

UP AND DOWN THE HILL

SERVING THE FORT A.P. HILL COMMUNITY

Team evaluates post for ACOE award

by Mary A. Bodine

Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs

A six-member team from various Army installations was at Fort A.P. Hill Dec. 13-16 to evaluate the post for the Army Communities of Excellence Award. Fort A.P. Hill is one of five finalists being evaluated for the award.

The top three awardees will be announced in April. In addition to receiving monetary awards of up to \$2 million, the top three installations are eligible for the Army Performance Excellence Award.

To be considered for the award, Fort A.P. Hill officials submitted a comprehensive packet that included an examination and explanation of the posts' leadership, strategic planning, customer focus, human resources and business results.

"We're here to validate, clarify and confirm what was in the installation's packet," said Kathy Renkes, ACOE evaluator. The visit "also gives the installation an opportunity to portray what wasn't in the application packet."

Army evaluators base their assessment of an installation on the Army Performance Improvement Criteria and the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence, which is derived from a quality award named after Malcolm Baldrige, former secretary of the



Department of Commerce, said ACOE evaluator Jim Reeder. The established criterion prevents team members from comparing installations and provides "a level playing field," Renkes said. Also, the team must reach a consensus about each area being evaluated before submitting their report. The evaluators submit the final report to Headquarters, Department of the Army, and it is reviewed by a panel of judges. In addition to the benefits Fort A.P. Hill may gain for competing for the Army Communities of Excellence Award, ACOE evaluators provide the post with a feedback report, Renkes

said. This feedback report is a compilation of all information gathered by the evaluators -- compared against APIC -- and is to be used to improve business processes.

"The feedback you give us, we will take close to heart and improve on it," said Lt. Col. James M. Mis, commander, Fort A.P. Hill, to the ACOE team. During the three-day visit, the ACOE team talked to more than 70 members of the workforce who were, Renkes said, "all very professional and candid."

Other installations considered for the ACOE award are: Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Detrick, Md.; Fort Stewart, Ga.; and the 417th Base Support Battalion, Germany.

Without supplies no army is brave."

-- Frederick the Great, "Instructions to his Generals," 1747

Capital Region connected through new radio system

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

A newly constructed 200-foot tower on Fort A.P. Hill is the latest link in the federal government's plan to connect communications within the National Capital Region. The tower, which houses a 15-foot antenna, was constructed to support the land mobile radio system.

The LMR system is an interoperable system that will allow the National Capital Region to communicate simultaneously, said Eli Hall, deputy director to the NCR, Directorate of Information Management.

"The narrowband interoperability requirement evolved as a homeland defense measure," he added.

The LMR system will "promote coordination of sharing a (radio frequency) infrastructure and the maintenance costs amongst Army and DoD installations to maximize funds," according to a preliminary Concept of Operations manual produced by the NCR DOIM office.

Although most of the LMR region will initially consist of Army installations, all installations in the NCR will have access to the system, which may "include the Air Force, Navy, and Marine interests such as the Navy Yard, Annapolis, Andrews AFB, Bolling AFB, and Quantico Marine Base, as well as some 40 other Navy and Marine sites throughout the metropolitan D.C. area," according to the Concept of Operations.

Because the LMR system complies with the mandate for narrowband channel spacing and

improves communication between organizations (while decreasing cost and maintenance), it "will be the industry standard," Hall said. "It will replace the entire trunk system between January and March."

During the initial transmission testing phase, the system may interfere with unlicensed devices like garage door openers that operate in the same megahertz range as LMRs, according to a December Department of the Army news release.

Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Md., and the Pentagon are in the process of refurbishing existing towers to support LMR communication.

Fort A.P. Hill's tower was erected in less than seven days, said Doug Gumbel, tower rigger, JG Contracting, Pittsburgh. "The whole project was pretty challenging, but we didn't have any problems," he added.

The six employees who erected the tower, and endured several days of below-freezing weather, were "smart, tough and disciplined," Hall said.

The tower is also self-supporting.

"We expect to get more out of the tower (than just LMR)," Hall said. "The tower can be used for cellular initiatives or for wireless intranet for tactical applications. It can also be used for temporary service for the (Boy Scout) Jamboree."

The NCR is expected to be linked by the LMR system by March.

More than 120 military installations will transition to the LMR system by October 2008, according to the DoD news release.



Crew employs chemicals to clear roads quicker

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

While most people dread the coming snowfall, slick roadways and bone-chilling cold, Lee Fetty couldn't be more excited. He doesn't just want a dusting of snow, he wants a downfall, because only then could he really test his new method of de-icing.

Fetty, an engineer equipment operator with the Directorate of Public Works Roads and Grounds crew, has learned of a new method for clearing the roadways that is less erosive and more effective than a salt and sand mix and he will be using this method to clear the roadways this year.

The 11 members of the Roads and Grounds crew will be using a mixture of magnesium chloride and water to melt ice on the roadway in addition to a salt and sand mix. Fetty said he learned of this new method for clearing ice at a seminar in Allentown, Penn.

Several organizations already employ this method and it has a number of benefits, Fetty said.

"We want to get away from using the salt and sand mixture," Fetty said. "It's an environmental hazard. When the roads dry up, the sand turns to dust which can block visibility and get into the lungs. It also runs off into streams after it rains and builds silt in the water."

Also, at the end of the season, the Roads and Grounds crew must sweep up the sand that has gathered on the road, Fetty said, using even more manpower. Magnesium chloride requires no end of season maintenance and is environmentally friendly.

According to a three-year study conducted by the Colorado Department of Transportation, the use of magnesium chloride

is "virtually undetectable within just a few feet of the roadway. The product does not add air pollutants to the environment and improves air quality by offsetting usage of sanding material."

In addition to the environmental benefits of magnesium chloride, the Roads and Grounds crew will be able to treat the roadways before snow falls.

"If we know that a snow storm is coming, we can pre-wet the roadways," Fetty said. "What we do is wet the streets before the snow falls and the magnesium chloride prevents the snow from bonding with the asphalt. Traffic then turns the snow to slush."

Although pre-wetting is the most effective method for using magnesium chloride as a de-icer, the mixture works just as well as a salt and sand mix when applied after snow, he added.

The mixture is about 75 percent water and 25 percent magnesium chloride, Fetty said. The crew uses a hydra seeder to spread the mix on the roadways and has found, after use on the year's first snowfall, that a driver could clear up to 30 miles of road on one 750 gallon tank of the magnesium chloride mix, Fetty said. Using a truck with salt and sand may only last about 5 miles, he added.

The Roads and Grounds crew will still use the salt and sand mix, Fetty said, "but a lot less of it. It gives just a little extra traction and people feel more secure when they see the sand. The magnetism chloride makes the road look slick because it leaves black streaks where it eats through ice."

With about 550 unpaved and 250 paved roads on Fort A.P. Hill, Fetty said the magnesium chloride mix will make clearing the roads faster and safer to drive.

Safe season is simple with steps

The winter season is one of the most dangerous times of the year to be on the road. Not only do traffic fatalities increase due to a larger number of impaired drivers on the road, but hazardous weather conditions also contribute, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Web site.

The following are a number of techniques that will keep motorists safe this winter:

- Ensure your vehicle is prepared by checking the battery, tire tread and fluids.
- Have an emergency kit that includes flashlight, jumper cables, ice scraper, blankets, warning triangles and an abrasive material for traction.
- To feel comfortable, practice slowly on ice or snow in an empty lot.
- If you end up in a skid, steer into it, or in the direction you want the vehicle to go.
- Slow down and increase following distance.
- Know what type of brakes you have: stomp on antilock brakes, pump non-antilock brakes.
- Allow longer stopping distances on water and ice.
- Wear a seat belt; it will reduce the likelihood of a fatal injury by at least 45 percent.
- Don't drink and drive.
- Avoid fatigue -- stop at least every three hours, rotate drivers and get plenty of sleep before you drive.

(Information provided by NHTSA.)

E-mail generates sympathy, action

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

Wendy White has spent her life working for her community as a major in the Civil Air Patrol in Arlington, Va., and for the Fort A.P. Hill Directorate of Public Works as an office automation assistant. So, when she received an e-mail from a fellow member of the CAP, Lt. Col. Laurie Noyes in Ramstein, Germany, she didn't hesitate to act.

Noyes's e-mail detailed her squadrons' involvement with military casualties at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany.

"The e-mail said battlefield casualties were (medically evacuated) there with nothing but the bloody, torn uniform they had on their back," White said. "They would receive a \$250 clothing voucher, but only the ambulatory could get to the (Post Exchange). Even then, they would have to take a bus in their pajamas and slippers to get there because the PX is seven miles away."



1st Lt. James Quinn of the Civil Air Patrol accepted the items collected for Soldiers at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, Germany, from post commander Lt. Col. James M. Mis. (Photo by Wendy White)

White, whose own son, a member of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, Vicenza, Italy, is deploying to Afghanistan soon,

talked to other cadets in her squadron about the e-mail. The squadron decided to collect T-shirts, sweatpants, videos and personal care items for Soldiers being treated at Landstuhl. There was even a C-17 driver in the squadron who makes regular runs to Ramstein Air Base who is willing to deliver the items, White said.

Members of the squadron began collecting goods from family and friends, but White made the largest contribution. She was able to collect more than 250 pounds of goods from employees at Fort A.P. Hill.

"The cadets were just overwhelmed with how much we collected," White said. "We're hoping to be able to deliver everything in the beginning of January."

Several Civil Air Patrol squadrons throughout the country are also involved in collecting items for service members being treated at various military medical centers, White said.

MyPay offers easier access to tax statement

One of the advantages of using myPay is receiving your electronic W-2, Wage and Tax Statement, earlier than the hard copy that is mailed to your home. Employees will be able to retrieve their W-2 for 2004 via the myPay website: <https://myPay.dfas.mil>. The electronic W-2 is an Internal Revenue Service approved method and can be used to file your 2004 income taxes.

The myPay Web site is available 24 hours a day and can be used to view, save, and print Leave and Earnings statements as well as make other pay changes.

Your social security number and a personal identification number (PIN) is needed to access information via myPay. If you do not have a PIN, you can obtain one via e-mail by clicking on the 'New PIN' button on the Web site at the Web address shown above. A temporary PIN will be e-mailed to your

Army Knowledge OnLine e-mail address on file.

Once you have received your PIN, it is extremely important to maintain current information for your home and e-mail address via myPay because this is the best method for the Defense Finance and Accounting System (DFAS) to contact employees regarding pay issues.

Although a hard copy W-2 is not necessary when using the electronic version, hard copies will be mailed by DFAS to the address on file in the Defense Civilian Pay System by Jan. 30. Employees who do not receive one, but would like to obtain a hard copy W-2, should notify their customer service representative after Jan. 30.

If you have questions regarding myPay, please call the contact center at (800) 390-2348.

(Information provided by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service.)

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



(Clockwise from top) Robert and Karen Mountjoy won \$100 worth of gift certificates for having the most festive home decorations on post. Retired post employee Barbara Byrd and friend Jean Davis sing along during the Candlelight Vigil Dec. 15. Sgt. Zachary Williams, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 276th Engineer Battalion, lit his candle from daughter Cassandra, 8. Williams was home on furlough from Iraq. Several children had the opportunity to sit on Santa's lap at the annual Holiday Party Dec. 16.

Tribute: Soldiers remember Command Sgt. Maj. for his contribution to Army, Soldiers

Editor's Note: The tribute below was written by the Soldiers who knew Command Sgt. Major Steven Faulkenburg, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, (Ramrod 7) best. Faulkenburg died in Fallujah, Iraq, Nov. 9. He was previously the acting command sergeant major for Fort A.P. Hill and worked at Range Control. It is published as written.

CSM Steve Faulkenburg was the epitome of an Infantryman and an almost larger than life figure to the Soldiers of Task Force 2-2 Infantry, Ramrods. We had the distinct pleasure of serving alongside him for two years during two operational deployments -- Kosovo (Nov 02 to Jul 03) and Operation Iraqi Freedom II (Feb 04 to Nov 04). We knew immediately he was a Soldiers' leader from the moment we met him.

He was an Infantryman who cut his teeth and served in units such as the 101st Airborne, 82nd Airborne, and 2nd Infantry Divisions; all light assignments where he honed his skills as an Infantry Soldier and leader. The Big Red One was his first mechanized assignment and one that did not intimidate this incredible soldier. Some Infantrymen who have served their careers in the light world might not be comfortable in the mechanized world, but not Ramrod 7. CSM Faulkenburg viewed this assignment like all of his others. He would often say, in his unique southern accent, "Hell Sir, it's all about leading Soldiers."

Standard bearer

His presence was immediately felt by all, especially the noncommissioned officers. He personally set the example and challenged young NCOs to embody and live by the NCO creed. During the battalion's deployment to Kosovo, CSM Faulkenburg demonstrated he was the standard bearer with his continuous presence. All were amazed at his energy and ability to always be at the critical point on the battlefield. Because of his in-depth understanding and passion for Soldiers and standards, he frequently conducted nighttime leader checks. He knew this was the time when standards tend to drop, and he was there to ensure they did not. Every soldier on Montieth, Zegra Base, Observation Post Power and Thunder Base knew to expect Ramrod 7 when it was the darkest, coldest, or rainiest. He would be there to inspect the Soldiers at guard mount, on entry control points, and in guard towers. When a soldier was found wanting, it was his NCO chain of leadership



Command Sgt. Maj. Steven Faulkenburg was killed in Iraq in November: three months after this photo was taken. (Courtesy Photo)

that retrained.

Ramrod 7 was truly about Soldiers living by the "Warrior Ethos". During the Kosovo deployment, he organized and executed a V Corps Leaders Check Ride, EFMB, two modified table VII gunneries, and weekly live fires to ensure the Soldiers maintained a combat focus.

When Operation Iraqi Freedom 1 began, many Ramrod soldiers felt they were being left on the sidelines. CSM Faulkenburg, who always understood levels above his position, reminded the men that supporting efforts contributed to the mission's success, and our assigned mission was protecting EUCOM's flank. He also told Soldiers to look long term -- we would get our chance to fight in Iraq. The battalion returned from Kosovo in July 2003 and received orders to deploy to combat in Iraq.

Desert march

In February 2004, the Ramrods were on the march again, occupying Camp New York in Northern Kuwait and refining those combat skills that would take us through the approach march

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Tribute (Continued from Page 6)

through Baghdad to FOB Normandy north of Baghdad. CSM Faulkenburg took his place in the final serial and ensured no one was left on the side of the road and accountability was maintained at every stop. In his unmistakable voice and a cheek full of Redman, Ramrod 7 had the ability to bark commands over the task force command net to ensure all leaders maintained situational awareness, a combat focus and would never, ever compromise standards.

Task Force 2-2 arrived at FOB Normandy and completed the first step in a long journey. Although the Ramrods were met with difficult living conditions, CSM Faulkenburg recognized a forward operating base with personality and unlimited potential. Always taking care of soldiers, CSM Faulkenburg established priorities of work that ensured security was established to high standards followed by improving soldier's living conditions. Improvements deliberately began to unfold.

Today, Normandy sets the division standard in force protection. The dining facility started as a shell of a building -- first came lights, followed by chairs, windows, and then air conditioners. Eventually the birds and bats were defeated and replaced by stand up refrigerators for soda and ice cream as the scorching summer arrived. The chapel went from ugly to a true place of worship. The MWR Center changed from an abandoned building with eight phones to a place where soldiers could relax, watch television, drink an ice coffee, and check email. The PX went from nothing to a well stocked facility, burn barrels were replaced by latrines, and working showers replaced baby wipes. Throughout all these changes, CSM Faulkenburg's personality and determination left a lasting imprint.

Leading from the front

In Iraq, CSM Faulkenburg conducted a combat patrol with every platoon in the task force. He followed the platoons through the orders process, rehearsals, precombat checks and inspections, execution, and AARs. He knew that was how he could best understand the strength and weaknesses of each platoon, it's leaders, and Soldiers.

Never backing down from a fight, Ramrod 7 was involved in Task Force 2-2's first firefight in March 2004 on the day of the transfer of authority. CSM Faulkenburg lived for maintaining contact with the enemy once the snake raised his head. During the Battle of Muqadiyah Market Place on 08 August 2004, he fearlessly roamed the battlefield. A soldier described him as, "the Robert Duvall character in

“CSM Faulkenburg lived for maintaining contact with the enemy once the snake raised his head.”

-- Unknown author

Apocalypse Now” and he inspired those around him.

Task Force 2-2 was called upon to deploy from FOB Normandy twice. During the insurgent's Easter Offensive, Task Force 2-2 fought for two days, disengaged most of the battalion while in contact, and conducted a 400 km approach march to An Najaf south of Baghdad. Crossing both the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers while in contact, Ramrod 7's crew killed several insurgents. As part of the Brigade Combat Team, CSM Faulkenburg enforced the standards of Task Force 2-2 which helped bring stability to An Najaf so it could be later handed off to the 1st Armored Division. The Ramrod's deployment to Fallujah in November 2004 was a more difficult mission.

Fallen, not forgotten

Task Force 2-2, under the operational control of the 1st Marine Division for the assault on Fallujah, and would face a well entrenched and determined enemy. Having occupied the city for months, the insurgents were able to build and improve fighting positions and plan a complex defense of the city. The soldiers of Task Force 2-2 were more than ready and CSM Faulkenburg was one of the main reasons why.

CSM Faulkenburg was mortally wounded during the early morning hours of 09 November 2004 during the initial assault into Fallujah. To those who knew him, we can close our eyes and picture what Ramrod 7 was doing those last few moments. He was dismounted and organizing the soldiers around him. He had just finished guiding a battalion of Iraqi soldiers through the breach lane. As small arms fire burst out from two sides, CSM Faulkenburg issued fire commands to his gunner, and raced forward into the contact. The Task Force's standard bearer had fallen, but his impact on the Soldiers he led continues on.

Command Sergeants Major simply do not come any better. Because of CSM Faulkenburg, we are all better Soldiers. He will always be with us. Our prayers are with this incredible noncommissioned officer and his loving family.

NEWS NOTES

Retirement seminar scheduled

There will be a Federal Employee Retirement System Seminar in the Longstreet Classroom Jan. 25-26, for employees within 10-15 years of retirement.

The seminar is open to interested employees under FERS. To verify that FERS is your retirement system, check Block 30 on Standard Form 50.

The cost for the seminar is \$199-213, depending on the number of employees in attendance.

For more information, call Barbara Pitts at 633-8403.



Stocked ponds opens season

Rainbow, brook and brown trout, most in the 12-14-inch range with many up to 22 inches in length, are being stocked in Beaverdam and Buzzards Roost ponds beginning in January.

Trout fishing season is Jan. 8 to mid-April. Daily or seasonal trout fishing permits can be purchased on post. Daily permits are \$5 and annual permits are \$55. Seniors age 65 and older, or children age 15 and younger, can buy a \$4 daily permit or \$50 season permit.

A Virginia state fishing license and a Fort A.P. Hill fishing permit is required in addition to the special trout permits. A Virginia trout stamp is not required.

Anglers will be allowed to catch and keep six trout daily. Only one fishing rod or line is allowed per angler.

For more information, call Brian Lee at 633-8750, or the Game Check Station at 633-8244.



Post welcomes new officers

The following officers graduated from the Fort A.P. Hill Provost Marshal Office Certification Course Dec. 30 and are now employed as Department of the Army Civilian Police officers:

Officer Carlos Collins, former member of the Richmond Police Department;

Officer William Lawson, former member of the Williamsburg Police Department;

Officer Charles Gonzalez, retired officer of the Department of Human Services Police;

Officer Ivone F. Henson, former training and K-9 officer with Richmond Veteran's Affairs.

Chili Cook-Off heats up winter

The Fort A.P. Hill Employee Morale Committee is sponsoring a Chili Cook-Off Contest, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Jan. 18.

Groups and individuals may enter their chili with a \$5 entry fee and are eligible for prize trophies. Registration is required by noon, Jan. 11.

Taste testers will be treated to chili, corn bread, crackers, soda and dessert for a \$5 per person entry fee. Entry fee must be paid by noon, Jan. 14.

For more informations, call Katrina Hunter at 633-8797.



Employees shape up New Year

Morale, Welfare and Recreation will begin offering the following fitness classes at the end of January:

- Step, 11:45-12:15, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays;
- Body Sculpt, 12:15-12:45 and 4:45-5:45, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; and
- Body Sculpt, 12:15-12:45, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Free personal training classes are available during regular duty days. Each person will get 45 minutes per week for a four week period.

If you are interested in attending a class or for more information about personal training, call Tina Collier at 633-8201.

MWR is also offering a Weight Watchers at Work Program. Participates may choose from two different weight lose plans. Cost for a 12-week prepaid series is \$131, or \$11 per week.

Call the Community Activity Center at 633-8219 for details.



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