Up and Down the Hill

FORT A.P. HILL, VIRGINIA

Vol, 44, No. 8 *"The Best Training & Support ... Anywhere!"* May 15, 2009

ROAD MARCH

Students complete grueling 3-mile hike

RIVRON 3

Riverines give military council first look at training

Army budget considers Soldiers, Families, training

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

For fiscal year 2010, the Army has requested in its base budget $142 billion dollars for a range of expenditures that include a focus on taking care of Soldiers and their families.

Also significant in the budget request, forwarded last week by the president to Congress, are items that have been trimmed. Portions of Future Combat Systems have been cut, for instance, as has the Army's ownership of the Joint Cargo Aircraft. And both enlistment and re-enlistment bonuses have been reduced.

"One of the main themes is taking care of Families and Soldiers," said William H. Campbell, acting director, Army Budget Office. "That's a theme both the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Army, and the Chief of Staff of the Army have emphasized as we built this budget."

Included in those Family- and Soldier-friendly budget requests are funding for Soldier programs, wounded Warrior programs, increases to child care centers and services, and an increase in family-support activities. Also included are increases in the quality of facilities, Campbell said.

The costs of providing for such things as warfighter and family services; childcare and youth programs; morale, welfare, and recreation; and voluntary education/tuition assistance are part of a more than $40 billion operations and maintenance expenditure. Those O&M funds also include recruiting, training, and maintenance of equipment, facilities and infrastructure.

The budget also includes provisions that will affect the wallets of Soldiers and Department of the Army Civilians -- a pay increase of 2.9 percent for Soldiers and 2 percent for Civilians, said Lt. Gen. Edgar E. Stanton III, military deputy for budget.

This year there's funding in the military personnel budget for 547,400 active-duty Soldiers, 358,200 Army National Guardsmen, and 205,000 Reserve Soldiers. With the increases in Soldier funding, the Army has met its growth goals. More Soldiers in the mix translates to more time at home and more robust training, according to Stanton.

"The Army in all three components has achieved its projected strength levels and we will stay at those strength levels both in the short-term and the mid-term," Stanton said. "The focus now will be on utilizing the Army Force Generation model as we hope to increase dwell and reduce deployed time.

See BUDGET, page 4

A Note from the Commander

Thanks for your sense of duty, commitment

Teammates,

I want to pass my thanks on a couple of items.

First, to everyone who planned, prepared, and attended Command Sgt. Maj. (Roger A.) Chase's farewell luncheon. It was a special event I know he'll remember a lifetime. Thank you!

Next, I want to thank those Fort A.P. Hill teammates who invested their time, talent and energy in completing the Organizational Self Assessment (OSA). The OSA window closed May 9 with 222 of 314 participants completing the survey, or 70.7 percent.

We have been advised that FAPH is the only Garrison in the Northeast Region that completed the OSA within the two-week timeframe allotted for each post to complete the survey. Every other installation, to date, has requested extensions.

The mission does not stop because of a survey, and I understand it required time from your busy day to complete. It is a tribute to Fort A.P. Hill's sense of duty and commitment that we were able to successfully close out the window with a very strong completion percentage. It is reflective of an Army Community of Excellence.

Please email your constructive comments concerning the OSA to Dianne Smith, Dianne.smith4@us.army.mil in the Plans, Analysis and Integration office.

This input is valuable as IMCOM (Installation Management Command) seeks to refine and improve this process.

How could it be improved? How could it be made more relevant in capturing your understanding of the many processes in which Fort A.P. Hill engages to accomplish its mission? All comments will be reviewed and our installation perspective and suggestions will be shared in an after-action report that will help shape IMCOM's next OSA.

Again, thanks.

I appreciate everyone's time and commitment in meeting this important requirement. Congratulations and well done!

-- Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese

Garrison Commander
Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese

Garrison Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj.
Mark V. Brandenburg

Public Affairs Officer
Christopher B. Joyner

Editor / Photojournalist
David San Miguel

****

The Fort A.P. Hill *Up and Down the Hill* newspaper is an authorized publication produced on a bi-monthly basis by the Public Affairs Office staff in accordance with AR 360-1 to provide the installation community with information on people, policies, operations, technical developments, trends and ideas of and about the Department of Defense, the Department of the Army and Fort A.P. Hill.

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of the Army or this command.

Send submissions and correspondence to Editor, *Up and Down the Hill*, Public Affairs Office, 18436 4th St., Bldg. 112, Fort A.P. Hill, VA 22427-3114. Telephone: (804) 633-8120, DSN 578-8120 or send an e-mail to david.sanmiguel@us.army.mil.

RIVRON 3

Hardened Warriors converge on post, begin cycle of training

By David San Miguel
Editor

Only months after returning from Iraq, Riverine Squadron (RIVRON) 3 out of the Naval Weapons Station at Yorktown, Va., is once again hitting the ranges at Fort A.P. Hill to begin as one commander noted "the mentally, physically and emotionally stressful cycle of training" inherent to its role as an elite "brown water" Navy.

According to Lt. Charles R. Spencer, Officer in Charge (OIC) and Detachment Commander, the Riverines began this intense cycle of training only a month after returning from Iraq. It is meant to fine tune their marksmanship skills and to practice those techniques not used during their deployment.

"We're a highly mobile unit," he said. "We have to stay ready."

Made up of approximately 200 plus Sailors from a multitude of job specialties, the unit is equipped with an arsenal of heavily-armed 33-foot-long river boats capable of negotiating shallow waterways at speeds up to 50 miles per hour.

Coupled with its high maneuverability, the commander said this makes his unit especially effective in patrolling the coastal and inland waterways in search of smugglers or closing up escape routes for insurgents.

Each boat's armament consists of an arsenal of crew-served weapons to include two M240 machine guns or an Mk 44 automatic cannon mounted up front and a .50 caliber machine gun or an Mk 19 grenade launcher in the rear.

See RIVRON, page 4

The Riverines go over their training objectives.

(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Seth Maggard)

On security watch, members of RIVRON 3 prepare to be extracted from the Watah Peninsula, near Rawah, Iraq, by approaching Riverine patrol boats.

BUDGET

continued from page 3

"That will allow us to refocus training for the full spectrum operations as opposed to the current emphasis on COIN (Counter-Insurgency)," he added.

Campbell also said the Secretary of Defense decided to not stand up three additional brigades and to instead use those Soldiers to bolster the manning of other units.

"That will help fill out units," Campbell said. "It'll decrease the need to cross-level between units as forces begin to deploy. And combined with a structured delivered drawdown plan that will reduce demand, we should see an increase in dwell time for units."

Re-enlistment bonuses have gone down from 2009 to 2010 because of the success of the Army in both re-enlistment and recruitment, said Campbell.

From FCS, the entire line of manned ground vehicles -- eight systems all based on a common chassis -- have been canceled.

"(Secretary of Defense Robert Gate's) guidance ... directs that the Army will restructure its Future Combat Systems," Stanton said. "This includes halting the development and production of the manned ground vehicles and directs that the Army relook at the requirement for the vehicle in the context of the current fight as well as the future fight and come forward with a new concept for an MGV."

Stanton said Gates, Geren, and Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. George W. Casey Jr. have directed research into a new manned ground vehicle be completed by the Army's Training and Doctrine Command.

Despite the loss of FCS's MGVs, the fruits of the work done by researchers will continue to be pushed to the field through "spinouts," Stanton said.

"We will roll out the spinouts, these are tactical unmanned sensors, unmanned aerial sensors and the non-line-of-sight launch system," Stanton said. "That technology, as it comes to fruition, will be rolled out to all brigade combat teams and done so in an accelerated manner. We will do it to all 73 BCTs and not just 15 BCTs. We are going to start in 2011 and finish in about 2025."

Also significant about the FY 2010 budget cycle is that both the base budget and the $83 billion "Overseas Contingency Operations" budget were submitted at the same time -- in prior years that OCO budget was called a "supplemental" and was submitted after the base Army budget.

The base budget is specifically for funding training and equipping of the Army. The OCO budget is meant to address expenses related to actual Army operations.

RIVRON

continued from page 3

With this much armament and perhaps a Riverine Security Team (RST) on the ground, "you may have guys on the ground and on the boat firing," Spencer said. "So, it's critical that everyone is in sync."

Lt. j.g. Brett M. Ringo, RST Leader and Assistant OIC, agreed.

His team lands on the beach and immediately sets up a five-meter security and conducts a personnel and equipment check "to ensure no one was injured or that any necessary equipment wasn't lost while dismounting from the boat."

"We want to make sure everyone is ready to execute the mission," he said. "Missions may include cache sweeps, close quarter searches through buildings or other assault operations. We expect to draw fire from the enemy. We're a maneuver unit much like a Marine infantry element."

Spencer adds that there are a myriad of missions the RIVRON unit may be called to execute in support of joint operations around the globe, some of which include humanitarian missions and training of coalition partners in Riverine operations.

"With this high operation tempo, it's important that the Riverines get to spend as much time at home as possible," he said.

"The training facilities here allow the Riverines to hone their marksmanship skills and to run through a full gamut of training scenarios," Spencer said. "Its close proximity to our home base also means less time away from our families, and that's important!"

(Photo by David San Miguel)

A Riverine attempts to remove and switch the overheated barrel of a .50 caliber machine gun during his unit's weapons' qualification.

Fort Stewart wins $1 million, Communities of Excellence Award

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield, Ga., were presented their fourth gold Army Communities of Excellence Award along with a grand prize check for $1 million at a Pentagon ceremony held May 8.

Hosted this year by Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli and Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management Lt. Gen. Robert Wilson, the ACOE Awards honor the top Army, National Guard and Reserve installations that have achieved levels of excellence in building a high-quality environment, outstanding facilities and superior services.

During a year-long process, installations are evaluated against Army priorities and the Malcolm Baldrige national quality criteria. Winning commands receive cash awards to go toward more facilities and services as well as trophies and a commemorative flag.

In remarks to the packed Pentagon auditorium, Chiarelli praised Soldiers and Army Families for the resiliency they've shown over the last several years of conflict and applauded commanders for creating "welcoming, supportive communities that encourage and nurture closeness."

"Unlike in the past, more and more spouses are choosing to stay in the area, continue their jobs and keep the kids enrolled in local schools during periods of separation. They consider whatever camp, post or station they live at … home," he said.

"Much of the credit belongs with the installation leadership and the many people within our military communities as well as those in surrounding communities who have consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty to ensure Soldiers and Families feel at home," he added.

Gold winner Fort Stewart/Hunter Army Airfield Garrison Commander Col. Todd A. Buchs said after winning the award in 2004, 2005 and 2006 Fort Stewart was required to sit out for two years, but that didn't stop the command from moving forward with community improvements.

"This award wasn't so much about winning, it's what it means to our Soldiers and Families and wanting to be the best for them," he said. "What better way than to have $1 million to make more improvements that the community decides on."

Fort Bragg, N.C., and Fort Meade, Md., shared second-place silvers, winning $500,000 each. Army Garrison Daegu and Camp Humphreys, both in Korea, shared third-place bronze awards winning $250,000.

"This award really has to do with the civilian workforce and how they care for Families and Soldiers," said Col. Dave Fox, Fort Bragg's Garrison Commander. "Fort Bragg has won this award 12 times, but there's no resting; we've continued to build on the programs."

Army Garrison Schinnen, Netherlands; Fort Campbell, Ky., and Fort McCoy, Wis., shared the most-improved category, each winning $200,000.

Special category awards of $750,000 each were garnered by the Ohio Army National Guard and the Army Reserve 96th Regional Readiness Command, Fort Douglas, Utah.

NOTE: This article was compiled from the Army News Service and the Up and Down the Hill Editor, David San Miguel.

(Photo by Dianne Smith)

Installation shares lessons learned during decade-long quest for ACOE prize

Ken N. Perrotte, Director of Plans, Analysis and Integration, delivered the kickoff presentation to the 2009 Army National Guard Bureau's Best Practices Conference held in Arlington, Va., May 4.

The conference, which preceeded the presentation of the 2009 Army Communities of Excellence (ACOE) Awards, allowed the more than 100 participants an opportunity to hear success stories from previous winners.

According to the Army Performance Improvement Criteria, Fort A.P. Hill is considered a role model installation in terms of Leadership, Strategic Planning, and Customer and Market Focus categories, noted Perrotte. He delivered a 45-minute presentation covering the decade-long ACOE journey, spotlighting how the post's leadership approaches business and planning that sets the installation apart from its competition.

(Photo by David San Miguel)

Lt. Charles R. Spenser, Riverine Squadron (RIVRON) 3 Officer in Charge and Detachment Commander, briefs MAC members on his unit's range qualifications during their recent visit to the installation.

MAC members get first-hand look at installation training

Approximately 50 representatives of the Fredericksburg Regional Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Council joined with members of the Fort A.P. Hill staff for a spring roundtable meeting at Romenick Hall, May 7.

Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, Garrison Commander, began the meeting with a brief history of the installation as well as the strategic plan for its future.

Following the brief, 31 MAC members braved the rain for a tour through several of the installation's training facilities, to include the Embassy, Wilcox Camp and Range 37 where Riverine Squadron (RIVRON) 3 was firing the MK 44 machine gun. There, the guests were treated to a first-hand look at the Riverines conducting range operations and watched as the crews fired nearly three thousand rounds of ammunition in just over a minute.

Television series to feature 'Emeril' at Fort Lee

By Fort Lee Public Affairs Office

"Emeril Green" is a new series on Planet Green, part of the Discovery Channel Network, starring Chef Emeril Lagasse. The show offers educational information on how everyday cooking can be healthy, organic and eco-friendly.

Lagasse's recent visit to Fort Lee, Va., will be featured on June 29 at 8 and 8:30 p.m.

The one half-hour segment, "Operation Emeril," was filmed in a field kitchen setting, using the equipment and products available to deployed Soldiers cooking in a mobile kitchen trailer or containerized kitchen.

Another segment, "Army Greens," was filmed at the Army Center of Excellence, Subsistence, and featured several instructors from the advanced culinary class. The focus was on healthy choices and eliminating waste in the kitchen.

"I know they are making significant strides and I've done a little bit of work with the armed forces," said Lagasse. "They are trying to make food a real craft. There's a healthier movement through the introduction of fresh fruits and vegetables."

(Photo by Amy Perry)

Chef Emeril Lagasse and his cooking crew serve their meal to Soldiers during the taping of "Operation Emeril."

The Silent Ranks

Author Unknown

I wear no uniforms, no blues or army greens.
But I am in the military in the ranks rarely seen.
I have no rank upon my shoulders.
Salutes I do not give.
But the military world is the place where I live.
I'm not in the chain of command, orders I do not get.
But my husband is the one who does, this I cannot forget.
I'm not the one who fires the weapon, who puts my life on the line.
But my job is just as tough, I'm the one that's left behind.
My husband is a patriot, a brave and prideful man And the call to serve his country, not all can understand.
Behind the lines I see the things needed to keep this country free.
My husband makes the sacrifice, but so do our kids and me.
I love the man I married, Soldering is his life.
But I stand among the silent ranks Known as the Military Wife.

Poem contributed by:
Wanda Fortune
Directorate of Resource Management

Student Soldiers complete road march, leave for assignments Armywide

Anxious to complete the final phase of their Advanced Individual Training, Soldiers with the 266th Quartermaster Battalion, 23rd Quartermaster Brigade, from Fort Lee, Va., rallied to finish the three-mile road march they need to graduate.

Having successfully completed the road march, the students will now proceed on to their first duty assignment and will serve the Army in either the active or Reserve component as food service or unit supply specialists.

Lacing up her boots ...

Taking a break before a ride home ...

Packing up and ready to go ...

(Photos by David San Miguel)

Completing the final obstacle to their graduation, these students will proceed with their military career as food service or unit supply specialists.

Fun and Fitness

At the Community Activities Center (CAC) individuals will find a recreation room complete with pool tables, vending machines, air hockey, foosball, ping pong and satellite television for their entertainment.

Other CAC features include: basketball, volleyball and racquetball courts; free weights; strength training fitness machines; treadmills; exercise bikes; an Internet cafe; an Information, Ticket and Tours (ITT) where individuals can purchase single and group tickets to various local attractions; recreational sports equipment sign outs; board games, Play Station, X Box, televisions, DVD players; as well as pop-up canopy tent rentals.

Outdoor enthusiasts can obtain their hunting and fishing licenses at the Game Check office, located at building 390 off of Fort A.P. Hill Drive. Considered amongst the best hunting and fishing in the Atlantic region, sportsmen won't be disappointed. Call (804) 633-8244 for more information.

Other activities include a car wash and picnic sites complete with full restroom facilities, a sheltered pavilion, a softball field, horseshoe pits and a volleyball court.

Nestled in Archer Camp and named after Gen. A.P. Hill's horse Champ, this RV park offers 49 full hook-up sites and a full service center complete with showers, latrines, laundry center, wireless internet/digital satellite TV and game tables.

For those units training here, there is the Downtime Zone located in building 1663 at Wilcox Camp. This new facility is available for sign out only through unit commanders or their unit designee.

The Downtime Zone offers two large flat screen television sets equipped with DVD players, theater-style seating, pool tables, an Internet and video game activity center as well as separate comfort areas for board games and small group activities.

For reservations or for more information on the availability of any of these facilities, contact the CAC office staff at (804) 633-8219 or 633-8335.

Community Activities Center

Headquarters Area (Bldg. 106)

(804) 633-8219 or 633-8335

Hours of Operation

Monday through Friday
6 a.m. until 7 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday
8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Installation seeks runners to compete in Army Ten-Miler

The race date for the 25th annual Army Ten-Miler is Oct. 4. Runners interested in joining the Fort A.P. Hill team, please fill out the "Army Ten-Miler Interest" form and return it to the Community Activities Center no later than June 1.

An eight-member male/female combined team will be selected, July 13, from those runners with the fastest certified times.

Fort A.P. Hill's Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation will provide each team member with: paid entry fees; transportation; uniform (running shorts, top, jacket and pants); and, overnight accommodations.

For more information, please visit the Army Ten-Miler Web site at: http://www.armytenmiler.com/.

Track closes for resurfacing

The jogging track at the Beaverdam Pond Recreational Site is closed until further notice. This will allow the contractor to install the rubberized surface on the paved jogging track. Upon completion, the surface materials have cured, and the project accepted, the Directorate of Public Works will re-open the track.

AAFES outlines shopping policies for DOD Civilians

Pursuant to DODI 1330.21, Enclosure 6, Uniformed or Retired Uniformed Personnel, either on Active Duty or serving in any category of the Reserve Component have unlimited exchange privileges.

Federal employees who reside on military installations within the United States and Puerto Rico have limited exchange privileges, except:

1) They cannot purchase uniform items.
2) They cannot purchase State tax-free tobacco items.
3) Tax-free alcoholic beverages may be purchased, but not removed from the installation.

Federal employees in a Temporary Duty (TDY) status in the United States, when occupying government quarters on military installations, and identified by copies of their TDY orders and on-base billeting authorization are authorized limited exchange privileges, except:

1) They cannot purchase uniform items.
2) They cannot purchase State tax-free tobacco items.
3) They cannot purchase tax-free alcoholic beverages.

Finally, federal employees working on, but residing off of, military installations may only purchase food and beverages (except for alcoholic beverage) sold at any exchange food activity, if consumed on post.

CAC now offers Kings Dominion VIP passes

Kings Dominion VIP season passes are now available through the Community Activities Center for $67 each.

These passes include free parking.

To purchase these passes, visit the Community Activities Center across from post headquarters or for more information call (804) 633-8219.