

UP AND DOWN THE HILL

SERVING THE FORT A.P. HILL COMMUNITY

Showing the benefits of a day's work

by **Jeremy Heckler**
Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs

Every day children of all ages watch their parents leave for work and wonder what they do there. A small group of Fort A.P. Hill children uncovered the mystery as they tagged along for the day.

More than 10 children, ranging in age from five to 15, gave up school or spring break for a day spent with the tools of their parent's trade.

"Take your child to work day is a great opportunity to spend time with you family and show them what you do," said Terry Banks environmental coordinator, directorate of public works.

Banks brought her two children, Kylie, 13 and Alyson, 15 for the sixth straight year.

"I help her in here or try to," said Kylie Banks.

Kylie Banks spent the morning filing and updating information for her mother. Banks said in year's past she helped cook and helped other members of the environmental team.

Down at the carpentry shop, three kids followed their dads in the hands-on job of building and painting.

They took a tour of the facility where they observed demonstrations of a pneumatic nail gun and a

(See Work, Page 4)



Jeremy Heckler

Lt. Col. James Mis, garrison commander, stands with Supervisor Chris Yakabouski, Supervisor Vince Onorato, Economic Development Director Russell Seymour and County Administrator Randy Wheeler from Spotsylvania County April 20.

Spotsylvania County shows its support for Fort A.P. Hill mission

by **Jeremy Heckler**
Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs

The seven members of the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors resolved to be good neighbors to Fort A.P. Hill in the form of a proclamation they approved April 11.

The resolution, presented by Spotsylvania leaders to Fort A.P. Hill staff April 20, passed by unanimous vote. It states the county understands the importance of the mission of local military installations and will specifically work to limit construction that could affect training

on Fort A.P. Hill.

"It's a show of support from the county that we would do our part to enhance the mission of A.P. Hill and not encroach on the base," said Chris Yakabouski, a Spotsylvania Supervisor and proponent for the resolution.

Yakabouski said the proclamation is in response to development proposals in the county that would be incompatible with the mission on Fort A.P. Hill. He said he and fellow supervisors wanted to find out what they can do to help the installation.

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"Facts are stubborn things, but statistics are more pliable."

-- Mark Twain

Resolution

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“We do hope that this is the first in many steps to show our support for the base,” said Yakabouski.

“We cannot accomplish our mission on Fort A.P. Hill inside our borders without support outside our borders. We clearly have that support from our neighboring communities,” said Lt. Col. James M. Mis, post commander.

Mis said Fort A.P. Hill continues to work with local communities to be a good, responsible neighbor, adding on-going communication increases understanding of Fort A.P. Hill’s mission and the need to protect the important training taking place every day.

“It’s important for people to truly understand our mission and why we exist,” said Mis.

He said he believes the mutual needs of the installation and local communities can be addressed by working together.

We need to understand the goals of the surrounding community,” said Mis. “In many respects, we are somewhat of a neighboring city – one with unique business and service needs that directly impact the welfare of this nation as a whole.

“We want to be a good neighbor and contribute to overall regional goals and also ensure our neighbors understand the importance of their partnership in terms of our broader national defense mission,” he said.

Part of that involves understanding the effect of incompatible development on Fort A.P. Hill’s defense mission and a solid grasp of the impacts noise from training can have on neighbors.

Spotsylvania County is located near the northwest part of Fort A.P. Hill and noise impacts do touch upon a small corner of the county.

Mis cited aircraft noise from approaches and departures to the assault landing zone as one impact. He also noted that small arms and demolition noise from the Combined Arms Collective Training Facility, shoot house and breach facility currently under construction could potentially be heard in the Spotsylvania area.

Text of the resolution by the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors

At a meeting of the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors held on April, 11, 2006, on a motion by Mr. Yakabouski, seconded by Mr. Waddy and passed unanimously, the Board adopted the following motion:

RESOLUTION No. 2006-58

WHEREAS, Fort A.P. Hill is located in neighboring Caroline County and is adjacent to Spotsylvania County; and

WHEREAS, Fort A.P. Hill’s vital mission in the defense of our nation including the War on Terror is growing in scope and consequence; and

WHEREAS, The Commander of Fort A.P. Hill has communicated to the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors the importance of the base, and also the danger of encroachment; and

WHEREAS, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission recently warned about the danger of encroachment to military installation and discussed the very real possibility of closure of some facilities where encroachment has severely constrained the ability of the facilities to conduct their missions; and

WHEREAS, The Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors can have a significant and positive impact on encroachment issues related to Fort A.P. Hill through its future land use decisions;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors does hereby support the mission of Fort A.P. Hill, as well as the Marine Corps Base, Quantico and the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Dahlgren and acknowledges the potential dangers to not only National Security by encroachment on Fort A.P. Hill but also the Economic Development opportunities related to the continued success of Fort A.P. Hill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors will aggressively support Fort A.P. Hill and will pursue those avenues of public policy that will lead to the strengthening of Fort A.P. Hill by resolving to limit encroachment

Fort A.P. Hill is working with surrounding localities to provide noise data, including contours based on several types of noise events and information from recognized expert sources that outlines compatible development within areas where noise conflicts can occur.

“It’s important to point out that we are simply sharing information and our viewpoints. When it comes to land use decisions, the governing body takes the vote. We certainly don’t have any veto or vote on the issue. We just try to make sure the best data is available so that land isn’t zoned for uses that will almost guarantee future conflict between new residents or businesses and the military mission of the installation.”

Mis hopes the dialogue seen in recent months carries over into a sustained, productive information exchange.

“We have our Installation-Community Council established to help crossfeed information and our staff is engaged at numerous levels to help local communities understand our needs and noise issues and for us to understand growth and land use objectives of our neighbors,” Mis said.

“Though other installations rave about their community relations I can think of no installation in the United States military that enjoys better community support than Fort A.P. Hill. We are very fortunate to have such great, patriotic Americans leading our neighboring localities,” said Mis.

Celebrating Earth Day on Fort A.P. Hill

by Jeremy Heckler

Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs Office

Children on Fort A.P. Hill learned the keys for preserving the environment during the post Earth Day celebration April 21.

The post hosted 12 children and their parents where they learned about recycling and various elements of natural resource management, said Tim Southard, natural resources specialist, Directorate of Public Works.

"This is a way to get them to learn to respect the environment," said Rocky Carter, ammunition supply point, Directorate of Logistics.

This year's Earth Day celebration was limited to the children of Fort A.P. Hill employees due to budget constraints, said Southard.

The event was held in conjunction with "Take your Son or Daughter to Work Day."

"We focus on the kids, because the sooner they learn, the more time they have to use that knowledge and expand on it," said Southard.

Attendees, who ranged from five to 15, toured the various booths on Fort A.P. Hill-related environmental topics, such as recycling and forestry.

"We're stewards of this grand place called Fort A.P. Hill, 76,000 acres of woods and water," said Southard.

He said Earth Day shows others how Fort A.P. Hill protects the environment while performing its mission.

Most of the booths had objects the children could touch or projects they could make.

"This is hands on for them," said Carter, who brought her son and daughter. "At school they read about it, but here they can actually touch it."

At one booth, the children touched skulls of various animals found in the area and learned what they were based on size and shape.

"I really liked the skulls because you could tell which were wild and what weren't," said Colin Butler, 8.

At another display the children could make a personal investment in the environment by planting a pine tree.



Photos by Jeremy Heckler

Jason Applegate, DPW environmental, shows Colin Butler, 8, a variety of skulls of wildlife native to the area during the Fort A.P. Hill Earth Day celebration April 21.

"Trees are a renewable resource here that we preserve or wisely utilize," said Mark Books, forester.

Books showed the attendees how Fort A.P. Hill maintained forest land installation with images of prescribed burns and tree harvesting operations.

At each station the students asked a wide range of questions about how things work.

"It's often tough, but in my experience the kids that come are a lot smarter than we expect them to be," said Southard.

"My kids learned a lot of different things that they can take home with them later," said John Butler, munitions handler, Ammunition Supply Point.

John Butler said in previous years his three children have come home after the event and got involved with recycling around the house.

"I learned about recycling and how to keep the Earth clean and not dirty," said Butler's son Colin.

"Coming here is an opportunity to see what you can do to help out," said Butler. "Every little bit helps."



Alyson Banks, 15 (left) and her sister Kylie, 13 build bird feeders at Fort A.P. Hill Earth Day Celebration.

Work

(Continued from Page 1)

grader. After watching how the nail gun does it, the kids went to work with carpentry the old fashioned way, said Joe Dougher, maintenance mechanic, directorate of public works.

“We let them hammer a few nails into the wood and paint a bird house that we made out of scrap wood,” said Dougher, who brought his son Skyler.

The experience can be rewarding for both the children and their parents.

“It’s a great thing for the kids to come to work and see what we do on a daily basis,” said Dougher.

The benefits of knowing and understanding what each mom or dad does may not be readily apparent.

“I love it because my dad gets to hammer wood and drive around,” said Skyler Dougher, 5.

“Eventually it helps them develop an understanding what a career really is,” said Steve Holcomb, maintenance mechanic, DPW.

While some may be encouraged to follow in their parent’s footsteps, others may be inspired to take another route.

“Coming out here might influence my children a little bit, but I’ve got one child who likes science and one who doesn’t,” said Terry Banks.

“The best part is that the kids have fun,” said Holcomb, who brought his



Jeremy Heckler

Joe Dougher shows (from left to right) Shelby Holcomb, Whitley Holcomb and his son Skyler how to paint during “Take Your Child to Work Day.”

daughters, Whitley and Shelby. “They are glad to be here and usually come in excited because they don’t know what to expect.”

At the end of the morning the kids headed off to Tucker’s Tavern for lunch before exploring the wonders of Earth

Day.

Some of the best lessons the kids learned is not by what parents do at their job.

“My mom teaches me to become a better person and encourages me to do the right things,” said Kylie Banks.

FORT A.P. HILL SALUTES

Hails

- Ronald Johnson, maintenance mechanic, DPTMS
- Jonathan Didlake, range tech., DPTMS
- James Perez, cook, DMWR
- Byron Dixon, supply tech., DOL

- Valerie Cox, custodial worker, DMWR
- Lawrence Wood, Jr., laborer, DMWR

Promotions

- Charles Rupe, munitions handler, to supervisory distribution

facilities specialist, DOL

- Yvonne Smith, office support asst., to administrative officer, DES

Farewells

- Joseph Williams, police officer, DES
- Earl Neville, IT specialist, DOIM
- Vincent Crenshaw, cook, DMWR

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England lauds Washington at Soldiers' Purple Heart ceremony

by **Gerry J. Gilmore**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, – Not far from the city that bears his name, George Washington reposes in his crypt at Mount Vernon, the Virginia estate he retired to after serving as America's first president and commander in chief of the armed forces.

Yesterday, Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England traveled to Mount Vernon to salute seven soldiers recognized for their bravery and commitment to duty during a Purple Heart Medal ceremony. All the soldiers had been wounded during service in Iraq.

During his remarks, England told the soldiers they've joined more than 500,000 living Purple Heart recipients who've "all served and all sacrificed in the name of something higher than themselves."

Holding the ceremony at Mount Vernon was fitting, because "it's the home of our first founding father, a great national hero, and a visionary leader," England said. Washington authorized the Badge of Military Merit, now known as the Purple Heart, in 1782 to honor his soldiers for meritorious service during the Revolutionary War, 1775-1783. Three Continental Army soldiers received the military merit badge, England said.

Those soldiers were volunteers and heroes, England said, just as the present-day soldiers honored at the Mount Vernon ceremony.

Washington was the right man to lead America's struggle to shake off British rule, England said, noting the general "understood the commitment and sacrifices required to realize the noble goals of the Declaration of Independence: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

After the war, Washington recognized the necessity to prepare for war in order to ensure peace and keep America's hard-won liberties, England said.

Washington's military badge was discontinued after the Revolutionary War, England said. Gen. Douglas MacArthur revived the award in 1932, the year be-

fore Nazi Party leader Adolf Hitler was appointed chancellor of Germany.

About a decade later "fascism had reared its ugly head and engulfed much of the world in a very brutal war," England said. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, like Washington before him, "was staunch in his commitment to liberty," the deputy defense secretary said.

Even before the Japanese attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on Dec. 7, 1941, fascist dictatorships in Germany, Japan and Italy were threatening to engulf the free world. German air and ground forces invaded France on May 10, 1940. The French military was pummeled in a lightning-fast campaign known as blitzkrieg, and France surrendered on June 25. Only Great Britain stood in Hitler's way in Europe.

Like Washington, Roosevelt realized "that freedom has a price," England said.

During a radio broadcast on Dec. 29, 1940, Roosevelt told America: "The Nazi masters of Germany have made it clear that they intend not only to dominate all of life and thought in their own country, but also to enslave the whole of Europe to dominate the rest of the world."

Roosevelt went on to say that Americans could not depend on the width of the Atlantic Ocean to protect them from Nazi attack if Great Britain fell, noting that new bombers under development would soon render that cushion of space irrelevant.

Therefore, the United States was planning to defend itself against possible attack "with the utmost urgency and in its vast scale we must integrate the war needs of Britain and the other free nations which are resisting (fascist) ag-

gression," Roosevelt said.

"We must be the great arsenal of democracy," Roosevelt said. After Pearl Harbor, the United States entered World War II and defeated fascism with the help of its allies.

"In World War II as now, exceptional heroes were given the Purple Heart for their extraordinary service," England said. "And at the end of the 20th century, after World War I, World War II, and ultimate victory in the long Cold War, America had earned a period of peace and prosperity."

However, that "Pax Americana" ended on Sept. 11, 2001, when al Qaeda terrorists attacked the U.S. with hijacked commercial jets.

"Terrorists turned civilian airliners into guided missiles and killed about 3,000 people from 60 different nations,"

England said. "They would have killed many more, if they'd had the wherewithal to do so."

The United States continues to be engaged in the war against global terrorism, a conflict unlike any America has ever experienced before, England said. A new generation of American fighting men and women has accepted the call to duty to defend America, he said.

"We are here today to celebrate and to pay tribute to the service of seven members of this generation that is answering the call today," England said. "These men and women have a great deal in common with the soldiers of General Washington's day; they also volunteered to step forward to defend their country in its hour of need."

(Photo of Purple Heart medal by Gerry J. Gilmore.)



Army Reserve general honors missing Soldier

by Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – As the Army Reserve observes its 98th birthday this weekend, the commander of U.S. Army Reserve Command today took the opportunity to honor the only U.S. soldier who remains listed as captured in Iraq, Army Reserve Sgt. Keith “Matt” Maupin.

Army Lt. Gen. James Helmly noted the contributions and sacrifices Army Reservists are making in support of the global war on terror during a birthday commemoration here at the Pentagon. The Army Reserve was established on April 23, 1908.

More than 150,000 Army Reserve soldiers have been mobilized since Sept. 11, 2001, and more than 25,000 have been called to active duty more than once, he noted. “These are clearly hallmarks of heroes,” he said.

“But we cannot recognize the call to duty or mention heroes without taking a moment to remember the only

American soldier who remains missing in Iraq,” the general told an assembled group in the Pentagon’s MacArthur Corridor.

Insurgents captured Maupin April 9, 2004, after his fuel convoy came under attack at Baghdad International Airport.

Two of the 43 soldiers in the convoy, Sgt. Elmer C. Krause and Spc. Gregory Goodrich, and six civilians were killed in the action that followed. A week later insurgents released a videotape showing the soldier surrounded by five armed men. In June of that year, another videotape showed a man being killed, and an audio track identified the man as Maupin. Pentagon officials have called the second video inconclusive.

The Army continues to list Maupin, a 724th Transportation Company soldier, as “missing-captured.” Helmly praised Maupin today and said the Army is committed to bringing him home.

“Matt Maupin answered the call to duty. He continues to courageously answer the call to duty today,” Helmly

said of the 724th Transportation Company soldier.

Helmly also remembered the Maupin family, who he said “continues to answer the call to duty, serving faithfully and without reservation.”

He noted the family’s tireless work with the Yellow Ribbon Support Center they founded in Ohio to support soldiers and their families. One example of their work was the recent distribution of state-of-the-art computers to Iraq for soldiers to use in communicating with their families and loved ones at home, the general noted.

Maupin’s plight serves as a reminder of the Army’s warrior ethos, Helmly said. The ethos’ four principles are: place the mission first, never accept defeat, never quit, and never leave a fallen comrade.

“We must never forget our brother in arms who is not able to be with his family and celebrate this day with us,” Helmly said. “We will live the warrior ethos daily, praying for his family and fighting to bring him back home.”

Military, families may get online mental health screening

Army News Service

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, April 20, 2006) – Military members and families coping with the stress of overseas deployments and other potential health-threatening issues can log onto the Internet to get help, said a U.S. military psychologist.

Service members from all components and their families can obtain a mental health self-assessment or screening through a Web site co-sponsored by the Department of Defense and Screening for Mental Health Inc., a nonprofit organization, said Col. (Dr.) Joyce Adkins, a psychologist with the Force Health Protection and Readiness directorate at the Defense Department’s Health Affairs office.

“The (online) screening actually gets you to where you need to be in terms of counseling,” Adkins said. “Once you do one of the screening checklists, it

will give you the benefits that are available to you.”

The web site was brought online in January, and can be found at <http://www.mentalhealthscreening.org/military/index.aspx>. The link to the survey is in the upper right corner of the Web page under “Click for anonymous self assessment.”

Users are asked to answer a series of questions. The program “grades” the completed survey, then gives an evaluation of users’ present mental health and provides assistance resources, if deemed necessary.

Other DOD-endorsed health sites tell customers how to access mental health counseling services, but do not provide an online mental health screening program, Adkins said.

National Guard and Reserve members returning from overseas deployments also are authorized to use the Web site, Adkins said. Returning Re-

serve-component members have two years of health benefits provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

“And, it’s totally free to them,” the colonel said.

Such services are especially important now because of the potential stressful effects deployments can have on both military and family members, Adkins said.

“It’s a concern that people don’t understand what their thoughts and feelings mean as they come back from deployment,” she said. “As they re-integrate with their families there may be conflict in the family that’s not easily resolved.”

The mental health screening Web site and other related programs available to service members and their families provide “a level of benefits and a level of service to help them understand what services are available to them for mental health issues,” Adkins said.



Above: The Easter Bunny passes out goodies to children at the Fort A.P. Hill Easter Egg Hunt. Left: Jack Frank, 1, picks up an Easter Egg off the ground.

Easter fun on Fort A.P. Hill

by **Jeremy Heckler**
Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs

Children of all ages flocked to Fort A.P. Hill April 15 in search of Easter eggs.

The Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation hosted its third annual Easter Egg Hunt. More than 45 children and their families attended the event, said Betty Mayfield-Currington, MWR marketing.

The children gathered outside the Community Activities Center as they received final instructions. The Easter eggs had been hidden earlier in the morning at various locations on the grass and in trees near the post swimming pool.

On the command of "Go!" the kids were on the hunt. The participants searched for eggs filled with candy as well as special eggs filled with other surprises. Mayfield-Currington said nine eggs contained tickets redeemable for prizes.

The prizes included two Easter baskets filled with goodies, a handful of gift bags and stuffed animals.

As the children returned to the start point and began counting their eggs, a fire truck roared up the road with the Easter Bunny, who handed out candy and sat for pictures.

The day ended with a large pizza party inside the activities center as children sat together with their baskets and their new friends.



Above: Kandace Murray (center) helps her children Jackie, 7 and Mikel, 5, open Easter Eggs.



Left: An Easter Egg Hunt participant comes back with his basket and his sweater filled with Easter Eggs.

Photos by Jeremy Heckler



Pool Cleaning Service

Daniel Prescott, a Fort A.P. Hill firefighter, shoots a fire hose filled with pool water as part of drafting training at the Fort A.P. Hill pool April 18. The department drained and refilled the pool in preparation for the facility's May 27 opening.

Jeremy Heckler

NEWS NOTES

Army Birthday Ball

Celebrate the Army Birthday Ball at the Hilton Washington Hotel Saturday, June 10. The event is open to all Soldiers, family, Department of the Army civilians, retirees and veterans. Formal attire is required for the event. Registration began April 12. To make reservations or for more information go to www.us.army.mil.

Kid's Camp Registration

The Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation will be hosting Kid's Summer Day Camp from June 19 through Aug. 18. The day camp will include canoeing, swimming, outdoor sports as well as trips to local tourist attractions. The cost is between \$41-\$84 depending on total household income. For more information about the day camp contact 633-8201 or 633-8367.

Top 10 Reasons to Buckle Up

10. My car doesn't have an ejection canopy.
9. Lying in a hospital for months is not my idea of a vacation.
8. Steering wheels don't make good pillows.
7. I never aspired to be a hood ornament.
6. A wheelchair is not my idea of a hot set of wheels.
5. I always wanted to fly, but not in the tree.
4. Tombstones are not the best way to get the last word.
3. I always hated statistics. The last thing I'd want is to be one.
2. I faint at the sight of blood, especially my own.
1. My family needs me.

Source: AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety

Promoting health and wellness

The commander's health and wellness program is a six-month program designed to promote the fitness of Fort A.P. Hill employees. The program is scheduled to begin May 1.

The program consists of three one-hour (one-half hour of employee's lunch period and one-half hour of granted official duty time) three periods per week. Participants must get their supervisor's approval before starting.

Those who wish to join must submit a fitness program detailing what activities they wish to participate in. The plan must include the days of the week and the times they intend to exercise. Each plan must come from the directorate to the Health Promotion Coordinator. For more information, contact Brian Poe at 633-8219.

Spring softball registration

Registration for softball season started April 24. The season starts May 15. For more information call 633-8335

Army arts and crafts contest

The Army is holding its annual arts and crafts contest. To be eligible for submission, the artwork must have been completed in the past 24 months. Contestants can enter in the following categories: ceramics, drawings, wood, prints, fibers and textiles, water based painting, glass, oil based painting, metals and jewelry, mixed media 2D or 3D. The entry deadline is May 15. The contest is open to all authorized MWR patrons. To enter or for more information contact Brian Poe at 633-8219 or brian.poe2@us.army.mil.