

UP AND DOWN THE HILL

SERVING THE FORT A.P. HILL COMMUNITY

Logistics Warriors train to sustain

Guns weren't the only thing shooting at Fort A.P. Hill May 16 as several members of the regional media snapped photos and grabbed sound bites and video while tagging along with quartermasters training during their Log Warrior exercise.

Journalists participating in a "media day" designed to familiarize them with this new, regular training component at Fort A.P. Hill joined Soldiers from Fort Lee in a dismounted patrol during one of the final phases of their advanced individual training. Shortly after finishing this four-day culmination exercise to their AIT experience, many of the Soldiers will head to their first duty assignment.

The Quartermaster School's field training exercise is currently staged from the Wilcox Camp. Still being finalized are plans for development of a "Sustainment Center of Excellence" where a wide range of combat support-related field training exercises could be held year-round. The Sustainment Center is scheduled to be constructed in the area of Pender Camp.

The consolidation of combat support training at Fort Lee, near Petersburg, Va., during the Base Realignment and Closure initiative of 2005 resulted in this partnership with Fort A.P. Hill. Diminutive in size, compared to Fort A.P. Hill, Fort Lee needed a location where Soldiers undergoing AIT could take to the field and conduct final exercises in an environment best replicating austere conditions at a forward operating base.



Quartermaster Soldiers from Fort Lee learn how to secure a building during Log Warrior exercises on Fort A.P. Hill May 16. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)

"This exercise will give these Soldiers an opportunity to display all the combat skills they have learned up this point," said Lt. Col. Rodney Palmer, 266th QM Battalion commander.

"They are still at the basic level," Palmer said, adding their training continues after they arrive at a permanent duty station.

During their four-day, three-night exercise, Soldiers learn to successfully engage the enemy, conduct dismounted patrols where they encounter ambushes, conduct base defense and entry control point procedures, experience improvised explosive devices, assault a simulated hostile village and navigate a vehicle convoy ambush in a live-fire setting.

The Fort A.P. Hill field training experience allows instructors to help Soldiers prepare for the unexpected and to have a degree of familiarity with a variety of scenarios they may encounter, hopefully, taking some of the uncertainty out of their response.

"This training will prepare the troops if and when they go into an active theater so they have a general idea of what is going on and how to react during combat situations," said Sgt. 1st Class Ricky Belton, a 23rd QM Brigade instructor. "They won't be 100 percent ready when they leave, but they will know a lot more than when they arrived."

The students agreed they still had a lot to learn and felt fortunate to have gone through the exercise.

"It was great to go out and learn how to clear a house under live conditions," said Pfc. Jeffrey Kongs. "I'll never forget this experience and everything they have taught us. This has been outstanding."

As to the media who accompanied the Soldiers during their training, reporters expressed newfound appreciation for the stresses warriors experience in combat settings. Sporting lightweight shirts and sneakers, they stood in contrast to their military patrol-mates decked out in body armor and Kevlar helmets as the midday sun climbed overhead.

"One Soldier told me he lost 10 pounds during his first week in Iraq," said Fredericksburg Free Lance-Star reporter Jenn Rowell. "It's not surprising with that heavy gear they wear."

Soldiers learn how to fight, win in combat



During the Log Warrior exercise at Fort A.P. Hill, quartermaster Soldiers learn how to conduct offensive and defensive operations in addition to their primary duties as logisticians. (Photos by Jason B. Cutshaw)



Warriors from Fort Lee's Quartermaster Center and School are taught how to handle enemy combatants if they are captured on the battlefield.



Quartermaster Soldiers learn how to deal with civilians on the battlefield at Fort A.P. Hill's Combat Village during their Log Warrior exercise..

Installation Community Council discusses growth

By Jason B. Cutshaw
Up and Down the Hill

Community and business leaders came to Fort A.P. Hill May 18 to take part in the Installation Community Council.

During the meeting, leaders discussed some of the changes and growth happening on post and how it may affect surrounding communities.

Starting the day off was a breakfast in Romenick Hall followed by an opening presentation by Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, Fort A.P. Hill commander. Graese covered what the post does daily for America's warriors and gave a training and mission growth forecast.

After leaving Romenick Hall, council members and other invited individuals neighboring the installation were taken on a tour of post.

The tour included the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility under construction and the modular military operations on urban terrain site adjacent to the Assault landing Zone.

They also visited the new Engagement Systems Trainer.

At the EST trainer, visitors got a chance to pick up M4 or M16 rifles equipped with lasers. They tested their response to a number of rapid, dangerous scenarios faced daily on the modern battlefield.

The morning wrapped up



Sgt. John Deuter, C Company, 2nd Battalion, 112th Infantry Regiment, fires an M2 .50 caliber machine gun during the Installation Community Council tour May 18. Spec. Christopher Kaltwasser looks on. Deuter and Kaltwasser are members of a Stryker Brigade Combat Team from the Pennsylvania National Guard. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)

appropriately with a visit to one of Fort A.P. Hill's newest, regular training customers, the Pennsylvania National Guard's Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

An element of the unit was conducting a live-fire exercise on Range 33 with the .50 caliber M2 machineguns.

"These events are helpful in assisting surrounding community leaders and neighbors understand the primary training mission of Fort A.P. Hill and the incredible diversity of military units that

count this installation as critical in their ability to prepare for combat," said Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, installation commander.

"There is no substitute for standing a few feet from a machinegun crew as the air reverberates with the concussion of exploding gunpowder and watching tracer rounds rip nearly 1,600 meters downrange," Graese continued. "It lets our civilian neighbors understand what constitutes a day at the office inside the fences of this post."

Morale committee to host bake sale and hot dog day

The Fort A.P. Hill Employee Morale Committee is hosting a "Hot Dog Day" and bake sale June 5 for all who might want to enjoy a break from the normal lunch routine.

Food will be served at two locations on post. The first location is at the pavilion by the swimming pool, and the other is at the EP4 compound from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

All proceeds support Fort A.P. Hill employees and their families (through scholarships, retirement

gifts, births, sympathy and get well cards, holiday parties, etc.

Please bring all baked goods pre-wrapped to Kay Hummel, Directorate of Public Works; Ben Allen, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security; and Mary Arcand, Directorate of Human Resources, either June 4th or 5th.

Price of a combo meal is \$2.50 for two hot dogs, a bag of chips and a drink.

Items will also be sold separately.

Post hosts NCO, Soldier of the Year competition

By Jason B. Cutshaw
Up and Down the Hill

Soldiers from West Point, N.Y., came out on top at the Installation Management Command's Northeast Region Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the year competition held on post.

Spc. Jacob Alonzo and Sgt. Christopher Corbett, both stationed at the U.S. Military Academy at and assigned to the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, took top honors at the three-day experience.

During the event, Soldiers performed tasks ranging from physical fitness and marksmanship qualifications to a road march and a Soldier's formal board.

"We ask a lot out of our Soldiers at these competitions and they never fail to deliver," said Command Sgt. Major Daniel Chavez, NER command sergeant major. "I am impressed every year by our warriors and their spirit."

All contestants were put to the test Monday as they performed an Army Physical Fitness Test, rifle marksmanship and a six-mile road march.

Tuesday, competitors completed warrior task testing and day and night land navigation. On Wednesday, each contender was given a written exam, an essay and appeared before a formal board before learning who the winners were during a luncheon that afternoon.

Although there can be only one winner, those who competed talked about how they can learn from the experience and become better Soldiers.

"This was one of the best things I could have done as a Soldier," said Sgt. Tomika Velazquez, a competitor from Fort Dix, N.J. "I may not have come in first, but I am still a winner for pushing myself and never giving up.

"It was hard, but I learned a lot and maybe I will be back again next time," she added.

Although he didn't have any competition, Alonzo said the thing that motivated him during the competition were the NCO's who never stopped and never let him stop either.

"This has been one of the greatest challenges I have ever faced," Alonzo said. "I am glad I came here and motivated myself as if I were competing against 10 other Soldiers. This can only make me better and I look forward to coming back to Fort A.P. Hill and doing even better than I did this time.

"I can now tell my fellow Soldiers what they can expect if they come here in the future," he added.

Alonzo also talked about how intimidating the command sergeants major were at the beginning of the formal board, but after answering a few questions they made him feel comfortable and he was able to



U.S. Army Northeast Region Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Chavez, right, congratulates Sgt. Christopher Corbett, U.S. Military Academy, on receiving the 2007 NER Noncommissioned Officer of the Year award Wednesday. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)

answer their questions more easily.

"When I first entered the room, my heart was pounding," Alonzo said. "But about 10 minutes into it I settled down and enjoyed it. This experience will definitely help me during future boards."

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

"I could not have done this alone," Corbett said. "This was accomplished with the help of everyone and I just want to thank you all.

"As I prepare for the next level, I will look back on this day and tell myself that I can do it," he added.

Corbett also talked about the facilities at Fort A.P. Hill and all the support he received while on post.

"Fort A.P. Hill has been great, and I can't thank all those who supported us enough," he said. "If we needed anything, someone was right there with what we requested. This is truly a great place to be, and I look forward to coming back in July."

Both Corbett and Alonzo will return to Fort A.P. Hill in July to compete during the Installation Management Agency NCO and Soldier of the Year competition.



Sgt. Christopher Corbett, U.S. Military Academy, fires his weapon during weapons qualification on Range 34 Monday morning. (Photos by Jason B. Cutshaw)



Spec. Jacob Alonzo, U.S. Military Academy, adjusts a sandbag during weapons qualification Monday.



U.S. Army Northeast Region Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel Chavez talks to the competitors during the 2007 NER Soldier and NCO of the Year competition.



Sgt. Tomika Velazquez, Fort Dix, N.J., celebrates her finish of the Army Physical Fitness Test Monday morning. The APFT was the first event during the three-day competition.

Civil Support Teams prepare for crisis

By Jason B. Cutshaw
Up and Down the Hill

For 50 consecutive hours here last week, teams of specialists skilled in dealing with some of the most unthinkable threats worked through a challenging exercise designed to test their capabilities.

Members of civil support teams from Washington D.C., Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and West Virginia, along with Fort A.P. Hill Department of Emergency Services personnel, responded to a simulated plot to unleash a major biological attack in the area.

“We came here in response to a credible threat from a domestic terrorist group,” said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Hice, 34th Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) commander.

Hice, who led the exercise design and served as a controller during the multi-day event, described how his team responded to the scenario. “We deployed within 90 minutes of being notified and are here to discover if there is a valid threat, and neutralize that threat if possible.

“Our job is to discover what is here and ensure the public’s safety,” he said.

These National Guard teams provide unique expertise and capabilities to assist state governors in preparing for and responding to chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear incidents as part of a state’s emergency response structure.

Each team consists of 22 highly skilled, full-time National Guard members.

The WMD Civil Support Teams deploy rapidly, assisting local incident commanders in determining the nature and extent of an attack or incident; provide expert technical advice on WMD response operations, and help identify and support the arrival



Members of the 34th Civil Support Team prepare for an exercise on Fort A.P. Hill May 16. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)

of follow-on state and federal military response assets.

While on Fort A.P. Hill, the units prepared for the worst when they found a chemical and biological lab a purported terrorist group was using to manufacture, test and, eventually, distribute toxic agents.

“We’re helping at this scene by identifying any chemical, biological or radiological hazards that the group may have had,” Hice said. “Think of us as strategic reconnaissance. We come in, find out what is going on and inform those who need to know what the situation may be.

“We are a small piece of the puzzle, but we do what we can,” he added.

Through its portable satellite operations, the team also can provide secure communications

in devastated areas, Hice said. The team’s capabilities also can make it possible for responders using different communications systems to talk to each other, and to get the mobile laboratory’s analysis of samples collected “down range” to the next level for further analysis.

After explaining what his unit does for the country, Hice talked up how well the training went and the support his unit received while on post. The exercise took place largely in the Heth Camp and Adkins Drop Zone areas.

“Fort A.P. Hill is a great place to come out and train,” Hice said. “It is great to come out here and not have to shut down a city block to complete our necessary training.

“The area on post is great and it gives us a lot of elbow room to do what we have to do,” Hice added.

Summer Safety Day gets running start

By Jason B. Cutshaw
Up and Down the Hill

The Installation Safety Office's Summer Safety Day got off to a fast start Tuesday at the Community Activity Center as runners and walkers kicked off the day's events with a 5-Kilometer fun run.

The run was the first of many events held at the CAC. Throughout the day several displays were set up to inform the Fort A.P. Hill community on numerous health and safety issues.

"I think people are going to learn a lot of important information today," said Matthew Ewoldt, Fort A.P. Hill safety officer. "Several people put a lot of effort into making this a day that is fun as well as an important learning experience.

"This couldn't have been accomplished without the support of the directorates on post," Ewoldt added. "I want to thank them all for helping make this extraordinary event take place."

Displays at Summer Safety Day included tips on how to be alert for snakes, ticks and electrical lines, as well as water safety, boating, fishing, fire prevention and nutritional advice.

Injuries sustained during everyday duties are among the most common in the Army.

"Back injuries are the number two reason people go to the doctor," said Steven Chervak, U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine. "Last year the Army spent millions of dollars on back and carpal tunnel injuries, and we are trying to reduce that as much as possible.

"We try to teach body mechanics and help workers generate the most amount of force with the least amount of energy," Chervak added.

In addition to safety around the office, several displays highlighted safety during leisure activities and long-term personal health and welfare issues.

"One of the biggest health risks people don't realize is ultraviolet rays from the sun," said Brian "Scutter" Lee, Directorate of Public Works fisheries biologist. "Especially when fishing, people get UV rays from both the sun above, and reflection from the water they are fishing in.

"People need to start spending a little more money on glasses that stop 99 to 100 percent of all UV rays," Scutter added. "It may cost a little more, but in the long run it is worth it to save someone's vision."

Other displays focused on motorcycle and bicycle safety with advice on how to become smarter and safer when riding on only two wheels.

"Before riding a bike, people need to be fully aware of all the rules and regulations," said Fort A.P. Hill police officer DJ Scarpine. "Bikes can be used for



Linda C. Wax, Fort A.P. Hill housing manager, learns how to toss a safety device to someone if there is ever an emergency at the post Summer Safety Day Tuesday. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)

fun or for health reasons, but everybody needs to be aware of all rules dealing with hand signals, clothing requirements and lights, and also bicycle maintenance."

As people walked around displays and talked to those demonstrating safety products, many remarked how well the event was produced.

"This has been very informative and I am glad I got a chance to come out today," said Inez Jeter, Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation. "People that didn't get to make it don't know what they have missed."

Concluding Summer Safety Day were two seminars held at Tucker's Tavern on personal health prevention and nutrition.

School boys take field trip on Fort A.P. Hill

By Jason B. Cutshaw
Up and Down the Hill

For some children a field trip may include a trip to the library or a public park, but for a select few, a field trip includes playing on forklifts and eating like Soldiers.

The History Boys Club, a group of 10 boys between 9 and 15 years old who are home-schooled, visited Fort A.P. Hill May 17 to learn more about the Army and especially its role during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

"We have been studying a lot about the first gulf war and were able to work out a tour of the post and see first hand some of the equipment Soldiers use," said Janet Skerry, group leader. "We try to do something interesting for the boys as often as possible, and this (visit) has to be high on the list."

Helping facilitate the group was John Hall, director of logistics, who served as an Army Material Command technical advisor to Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf during the gulf war. Hall displayed many of his collectibles during the tour.

"I learned a lot today," said Timothy Morgan. "I never knew there was so much that goes on in the Army. Mostly we know about the military by watching TV, but we learned that there is a lot that happens we don't hear about. It was really cool to come out and see it all."

Besides the book displays, pictures, identification tags and maps, the children also to check out a Hemitt refueling truck and an Atlas Fork Lift.

Before leaving, the boys got to eat a Meals Ready to Eat (MRE) so they could see what Soldiers eat while deployed across the globe.



Members of the local History Boys Club check out some historical displays during a May 18 field trip to Fort A.P. Hill. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)



More than 200 bikers on the Police Unity Tour make a stop at Fort A.P. Hill May 11 on their way to Washington, D.C. The bikers were pedaling to help raise awareness of police officers who have died in the line of duty. (Photo by Ken Perrotte)



Fort A.P. Hill garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Roger A. Chase, left, congratulates Sgt. 1st Class Paul Jackson for receiving the May "Yard of the Month" award. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)

Post employee meets Queen of England

By Jason B. Cutshaw
Up and Down the Hill

The Governor's office invited the Rappahannock Indian Tribe to participate in an event that only happens once in a lifetime. Queen Elizabeth II's visit to Richmond May 3 was in response to the Rappahannock Indian Tribe's visit to England last year and also for the Jamestown's 400th Anniversary.

In some cases, like Fort A.P. Hill's Wanda "Singing Wind" Fortune, her daughter Leslie "Many Words" Fortune and her husband John "Swift Fox" Fortune, selected tribal members personally got to meet and greet the queen, even if it was for only a few moments.

"I was very excited to be able to meet Queen Elizabeth since I was not able to go Kent, England, last year when several Virginia Indians visited the British Parliament," Fortune said. "The event in Richmond gave many of the American Indian people an opportunity to participate in this special event and come close to Her Majesty, the Queen."

While most people only got to catch a glimpse of the Queen, Fortune and other members of the Rappahannock Indian Tribe got up close and personal with the her majesty.

"I was only two feet from the Queen Elizabeth II and we definitely made contact," Fortune said. "She acknowledged me and we spoke to each other. The eye contact from Queen Elizabeth was such a warm and sincere greeting."

Fortune also remarked that it



Wanda Fortune, center, Directorate of Resource Management, greets British Queen Elizabeth II at the Virginia Capitol in Richmond during Queen Elizabeth's visit during Jamestown's 400th anniversary. (Courtesy photo)

was not the quantity of time spent, but the quality of time spent in the Queen's presence.

"It was a once in a lifetime visit, and even though it was for only a few seconds, It does not have to take a long time to make a lasting impression with someone," Fortune said.

"It was definitely a Kodak moment," she added.

She also noted how people today could learn a lot from watching the grace and dignity Queen Elizabeth has shown throughout her life, and how more people should consider

her as a role model.

"The Rappahannock Indian people pay tribute to people of authority, leadership and hold prestigious positions, and the Queen is at the top of the charts," Fortune said. "She is such a remarkable woman in so many ways that many can't go wrong by using her as an example to emulate in their daily walk of life."

"My family and I will always treasure the brief moments we spent in the presence of the Queen of England," she added about her brief moment with royalty.

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