

Up and Down
the

Hill



Vol. 2, No 3

News and Information about United States Army Garrison Fort A.P. Hill, Va.

Feb. 11, 2015

Active, Reserve Soldiers hone OPFOR skills during WAREX

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Commander's Column

by Lt. Col. David A. Meyer



Team AP Hill,

It's February and things here have almost returned to normal following an incredibly-busy January supporting the 78th Division WAREX.

Command Sgt. Maj. Ho and I want to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication to the nearly 3,000 Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen who deployed to post for the month. For many of these Warriors, this was the biggest exercise in which they had ever participated and it was a test of their skills in their duties and their ability to deal with uncertainty and complex problems. They leave here better prepared for whatever our nation may ask of them because of you.

February and March will see an increased volume of customers who were bumped from January so the lull which traditionally accompanies the winter months will never materialize. The coming months will also see improvements to some facilities and repairs to others. Now we face the very complex task of recovering from this operation and preparing ourselves and our post for the summer increase in Operational Tempo. Despite the compressed timelines, we must ensure that we are ready to meet the needs of our customers as we always have.

February is African American History month and, when combined with the celebration of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in January, is a great time to reflect on the diversity and opportunity which make our Nation great. This is another reminder of how our Army is much stronger today

because we value the strength of a diverse workforce. The post will hold an African American History month luncheon on Feb. 19 and I encourage everyone to attend.

Immediately following the lunch we will present our first Resiliency seminar. The Army Resiliency program is aimed at the entire Department of the Army and includes tips on dealing with stress and adversity. I am a huge believer in this program and have seen it work for Soldiers and Leaders of all ranks, both in garrison and deployed.

The football season came to an acceptable end a few weeks ago. I say acceptable because I didn't care who won just so long as Dallas wasn't playing. Remember, it's just 80 days until the 2015 National Football League Draft and the next opportunity for the Redskins to make choices which will frustrate and confuse all of their fans.

Command Sgt. Maj. Ho and I are grateful and humbled to serve with this team. We are continually amazed and thankful for all you do everyday. We remain a unique garrison in the Installation Management Command and enjoy a hard-earned and well-deserved reputation for excellence in customer service and facilities. That reputation is because of you and your hard work everyday. Be proud of that fact, but be mindful that you have set the bar high; our growing list of customers now expects nothing less.

If you see me or the CSM around post, never hesitate to come up and say hello. Our interactions with all of you and our customers are always the best parts of our day.

Sustain, Support and Defend,
Lt. Col. Meyer



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Garrison Commander
Lt. Col. David A. Meyer

Public Affairs Officer
Bob McElroy

Command Sergeant Major
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Michael Meisberger

CSM Corner

by *Command Sgt. Maj. Weiquan A. Ho*

I hope you had a wonderful Super Bowl weekend and your favorite team came away with the trophy. January was a hectic and successful month for Fort A.P. Hill. We wrapped up the month of outstanding support of the 78th Division's WAREX and 2nd Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group's Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan pre-mission training. Lt. Col. Meyer and I continue to receive praise for your world-class support from representatives of these units. Your commitment and dedication enabled these units to achieve all of their training objectives. We thank you all, keep up the good work.

The 78th Division praised your professionalism, dedication and commitment in ensuring that their Soldiers trained in a realistic and safe environment. The outstanding support you provided allowed more than 60 units, about 3,000 Soldiers in all, to complete successfully all training objectives and accomplish their mission readiness goals. The division greatly increased its readiness and proved that excellent support is vital to ensuring that the U.S. Armed Forces is the greatest fighting force in the world.

As a former member of the 2-3 SFGA, I thank you for your effort and support. 3rd SFGA is the most combat-tested group in the Special Forces Command. They have deployed every year since the start of OEF-A and they are gearing up for their 12th or 13th combat deployments. The support you provided will have enormous impact during their time down range and will help them become more efficient in embodying the 2-3rd SFGA's unit motto - "We Do Bad Things to Bad People." They truly value the outstanding support and friendliness at Fort A.P. Hill by choosing to train here instead of their home station, Fort Bragg, N.C. A few SF Soldiers who trained here recently were brand-new graduates of the Special Forces Qualification Course when I was a Team

Sergeant in 3rd Group years ago.

Most are now leaders and will soon take their teams in combat. I envy them the opportunity to serve America in combat and I am truly honored to have served among the best Soldiers in the world. As long there are threats to our great nation, our warriors will be called upon to protect us from harm and secure our freedoms. It is our duty and privilege to prepare them as best we can for the challenges that lay ahead.



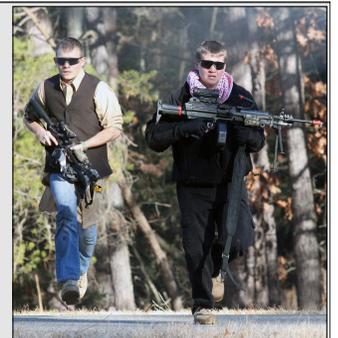
Fort A.P. Hill takes tremendous pride in providing user-friendly training facilities and world-class support to our warriors; supporting the warrior is our top priority. I'm constantly reminded by some of the old timers of the importance of ensuring the mind-set that we are here for the warrior is carried out thru the installation. Some of them: Mr. Allen Chennault, Mr. Bo Satterwhite, Mr. Jay Johnson and Mr. Tracy Rowles, have already or will retire from Fort A.P. Hill within a month. These folks more than 130 years of dedicated government service in support of our warriors. I have benefited enormously from their institutional knowledge and sound advice. I always sensed the pride when they spoke of supporting our warriors. Although they'd like to ride into the sunset quietly, if you have the opportunity to see them, I encourage you to elicit their advice and thank them for their dedicated service. Thank you again for helping Fort A.P. Hill provide our warriors the best training and support anywhere.

"People sleep peaceably in their beds at night only because rough men stand ready to do violence on their behalf."

George Orwell

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On the cover, Pfc. Jonathan Elledge and Pfc. Ryan Williams, Charlie Company, 1-327th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division trained with Soldiers from the 78th Training Division (U.S. Army Reserve) during Warrior Exercise Arctic Lightning at Fort A.P. Hill in January 2015.

This edition's cover photo is by Spc. Phillip Scaringi 78th Training Division (USAR) Public Affairs

WAREX Arctic Lightning**Fort A.P Hill exercise support a total team effort**

By Bob McElroy

By the time the approximately 3,000 Soldiers from the 78th Training Division (U.S. Army Reserve) completed their training and departed Fort A.P. Hill they had tested the ability of the garrison to support a large troop presence and the A.P. Hill staff passed with flying colors.

The 78th Soldiers occupied nearly every camp on post to the tune of 98 percent occupancy. Soldiers stayed and worked at Wilcox, Davis, Archer and Heth camps; a medical unit turned the driving range on A.P. Hill Drive into a sprawling field medical center.

The Logistics Readiness Center pumped thousands of gallons of fuel and water, cases and cases of rations passed through the Troop Issue Subsistence Activity and the Property Book Warehouse issued nearly 1,400 items.

Wilcox Camp hosted about 2,500 Soldiers from the 78th in addition to Soldiers from 2nd Battalion 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C. and a contingent from the 3rd U.S. Infantry, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va., according to Camp Manager Gary Seibert.

Seibert and contractor Kevin D. Hopper said that they and camp managers Billy Briggs and supervisor Jay Poirier began planning for the exercise about months before it began.

Hopper and his crew—Eric McDonnel, Alisa Smith, Timothy Richardson and Timothy Maloy—worked through the holidays to ensure the barracks were ready for the Soldiers.

“Kevin’s people were going right through the holidays, ensuring everything was up to snuff,” Seibert said. “They submitted service orders to ensure the water, heat and lights worked in the barracks.”

When the 78th Soldiers arrived and the WAREX began Seibert’s and Hopper’s crews worked constantly to support the troops. They often put in extra hours to ensure they quickly fixed problems the Soldiers identified.

“We were everywhere,” Hopper said.

Seibert and Hopper said the most-common service call they received was a lack of heat or hot water in the barracks.

Seibert praised the A.P. Hill Directorate of Public Works Utilities Shop for its responsiveness and dedication to fixing problems as they arose, despite having a small staff.

“They had 145 service tickets logged in 30 days,” he said. “And that doesn’t include the things they could fix on the spot, that was fantastic. What was that Winston Churchill quote?” “Never have so few done so much for so many.”

Seibert also praised the Utilities Shop for fixing issues in Wilcox dining facilities yet never affecting their ability to feed about 2,000 Soldiers a day.

Two units played a key role in the support to the camp managers: the 900th Quartermaster Company and the 251st Transportation Company. Both helped move heavy equipment and containers;



Courtesy graphic

20 Soldiers from another unit provided a work party that moved 300 new wall lockers into the barracks.

When the exercise was over and they had time to reflect, Seibert and Hopper said the experience of supporting so many Soldiers invaluable.

Seibert, who has worked at A.P. Hill for 11 years, said he supported a large number of Soldiers in the past but most often on weekends, when many National Guard and Army Reserve units train.

“It’s tough because you have so many units come and go; one leaves and another comes in,” he said. “This one was real good.”

Hopper said the exercise was the first for him and his team and proved an invaluable learning experience.

“It was a good learning experience for me and my crew,” Hopper said. “It will help us to get better at our jobs; it helped us to learn what to expect.”

Seibert offered a final thought.

“It never ceases to amaze me what Fort A.P. Hill can accomplish,” Seibert said.

WAREX Arctic Lightning**Fort A.P. Hill exercise support by the numbers**

Editor's note—The approximately 3,000 Soldiers and Civilians from the 78th Training Division challenged Fort A.P. Hill support services for most of January. The numbers below offer a snapshot.

- 78th Training Division's Soldiers occupied 98 percent of every camp facility on post.
- More than 300 commercial carriers came and went during the 30 days of WAREX.

The Logistics Readiness Center**Ammunition issued**

- 5.56mm Blank Linked – 20,000
- 5.56mm Blank – 109,440
- 7.62mm Blank Linked – 14,000
- .50 Cal Blank Linked – 4,500
- Green Smoke Grenade – 200
- Yellow Smoke Grenade – 214
- Red Smoke Grenade – 56
- Violet Smoke Grenade – 156
- White Smoke Grenade – 319
- Various Signals Ground Illumination -56
- Simulator, Ground Burst – 366
- Simulator, HG – 280

Fuel provided

- 7,000 gallons of aviation fuel to C Company 2 Battalion Fort Campbell, Ky.
- 43,995 gallons of fuel from main Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants site on A.P. Hill Drive
- 14,555 gallons from Wilcox Fuel Points

The Property Book Warehouse issued 1,365 pieces of equipment

- 698 Chairs
- 360 Cots
- 168 Tables
- 40 Sandbags
- 35 R-Fab Tents
- 24 Modular Tents
- 17 Light Sets
- 10 Sledge Hammers
- 6 Plastic Barriers
- 5 Five Gallon Silver Bullets
- 2 Shovels
- 1 Coffee Maker
- 1 Ladder

Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation

- Java Café sold approximately 6,900 cups of coffee and 2,500 food items
- Primo's Express sold more than 5,000 pieces of pizza and more than 1,600 hamburgers

The Downtime Zone sold

- 2,300 hot dogs
- 1600 bratwurst
- 6,831 Warriors enjoyed the welcoming atmosphere and participated in leisure activities at the Down Time Zone
- 1,864 Warriors took advantage of the excellent workout opportunities offered by the Wilcox Physical Fitness Center.

Active, Reserve Soldiers hone OPFOR skills

By Maj. Sean B. Casey
78th Training Division Public Affairs Officer

Soldiers from the 78th Training Division and 101st Airborne Division join together to act as the Opposing Force (OPFOR) helping facilitate the 78th Training Division's Warrior Exercise (WAREX) "Arctic Lightning" at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia, Jan. 10 to Jan. 31.

Sunlight breaks through the upper canopy of the tree line bringing a glimpse of physical comfort to January's frigid early morning moments before the OPFOR soldier breaks the silence and initiates his attack. The OPFOR's mission this day is to ambush a U.S. convoy to test the convoy soldiers' abilities to react correctly to a complex attack consisting of an IED and small-arms fire.

78th soldiers, who've had a lot of experience as OPFOR, taught us about threat behaviors, equipment and tactics, which can help us learn more about the enemy, said Capt. Jeff Tolbert, commander of the 101st Airborne Division's Charlie Company, 1-327 Infantry Regiment. "We've had an easy time integrating into the 78th's OPFOR cell and have well a running team."

Tolbert's soldiers from Fort Campbell, Ky. teamed up with soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Operations Brigade, 78th Training Division from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey. The division's mission is to organize and host WAREX's and Combat Support Training Exercises (CSTX) to train and assess U.S. Army Reserve units as they progress through the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) cycle.

"I'd rather units experience these threats here in a training environment first," said Maj. Robin Islam, a commander from 3-329 Regiment, 3rd Operations Brigade, 78th Training Division. Islam's mission during "Arctic Lightning" is to think like the enemy and organize his soldiers and role players to make the training as realistic as possible for units.

The 78th Training Division, along with other similarly organized units from the National Training Center or Joint Readiness Training Center, use Decisive Action Training Environment (DATE) 2.1, essentially a playbook for exercise planners to develop a scenario that's highly likely to exist in the real world, Islam said.



Soldiers from Charlie Company, 1-327 Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, Fort Campbell, Ky. played the opposing forces (OPFOR) during the 78th Training Division's Warrior Exercise (WAREX) "Arctic Lightning" in January 2015.

U.S. Army photo by Spc. Phillip Scaringi 78th Training Division

Noncommissioned officers under Islam's command underwent specific training at an academy that teaches soldiers about "hybrid" variables in geographic regions throughout the world. These variables range from loosely organized guerrilla forces and criminal organizations to foreign populations organized by cultural norms. DATE 2.1 is based on current intelligence, and injects a myriad of challenges for training units to face while simulating a real-world operational environment.

Organizing and acting as the OPFOR not only provides units training value, but provides the OPFOR soldiers a great training experience.

"Plenty of the soldiers in my and Capt. Tolbert's command have witnessed and experienced real-world threats we're simulating," Islam said. "By having these soldiers already knowing our own tactics and, now, an increased understanding of the enemy's tactics, they can be an even more flexible and effective combat leader."

"Arctic Lightning" has approximately 4,000 service members, mainly from the U.S. Army Reserve, training on four military installations; Fort A.P. Hill, Va., Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, and Joint Readiness Training Center, La. The exercise also incorporates numerous aviation and special operations units from the active duty Army, along with units from the U.S. Navy Reserve.

Centurions challenge Reserve medical units

By Maj. Sean B. Casey
78th Training Division Public Affairs Officer

The 1st Medical Training Brigade aims to fulfill the “prepare” portion of the U.S. Army Reserve’s “plan, prepare, provide” model. This model is designed for maintaining operational readiness of medical units during operations such as the current one: “Arctic Lightning Medic” taking place on Fort A.P. Hill from Jan. 10-30. The brigade’s mission is to plan training scenarios based on current information and assess the performance of medical units.

The purpose “Arctic Lightning Medic” is to integrate into a concurrent operational exercise to test the full spectrum of medical care on the battlefield. This allows soldiers conducting training operations in the field to administer buddy aid, conduct casualty evacuation (CASEVAC) to unit medics, and for the casualty to be medically evacuated (MEDEVAC) to higher levels of care. This integration of medical exercises into operational exercises taps into the complexities of battlefield medical assessment, treatment and transportation to be trained on by military medical service members.

Exercise designers from 1st Medical Training Brigade tie together many units who administer medical aid and transportation of casualties, and have them coordinate with an established combat support hospital into one exercise, said Col. Tom Motel, deputy exercise director, 1st Medical Training Brigade.

Not only do unit medics and ground and air MEDEVAC units get training, but the surgeons, critical care nurses and doctors, pharmacy technicians and hospital administrators of the 75th Combat Support Hospital receive training by being a part of the overall exercise. The U.S. Army Reserve provides 100 percent of the Total Force’s medical groups and two-thirds of the Army hospitals and medical brigades.

The exercise scenario involved evacuating a host-nation patient from the battlefield and stabilizing the patient at the combat support hospital. Once the patient is stabilized, they’re then transported to a simulated host-nation hospital. The scenario incorporates medical treatment and transportation units from the active duty Army, Army and Navy

Reserve medical personnel, and also Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, which acted as the simulated host-nation facility.

Standardization is crucial to developing such an exercise and ensuring a successful training experience for the units on ground.

“Every medical service member deserves a chance to look at and train on the most common injuries seen on the battlefield,” said Col. Dave Thompson, exercise director, 1st Medical Training Brigade.

“That requires us to standardize the training lanes, synchronize with the OC/T academy, be experts on doctrine, and study lessons learned.”

Like other training facilitators in the U.S. Army, 1st Medical Training Brigade personnel attend a observe coach / trainer (OC/T) academy to learn how to best assess and guide units as they’re challenged by the scenarios.



Army and Navy Reserve ground ambulance personnel from the 75th Combat Support Hospital transport a simulated patient to a crew chief from 2nd Battalion, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division on Fort A.P. Hill, Va., Jan. 21.

**U.S. Army photo by Spc. Matthew Elmore
78th Training Division Public Affairs**

See Medical exercise page 8

Medical Exercise tests Army and Navy Reserves

Medical exercise from page 7

“The academy reinforces ‘guidance, guidance, guidance,’” said Maj. Raymond Picklesimer, an Army critical care nurse and 1st Medical Training Brigade OC/T. “I review field and technical manuals, and spin up on the latest patient care and MEDEVAC doctrine before coming to an exercise.”



A Soldier from 1st Medical Training Brigade prepares a simulated battlefield casualty using casts and the newly introduced “Cut Suit” on Jan. 21 at Fort A.P. Hill.

**U.S. Army photos by Spc. Phillip Scaringi
78th Training Division Public Affairs**

U.S. Navy Reserve personnel from the Expeditionary Medical Facility Bethesda integrated into 75th Combat Support Hospital’s operations. Inter-service operations of medical personnel are common during real-world deployments, and “Arctic Lightning Medic” afforded units the rare opportunity to train together.

“Many of us do similar jobs in the civilian world and this exercise gives us experience working in a field environment, which makes it more challenging,” said Cmdr. Patrick Gregory, a doctor with the Expeditionary Medical Facility Bethesda. “Having OC/T’s doing after action reviews is something I’ve never had in a training event.”

The Human Worn Partial Task Surgical Simulator, commonly referred to as the “Cut Suit,” is introduced into many of the scenarios 1st Medical Training Brigade plans. The anatomic “Cut Suit” is worn by a live simulated casualty and provides realistic look, feel and smell of the human body. Yes, smell. 1st Medical Training Brigade soldiers specializing in moulage, the term used for application of mock injuries for training purposes, provide realism to the units training during “Arctic Lightning Medic.”

The medical exercise falls under the 78th Training Division’s Warrior Exercise (WAREX) 78-15-01 “Arctic Lightning.” The exercise has approximately 4,000 service members, mainly from the U.S. Army Reserve, training on four military installations; Fort A.P. Hill, Va., Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey, Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland, and Joint Readiness Training Center, Louisiana.

“Arctic Lightning” incorporates aviation and special operations units from the active Army. Exercise planners sought to provide the opportunity to train together per the 2012 Total Force Policy, to enhance interoperability of the service branches.



A simulated patient is medically evacuated by an HH-60 from 2nd Battalion, 1st Combat Aviation Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, to Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, Va., Jan. 21.



Family and MWR's 2015 Fitness Challenge

January 14th 2015 – April 15th 2015

With every New Year comes opportunities for new beginnings -and many of us need a fresh start on our desire for a healthy lifestyle. Come and join our **2015 Fitness Challenge** - participation is the key to your change!

By signing up you will receive:

- **Weekly Weigh-In – You pick a day!**
- **Weekly Email – Motivation and recipes for a healthier lifestyle**
- **Weekly Walking Groups – Walk a different course each week**
- **Prizes will be given to the top male and female participants!**

First Weigh-In: Wednesday, January 14th, 2015 06:00 a.m. - 06:00 p.m.

Final Weigh-In: Wednesday, April 15th, 2015 06:00 a.m. - 06:00 p.m.

Eligibility: MWR programs are open to Authorized Patrons. This includes Active Duty Military and Reserve personnel, Retirees, DOD Civilian Employees, their Family Members, guest who are accompanied by an authorized patron, and other individuals permitted by AR 215-1.



www.aphillmwr.com

Garrison employees recognized at Town Hall

U.S. Army Garrison Fort A.P. Hill commander Lt. Col. David A. Meyer recognized nearly two dozen employees at the December 2014 Employee Town Hall. Meyer presented awards for exemplary service as well as time of service certificates.

U.S. Army photos by Bob McElroy



Lt. Col. David A. Meyer (right) presented Firefighter Stephen J. Kolodziej the Army's Achievement Medal for Civilian Service



Lt. Col. David A. Meyer (right) presented Brentton Allen the Department of the Army Certificate of Achievement.



Lt. Col. David A. Meyer (right) presented Sergio A. Sergi the Department of the Army Certificate of Achievement.



Lt. Col. David A. Meyer (right) presented Mark A. Swisher the Department of the Army Certificate of Achievement.



Lt. Col. David A. Meyer (right) presented Sabine Arndt a certificate in recognition of her five years of federal service.



Lt. Col. David A. Meyer (right) presented Marsha Beazley a certificate in recognition of her ten years of federal service.

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U.S. Army photos by Bob McElroy



Lt. Col. David A. Meyer (right) presented Cindy G. Tate a certificate in recognition of her 25 years of federal service.



Lt. Col. David A. Meyer (right) presented Daniel W. Berkowitz a Certificate of Promotion to GS-11.



Lt. Col. David A. Meyer (right) presented Jessica A. Pope a Certificate of Promotion to GS-06.



Lt. Col. David A. Meyer (right) presented Samuel H. Hill III a Certificate of Promotion to GS-10.



Lt. Col. David A. Meyer (right) presented Tiwana A. Cuffee a Certificate of Promotion to GS-07.



Lt. Col. David A. Meyer (right) presented Leonard V. Gallo a Certificate of Promotion to GS-11.

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U.S. Army photos by Bob McElroy



Lt. Col. David A. Meyer (right) presented Kenneth Derby a certificate of promotion to GS-07.



Lt. Col. David A. Meyer (right) presented Nicholas D. Feasel a Certificate of Promotion to GS-07.



Lt. Col. David A. Meyer (right) presented Christopher J. Lockey a Certificate of Promotion to GS-05.



Lt. Col. David A. Meyer (right) presented Matthew H. Johnson a Certificate of Promotion to WG-08.



Lt. Col. David A. Meyer (right) presented Patrick C. Pemberton a Certificate of Promotion to WG-08.



Lt. Col. David A. Meyer (center) updated employees and answered questions after he presented awards.



Courtesy photo

310th Engineer Soldier wins Rowing Challenge

Gregory Love (left), a Soldier in the 310th Engineers (U.S. Army Reserve) was the top finisher in the Hell of High Water Rowing Challenge on Jan. 16 in the Headquarters Fitness Center. Love rowed 2486 meters in ten minutes. Fellow Soldiers Gregory Bucci (left) and Paul Pipic (center) joined him in the challenge.



Navy cops Commander's Cup—They may have the smallest team but the men of Navy Special Warfare Group 2 training facility beat several larger teams to win the Fort A.P. Hill Commander's Cup trophy. During the Commander's Cup competition, teams compete in various events each month and earn points based on performance and participation. Shown here, Fort A.P. Hill commander Lt. Col. David A. Meyer (right) presents the Commander's Cup to Mr. Bill Knode (left) and Petty Officer 2nd Class Timothy W. Cady of NSWG2.

U.S. Army photo by Bob McElroy

Employee Spotlight — Mr. Robert T. Wright

Editor's note—Rather than posting an interview with one of our fine employees, this edition features a remembrance of Mr. Bob Wright, Fort A.P. Hill's Deputy Garrison Commander, who passed away on Jan. 19.

When Fort A.P. Hill deputy garrison commander Bob Wright passed away Monday, Jan. 19, he left a legacy as a proud yet humble Soldier and a calm, mature leader who will be missed.

Wright served his country and the U.S. Army for the better part of 40 years, first as an enlisted Soldier, then as an officer and finally as an Army Civilian. Throughout his life he embraced the challenging jobs and rose to the top. He was a drill sergeant, a tank commander, a battalion commander, a base manager and a deputy garrison commander. He was a firm, decisive leader yet he always had time to teach and mentor, to listen and counsel.

As a young Army officer Wright served three consecutive one-year combat tours in Vietnam and was wounded three times. He was awarded the Silver Star, America's third highest award for bravery under fire. He was decorated for valor five more times before he left Vietnam—thrice by the U.S. Army, twice by the Republic of Vietnam. Following his time in Vietnam Wright served in Panama, South Korea and the Continental United States. He commanded two Armored Cavalry Troops, an Air Assault Infantry Battalion, a Basic Combat Training Company, a student company at the U.S. Army War College and served as an Armored Cavalry Squadron Executive Officer.

Wright retired from active duty as a colonel but the Army drew him back and he began a civilian career that would take him from Korea to Hawaii to Okinawa and back to America.

He served as deputy garrison commander for Pohakuloa Training Area on Hawaii Island where he managed more than 200 Army Civilians and contractors and a 130,000-acre training area that supported all American military forces in the Pacific Region.

Wright left Hawaii to be the base manager of Torii Station, Okinawa, Japan. He managed seven U.S. Army installations and supported more than 5,000 Soldiers, family members and Retirees. He also interacted daily with local Japanese Government Officials and the senior mission commander.

When he completed his tour in Okinawa Wright served as a Senior Specialist for the Regional Installation Support Team, Atlantic Region, U.S. Army Installation Management Command, at Fort Eustis, Va. He was a key member of the team that built garrison organizations for Army Material Command installations that were being transferred to IMCOM.

Wright left the Atlantic Region RIST for the deputy garrison



son commander's position at Fort A.P. Hill in February 2012. He managed the more than 300 Army Civilians and contractors, a 76,000-acre post and supported up to 90,000 active and reserve-component Soldiers, Marines, Airmen and Sailors who trained at A.P. Hill annually.

Fort A.P. Hill garrison commander Lt. Col. David A. Meyer remembered Wright as a proud Soldier who lived two lifetimes of service.

"Bob Wright was a great help to me when I took command of Fort A.P. Hill last June. But, more than anything, I am impressed by his 40 years of service to his country as a Soldier and Department of the Army Civilian. I am proud to have served with him and will miss him and the wise counsel he shared with me."

Wright is survived by his wife, Victoria Kim Wright. Burial with military honors will occur at a later date in Wiscasset, Maine.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.storkefuneralhome.com

New tank pads will enhance Medal of Honor Garden



The Norfolk District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is overseeing the construction of three new tank pads near the garrison headquarters. Cash awards from the 2013 and 2014 Army Communities of Excellence program will pay for the project. The pads should be finished in a few weeks and will hold the vintage armored vehicles now sitting next to the garrison conference room.

Story and photo by Bob McElroy

If you've been by the garrison headquarters or lodging lately you may have seen a couple of small construction vehicles working the adjacent fields.

Under the supervision of the Norfolk District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, they're building three new concrete pads for the vintage tanks and armored vehicles now sitting by the garrison conference room.

And, the best thing about the project, it won't cost the post—the funds come from cash awards Fort A.P. Hill won the last two years under the Army Communities of Excellence program.

Established in 1985 and sponsored by the Chief of Staff of the Army ACOE recognizes excellence at Army installations by assessing all components and dimensions of installation management. Fort A.P. Hill captured the 2013

Bronze Award and with it \$30,000; the garrison won a Silver Award in 2014 that brought \$60,000.

Under ACOE rules a winning garrison must use the money for projects that benefit the entire community. Fort A.P. Hill has used previous ACOE cash awards to build the Beaverdam training building, Romenick Hall, upgrade the running track and install electronic marquees at the gates.

In April 2014 garrison commander Lt. Col. Peter E. Dargle assembled a group representing each directorate to review options and recommend how to spend the funds. Dianne Smith and Brian Taylor of the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office oversaw the group and presented its recommendation to Dargle for his decision.

The panel considered several options but decided that it would be best to enhance the Medal of Honor Garden and recommended the new tank pads to Dargle. He concurred and approved using the funds on June 12.

December was a busy month for Fort A.P. Hill



Jingle Bell 5-K Run

The annual Jingle Bell 5K drew just a few runners but they made up in enthusiasm what they lacked in numbers. There was a tie for first place between Steven Lawson of the Directorate of Public Works and Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Weiquan A. Ho. Their time was 28 minutes, 43 seconds.

Greg Johnson retires—Fort A.P. Hill commander Lt. Col. David A. Meyer (left) presented Greg Johnson the Department of the Army Certificate of Retirement to recognize his retirement from service as a Department of the Army Police Officer.



Christmas Candlelight Service

The Fort A.P. Hill family hosted the annual Christmas Candlelight Service at Historic Liberty Church on Dec. 17. The Rev. Jerry Bennett led the service which concluded with the lighting of candles by everyone who attended.

U.S. Army photos by Bob McElroy

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Christmas Tree lighting—Fort A.P. Hill hosted the annual Christmas Tree lighting in front of the garrison headquarters on Dec. 5. Santa arrived courtesy of the Fort A.P. Hill Fire Department.



Left—Garrison commander Lt. Col. David A. Meyer and several friends flipped the switch and lit the tree. Family, Morale and Welfare and Recreation held a Kristkindel Market after the tree lighting.

U.S. Army photos by Bob McElroy

Bowling Green celebrates the holidays—Fort A.P. Hill commander Lt. Col. David A. Meyer (center) and Command Sgt. Maj. Weiquan A. Ho (right) had the honor of judging the entries in the Bowling Green annual Festival of Lights parade.



Environmental and Natural Resources Division

Skunk Cabbage blooms, generates heat in winter

By Robert H. Floyd
Fort A.P. Hill Natural Resource Specialist

While it's true that most plants in Virginia bloom in the spring or summer there is one Fort A.P. Hill plant that waits until the coldest part of winter to bloom—I'm referring to the elegant, peculiar, pungent, and down-right fascinating—Skunk Cabbage (*Symplocarpus foetidus*).

If you've ever driven along A.P. Hill Drive between Shackelford Road and the drop zone, you may have noticed a strikingly-green plant with huge fan-like leaves covering the forest floor of wetlands during the warmer months. Although this species may have its leaves above ground during the summer, it doesn't produce a flower until the coldest months in winter!

This is when things get weird.

Unless you know what to look for, Skunk Cabbage flowers don't look like any other flower in Virginia, in fact, they don't look much like flowers at all. These bizarre blossoms have only one large petal that wraps around the reproduc-

tive parts of the flower. These blossoms might be purple and yellow-striped, spotted or solid purple.

By now you might be wondering why this species is called Skunk Cabbage. It's because instead of producing a pleasant sweet smell, this species reeks like rotten garbage. This foul odor might seem repugnant to you or me, but to many insects this smell is very-alluring. When the bugs visit the skunk cabbage's malodorous flower, they're happy to help pollinate it.

But I still haven't told you the coolest part. If the putrid smell and bizarre winter flowers haven't piqued your interest, Skunk

Cabbage has another astounding ability—it generates heat. Skunk Cabbage wouldn't be effective attracting pollinators in the winter if its flowers were buried under snow, so, to solve this problem, Skunk Cabbage flowers radiate warmth. It is not uncommon for a solitary

flower to melt a basketball-sized hole through several inches of snow. Wetlands with lots of flowering Skunk Cabbage will stand out after snow falls. At first glance it may look like snow fell everywhere except that wetland, but in actuality, the snow fell and then melted because of these little botanical space-heaters.



Courtesy photos

Upcoming Events

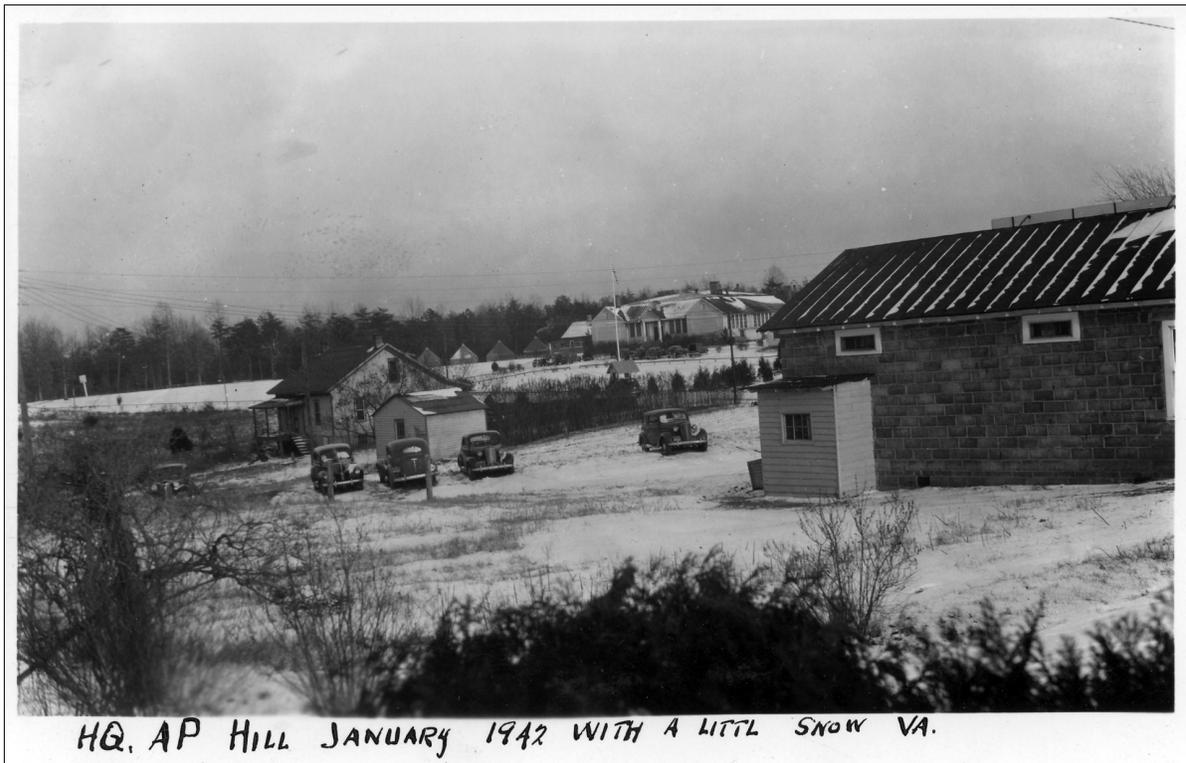
- **March-April various dates — Lead and Asbestos awareness training**
 - **Open to all, required for applicable personnel**
 - **Five two-hour classes**
 - **Contact Troy Smith (804) 633-8975 or Mark Fisher (804) 633-8489 for further info**
- **March 22 — World Water Day**
 - **The average adult who takes a five-minute shower uses more water than an average person in a developing nation does in a whole day - conserve water!**
- **March 28, 8:30 a.m.- 9:30 a.m. — Earth Hour**
- **April 23 — Fort A.P. Hill Earth and Safety Day-Beaverdam Area**
 - **50+ cultural and natural resources exhibitors**
 - **Military vehicles**
 - **Appearance by Smokey Bear**

Images from the past

A look back at Fort A.P. Hill



Soldiers like these have trained at Fort A.P. Hill for nearly 73 years.



Winter is here and snow may soon come, just as in Fort A.P. Hill's early days.

Garrison Hours of Operation

Garrison Headquarters	Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 :30 p.m.
Lois B. Wells Health Clinic	Monday - Friday 7 a.m - 4 p.m.
Family and MWR Office	<i>Monday-Friday 8 a.m.– 4 p.m.</i>
President's Day Feb. 16	<i>Closed</i>
Headquarters Fitness Center	<i>Monday-Friday: 5 a.m.— 8 p.m. Saturday: 8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. Sunday: Closed; President's Day Feb. 16 Closed</i>
Wilcox Gym: <i>Open 24/7</i>	<i>Closed for renovation beginning Feb. 7</i>
Outdoor Recreation	<i>Monday-Friday: 9 a.m.– 5 p.m. Saturday: 8 a.m.– Noon Sunday: Closed; President's Day Feb. 16: Closed</i>
Downtime Zone	<i>Monday, Wednesday and Thursday: 8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. Tuesday: Closed; Friday: 8 a.m.—7 p.m.; Saturday: 11 a.m.– 7 p.m. (Closed on Feb. 14), Sunday: Open on Feb 1 from 4 p.m.—11 p.m. Feb. 22 from 11 a.m.- 7 p.m.; Closed on Feb. 8, 15, 16 (President's Day)</i>
Recreational Lodging	<i>Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m.- 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 9 a.m.- 3 p.m.; President's Day Feb.16: Closed</i>
Primo's Express	<i>Feb. 3-6, 9-13, 17-21, 23-28 from 11 a.m.– 2 p.m. Closed Feb.14, 15, 16, and 22. Days and hours subject to change</i>
Java Café	<i>Open Feb. 9-13, 17-21 and 23-28</i>
PX at Wilcox	<i>Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday Closed</i>

For more information on Fort A.P. Hill FMWR programs and events visit: <http://aphillmwr.com/>

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