

Up and Down the Hill

Serving the Fort A. P. Hill Community

Routine Traffic Stop Leads to Major Drug Bust

By Debra R. Bingham
Fort A. P. Hill Public Affairs Office

When Department of Army police officer Valerie Schild returned to work after vacation she didn't expect it to be anything other than a routine day. That all changed when a dump truck approached Fort A.P. Hill's north gate access control point where she works.

What began as a routine inspection led to a drug bust and the largest cash seizure in the history of Caroline County, Virginia, according to the Sheriff's Office.

As the truck pulled up to the gate to be cleared for entry, Schild said she saw two men and a small child in the cab. Both men wore seat belts, but the child was sitting on the lap of the passenger-- without a seat belt.

Schild was concerned for the child's safety and told the man holding the child he wouldn't be allowed to enter post because of the unrestrained child. The man protested and said he didn't see a problem.

"I told him 'That kid is your airbag,' but he wouldn't listen to me," Schild said. "Initially I was just going to write the driver a ticket for reckless driving, but the passenger became smart-mouthed and belligerent despite being asked to calm down," Schild said.

After leaving the vehicle, the man called his wife. When she arrived she parked near the exit lane. As the man approached his wife, he stopped in the middle of the road and continued to argue with officers, refusing to move out of the path of traffic leaving post.

Police arrested him for disorderly conduct and found a knife and drug paraphernalia when they searched him.

"I never expected something this big to come out of a seatbelt violation."

—Valerie Schild

"He became very cooperative once he was put in restraints," Schild said.

As officers spoke with the wife and compiled an information sheet they asked to see her driver's license, but she couldn't produce one.

"The case kept getting bigger and bigger. He said he used drugs--he just couldn't keep his mouth shut," Schild said.

At that point Pat Sample, an investigator on Fort A.P. Hill, got involved with the case. The suspect agreed to a search of the car his wife was driving.

"The vehicle was searched and drug paraphernalia and residue was found. He subsequently gave us information that was used by Caroline County in the raid," Sample said.

The Caroline Country Sheriff's Office, assisted by the King George Sheriff's Office Special Emergency Response Team and the Virginia State Police Tactical Team, raided two suspected houses and seized \$70,000 in cash and drugs.

For Valerie Schild, a former Army military police officer who served in Bosnia, the incident was a learning experience. She is quick to praise her co-workers who helped guide her and support her during the incident.

"It was the most educational lesson I've had in probable cause leading to probable cause. To have something this big come out of a seat belt violation—it's incredible," she said.

Blast Detectives: Putting the Pieces Together

As U. S. forces fall victim to roadside blasts in Iraq, EOD specialists training at Fort A.P. Hill are learning how post blast investigation techniques can help save lives...



Photo by Ken Perrotte

Navy ET1 Brian Lawrence (left) shares a find with Staff Sgt. Matthew Brogan and John Girton, an ATF instructor. Military EOD specialists attended a class on post blast investigation techniques.

By Debra R. Bingham
Fort A. P. Hill Public Affairs Office

Workers sift through debris scattered around a charred skeleton. Plastic engineer tape strung about the area forms a series of grids where workers carefully remove small particles from the soil with gloved hands.

They could be archeologists, but they're not and the skeleton isn't a prehistoric creature, but what's left of a car after an explosion. These are explosive ordnance specialists-- from the Army, Navy, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)-- and they're investigating a blast scene.

It's all part of a new, ongoing training course being held at the National Center for Explosives Training and Research (NCTR) on Fort A.P. Hill, Va.

The ATF maintains and oversees the center, training a variety of law enforcement agencies in blast investigation and explosives disposal techniques. The ATF now offers military members specializing in the explosive ordnance disposal field, or EOD, an opportunity to enhance their skills.

Special Agent Steven Beggs, section chief for the NCTR, said students receive an overview of

the types of explosive devices criminals and terrorists use.

"It's post blast as prevention," Beggs said. "It's not only about responding to a past event, but through thorough and complete examination of a blast site students will be able to stop them from happening in the future."

Beggs said a blast site provides a wealth of information, such as what the device was made of, how it was built, and who built it. It can also lead to ways of countering it.

This is the second such class according to Sgt. 1st Class Gary Stair, 52nd Ordnance Group, Fort Gillem, Ga. Stair schedules Army EOD specialists for the course and also serves as a liaison for the training with other military service branches.

"In Army EOD training Soldiers learn how to evaluate, render safe and dispose of explosive devices. The ATF focuses on post blast, they provide actual ordnance from Iraq and other areas," Stair said.

Post blast investigation skills are critical for today's EOD specialists, according to Stair. Since the ATF already had a course in place for the civilian agencies it trains, Stair said it made sense to take advantage of their resources and knowledge.

(Blast, continued page 3)

(Blast, from page 2)

Sgt. 1st Class Walter Holden, an EOD specialist, deployed to Afghanistan where he spent months “policing up” weapons caches, destroying much of the ordnance on site by blowing it up. Holden, assigned to Fort Sam Houston, Texas, said he didn’t do a lot of post blast investigations when he was deployed.

“It’s like putting a jigsaw puzzle together—one that’s burned and shattered with no defined pieces.”
—Sgt 1st Class Walter Holden

Holden said the most useful concept he learned is following a step-by-step process in collecting post-blast components and securing the area before it’s trampled and evidence is destroyed.

“It’s like putting a jigsaw puzzle together—one that’s burned and shattered with no defined pieces,” Holden said. “Knowing what the device was assures that countermeasures can be designed.”

During the three-day long program, students receive a briefing on IEDs and classes on explosive effects, fragment analysis, scene documentation concepts, and blast components. The training culminates with a final practical exercise at the demolition range.

“We had five Navy and 27 Army students this time. We also want to offer it to Marines,” Holden said.

Many of the students will soon deploy to Iraq and Afghanistan, some have already been--all of them know how important the training is.

During a class on post-blast components, the students received a stack of numbered plastic bags, each holding an item recovered from a blast. The tiny bits of metal, melted plastic, twisted wire, and soot-coated debris appeared beyond identification. Some were so small that students used a magnifying glass to examine them.

At one table, a group of eight students worked its way through a pile of bags. Sgt. 1st Class Mark Simeroth, assigned to the 754th Explosive Ordnance Detachment, Fort Monmouth, N.J., exam-

ined an item and shared his evaluation. He passed the item on to another student. They agree: it’s part of a battery casing. Another student logged the response on the group’s answer sheet.

The noise level in the room rose as students completed the hands-on exercise.

“That’s a metal washer used for fragmentation,” shouted a soldier. Across the room a BDU-clad sailor evaluated a bag containing a tiny charred item “It’s a melted plastic blasting cap,” he said.

During the final practical exercise, students journey to the demolition range. ATF instructors pattern an explosive device out of foreign military ordnance—like a mortar—and detonate it inside a car. It’s a device that that many U. S. forces in Iraq have faced and these students may soon encounter.

Students must find, recognize, collect and then reconstruct the device from the scorched soil. The tiny bits of crumpled metal, melted plastic, twisted wire and other charred debris will provide clues as to what caused the blast, and more importantly, help prevent future blasts—and save lives.

Staff Sgt. Don Cochran, 761st EOD, Fort Sill, Okla., has already deployed to Iraq. He is determined to learn as much as he can during the class so he can share the information with his soldiers, many deployments in their future.

“If we can put it back together maybe we can defeat it next time—before it goes off,” Cochran said.



Photo by Debra Bingham

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Simeroth, 754th EOD, holds an object recovered from a blast sight which the team must identify.

The Army Says 'So Long' to Poor Quality Post Buildings

By Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

"We have pledged to rid the Army of Camp Swampy -- substandard installations," said Geoffrey Prosch, the acting assistant secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment.

When Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker announced that "Installations as Flagships" would be one of the Army's 16 immediate focus areas, there were already more than 74,000 people working the issue, Prosch said.

The Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management vowed in 2002 to improve installation business practices by cutting out layers of bureaucracy, and managing its \$15 billion budget through one agency, Prosch said.

Spacious barracks rooms with walk-in closets and homes with garages and driveways had already been built. They are good examples of how ACSIM was working to improve where Soldiers work, train and their families live, Prosch said.

To end the impression that there are "have and have-not installations," all Army posts will operate under Installation Design Standards, a written policy that will outline what the minimum standards are, officials said.

"Right now we are in the process of developing an implementation plan for the Installation Design Standards," said Lt. Col. Paul Mason, chief of the Transformation team for ACSIM.

Focus on Quality

"The design standards will give installations a framework for building or renovating billeting, setting up force protection, and landscaping. Installations will then initiate their own Installation Design Guides based on the standards we outlined in the IDS," Mason said.

The endeavor is not to make all installations the same, Prosch said, but to ensure consistent quality among Army installations.

The Army Community and Family Support Center is also playing a part by placing family services and Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs on a level plateau, Mason said. Everything from the Child Development Center to the post gym will be managed to standard, he added.

Soldiers should share the same quality of life as those they have pledged to defend, Mason said. By improving the installation infrastructure, the Army is recruiting and retaining Soldiers and their families, he added.

Residential Communities Initiative, the Army's housing privatization plan, is one of the best things the Army has done for its Soldiers, said Prosch, who spent 31 years as an infantry

"We have pledged to rid the Army of Camp Swampy—substandard installations."

—Geoffrey Prosch

officer. There are currently 26 RCI contracts serving 31 installations. By 2007, RCI contracts will be awarded to improve 80 percent of the Army housing, Prosch added.

"We're not just building row houses, we're building communities," Prosch said. "We have put an equity investment of \$335 million into RCI, and our private partners have been able to borrow \$7.2 billion. We would not have been able to obtain that type of money through military construction dollars from Congress."

Other future plans to improve billeting on post are to spend \$1 billion to upgrade lodging facilities for Soldiers who are on temporary duty or in-processing and to upgrade the barracks for Soldiers who are deployed.

"When Soldiers come home from a deployment, we want to make sure they see improvements," Mason said. "A time schedule is being reviewed, but it has not been determined if the renovation will take place for the Soldiers who are participating in the second rotation of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the fifth rotation of Operation Enduring Freedom."

Installations must be resourced to be holistic communities and secure sanctuaries, but also deployment platforms with robust reach back capabilities officials said.

(Installations, continued page 5)

(Installations, from page 4)

The Army exists to fight and win wars, Prosch said. The job of ACSIM is to ensure that the installations have the resources to deploy its active-duty, and mobilize and demobilize its reserve troops, he said.

“There is currently a plan to revise the number of mobilization sites, Mason said. “We do not want our installations to be choke points for mobilizing troops,” Mason said. “Our goal is to design an area that will house all the organizations that fall under the deployment process.”

Changes for Soldiers

“Deploying Soldiers is one of our focuses, but training is also an installation’s core,” Mason said. “Ranges will evolve from single-use, stand-alone platforms to be able to support both individual and collective training simultaneously.”

Mason said Soldiers should start to see more live and virtual training in fiscal years 2007 or 2008. With the Installation Management Agency focusing on the post facilities, commanders can focus on training and war fighting, Mason added.

While Soldiers are training for a war, ACSIM will continue to outsource non-war-fighting functions, such as utilities, to private industry because they have the expertise and money, Prosch said.

Women of Inspiration

By Debra R. Bingham
Fort A. P. Hill Public Affairs Office

Carol Fitzpatrick’s journey to self-awareness began with introspection and was set in motion by an unexpected encounter.

Fitzpatrick, a social activist, entrepreneur, and author, was the guest speaker at the Women’s History Month luncheon held at Fort A.P. Hill.

“Women Inspiring Hope and Possibility” was the theme for the event. Fitzpatrick challenged guests to think about a woman who had inspired or given them hope. She encouraged participants to thank that person or pay tribute to their memory by sharing the story with others.

Fitzpatrick spoke about her personal journey toward self-awareness, growth and joy. She recalled meeting a woman whose smiles, kindness and unconditional acceptance led Fitzpatrick to

Funding Forecast

As of Oct. 1, funds for installations started going directly to the garrison commanders to be used for their intended purposes, instead of being funneled down through major commands, Prosch said. Installations may find that they still don’t have enough money. But, at least the money will be accounted for, and it will be easier to justify to the Office of the Secretary of Defense and Congress why more money is needed, he said.

IMA has seven regions, but there is only one banker, Prosch said. The IMA headquarters is located in Virginia, and there are four regions located state-side and three located overseas.

“In the year that we’ve been open, we’ve been able to save money and get a standard quality of work by obtaining contracts to cover whole regions,” Prosch said. “We’ve regionally contracted security guards, furniture renovation and building demolition as examples.”

Army leadership knows the importance of installations, Mason said. The changes that are taking place are not merely enhancements or band-aid fixes, he said. New and fresh approaches are being taken to make installations efficient and effective worldwide, Mason added.



Photo by Debra Bingham

Col. James B. Balocki, Fort A.P. Hill Commander, talks with Carol Fitzpatrick. Fitzpatrick, was the guest speaker at a Women’s History Month luncheon.

examine her life and goals and ultimately to re-focus her life.

“Do what brings you joy. Get it focused in your heart— and then take it out into the world with you,” Fitzpatrick said.

Ka-boom!

Avoid Flash Fire Danger the Gas Pump

By Debra R. Bingham
Fort A. P. Hill Public Affairs Office

Rising gas prices aren't the only threat consumers face at the pump. According to an article published by the American Petroleum Institute, or API, flash fires caused by static electricity are a very real concern.



Although it sounds like the stuff of urban legend, the fires happen when static electricity is built up as a person re-enters their vehicle during the fueling process. When the motorist returns to the fill point the static may discharge and cause a flash fire or small-sustained fire with gasoline refueling vapors.

Although these fires are unusual, they do happen and drivers should take them seriously.

Daniel C. Glembot, Fort A.P. Hill's fire chief, said static fires normally happen when the air is dry.

"Static fires are more common in the winter versus the summer, but because we have air conditioned vehicles they are possible any time," he said.

Glembot explained that when the vapors ignite the likelihood of the fire entering the fuel tank is minimal.

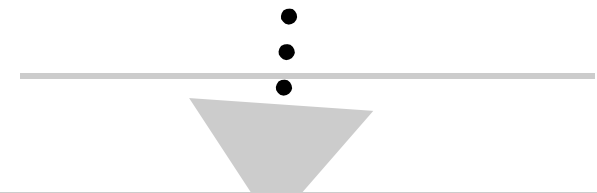
"When the nozzle is removed from the fill neck, a small metal hinged cover will close off the fill neck from the tank and put any fire out," he said.

If a Fire Does Break Out

Glembot said the nozzle should be removed only if it can be done without risking injury. Filling stations are required to have fire extinguishers readily available at the pumps, he said.

While there have been no incidents of flash fires on post, Glembot advises drivers to avoid the habit of propping the dispenser open while pumping gas. "If you keep your hand on the nozzle while you are refueling static discharges are not

Avoid
static electricity
problems at the
pump by staying
outside your
vehicle while
refueling.



Safety Tips at the Pump

- Turn off your engine. and any auxiliary sources of ignition
- Don't smoke, light matches or use lighters while refueling.
- Use the refueling latch on the gasoline dispenser nozzle and never jam it open.
- Don't re-enter your vehicle during refueling.
- Discharge any static build-up before reaching for the nozzle by touching something metal with a bare hand—such as the vehicle door.
- If a static-caused fire occurs, back away from the vehicle and notify the station attendant.

possible, since you are grounded through the nozzle. Spillage is also less likely since you are controlling the product flow," he said.

The API also advises drivers against using cell phones while refueling, since they could also cause a static fire.

What's the Holdup at the Gate?



By Debra R. Bingham
Fort A. P. Hill Public Affairs Office

Relax. Take a deep breath. Better yet, plan ahead. That's the best advise for drivers entering Fort A.P. Hill during the next few weeks, as a number of construction projects get underway in April and continue through the summer.

The South Gate will be closed during April while work is done on the airfield. During the closure, the Villeboro Gate will be open from 6:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Drivers may also face some delays at the North Gate starting in April as work begins on the access control point.

The construction is part of an Army-wide project to upgrade security measures as part of the Global War on Terrorism.

Mark George, a physical security inspector on post, said state-of-the-art equipment will be installed at both the North and South gates along with new facilities used to monitor and control vehicles and process visitors.

George said workers have already begun preparing the site for construction by removing a tent structure that had previously been used as a



Photos by Debra Bingham

Department of Army police officers check IDs and inspect vehicles entering post. Drivers should expect some delays as construction begins on the access control points this month.

Plan Ahead

“There will be additional turn lanes provided on (Highway) 301 which should improve the traffic flow and facilitate access onto the installation,” he said.

New guardhouses, vehicle and package inspection buildings, and a visitor control center are being built as part of the upgrade. Passive and active barriers are also being installed.

George said delays due to construction should be minimal. He went on to say that every effort will be made to announce any changes in advance through community publications and via the post's electronic bulletin board.

Construction on the gates is scheduled to be complete by August.

News Notes

Contracting Class Change

The Contracting Officers Representative course previously scheduled for April 26-30 has been changed to June 14-18 at the Dolly Hill Activity Center.



Report Accidents

TMP vehicle accidents must be reported to the Director of Public Safety/Provost Marshal Office (DPS/PMO) at 633-8239. Accidents off post must be reported to the State Police at 633-5400 and to the DPS/PMO. Be sure to fill out a Motor Vehicle Accident Report (SF 91,) and promptly return it to the Transportation Motor Pool. For more information contact the TMP.



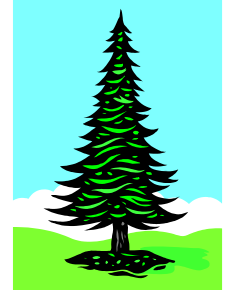
Committee Offers Scholarships

The Employee Morale Committee awards two \$500 scholarships each year to the children of active duty military and permanent Department of Defense civilians working on Fort A.P. Hill. Applications must be complete by April 30. Contact Christine Coates at 633-8215 for more information



Bring Kids to Work and Earth Day

The Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work/Earth Day Observance is April 22. The work-day event is designed to provide an informative and interactive workplace experience for your children. The Earth Day celebration features a variety of exhibitors, demonstrations and events. Call 633-8443 to find out more about Earth Day.



Mail Center Relocates

The Mail and Distribution Center is now located in Building P00179 on 1st Street in the old Housing Section. The center is open from 10:30-11:30 and 2:00-5:00.



**In the Next Edition
of...**

Up and Down the Hill



Convoys under fire.

What's causing that smoke?

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