

Up and Down
the

Hill



Vol. 44, No. 7

"The Best Training & Support ... Anywhere!"

May 4, 2009



Ready to Rock!

Riverines assault White Lake

Thank you for everything you do!

Team mates,

Greetings, I hope this issue of *Up and Down the Hill* finds you in great spirits. I just want to take the opportunity to provide updates on a few topics.

As everybody should know, we are in the process of completing the annual Organizational Self Assessment (OSA). If you haven't already completed it, please do so prior to end of business on May 9. As ranked against other high performing garrisons, we traditionally have a high, if not highest, completion rate. This is important because the anonymous information derived from this introspection helps the corporate board focus on areas of the installation that should be sustained or improved. The "So what?" is that the OSA helps us best support you and the thousands of Warriors training here every month. Take the time to complete the assessment; yes, it can be tedious, but your input is important! Thanks in advance.

In regards to the A-76, the study is basically on hold. The Installation Management Command (IMCOM) is reviewing the situation and is aware of the 30-month deadline for a competition decision and will let us know something as soon as possible.

I want to pass on a big "Atta-boy" to everyone who prepared for, or participated in, the recent visit by our Senior Commander, Maj. Gen. (Richard J.) Rowe. The range development brief, Installation Planning Board and the Earth Day event were well received and we obtained Maj. Gen. Rowe's concurrence to virtually all of our recommendations. This is reflective of a studied and well presented strategy. Great work!

I also offer similar congratulations to

Commander's Comment

everyone who planned, set-up and conducted the Change of Responsibility between Command Sgt. Maj. (Roger A.) Chase and Command Sgt. Maj. (Mark V.) Brandenburg. The ceremony was symbolic and professional. I know both families appreciated all the hard work and effort.

Finally, thank you for everything you do for our Warriors every day. Every single person on the Fort A.P. Hill team has a role in ensuring their success.

Your total dedication ensured the 52,000 Warriors that have trained here this fiscal year experienced the *Best Training and Support...Anywhere!*



Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese

Resident sees post as vital, a valuable asset

Letter to the Editor,

Ilive directly across from one of Fort A.P. Hill's artillery ranges. I knew when I purchased here that Fort A.P. Hill was my neighbor. Oh sure, I get the occasional sounds of gunfire and related "noises," but to me these are not noises, but the sounds of a good neighbor doing a job that has to be done to keep you, me and our country prepared and safe.

In the early 1970s, I had the sad occasion of being on a military evacuation flight from Europe to Walter Reed Army Hospital. The plane had been outfitted entirely with suspended bunks filled with severely injured Soldiers from the Vietnam War. The eight-hour flight was an up-and-close reality as to the sights and sounds of war.

If the training at A.P. Hill helps to prepare the Soldiers of today for what may await them, then we should all say thank you. An injured Soldier could be your husband, wife, son or daughter.

When purchasing in certain counties in Maryland where there are military installations, the buyers have to sign a form and acknowledge the nearby military presence and occasional sounds of firings and aerial flights. Maybe buyers in this area also need to be aware, and hopefully they will agree, as I do, that Fort A.P. Hill is a positive asset and not a negative one.

I am proud to call Fort A.P. Hill my neighbor and like a good neighbor "let's keep the light on for them."

Joyce Sandidge Jones
Supply, Va.



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Command Sgt. Maj. Roger Chase

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(Photos by David San Miguel)

Gearing up, the Riverines practice beach assault and landing techniques at Range 29 on White Lake.

'Cocked, Locked and Ready to Rock'

By David San Miguel
Editor

"Cocked, Locked and Ready to Rock," as says their motto, Warriors with the Riverine Squadron (RIVRON) Det. 1 are charged and ready to get back into the fight only a few months after returning from Iraq.

The unit recently converged on the banks of Range 29 (White Lake) at Fort A.P. Hill to "reset" or begin their cycle of training. Training cycles start 30 days after returning and continue until their next deployment.

The detachment commander, Lt. j.g. William F. Ashley, said it's a training cycle that is constant and one in which the Riverines have learned to accept.

"It's a hard, both mentally and physically," adds Hull Technician 2nd Class Johnpaul Lubrani, assistant Joint Terminal Attack Control. "You're constantly training, but you're getting paid to shoot guns all day. What more can you ask for."

Their training here consisted of

deploying four 40-foot-long and ten-foot-wide Riverine patrol boats onto the waterway and inserting a six-member Riverine Security Team (RST) onto the beach in an attempt to make contact with the enemy.

At this point, Ashley said, it's critically important that the ground and boat teams communicate and mark their flanks to ensure the RST's safety as it maneuvers through the woods.

Armed with an arsenal of crew-served weapons, M240 machine guns and an Mk 44 automatic cannon up front, the boat crews shadow the RST, and upon contact with the enemy will engage and move in to extract the ground team.

According to Ashley, Fort A.P. Hill is one of only a few training sites where Riverine Sailors can practice these techniques and procedures.

These maneuvers are an essential part of their mission to learn to operate and protect the world's waterways, Ashley said.



The exercise was designed to "reset" and refamiliarize the Riverines with their assigned weapon systems. A highly deployed unit, the detachment recently returned from Iraq in November and had begun the process of recertification here to maintain their readiness posture.

Defense department monitors swine flu to protect force

By Donna Miles

American Forces Information Service

The Defense Department is monitoring the swine flu situation closely, with its primary focus on protecting the military workforce population, a senior Pentagon official said.

As the Department of Health and Human Services leads the U.S. effort, the military is posturing itself to respond if required, Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman told reporters April 27.

"We certainly have a number of contingency plans for dealing with health incidences like this, because our primary goal is preservation of the fighting force," he said. "So we obviously have plans and take measures to ensure that we can preserve the fighting strength of the military in the

event that there should be a greater crisis with respect to a health situation like this."

Two prescription anti-viral drugs, reenza and tamiflu, already are standard stock at U.S. military treatment facilities, and larger quantities are stockpiled at several sites in the United States and overseas, Whitman said.

President Barack Obama told the National Academy of Sciences that the emerging incidence of swine flu in the United States "is obviously a cause for concern and requires a heightened state of alert, but it's not a cause for alarm."

The Centers for Disease Control has confirmed 40 cases of swine flu virus infection in the United States in California, Kansas, New York City, Ohio and Texas. Greater cases of infections have been reported internationally, particularly in

Mexico.

Obama said HHS has declared a public health emergency only "as a precautionary tool to ensure that we have the resources we need at our disposal to respond quickly and effectively." HHS, the CDC and the Department of Homeland Security will provide the American people regular updates about steps being taken and precautions that may be required, he said.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management Director John Berry distributed CDC guidelines for preventing the spread of swine flu to the federal work force. Berry also distributed guidance for federal agencies to protect their work forces and the public and to ensure continuity of operations in the event that they must institute their already-prepared pandemic influenza preparedness plans.

What You Can Do to Stay Healthy

Influenza is thought to spread mainly person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of infected people.

- Take everyday actions to stay healthy.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Stay home if you get sick. CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- Follow public health advice regarding school closures, avoiding crowds and other social distancing measures.
- Develop a family emergency plan as a precaution. This should include storing a supply of food, medicines, facemasks, alcohol-based hand rubs and other essential supplies.
- Call 1-800-CDC-INFO for more information.



(Photo by Rover D. Warden)

A Day with Mom, Dad

Sons and daughters of Fort A.P. Hill employees were given a unique opportunity April 22 to experience first hand where their parent works each day.

The youth were accompanied by their parent to the various worksites and, much to their enjoyment, were even given an

opportunity to participate in a simulated turkey shoot at the Engagement Skills Trainer facility.

Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work helps girls and boys across the nation discover the power and possibilities associated with a balanced work and family life.



(Photos by David San Miguel)

Command Sgt. Maj. Mark V. Brandenburg assumed his new role as Fort A.P. Hill's senior enlisted Soldier during a Change of Responsibility Ceremony held here April 22.

CHANGE *Of* RESPONSIBILITY

Ceremony marks 'changing of the guard'

By David San Miguel
Editor

Among his new "family and friends", Command Sgt. Maj. Mark V. Brandenburg assumed his role as Fort A.P. Hill's senior enlisted Soldier, April 22, in a Change of Responsibility Ceremony held in the field adjacent to the Medal of Honor Memorial.

Brandenburg assumed responsibility from Command Sgt. Maj. Roger A. Chase who is retiring later this summer, marking an end to an illustrious 30-year-career with the U.S. Army.

"The installation has experienced tremendous accomplishment and growth due in great part to his leadership and influence," commented Lt. Col. Michael S. Graese, Garrison Commander. "Command Sgt. Maj. Chase has been the personification of focusing efforts to support the Warriors

training on post."

During his tour, the post placed third in the Army Communities of Excellence Award Competition for 2005, 2006 and 2007. In 2008, the post earned the grand prize: the Chief of Staff's Army Communities of Excellence Award as well as the Commander-In-Chief's Installation Excellence Award.

Upon assuming his new role and through his conversations with employees around post, Brandenburg said he realized that indeed he did have big shoes to fill.

"I know they'll be many new and different challenges in the days ahead," he said, "but I know working together, I'm confident that we as a team can meet these challenges head on and continue to make this post a great place for our Warriors to train and our Families to work and live."

See CEREMONY, page 6



Representatives from the local community as well the installation workforce were on hand to witness the changeover.

An unidentified employee hugs Command Sgt. Maj. Chase as he leaves Fort A.P. Hill to retire.



Roses for the outgoing regime ...



(Photos by David San Miguel)



Lisa Chase comforts her daughter, Symone, during the playing of "Wind Beneath My Wings" at the Change of Responsibility Ceremony held April 22.

Command Sgt. Maj. Roger A. Chase bids farewell.

CEREMONY ————— *continued from page 5* —————

Brandenburg joins the Fort A.P. Hill family from an assignment as the battalion command sergeant major with the 3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment stationed at Bamberg, Germany.

In his new role as the senior enlisted Soldier, Brandenburg will serve as the installation's primary advisor to the commander on all matters pertaining to military personnel, particularly in areas related to their training and development and to their quality of life and well-being. He will also respond to the concerns of federal civilian and contract employees of the command.

Brandenburg entered the Army in May 1981 and has served in a number of key enlisted leadership positions culminating in his assignment here. He has completed overseas tours in Germany as well as combat tours in Southwest Asia during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and a tour in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

His military training and education includes the Warrior Leader Course, the Basic and Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Courses, the U.S. Army First Sergeants Course and the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy.



Command Sgt. Maj. Chase and his family, Lisa, his wife, and children, Symone and Rojay.



Command Sgt. Maj. Brandenburg and his wife, Nancy, join the Fort A.P. Hill family.



Command Sgt. Maj. Chase delivers his farewell remarks signifying the end of his tour here.

(Photos by David San Miguel)



Rowe met with the Fort A.P. Hill's senior leadership to review and advise them on plans to better equip the installation to handle future mission contingencies.

Photo by David San Miguel

General reviews post's plan for future mission contingencies

During a visit to Fort A.P. Hill, April 22, Maj. Gen. Richard J. Rowe, Jr., Commanding General of the Military District of Washington and Joint Force Headquarters, National Capital Region, shared his take on the installation's plan to meet future missions and requirements.

He advised the senior leadership on how it might rank the different projects to increase the likelihood of funding.

Commenting on the plans, Rowe said the leaders had a solid strategy for success that other installations would do well to emulate.

Afterward, the general spent time with the youth planting trees as part of the installation's Earth Day activities.

Fort A.P. Hill Green

Spotlight on Environmental Awareness

Thanks to the work of our employees, Fort A.P. Hill has an excellent reputation with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and within our Installation Management Command (IMCOM) region for our accomplishments in Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability. These achievements are possible because of the combined efforts of each employee doing one's job in an environmentally responsible manner.

The Army has a program called an Environmental Management System (eMs) that the installation staff must implement to ensure continued support of the mission in an environmentally sustainable way. This comprehensive eMs program is administered by the Directorate of Public Works, Environmental Division.

One might ask, "What does eMs mean for me in my job?"

An easy way to think about eMs in our jobs is to --

"Remember the 3 R's" Reduce / Reuse / Recycle

Some things to consider, include:

- Are you reducing energy use?
- Are you reducing waste?
- Are you using resources efficiently?
- Can you reuse material?
- Can it be recycled?



The installation eMs management representative is Terry Banks, DPW, Environmental Division Chief. She is supported by eMs Coordinator, Rick Cole.

For more information or to comment on the eMs program, call Cole at (804) 633-8489 or send him an email message at Rick.W.Cole@us.army.mil.

Future articles will discuss the installation's eMs program and how it will be evaluated by an external audit team.



(Photo by David San Miguel)

Post receives historical quilt

John Mullin, Cultural Resource Manager, accepts a quilt donated by Amos Clary whose father was once the Liberty Church pastor during the Great Depression. The quilt was made by Clary's mother to help raise funds for the church. Of historical significance, it lists the contributors within each square.

SUSTAINABLE TRAINING

Conservation management practices ensure training lands remain viable to support current and future realistic live training, which is essential for troops to be fully prepared to fight and win.



EARTH DAY 2009

Installation celebrates event planting trees, teaching youth responsible stewardship

Thirty-plus area youth converged on Fort A.P. Hill to celebrate Earth Day, April 22.

Throughout the activity, the students learned various ways they could contribute to help save their environment.

In addition, the students and adult leaders alike learned how the environmental staff and the workforce in general is committed to being responsible caretakers of the installation's natural resources.



(Photos by David San Miguel)

Maj. Gen. Richard J. Rowe, Jr., Commanding General of the Military District of Washington and Joint Force Headquarters, National Capitol Region, assists Jason Applegate, Environmental Division, Directorate of Public Works, in planting a tree on the bank of the Beaverdam Lake.



Kati Mathews, daughter of Mary H. and Michael C. Mathews of the Directorate of Information Management, inspects the roots of a tree she's preparing to plant.

Applegate explains the proper technique in planting trees to a group of students from the neighboring communities. The event was part of the installation's Earth Day activities designed to instill in the youth an appreciation for the environment.





Youngsters welcome day of family fun, activities



(Photos by David San Miguel)

Abbey, daughter of Melissa and George Dilworth and granddaughter of Judy C. Collins of the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, searches for Easter eggs.

This eager little tot goes through the coloring book while his dad looks on. Families gathered after the Easter Egg Hunt to participate in a variety of arts and craft activities.

Area youngsters join with Fort A.P. Hill families in various arts and craft activities following the installation's annual Easter Egg Hunt held adjacent to Romenick Hall, April 11.





(Photos by David San Miguel)

Jazz, eight-month-old son of John and Staff Sgt. Michelle Stewart, Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of the Lois E. Wells Army Health Clinic, doesn't quite know what to think of the Easter Bunny.



Connor, infant son of Melissa and George Dilworth and grandson of Judy C. Collins of the Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, smiles for the camera.



Rebecca R. Blanton, Directorate of Logistics, hands out an Easter basket to one of the many youths who turned out for the installation's annual Easter Egg Hunt.



Despite threatening rains, children came out in droves to participate in the post's annual Easter Egg Hunt.

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. Consid-

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.

ered 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. It 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.

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 amongst those individuals 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/>.

Census personnel to visit Fort A.P. Hill

Personnel residing at Fort A.P. Hill, to include the Hope-mont housing, the mobile home park, Champs (RV) Camp and the Camp Wilcox barracks can expect census representatives, May 13.

This four-member team will be here only to look at the housing areas where people live and may possibly inform residents that they will be coming to take the census.

CAC 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 CAC or for more information call (804) 633-8219.



(Photo by David San Miguel)

DFMWR mobile grill opens for business

Dell E. Johnson, Food and Beverage Manager, Directorate of Family, Morale, Welfare and Recreation, prepares cheese steak sandwiches on the mobile grill during Earth Day activities held at the Beaverdam Picnic area, April 22.

The mobile grill will be stationed at the Wilcox Camp and at various other sites throughout the installation to provide food and beverage to the troops.