

Fort A.P. Hill

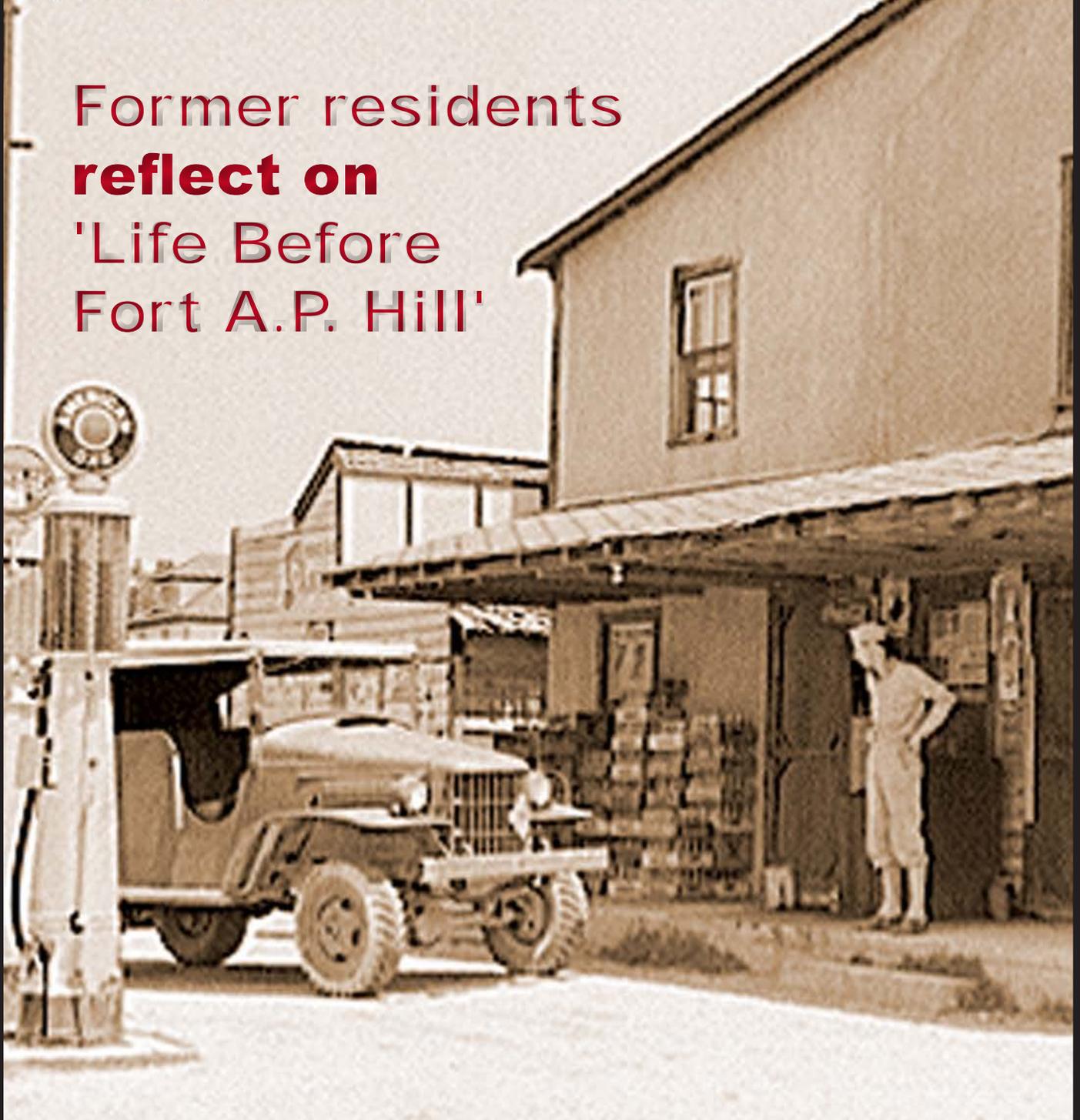
Down Range

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"The Best Training and Support -- Anywhere!"

June 3, 2011

Former residents **reflect on** 'Life Before Fort A.P. Hill'



Odierno nominated as next Army Chief, Dempsey to move up to Joint Chief

WASHINGTON -- President Barack Obama announced May 30, that he will nominate Gen. Raymond T. Odierno as the next chief of staff of the Army.

Obama also announced he will nominate Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the Army's current chief of staff, to be chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Dempsey is expected to replace Adm. Mike Mullen when his term as chairman ends, Sept. 30. The president made the announcement in the White House Rose Garden just before departing to Arlington National Cemetery for the national Memorial Day ceremony there.

"I'm announcing my choice for their successors today because it's essential that this transition be seamless and that we stay focused on the urgent national security challenges before us," Obama said.

If the Senate approves the nominations, Odierno -- known for overseeing the transition from surge to stability operations in Iraq from September 2008 until September 2010 -- will replace Dempsey who held the top Army position since April 11 when he became the 37th Army chief of staff.

While Dempsey will have served just over five months as the Army chief of staff, his term in the position is not the shortest. That record is held by Lt. Gen. John C. Bates, who served from Jan. 15, 1906 until April 13, 1906, serving just under three months in the position.

However, Maj. John Doughty served in an equivalent position, as the United States Army's "senior officer," from June 20, 1784 until Aug. 12, 1784 -- a stint of just 53 days.

Among those serving in the chief of staff position, a title first used in 1903, it was Gen. George Marshall who held the position longest, more than six years, from Sept. 1, 1939 until Nov. 18, 1945. He served in the position for the duration of World War II. And Gen. Winfield Scott served longest in the Army's top position, as its commanding general for 20 years, up through the first months of the Civil War.

Odierno currently serves as commander of the U.S. Joint Forces Command, which



U.S. Army Photo

President Barack Obama announced May 30 that his nomination as the next chief of staff of the Army is Gen. Raymond T. Odierno.

is being deactivated no later than Aug. 31, 2011. He entered the Army in 1976 and served as a platoon leader with the 56th Field Artillery Brigade.

General David Petraeus, commander of the International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces Afghanistan and presidential nominee to serve as the head of the Central Intelligence Agency, served with Odierno in the earliest days of the conflict in Iraq, in 2003.

During the recent surge in Iraq, Petraeus served as Multi-National Forces-Iraq commander while Odierno served as the Multi-National Corps-Iraq commander.

"His leadership of MNC-I was absolutely magnificent, his operational vision was exceptional, his determination was extraordinary, and his drive was legendary," Petraeus said. "It was an enormous privilege to have him as a key member of the team during that pivotal period in Iraq."

Odierno assumed Petraeus' position at MNF-I in September 2008 and was there through its transition to USF-I.

Odierno "continued to make a tremendous impact in the land of the two rivers as the overall commander there for another

two years," Petraeus said.

In October 2010, Odierno took command of U.S. Joint Forces Command, "shouldering with great skill and vision, the delicate task of transitioning vital capabilities of JFCOM to other organizations to enable the disestablishment of that command," Petraeus said.

The president himself commented on Odierno's successes in Iraq when making the announcement regarding his nomination to the chief of staff position.

"In three pivotal deployments to Iraq, he commanded the troops that captured Saddam Hussein, partnered with Gen. Petraeus to help bring down the violence, and then transferred responsibility to Iraqi forces, allowing us to remove some 100,000 American troops and end our combat mission," the president said.

"After years on the front lines, Ray understands what the Army must do -- to prevail in today's wars, to prepare for the future, and to preserve the readiness of the Soldiers and families who are the strength of America's families," Obama said.

Army tells senators: FY12 to feature squad analysis

By C. Todd Lopez

Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- The Army will conduct an analysis of its "fundamental fighting unit," the squad, to ensure everything is being done to prepare those Soldiers for the fight.

Army Secretary John McHugh and Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey appeared May 17 before the

Senate Appropriations Committee defense subcommittee to discuss the fiscal year 2012 budget submission and Army posture.

"We'll look at the squad as a collective whole, not nine individual Soldiers, and determine how to enable it from the bottom up to ensure that the squad has the training, leadership, doctrine, power and energy, protection, and lethality to win when we send them into harm's way," Dempsey told lawmakers.

The general said other tiers of Army structure are already unmatched, and that he wanted to ensure the squad too was unmatched.

"As an Army no one can challenge us at corps level, division level, brigade level or battalion level," he said. "I want to ensure we've done as much as possible to make sure that the same degree of overmatch exists at squad level."

While Dempsey didn't give a date to senators for when a review would happen, he did say it wouldn't result in more gear given to individual Soldiers, who are "already strained by the load they have to carry in combat."

The Army is facing two requirements to reduce the number of Soldiers in uniform -- a 22,000-Soldier reduction that accounts for the temporary end-strength increase authorized by Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates in 2009, and a Gates-directed 27,000-Soldier reduction three or four years from now to be taken out of the Army's permanent end-strength.

McHugh told lawmakers he has been working with leaders in the Defense Department to make sure the cuts would happen, but that they would not affect the mission or put other Soldiers at risk.

"We've spent a lot of time with the secretary and the people at OSD to make sure the way forward on this makes sense, that we are not buying an unreasonable amount of risk," McHugh said.

The reduction of 22,000 Soldiers, he said was something that would have to come down in "the near term." But McHugh told lawmakers the Army was concerned about the current operations tempo and how that reduction would affect the force, and that those troops are still needed.

The defense secretary, he said, "understood" that, and is allowing the Army to

keep those 22,000 until March 2012 -- with the drawdown in Iraq then making it possible for the Army to take the reduction "in stride."

In January, the secretary also directed a reduction in permanent end strength of 27,000. That drawdown would be "conditions based," McHugh told the legislators.

The 27,000-Soldier reduction is aimed at the 2014-2015 time frame, with the potential drawdown in Afghanistan. But ultimately, he said, a final decision would depend on input from the president, NATO allies, and recommendations from the commander, International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces Afghanistan.

"(If) conditions on the ground allow that to continue, we feel very comfortable that the 27,000 is a very achievable target," McHugh said.

He added that the Army is working on how to shape the force with the drawdown and how to "ramp down" the numbers of Soldiers without "placing Soldiers at greater risk."

With the 2004 cancellation of the Comanche; the 2008 cancellation of the Armed Reconnaissance Helicopter; and, the 2009 cancellation of the Army's "Future Combat Systems" programs, senators concerned about tightening the budget asked Army leaders how they would ensure future Army programs could remain on target and on budget.

McHugh discussed a recent study on Army acquisition he said was "long overdue" and which yielded 76 recommendations on acquisition.

"I think the No. 1 thing was our inclination in the past to not control requirements," McHugh said.

Continued additions of requirements means it takes longer for the program to come to fruition, the secretary said, and makes its costs spiral out of control.

"So we've tried to do a better job in stating the requirements, keeping them less reliant on immature or less reliable technologies," he said.

McHugh added that the Army is now implementing all but 13 of the 76 recommendations from the report and is taking a closer look at those 13 recommendations.

Garrison Commander

Lt. Col. John W. Haefner

Garrison Command Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Maj. Miguel E. Reyna

Public Affairs Officer

Jennifer Erickson

Editor / Photojournalist

David San Miguel

2009

Department of Defense
Thomas Jefferson Award

2010, 2009, 2004

Department of the Army
Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware Award

2010, 2009

U.S. Army Installation Management Command
Maj. Gen. Keith L. Ware Award

2008

U.S. Army Installation Management
Command - Northeast Region
Liberty Bell Award

The Down Range - Fort A.P. Hill newsletter is an award-winning bi-monthly publication authorized and produced by the PAO editorial staff in accordance with AR 360-1 to inform and entertain the installation community 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 U.S. Army or this command.

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'LIFE BEFORE FORT A.P. HILL'

Former residents reflect how community together endured, survived hardships through Great Depression, world war

By David San Miguel
Editor

This is the first in a three-part series on the history of Fort A.P. Hill and its former residents.

Life on the farm in the 1940s was “real work.” The day often began at 4 or 5 a.m. and would last until well after dark.

Yet for the residents of Caroline and Essex Counties, it was life. A life they etched out of the earth through thick and thin.

In the book, *Wealthy in Heart: Oral History of Life Before Fort A.P. Hill*, Virginia Wright Durrett recalls how neighbors would come together, pool their resources and endured hardships even through the Great Depression.

“Dad farmed, and you better believe it, he made every inch productive,” she said. “He was a good farmer ... Dad would go up to his neighbors and mow the hay; his neighbors would come down and help him shuck corn, and it was that kind of a camaraderie among them down there.”

According to Cleopatra Kay Coleman, these farm and house groupings formed “communities” in which residents could survive hardships and thrive.

“Back then there were three institutions

primarily: the home and the school and the church. And Caroline County was deeply steeped in and with those three institutions,” she said. “So, yeah, there were good times.”

“Good times,” she remembered were often interrupted by those proscribed times of the period when segregation was very much a reality.

“You knew that you went to a black school, for instance. You knew that you went to a black church,” she said. “You knew that Miss Jenny, who would be Miss Jenny to black people, was Aunt Jenny – that was my grandmother – to white people. So I mean, there’s just a certain climate that you operated in, bespoke those differences, and so you realized early on.”

Leonard Bruce recalled those days too.

“It [race relations] was real good,” he said. “That’s right, all you have to do is say the word ... [the community] they’d pitch in. They stuck close together. If any of them knew that somebody was sick or needed a hand, they would come.”

Willard Jasper Farmer agreed.

“The neighbors would help if you got behind on planting your crops, they’d help you,” he said. “If they got behind, we’d help them.”

Such cooperation carried the agricultural community through many a hardship to include the Great Depression. And that’s the way life was in Caroline County through much of the 1930s until the spring of 1941.

Then things changed.

Despite President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s pledge to keep the United States out of the war in Europe during his second inaugural address in 1937, events in Europe proved difficult to ignore. And by 1940, France had already fallen and England had come under siege by Adolph Hitler’s Nazi Army.

With the threat of war looming, the War Plans Division of the Army General Staff in the spring of 1940 developed a plan to raise a national army of four million to conduct simultaneous operations in the Pacific and European theaters. By July, a search began to locate an area of approximately 60,000 acres, independent of any post, and lying somewhere between the Potomac River and the upper Chesapeake Bay.

Though no one recalls who suggested Caroline County as a site for heavy weapons

See LIFE BEFORE, page 5



Library of Congress photos by Jack Delano

During the 1940s, Bowling Green and the surrounding communities became familiar with the military presence.

LIFE BEFORE

continued from page 4

and maneuver training facilities, what is known is that Lt. Col. Oliver Marston, an artillery officer stationed in Richmond and acting as an agent of the Third Corps Area commander, made a detailed investigation of the Bowling Green area in September 1940.

He recommended that the War Department procure the Caroline County site.

On April 5, 1941, the decision was announced that an army training camp would be created from 76,000 acres of land in Caroline and Essex Counties.

Most of the residents accepted this land acquisition grudgingly, silently; others voiced their displeasure, but in the end, the majority complied for the common good of the nation.

As a result, nearly one-third of the county's families, farms, schools, churches, cemeteries, potato storage houses, grist mills and stores were appropriated by the army. The residents moved by whatever means available to nearby communities and counties.

On June 11, 1941, Camp A.P. Hill was established pursuant to War Department General Order No. 5. Soon Army convoys passed through Bowling Green and the

surrounding communities. A steady military presence soon became commonplace.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese on Dec. 7 of that same year, the former residents closed ranks in full support of the war effort and many families sent their sons to fight.

Editor's Note: Quotes were taken from *Wealthy in Heart: Oral History of Life Before Fort A.P. Hill*, produced by the Cultural Resources Division of Paciulli, Simmons & Associates, Ltd., for the Department of the Army, Fort A.P. Hill.



This young family contemplates its exodus from the newly established Army installation.



As the families are moved out and the Army settles in, Soldiers became more frequent customers at the local community stores.



Some of the children of a family of ten were re-located to allow for the establishment of Camp A.P. Hill in June of 1941.



Library of Congress photos by Jack Delano

The Upper Zion postmaster provides mail to the small community while waiting to be evacuated to make room for the Army maneuver grounds.



Civilian Conservation Corps trucks help this young man's family move their belongings out to a nearby community.



One of many families ordered to vacate their farms to make room for a military and maneuver training site, this woman packs her belongings and prepares to move out.

Wounded Soldier to receive Medal of Honor

WASHINGTON -- An Army Ranger who lost his right hand and suffered shrapnel wounds after throwing an armed grenade away from his fellow Soldiers will be the second living Medal of Honor recipient from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On July 12, President Barack Obama will award Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Arthur Petry, with the Medal of Honor for conspicuous gallantry.

Petry earned the medal for his courageous actions during combat operations against an armed enemy in Paktya, Afghanistan, on May 26, 2008.

He presently serves as part of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 75th Ranger Regiment at Fort Benning, Ga.

"It's very humbling to know that the guys thought that much of me and my actions that day, to nominate me for that," the sergeant said.

On that fateful day, Petry was assigned to Company D, 2nd Bn., 75th Ranger Regiment at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., conducting combat operations in Afghanistan.

Petry's actions came as part of a rare daylight raid to capture a high-value target.

His mission was to locate himself with the platoon headquarters in the target building once it was secured. Once there, he was to serve as the senior noncommissioned officer at the site for the remainder of the operation.

Recognizing one of the assault squads needed assistance clearing their assigned building, Petry relayed to the platoon leader that he was moving to that squad to provide additional supervision and guidance during the clearance of the building.

Once the residential portion of the building had been cleared, Petry took a fellow member of the assault squad, Pfc. Lucas Robinson, to clear the outer courtyard which he knew had not been cleared during the initial clearance.

Both Rangers moved into an area of the compound that contained at least three enemy fighters who were prepared to engage them from opposite ends of the outer courtyard.

Nevertheless, Petry and Robinson entered the courtyard. To their front was an opening followed by a chicken coop.



U.S. Army photo

The White House has announced that Sgt. 1st Class Leroy A. Petry will be awarded the Medal of Honor, July 12.

As the two crossed the open area, an enemy insurgent fired on them. Petry was wounded by a round which went through both of his legs. Robinson was also hit in his side plate by a separate round.

Despite being wounded and while still under enemy fire, Petry led Robinson to cover behind the chicken coop.

Petry assessed the situation and reported that contact was made and that he and Robinson were wounded.

Upon hearing that the two Rangers were wounded, Sgt. Daniel Higgins, entered the outer courtyard and moved towards their position.

Petry threw a grenade towards the enemy to provide Higgins cover as he approached.

Once there, Higgins began evaluating their wounds but not before an insurgent threw a grenade within 10 meters from their position, knocking them to the ground and wounding him as well.

Shortly after the grenade exploded, Staff Sgt. James Roberts and Spc. Christopher Gathercole entered the courtyard, and moved toward the pinned down Soldiers.

The enemy persisted and lobbed yet another grenade at the injured Soldiers, this time, landing just a few feet from Higgins and Robinson.

Then according to the battlefield reports, Petry -- despite his wounds and with a complete disregard for his personal safety -- consciously and deliberately risked his life to move to and secure the grenade and consciously throw it away from his fellow Rangers.

As Petry grabbed and attempted to throw the grenade back towards the enemy, it detonated and catastrophically amputated his right hand.

With a clear mind, Petry immediately placed a tourniquet on his right arm.

See MEDAL, page 10

Army launches new 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' repeal website

By Sharonda Pearson

Army News Service

WASHINGTON -- In preparation of the repeal of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, the Army has launched a new website to provide servicemembers and their families the most up-to-date information about the change.

The website features current news articles, key facts, frequently asked questions and additional resources. It is just one of the many training resources the Army implemented to educate the force and minimize misconceptions about the repeal.

"It's a way for the Army to provide the latest and greatest information about the repeal to Soldiers, family members and the public," said Lt. Col Timothy M. Beninato, public affairs advisor to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs and Army G-1.

Current policies remain in effect, and the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" or DADT, law



will stay in place until 60 days after the president, secretary of defense and chairman of the joint chiefs of staff certify that the repeal can be implemented "consistent with the standards of military readiness and effectiveness, unit cohesion, and military recruiting and retention."

To ensure the transition is as seamless as possible, the Army has adopted a three-tier training approach to ensure that repeal of DADT doesn't undermine force readiness, recruitment and retention.

Tier one targets special staff and key

individuals like chaplains, lawyers, and inspectors general. Tier two focuses on commanders and supervisors. Finally, tier three focuses on the rest of the force.

Available resources include presentation slides with narration, scripts, frequently asked questions, vignettes, DoD policy guidance, implementation plans and service-specific material.

To improve the depth and breadth of feedback, the Army's DADT site contains a comment section where visitors can provide feedback or ask questions about the policy.

"Currently, the chain of command is the primary means for asking questions, which can significantly limit non-military individual's ability to ask questions about the repeal," Beninato said.

Beninato said senior leaders felt it was essential to provide another forum where all interested parties would have the opportunity to ask questions and comment.

The DADT Repeal website can be viewed at: www.army.mil/dadt.

Flag casing marks new era for Army FMWR

By Evan Dyson

FMWR Public Affairs

ALEXANDRIA, Va. -- Employees of the Army's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command joined together May 26, for the casing of the FMWRC colors, a traditional flag ceremony that marks the official move from its former headquarters here, to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas.

The move is in accordance with 2005 Base Realignment and Closure law.

FMWRC Commanding General Maj. Gen. Reuben Jones only sees hope for the future of the command and its employees.

"It's going to be better," he said. "That's what life and that's what change is all about."

"It's just the tip of the iceberg, what's done here [at headquarters]. There are other warriors, about 27,000 of them, on garrisons around the world who benefit from the work that the employees here do - allowing them to go out and execute programs," Jones said.

Waiting for the organization in Texas are several new and renovated facilities on Fort Sam Houston, including the historic Fort

Sam Houston Theatre, the future home of the Army Entertainment Division, and a new building for the Maj. Gen. Robert M. Joyce Family and MWR Academy, which will serve as a training facility for garrison

and headquarters employees.

The day before the casing ceremony, a final awards ceremony was held to recognize dozens of employees for their contributions to the organization.

— Army News Service



The commanding general of the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command, Maj. Gen. Reuben Jones and Command Sgt. Maj. Abe Vega prepare the FMWRC colors during the casing ceremony held May 26.

MEMORIAL DAY 2011



Signs of patriotism were everywhere.

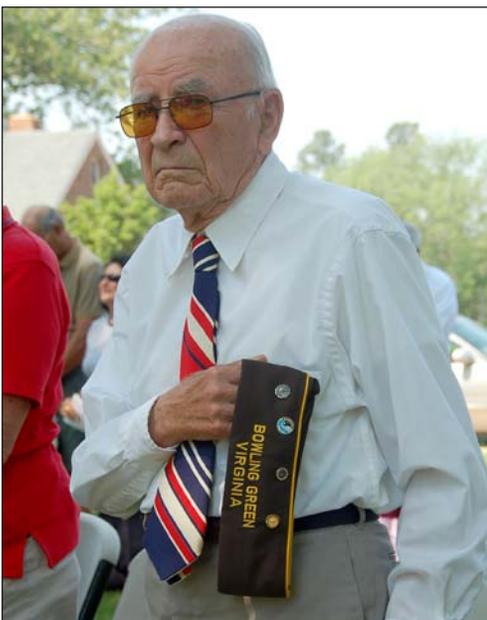


Photos by David San Miguel

Fort A.P. Hill Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Miguel E. Reyna delivers a heartfelt speech at the Bowling Green Memorial Day Wreath-Laying ceremony, May 31, in front of the Caroline County Courthouse.



A Veteran salutes during the playing of the National Anthem and the posting of the Colors by the Caroline High School Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets.



A World War II Veteran pauses to reflect on those "fallen brethren."



Local Veteran and community members converged at the county courthouse lawn to remember those servicemembers who "gave their all" in defense of the nation.

MEDAL

continued from page 7

Once this was complete, he reported that he was still in contact with the enemy and that he had been wounded again.

After the blast that amputated Petry's hand, Roberts engaged and suppressed the enemy with small arms fire and a grenade.

Shortly thereafter, the enemy attacked from the east end of the courtyard and fatally wounded Gathercole.

Higgins and Robinson returned fire and killed the enemy.

Recalling the events that day, Higgins later wrote that "if not for Staff Sgt. Petry's actions, we would have been seriously wounded or killed."

Petry is the ninth servicemember to have been awarded the Medal of Honor for actions in Afghanistan and Iraq. All but Petry and Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta were awarded the honor posthumously.

Specialist Ross A. McGinnis; Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith; Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael A. Monsoor; and, Marine Corps Cpl. Jason L. Dunham, earned the medal for actions in Iraq. Staff Sgt. Giunta; Staff Sgt. Robert Miller; Sgt. 1st Class Jared C. Monti; and, Navy Lt. Michael P. Murphy earned it for actions in Afghanistan.

Petry currently serves as a liaison officer for the U.S. Special Operations Command Care Coalition-Northwest Region, and provides oversight to wounded warriors, ill and injured servicemembers and their families.

A native of Santa Fe, N.M., Petry had enlisted in the Army on September 1999.

After completing Infantry One Station Unit Training, Airborne and the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program at Fort Benning, Ga., he was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment as a grenadier, squad automatic rifleman, fire team leader, squad leader, operations sergeant, then weapons squad leader.

He has deployed eight times -- twice to Iraq and six to Afghanistan.

Petry and his wife, Ashley, have four children: Brittany, Austin, Reagan and Landon.

—Army News Service




Fort A.P. Hill's
70th Anniversary
 June 11
Salute America's Warriors at
this Free Family Event!

BOWLING GREEN
PORT ROYAL
FORT AP. HILL

- ★ Patriotic Parade
- ★ Historical Tours
- ★ Military Displays
- ★ Reenactments

★ **Military District of Washington Twilight Tattoo**


Twilight
Tattoo
a colorful military pageant

All events are free!

All Veterans invited to Route Step by arriving at
9:30 am at Broadus Ave. staging area.

10 a.m. The Town of Bowling Green and the Caroline Legion Post
present an Americana Military Parade Caroline High School JROTC Cadet, Vietnam & Korean War Vets and a Soldier will lead as grand marshals of parade featuring 392nd Army Band of Fort Lee, American Legion Riders, and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Soldiers and robot.

12-2 p.m. Historical & Art Gallery Tours, Town of Port Royal.

2 p.m. Military displays and more, Beaverdam Picnic area, Fort A.P. Hill. See various military vehicles, equipment and demonstrations. Mingle with "Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill" at a Civil War encampment.

6:30 p.m. U.S. Army Band, "Pershing's Own" will prelude to the
Twilight Tattoo Pageant which starts at 7 p.m. Twilight Tattoo is an hour-long sunset military pageant featuring Soldiers of the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) units—the Fife and Drum Corps, Soldier-musicians from the U.S. Army Band.

Like us on Facebook • fortaphill.wordpress.com/70th • More info: 633-8120/8324.