

# Up and Down the Hill

Serving the Fort A. P. Hill Community

## Fire Damages Post Eatery

By Debra R. Bingham

Fort A. P. Hill Public Affairs Office

Take a rain check on lunch at the Army Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) snack bar, at least for a while. A May 20 fire damaged the kitchen, causing the eatery to close.

A worker in the facility reported the fire at 5:30 p.m. Firefighters from Fort A.P Hill and Bowling Green responded and extinguished the fire within 10 minutes. There were no injuries.

The fire investigator said the blaze began in the deep fat fryer and didn't spread beyond the kitchen area. Damage is estimated at over \$10,000.

A day after the fire, the facility smelled of smoke as workers began washing equipment and removing scorched items.

Michael McDonald, AAFES general manager for Fort Belvoir and Fort A.P. Hill, said new equipment is on the way.

"We are replacing the fryer, grill, food prep table and the hood vent. We think we can salvage the ceiling and electrical," McDonald said.

McDonald said a regional facility maintenance manager is working "full force" with staff to salvage equipment and repair the facility.

The goal is to get the snack bar back in operation in time to serve an influx of service members training on post during the summer, according to McDonald.

The re-opening date depends on how quickly the equipment can be procured, freighted in and installed, McDonald said.

"In the interim, we are erecting a tent on the side of the building and will offer hot dogs, hamburgers and bratwurst during our normal operating hours," McDonald said.



Courtesy Photo

Above: A fire damaged the kitchen of the AAFES snack bar on Fort A.P. Hill on May 20. Below: Shannon Fortune, AAFES food service worker, cleans soot off a pizza press.



Photo by Debra Bingham

This is the second fire on post in the past two months. An April 28 fire caused over a million dollars in damage to a storage hangar on the airfield.

# Are There Bears In Those Woods?

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

Odds are you will probably never see a bear in the wild and for many people that's just fine. However, if you live or work on prime bear real estate, don't be surprised if you catch a glimpse of one.

During the post's force protection exercise, a role player running through the woods encountered a bear on the south side of post near the airfield.

According to Mark Indseth, post wildlife biologist, bears have been reported on post for the past few years. They are most commonly spotted on the north side of post. Last year, two bears were spotted in the Champs and Pender Camp areas and near Training Area 24, according to Indseth.

"I would like to think that we are managing our natural resources in such a manner that we have attracted some wildlife seeking refuge here," Indseth said.

There are approximately 750,000 black bears in the U.S. according to the Wildlife Research Institute, or WRI. The bears live in forested areas from Florida to Alaska and usually weigh between 135 to 350 pounds. They are opportunistic feeders, with about 75 percent of their diet coming from vegetable matter, 15 percent from carrion, and 10 percent from insects and small mammals.

The bears become active a half-hour before sunrise, nap a bit during the day, and bed down for the night about an hour after sunset, according to the WRI.

"The bear is using the creek that runs along route 301 as its main thoroughfare. I think there are at least three bears that frequent the post. As far as if the bears are taking up residence here, I don't know," Indseth said.

As a general rule any and all bears should be left alone, Indseth cautioned. Black bears are wary of humans and normally retreat from them. Indseth said anyone spotting a bear should contact the post wildlife office and game wardens.

According to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, or VDGIF, Virginia's black bear population is expanding across the state. A



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Photo

Black bears like this have been spotted on post during the last few years.

VGIF press release describes black bears being spotted in "85 of Virginia's 98 counties/cities."

Although the bears have the potential to be a problem, the VDGIF says sightings are not cause for great alarm.

"Black Bears pose less of a threat to humans than a stray dog. A stray dog may approach you and possibly bite, whereas a bear will usually retreat," Indseth said.

The VDGIF says bear problems often occur when bears emerge hungry from winter dens and during mid-summer breeding season. A more "acute" problem arises when people feed bears, according to the VDGIF.

Indseth advises residents to keep trash and other food items from accumulating and attracting bears.

"Don't feed bears or make any contact with them. Once they get used to being around people that's when the problems begin," he said.

If a bear gets into trash, shows up in the housing areas, or becomes brazen and unafraid of humans, then the VDGIF is the agency that responds. The VDGIF determines how to solve the problem and may trap, tranquilize and relocate the bear to an unpopulated area, Indseth said.

Last year, the VDGIF established a bear-hunting season in Caroline County to keep the bear population from becoming a problem. No bears have been taken on post yet.

"If you encounter a black bear you should not pursue the bear. Enjoy the chance to see some wildlife that is normally not seen here--from a distance," Indseth said.

# Summer Fun: Live to Tell About It

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

A smiling face looks up from the pages of the local paper. He was a husband, a father, and an admired member of the community. The sad caption under the photo said he died in a boating accident. The man couldn't swim and he wasn't wearing a life jacket. What started as a joyful outing on a lake ended horribly when his boat capsized.

According to the National Safe Boating Council, or NSBC, approximately 700 recreational boaters will die this year in a mishaps on our nation's waterways. The NSBC sites drowning as the leading cause of deaths in boating accidents and 80 percent of the victims weren't wearing a life jacket or personal floatation device (PDF.)

## Life Jackets are Required

Federal law requires children under age 13 to wear a Coast Guard-approved PDF, according to Matthew Ewoldt, Fort A.P. Hill's installation safety manager.

The post is an area of concurrent jurisdiction, so game wardens enforce both federal and state recreational boating laws, said Rick Klink, post game warden. The game wardens conduct weekly spot safety checks and violators are fined.

"The anglers that come here are aware of the requirements. Every person that owns and registers a boat, in whatever state, is responsible for knowing and abiding by boating rules," Klink said.

Yet some people refuse to wear a life jacket, according to Ewoldt.

"It's denial. People just don't always see the dangers around them," Ewoldt said.

Operator error, inattentiveness and recklessness, cause most boating accidents according to the NSBC.

A U.S. Department of Homeland Security report indicates over half of all boating deaths are from capsized boats and falls overboard. Most falls occurred when operators didn't to pay attention to the boat's capacity label and overloaded them.

No one plans to become a statistic, but complacency can result in tragedy. Eighty-eight percent of

## Safe Boating



- Wearing life jackets save lives
- Boater education saves lives
- Safe boats—well designed, maintained and properly equipped—save lives.
- Sober boating saves lives.

fatalities occurred on boats where the operator hadn't taken a boater education course according to the NSBC.

Guests checking into cabins on post are advised on boating requirements said Susan Botkin, program manager, Directorate of Personnel and Community Service.

"The boats are chained up and to get a key guests must first watch a safety video and sign a liability waiver. Then they get a key for the boats," Botkin said.

## Education Saves Lives

Boating safety courses and vessel safety checks are offered by the Coast Guard. Find out more on their web page: [http://www.uscgboating.org/safety/safety\\_courses.htm](http://www.uscgboating.org/safety/safety_courses.htm)

If you don't wear a PDF, at least have one readily accessible and make sure you can put it on quickly. Don't have it stored away or hidden under equipment.

"Be sun smart: wear sunscreen, sunglasses, a hat and keep hydrated. Remember that the sun takes a higher toll when you're on the water than when you're on land," Ewdolt said.

Alcohol was a factor in a third of all recreational boating fatalities, according to the Coast Guard. Avoid mixing alcohol with boating; it's a deadly brew.

As the summer approaches, more people will take to the lakes and rivers. Follow these safety tips and the smiling face you save could be your own—or someone you love.

# Preparing Troops for the Unpredictable

By Gary Sheftik  
Army News Service

Transformation at the Army's combat training centers has accelerated to support the Global War on Terror while driving a cultural shift toward a campaign-quality Army with joint and expeditionary capabilities.

That is the message from Brig. Gen. Timothy D. Livsey, the deputy commanding general for training at the Combined Arms Center, Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Livsey also heads up the Army's CTC/BCTP Focus Area Task Force, which developed the implementation plan to change the Army's capstone training program.

**"If an IED goes off over there or an ambush happens, we're feeding that to trainers and to the units getting ready to deploy"**

Brig. Gen. Timothy Livsey

Lessons learned in Iraq and Afghanistan are being injected into CTC training scenarios in "almost near real time," said Livsey. "If an IED (improvised explosive device) goes off over there or an ambush happens, we're feeding that to trainers and to the units getting ready to deploy."

## Full Spectrum Training

This streamlined delivery of lessons learned, Livsey said, has an impact on all training rotations at the Army's CTCs. The maneuver box or "dirt" CTCs include the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.; the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La.; and the Combat Maneuver Training Center at Hohenfels, Germany. These focus at the tactical maneuver brigade level. The Battle Command Training Program is also part of the CTC program, and provides simulation-assisted command post exercises for brigade and higher-level organizations.

The CTC training is full spectrum, Livsey said, meaning leaders and Soldiers train not only on offensive and defensive warfighting, but also stability operations -- often concurrently.



Photo by Gary Sheftik

A 3rd Infantry Division convoy rolls north in the maneuver box at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

## Linking To Simulation Centers

The Army is also linking battles on the ground at its three maneuver CTCs with simulation-supported training at Fort Leavenworth, the Joint Warfighting Center in Suffolk, Va., and other simulation centers.

This distributive training network was enabled by the recently established DoD Joint National Training Capability, or JNTC, Livsey said. He said this "realistic live-virtual-constructive training environment" will better prepare deploying units to operate as part of a joint, interagency, and multinational force as they face "unpredictable and highly adaptive enemies."

The CTC/BCTP Focus Area Task Force was charged by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker to "Rescope the CTC program to train in a joint context." Livsey said the task force includes representatives from all major commands, and ranks range from generals to junior observer-controllers at dirt CTCs. It also includes retirees who have participated in BCTP exercises, troops who recently returned from Iraq, and many Soldiers who submitted ideas through a collaborative web site.

"The web site was an enabler that saved time and kept us from locking people in a room for five weeks and throwing pizzas under the door," according to Livsey.

"We work very closely with JFCOM [Joint Forces Command] in creating architectures that are joint," Livsey said. For instance, during an

*Training From Page 4*

NTC rotation, about 5,400 blue force soldiers pop up on a common operational picture screen at JFCOM headquarters in Suffolk.

"If you look at some of the databases we build for both constructive and virtual training, you're going to see many similarities," Livsey said.

"We're continuing to mature and advance, and the catalyst is the JNTC program," emphasizing that the Joint National Training Capability is really a global capability.

**There are no bad training ideas out there, but there is a finite amount of dollars.**

Brig. Gen. Timothy Livsey

As the CTC/BCTP Focus Area Task Force developed its implementation plan toward training in a joint context, Livsey said it was also influenced by other focus areas - specifically, Task Force Modularity.

The Combined Arms Center-Training is now developing training models for modular units and defining the specific effects that units must experience at the CTCs to understand the joint context in which they will be expected to fight. Livsey said that a new Combined Arms Center for Training (CAC-T) white paper on training in a joint context recognizes that other services need to be involved in both maneuver CTC and BCTP rotations, along with interagency and multinational participation.

For example, the paper states that in the future, joint fires at the centers may be delivered by air, land, naval, special operations forces and even space assets, instead of primarily Air Force assets as is the case now.

"The synergies we get are very positive," according to Livsey. He said that the synergy between simulations and live training in the CTCs will be used to train the Army's new units of action and units of employment as divisions restructure upon returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We're working now on an expansion of the CTCs' responsibilities to help units reset faster, and get ready for the next deployment. Training in a multi-echelon manner is more important than ever."

Up until now, the Battle Command Training Program has focused primarily on corps and division staffs (except for National Guard units) and the dirt CTCs have focused on brigade combat teams.

"We're actually collating the formerly separate levels of training responsibility - both BCTP and the dirt CTCs will have a piece of the training of the units of action," Livsey said.

Another example of the cooperation between the three dirt CTCs and BCTP would be training a division staff through a BCTP Warfighter exercise at Fort Leavenworth while at the same time one of its UAs is rotating through the National Training Center, Livsey said. Action on the ground at NTC would be integrated into and correlated with the simulation-supported training -- and vice versa, the BCTP forces would appear on the Army Battle Command System's computer screens at NTC.

### **Adaptation is Key**

Because we'll be a "plug and play" modular force in the future, commanders will have to adapt to working with unfamiliar units on short notice, Livsey said. For example, while training the unit of employment at Fort Stewart, Ga., an exercise could pull in units of action from other locations, such as Fort Campbell, Ky., or Fort Drum, N.Y.

Livsey would actually like to train each UA's command and staff element through a simulation-supported BCTP CPX prior to a "dirt" rotation, which will train the entire unit. Resources will be the determining factor though, he said.

"There are no bad training ideas out there, but there's a finite amount of dollars," Livsey said. His staff is currently trying to procure resources for the CTCs six years out.

Livsey said commands in the future must be capable of conducting "simultaneous, full-spectrum operations." For instance, one battalion in the brigade could be engaged in a full-intensity fight; another unit in the same brigade could be keeping lines of supply open; still another could be doing humanitarian support.

"In other words, you've got to be able to do it all," Livsey said, adding that's what must be replicated in training. He said units must leave CTC with the ability to face the full spectrum, especially to defeat an enemy in a major combat operation.

*This article is part of a series on the 17 Army focus areas.*

*Asked and Answered...*

# What's your fondest memory of Memorial Day?

Memorial Day honors the nation's armed services personnel killed in wartime.

Originally called Decoration Day, it was first observed in 1868.

The day was a reverent occasion traditionally marked by parades, speeches, memorial ceremonies and the decoration of graves with flags and flowers.

This year Memorial Day is observed on May 31.



Staff Sgt. John White  
Information Mgt. Specialist



Patrick Sample  
Criminal Investigator



Latasha Woolfolk  
Office Automation Clerk



Armando Flores  
Motor Vehicle Operator

“Last year. We went to South Beach in Miami. It was a spectacular time, even though it rained.”

“Extended family gatherings, picnics and grilling. Just getting together with everybody.”

“Spending time with my family. Waking up in the morning and watching the parades on TV, having cookouts.”

“Four years ago at the Vietnam Memorial Wall. My son-in-law took me. A lot of my friends are on that wall.”

# Honoring the Fallen On Memorial Day

MDW Press Release

A patriotic ceremony honoring the service and sacrifice of America's military members is scheduled for May 31 at 11 a.m. in Arlington National Cemetery.

This year is the 136<sup>th</sup> observance of Memorial Day at the site and will be hosted by Maj. Gen. Galen B. Jackman, commanding general of the U.S. Army Military District of Washington.

A wreath-laying ceremony will take place at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, followed by a remembrance ceremony in the Memorial Amphitheater. The U.S. Army Band (Pershing's Own) will play a prelude concert starting at 10:30 a.m. inside the amphitheater.

Both ceremonies are free and open to the military community and general public. No tickets are needed to attend the events.

Space is limited to standing room only at the wreath ceremony. Seating inside the amphitheater

is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The cemetery gates open at 7:30 a.m. A free shuttle service will run between the visitors' center and the amphitheater until 8:30 a.m. The ceremony site opens at 8:30.

Free parking is available in the visitors' center parking garage until 1 p.m. Metrorail will operate all day and attendees may ride the "blue line" to the subway station located just outside the cemetery's main entrance.

Heightened security measures require attendees to pass through a checkpoint to gain access to the ceremony site. Bags should be limited to essential items and will be subject to security inspections.



U.S. Army Photo

## Soldier Leaves 'Home' on the Range

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

Staff Sgt. Ronnie King is leaving his home and job on Fort A.P. Hill's ranges this month. King served as a range safety inspector during his 18-month assignment and he will be missed.

"He was my 'go-to' guy. A real soldier and leader," said Master Sgt. Donald Freeman, range NCOIC.

Col. James Balocki, post commander, presented King with an Army Commendation Medal and praised King for his service.

King said he "learned a lot," and thanked his supervisors for their support and guidance. He also let his fellow Soldiers know help is always nearby.

"Remember, when things turn bad there is someone you can turn to who won't turn their back on you," King said.

King moves on to a new assignment at Fort Stewart, Ga. He came to Fort A.P. Hill after serving with the Old Guard.



Photo by Debra Bingham

Col. James Balocki, post commander, presents the Army Commendation Medal to Staff Sgt. Ronnie King.

# “Doing Nothing” Except Enjoying Life

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

Some retirees refuse to accept the title. Not Jane Allen. She is happy to say she is retired and “doing as little as possible.”

Allen served as an administrative assistant to the commander. Allen began working for the government in 1974 and enjoyed her 30-year run.

“It was a ball. It was like family. I never wanted to go anywhere else because I love A.P. Hill,” she said.

Allen didn’t want any “surprises,” so arranging the farewell event took some time and planning.

“Effective in March and presented in May,” Col. James Balocki, post commander, said as he gave Allen her retirement certificate.

“I hope when your time comes for retirement you can say it was fun. If it isn’t, get up and move now, or change something you’re doing—life is too quick,” Allen said.

Allen received the Commander’s Award for Civilian Service and gifts from her co-workers.

Balocki praised Allen for her work skills and ability to see the good side of things and the good in people.

“Jane has one more quality many of you may not have gotten to know—that is her ability to see not just the humor in things, but to take that and sometimes twist it, so that it comes back to you,” Balocki said.

“I always liked to laugh and have a good time,” Allen said.

She admits she was “a big prankster” and liked playing practical jokes on co-workers. Finally, one of her supervisors enlisted some of the staff and Allen’s family to play one on her.

“Little smiley faces started appearing on my computer, my telephone, in the lady’s bathroom. They got in my car—even when it was locked—and in my home,” she said.



Photos by Debra Bingham

Col. James Balocki, post commander, presents the Commander’s Award for Civilian Service to Jane Allen. Allen resides in Bowling Green and enjoys spending time with her family.



Allen (above) is all smiles as she talks fondly about her job on post. Co-workers surprised Allen with cards and gifts (right) at a luncheon.



Allen said her days are still fun, she’s just adjusted the setting.

“I’m enjoying my family: my three daughters and three grandchildren. My husband retired so we are both at home and having a ball. I’m loving every single day,” Allen said.

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