

Up and Down  
the

# Hill



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

April 3, 2014

## Fort Drum Engineers at A.P. Hill Page 4



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



While history can often serve as a predictor of the future, this certainly has not been true with regards to the weather during the past few months.

Just when we start to believe that spring has sprung at A.P. Hill, our hopes are dashed by yet another wave of cold, ice and snow.

Despite the complexities and impacts of this historic winter weather, history, both past and more recent, continues to demonstrate that the A.P. Hill Family and the A.P. Hill Mission remain as strong and vital as ever.

The past quarter provided a myriad of challenges, some we were ready for while others unanticipated. True to form, A.P. Hill responded to each challenge with incredible character, service and focus to ensure we provided the most challenging and realistic training environment for our Warriors.

By the conclusion of the second quarter, fiscal year 2014 (March 31), Fort A.P. Hill will have supported nearly 100 different units from across the Joint Force and nearly 10,000 Warriors in the accomplishment of training objectives during this quarter alone.

These training numbers are consistent with historical trends and remind us to prepare for yet another busy summer training cycle during third and fourth quarters. This is an

incredible record of consistent performance that speaks volumes about the dedication, talent and skill of the entire A.P. Hill Family; it is the primary reason Commanders select Fort A.P. Hill as their training destination of choice.

Our efforts in the months ahead remain focused on harnessing the tremendous energy and talent of our diverse workforce as well as maximizing our available resources to make meaningful, positive impacts in the readiness of our military.

In this edition of "Up and Down The Hill," you will read stories and see photos of individuals & teams collectively working to achieve this end. As discussed in our February Town Hall, superior performance is always a result of engaged leadership, maintaining mission focus, careful planning, aggressive execution, and an unwavering commitment to the welfare of our people.

Fort A.P. Hill remains blessed to have a talented and professional staff that is committed to our mission and the Army values. We are equally blessed to have great neighbors in the community around our Garrison that support our efforts. Due in large part to what happens every day on both sides of the AP Hill boundary, our military continues to perform its global mission with incredible proficiency, professionalism, and courage.



**Garrison Commander**  
Lt. Col. Peter E. Dargle

**Public Affairs Officer**  
Bob McElroy

**Command Sergeant Major**  
Command Sgt. Maj. Keith R. Whitcomb

**Public Affairs Specialist**  
Michael Meisberger

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# Shut the Hill Up! *By Command Sgt. Maj. Keith R. Whitcomb*

## The Double Standard, Leadership and Courage

Merriam-Webster Definition: **double standard**, *noun*

*A situation in which two people, groups, etc., are treated very differently from each other in a way that is unfair to one of them; a set of principles that applies differently and usually more rigorously to one group of people or circumstances than to another.*

One of the problems we have experienced in the Army for years has been the double standard, where some Soldiers are treated differently than other Soldiers. Growing up in the military I have unfortunately seen more than a handful of examples of this. What I have noticed is that the double standard does not exist where there is positive and professional leadership that holds people to a high and fair standard.

Double Standards or putting up with them in any organization is absolutely destructive and erodes the heart and soul of any unit, organization or business, regardless of its size. Any leader that allows a double standard to exist within their organization not only creates instability within their workforce but places the agency at risk of future litigation. Good leaders apply the same standards against all employees when it comes to workplace conditions.

Army Doctrine Publication 6-22, "Army Leadership," paragraph 13, Leaders and Courage, defines one of the essential traits a leader must have:

*It takes personal courage to take the initiative to make something happen rather than standing by or withdrawing and hoping events will turn out well. Leaders require personal courage when confronting problems of discipline or disorderly conduct, when innovation and adaptation are needed to try something that has never been done before, when leading Soldiers in harm's way, when being candid with a superior about risky or improper course of action, when deferring to a more technically competent subordinate, or when freeing units and personnel to solve problems. Leaders must have the courage to make tough calls, to discipline or demand better when required. Consistent and fair leaders will earn the respect of their followers.*



I thought this was a great write-up and speaks to some of our leadership challenges at Fort A.P. Hill. At the end of the day, all of our leaders should be consistent and fair. Everyone makes mistakes, but leaders will make mistakes if they are getting after it. The trick is to make sure you're not making the same mistake over and over, that means there is no learning going on.

I challenge all of us (including myself) to do the best we can, take the initiative, DO NOT tolerate double standards, treat our employees with dignity and respect and don't use hope as a technique to getting something done.

Thank you all for what you do for the Warriors we serve.

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*This edition's cover photo of 642nd Engineer Company Soldiers is by Michael C. Meisberger*



10th Mountain Division Soldiers**642nd Engineer Company performs vital work**

Story and photos by Bob McElroy



**Spc. Zach Stiglitz (left) and Pfc. David Baillargeon place the old concertina wire in the heavy excavator.**

Under a steel-gray sky at remote Rappahannock Camp here, Soldiers from the 642<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Company, 7<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, Fort Drum, N.Y. roamed the tall grass searching for concertina wire.

Thick leather work gloves protected their hands as they pulled the razor-sharp coils from the grass. The Soldiers loaded wire into the bucket of an excavator which in turn dumped them into a nearby dumpster.

The Engineer Soldiers are at Fort A.P. Hill for about six weeks to work on a number of construction and demolition projects.

At Rappahannock Camp the Engineer Soldiers collected and disposed of the old concertina wire and metal stakes and then demolished the eight wooden guard towers that surrounded the camp.

Site noncommissioned officer in charge Staff Sgt. Loren Russell said the project provided good experience for his Soldiers, especially the chance to operate the excavator, a piece of heavy equipment not in his unit's inventory.

Before they broke for lunch, the Engineers knocked down the first of the guard towers.

Spc. Zach Stiglitz climbed into the heavy excavator and, under Russell's supervision, slowly pushed the wooden tower with the excavator's bucket until it collapsed.

Stiglitz picked up the splintered, broken remains and dropped them into a nearby dumpster. Fort A.P. Hill recycled the concertina and scrap wood when the Engineers finished the job.

About a week after the Engineers finished working at Rappahannock Camp they help build three new state of the art security gates on the post's perimeter.

Working with A.P. Hill Directorate of Public Works civilians, the Engineer Soldiers broke the asphalt road surface, dug pits for the gate's anchor points and supports, installed the barrier and then poured and smoothed the concrete.

The Engineers also worked at Range 13, a former demolitions range, to improve drainage and mitigate adverse effects from storm water run-off into a nearby sensitive wetland.

The 642nd Engineer Company will return to Fort Drum at the end of April.



**642nd Engineers graded the surface of Range 13 to improve the drainage and mitigate storm water run-off into a wetland.**

# The Asymmetric Warfare Training Center opens

Story and photo by Bob McElroy

The Asymmetric Warfare Group officially opened its \$96 million Asymmetric Warfare Training Center here during a brief ribbon cutting ceremony on Jan. 24.

The complex features state-of-the-art training and range facilities that support the AWG mission of rapid material and non-material solution development as well as adaptability and resiliency training.

The 300-acre training complex includes a headquarters, barracks, administrative, training and maintenance facilities, an Urban Area, a 12-mile Mobility Range, an 800-meter Known Distance Range, a light demolitions range and an indoor range.

There's also a mosque, a soccer stadium, a subway station complete with subway cars and a train station with real rail cars.

Col. John P. Petkosek, the commander of AWG and the featured speaker, said the new training center will help the organization accomplish its mission of identifying shortfalls, developing answers and solving problems.

"That's what the Asymmetric Warfare Training Center is all about. This is the place where we can be creative, where we can come up with solutions for problems that we don't even know we have yet," Petkosek said.

"This is where we'll look at solutions for the future--material solutions and non-material solutions...anything from how you're going to operate in a subterranean environment to how you dismount a Humvee to avoid an IED strike. All of these things are the things we do at this facility."

Several years ago the AWG came under the command of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, a relationship Petkosek called "...a fantastic fit" because TRADOC institutionalizes the solutions AWG develops.

"Once we come up with those solutions we're able roll them back into the institutional army so the next unit and the next unit doesn't have to relearn those lessons; we capture them and share them with the rest of the Army," he said.

Petkosek said that as the Army changes and moves into the future the AWG and Fort A.P. Hill will be instrumental in



**Lt. Col. Peter E. Dargle, commander of Fort A.P. Hill (left) Adm. (Ret.) John C. Harvey Jr. Virginia Secretary of Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security, Col. John P. Petkosek, the commander of Asymmetric Warfare Group and David Storke, mayor of Bowling Green cut the ribbon officially opening the new training center.**

building the force of the future.

"The Strategic Landpower Task Force said we are looking in the future for ready, robust, responsive and regionally-engaged forces operating on the land. That's what the Army needs for the future and this is the kind of place where we're going to build those forces," Petkosek said.

"Whether there are other units coming here to train or whether it's the Asymmetric Warfare Group looking at the capability gaps and coming up with solutions, Fort A.P. Hill and the Asymmetric Warfare Training Center are the places where that's going to happen. This is really important for the installation and the Army as a whole."

The Asymmetric Warfare Group traces its roots to the Army Improvised Explosive Device Task Force, a unit formed in 2003.

Based at Fort Meade, Md. the AWG sends its operational advisors where Soldiers are deployed—Afghanistan, Lebanon, Kuwait, South America, Asia and the Pacific Region.

## Employee Spotlight – Jerry Bennett

Each edition we'll highlight one 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

*Jerry Bennett has worked at U.S. Army Garrison Fort A.P. Hill, Va. for five months. He enlisted in the Army in 1976 and retired as a sergeant major after 30 years of service. Occasionally called Reverend, he was born and raised in Oxnard, Calif. and is an ordained minister at Peninsula Korean Baptist Church with Masters Degrees in Religion and Criminal Justice. He can be reached in the Antiterrorism Office at (804)633-8216.*

### What does your job entail?

I work with the threat working group and the antiterrorist or protection working group. The groups try to look through both the eyes of the attacker and the defender when trying to solve critical security issues. In the long run, we simply look at how to best defend against an attack. We look at the threat to the installation by gathering intelligence from a variety of resources, analyzing the data to understand how it effects our installation and then make recommendations to the commander on how to defend against that threat.

### Why is antiterrorism important?

Antiterrorism is important because the terrorist is going to hit the most vulnerable target. They go from installation to installation and look for a place they can make their mark. The office looks at everything from how barriers are set

up around post to how the guards perform their duties. Foreign threats to domestic threats to the lone shooter that is our business; to make sure there is not a threat to this installation. We have a lot of good things we are doing for the Army and the Nation; on this installation there are a wide variety of activities and we need to take antiterrorism seriously. It's real easy to let your mind let go of 9/11 and say it's not going to happen again but then you have the Fort Dix event and the Fort Hood thing and I just don't want it to ever be the Fort A.P. Hill thing.

### What are your goals for Antiterrorism here at Fort A.P. Hill?

My goal is not to be a target. Because terrorists will hit the most vulnerable target, I want to make sure A.P. Hill is not that easy target. I will make sure to bring ideas to the commander that will help the garrison secure its cantonment area.

### Did you ever envision working for the Army?

I came into the Army in 1976 and did 30 years. I retired as the Region Sergeant Major. I went from there to contracting, working in the region's antiterrorism law enforcement physical security as the subject matter expert to the region director. R-North was able to switch a contractor position to government service and asked if I was available to move into the position. When they moved to San Antonio, I did not want to leave the pastoral duties at my church so I now commute from Yorktown to Fort A.P. Hill.



*"Antiterrorism is important because the terrorist is going to hit the most vulnerable target."*



*"My goal is not to be a target... I want to make sure A.P. Hill is not that easy target."*



*"I came into the Army in 1976 and did 30 years. I retired as the Region Sergeant Major."*

# DA Guards prove a positive addition to garrison

By Michael Meisberger

FORT A.P. HILL, Va. –The Department of Army Guard Program has changed the dynamic of the Police force here.

The Guards supplement the law enforcement mission and their presence at the gates frees the Department of the Army police to patrol the interior and exterior boundaries and perform their law enforcement duties.

The guards also provide something else: a good first impression of the installation. They are the first face visitors see and provide customer service to those who arrive at Fort A.P. Hill.

“The Guard Program was established to ensure the installation mission continues without distraction and to optimize security of our primary customer, the war fighter,” said Directorate of Emergency Services director, Brad Evans.

The guards and police are a team. The guard’s focus is access control and the police focus is law enforcement and crime prevention. The guards help to prevent crime by denying access to those who would damage the post and harm those who work here.

The Department of Army Guard Program began here in April 2011 when DES developed the concept for the program and determined how many guards they needed. During the second phase, in December 2011, the Police developed the Security Guard Academy and training curriculum. In June 2012, the Garrison began hiring and training its first Department of Army Guards.

Training Officer Lt. Ron Henson said the challenging six-week Guard Academy includes pepper spray training, hands-on defensive tactics, handcuffing, baton training and active shooter techniques.

The guards also spend several hours in the classroom learning their duties and responsibilities, use of force and legal issues. Crabtree and Hamm qualified on the pistol, rifle and shotgun.

During their duty shifts the guards follow the police shift supervisor but also have their own chain of command. Guard Sergeants Chivale Modeste and Jerry Mensah are the supervisors responsible for inspections, evaluations, discipline and more. Group Leaders such as Ashley Nerette, Joseph Figert, Skarl Alexis and Dante Bracey lead



**Before they can begin duty at Fort A.P. Hill, Department of Army Guard candidates must complete pepper spray training. Joseph Figert was one of three who completed the training in May 2013.**  
U.S. Army photo by Bob McElroy

small groups of guards and can make minor or on the spot corrections.

“The Guard Program is a good first step toward a law enforcement career.” said Police Chief Jack Bieger. “They receive limited law enforcement training so when they make the switch to police they must attend the DA Police Academy. The Guard Program exposes the officers to customer service and dealing with the many personal attitudes our employees and visitors have.” he explained.

Evans offered his some final thoughts on the program.

“Guard Program implementation is what A.P. Hill needed to enhance the installation’s support of organizations training on post,” he said. “The high quality and caliber of those guards coming onboard has been a very positive addition to the garrison.”

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



Fort A.P. Hill held annual SHARP training on Jan. 27 for the Soldiers and Civilians who work here. A.P. Hill SHARP Specialist Camilla F. Lewis, presented the class which focused on appropriate and inappropriate behavior and language in the workplace.



Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin D. Sharkey (center right), the IMCOM Atlantic Region Command Sergeant Major, visited Fort A.P. Hill on Jan. 30. During his visit Sharkey stopped by the gym, visited the Beaver Dam classroom facility, Wilcox Camp, the McMahon Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Facility and the Asymmetric Warfare Training Center. Shown here with Sharkey are Command Sgt. Maj. Keith R. Whitcomb (left), Margaret Fake and Karin Nason (right) of the Directorate of Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation .



Two new Department of the Army Police Security Guards joined the garrison's front line of defense when they graduated from the Security Guard Academy on Feb. 7. Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Keith R. Whitcomb (left) presented diplomas to Adrian R. Hamm III (left photo) and Brandon W. Crabtree (right photo). The two completed a challenging six-week course that included pepper spray training, hands-on defensive tactics, handcuffing, baton training and active shooter techniques. They also receive several hours of classroom training in duties and responsibilities, use of force and legal issues and qualified on the pistol, rifle and shotgun.

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



Garrison commander Lt. Col. Peter E. Dargle presented commander's coins of excellence on Feb. 11 to Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation employee Carolyn "Scooter" Woolfolk (left photo) and MWR Operations Assistant Sheila Chewning for exceptional duty performance and dedication to the garrison.



About 30 runners and walkers braved 24 degree morning weather on Feb. 12 to participate in the annual Valentine's Day 5-Kilometer Run and Walk. The first runner across the finish line was Ashley B. Gray of A.P. Hill Range Operations with a time of 20 minutes 5 seconds.



The 82nd Airborne Division from Fort Bragg, N.C. conducted an Emergency Deployment Readiness Exercise at Fort A.P. Hill in late February. Initial elements of the division infiltrated by helicopter just before midnight on Feb. 24. Here, a CH-47 Chinook takes off after dropping off Soldiers.

# Fort A.P. Hill celebrates African-American History

Story and photo by Bob McElroy

About 50 people gathered in Roemnick Hall Feb. 19 for a luncheon to celebrate African-American History Month.

U.S. Army Garrison Fort A.P. Hill commander Lt. Col. Peter E. Dargle opened the luncheon with brief remarks.

“Last year at this time we celebrated two hallmark events—the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln’s enactment of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 and then, a full century later the March on Washington in 1963,” Dargle said.

“This year gains increased importance as it marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.”

Dargle said that lesser-known acts of individual courage and valor also reflect that diversity remains the core strength of the nation.

He related the story of U.S. Army Pvt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Milton L. Olive III of the 173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade, the first African-American Soldier to be awarded the Medal of Honor in the Vietnam War.

During a patrol on Oct. 22, 1965 the Viet Cong threw a grenade that landed in the midst of his patrol. Oliver grabbed the grenade and fell on it, sacrificing his life but saving the lives of his fellow Soldiers.



**Volunteers prepared and served a number of delicious entrees at the African-American History Month luncheon.**

For his actions and his sacrifice that day Olive was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor.

Following Dargle’s remarks Mr. Morris Ferguson gave the blessing and volunteers served a lunch that included: fried chicken, ham, fish, collard greens, macaroni and cheese, black-eyed peas and rice, green beans, and desserts.

## ***New Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center Chief visits post***

**Greg Madsen, the new Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center chief executive Officer, visited Fort A.P Hill on Feb. 24 to meet with the commander and visit some of the facilities on post. Among the places he stopped was the Lois B. Wells Memorial Health Clinic, Wilcox Camp and the McMahon Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Center. Madsen (in suit) is shown here at the McMahon EODTC with Mary Garber, his executive assistant (right), Matt Osborne, EODTC supervisor (left), A.P. Hill commander Lt. Col. Peter E. Dargle (center left) and Sgt. 1st Class Jesse Krone, noncommissioned officer in charge of the EODTC (center right).**



U.S. Army photo by Bob McElroy

# Chief Glembot reports from Bagram, Afghanistan

By Daniel C. Glembot

*USAG Fort A.P. Hill Fire Chief Daniel C. Glembot deployed to Afghanistan on Jan. 26, 2014 and serves as the fire chief at USAG Bagram, Bagram Airfield. We asked him to send us updates on his deployment from time to time. Here is his first report.*

I arrived at Bagram Air Field and was handed 189 Department of Defense Inspector General findings for the fire service that I have to correct; this keeps me extremely busy all day identifying what underlying issue created the finding and then developing courses of action for correction. These findings and my actions directly support and protect our Service Members, to make sure they are safe and secure when they are inside the wire, which is really why I accepted the request to deploy.

Even though we have been here for 13 years the conditions are still very austere with General Purpose Large tents and old wooden B-huts as the primary Living Support Areas (LSA's) and old Russian constructed, poured-concrete buildings as our office spaces. The old Russian Tower is typical of our office spaces; although not used as an air traffic control tower now, it is used every day as an office building.

Bagram is completely surrounded by mountains with the city just outside our wire and smaller villages scattered about. There are old buildings constructed of mud and from the outside they look vacant, but from the air you can see that local nationals have constructed smaller houses inside the old mud walls; this is where many of the villagers live. These old mud-wall buildings with houses inside are everywhere.

As we move into the warmer weather we also move into the fighting season. The sun melts the snow on the mountains around us and the passes open allowing the insurgents access to our area of operations which provides them the opportunity to launch IDFs (In Direct Fire rockets) at us.

As the theater retrogrades and everything collapses to BAF the number of FOB's (Forward Operating Bases) the insurgents have to target is reduced, so, what used



**U.S. Army Garrison Fort A.P. Hill Fire Chief Daniel C. Glembot at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.**

Photo courtesy of Daniel C. Glembot

to be directed to 87 FOB's is now directed at only 11. BAF is their primary target because we are the largest. This keeps me busy, mostly at night and during the day overseeing the fire department. The fire department is contracted so my role is as the contracting officer representative to make sure they are meeting the requirements of the Army's expectations and to ensure the highest quality of service with the least amount of waste. BAF is my primary area of responsibility but two weeks ago U.S. Forces-Afghanistan assigned me the North and East as well so now I am traveling to visit my other sites.

So far my deployment has been what I expected and hopefully will continue the same throughout.

*Editor's note—Glembot deployed to Iraq from Sept. 2008 to Sept. 2009 when Department of the Army selected him to be the first Fire Chief to deploy to a theater of operations. He deployed to U.S. Central Command and Multinational Forces-Iraq to stand-up Task Force SAFE and oversaw fire and electrical concerns throughout the CENTCOM area of responsibility in Iraq and Afghanistan. He has worked at Fort A.P. Hill, Va. since June 2002.*

# A.P. Hill command team honors civilian workforce

Fort A.P. Hill commander Lt. Col. Peter E. Dargle and Command Sgt. Maj. Keith R. Whitcomb presented awards and citations to a number of civilian employees at the Feb. 28 Town Hall at Roemnick Hall. Photos by Bob McElroy



**William R. Wheeler** retired from the A.P. Hill Fire Department and was awarded the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service.



**Kenneth Derby** was named Employee of the Quarter for the 3rd Quarter of 2013.



**Joseph M. Poirier** (center) won the Installation Management Command's Stalwart Award for extraordinary achievement.



**Nadine N. Norris, Ashley B. Gray and Ronald L. Lamborgini** won the Military District of Washington Certificate of Achievement for being the Employee of the Quarter for the 4th Quarter.



**Ashley B. Gray, Dorrance H. Tucker and Mary L. Arcand** earned the Military District of Washington Certificate of Achievement for being named Employee of the Month for October 2013.



**Bradley Kearse** (center left) and **Christopher Lockey** (center right) were named November 2013 Employees of the Month.

# A.P. Hill command team honors civilian workforce

Fort A.P. Hill commander Lt. Col. Peter E. Dargle and Command Sgt. Maj. Keith R. Whitcomb presented awards and citations to a number of civilian employees at the Feb. 28 Town Hall at Roemnick Hall. Photos by Bob McElroy



December 2013 Employees of the Month are: Nadine N. Norris, JoAnne Williams and Ronald L. Lamborgini.



Bradley Kearse (center) was named an Environmental Hero for his work in the Directorate of Public Works.



Ashley B. Gray (center left) and Donna Trout (center right) were recognized for five years of federal civilian service.



John D. Hill (center) was recognized for ten years of federal civilian service.



Lynda T. Rice (center left) and David N. Carey (center right) were for 20 years of federal civilian service.



Cheryl A. Buzard was recognized for 25 years of federal civilian service.

## A.P. Hill command team honors civilian workforce



Fort A.P. Hill commander Lt. Col. Peter E. Dargle (left) and Command Sgt. Maj. Keith R. Whitcomb (right) presented certificates of promotion to civilian employees David W. Benson, Kenneth Bouren, Leslie Bland, Michael Anderson and Ronald L. Lamborgini at the Feb. 28 Town Hall at Roemnick Hall. U.S. Army photo by Bob McElroy



The Old Guard lends a hand—Soldiers from B Company 1st Battalion 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard) provided valuable support to Fort A.P. Hill recently when they removed old wall lockers, assembled and installed 352 new wall lockers at Wilcox Camp and Longstreet Camp here. U.S. Army photo by Bob McElroy

Preparing for deployment**3rd Special Forces Soldiers train support troops**

Story and photos by Bob McElroy

Soldiers from A Company, 1st Battalion 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg N.C. prepared for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan at Fort A.P. Hill for three weeks in January.

While at A.P. Hill three Operational Detachment Alphas trained Soldiers from the 50th Signal Battalion as well as the 3rd Special Forces Group Support Battalion and the 1st Battalion 3rd SFGA Support Company.

A Company commander Maj. Christian Sessoms said the support Soldiers provide his Soldiers with trainees similar to those they could encounter if they deployed overseas to train another country's military.

Sessoms said the support Soldiers have no base of knowledge in small unit and infantry tactics, much like the foreign Soldiers Special Forces could train.

And, while training the support Soldiers, the Special Forces Soldiers are training themselves, Sessoms said.

Capt. Taylor Manson, the detachment commander of ODA 3113, said the training had gone well for his Soldiers and the support Soldiers.



**A Company 1st Battalion 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne) Soldiers trained on a number of weapons including this XM-27 40 mm automatic grenade launcher during their stay at A.P. Hill.**

"Some of them (support Soldiers) say this is the most they've fired since they joined the Army," Manson said.

Manson said the training will establish a baseline and allow his team to train the support Soldiers to a point where they can conduct raids.

During the training the Soldiers fired the Mark 19 and Mark 47 40 millimeter grenade launchers, the 81 millimeter mortar and the .50 caliber machine guns.

Several other Special Forces Soldiers honed their close combat skills in the Fort A.P. Hill shoot house. Two-man teams and four-man teams practiced entering and clearing rooms while firing live ammunition at silhouettes.

Instructors on catwalks above the shooters observed their progress and offered constructive criticism when they'd finished shooting.

Sessoms said he and his Soldiers enjoy training at Fort A.P. Hill.

"I like the training areas here," Sessoms said. "It's closer to Fort Bragg, cheaper to come here and there are no training distracters."

Sessoms said that other training areas present more challenges to training, not so for A.P. Hill.

"There's great interaction, great cross talk," he said. "When it's as smooth as silk to get things done, why go anywhere else?"

The Special Forces Soldiers trained here for about three weeks and then returned to Fort Bragg.



**Soldiers from A Company 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C. enter the Shoot House during their training at Fort A.P. Hill in January. The Soldiers were preparing for a spring deployment to Afghanistan.**

## Poirier and Skinner win IMCOM Stalwart Awards

Story and photos by Bob McElroy

Lisa Skinner and Jay Poirier took different paths to Fort A.P. Hill but once they arrived they worked hard, took on challenges and became essential to the smooth operation of the post.

Their dedication, accomplishments and hard work did not go unnoticed; Skinner and Poirier were recently awarded the Installation Management Command's top civilian award for superior achievement, the Stalwart.

U.S. Army Garrison Fort A.P. Hill commander Lt. Col. Peter E. Dargle praised the two for their achievements and excellence.

"Ms. Skinner and Mr. Poirier are exemplary models of the entire workforce at Fort A.P. Hill. Their skill, talent and service ethic represent the true character and absolute commitment of our entire Garrison in providing premier support to everyone who lives, works and trains at A.P. Hill," Dargle said.

### Summer hire to Director of Resource Management

Lisa Skinner began working at Fort A.P. Hill as a summer hire clerk typist in 1987 after she graduated from high school. During the year she attended Longwood College in Farmville, Va. and majored in English and minored in mathematics.

After she graduated from Longwood she worked for the college as a recruiter for about a year and then returned to A.P. Hill to serve as a budget analyst in the Directorate of Public Works. She knew little of the field but had great mentors in colleagues Wanda Fortune and Sharon Jones. "They taught technical the technical concepts I needed to get started on the job," she said.

Skinner worked her way up in DPW, developing the supervisory skills that led her selection as acting director of the Resource Management Office. After a time, she was named director.

"One of my mentors throughout my whole career was the then deputy garrison commander, Mr. Bruce Hopkins," Skinner said. "He believed in mentoring the young people coming on board. I think he thought that after 11 years in DPW I had shown enough leadership traits that he could take a chance."

Although she had limited experience in resource management and was younger than her employees, Skinner knew she could rely on the experienced workers to teach her what she needed to know.

"I tried to learn what they already knew and got them to teach me what they knew," Skinner said. "I gave them



**Lisa Skinner (left) was recently awarded the Installation Management Command's Stalwart Award for superior performance of her duties. She's shown here at January's SHARP training at the Fort A.P. Hill Training Support Center.**

credit when I could to make sure they got the credit and they knew that; I knew that any success we had was due to their dedication and efforts."

Skinner said that while it was a great honor to be nominated for the Stalwart and wonderful to be selected, it meant more that her leaders and peers recognized the hard work she does.

"I'm the person named in the award but my success is based on the cooperative efforts of everybody here that are working together to try to get things done," she said. Skinner has been married for 16 years to J.V. Skinner, a Fredericksburg City firefighter and deputy fire marshal. When she's not working she teaches Zumba classes at the A.P. Hill gym and has recently taken classes to learn how to become a beekeeper.

"My husband and I are taking an eight-week class with the Rappahannock Beekeeper's Association," Skinner said. "He's always wanted to do it. I'm going to go to this class with him, we'll try this beekeeping thing and it will be something we can do together."

She's also learning to play mahjong, a game that began in China and is played with 144 tiles bearing Chinese characters and symbols.

*Continued on next page*

## Poirier and Skinner win IMCOM Stalwart Awards

A relative of her husband asked her if wanted to play and she enjoyed it enough to return.

“I go there once a week, that’s been kind of fun.”

Skinner has no plans to leave Fort A.P. Hill other professional opportunities, she enjoys the post and the challenges it offers.

“I have about seven years until retirement; I hope to remain productive and able to take on challenges and continue to help A.P. Hill meet its objectives and plans,” she said.

### A Marine of many talents

By the time Jay Poirier started working at Fort A.P. Hill in February 2005 he’d studied voice as a scholarship student in the Juilliard School’s pre-college program, become an expert marksman and weapons instructor during a 20 year career in the Marine Corps and worked as a special agent and firearms instructor for the State Department.

While in the Marines he also served as a member, instructor and coach of the U.S. Marine Corps International and Rifle Teams, a Combat Service Support Chief, a Doctrine Developer and a logistics chief.

He had more than 13 years of operational deployments with the Marines and won a host of awards and commendations for exceptional performance.

Poirier holds the Marine’s Distinguished Marksman Badge as well as many national and international shooting records. He brought all of the skills he learned in the Marines to his first job after he retired from active duty—a special agent with the U.S. Department of State Diplomatic Security Service’s Firearms Training Unit.

His time with the State Department was brief and, after about seven months he accepted a job at A.P. Hill.

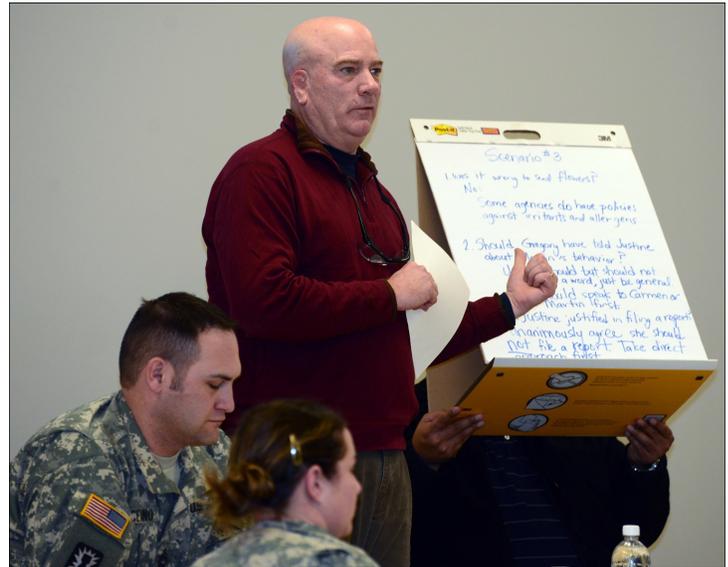
Growing up in Middlefield, Conn. his parents instilled a work ethic in him that he carries to this day. It served him well when he was a Marine and now as the Barracks Management Supervisor at Fort A.P. Hill.

Poirier oversees nine campsites where military units stay when they train at A.P. Hill. The job requires him to be equal parts diplomat, leader and handyman.

He and his two-man crew manage 158 buildings which hold 15,000 pieces of equipment—wall lockers, bunks, foot lockers—and ensure the barracks are clean, safe and well-maintained. The job never stops as units train at Fort A.P. Hill seven days a week throughout the year.

Poirier’s efforts have not been overlooked or unappreciated by the command and the Stalwart Award is the proof.

He said he’s pleased to be recognized but insists the credit goes to the two men who work for him—Billy Briggs and Gary Seibert.



**Jay Poirier (standing) leads a group discussion during training. Poirier recently was awarded the Installation Management Command’s Stalwart Award for superior performance of his duties.**

“I feel humbled, there are many well-deserving A. P. Hill employees,” Poirier said. “This really reflects on Billy and Gary and the job that they do.”

Poirier is actively involved in community activities after work. He’s worked for Caroline County Parks and Recreation, coached youth soccer and taught land navigation and rappelling techniques to Caroline County High School Junior ROTC cadets.

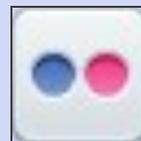
He is married and has a 21 year old daughter and 19 year old son who works and attends college.

Like Skinner, Poirier appreciates winning the Stalwart but said the credit should go to his staff and peers for the hard work they do at A.P. Hill every day.

Dargle echoed that sentiment.

“While winning the Stalwart Award was recognition of their individual excellence, Ms. Lisa and Jay will be the first to recognize that their performance was directly attributable to the more than 200 other garrison employees who shared their burden and made our mission happen,” he said.

**Follow Fort A.P. Hill on social media**



# A.P. Hill wraps up a successful hunting season

Deer season began here with the annual youth deer hunt on Sept. 28 and by the time the season ended on Jan. 4, hunters had harvested 839 deer, four coyotes and helped the post's ecosystem and training opportunities.

John Yowell, a natural resource specialist of the Fish and Wildlife branch of the Environmental Division said that managing the deer population through a biologically-based hunting program has several positive impacts on Fort A.P. Hill habitat.

“Ecosystem integrity is promoted by maintaining acceptable levels of deer browse on native vegetations which results in increased biodiversity.” Yowell said.

Controlling the number of deer on post also helps military training, he said.

“The potential mission conflicts that would result from an overpopulation of deer are avoided.”

Predator control is also a part of managing the deer herd. The garrison allows and encourages coyote hunting during deer season to help control the predator population.



**Steve Turner of Spotsylvania County harvested this buck during archery season on Fort A.P. Hill. The deer had an outside spread of 22 1/2 inches and weighed 156 pounds. Natural resource specialist John Yowell estimated the deer's age at 3 1/2 years.**

Courtesy photo

Yowell said that hunters harvested 839 deer this season--509 Bucks and 330 Does. Out of the 509 bucks, 405 had antlers and 151 had 8 points or more.

The Post was open for hunting for 79 days, logged 8011 hunting trips for a total of 80,751 hours afield.

Steve Turner of Spotsylvania harvested the largest buck by number of points this season, a 13-point buck.

Yowell praised the Directorate of Emergency Services and the Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security for handling the increased tempo during deer season.

DES conducts back ground checks and weapon registrations and enforces regulations while DPTMS opens training areas for recreational use.

“I want to commend their support of the program in helping Fort A.P. Hill provide some of the best and for some the only hunting opportunities available.” Yowell said.



**Release the Trout! — Fort A.P. Hill prepared for fishing season by stocking Beaver Dam Pond with 700 pounds of Rainbow Trout on Jan 24. Due to the run of cold weather in late January, A.P. Hill Outdoor Recreation personnel had to break the ice atop the pond in order to stock the pond. Outdoor Recreation personnel restocked Beaver Dam Pond on Feb. 5.**

Courtesy photos

*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.*



LODGE AP HILL OFFICERS CLUB 1941

**The Lodge at Fort A.P. Hill has served many purposes over the years. Most recently it housed several Wounded Warriors during the Wounded Warrior Hunt.**



**Fort A.P. Hill access control was a bit different nearly 70 years ago.**

# 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](mailto:usarmy.aphill.imcom-atlantic.mbx.pao@mail.mil).

Follow all the latest news and information on official Garrison social media:

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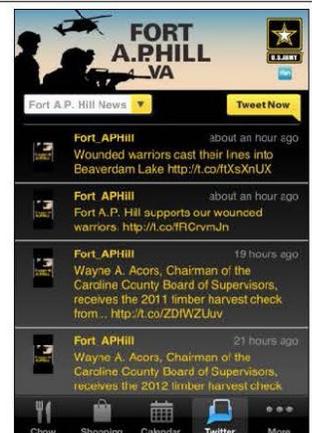
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