

Up and Down the Hill

Serving the Fort A. P. Hill Community

Engineers Breach the Darkness To Save Lives

Story and Photos by Debra Bingham
Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs Office

A victim lies trapped inside a collapsed and burning building. Smoke and dust make breathing difficult. Through the oppressive heat and darkness the victim can hear voices and the sound of digging: a lifeline drawing closer.

The Soldiers of the Military District Washington (MDW) Engineer Company, based at Fort Belvoir, Va., provide that lifeline. The engineers conduct technical rescue and search operations within the national capital region and responded during the September 11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon.

Realistic training is essential for the engineers, but they don't often get to train on an actual building according to Capt. Clay Morgan, MDW Rescue commander. So, when Fort A.P. Hill offered the engineers a building for demolition they made the most of it. The rescue engineers conducted a similar training exercise on post at the old clinic last year.

"It's a great opportunity to conduct a training exercise on a collapsed structure and do a technical rescue. We came out a few days prior to prep it for a collapse. Now we've got an unknown building that is brand new for us to train in," Morgan said.

Preparing the building, formerly used as the Scout Jamboree support office, included collapsing the roof, breaking down walls, setting fires and simulating an explosion. Some rooms were left intact, but filled with rubble and debris which rescuers had to clear and crawl through, said Sgt. 1st Class David Steffenhagen, MDW Engineer Company first sergeant.

"We throw a lot of different scenarios at them. We smoke it occasionally with actual fire. We board all the windows up so they have to get used



A Soldier from the MDW Engineer Company helps pull a co-worker out of a tunnel cut during search and rescue training. The engineers trained in the old Scout Jamboree support building on Fort A.P. Hill that was slated for demolition.

to working with lights, and if the lights break they have to keep working in the dark," Steffenhagen said.

A 10-person team initially responds during a rescue mission, flying by helicopter to the site to meet with the incident commander, Morgan said.

See *Engineers* Page 2

Engineers From Page 1

After assessing the scene, the engineers receive an objective and determine their work priorities

“Our objective is to rescue the victims. Right now we’re concentrating on internal and external shoring. We’re stabilizing the building to prevent secondary collapse and make it safe so we can affect a rescue, Steffenhagen said.

They also concentrate on patient care, including evacuating the victims and preparing them for transport Steffenhagen said.

During the 36-hour training exercise, three rescue platoons comprised of combat engineers and heavy equipment operators conducted simultaneous operations at the site. Logistical and maintenance specialists from the engineer company support the rescue crews during the operation. Each rescue platoon, of 15-20 Soldiers, has a lane and specific tasks to accomplish as they work through the building.

“We board all the windows up so they have to get used to working with lights, and if the lights break they have to keep working in the dark.”

Sgt. 1st Class David Steffenhagen

“They’ve shored and are making progress in. Two are breaching concrete and one is breaching steel and they’ll all meet at the same objective to rescue the victims,” Morgan said.

A tactical operations center (TOC) located in a van monitored communications, tracked progress and reported operational status to Daniel Glembot, Fort A.P. Hill Fire Chief, who served as the incident commander. Glembot orchestrated the rescue operation, ensuring all of the teams and support personnel worked in concert. He tracked the status on the lanes, personnel and provided resources needed during the operation.

“They use pneumatic air hammers and concrete cutting saws, and magnesium torches to cut through steel. They do a lot of cutting, so if a saw chain breaks or they need a particular tool I make sure they get it,” Glembot said.



After drilling through concrete, a rescue worker (*top*) crawls inside to locate victims while (*right*) 1st Lt. Kelley Pajik, a rescue platoon leader, monitors air lines running into the building.



Platoon leaders, positioned at each lane, passed information to the TOC via hand-held radios. As Soldiers completed a shift, they went to “rehab” for rest and re-hydration, Glembot said.

Soldiers dozed on cots positioned under a row of shade trees. Dirt and soot coated their faces and uniforms. They slept soundly despite the noise and activity around them.

“They’ve been working since 9 a.m. yesterday, so they are pushing 24 hours on. They’re on their rest cycle, but we try to keep them close by in case we need them,” Steffenhagen explained.

During the first stage of the operation Soldiers drilled a quarter-sized hole through steel and concrete obstructions on the building exterior.

“The Soldiers use a combination of electric demolition hammer-drills, pneumatic drills, hydraulic drills and jackhammers for concrete. They use broco, petrogen and basic oxygen/acetylene torches to cut through steel,” Morgan said.

The a video camera is inserted through the opening to view destruction inside.

“There could be a victim close by and they don’t want to start digging there if it could endanger them,” Glembot said.

Soldiers used hand tools to dig through the debris, crawling through tunnels, some as narrow as

Engineers From Page 2

16-inches wide, to reach the victims. It's strenuous work, further complicated by poor visibility and heavy equipment said Staff Gt. Andrew Schenfield, a squad leader.

"It may not seem like it, but two hours working inside that will take everything out of you. It's really labor-intensive, trying to maneuver through the tight spaces and trying to cut up God knows what in front of you and get it behind you so you can keep on going forward. Those tight spaces really makes it hard on you," Schenfield said.

Soldiers use self contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) with 30 or 60 minute air tanks so they can work inside the structure. They also have supplied air breathing apparatus (SABA) with long air hoses running from the compressor to their masks, Morgan said.

"It may not seem like it, but two hours working inside that will take everything out of you."

Staff Sgt. Andrew Schenfield

Part of the training included the collapse of an entry point. 1st Lt. Kelly Pajak, a rescue platoon leader, and her crew kept watch on lines running air to the Soldiers and the equipment.

"Rescuers are proceeding forward into the building to find people that were inside when it collapsed. Lines are running air in and also powering jack hammers drilling concrete out in order to get to those people," Pajak said.

Soldiers pulled 52 victims from the rubble. Off shift maintenance, TOC and rescue Soldiers served as victims, with support from an assortment of mannequins. Rescuers overcame stress and other challenges to reach them.

"When I first got here I did get claustrophobia. Its dark and narrow inside and the way is blocked with anything you can image—wood, mattresses, washing machines—and we have to go through it or get out of the way," Schenfield said.

Training helps shape the engineers and prepares them to deal with the difficulties they may face, including recovering bodies.

"We take them as combat engineers and mold them into technical rescuers through our own training. There is some trepidation initially using the breathing apparatus and the breaching tools, but they pick it up quickly." Morgan said.

Teamwork builds trust and helps the Soldiers overcome the difficulties and challenges.

"You realize you have the right people and if you get stuck they'll get you out," Schenfield said.

That's what the victims are counting on too.



Rescue engineers emerge after searching for victims inside the building and collapse onto cots for a brief rest. Soldiers pulled 52 victims from the wrecked building during the training.



Once the engineers finished with the building, post firefighters moved in to do some training of their own.

Picnic, Puns And Fond Farewells

Story and Photos by Debra Bingham
Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs Office

Pig wasn't the only thing roasted at the post picnic area on July 23. Col. James Balocki, Fort A.P. Hill's commander, endured some heat as well—in the form of some good-natured ribbing—from the workforce he'll soon be leaving behind. Balocki moves on to an assignment at the Pentagon in July.

After a plateful of pork, a representative from each directorate paid homage to the commander with a variety of gifts, some heartfelt and some specifically tailored to lampoon the commander.

Daniel Glembot, post fire chief, made Balocki an "honorary firefighter." It was the first of many presentations alluding to Balocki's firefighting misadventure, which produced a melted helmet, singed skin and the birth of a post legend.

The commander also received literary tributes in the form of a Dr. Suess-style poem, a "Top Ten" countdown, and a special edition of the "Up and Over the Hill" newspaper.

There were also numerous acknowledgements of the positive impact Balocki had on the installation, the staff and local community.



The Sticker That's Your Ticket Onto Post

*Compiled by MDW Provost Marshal Office,
MDW and Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs Offices*

A line of cars form at Fort A.P. Hill's main gate as a police officer checks the identification of a driver attempting to enter the post. Normally the process is a quick one, but without the proper paperwork the waiting commuters know they can expect a delay.

Access control requirements for installations within the Military District Washington (MDW) are in place to ensure patrons gain access quickly, safely and in accordance with Department of Defense (DoD) regulations.

DoD identification card holders with a red, blue, green or black vehicle registration stickers, and personnel with temporary vehicle passes can access MDW installations. However, all vehicles are subject to search as a random anti-terrorism and force protection measure or during increased force protection condition levels.

Vehicle registration stickers (DD Form 2220) are available at each installation's Vehicle Control Center, or VCC. Personnel requesting a sticker must have a military, DoD or dependent identification card, a valid drivers' license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance.

On Fort A.P. Hill, vehicle decals are being temporarily issued at the Provost Marshal Desk (PMO) in building 156, according to David Vaughan, the post's director of emergency services.

"Once the VCC opens, decals will be issued there from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. PMO will issue decals when the VCC is closed," Vaughan said.

Contractors working for an organization on a MDW installation that extends for at least one year may obtain a black vehicle registration sticker. The sponsoring activity must fax a request to register the contractor's vehicle to the VCC or PMO before it can be registered. The request can be memo or letter form and must be signed by the authorized sponsoring activity. Contractors working on an installation less than a year may apply for a temporary vehicle pass.

Credential holders and emergency vehicles will have unimpeded access while on official business



Officer Steven Clement (above) shows a customer the paperwork required for a vehicle registration sticker. The decals are currently being issued at the Provost Marshal's Office on post.

and in an official vehicle. Those who present credentials in their privately owned vehicle will also be required to show their state drivers license.

If a visitor or guest of a resident is not DoD affiliated, they must have a bonafide reason to visit the installation. The person's identity will be verified and the vehicle will be logged and searched before entry and the visitor will be issued a temporary vehicle pass.

Damaged and expired decals should be removed and brought to the VCC or PMO for re-issue. Stolen decals must be reported to the PMO to prevent unauthorized access.

Police officers catch several people each month attempting to enter the post with expired or "questionable" decals, Vaughan said.

Getting a Jump Start On The Jamboree

Story and Photos by Ken Perrotte
Fort A.P. Hill Public Affairs Office

The clock is ticking. Just a little more than one year remains to nail down the details and make final preparations for the more than 43,000 Scouts and adult volunteers who'll descend on Fort A.P. Hill in late July 2005 for the National Scout jamboree.

The first of what will be several in-progress reviews (IPR) took place June 12 at Fort A.P. Hill. Fulltime jamboree coordinators and the volunteer chairmen for the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) met with Fort A.P. Hill staff and discussed impending issues and transition from the planning mode to the execution phase.

Col. James B. Balocki, post commander, welcomed the BSA leadership, highlighting the support the Army provided to Scouting and the jamboree for decades. The first National Scout Jamboree, held in 1937, staged at various places around the country before moving to Fort A.P. Hill in 1981. The post has hosted every jamboree since.

Francis H. Olmstead Jr., chairman for the 2005 jamboree, explained the goal of delivering a "meaningful and memorable" experience for the at-



Leaders from Fort A.P. Hill, the Boy Scouts, NORTHCOM and ARNORTH discuss plans for the 2005 National Scout Jamboree.

tendees, with an emphasis on providing a "safe and secure environment."

Representatives from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM), Army North (ARNORTH), and the U.S. First Army also attended the event.

The next IPR will take place in September.

Yard Work is Labor of Love For Family

By Debra R. Bingham
Fort A. P. Hill Public Affairs Office

Sgt. Zachary Williams won't get to enjoy the hummingbirds surrounding the feeder in front of his quarters on Fort A.P. Hill this summer. Nor will he see the flowers and shrubs in the gardens around his house. Williams is serving with the 276th Engineer Battalion in Iraq, so his family lovingly tends the greenery while he is away.

Their efforts have not gone unnoticed. The Williams family, mom Bonnie and children Crystal, Caitlin, Cassie and Cole captured Yard of the Month honors for June. Command Sgt. Major Gary Carr presented a plaque and AAFES gift certificate to the family June 18.

"We love it here. We've planted flowers, hung plants and seeded the grass. The kids help and have fun," Williams said.



Cole Williams waters a plant with help from his sisters Cassie (left) and Crystal. The Williams family won the Yard of the Month competition for June.

Police Carry The Torch For Cause

By Debra R. Bingham
Fort A. P. Hill Public Affairs Office

Neither heat, humidity nor treacherous traffic could deter a happy group of runners on June 11.

A dozen law enforcement staff and supporters from post took part in the 19th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run supporting the Special Olympics.

They carried the torch 14 miles, from the Caroline County to the Hanover County line, before passing it on to another group as part of its 47.5 mile journey to Richmond.

“We do it for the kids,” said Vance Dunlap, training coordinator for the Directorate of Public Safety, “and for their parents.”



Photo by Brenda Brownley

Post law enforcement staff and supporters from Fort A.P. Hill took part in the 19th Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run supporting the Special Olympics. The group ran a 14-mile leg of the 47.5 mile event.

Treats Served Under The “Big Top”

By Debra R. Bingham
Fort A. P. Hill Public Affairs Office

An assortment of Soldiers, Marines, police officers and denim-clad workers eagerly lined up in front of a festive red and white canopy. They weren't lining up for a big top performance, but for lunch at the AAFES snack bar's temporary home.

A fire on May 20 forced the snack bar to close until replacement equipment is received. Maie Garnett, manager of the Fort A.P. Hill PX and Snack Bar, said repairs are almost complete. Meanwhile operations have moved to a side parking area next to the building.

“They are working really hard to get it together. We're waiting for a hood to come in,” she said.

If this lunch-time rush is any indication, business doesn't seem to have suffered too much. Garnett said the kitchen moved operations outside, with barbecue grills supplying hotdogs and burgers. Pizza, cold drinks and bratwurst are also available. Customers can dine at tables set up next to the tent.

“The Soldiers love it. We always keep our customers first,” Garnett said.



The AAFES Snack Bar continues to serve customers despite a fire in June. The snack bar is open Tuesday-Saturday from 9 a.m.-6 p.m.



News Briefs

Motorcycle Safety Course

Motorcyclists must complete an Army approved motorcycle safety course to register and ride on post. Proof of course completion is required when registering. Riders may obtain a 90-day temporary registration pending attendance. No temporary exceptions will be granted beyond the initial 90-day temporary registration. An approved safety course website is www.msf-usa.org or call (800) 446-9227 for more information.



Protect Your Pets

Apply tick-killing chemicals to your animals in order to protect them from disease spreading ticks. Sprays and dips containing permethrins and pyrethrins kill ticks on dogs, cats, and horses. Follow the manufacture's instructions and never apply multiple repellents on your pet, since the mixture could make the animal sick



Scholarship Winners

The Fort A.P. Hill Employee Morale Committee (EMC) awarded two \$500 scholarships to children of FAPH employees. Markia Stewart, daughter of Diane Stewart, DPW and Amanda Faye Johnson, foster child of A.W. Beazley, DOL were selected for their outstanding academic performance and leadership. Markia graduated from Caroline High School and will attend Virginia Commonwealth University. Amanda graduated from Caroline High School and will attend Mary Baldwin College.



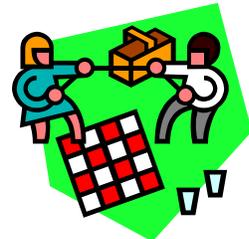
Mandatory Training

All computer users on Fort A. P. Hill are required to complete an on-line training course to receive a log on ID and email account. To complete the course, log on to: <https://iaut.mdw.army.mil>



Organization Day

Fort A.P. Hill holds its Organization Day on July 1 from 8 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. at the picnic area. The festivities include a variety of competitive and non-competitive sports events and games, a fishing derby, canoe race, talent competition, craft and hobby displays and plenty of fun for all. The 2004 Commander's Cup will be presented at 3:15 p.m.



Dispatch Day Change

Vehicle re-dispatch day is June 30 due to Organizational Day events on July 1.



Summer Concert

The U.S. Army Band performs concerts throughout the summer. The Army Blues jazz ensemble will appear at Murray Stadium in Fredericksburg on July 14. The free concert begins at 8 p.m.



Fish Alert

Anyone who thinks they have caught a snakehead fish on post, or receives a report of somebody catching a snakehead fish, should contact the Natural Resources office at 633-8750.



Up and Down the Hill is an authorized publication for members of the U. S. Army. Contents of this publication are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U. S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, or Headquarters, Fort A. P. Hill. This paper is published bi-weekly by the Public Affairs Office, Fort A. P. Hill, Virginia. 22427-3114. The printed circulation is 350.

Commander: Col. James B. Balocki
Deputy to the Commander: Charles A. Munson

Public Affairs Officer: Ken Perrotte
Public Affairs Specialist and Editor: Debra R. Bingham

Please direct questions or comments concerning this publication to the Fort A. P. Hill Public Affairs Office at (804) 633-8120