



EOD Training Center renamed for fallen hero

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Commander's Column *by Lt. Col. Peter E. Dargle*



As we look forward to the hope, promises, and opportunities of the New Year, we remain keenly aware that our success is predicated upon providing Warriors with the "Best Training and Support...Anywhere!" We will face a myriad of challenges in the weeks, months and year ahead, however, our character and our people will

continue to meet those challenges with incredible resolve. Our efforts will focus on harnessing the tremendous energy, dedication and talent of our diverse workforce and maximizing our resources to make meaningful, positive impacts in the readiness of our military. This mission comes with tremendous responsibility and accountability to ensure we do the right things, in the right ways, while mitigating risk and retaining awareness for great opportunity. We do all of this while adhering to our fundamental values, the Army Values, that allow us to execute to the highest standard. Your individual service and collective teamwork will continue to be the key ingredients towards generating positive outcomes in the year ahead.

Despite a reduced OPTEMPO during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday periods, Fort A.P. Hill provided premier training and support to nearly 10,000 Warriors that represented more than 100 Units from every component and service in the Joint Force. Equally important, your consummate adherence to standards and safety ensured that more than 60,000 Warrior training days were completed without a significant safety accident or incident during the quarter.

This is an incredible record of performance that speaks volumes of the dedication, talent and skill of the entire AP Hill Family.

While you see the faces and read the stories highlighting our significant accomplishments during the past quarter, it is important to understand that these accolades, along with so many other achievements this past year, were done in a period of tremendous challenge and uncertainty. Your accomplishments are best articulated in the overwhelming praise from our "customers" --- America's Warriors. As one Warrior stated, "'I wanted to drop a note of thanks to the overwhelming amount of support your whole team provided us over the course of the last year. The entire crew of folks up there bent over backwards to ensure our men and women were ready to go to war. We can't thank you enough."

As we begin 2014, we will continue to face many of the challenges and uncertainties that we faced in 2013. We must continue to find creative ways and means to achieve our ends, beginning with individual acts of selfless service and generation of "out of the box" approaches to maintain our competitive edge. Your collective action as a team of teams will achieve great outcomes for our Garrison and continue to outperform expectations because "WE" remain dedicated to the principles of customer service and support to our Warriors!

"Bring Hill Up!"



Garrison Commander
Lt. Col. Peter E. Dargle

Public Affairs Officer
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Shut the Hill Up! *By Command Sgt. Maj. Keith R. Whitcomb*

Leading..... Critical in “ANY” Organization..!!

After being assigned to Fort A.P. Hill for a year and a half and interacting with our Directories, Divisions, Sections, etc.; I thought it would be appropriate to share some thoughts on leadership and the critical role it plays in organizations.

Organizations with positive leadership usually display the following traits:

- Gets superior results often and meet deadlines.
- Sustains and improves organizations within available resources.
- People are taken care of while creating and sustaining a positive climate through open communication, trust, cohesion and teamwork.
- Employees and followers respond positively to the leader or in response to guidance.

Effective organizations depend on the competence of respectful leaders and loyal followers. Given the hierarchical structure of the Army, every Army leader is also a follower. Learning to be a good leader also needs to be associated with learning to be a good follower—learning loyalty, subordination, respect for superiors and even when and how to lodge candid disagreement.

Organizations that maintain an atmosphere of negative leadership usually display the following traits from leaders and employees within the organization:

- Little communications amongst the staff and employees and ignoring your staff.
- Not empowering your staff (s) to succeed.
- Individuals not admitting they’ve made mistakes.
- Asking employees a hundred questions with every decision they make.
- Not recognizing staff for the achievements they have made.
- Threatening staff, belittling them, yelling at staff. Unable to take criticism.
- Deceitfulness, being callous, Analysis Paralysis – i.e. indecisiveness.
- Leaders setting a poor example of execution and accountability, but expecting others to execute.
- Failing to plan. Not setting a clear vision.
- Poor management of one’s self.

While no one is perfect, especially me, it is important that we all understand what “right” looks like and do everything within our power to achieve a positive climate within our organization and provide positive leadership within our working place.



So, how does one effect change within their division or directorate? It can come from the inside going up and out or from the top down. It starts with honest and respectful communication; leaders cannot be afraid to be honest, maintain standards and hold employees and themselves accountable for their actions, good and bad. I ask that everyone give this some thought, and work to grow and maintain a positive environment.

I ask leaders at ALL levels (including myself) to also give the above some thought and make a plan to maintain or emplace a positive climate and lead by example. (I borrowed some of this from ADP 6-22). Additionally, I am asking us as leaders to ask the following questions of ourselves and action accordingly:

- Am I rating all of my employees the same regardless of their work performance or am I rating them and giving them awards based on their actual performance?
- Am I working hard for my employees all the same, or am I only working hard for a specific person or people? Am I perceived as being or am I being unfair?
- Am I holding my people accountable for their work, or are they running the show and the timelines for work to be delivered? Am I holding my employees to a reasonable and achievable standard?
- Are my employees and I doing everything we can to support the Warriors that train here at A.P. Hill?
- Am I coaching my employees to become the best they can be?

Thank you again for what you do for “The Hill” and providing the best service possible for the warriors that train here at the Hill. I wish you all a Happy New Year and the very best to you and your family..!!!

Fort A.P. Hill featured in the Year in Photos 2013

The U.S. Army recently published the Year in Photos 2013, an annual feature that highlights the service of Soldiers around the world.

This edition features Soldiers from the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) training at Fort A.P. Hill. Check out August for the photo.

To see more photos from the Year in Photos 2013 visit: <http://www.army.mil/yearinphotos/2013/index.html>

EOD Training Center renamed for fallen hero



Jennifer McMahon (center), widow of Capt. Jason T. McMahon, was joined for the ribbon cutting by dignitaries from the Ordnance School and Fort A.P. Hill. Shown from left to right are: Marcus E. Markham, Director, Munitions and EOD Training Department, Command Sgt. Maj. Clinton G. Hall, the Ordnance Regimental Command Sergeant Major, Col. Jack Haley, the Army's 38th Chief of Ordnance and Commandant of the U.S. Army Ordnance School, Col. Mark A. Fitch, Chief, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Directorate, Lt. Col. Peter E. Dargle, commander U.S. Army Garrison Fort A.P. Hill, Va. and Command Sgt. Maj. Keith R. Whitcomb, garrison command sergeant

Story and photos by Bob McElroy

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Center here was renamed Nov. 6 to honor Capt. Jason T. McMahon, an EOD Soldier who was killed in action in Afghanistan on Sept. 5, 2010.

McMahon was the company commander of the 744th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company at the time of his death. He was leading a patrol in Laghman Province, when enemy insurgents attacked it.

During the firefight he exposed himself to withering enemy fire to ensure his Soldiers could use the limited cover available. While directing his Soldiers' fire toward the enemy he was critically wounded and later died from his wounds. His actions ensured his Soldiers' safety and saved their lives.

McMahon's widow Jennifer and daughters Trinity, McKenzie and Azlynn and McMahon's brother Ty and his

wife attended the ceremony.

Col. Jack Haley, the Army's 38th Chief of Ordnance and Commandant of the U.S. Army Ordnance School, Fort Lee, Va. was the featured speaker at the ceremony. Haley said it was a privilege to honor one of our nation's heroes by naming the EOD Training Center after him.

"Jason's heroism stands as a demonstration of the finest quality of our troops," Haley said. "I cannot think of a better way to celebrate Jason's life and service as an American soldier, a hero, husband, father and friend."

Following his remarks Haley and Command Sgt. Maj. Clinton G. Hall, the Ordnance Regimental Command Sergeant Major, presented Jennifer McMahon the Ordnance Order of Samuel Sharpe on behalf of her husband.

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The Sharpe award recognizes individuals who have served the Ordnance Corps with integrity, moral character and professional competence and whose selfless contributions stand out in the eyes of their seniors, peers and subordinates.

Haley, Hall and Jennifer McMahon then unveiled the bronze plaque that will be mounted on the EOD Training Complex.

Col. Mark A. Fitch, Chief, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Directorate and Marcus E. Markham, Director, Munitions and EOD Training Department joined Haley, Hall and McMahon for the ribbon cutting which symbolized the official opening of the Capt. Jason T. McMahon EOD Training Center.

After the ceremony Ty McMahon said that naming the training center after his brother meant a lot to him and the McMahon family.

"It shows how my brother performed his duties above and beyond expectations of everybody," McMahon said. "He was the perfect Soldier, a perfect family guy, he was a good brother. This means a lot."

Jennifer McMahon said the honor symbolized what Jason did in the Army.

"He influenced a lot of people and a lot of Soldiers, that's what his main goal was," she said. "He was good at teaching; even though he was a captain and had all those guys



Command Sgt. Maj. Clinton G. Hall (left) and Col. Jack Haley (right) present Jennifer McMahon (center) a replica of the bronze plaque which hangs on the newly renamed Capt. Jason T. McMahon EOD Training Center.

under him he took on teaching as a second role. He definitely had the demeanor to be the leader and do those things.

"It means a lot to us and I know it means a lot to this unit and people surrounding it. This is an occasion that will stick with us and will show the girls what he's done and what he means to all these gentlemen and ladies. It's very special."

Capt. Greg Abide, the commander of 55th Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), Fort Belvoir, Va., served as one of McMahon's platoon leaders in Afghanistan. He said that naming the facility after Jason McMahon was a chance to honor a great man.

"He's one of the best," Abide said. "It's a small honor that we can bestow on a great man who really cared for all of the Soldiers around him. Those who were able to learn from him were very fortunate; it's fitting his name be here."

McMahon EOD Training Center by the numbers

Size—24,000 square feet

Classrooms—7

Maintenance bays—3

Staff—23 Army NCOs, three DA Civilians, three contract employees

Trains—More than 1,000 EOD operators from the US, foreign nations, federal and county agencies annually.



Jennifer McMahon and Capt. Greg Abide hug after the renaming ceremony. Abide was one of the late Capt. Jason T. McMahon's platoon leaders in combat in Afghanistan.

It's been a busy few months at Fort A.P. Hill



More than 50 runners and walkers of all ages participated in the annual Fort A.P. Hill Halloween 5-Kilometer Run and Walk on Oct. 31. The event attracted Soldiers, Families, Civilians and friends on a cool Autumn morning. The first male finisher was Staff Sgt. Tyler Lewis at 23 minutes. The first female finisher was A.P. Hill Civilian employee Jenn Arndt at 25 minutes 37 seconds.



Families and friends came out Halloween Eve to the annual Fort A.P. Hill Trunk or Treat. The event featured plenty of scary, imaginative costumes and creatively-decorated cars, trucks and vans. And there was plenty of candy and a bouncy house too.

Fort A.P. Hill Fire Department Paramedics Dana Nichols (standing left) and Briana Witzel (standing center) trained members of the headquarters staff how to use the Auto defibrillator on Oct. 11. The defibrillator can make the difference between life and death when someone has a heart attack. Shown here from bottom left are Debbie Moore, Mary Arcand, Lt. Col. Peter E. Dargle and Latasha Woolfolk.



U.S. Army photos by Bob McElroy

It's been a busy few months at Fort A.P. Hill



Representatives from several federal agencies visited Fort A.P. Hill and two local farms on Oct. 28 to learn how the post manages its Army Compatible Use Buffer program. Here, Millbank Farm owner Lawrence Andrew Ball (left center, holding map) discusses the protected land around his farm.



U.S. Army Garrison Fort A.P. Hill commander Lt. Col. Peter E. Dargle addressed members of the Fredericksburg Realtor's Association on Nov. 14 at the Ladysmith Community Center. Dargle gave the realtors an update on training and activities on A.P. Hill and answered several questions regarding military training and its impact on the local communities.



Long-time Fort A.P. Hill civilian employee Ken Perrotte retired in November capping a 30-plus year career of service to the Army first as a Soldier and then as a Department of the Army Civilian. During his civilian career Perrotte worked as the installation Public Affairs Officer and later as the Chief of the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office. One of his signal achievements was playing a key role in A.P. Hill winning Army Community of Excellence awards multiple times. To commemorate this he and garrison commander Lt. Col. Peter E. Dargle placed the latest ACOE streamer on the post colors (right photo) before weekly command and staff call. Later Dargle presented Perrotte his retirement gift. Perrotte will remain in the area and work as a writer and photographer.



Fort A.P. Hill commemorates Veterans Day



On a clear and cold morning, Nov. 8, U.S. Army Garrison Fort A.P. Hill, Va. honored Veterans with a brief flag-raising ceremony.

Department of the Army police officers Jess Lapham and Todd Flowers raised the American and POW-MIA flags and the more than 30 who attended rendered honors to the colors.

In his brief remarks after the flag raising, garrison commander Lt. Col. Peter E. Dargle said that Veterans Day, Nov. 11, honors all of America's Veterans, past and present.

"Each year, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month we pause—as a nation and as a people—to pay tribute to our Veterans...to take a break in our busy lives to do what we should endeavor to do and say every day—to show our deep appreciation for their service to the nation and say thank you to our Veterans," Dargle said.

Dargle said that the sacrifices of our Veterans and their Families speak volumes about the enduring spirit of our great nation.

"Time and again, at home and abroad, our Veterans and their Families have sacrificed to protect that powerful promise that all of us hold so dear—life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

U.S. Army photos by Bob McElroy



'Twas the holiday season at Fort A.P. Hill



The A.P. Hill family celebrated Thanksgiving with its annual potluck lunch at Roemnick Hall.

U.S. Army photo by Bob McElroy



Fort A.P. Hill staff and families celebrated the holiday season on Dec. 5 with a fantastic dinner followed by a visit from Santa, Christmas jokes, Bingo and Let's Make a Deal games where the winners received some great gifts.

U.S. Army photo by Bob McElroy



Fort A.P. Hill held its annual Christmas Candlelight service at Historic Liberty Church on Dec. 5. The culmination of the service was the lighting of candles and the singing of Christmas hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night."

U.S. Army photo by Bob McElroy

Marines prepare for the new normal at A.P. Hill

Story and photo by Bob McElroy

FORT A.P. HILL, Va. – Marines from I Company, 3rd Battalion 8th Marines, Camp Lejeune, N.C. conducted an exercise here recently that tested their ability to perform a new mission that requires discipline, area familiarization and quick response.

Dubbed “the new normal,” the mission breaks from past doctrine that stationed Marines only at permanent bases and on ships and focused on combat operations.

Under “the new normal” select Marine infantry units will be deployed overseas to respond to trouble spots in a geographic area. Should an American embassy in their area of responsibility be threatened, the Marines could deploy to protect it or evacuate American citizens if the ambassador deems the situation too dangerous.

Capt. Brian Hronchek, an Operations Officer with the 8th Marine Regiment Headquarters said the exercise was designed to help Marines transition from fighting wars to being a force in readiness, one able to respond quickly if a situation develops in another country that threatens American lives.

“Basically we’re adjusting our readiness and focus to new areas, adjusting the organization a little bit and now we’re training to that new standard,” said Hronchek.

“Everyone has been focused on combat operations, now we have to change the whole mentality and turn over to a more of a peacetime and security mission,” he said. “The purpose of this exercise is to help everyone change that thinking.” Hronchek said one of the key differences between combat and the new normal is the rules of engagement. Marines protecting an embassy must exercise greater restraint when attacked and may not be able to shoot back when someone shoots at them.

“Combat rules of engagement allow for more of an ability to protect yourself; in this type of situation you may not be able to shoot back,” he said.

Hronchek said the Marines under fire will have to take

cover and not shoot, a challenge to a force trained to return fire when fired upon.

“They may have to stand fast and hold their cover...allow it to happen just so they don’t cause an international incident. It’s a very different way of thinking, a different mission with different boundaries and different controls.”

During their training exercise, more than 100 Marines and local security guards protected the embassy compound while about 70 local national role players shouted threats and entreaties from the other side of the fence.

The role players were born and raised in the area in which the Marines will operate. They speak the languages, know the culture and can offer valuable insights to the Marines.

Capt. Jim Oliveto, the commander of I Company, 3rd Battalion 8th Marines, said he and his Marines deployed to A.P. Hill on Sunday Nov. 17; they were followed by a platoon of Marines from K Company to reinforce their numbers.

The exercise scenario called for the situation to escalate quickly and become hostile. Given the threat to the Americans in the embassy, the ambassador decided to begin the noncombatant evacuation.

The Marines rounded up

the noncombatants and moved them securely to landing zones to await evacuation by V-22 Ospreys flown by pilots from VMM 162 and 264 based in New River Marine Corps Air Station, N.C.

Oliveto said the last evacuees departed Friday morning Nov. 22. All that remained was to redeploy his company. As his Marines waited by the landing zone, Oliveto said he was very pleased with the training exercise.

“It was fantastic training and the facilities here are outstanding,” he said.

Oliveto said he and his Marines will deploy soon to their area of responsibility.

“This is the first time an infantry company has done this, prepositioning small Marine units around the world to respond,” Oliveto said. “This is the wave of the future for the Marine Corps.”



Their exercise completed, Marines from I Company, 3rd Battalion 8th Marines, Camp Lejeune, N.C. move to the V-22 Osprey that will fly them home.

Volunteers contribute 94 hours on National Public Lands Day

A group of volunteers donated their time and efforts on National Public Lands Day at Fort A.P. Hill, on Sept. 28.

The 18 volunteers focused on natural and cultural resources at the Travis Lake Historic District and Liberty Church.

Volunteers contributed 94 hours of labor to remove trash and debris, clear invasive and non-native vegetation and plant ornamental vegetation at historic Liberty Church.

They also stabilized a replica Civil War hut and walking trail near Liberty Church and erected a sign to mark the sesquicentennial of the 1862-1863 Confederate winter encampment in Caroline County.

The event included a brief training session on the role of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act on federal lands.



The A.P. Hill volunteers who worked on National Public Lands Day on Sept. 28 focused on natural and cultural resources preservation.
 Courtesy photo



Volunteers planted shrubs and flowers at Liberty Church on National Public Lands Day on Sept. 28 at Fort A.P. Hill.

Courtesy photo



The newly erected interpretive sign with the replica Civil War hut in the background. The fence around the hut was erected as part of the NPLD event.

Courtesy photo

Employee Spotlight — Roger D. Satterwhite

Each edition we highlight one Fort A.P. Hill employee to learn a little bit about him or her and how they contribute to our mission of providing the Best Training and Support Anywhere.

Interview and photos by Michael Meisberger

Roger D. Satterwhite has worked at U.S. Army Garrison Fort A.P. Hill for 30 years. His first job was with the Moral Support Department in 1983. He transferred to the Directorate of Logistics in 1987 and then landed in the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security in 1990. He has worked in the Training Support center for 13 years. Occasionally called Bo, he was born and raised in Caroline County, Va. and can be reached at the Training Support Center at (804) 633-8231.

What does your job entail?

“I am the head specialist in the TSC and am in charge when the director is out of the office or when on leave. The Training Support Center issues all types of gear and equipment to its customers. We issue clothing, training aids and mock weapons of all type.” Bo gave a smile when he said, “I maintain a 35,000 square foot warehouse packed with over \$20 million dollars in inventory.”

Why is DPTMS important?

“The department handles a major step in the training process. When a unit gets ready to deploy, DPTMS helps a unit prepare and train for deployment down range.”

What are your goals for training here at AP Hill?

“My goal from the beginning, and still is, to train soldiers the best way possible and prepare them before they deploy. After 30 years, my dream for A.P. Hill has come true, we have a great big new TSC that is top of the line. It was a long time coming, but now that it’s here, it’s everything I dreamed.”

Did you ever envision working for the Army for so long?

“You’re probably not going to believe me but, I loved A.P. Hill from the very first day I started here.”

Author’s note—After 30 years of government service, I don’t think anyone would doubt that Bo enjoys his job. Anyone who has worked with him knows he is always smiling and forever has a positive attitude.

What’s your favorite football, baseball, hockey, soccer, etc. team?

Author’s note—Satterwhite is a big Washington Redskins and Atlanta Braves fan but they’re not his favorites.

“I really like NASCAR” he said. “Any driver on the Petty team is my favorite!”



“My goal from the beginning, and still is, to train soldiers the best way possible and prepare them before they deploy.”



“After 30 years, my dream for A.P. Hill has come true, we have a great big new TSC that is top of the line.”



“You’re probably not going to believe me but, I loved A.P. Hill from the very first day I started here.”

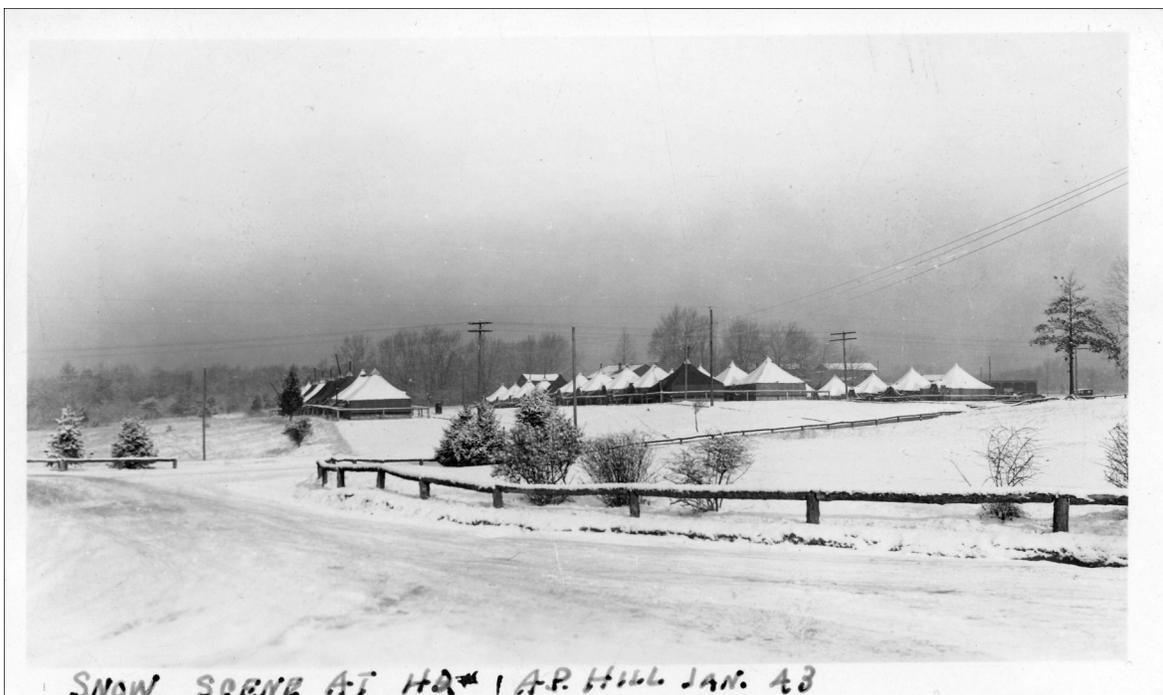
Images from the past

A look back at Fort A.P. Hill

Editor's note—Each edition we'll run a couple of photos from our archives to give A.P. Hill Soldiers, employees, families and friends an insight into our history.



Fort A.P. Hill has supported logging for a long time as this photo shows. Today the post conducts sustainable logging and donates some of the profits from timber sales to the local community.



The many Soldiers who trained at Fort A.P. Hill during World War II braved the frigid winter weather in tents.

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.
Directorate of Family and MWR	Monday – Friday 8 a.m.— 4:30 p.m.
Community Activity Center	Monday-Friday: 6 a.m.—7 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m.—5:30 p.m. Sunday 9 a.m.—5:30 p.m. Holidays 9 a.m.—5:30 p.m.
1673 Recreation Center	Unit sign-out on an as needed basis.
Wilcox Gym	24/7
Downtime Zone Recreation Center	Unit sign-out on an as needed basis.
PX at Wilcox	Tuesday – Saturday 10 a.m.— 5 p.m.
Wilcox Snack Bar	Tuesday – Saturday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
Recreational Lodging	Monday – Friday 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Outdoor Recreation	Monday – Friday 7 a.m. – 4 p.m. Sat 7 a.m.—3 p.m. Sun 8 a.m.— Noon

Would you like your hours posted? Submit office name, building and days and hours of operation to Up and Down the Hill at: usarmy.aphill.imcom-atlantic.mbx.pao@mail.mil.

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