

UP AND DOWN THE HILL

SERVING THE FORT A.P. HILL COMMUNITY

Fort A.P. Hill fights fire with fire

by Mary A. Bodine

Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs

Sometimes to suppress a fire, you have to start one. Prescribed burns, also called controlled burns, help reduce fuel load -- vegetation that would increase the intensity of a fire -- by burning brush in a controlled environment in order to prevent larger fires.

In March, the Fort A.P. Hill Fire and Forestry departments conducted a prescribed burn on about 15,000 acres of training space, said Chief Daniel Glembot, Fire Department.

"There are three main reasons to conduct a prescribed burn: to maintain ranges so that units can train; maintain a good ecosystem; and provide good nutrients to the soil," Glembot said. "The biggest benefit of these burns is to provide a safe training environment and eliminate the need to stop training if a brush fire does occur."

The Fire Department, Forestry Department and Range Control determine which training areas require a prescribed burn depending on the anticipated use of a range and the amount of brush, or fuel load, present, Glembot said.

"It is so important to control the fuel load so we can control the fire and keep it in control without stopping training," he added. "If a brush fire starts in an area where a prescribed burn has been conducted and we know that fire breaks are in place, then we can let the fire burn out and the unit can continue training."

Firebreaks, like roadways and plow lines, are created or examined before a burn is conducted, Glembot said. These breaks help keep the fire in the desired burn area and help firefighters and forestry personnel protect observation posts and automated targets.

"We secure all automated targets before we burn a range by making sure firebreaks are intact," Glembot said. "Not only do automated targets have a direct value -- they cost about \$15,000 a piece --



Fort A.P. Hill Firefighter Brad Thomas uses a drip torch to light brush along the edge of a road on Range 25. Prescribed burns help control brush fires caused by training. (Photos by Mary A. Bodine.)

they also have an immeasurable training value."

By using a drip torch, which dispenses a small amount of gasoline and diesel fuel, Fire Department personnel ignite the outside perimeter of the area to be burned next to firebreaks, said Firefighter Brad Thomas. This causes the fire to burn back slowly until the fuel load of the area is exhausted and then the fire extinguishes itself, he added.

Fire and forestry personnel conduct prescribed
(See Burn, Page 2)

**"A young man who does not have what it takes to perform military service
is not likely to have what it takes to make a living."**

-- John F. Kennedy, on the need for training or rehabilitation of Selective Service rejectees, Sept. 30, 1963

Burn (Continued from Page 1)

burns only under the right atmospheric conditions -- like wind direction and speed, humidity and cloud coverage -- to prevent smoke from traveling off post and to better control the fire, Glembot said.

The result of a prescribed burn under the right atmospheric conditions is a fire with lower flames and a slower burn with less smoke, Glembot said.

"We have an extremely effective prescribed burn plan and we aggressively implement controls to ensure we achieve the desired results," Glembot said. "Since I have been here, we have never had a fire get away from us or leave the installation and rarely have we had to stop a unit from training to control a brush fire."

In addition to the training value gained from prescribed burns, fire also contributes to a healthy ecosystem, Glembot said.

"These burns help remove unwanted plants -- pest plants like poison ivy and poison oak -- and promote the growth of desired plants like grasses and berry trees that wildlife want to feed on," Glembot said. "Also, certain nutrients beneficial to the ecosystem are released into the soil as a result of extremely high temperatures."

Also, maintaining the pine savannah ecosystem on Fort A.P. Hill depends upon the regenerative benefits of fire, said Mark Books, forestry



Throughout March, Fort A.P. Hill fire and forestry personnel burned about 15,000 acres of brush as part of the prescribed burn plan. These burns are conducted semiannually to reduce fuel load.

technician. Pine savannahs are becoming rare due to land clearing and the suppression of wildfires. Fort A.P. Hill helps support this ecosystem through prescribed burns, Books added.

Prescribed burns are conducted semiannually on post -- in November after fall foliage and March to reduce the fuel load before the summer fire season, Glembot said.



(Above) Mark Books, forestry technician, uses an all-terrain vehicle to light brush on fire in Range 25 during a prescribed burn. Although the ATV is a faster method of lighting brush than the drip torch (left), it is also less exact. Firefighters and forestry personnel are able to light a perimeter at the edge of firebreak using a drip torch. The result is a more complete, controlled burn than could be achieved using an ATV.

Employee retires after 39 years of service

by **Mary A. Bodine**

Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs

Binders filled with nearly 40 years of work litter the desk. Mementos have been boxed and brought home. Long-hung frames since removed leave their outlines in dust on the wall. Coworkers spill into the office to wish Milton Cecil luck. Meanwhile, Cecil relaxes in a chair, uncertain about his future, but reminiscent of the years he has worked at Fort A.P. Hill.

Cecil, the former chief of Business Operations/Integration Division, Directorate of Public Works, retired March 31 after 39 years of service at Fort A.P. Hill. He has worked under nearly 20 commanders, helped the installation build its current infrastructure, and started and raised a family. However, he almost never came here to work.

"When I got out of high school, I really wanted to go to college," Cecil said. "I had \$37 dollars in my pocket and that certainly wasn't going to pay for school."

Cecil said he began working with the Virginia Department of Transportation and held various part-time jobs while trying to pay for school; he just wasn't making enough money. So, he applied for an engineering



CECIL

him re-evaluate his goals.

"When I got married and had children, I thought about all of those people who would say, 'I wish I had more time to spend with my kids,'" Cecil said. "I didn't want to be that person. I wanted to know my children. I wanted to be able to pick them up from school and go to their activities. Fort A.P. Hill allowed me to be that person."

Raising daughter Susan Botkin, Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation, and son Brooks, a student at Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va., is

(See Retires, Page 4)

Antiterrorism officer set to secure post

by **Mary A. Bodine**

Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs

Keith Brewer was born with combat boots on. His father, a former Marine and Air Force Korean and Vietnam War veteran, ensured Brewer "squared everything with a right angle."

Brewer, the new installation antiterrorism officer, didn't resent his father's rules and strict standards; he embraced them. He comes to Fort A.P. Hill with a wealth of experience and an eye for detail, garnered by the military and civil service positions he has held.

Brewer joined the military in 1983 at 18 and was assigned to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., as a combat engineer. After only two years as an engineer, Brewer became a military police officer.

He was then sent to Germany. There, he worked with protective



BREWER

car."

Brewer still didn't get to drive a patrol car when he was reassigned to Fort Leonard Wood as a traffic investigator so in 1993 he left the military and became the assistant chief of police in Crocker, Mo.

"I did everything there – patrols, investigations, supervising," he said. "The independence I gained as a traffic investigator in the military helped me as a civilian police officer. Mentally, it was so foreign to me. I was use to military

services and the German police as a traffic investigator.

"I very seldom went on rounds as an MP, which was what I wanted to do" Brewer said. "I kept wondering when I would get to drive a patrol

discipline. It was harder for me being a civilian than a Soldier."

Brewer rejoined the Army as an MP in 1994 and was assigned to the 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y. The month he signed into his unit, he deployed to Haiti. There, he worked with the newly-trained Haitian police, conducted combat patrols and established base security measures. During the deployment, Brewer and his squad were fired on by Haitian rebels.

"We were on patrol when we came around a corner and came under fire," Brewer said. "My driver tried to drive us out of direct fire but in his effort to avoid hitting a wall, collapsed a culvert and we were injured badly."

Brewer was later assigned to a U.S. NATO support unit in Germany, but instead of working as an MP he worked as an intelligence officer.

(See Officer, Page 4)

TRIVIAL MATTERS

Last issue's winner was **Ben McBride** from the Directorate of Public Works. Below are the answers:

Q: How is the date for Easter Sunday determined each year?

A: Easter Sunday always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 21, the vernal equinox.

Q: When was the U.S. government given the right to tax its citizens?

A: It happened in 1913 by way of the 16th Amendment to the Constitution.

Q: Which U.S. state has been the birthplace of the most presidents?

A: Virginia has the honor with eight: Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, William Henry Harrison, Tyler, Taylor, and Wilson.

Q: Who was known as "the man who ate Democrats?"

A: It was Alfred Packer, who in 1873 guided a party of 20 men into the mountains, continued in heavy snows against advice and returned alone. Months afterward, search parties discovered the bodies of the missing men, most stripped of flesh. Packer was tried and found guilty of murder. Before he left the courtroom, the judge told him sternly, "Packer, you depraved Republican son of a [expletive deleted], there were only five Democrats in Hinsdale County, and you ate them all!"

Q: How did the phrase "bringing home the bacon" originate?

A: There are several theories. One is that the phrase refers to greased-pig contests at county fairs, where the winner kept the pig and thus "brought home the bacon." Another theory is that in England in A.D. 1111, a noblewoman decreed that any person who knelt at the church door and swore that "for 12 months and a day he has never had a household brawl or wished himself unmarried" could claim a side of bacon. Thus, a man who "bought home the bacon" was enjoying a good marriage. Over the five centuries in which records for this event were kept, only eight people won the prize.

The March 17 issue was the last TRIVIAL MATTERS contest in UP AND DOWN THE HILL.

Officer (Continued from Page 3)

"I had no concept of what I would be doing," he said. "I was very unhappy at the time, but I got pretty good at intelligence and physical security. I ended up developing the initial base and barrier defense plans for the installation."

When the opportunity to deploy to Kosovo arose, Brewer had to convince his command he could wear a Kevlar helmet, which had increasingly caused him pain.

Since his vehicle accident in Haiti, Brewer said he had been plagued by pain in his arm and neck.

Doctors discovered Brewer had shattered bones in his neck that were pressing on nerves causing a 30 percent loss of motor function in his shoulder and arm. Bone was removed from his hip and placed in his neck, which restored 25 percent motor function and allowed him to deploy.

Retires (Continued from Page 3)

one of his proudest accomplishments, he said. He was involved in their softball games and in turn involved them in Fort A.P. Hill activities.

"I use to really enjoy getting involved in post activities like the haunted house, the Rappahannock River Race, or the Civil War re-enactment we once had," Cecil added. "For the re-enactment I cooked hamburgers for two days straight – I was covered in grease. Over the years I've cooked enough ham and hotdogs (for different activities) to feed the world."

The largest change on Fort A.P. Hill since 1966 is the conversion of military to civilian positions, Cecil said.

"Every year the military changed and as the years went on, we started losing 'green suiters,'" he said. "I always enjoyed working with the military because you were always working with new people from different backgrounds. There was a different feeling here because of it. In the '80s we went to a civilian boss (at DPW), which was good for continuity, but I also think we lost that strong connection with the military."

During his years here, Cecil has helped design and build automated ranges, develop the installation's current road network, designed the original front gate entrance, and helped improve the airfield, among many other projects.

"I am really going to miss the people here and all of the challenges and projects here," he said. "When I don't have a challenge, I don't function well."

After retirement, Cecil said his projects and challenges will include gardening, raising beef cattle on his land, and helping his daughter and son-in-law build their home in Bowling Green, Va.

"Sometimes I feel like it is the right decision (to retire) and sometimes I don't," Cecil said. "But I've faced a lot of challenges and I've lived a good life here. I've been blessed with a good job and family and hopefully my good fortune will follow me in retirement."

Brewer said he continued to struggle with mobility and pain until medically retiring in 2001. Since then, he finished his associate degree and worked as an antiterrorism officer in Bosnia.

The self-professed "Civil War and softball nut" is joined by his wife Nicoleta, 17-year-old daughter Alleta, and 3-year-old son Paul Andrew. Brewer has four other children from a previous marriage.

EGGSCCELLENT EASTER



The Easter bunny (D.J. Scarpine, DES) handed out candy to more than 40 children who participated in the March 26 Easter Egg Hunt.



Five-year-old Mary-Hannah, daughter of Janice and Paul Jackson, 229th Engineer Battalion, Virginia National Guard, collects as many eggs as she can for the 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt, March 26. (Photos by Susan Botkin.)



(Above) Two-year-old Tristan, son of Patrick Sample, DES, cautiously accepts candy from the Easter bunny. (Left) Directorate of Logistics employees (from left) Jorie Holmes, Karen Busch and Maj. Sheba Waterford sing during the Easter Sunrise Service March 23. (Photo by Mary A. Bodine.)



RECREATION

• TIME OFF • COMMUNITY • SPORTS

Troop transforms history to hysterical

by Mary A. Bodine
Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs

Sitting in the second row inconspicuously next to the aisle, she was ready to escape. When the play began her arms were crossed but gradually, she relaxed. First a smile, then a giggle that turned to full-belly laughs, knee-slapping turned to feet stomping and then she belted a riot of a laugh.

This unidentified but real woman was like many audience members in attendance at the Bravo! Army Theatre Touring Company performance of "The Complete History of America (Abridged)," at Bowling Green Town Hall March 22. The play is an Army Entertainment production designed to boost the morale of Soldiers and Army civilians worldwide.

The three Soldiers who performed the 90-minute slapstick comedy, which covers 600 years of American history, were wrapping up a four month tour that took them to Kuwait, Iraq, Cuba, and other overseas and U.S. military bases, said Joe Lier, noncommissioned officer in charge and tour manager.

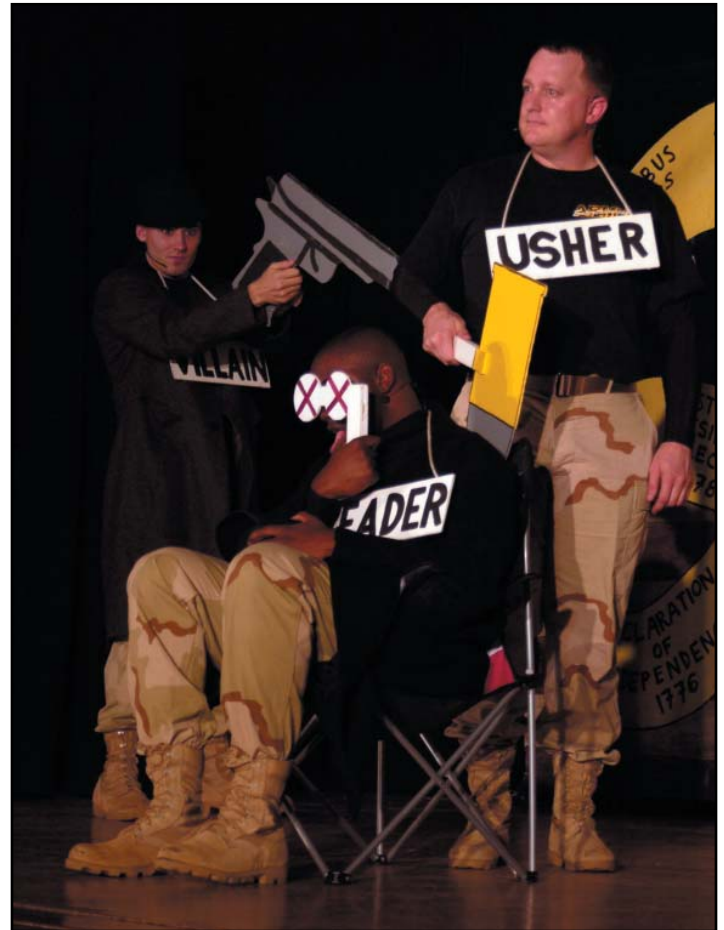
"The group performs about five shows a week; in some venues, they perform two shows a day," Lier said. "We are like the SWAT team of entertainment. We fly or drive to a venue, set up all of our equipment, rehearse, perform, and then tear-down the equipment. We have some very long days."

During a World War I re-enactment, performers drenched the audience with water guns.

The group is composed of an NCOIC, three performers and a lighting and sound technician. All five serve in the active or Reserve Army, but are selected through auditions to perform with Army Entertainment for six months.

The first month after the group is selected, they rehearse for about 12 hours a day, Lier said. Then they receive training and immunizations for performances overseas. The remaining four months are dedicated to performing.

"The end of our tour is April 1," said Spc. James A. Dreussi, an active reservist from Columbus, Ohio, and Army entertainment performer. "We have performed 45-50 times this tour. Every time there is



BRAVO! Army Theatre Touring Company members (from left) Spc. James A. Dreussi, Spc. Donald George III, and Staff Sgt. Joseph Madison, re-enact Lincoln's assassination. (Photos by Mary A. Bodine.)

still that adrenaline rush before you hit the stage."

Many Army Entertainment performers have little or no experience. Dreussi though has acted in some university plays, commercials, and as a movie "extra" in two films. Fellow performer Spc. Donald George III, a communication specialist out of Fort Sill, Okla., joined Army Entertainment with no experience, but like Dreussi, he said he would like to continue acting. Dreussi and George are both planning to audition for the next performance.

"I really appreciate being a military entertainer," Lier said. "It costs less for the military to send us as entertainers than it may for other groups. Plus, entertainment is sporadic overseas, so we're padding that out. The biggest benefit though is getting entertainment out to those who need it."

● CIVILIAN, MILITARY UPDATES

AROUND THE ARMY

Chu outlines NSPS, other initiatives

by Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

Defense Department civilians will soon be paid for productivity rather than longevity, while in future years service members may be required to serve longer tours of duty and spend more time in the military before becoming eligible for retirement.

These initiatives are part of DoD efforts to transform itself into a more agile and efficient organization for the 21st century, David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, noted during an interview with the Pentagon Channel for its documentary "Facing the Future."

In fact, Chu noted, the new National Security Personnel System slated for partial implementation in July will affect about 300,000 of the department's 700,000 civilian employees. Remaining DoD civilian employees are slated to move into the new system starting around January 2007.

Current civilian pay scales, Chu explained, are based on how "long you've been around." He said polls show the younger workers DoD is seeking to replace retiring older employees want a more performance-based compensation system.

"They want to join an organization where if you do more, you are rewarded," he pointed out.

Performance for pay "is not an untried principle" at DoD, Chu pointed out, noting several pay-for-performance pilot programs have been tested through the years.

The NSPS also gives managers the tools to hire new employees

more quickly and more means to discipline underproducers.

Such change, Chu acknowledged, is likely to be "upsetting" among a workforce accustomed to the older personnel system. Managers who will supervise workers under the NSPS, he noted, will "require training and preparation in order for them to be effective."

Chu asked DoD employees to be patient as NSPS is implemented, noting studies of pay-for-performance pilot programs have shown most workers like the new system.

After NSPS has been fully implemented "you will have a much happier workforce," Chu predicted.

He pointed out that old civil service rules hamstrung supervisors and often caused military members to be employed for tasks that could be accomplished by civilian employees. Implementation of NSPS, Chu noted, will allow more flexible use of civilian employees, while freeing up military members to perform other important duties.

Another initiative that's under study, Chu said, involves establishing longer duty tours for service members, especially senior officers. He noted that some military leaders serve in their posts for too short a time.

"So, they never have enough tenure to make transformational changes, to see them through to success," Chu pointed out, noting many senior officer tours of duty span just 18 to 24 months.

Another personnel change under consideration is increasing the years of service military members need to retire. Today's 20-year minimum required for

military retirement, he said, "has become something of an 'automatic' event" that began after World War II.

The 20-year retirement, Chu said, was established in conjunction with an "up-or-out" policy recommended by then-Army Chief of Staff Gen. George C. Marshall that was designed to prune veteran service members who'd become ineffective partly due to increased age.

But today's service members in their 40s and 50s are "physically fit," he pointed out, and are "able to do many of the things that are necessary to do" in the military environment. Consequently, Chu maintained, "we need to have a system that allows them to serve ... on active service longer." And that envisioned change, Chu pointed out, "is one of the most difficult transformational challenges" DoD faces.

"We are really at (the) early stages in making this shift," he explained. "Some of it requires legislative changes, which we have not yet convinced the Congress to make."

Addressing the amount of military pay required to attract and retain quality service members in the future, Chu emphasized, "If we don't keep up a vigorous, upfront compensation package, we will not succeed in the long term."

Achieving transformation, Chu pointed out, requires having "a sharp and appropriate set of tools in your toolkit" and a willingness to adapt new methods of doing military business.

For example, the asymmetrical nature of the war against terrorism, he noted, has made U.S. military field hospitals likely enemy targets.

NEWS NOTES

Summer hire positions open

The following summer hire and annual training support temporary positions are now open at Fort A.P. Hill:

- Motor Vehicle Operator, WG-5703-7 (one position), closes April 11, Announcement # NCAS05504943D
- Tractor Operator, WG-5705-06 (four positions), closes April 11, Announcement # NCAS05505156D
- Laborer, WG-3502-02 (five positions), closes April 11, Announcement # NCAS05505131D

The following positions will be open after April 4:

- Office Automation Clerk, GS-0326-02 (seven positions)
- Laborer, WG-3502-02 (two positions)

Apply at: www.cpol.army.mil. When submitting a resume, read the instructions carefully to ensure your application is accepted in the Resume System. Resumes must be submitted 48 hours prior to self nominating for a position.

Fire extinguisher training

The Fort A.P. Hill Fire Department will provide fire extinguisher training every Thursday, starting April 5, from 10-11 a.m. at the Picnic Area near post housing.

For more information, call 633-8267.



Legal help available April 12

The next legal assistance services at Fort A.P. Hill will be April 12, at 9 a.m.

Legal services are available for active duty, retired military and their authorized family members of all the services possessing a valid Uniformed Services Identification Card. (Reserve and National Guard personnel must be on active duty.)

Call Debbie Moore, director of Human Resources, at 633-8326 to schedule an appointment.

SALUTES

● HAILS, FAREWELLS ● ACHIEVEMENT ● FAMILY

Hails

Fort A.P. Hill welcomes the following new employees:

- Keith Brewer, antiterrorism officer, DPTMS;
- Calvin Shackelford, plans officer, DPTMS;
- David Hovis, graphic artist, DPW;
- Curtis Marshall, electrician, DPW;
- Anika Wilson, office service assistant, DOL;
- James Faltum, supply technician, DOL.

Farewells

Fort A.P. Hill bids farewell to the following employees:

- Bobby Britt, tractor operator, DPW, passed away March 16;
- J. Milton Cecil, chief, Business Operations/Integration Division, DPW, retires after 39 years;
- William Graves, supply technician,

DOL;

- William Hepburn, inventory management specialist, DOL;
- David Startz, information technology specialist, DOL.

Achievements

- J. Milton Cecil, DPW, Commander's Award for Civilian Service;
- Brian Taylor and Christine Coates, PAI, for outstanding preparation and execution of the March 22 performance management review;
- John Milliken, MSO, JoAnne Nadieu, MSO, Jerry Frye, DOL, Karen Busch, DOL, Bo Satterwhite, DPTMS, and Monica Mulkeen, DPTMS, for outstanding support in preparation and execution of National Scout Jamboree in-process review 4;
- Judy Collins, MWR, centralized the lodging administrative area within

the Community Activity Center;

- Edyth West, MWR, created a game check area within the CAC. CAC employees can now assist anglers at one station;
- For support of the Easter Sunrise Service: Chaplain Sexton, Fort Belvoir; John Hall, DOL; Ken Derby, DOL; Jorie Holmes, DOL; and Diane Wilder, DPTMS.
- Dianne Smith, MWR, coordinated the BRAVO! Army Theatre Touring Company production with the town of Bowling Green.
- Susan Botkin, MWR, coordinated a successful Easter Egg Hunt for 41 children and 23 adults. D.J. Scarpine, DES, entertained the kids as the Easter bunny.
- Tina Collier, MWR, spearheaded the Commander's Fitness Program and coordinated the Health and Fitness Day at the CAC.

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