

Willowbrook residents all set for own 'armed forces' day

By SANDRA ZUMMO

Fort Hamilton is coming to the Willowbrook Developmental Center Saturday.

Not all of Fort Hamilton, mind you, just a command force toting behind it tanks, trucks, jeeps, a helicopter field gear, uniforms, de-fused guns and a sizeable array of Army equipment utilized both now and in the past.

Why, you say?

Because Saturday is "Armed Forces Day" at the Center.

Bill Galloway, head recreation therapist there, explained the purpose of the day as giving residents the opportunity to see, touch and climb aboard equipment which they may have viewed on television or heard others talk about, but which they never have seen in person.

Mr. Galloway related that there will be men from the Brooklyn fort stationed by each piece of equipment, ready to answer any questions about it and to explain its functions.

"We would like to make

the residents aware of what is going on in the world outside of the center," he explained.

"Residents have heard about the Army, they've heard about the wars it has fought, but they have never come into contact with the trappings associated with it."

"After this, when a resident hears someone talking about a tank, for instance, he will be able to associate the word with what he's seen and heard from Fort Hamilton personnel."

Saturday's event, sponsored by

the Association for Retarded Children, will begin at 1 p.m. and boasts a guest list of approximately 1,000 residents, both cerebral palsied and ambulatory, and of varying degrees of retardation.

The Willowbrook State Band, comprised of instructors at the center, along with other musical groups have volunteered to provide entertainment, and the Willowbrook Benevolent Society has donated 1,500 paper cups which will be served with liquid refreshments.