmond, Va., said cadets learn much more than mastery of tasks at the camp.

"I think the big thing they acquire is confidence from training. Some of these kids have never been in the woods and the confidence is just a great part of what JROTC gives them. Just knowing that they can do something and have accomplished something is important," Walker said.

Command Sgt. Maj. John McConnell, an instructor from St. John's College High School in Washington D.C., played a key role in organizing the training.

"The biggest challenge is integrating 73 schools and different training levels--from grades

Cadets From Page 5

9 to 12, and getting the younger kids up to speed. It's fun to watch the younger kids with the older kids," McConnell said.

McConnell, who retired after 30 years in the Army, said JROTC isn't a means of indoctrinating future military members.

"Our task is to train them to be better citizens and become leaders in our communities. By them learning leadership tasks in the program, they will become good leaders who know the importance of teamwork and leadership," McConnell said.

During the land navigation course, students learned how to do a pace count, use a compass to shoot an azimuth and locate "points" in the woods.

"There is only one compass for the squad. The squad leader has to make sure all the people stay together. We stress that the end time doesn't count unless everybody crosses the finish line," said Sgt. Maj. Tyrone Foster, an instructor from St. John's College High School.



Jasmine Cheeks, a 15-year old cadet from Wilson Senior High School in Washington, D.C., takes a compass reading during a land navigation class at Camp Success.



Camp Success cadets gather around Sgt. Francisco DelValle (right), an active duty Soldier from HQ, USAG, Fort Meade, Md., as he explains how to use a compass during land navigation training. DelValle, along with other Soldiers from Fort Meade, volunteered at the the JROTC camp.

Sgt. Francisco DelValle, an active duty Soldier assigned to Headquarters, USAG, Fort Meade, Md., volunteered to help with the camp. Eager students gathered around him as he explained the parts of the compass and showed how to use it.

Cadet Jasmine Cheeks, a 15-year old student from Wilson Senior High School in Washington, D.C, cautiously opened her compass and followed DelValle's instructions. DelValle said the teenagers get easily distracted, which can make teaching a challenge.

"Their focus of attention is shorter, so you've really got to focus them," DelValle said over the roar of excited voices.

McConnell said some of the students are surprised when they get to camp.

"A lot of kids think they are going to have a real fun week, but they don't realize we are going to do some physical training and land navigation," said McConnell.

Cheeks made an adjustment to the lens sight on her compass and tried to get a reading. She said the biggest thing she learned during Camp Success was teamwork.

"Some of the stuff is tough, like the rappel tower where I couldn't get the brake right. But, the camp is pretty fun. I'd come again if given the chance," Cheeks said.

Army Aims For Modular, Brigade-Centric Forces

As units return from Iraq, the Army will "reset" brigades into fighting formations that will be needed in the future.

Story by Gary Sheftick
Army News Service

Under Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker's "modularity" focus area, the 33 maneuver brigades in today's active-component Army will be reset into 43 to 48 Brigade Units of Action. The Army will be temporarily "plussed up" by 30,000 troops to fill the added brigades, officials said.

The brigades will be smaller but more lethal, officials said, including artillery and reconnaissance assets previously at the division level. Some corps assets will also move down to the brigades.

The number of divisions will remain at 10 in the active component.

"The worst thing we could have done right now is bring on more divisions," a senior Army official said, explaining that the Army doesn't need more headquarters staff; it needs more maneuver elements.

Along with the maneuver brigades, or "units of action," a division will have access to Support Units of Action (aviation, fires, sustainment, reconnaissance and surveillance, and security/protection).

For instance, a division could employ two heavy brigades, an infantry brigade, a Stryker Brigade Combat Team, and even a Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Army officials said. They said that the division headquarters will be joint capable by design and have greater capacity for "force packaging."

Current light infantry and heavy mechanized divisions, mountain divisions and armored divisions -- will all reorganize into more similar and modular designs under the new plan.

The seven different types of division headquarters today will become standardized, officials said, and be known as "units of employment."



U.S. Army Photo

The Army chief of staff's plan to restructure combat forces will require an additional 30,000 troops.

In the future, a brigade aligned with one division could be employed into another with little or no need for augmentation or reorganization, a senior official said. In fact, he said a future rotation to Iraq might include brigades from five different locations.

The intent is to create a modular "brigade-based" Army that is more responsive to regional combatant commanders' needs, officials said.

"War always provides you with a much harder look at formations than peace does," the senior Army official said.

The 3rd Infantry Division, which returned from Iraq in September, is serving as the first test bed of the modularity concept. One of its brigades will test the new structure next month at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif.

The 101st Airborne Division, which returned last week from Iraq, will be the next to undergo the structure change, officials have announced.

More than 200,000 Soldiers are currently on the move either deploying or redeploying from Southwest Asia.

"We're taking this window of opportunity to restructure forces for where we want to be with the Future Combat System," the senior Army official said.

"We're doing it with the most combat-tested and combat-experienced Army we've ever had," he said. "We have leaders at every level that understand the rigors of combat."

(Editor's Note: This is an article in a series on the Army chief of staff's immediate focus areas.)

News Briefs

Ethics Training

A mandatory ethics training class takes place August 18 at Heth School, with sessions offered at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.



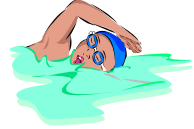
Traffic Pattern Change

A stop sign is now in place at the intersection of Fort A.P. Hill Drive and Fortune Road. A yield sign was at the site, so use caution.



Swimming Lessons

The CAC offers beginning and intermediate level swimming lessons July 26-30 and August 9-12. Classes begin at 6 p.m. To register or find out more, call 633-8219.



Legal Services

Legal Assistance Services will be on post July 27 in building 145. Active duty, retired military and their family members with a valid ID card can use the service. Call 633-8326 for an appointment.



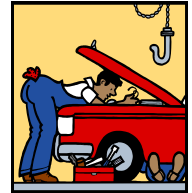
Baskets of Fun

Join Fort A.P. Hill's Employee Morale Committee July 30 at 7 p.m. for fun and games at the Harrison Road Community Center. Call 633-8422 for tickets.



Vehicle Repairs

GSA vehicles requiring service or repairs should be brought to TMP before being turned in to the vendor. Call 633-8273 for details.



Blooming Gardens Land NCO Yard Of Month Win

Story and Photo by Debra Bingham
Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs Office

The kids slept in while mom picked up the kudos and pocketed the prize—it's summer vacation time after all.

Sgt. 1st Class Ana Munoz, assigned to the 80th Division's Drill Sgt. School, claimed Yard of the Month honors for July.

Munoz serves as a Title 11 for the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) with duty at the school. Sgt. 1st Class Sterling Collins, acting post Command Sgt. Maj., presented the award.

Although Munoz has lived on post for almost 3 years, it was her first win. She gave all the credit to her sleeping daughters Sheryl, age 17, and Amelia, age 12.

"The kids were exploring what to plant. They told me what to buy. They pretty much do all the yard work, except for the sweeping," said Munoz.

Munoz said the money for plants came from a \$50 gift certificate residents receive for area beautification. The family sunk the money into a variety of flowering plants.

The investment paid off for Munoz, who took home a book of AAFES gift coupons for her win. Something her girls will be glad to hear about—when they wake up.



Sgt. 1st Class Ana Munoz, assigned to the 80th Division's Drill Sgt. School, won Yard of the Month honors for July. Sgt. 1st Class Sterling Collins, acting post Sgt. Maj., presented the award.

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