

UP AND DOWN THE HILL

SERVING THE FORT A.P. HILL COMMUNITY

Rowe tours post during his first visit

By Ken Perrotte
Public Affairs Officer

Maj. Gen. Richard J. Rowe Jr., who recently assumed command of the Military District of Washington and the Joint Forces Headquarters National Capital Region, made his first visit to Fort A.P. Hill June 27.

Rowe is Fort A.P. Hill's senior mission commander.

Accompanied by his operations officer Col. Damon Penn, Rowe's visit began with an informal luncheon with the garrison staff at Tuckers Tavern.

Reconvening at the Post Conference Room, Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, installation commander, provided a thorough mission briefing about Fort A.P. Hill.

Following the presentation, Rowe polled each staff director about issues and concerns within his or her sphere of responsibility.



Maj. Gen. Richard J. Rowe

While discussing the working relationships and responsibilities of the Fort A.P. Hill team, Rowe, who comes from a strong operational background, observed that the installation's staff leadership is, essentially, a "battle staff."

"When you're going to be a thin band, you've got to be a band

of brothers and sisters working together," he advised, reflecting on the comparatively small number of people charged with taking care of the installation and its mission.

He also shared that he values "stewardship" of the resources the military is charged to manage, adding that four key precepts he holds dear are working in an atmosphere of mutual respect, safety, truthfulness and timeliness, especially when it comes to timely actions related to the welfare and support of people working with and for an individual.

The afternoon wrapped with a comprehensive aerial and ground tour of Fort A.P. Hill.

"The staff and I had a great visit with Maj. Gen. Rowe," Graese said. "We are looking forward to regular engagement with him; his operational and training background complements the mission of Fort A.P. Hill."

Team member sets example for 40 years

By Jason B. Cutshaw
Up and Down the Hill

Serving his country is the reason one man has gotten out of bed for the past 40 years.

James Coleman, a Caroline County native, was recognized for more than 40 years of service on Fort A.P. Hill at a post town hall meeting June 25.

"I started working here to better myself," Coleman said. "I started working here Oct. 23, 1966 and have enjoyed it ever since."

Coleman said he was first hired on a trial basis and became a permanent employee eight years later.

"After I found out I was a permanent employee I simply said 'Thank you Lord.' I was so happy and I loved what I was doing," he said. "This job has been

a great blessing to me and I can't think of anything else I would rather do."

Coleman has seen many changes during the past 40 years.

"When I started working here, there were only two blacktop roads on post," Coleman said. "A person wouldn't recognize some of the changes that have taken place. The post has really grown."

Even though he has worked at one place for nearly half a century, Coleman said, "Since I have been here, I have gotten along well with every supervisor I have ever worked for, and all of them have treated me fine.

"The only time I ever told a supervisor that I

(See Longevity, Page 3)

Brandt updates A-76 competition process

By Mike Brandt

Plans, Analysis and Integration Office

Last fall, Fort A.P. Hill began a competitive sourcing study, commonly referred to as an A-76 Study, for our directorates of logistics and public works.

A team consisting of Marcie Norris and Charles Rupe from DOL, Brian Robinson from DPW, Dwight Phelps, representing the local employee union, and I began the preliminary planning phase.

The team was supported by a contractor from Grant Thornton. During preliminary planning, the team was required to conduct scoping and determine which positions on the A.P. Hill Table of Distribution and Allowances would be reviewed during this study, as well as schedule and establish the roles and responsibilities of the A-76 Competition Team.

The policy of the federal government, since the Eisenhower administration, is to rely on the private sector for needed commercial services.

It has been a continuing presidential policy to ensure the American people receive maximum value for their tax dollars, thus commercial activities have been subject to the forces of competition.

Competitive sourcing is one of President George W. Bush's top five management agendas. Office of

Management and Budget Circular A-76 provides guidance on how these studies will be conducted.

The next phase in the commercial activities study will be the competitive announcement. The first step in this phase will be to develop a performance work statement of services we want competed. The PWS Team will receive contractor support in developing the PWS, as well as legal and contracting support.

The PWS will then be offered to the agency tender official (representing the government) and to the private sector.

Both sides will have an opportunity to submit a proposal to provide the required services. A source selection authority will then determine the winner for the competition. The SSA will probably be someone from Installation Management Command.

The Standard A-76 Competition schedule usually takes 12 months to complete. Once the public announcement is made, a "clock starts running." Fort A.P. Hill will have a year to complete this phase, after which, the winner will be selected.

We still do not know when the competition phase will be announced. We are working closely with the competitive sourcing official from IMCOM Northeast on when the public announcement will be made.

As soon as the PAIO is informed, we will notify the workforce.



Buckle Up!

Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, Fort A.P. Hill commander, and Matthew Ewoldt, post safety officer, ensure people are wearing their seatbelts during a random check June 26 at the South Gate. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)

Longevity (Continued from Page 1)

wasn't going to do something is when it wasn't a safe act," he added.

Although some people might consider retirement at 40 years, Coleman stated if it's God's will, and his health holds up, he plans on retiring in five more years.

In his spare time, the Ruther Glen resident is active in his local church and loves singing.

"I just want to thank God for giving me a great life," Coleman said. "I enjoy singing at church more than anything else I can think of. It gives me a chance to give back and thank God for all he has blessed me with."

Coleman's supervisor, Allan Chenault, Directorate of Public Works, talked about his employee's attitude and how great it was to have him on his team.

"Mr. Coleman is the kind of person that no matter what you ask him, even if it is not in his job description, he would do it," Chenault said. "He is a very valuable asset to this organization. Whatever the job may be, he can do it."

He also talked about the man calls friend.

"He is an all-around great person," Chenault said. "He treats everyone around him with respect. You will never find a more genuine person, or a better individual to be around."



Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, Fort A.P. Hill commander, congratulates James Coleman, Directorate of Public Works, on a job well done for nearly 41 years at Fort A.P. Hill. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)

SALUTES

● HAILS, FAREWELLS ● ACHIEVEMENT ● FAMILY

Achievements

- Receiving the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service were Dennis Brown, Kyle McConnell and Jimmy Snowden;
- Receiving the Commander's Award for Civilian Service were Kenneth Derby and Robert Foxx;
- Receiving a Commander's Coin for Excellence was Hunter Pack;
- The following employees were recognized for their years of service: Rockie B. Carter, 10 years; Louis Brooks, 15 years; John S. Butler, 15 years; Dennis Getty, 15 years; Samuel L. Hill, 15 years; Charles B. Sullivan, 15 years;

Terry L. Banks, 20 years; Lee Fetty, 20 years; Brenda L. Lowe, 20 years; Randal Robillard, 20 years; Sergio Sergi, 20 years; Hashmel C. Turner, 20 years; Donna F. Eldridge, 25 years; and Paul E. Sapp, 25 years; Mark Swisher, 25 years; George W. Johnson, 30 years; Dwight Phelps, 30 years; James Coleman, 40 years.

Hails

Fort A.P. Hill welcomes the following new employees:
 ● Jerome Myles and Major Varnell, Munitions Handlers, Directorate of Logistics;

- Rafael Torres-Castellon, Police Officer, Directorate of Emergency Services;
- Meghan Clements, Firefighter (EMT), DES;
- Brandon Fines and Corey McGee, Firefighters, DES.

Farewells

The following employees were activated and deployed in June:
 ● Shurn Davis and Ronald Veen, Police Officers, DES;
 ● Also, note that Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Lehr, Lois E. Wells Health Clinic, is being deployed effective Aug. 26.

QM, aviation units train on Fort A.P. Hill



Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 23rd Quartermaster Brigade, encounter the "enemy" during a training exercise June 26 on Fort A.P. Hill. (Photos by Ken Perrotte)



Distinctive unit patches for the 1st Battalion, 104th Aviation Regiment from Johnstown, Pa., are patterned after various beers made by the Yuengling & Son Brewing Company of Pottsville, Pa. The patches are collector favorites



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Joe Witmer, a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter pilot with the 2nd Battalion, 104th Aviation Regiment from Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. prepares to take off near Wilcox Camp for another mission.

Soldiers use facilities to prepare for battlefield



Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 23rd Quartermaster Brigade, learn how to search an individual at Combat Village June 26. (Photos by Ken Perrotte)



A bird's eye view of HHC, 23rd QM Soldiers training in Combat Village.



Mechanics work on a CH-47 Chinook helicopter as it is being readied to depart June 26 near Wilcox Camp following an intensive annual training regimen for the Pennsylvania-based warriors.

Medical hotline serves Soldiers, Families

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - The Army's three-month-old "Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline," established March 19, has already fielded thousands of calls from Soldiers and concerned Family members, officials said.

The hotline was created by the Army's senior leadership in the wake of a series of news reports in February that revealed shortcomings in patient care at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The hotline center is managed and operated by U.S. Army Human Resources Command, said Col. Edward Mason, the hotline's director.

"The Army cares about Soldiers and Families, and we're going to take care of Soldiers and Families," Mason said. "We're going to ensure that those Soldiers and Family members have every single medical resource available in the United States Army."

Fifty-two percent of almost 1,000 issues generated by nearly 3,500 calls received by the hotline since its inception have involved medical issues, Mason said.

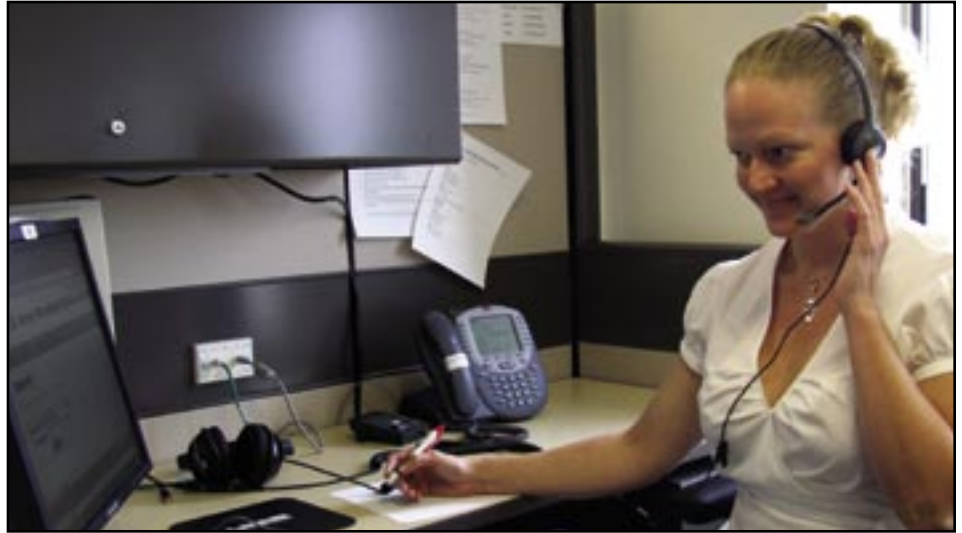
The issues are broken down into medical, finance, legal and other categories, he added.

"One phone call could have no issues or one phone call could have five issues," Mason explained.

The ones without issues usually are just requests for information, such as phone numbers for other organizations, he added.

Military veterans have raised 28 percent of the issues on the hotline, Mason said, noting the veterans have been happy to receive call-backs from U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs officials.

The hotline's purpose isn't to circumvent the chain of command, said call center deputy director



Vanessa Bradchulis, a customer care representative at the "Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline" center in Alexandria, often receives calls from fathers or mothers inquiring about the medical status of their wounded sons or daughters. (Photos by Gerry J. Gilmore)

Col. Robert Clark.

However, the hotline reflects the Army's determination to address and resolve Soldiers' medical issues as rapidly as possible, Clark said.

Some hotline calls come from frustrated people who need someone to listen to their concerns, he said, noting there are "individuals out there who maybe didn't get quite what they deserved.

"And, by calling us, we're going to make sure that they do," Clark emphasized.

Providing follow-up on customers' inquiries is a key component of the hotline's mission, he said.

Call-center manager Jimmie Cotton said the hotline operation recently gained new office space in Alexandria, and updated equipment.

"I love these facilities; there's a lot more open space," Cotton said, who has worked at the hotline operation since April.

He said the Soldiers, government civilians and contractors who make up the center's 100-person staff work three shifts to provide

around-the-clock service.

Vanessa Bradchulis, one of the hotline's customer care representatives, is a 30-year-old former Army medic and an Iraq war veteran.

Bradchulis said she often receives calls from fathers or mothers inquiring about the medical status of their wounded sons or daughters.

"My medical experience has come in handy," Bradchulis said, a contractor at the center who served in Iraq in 2003.

A Soldier's mother called her, she recalled, asking about her son, who'd been wounded in Iraq and was being treated at an Army hospital in Germany.

"She was trying to get in touch with the proper medical authorities," Bradchulis said, noting the mother just wanted to speak to a doctor to determine just how her son was doing.

"We put her in touch with the people who could find that out for her," she added.

The Army's Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline can be accessed at (800) 984-8523.

Commentary:

Distracted drivers prime candidates for accident

By Ken Perrotte
Public Affairs Officer

The young girl was sobbing into a cell phone as she walked toward me in the late afternoon heat. Her summery clothes were dirty and her shoulders were cut and bleeding. Blood also ran down her legs from small lacerations.

"Do you know where we are?" she asked me, clearly still in a daze.

"Sure, you're on U.S. 301 northbound, a few miles north of Bowling Green, Virginia. We're near mile marker 120," I replied.

Returning to her call, she repeated my words, and then added, "Daddy, I'm so sorry. I don't know what happened. The car just started losing control."

The teenager's battered black 2003 Saturn bore Maryland license plates. It was upside down in the trees just inside the Fort A.P. Hill wood line.

Looking at the twisted guardrail and the sharp skid marks crossing both lanes of 301, the horror that had befallen this youngster just moments before was obvious.

"It's amazing anyone could walk away from this," I thought, shaking my head in dismay.

The Bowling Green Rescue Squad's ambulance was already on the scene and law enforcement officers soon arrived.

An emergency medical technician was lying on the ground, reaching with gloved hands into the vehicle and retrieving items.

Another young girl, similarly bruised and bleeding from largely superficial wounds, was being attended to in the ambulance doorway.

I later learned from Sgt. Craig White of the Virginia State Police that four teenage girls had been in the vehicle, even though I only

Here are some statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for American teenagers.
- In the last decade, over 68,000 teens have died in car crashes;
- Two out of three teenagers killed in motor vehicle crashes are males;

- Sixty-five percent of teen passenger deaths occur when another teenager is driving;
- Young drivers (16-20) were involved in 7,598 fatal crashes in 2001;
- In 2001, 5,341 teens were killed in passenger vehicles involved in motor vehicle crashes. Two thirds of those killed were not buckled up.

saw two. The others must have already been aboard the ambulance.

The 17-year-old driver was the oldest person in the car. All were wearing their seatbelts. All lived.

Virginia law restricts the number of passengers teenage drivers under age 18 may carry, recognizing that fledgling drivers need to minimize distractions during the years they're building their road skills.

White said distracted driving was the culprit for this accident, explaining the teenager initially ran off the road's left hand lane and overcorrected hard to the right – a common mistake of inexperienced drivers.

She was cited for reckless driving.

Breezy and free from their school studies for the summer, groups of teens are often seen riding together in cars.

While youthful exuberance is wonderful and infectious, it can be simultaneously dangerous.

Teens engaged in each other's in-vehicle antics, dancing in their seats to music, or talking or text messaging on phones often mean the driver's eyes are focused everywhere but the road.

Situational awareness vanishes

quickly when distractions dominate.

Fatal errors such as overcorrection, not recognizing a danger quickly enough, and dozens of other scenarios become much more probable.

In the worst cases, not only do the offending drivers perish, but they also take innocent motorists with them. Fortunately, in this case, these teenagers got to live. In that respect, the cost of this June 26, 2007 lesson was inexpensive.

But, back to the young lady, hurt and crying an apology to her father over the phone -- I saw the blend of residual terror and relief in her eyes. As a father of three girls and a grandfather to four children, I also imagined being the father on the other end of that call.

As all fathers know, we don't fear getting a call from a child who has been in an accident.

The call we dread is the one from someone else, the one beginning with a warning of bad news, that our child has been in an accident...

I wanted to hug his distraught daughter for him and tell her that I was sure he was relieved just to hear her voice, to know she was alive.

Commentary:

Independence Day celebrates freedom

by Jason B. Cutshaw
Up and Down the Hill

America's first fireworks sparked not only its own freedom, but that of millions around the world.

On Wednesday, America's celebrated the Continental Congress' approval of the Declaration of Independence 231 years ago. They celebrated with family, fireworks, parades, songs and food.

An estimated 2.5 million people living in the newly independent country in 1776 have grown to nearly 302 million Americans today.

President Thomas Jefferson wrote in the preamble of the Declaration of Independence that, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

Throughout the history of the United States, American Soldiers not only defended their fellow countrymen's lives and pursuit of happiness, but also the liberty of people around the world.

Americans fought in the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War, the Spanish-American War and the Philippine-American War, as



Soldiers swear the Oath of Enlistment during an Independence Day Ceremony July 4 at Camp Victory, Iraq. (Marine Sgt. Jess Kent)

well as interventions in Latin America and the Boxer Rebellion in China to protect America's security.

They also fought for the freedoms of more than a billion souls in countless other countries on the battlefields of World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, and Operation Desert Storm.

They fought and won the Cold War, as well, by staring down the forces of communism.

They accomplished this by not only by remaining vigilant across a demilitarized zone in Korea, but also from underground missile facilities in Montana, North

Dakota and Wyoming.

For 231 years, America has been the defender of freedom and a beacon for democracy to the world.

Its warriors have served above and beyond the call of duty to fight for those who often weren't able to fight for themselves.

When we, as Americans, hear patriotic songs such as; "The Star-Spangled Banner," "God Bless America," "America the Beautiful" and "Stars and Stripes Forever" we should always remember those brave men and women who gave their lives for freedom.

On Wednesday, many watched two grown men consume 129 hotdogs in 12 minutes. But did those watching give 12 minutes to think about the Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines deployed around the world in the hopes of a better tomorrow.

During this week especially, we should never forget the heroism of warriors such as George Washington, Alvin York, Douglas MacArthur, George Patton, Smedley Butler, Mary Edwards Walker, Randy Shughart, Paul R. Smith and those brave men and women currently serving in the global war against terrorism.

As we celebrate what American patriots did 231 years ago, let us never forget what American patriots are doing today.

This day in U.S. Army history

1813 - War of 1812: Three weeks of British raids on Fort Schlosser, Black Rock and Plattsburgh, New York begin.

1814 - War of 1812: Battle of Chippewa - American Major General Jacob Brown defeats British General Phineas Riall at Chippewa, Ontario.

1943 - World War II: An Allied invasion fleet sails for Sicily (Operation Husky, July 10, 1943).

1945 - World War II: Liberation of the Philippines declared.

1950 - Korean War: Task Force Smith - First clash between American and North Korean forces.



*As the summer months bring the heat to Virginia, don't forget to stay hydrated.
(Jason B. Cutshaw)*

New laws affect drivers

Effective July 1, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, any traffic ticket, with the exception of speeding, will carry heavy civil penalties (yes, this is a new charge) in addition to the fine and court costs individuals will have to pay.

Here are just a few:

Driving on a suspended or revoked permit - Civil penalty, \$750; plus court costs and fines;

Reckless Driving - Civil penalty, \$1,050; plus court costs and fines;

First Offense for Driving Under the Influence - Civil Penalty, \$2,250; plus court costs and fines;

Failure to give proper signal - Civil penalty, \$1,050; plus court costs and fines;

Leaving the scene of an accident - Civil penalty, \$3,000; plus court costs and fines.

The Website for the new offenses is www.courts.va.us/publications.hb_3202.pdf.

Submit ideas for post newsletter

Please provide any story ideas to Up and Down the Hill by calling 633-8120.



Fort A.P. Hill garrison Command Sgt. Major Roger A. Chase, left, congratulates police officer Jim Warga, post police department, for receiving the June "Yard of the Month" award. (Photo by Jason B. Cutshaw)

Report abuse to IG Hotline

To report Fraud, Waste and Abuse please contact the Department of Defense Inspector General at (800) 424-9098 or e-mail them at hotline@dodig.mil.

Complaints can be made anonymously, and are confidential.

For more information, see the DOD IG Web site at www.dod.osd.mil.

Post Exchange is looking for help

The Fort A.P. Hill Post Exchange is looking for store associates to work during the summer months. At present there are two openings.

Call Sylvia Ramirez at (804) 633-4618 for information about the position and how to apply.

UP AND DOWN THE HILL is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of this publication are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or Headquarters, Fort A.P. Hill. This newsletter is published biweekly by the Public Affairs Office, Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, 22437-3114. For information about this publication, call (804) 633-8120 or e-mail: jason.cutshaw@belvoir.army.mil.

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