



**Fort A.P. Hill**

# Down Range

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"The Best Training and Support -- Anywhere!"

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## **BADGE** *of* **Distinction**

**'Old Guard' Soldiers  
earn coveted EIB**

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Adora Gonzalez  
3rd Inf. Regt. "The Old Guard" Public Affairs*

# Delegates identify 16 new quality-of-life issues

**By Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch**  
*Commanding General*  
*Installation Management Command*

Earlier this month, I discussed the progress we made resolving 17 of 40 quality-of-life issues at the Army Family Action Plan General Officer Steering Committee held in February.

During the same week, AFAP delegates representing Army garrisons and commands worldwide met in our nation's capital to review and prioritize 88 quality-of-life issues that had been identified throughout the year at mid-level AFAP conferences across the Army.

As the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and the overseer of the AFAP process, I had the privilege to speak to these delegates and impress upon them the great responsibility of identifying the most critical issues for the Army to work.

Delegates were comprised of Soldiers, Spouses, Department of the Army Civilians, Wounded Warriors and Survivors. Each brought their own ideas, perspectives and experiences to share in the decision-making process.

The task before them was not an easy one, yet they met the challenge with an overwhelming sense of enthusiasm and energy.

They reviewed, they discussed and they challenged each other on the issues. At the conclusion of the conference, 16 new quality-of-life issues were identified and reported out to senior Army leadership.

The top five issues identified to senior Army leaders are: identification cards for surviving children with an active duty sponsor that annotate both active duty and survivor status; Wounded Warrior caregiver training; medically retired servicemembers' eligibility for Concurrent Receipt of Disability Pay; Military Child Development Program fee cap; and, medical retention processing time restrictions for Reserve Component Soldiers.

Currently, there is no way to annotate both dependent survivor status and active duty

status on an identification card. This issue affects dependents of dual military parents when one military parent dies or children of a surviving parent who remarry a servicemember.

This may cause undue emotional stress when survivors must justify their survivor status in order to qualify for survivor specific services.

The delegates recommend ID cards annotate both dependent survivor status and active duty status to ensure survivors quickly receive all survivor services available.

Delegates also recommend providing caregivers of Wounded Warriors formal standardized training on self-care, stress reduction, burnout and prevention of abuse/

neglect.

Without this training, caregivers may suffer from caregiver fatigue which may ultimately lead to neglect of a Wounded Warrior or damage to the Wounded Warrior and caregivers' relationship. The implementation of formal standardized, face-to-face training for designated caregivers of Wounded Warriors is critical to those who help heal our nation's heroes.

The elimination of the 20-year time in service requirement for medically retired servicemembers to be eligible for Concurrent Receipt of Disability Pay was also identified as an issue to be worked this year.

The CRDP eliminates the offset between retirement pay and VA disability compensation. Removal of the 20-year restriction would restore the full retirement pay and VA entitlements to the medically retired servicemembers with less than 20 years of active service.

Some military Families using Military Child Development Programs pay greater than 25 percent of their total monthly family income for childcare. The recommendation is to cap program fees at 25 percent of the military Family's total family income.

Lastly, Medical Retention Processing for Reserve Component Soldiers is limited to six months from their date of release from active duty. However, medical conditions resulting

from active duty service are not always visible within the first six months of release from active duty. Extending the medical retention processing to five years would allow Reserve Component Soldiers to receive proper medical treatment.

The remaining 11 issues identified by the AFAP delegates are survivor, medical, family support and civilian personnel issues.

**See AFAP, page 8**



## 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.**

**Send submissions and correspondence to Public Affairs Office, Attn: Editor, Down Range - Fort A.P. Hill, 18436 4th St., Bldg. 112, Fort A.P. Hill, VA 22427-3114. Telephone: (804) 633-8120, DSN 578-8120.**



**Lieutenant Ron Henson shows Officer Anthony Clark where to position the shotgun stock during the police department's recent weapons qualification and familiarization training.**

## Installation police force ready to serve, protect



*Photos by David San Miguel*

***“... qualifying and familiarizing with their assigned weapons is so important.”***

**By David San Miguel**  
*Editor*

It's 2 a.m., and all is still.

Officer Anthony Clark, one of Fort A.P. Hill's finest, makes his way to the headquarters – checking the building, ensuring all the windows and doors are shut and secure.

Only the rustle of leaves blowing in the wind stirs the silent darkness in what is usually a routine patrol.

Clark returns to his vehicle. And as he turns, he notices a shadowy figure crouching nearby. He halts and reaches for his trusty, government-issued 9mm pistol.

BLAM! BLAM! Shots are fired!

Situations such as these are becoming more and more common, said Lt. Ron Henson, training lieutenant for the installation police force. “I try to impress on my people that if you carry a gun for a living, you should own one or at least go to a range and rent

one so that you can put some rounds down range. It's not just good enough to be a good shot – you have to be quick and you have to be able to handle the weapon.”

Earlier this week, Henson had a group of police officers qualifying with their assigned 9mm and familiarizing with the M16 rifle and the 12-gauge shotgun.

“Twice a year, the officers come in on their time off to qualify with their assigned 9mm,” he said. “Once we complete the qualifications, we also conduct realistic training like ‘move-and-shoot’ exercises with the M16 and shotgun – active shooter stuff.”

Henson emphasizes that in this line of work, it's critical that the police officer knows his weapon and how to respond quickly to any threat.

“Just putting the 9mm in your holster at the beginning of a shift and taking it out at the end of the shift does not keep your weapons-handling skills proficient,” he said.

“Anytime someone struggles at the range, it's because they don't touch their weapons on their off time.”

Henson did add, however, that the installation's police force is proficient and “shoot way above the minimum standards.”

But, he said, “we'll train how civilian law enforcement does.”

“You have to train according to the capability of your weakest person,” the lieutenant said. “Safety is key. We have to first crawl, then walk and then run.”

Henson's goal is to ensure our police force has the skills needed to serve, protect and react to any threat on the installation.

It was evident at Fort Hood and at Columbine High School, that the shooter's intent was to kill – not to take hostages, he said.

“We have to train to respond to these type of situations,” Henson added, “and that's why qualifying and familiarizing with their assigned weapons is so important.”

# 'Old Guard' strives for EIB

By David San Miguel

Editor

All pumped and ready to begin their quest for the coveted Expert Infantryman Badge, 280 Soldiers from the 3rd Infantry Regiment "The Old Guard" stood rank and file on Fort A.P. Hill's physical fitness field at the Wilcox Camp, Mar. 19-23.

Despite frigid temperatures nothing could deter the Soldiers. Their goal was to attain "gold" status as one of the "true blue" infantryman.

Master Sergeant Joseph P. Andrade, U.S. Army EIB Testing Support Office, explained that the "badge" is a mark of distinction – one that only the best will ever achieve.

"Army statistics say only about 20 percent of those who attempt to earn the EIB will earn it," Andrade said. "But it really is dependent on how strong their NCOs (noncommissioned officers) are."

He added that if the NCO's standards are high and the training hard, then the individual Soldier will fare better during the EIB testing.

The EIB was established in Oct. 1943 as a sign of distinction and to motivate Soldiers to strive for excellence. To achieve the badge, Soldiers must complete a number of prerequisites and pass a battery of graded tests on basic infantry skills, usually after weeks of training.

For Soldiers with the 3rd Infantry that training began the second week in January.

"Every Tuesday through Thursday of every week for those seven weeks, the Soldiers came here and trained," said Staff Sgt. Kyle Awesome, noncommissioned officer in charge of the EIB testing.

After the training, a date and time for the EIB testing was set to run over the course of five days straight during which the Soldiers were required to successfully complete 30 individual infantry tasks.

The testing consisted of three lanes of 10 tasks each. The lane testing included patrol, urban operations and traffic control point lanes. Tasks included proving their proficiency with various weapon systems such as the M16 or M4 rifle; the M60 or M240B machine guns; hand grenades; and, Claymore Mines.

The Soldiers were also tested on first aid; evacuating a casualty; calling in reports to higher headquarters; day and night land navigation; and more.

The first phase of the testing began at 6 a.m. with the fitness test, then the day and night land navigation course followed where an initial 118 Soldiers lost their bid for the badge.

Andrade said that loses such as this can be expected.

"You can expect to lose about 80 percent during the first day," he said.

Specialist Curtis Branson, E Co., 4th

Bn., 3rd Inf. Regt., agreed.

He said this was his third attempt and he wasn't going home this time without the EIB.

"I trained up for it," he said. "There was no way I was going to let anything get in my way. There was no stopping me this year."

Branson's determination was evident when he finished the 12-mile road march in an astonishing time of two hours and nine minutes.

In all, 97 of the 280 Soldiers who attempted were awarded the Expert Infantryman Badge.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Adora Gonzalez

Administering first aid to a casualty is one of 30 tasks the infantryman must successfully complete to earn the EIB.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Adora Gonzalez

Knowing how and when to engage an "enemy" is yet another task the infantryman must complete to earn the badge.



*Photo by David San Miguel*

**Soldiers were required to complete the final phase of the EIB testing, the 12-mile road march, in under three hours.**



**A Soldier tosses a hand grenade at a simulated enemy target in a quest to earn the coveted EIB.**

*Photo by Staff Sgt. Adora Gonzalez*



With only minutes to spare, Sgt. Saad Alkashif, H Co., 1st Bn., 3rd Inf. Regt., completes the 12-mile road march drained and exhausted.

*Photo by David San Miguel*



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Adora Gonzalez*

Specialist Clarence Fairchild, U.S. Army Drill Team, 3rd Inf. Regt., receives an After Action Review from one of the EIB graders after undergoing testing for the coveted badge.



*Photo by David San Miguel*

Specialist Robert Connors, E Co., 4th Bn., 3rd Inf. Regt., is awarded his "hard-earned" EIB.



*Photo by David San Miguel*

With aching feet and blisters to prove it, Spc. Loren Berg, B Co., 1st Bn., 3rd Inf. Regt., admits earning the EIB was no easy task.



Photo by David San Miguel

## Troop talk

Colonel David P. Anders, commander of 3rd Infantry Regiment “The Old Guard”, told the Soldiers to be proud of their accomplishment.

As many of you may know, my father was a retired command sergeant major, the colonel said. He was one of only three to have earned the Expert Infantryman Badge in 1954.

“And when he died and laid in the casket, he wore that badge on his uniform,” Anders said. “He wore it because he was especially proud of it.”

“When you leave “The Old Guard,” you’re going to be assigned to a regular BCT (Brigade Combat Team),” he added. “The Army’s going to be busy. It’s going to stay busy, but you will forever be known as an expert infantryman. It’s a sense of pride.”

# Viewpoints ...

What does the Expert Infantryman Badge mean to you?



Spc. Curtis Branson  
E Co., 4th Bn., 3rd Inf. Regt.  
Fort Myer, Va.

*“This was my third attempt ... no way was I going to let anything get in the way! I’ve always wanted to do my best so I trained up. There was no stopping me.”*



Sgt. Philip Barone  
B Co., 1st Bn., 3rd Inf. Regt.  
Fort Myer, Va.

*“It’s an achievement ... I’m proud of it. It was hard work. It shows that I went above and beyond. It proves that I’m an expert infantryman!”*



Cpl. Nathan Attwood  
D Co., 1st Bn., 3rd Inf. Regt.  
Fort Myer, Va.

*“The EIB means that the Soldier who achieves it is proficient in his tasks and he knows how to execute them properly. It shows how the infantryman knows how to do his job. It’s a mark of distinction!”*



Staff Sgt. Justin Lee  
D Co., 1st Bn., 3rd Inf. Regt.  
Fort Myer, Va.

*“It’s a self pride thing. I am proficient in all that the infantryman does. I earned it. It’s an individual award based on what you have learned.”*

# Video game technology enhances EOD Soldier training



*U.S. Army photo*

Picatinny Arsenal received a patent for the process to train Soldiers to operate robotic vehicles using the “America’s Army” interactive video game.

By Tracy K. Robillard  
Army Materiel Command

**PICATINNY ARSENAL, N.J.** -- Picatinny recently received a patent for a process to safely train Soldiers how to operate a variety of robots used in Iraq and Afghanistan to detonate improvised explosive devices.

The Robotic Vehicle Trainer is a realistic video game that simulates combat environments and uses the same controls as actual robots used in Explosive Ordnance Disposal.

The design was the brainchild of Bernard Reger, chief, Combat Support & Munitions Systems Branch, Armament Software Engineering Center, Armament Research, Development and Engineering Center. He received the patent from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on Dec. 28, 2010.

The patent covers the process by which a robot is assembled in the virtual environment and by which the Soldier can test drive the robot and its tools, Reger said, adding that the Talon trainer was rebranded as the Man Transportable Robotic System EOD Trainer.

“The virtual environment inserts the student into hazardous environments enabling familiarization with the robotic vehicle and EOD bomb disposal tools,” Reger said.

The control unit is essentially a video-game controller built with the exact same joysticks, switches, dials and display features as a fielded robot. This allows the Soldier to become familiar with the

touch and feel of the real controls while in training. The control unit is then connected to a laptop computer ready for use virtually anywhere.

Work on this product started in 2003 as an experiment to insert the Talon robot into a virtual environment using a popular Army-developed game engine, America’s Army. America’s Army is an 8 million user interactive, first-person video game that allows individuals to experience soldiering. After the video game launched in 2002, ARDEC began to implement practical training applications for Soldiers.

Over the next two years, ARDEC’s Armament Software Engineering Center and the Picatinny EOD Technology Directorate worked to define and refine requirements for a product that could familiarize Soldiers in operation of the Talon robot and EOD techniques.

The same process was applied to other robots, including SWORDS, EOD PackBot and the CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) PackBot.

The Foster-Miller Talon and PackBot are tracked robots used to disarm IEDs. Because they are remotely operated and equipped with cameras, Soldiers can safely detonate suspicious objects from afar.

The trainer allows Soldiers to familiarize themselves with the operation of the robot without removing critical assets from the field, Reger said. It allows them to train in what would normally be a dangerous environment.

In addition, the trainer could be rapidly updated with new tools and techniques of benefit to the Soldier.

## AFAP

I encourage you to learn more about these new issues by visiting the Army OneSource website at <https://www.myarmyonesource.com/familyprogramsandservices/>.

In addition, you can follow the progress on all issues that are currently being worked by selecting “Active Issue Search” at the bottom of the page and then search by issue number or keyword.

The website also allows you to submit a new issue directly to your garrison or unit AFAP process, and provides brochures, articles and videos to download.

You can also download the “HQDA AFAP

## continued from page 2

Issue Search” application for free on your iPad®, iPhone® and iPod Touch®.

As I have said many times before, our Army will not break because of its Soldiers but it will break because of the stress placed upon our Soldiers and their Families.

Never before have we asked so much of our Army Families.

Because of this, the Army will continue to fully fund and staff Army Family programs and keep our promise of providing Soldiers and Families a quality of life that is commensurate with their service.

In order to ensure the promise is always

kept, we must continue to identify inefficient, redundant or obsolete programs and services so we can redirect those resources to where we truly need them.

I challenge each of you to help us in this endeavor. In the near future, I will communicate to you where and how you can help.

Moving forward, the AFAP process will not only be the identification of quality-of-life issues, but also the identification of potential offsets to resource those quality-of-life issues.

Support and Defend.

# NEWS NOTES

## VA launches suicide prevention PSA, confidential 24/7 crisis line

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs is reaching out to Veterans in crisis and their families in a new public service announcement to raise awareness about suicide prevention resources.

“As more Veterans return from Iraq and Afghanistan, the critical need for mental health care is rising,” said Sonja V. Batten, assistant deputy chief patient care services officer for mental health. “VA is increasing its efforts to reach out to Veterans in need and their families, to inform them about available services and programs.”

The PSA asks Veterans to call the hotline at 1-800-273-8255 and then push 1 on their telephone keypad to reach a trained mental health professional who can assist them 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week.

To date, more than 379,000 calls have been received of which more than 200,000 of those callers have identified themselves as Veterans, family members or friends of

Veterans. It has led to more than 13,000 rescues of actively suicidal Veterans.

The hotline also operates Veterans Chat, an online program that allows individuals to speak anonymously in real-time with a trained VA mental health professional. This program can be accessed through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline’s web page at <http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/Veterans/Default.aspx>.

Through these mediums, VA can connect Veterans and their families with important services, suicide prevention coordinators, as well as general inpatient and outpatient psychiatric services at VA medical centers and community-based outpatient clinics.

The hotline was started in 2007 as a partnership between VA and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The PSA can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/user/VeteransHealthAdmin#p/u/1/PPL7CAHixQE>. --VA

## Army deploying ‘Gunshot Detector’

By Kris Osborn

Program Executive Officer Soldier

ARLINGTON, Va. -- U.S. Army forces in Afghanistan will begin receiving the first of more than 13,000 gunshot detection systems for the individual dismounted Soldier later this month, service officials said.

“We’re really trying to ensure that every Soldier is protected,” said Brig. Gen. Peter Fuller, Program Executive Officer Soldier.

The Individual Gunshot Detector, made by QinetiQ North America - consists of four small acoustic sensors worn by the individual Soldier and a small display screen attached to body armor that shows the distance and direction of incoming fire.

The small sensor, about the size of a deck of cards, detects the supersonic sound waves generated by enemy gunfire and instantaneously alerts Soldiers to the location and distance toward the hostile fire, said Lt. Col. Chris Schneider, product

manager for Soldier Maneuver Sensors.

“When you get fired on, instead of trying to figure everything out, you will have technology to assist you in knowing what happened and where the shot was coming from,” Fuller said.

The system, procured by PEO Soldier and the Army’s Rapid Equipping Force, weighs less than two pounds. These IGDs will be strategically dispersed throughout small, dismounted units to get maximum protective coverage for platoons, squads and other units on the move.

In the future, the Army plans to integrate this technology with its Land Warrior and Nett Warrior systems. These are network-situational-awareness systems for dismounted units, complete with helmet-mounted display screens that use GPS digital-mapping-display technology.

“It’s about how to leverage technology to improve your survivability and situational awareness,” Fuller said.

## Dempsey appointment confirmed by Senate

WASHINGTON -- General Martin E. Dempsey was confirmed by the Senate March 16, for assignment as the next chief of staff of the Army.

He succeeds Gen. George W. Casey Jr., who will retire next month after serving as the Army’s chief of staff since April 10, 2007.

Dempsey is slated to be sworn in as chief of staff at 3 p.m., April 11, in a change of responsibility ceremony on Summerall Field at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va. He currently is serving as commanding general of the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. --ARNEWS

## 200th MP Command welcomes new leader

The 200th Military Police Command changed leadership during a change of command ceremony held March 12 in the Murphy Field House at Fort Meade, Md.

Maj. Gen. Sanford E. Holman assumed command from Maj. Gen. Adolph McQueen Jr., who has served as the 200th’s first commander since the Reserve unit was activated in 2008. He is slated to deploy to Iraq to serve as the new deputy commander of Detainee Operations/Provost Marshall for Operation New Dawn.

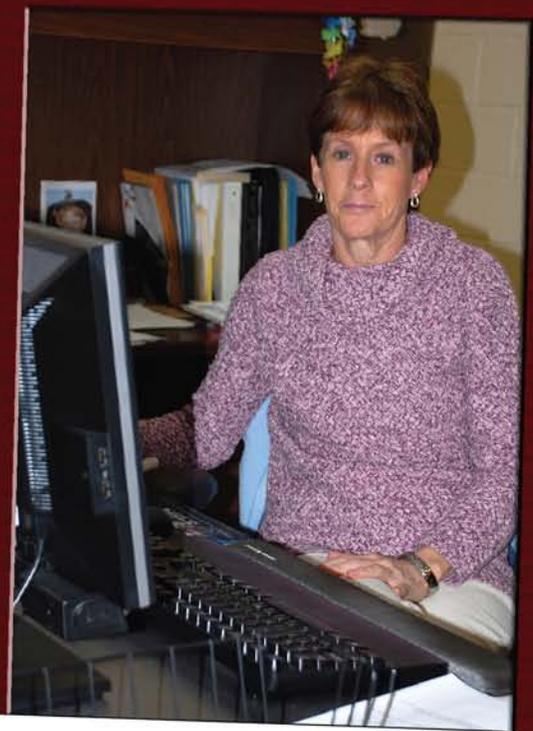
The 200th, headquartered at Fort Meade, is comprised of more than 15,000 Soldiers and has command and control of the majority of U.S. Army Reserve military police units. These units are engaged in missions around the world, including Afghanistan, Iraq, the Horn of Africa and Korea.

Holman joins the 200th following an assignment as vice commander of the Joint Warfighting Center and deputy joint-force trainer at the U.S. Joint Forces Command in Suffolk, Va.

# OUR FORT A.P. HILL *Family*



**SELLING PERMITS!** -- John Crabtree, recreation assistant, Directorate of Family and Morale Welfare and Recreation, has served here a little more than two years. He says everyone here is nice and easy to get along with - they're good people!



**POST RUNNER!** -- Becky Blanton, supply technician, Directorate of Logistics, has worked on Fort A.P. Hill for 26 years. An avid runner, she often can be seen running the trails around post. She enjoys the people she works with as well as any opportunity to interact with the customer!



**MAINTAINING RANGES!** -- Curtis Shelton, contractor equipment operator, Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance, says he's enjoyed working here for the past three years. Besides the outdoors, he likes working with his crew. He says Fort A.P. Hill is a good place for a career.



**STAYING CONNECTED!** -- Camella "B.J." Preston, information management officer, Directorate of Information Management, joined the staff almost a year ago from northern Virginia. She says Fort A.P. Hill is not as hectic and that the people here are nicer - more laid back!