



## Briefs

### Central Issue Facility closed, now through Jan. 14

The Central Issue facility will be closed now through Jan. 14 for annual inventory. Business will resume Jan. 15, 6:30 a.m. For more information, call 221-4910.

### Brought Fitness Center hours of operation

The Jimmy Brought Fitness Center has changed hours of operation for weekends and holidays to reflect patrons' needs. The new hours for Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays (not including training holidays) are 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. The pool will operate from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on weekends and holidays. Weekday pool operating hours are 5 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Weekday Fitness Center operating hours are 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.



Col. David Malave, a cardiothoracic surgeon and contingent commander (front) and Brooke Army Medical Center personnel deploying to the 31st Combat Support Hospital salute the flag during the national anthem at the send-off ceremony Friday. See more photos on Page 17.

# BAMC Soldiers head for Iraq with 31st CSH

Story and photo by Nelia Schrum  
BAMC Public Affairs

Brooke Army Medical Center started the New Year Friday with a send-off ceremony for 49 deploying Soldiers.

The hospital said farewell to a team of health care professionals who will join the 31st Combat Support Hospital from Fort Bliss, Texas for an extended tour in Iraq.

At a send-off ceremony for the departing Soldiers there were tears, hugs, prayers, and good wishes for the team that is expected to deploy for a year.

During the ceremony, the BAMC commander, Brig. Gen. C. William Fox,

Jr., thanked the departing Soldiers and their families for their sacrifices.

"For those of us who wear the uniform, we are often asked to sacrifice above and beyond most Americans," he said.

As the BAMC Soldiers depart for austere field conditions, Fox reminded the audience that warriors in the field count on Army Medicine.

"It would indeed be a great burden if it were not for the thought that your deployment serves a great and noble purpose," said Fox. "Our fighting forces serving in the Global War on Terrorism, count on us to be there so that if severe injuries occur, you are there to restore

them to health."

He told the departing Soldiers that they were part of a large continuity of care. BAMC has already provided care for more than 750 Soldiers injured in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

"The rest of us will stand here supporting those Soldiers that you send back to Brooke Army Medical Center — an inextricable link between the battlefield all the way back to Brooke Army Medical Center," Fox said.

The commander pledged to support the families left at home.

"The Family Readiness Group, the commanders and first sergeants, as well

as the entire Brooke Army Medical Center, are here to support you, should you need it," he said.

The team of doctors, nurses, medics, lab personnel, pharmacy technicians and other health care professionals were among the first deployed for the second phase of rebuilding in Iraq.

Soldiers will initially report to Fort Bliss for a final mobilization validation and then deploy to Iraq with the 31st Combat Support Hospital. Cardio-thoracic surgeon, Col. David Malave, who was in charge of the departing health care team said he anticipated that the group would be going to Iraq soon.

# Tax Assistance Center opens Jan. 27, Officers' Club

By Esther Garcia  
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

The Fort Sam Houston Tax Assistance Center will officially open for business on Jan. 27, at the FSH Officers' Club located on 407 Dickman Road, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The center will be located in the Funston and Bullis Rooms inside the club. Customers may use the front entrance of the club or

the side entrance by the Frame Shop. The Officers' Club will have coffee, snacks and other refreshments available for purchase while you wait for your appointment.

The tax center will offer free assistance in preparing and filing Federal income tax returns to active duty personnel, retirees, and their family members, and to members of the Reserve and National Guard currently serving on active duty orders in

excess of 29 days.

Electronic filing will be available on a first come, first serve basis with priority given to active duty in uniform. Tax forms will be provided to those who wish to file themselves.

Electronic filing can only be accomplished for a joint return with the signature of each spouse, or a specific power of attorney explicitly for the current tax year, executed by the spouse not present or a

signed IRS form 2848.

All family members claimed on a return must have a Social Security Number. A social security card is required to ensure accuracy. A Form W-2 for each employer from whom you earned income is required. If you have other income, you must provide the proper documentation (i.e., IRS form 1099R, 1099-DIV and 1099-B). The center cannot prepare

See TAC on Page 5

# Army's acting secretary awards Purple Hearts at BAMC

By Nelia Schrum  
BAMC Public Affairs

The acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee awarded Purple Hearts to three Soldiers in a ceremony Sunday at Brooke Army Medical Center.

Sgt. Nicholas Tritto, Spc. Christopher Knapp, and Spc. Mario Moncada received the Purple Heart award from Brownlee in front of a packed audience of BAMC medical personnel gathered to honor the injured Soldiers.

Brownlee, a Vietnam veteran who received both the Silver Star and Purple Heart, told the audience that the mission

in both Afghanistan and Iraq is more important than anyone could imagine.

He said that he suspects the reason Libya's leader, Muammar Gaddafi, surprised the world with his declaration Dec. 19 to give up his country's weapons of mass destruction programs despite the expenditure of billions of dollars on the effort, was because of recent television footage of events in Iraq.

"Maybe he saw the same things on television that we saw, where a scoundrel with a three week growth of beard was yanked out of a hole in the dark of night by United States Soldiers," Brownlee said. "Maybe he figured he'd better

change his way of life."

The acting secretary said what the 300,000 deployed Soldiers did everyday in more than 120 countries literally will change the world.

"Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan have liberated some 46 million people and provided hope for freedom and democracy out there when there was none before," Brownlee said, adding that, at the same time Soldiers were protecting Americans at home from those same terrorists by attacking terrorists in their home territory.

He told the BAMC audience there was no mission more important than providing care for the wounded American Soldiers.

"Whatever you can do for them; whatever help, assistance, support you can provide to them is the most important thing being done," Brownlee said. "You are healers of these great warriors and liberators."

He said that Soldiers go in harms way, partly because they know the U.S. has the finest medical care in the world and the most professional medical personnel available should Soldiers need it.

As he visits wounded Soldiers, Brownlee said he tries to tell them how much their great sacrifices are appreciated and how proud America is of their serv-

See Purple Hearts on Page 3

# Expanded Army Stop-Loss affects 7,000 deployed troops

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

The Army's expansion of the stop loss/stop movement program is expected to affect about 7,000 active-duty Soldiers deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Col. Elton M. Manske, chief of the Army's Enlisted Division, said the expansion, to be announced "within days," will affect only Soldiers already in theater who have upcoming service expiration dates or approved or scheduled retirement dates.

Most deployed Soldiers, he explained, are not affected because they have service

obligations that extend beyond their deployments.

The Stop-Loss restrictions bar voluntary separations and retirements for Soldiers in designated units throughout their deployments and up to 90 days after their unit returns to its home station. In addition, the stop-movement policy suspends the normal rotation of Soldiers into and out of affected units.

The expansion essentially levels the field for all Soldiers deployed in the war on terror, Manske said. Units slated for the next rotations to Iraq and Afghanistan already are subject to Stop-Loss restrictions based on a Nov. 13 Army announce-

ment. In addition, mobilized Reserve and Guard troops are subject to a Stop-Loss policy that took effect in November 2002.

Manske said readiness requirements drove the Army leadership to expand the program to include troops deployed for the first rotation of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the fourth rotation of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"This decision is really being driven by the readiness of units and the absolute intent to keep the units themselves intact down to as low as the squad and crew level," he said, "so we are assured of putting the best fighting force on the battlefield in support of the Soldiers as well as

the Army at large."

Manske said the Army leadership recognizes that the decision probably will create hardships and disrupt plans for some of the affected Soldiers.

"The Army and Defense leadership are very sensitive to the impact that this potentially has on individual Soldiers and their families," he said. "I would emphasize that there is no intent to keep Soldiers any longer than is absolutely necessary to sustain unit readiness beyond their contractual obligations or to keep them from moving on to other assignments.

"We intend to take care of our Soldiers."

## Fort Sam Houston News Leader

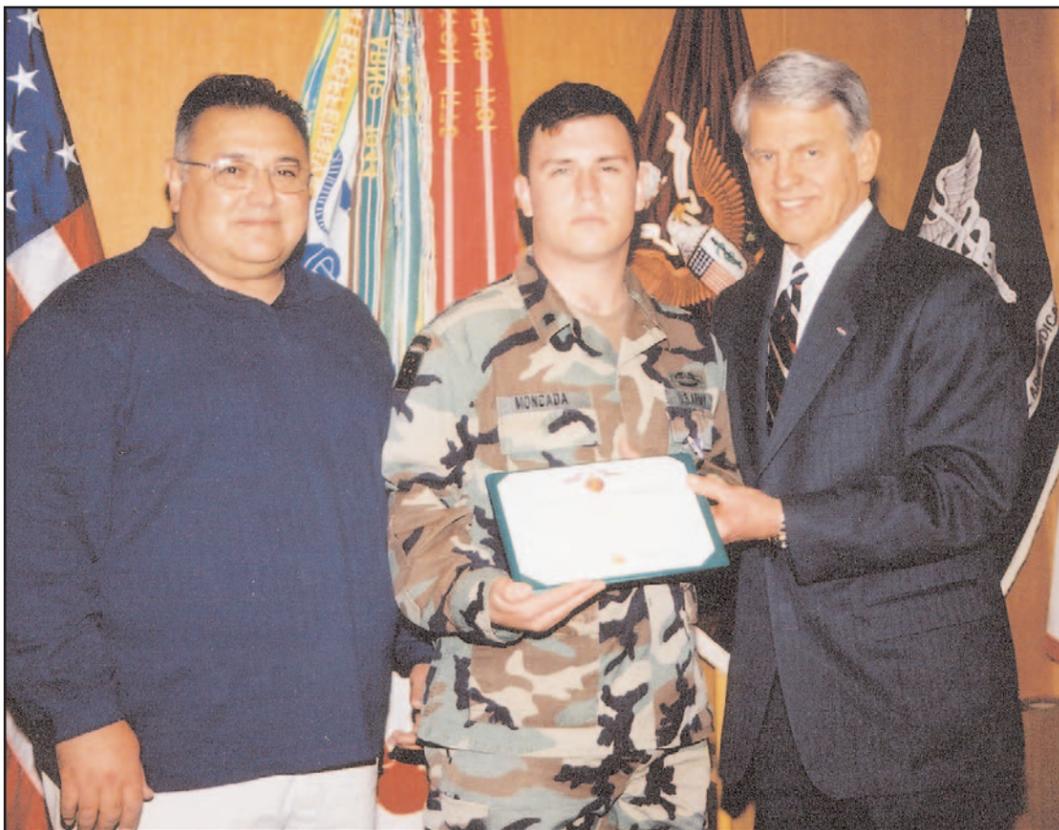
This Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of the News Leader are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government or Department of the Army. It is published weekly by the Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office, 1212 Stanley Rd., Suite 4, Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234-5004, telephone (210) 221-0615, DSN 471-0615. Printed circulation is 10,000. Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation, or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected. The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the director of public affairs. The News Leader is published by Prime Time, Inc., The Herald Newspaper Group, 17400 Judson Road, San Antonio, Texas 78247, telephone (210) 453-3300, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. government, under exclusive written contract with the Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston public affairs office. The civilian printer is responsible for commercial advertising. The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the U.S. Army or Prime Time, Inc., The Herald Newspaper Group of the product or services advertised. Stories and photos for publication consideration may be e-mailed to news.leader@samhouston.army.mil or turned in on a floppy disc accompanied by hard copy, by noon Monday.

**Army Medical Department  
Center and School and  
Fort Sam Houston  
Commander**

Brig. Gen. Daniel F. Perugini

**Garrison Commander**  
Col. Garry Atkins

**Public Affairs Officer**  
Phillip Reidinger  
**Editor**  
Yolanda Hagberg  
**Layout Artist**  
Taryn Smith



Photos by Mike Dulevitz

Sgt. Nicholas Tritto receives the Purple Heart from acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee with his mom, Rosemarie, in attendance. Tritto sustained his injuries while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Hector Moncada joins his son, Spc. Mario Moncada, Sunday for the presentation of the Purple Heart Award Sunday from Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee at BAMC.

## Purple Hearts

Continued from Page 1

ice. "We love them and are going to pray for them everyday."

He cited a recent event at the Baltimore International Airport as evidence that the American people appreciate the military more than any other time in the nation's history. The airport is the first stop for many returning Soldiers on a two-week rest and relaxation break from the war.

Flights were backed up at the airport due to bad weather on the East Coast and forest fires in California. There had been many flight cancellations and the airlines were just beginning to resume normal operations. The airport was filled with many people who had been unable to catch a flight, including a large contingency of Soldiers trying to make it home for their short duty break.

One of the airlines had a flight ready to go out. The airlines made an announcement that the flight was overbooked, but that what they would really like to do is put as many Soldiers on board so that the troops would not lose their leave time.

When the flight went out, it was filled with Soldiers in their desert camouflage uniforms.

"All of those people gave up their seats so that Soldiers could get home," Brownlee said, adding that, as the Soldiers filed out on to the aircraft, people stood up and clapped.

"As long as the American people pro-

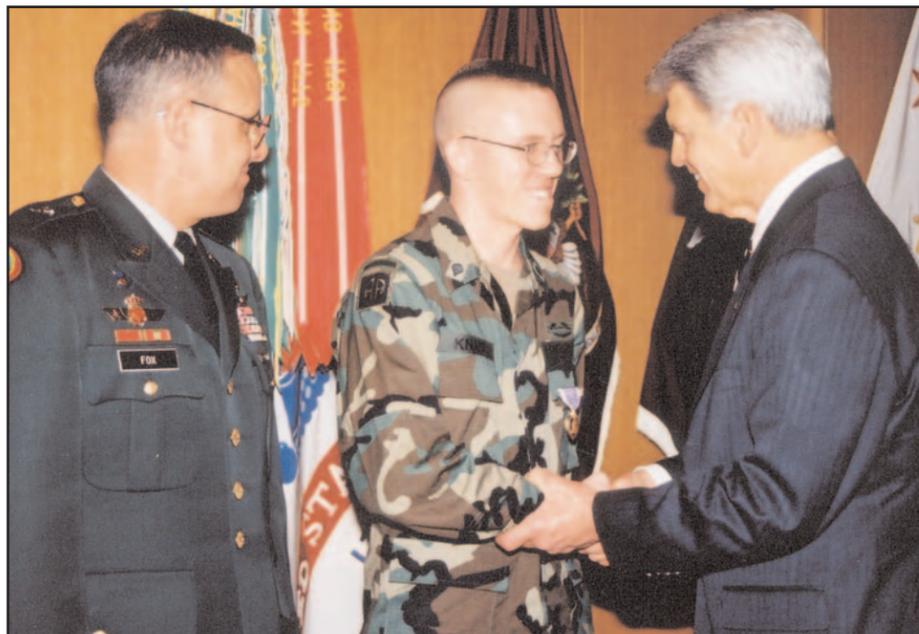


Photo by Mike Dulevitz

Spc. Christopher Knapp is congratulated Sunday for his second Purple Heart from acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee and Brig. Gen. C. William Fox, Jr. Knapp, who was injured in Iraq, received his first Purple Heart from the president.

vide that kind of wholehearted support, these Soldiers will continue to do their duty."

### Three Purple Heart Recipients

The Commander of Brooke Army Medical Center Brig. Gen. C. William Fox Jr., cited the circumstances for which each Soldier received the Purple Heart award.

Tritto, an explosive ordnance expert, was burned and sustained injuries to his

hands and legs while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

A Florida native, Tritto was assigned to the 57th Explosive Ordnance Detachment from Fort McNair, Washington, D.C., deploying to Afghanistan in July.

While working Nov. 18 with unexploded ordnance that had to be detonated to dispose of it, the devices exploded prematurely injuring Tritto and two other Soldiers who were also treated at BAMC.

Knapp received a second Purple Heart on Sunday. Knapp was assigned to the 3rd Brigade 1st Armor Division from Fort Riley, Kan. Deploying in March, Knapp served with a quick reaction force attached to the 82nd Airborne Division. His unit helped to secure Iraqi cities.

While just outside of Baghdad Aug. 27, he was initially injured when shrapnel from an explosive device hit a tank in front of his vehicle. Knapp removed the shrapnel from his shoulder himself, did not seek medical assistance and returned to duty.

The following day while on a morning patrol, he was not as lucky. An explosive device went off, hitting Knapp causing severe damage to his left arm and left eye.

Knapp was awarded his first Purple Heart while a patient at Walter Reed Army Medical Center from President George Bush.

Like Knapp, Moncada was also assigned to the 3rd Brigade 1st Armor Division, serving with a rapid response team attached to the 82nd Airborne Division.

Moncada was injured on July 27 while on a mission to retrieve stolen handguns. In the early morning, Moncada was traveling in a humvee near a Baghdad market when an explosive device went off just a few feet from his vehicle. He sustained injuries to his left eye from flying shrapnel.

## Chief of Army Reserve discusses upcoming changes

By Sgt. Alex Delgado and Spc. Gwen Holmes  
211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Chief of the Army Reserve Lt. Gen. James R. Helmly recently addressed Soldiers in Bagram, Afghanistan at a town hall meeting to discuss recent and upcoming changes in the mission of the Army Reserve and Army National Guard.

The Army Reserve's commander since 2002, Helmly conveyed the appreciation he and his staff have for Reserve and National Guard Soldiers.

"We honor their service," Helmly said. "Soldiers are the foundation and the centerpiece of the Army, not equipment; they are led by a great Chief of Staff, Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker. He is making things significantly better for Soldiers."

Helmly expressed concern for Soldier readiness and spoke about ways to better accomplish the Army Reserve and Army National Guard missions.

Improving the mobilization process for Army Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers is one of the general's main goals. Helmly said the current mobilization process is too cumbersome and should be streamlined.

"Units are too worried about getting ready for the mobilization and not about the mission," Helmly said. "I don't want Soldiers to worry about mobilization. I want them to be ready to accomplish the mission."

The increase in operational-tempo for the Army Reserve and Army National Guard has exposed shortages in some Military Occupational Specialties. For example, Helmly said, there is currently a shortage of Soldiers trained in the skills of military police. To counter this problem, the Army Reserve and Army National Guard are starting new units and, in some cases, converting existing units to relieve some of the stress on military police units

that have faced heavy deployment in the last two years. Helmly believes this strategy should lead to fewer back-to-back deployments.

Helmly said Soldiers in both Afghanistan and Iraq are being deployed with equipment either outdated or not needed for their mission. To rectify this problem, Helmly said Army Reserve and Army National Guard units' Modified Table of Organizational Equipment are being adapted to include M-4 Carbine assault weapons and other essential equipment to increase and improve their mission capabilities.

He said production of ballistic plates for the individual body armor vest has been increased to meet demand. Helmly said all forces on the ground would be supplied with these plates no later than February for Soldiers in Iraq, and no later than April for Soldiers in Afghanistan.

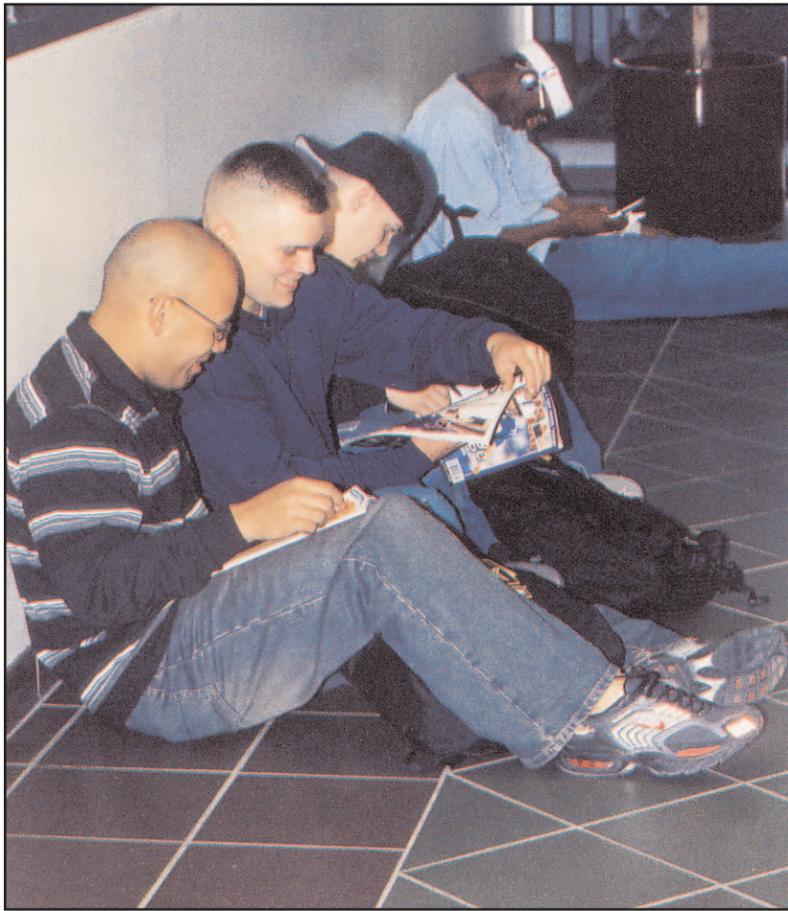
Mission readiness also relies on the abili-

ty to retain quality, qualified Soldiers according to Helmly. Each year approximately 46,000 enlisted Soldiers who leave active-duty are eligible for service in the Army Reserve and Army National Guard. Of that number, about one-third or an estimated 18,000 Soldiers actually transfer to the Army Reserve or Army National Guard.

Last year 16,000 officers eligible to transfer into the Army Reserve or National Guard left active duty and were not offered incentives to transfer.

Currently, there were no incentives in place to entice these Soldiers to join either service.

Retirement benefits for Army Reserve and Army National Guard Soldiers are also in the process of being changed according to Helmly. Among the changes being proposed is the lowering of the minimum age to receive retirement benefits from 60 to 55 in hopes of enticing more Soldiers to stay in the service for up to 30-years.



Lt. Col. John Collins, commander, 187th Medical Battalion and Command Sgt. Maj. Jackie McFadden, check in with Manny Basaldua, USO staff member, at the San Antonio Airport.

Thousands of Soldiers enjoyed the USO Center at the San Antonio Airport while waiting for departing flights.



Rose Marie Elsner, volunteers every Sunday at the San Antonio Airport USO Center located in Terminal 2. She volunteered to help the USO on Saturday, Dec. 20 during the 32nd Medical Brigade holiday exodus.

## USO volunteers support Soldier holiday exodus

Story and photos by Phil Reidinger  
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

During a three-day period, thousands of Soldiers assigned to the 32nd Medical Brigade departed the San Antonio area for the annual holiday exodus for home vacations. The USO Center located in Terminal 2 at the San Antonio Airport quickly became a gathering place, an information center, a help desk and a baggage storage area for Soldiers waiting for their departure flights.

Noncommissioned officers also volunteered their time at the USO Center to assist the students and the center staff. Sgt. 1st Class Lisa Ellsworth, Drill Sgt. Richmond Bean, and Sgt. 1st Class Charles Loeffler assisted Rose Elsner, a USO volunteer, serving coffee, punch, and snacks to Soldiers visiting the center. "For me, volunteering with the USO is doing my part. My husband served in Vietnam and was awarded the Purple Heart. Two of my brothers served in World War II and one was killed," said Elsner, who volunteers her time on Sundays at the airport and during special USO events.

## New Relief Act provisions protect service members

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample  
American Forces Press Service

A new law replacing the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 will provide military personnel — especially those deployed or called to active duty — greater protections to handle their personal financial and legal obligations, Defense Department officials said here.

President Bush signed the Service Members' Civil Relief Act into law Dec. 19.

"The focus of the SCRA is the same as

under the SSCRA: to provide protections to service members who have difficulty meeting their personal financial and legal obligations because of their military service," said Air Force Lt. Col. Patrick Lindemann, deputy director for legal policy in DoD's Office of the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

"The SCRA is a significant law, because it clarifies and updates the provisions that existed in the SSCRA, while adding some additional protections," he said.

"Service members on long-term deployments or called to active duty should not have to worry about their families in their absence being evicted from their quarters without sufficient legal protections," he continued, "or that they are paying on a leased car or apartment that they can't use, or about civil legal proceedings they can't attend because of their deployment.

"These are some of the situations the SCRA covers so that service members are able to devote their energies to the military mission and the defense needs of the nation, and not on civil matters waiting for them at home," he added.

What Lindemann called "a significant change" added in the SCRA is an automatic 90-day stay of civil proceedings upon application by the service member. This applies to all judicial and administrative hearings. In the past, according to Lindemann, stays were discretionary with the courts.

The SCRA also makes it clear that the six percent limitation on interest rates for pre-service debts requires a reduction in monthly payments, and that any interest in excess of 6 percent is forgiven, not deferred, Lindemann said.

The SCRA also expanded the protection against eviction. Under the SSCRA, service members and their dependents who entered into a lease for \$1,200 or less could not be evicted without a court order. The SCRA increased that maxi-

mum lease amount to \$2,400 and added an annual adjustment for inflation. For 2004, the maximum will be \$2,465. Lindemann said this will significantly increase the number of service members entitled to this protection.

The SCRA also gives the service member who has received permanent-change-of-station orders or who is being deployed for not less than 90 days the right to terminate a housing lease with 30 days' written notice. Prior to the SCRA, service members could be required to pay for housing they were unable to occupy.

One of the more significant provisions in the SCRA that did not exist in the SSCRA, Lindemann said, was an added protection for service members who have motor vehicle leases. Any active duty service member who has received PCS orders outside the continental United States, or who is being deployed for not less than 180 days, may terminate a motor vehicle lease. The law prohibits early termination charges. "Now, service members won't have to pay monthly lease payments for a car they can't use," said Lindemann.

"Service members may not always realize all the protections they have under the law," Lindemann said. "If service members have questions about the SCRA or the protections that they may be entitled to, they should contact their unit judge advocate or installation legal assistance officer for further assistance."

### Revision to hard copy Leave and Earnings Statement

Effective Jan. 24, the Defense Finance and Accounting System will display only the last four characters of the Social Security Number on the Leave and Earnings Statement. This change is being expedited because of concerns with identity theft and will affect the hard copy LES which is mailed to the employee's home address. The electronic LES, available on myPay, will continue to display the entire nine characters of the SSN.

Employees are encouraged to use myPay to view and print their biweekly LES instead of having them mailed to their home. An advantage of receiving your LES electronically is that each employee can save the Department of the Army 34 cents each pay period or \$8.84 per year.

Additional features of myPay allow you to view and print your W-2; change federal and state tax withholdings; update bank account and electronic fund transfer information; manage allotments; make address changes; purchase and change U.S. Savings Bond allotment and distribution; and view and print vouchers.

Visit the Web site, myPay.dfas.mil and obtain a copy of the brochure on myPay. If you do not have a Personal Identification Number (PIN), you can obtain it via the current Web site.

# TAC

Continued from Page 1

returns that require a Schedule C, Profit or Loss from Business (Form 1099-Misc), except for Fort Sam Houston Child Care providers. A voided check or account and routing number is required for direct deposit of a tax refund.

Whether you are filing a paper or electronic return, you will need to bring the following basic information:

- Your Social Security card and the Social Security card of spouse and family members.
- Your military ID card.
- The Federal tax package that you receive in the mail.
- Forms W-2, W-2G, 1099-R, 1099-MISC or other income statements.
- Forms 1099-INT and 1099-DIV, or other statements to report interest, dividends, and other types of income.
- Forms SSA-1099 to report social security income.
- Copy of your 2002 Federal income tax return.
- Voided check if you wish to have any

refund directly deposited into your account.

- All documents supporting your adjustments or deductions.

Depending on your situation, you will need to bring the following:

- The employer identification number or social security number for all childcare providers you paid last year.
  - Information on individual retirement accounts (IRAs).
  - Mortgage interest statements.
  - Information documenting payment of alimony such as a copy of divorce decree or separation agreement. Child support is NOT considered alimony.
  - If you itemize, bring receipts, bills, statements of your medical expenses, home mortgage interest, contributions to charities, and miscellaneous expenses paid.
  - Specific Power of Attorney explicitly for the current tax year executed by absent spouse, or signed IRS Form 2848.
- Each day, the center can only see a limited number of clients. You may begin to

sign-in for one of those spaces during the morning or afternoon sessions. At each session, the limit is approximately 25 returns with priority given to active duty clients in uniform. Once the maximum number of clients have signed in that can receive help, no more clients can sign in until the start of the next session. Morning sessions begin at 9 a.m., and afternoon sessions start at 1 p.m., Tuesday through Fridays.

Officer in charge, Capt. Mary Meek

said, "by using the free services offered by the Tax Assistance Center, taxpayers can save what would otherwise be spent for a commercial tax preparer or tax preparation software. Last year alone the FSH Tax Assistance Center saved its clients \$428,791 in tax preparation and filing fees."

Beginning Jan. 27, for information, call the Tax Assistance Center at 295-1040 or online at [www.cs.amedd.army.mil/tax/index.html](http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/tax/index.html).

## Tax Assistance Center Operating Hours

Officers' Club, 407 Dickman Road

Monday	Closed
Tuesday-Friday	9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Saturday	9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday	Closed
Center closes for lunch noon to 1 p.m.	

Appointments are available for special circumstances on a case-by-case basis. Beginning Jan. 27, for information, call 295-1040.

**Note:** The Tax Assistance Center will close Feb. 13-14 in observance of President's Day.



## Army announces retention program update

On December 17, 2003, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld approved the Present Duty Assignment Targeted Selective Reenlistment Bonus Program for Soldiers serving in the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility. With this program, eligible Soldiers will receive no less than \$5,000 dollars for reenlisting Present Duty Assignment for a minimum of three years.

Our Army is serving a nation at war. The Army Retention program deals with our greatest asset, our Soldiers. The Active Army has achieved overall retention missions since fiscal year 2000 and is

prepared to face future challenges in a demanding environment. The PDA TSRB program directly supports Army strategies for resetting the force, our evolving Army Force Stabilization initiative, and is a tangible means to reward Soldier service and stimulate retention.

This program has proven successful. The Army announced a similar PDA TSRB for deployed Soldiers the last two weeks of September 2003 that was a resounding success.

In addition to the efforts culminating with the PDA TSRB, the Army has other Selective

Reenlistment Bonus funds to use towards successful completion of the fiscal year 2004 Retention mission. The Army has \$51.6 million for new reenlistment contracts. Soldiers in military occupational specialties from a total of twenty-seven career management fields will receive the benefit of these Selective Reenlistment Bonus dollars.

Additionally, \$3.8 million of the money for new contracts is intended as payment for Critical Skills Reenlistment Bonus. Highly critical MOS's are specifi-

cally included in the FY04 Critical Skills Reenlistment Bonus.

A Targeted Selective Reenlistment Bonus aggressively targets eligible Soldiers in order to create unit stability deemed critical to ongoing military operations, enhance cohesion, and sustain combat readiness. The Targeted Selective Reenlistment Bonus has been used successfully in the past and based on current deployments and Global War on Terrorism.

Source: Army news release.

# Army-unique training prepares students for field hospital environment

By Mike McKitto  
Special to the News Leader

“Halt! Who goes there?” Those four words break the silence of a fall afternoon from the guard shack of a protected perimeter. The muzzle of an M-16 is zeroed in on the approaching individual’s chest. The command and intent of the words are real – sort of.

The scene isn’t from many of the small bases in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. It is, however, the Field Training Site of the Biomedical Equipment Training Army-unique course at Sheppard, Air Force Base.

Just to the north of the Army’s BMET training building lies the cluster of deployable medical systems consisting of temper tents and tactical shelters used for Block 12.

Prior to arrival at the FTS, the Soldiers have been in BMETs training for nearly 10 months. There, along with members of her sister services, they learn complex electronic trouble-shooting techniques on such equipment as X-ray systems, anesthesia units, laboratory equipment and various pneumatic equipment such as dental equipment and sterilizers that they will service and repair daily in their garrison jobs.

“The primary Army exposure the students have had is through contact and training management by the drill sergeant,” said Sgt. 1st Class John Campbell, Block 12 leader, Army FTS.

Here students return to the Army basics. The instructors review some of the basic Soldier skills and their common task training. These include tasks such as donning their nuclear, bio-

logical and chemical gear, road marches, site security and teamwork.

However, Campbell said the primary purpose of the Army-unique training is for the students to gain valuable knowledge about equipment they may see in future, real-world deployments.

“We have a lot more of the actual deployable equipment that they will see in a field unit,” he said. “Along with other tasks, we’ll have them pack, center stack and collapse a tactical shelter as though they were actually deploying a piece of the hospital.”

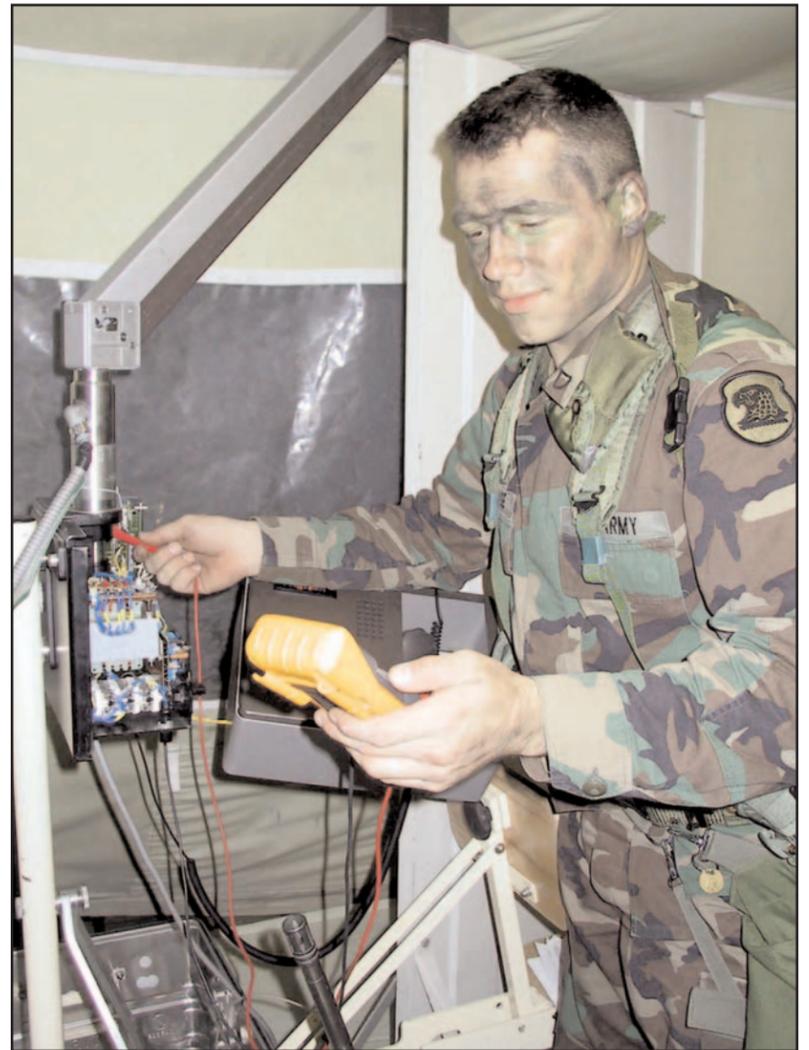
Since someone could get injured or killed in the field environment, he said they must learn all aspects of their team’s job. Part of this is being a leader.

“It doesn’t matter if they are a private, specialist or sergeant, we put everyone of them into a leadership position,” said Campbell. “We need them to realize the mission must continue, even if they have to move into a leadership position unexpectedly.”

Another important part of the training is learning and completing the necessary paperwork involved in the maintenance of hospital equipment. The job isn’t done until the paperwork is complete, Campbell said.

Upon completion of their 21 days at Block 12, Soldiers are ready to perform their duties as biomedical equipment technicians in a fixed facility hospital at their station of assignment or in a deployable medical systems hospital anywhere in the world.

“Their work is critical to the saving or healing of their spouse, children, other family members or their buddies in combat,” said Campbell.



Pfc. Matthew Millage calibrates the electronic components of a dental x-ray unit during the Biomedical Equipment Training Army-unique course at Sheppard Air Force Base.



# Commissary officials sensitive to beef concerns

By **Bonnie Powell**  
**Defense Commissary Agency**

Officials at the Defense Commissary Agency are closely monitoring the ever-changing situation involving a case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), also known as "mad cow" disease, identified Dec. 23 in a single cow in Washington state.

Since Dec. 23 the U.S. Department of Agriculture has conducted a limited recall of 10,000 pounds of beef that may originate from the infected cow and from cows slaughtered at the same time and location.

"No beef in any of our 275 commissaries worldwide has been involved in a USDA recall," said Col. Mark Wolken,

chief of public health, safety and security for DeCA. "The USDA has stated that the U.S. beef supply is safe and that the beef recall resulted from an abundance of caution, not fear that the meat is infected. Should the USDA make a determination that there is a danger, DeCA would be first to react to protect the health of our customers," he said.

Since the first U.S. case of BSE was identified Dec. 23, commissary customers have raised questions about the safety of beef purchased at their local commissary. Questions range from "should I return the ground beef I bought last week?" to "has my commissary received meat from the infected cow?"

The answer to both questions is "no" said Wolken, an Army veterinarian. "As is

always the case, customers who wish to return commissary products for a full refund may do so without question. The brain, spinal cord, and lower intestine – where the protein or 'prion' that is believed to cause BSE is found – is not generally used in food consumed by Americans. Those parts were removed from the infected cow before any of it could enter the meat supply."

USDA investigators have determined that the recalled meat went to a few commercial markets in Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana and Guam as well as Washington state, Oregon, California and Nevada. "No commissaries received any of those shipments," Wolken emphasized. "But I can certainly understand customers having concerns and questions. We're all

affected by this – we're all concerned."

Mad cow is a fatal disease that destroys the brains of the infected animal. It is caused in cattle by misshapen proteins called prions, and is thought to be spread from animal to animal through contaminated feed. A rare form of the disease in humans known as variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease has been linked to the consumption of contaminated beef products. The approximately 140 deaths linked to "mad cow" since the mid-90s have mainly been in Britain.

For the latest developments on the current situation as well as for links to the USDA and other information on recalls and food safety, commissary customers should check the food safety link at <http://www.commissaries.com>.

# DoD stops Anthrax vaccinations; maintains shots safe

By **Jim Garamone**  
**American Forces Press Service**

The Defense Department will stop anthrax vaccinations until the legal situation around a recent court decision is resolved, DoD officials said. Defense officials and lawyers with the Justice Department are examining a decision handed down by a federal judge in Washington Dec. 22 that ordered DoD to stop anthrax vaccinations for U.S. service members without their consent, Pentagon officials said Dec. 23.

"The lawyers are examining it," Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said during a Pentagon press conference Dec. 23. "And at the appropriate time, they will be making a recommendation as to the way forward."

DoD still considers anthrax vaccinations for service members deploying to high-threat areas as crucial. "We don't send Soldiers into battle without hel-

pets," said a Defense official.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff also stressed the military need for the vaccinations. "This drug that we're using, the vaccine has been around for 40 years," said Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers during a press conference. "It is not experimental. It's approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

"And from a military standpoint, I think it's extremely important. As you know, when we went into Iraq, we had all the troops in their chemical protective gear, because we thought there was a very real threat of either chemical or biological weapons, and in particular, anthrax was a big worry."

Anthrax is still a worry in many parts of the world, Myers said. "The one thing you can do to protect people is this vaccine," the chairman said. "From a military standpoint, I think it's very important we have this capability to protect our

troops and enable them to do their job."

Dr. William Winkenwerder, the assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said the vaccines are needed to protect American troops. The FDA guides everything the department does the, he noted. "We follow FDA regulations scrupulously in the use of the anthrax vaccine and all medically regulated products," Winkenwerder said during an interview.

The FDA has licensed the product for all use, the doctor said. Other independent groups agree with the FDA assessment.

Winkenwerder said DoD was surprised about the decision. He said it was out of step with current science and out of keeping with the need for force protection.

The doctor said about 1 million American service members have received the vaccinations since the program started in 1998. Some 650,000 service members have received the six-shot series since June 2002. Of that number, only around

10 service members have refused to get the shots. "Most people realize and appreciate the threat that we face and are persuaded by the scientific evidence regarding the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine," Winkenwerder said.

The FDA approved the vaccine in 1970. The District Court decision questioned the FDA contention that the vaccine was effective against aerosolized anthrax - the most likely bioterror weapon. This judge's decision is counter to the FDA's own decisions, the opinion of the National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine and the judgment of the most eminent experts on this topic.

Winkenwerder stressed that the department's paramount concern is for the safety of service members. The vaccine has been put through the most rigorous testing, he said. The vaccine has very few side effects, similar to other vaccines, and these are mild and temporary, officials said.

## U.S. Army Medical Department supports International Training at the Center and School

By Vickie Connolly  
Special to the News Leader

Government leaders in the United States have long understood the need to foster positive relations with our international partners and provide assistance to developing nations to promote freedom and democracy around the world. The United States provides military training to international personnel from eligible countries through the Security Assistance Training Program.

Security Assistance training is authorized under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and the Army Export Control Act. According to the Joint Security Assistance Training Regulation and Army Regulation 12-15, the Secretary of State is responsible for the supervision and direction of SA, determination of eligibility of countries to receive SA, and the dollar value of country programs.

The Secretary of Defense is responsible for supervising the training of international military students under the SATP, to include training teams deployed outside the continental United States. Objectives of the SATP are to assist the foreign country in developing expertise and systems needed for effective management and operation of its defense establishment and foster the foreign country's development of its own professional and technical training capability.

The program also promotes U.S. military rapport with the armed forces of foreign countries to operate in peacekeeping missions and in coalition environments and a better understanding of the United States, its people, political system, institutions, and way of life. For international students, the program increases the international military student's awareness of the U.S. commitment to the basic principles of internationally recognized human rights and develops skills needed for effective operation and maintenance of equipment acquired from the United States.

### Security Assistance Officers

Security Assistance Officers are under the military command of the unified commander. These personnel assist foreign countries in planning and programming SATP requirements; submitting requirements to appropriate agencies; and administering approved programs in country. They also assist in the selection of international military students and ensure they meet security, medical, English language, and technical requirements for training provided under the SATP.

With a few exceptions, training in U.S. military schools and on U.S. installations is conducted in



Courtesy photo

International and U.S. students attending the Medical Strategic Leadership Program at the Academy of Health Science pose for a group photo in front of the Army Medical Department Center and School.

English. International military students attend classes with U.S. personnel. Therefore, they are required to possess the ability to understand, speak, read, and write the English language, at a level of proficiency commensurate with that required by the course of training, so they can participate in the training with their U.S. counterparts. Generally, a prospective student's English comprehension level is tested prior to receipt of Invitational Travel Orders.

### International Military Education and Training Program

Under the International Military Education and Training Program, the United States provides funding to developing nations, for the purpose of purchasing military training. The U.S. Congress appropriates IMET funds

annually. Nations that do not receive IMET funds, but that are eligible to buy defense articles and services, purchase training under the Foreign Military Sales Program or the Foreign Military Financing Program.

The U.S. Army Medical Department conducts a robust international engagement program that includes training international personnel at various locations throughout the United States, orientation tours, the sale or exchange of medical equipment and technology, personnel exchanges, mobile training, and the International Subject Matter Expert Program. International students attending AMEDD programs go to classes with U.S. personnel.

### AMEDDC&S Training Programs

More than 60 of the training programs

offered at the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School are open to the international community. These include training programs developed for both officer and enlisted personnel. International military medical personnel are also eligible to participate in Aeromedical Training Programs at Fort Rucker, Ala. and the Medical Management of Chemical and Biological Casualties Course, at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. Additionally, healthcare related Pastoral Ministry courses are now offered at Fort Sam Houston.

In addition to classes, all international students attending military training in the U.S., or individuals participating in an orientation tour arranged under the SATP, are given the opportunity to participate in the DoD Informational Program. The goal of the IP is to ensure that international students return to their homeland with an understanding of the responsibilities of governments, militaries, and citizens to protect, preserve, and respect the rights of every individual. The IP is developed and implemented with the specific objective of providing students with awareness and functional understanding of internationally recognized human rights and the American democratic way of life.

The AMEDDC&S conducts two programs specifically designed to promote international engagement, foster positive international relations, develop lines of communication, and further understanding between our organization and those of our international partners. These include the Medical Strategic Leadership Program and the International Subject Matter Expert Program.

### Military Strategic Leadership Program

The Medical Strategic Leadership Program is a multi-national, multi-serv-

See **USAMEDD** on Page 11

## 32nd Medical Brigade to conduct EFMB test, March 15-25

The Academy Battalion will conduct an Expert Field Medic Badge standardization and test during the period of March 15-25 at Camp Bullis. Testing will be conducted in full compliance with the requirements of Army Medical Department Center and School 350-10, Expert Field Medical Badge Test, dated January 1, 2004.

The EFMB is intended to recognize personnel who demonstrate a high degree of professional skills and proficiency as field medics. These field medics must be able to expertly perform common Soldier tasks and apply the principles of basic medical care in a field environment. The EFMB program promotes esprit de corps and provides an incentive for greater effort by Army Medical Department personnel.

The eligibility requirements for Department of the Army personnel are listed in Army Regulation 600-8-22. All other services and allied candidates must be either medical personnel or be serving in comparable medical positions.

The badge is awarded only to personnel who meet all of the requirements outlined in AMEDDC&S Pam 350-10, dated January 1, 2004. Approval to wear the badge for other services and allies is in accordance with their respective governing regulations.

EFMB candidates must volunteer for EFMB testing, be recommended by their unit commander, qualify "marksman" or higher with assigned weapon within 12 months of the EFMB test-end date, and have a minimum Army Physical Fitness Test score of 180 points, with 60 points in each event, in accordance with Field Manual 21-20. The APFT must be current within six months of the EFMB end date. Soldiers with permanent or temporary profiles prohibiting the testing of any of the three events (push-ups, sit-ups, or 2-mile run) are ineligible to compete for the EFMB IAW AMEDDC&S 350-10.

Also required is a current American Heart Association cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) certification. The certification must be valid through the test-end date. Candidates will be required to perform all tasks professionally and ethically IAW AMEDDC&S Pam 350-10 and the Army values and be physically prepared to cope with the rigorous demands of the EFMB test and trained in the prevention of weather-related injuries.

Unit commanders will submit a memorandum of request for their Soldiers to be allotted EFMB test slots. This memorandum will certify their Soldiers' APFT,

weapons, CPR, and weather injury prevention training qualification. Information provided to the EFMB OIC for each candidate by Feb. 13 will include full name, rank, Social Security Number, unit POC name and phone number, and unit address. Documents may be forwarded ahead of time or hand-carried by candidates. Candidates must be identified, and rosters submitted, to EFMB OIC NLT than Feb. 13. Commanders will insure candidates are provided field meal cards for

candidates on separate rations/BAS. Candidates will be removed from the unit duty roster or a replacement is provided to perform a candidate's duty as necessary. Candidates failing to attain a passing grade in the written test will be picked up from the Intermediate Staging Base, Camp Bullis.

For information, call Capt. Asadoorian, EFMB OIC, at 221-0725 or Sgt. 1st Class Greg Courtright, EFMB NCOIC, at 221-6702.

### Expert Field Medic Badge Qualifications

To qualify for the EFMB, candidates must successfully complete the required number of tasks in each of the eight critical performance areas outlined in AMEDDC&S Pam 350-10, Ch 3, para. 3-9 through 3-16, pages 3-4 through 3-124, outlined in the following list:

Area	Responsible Unit	Date
Army Physical Fitness Test	Candidate's Unit	6 months
Weapon Qualification	Candidate's Unit	12 months
CPR Card	Candidate's Unit	24 months
Comprehensive Written Test	187th Medical Battalion	
Land Navigation (day) Course	Academy Battalion	
Land Navigation (night) Course	Academy Battalion	
Integrated Lane #1	232d Medical Battalion	
Integrated Lane #2	Academy Battalion	
Integrated Lane #3	Academy Battalion	
Litter Obstacle Course	Brooke Army Medical Center	
Forced Road March	Academy Battalion	

## Law Enforcement Command checking vehicle decals

The Law Enforcement Command conducts DoD Decal checks at various Fort Sam Houston access control points. The checks are conducted to ensure that decals on vehicles entering the installation were legible and not expired.

The LEC will begin conducting random checks at various parking areas. If a decal is found to be expired or faded, it will be removed and the owner of the vehicle will receive a DD Form 1408 (Armed Forces Traffic Citation) that will be forwarded to the appropriate command for action.

In order to avoid receiving a citation, ensure that your decal is current and legible. New decals may be obtained at the Vehicle Registration office located in Bldg. 367. You will need to bring a valid state registration, driver's license, proof of insurance and military identification card with you.

On Dec. 30 D Company, 212th SIG BN, Law Enforcement Command, conducted a Visitor Pass inspection at the Walters & Binz-Engleman gates

The purpose was to ensure individuals requesting a visitors pass were not bypassing the installation DoD Decal requirement. Per

AMED C&S & FSH Regulation 190-5, Sec. II, paragraph 1-6,

"All POVs, ...owned or operated by active duty or retired military personnel, their family members, civilians employed on FSH and its sub-installations, and persons having valid reasons for entering the installation frequently, will register the vehicles at the Provost Marshal's Office Vehicle Registration Office, Bldg. 367."

The results showed that roughly 85 percent of the traffic coming in through the visitor's lane during morning and post-lunch rush hour, was that of people employed on the installation. Individuals received a warning ticket and were instructed to obtain a FSH DoD Decal. Below is a breakdown of the tickets issued.

#### Walters Gate

Number of Contractors vehicles without decals - 56

Military/Civilian Personnel vehicles without decals - 20

#### Binz-Engleman

Number of Contractors vehicles without decals - 6

Military/Civilian Personnel vehicles without decals - 9

## Wayland Baptist University to hold briefing Jan. 12

Wayland Baptist University at San Antonio will conduct a briefing Jan. 12, 10 a.m. to noon at the Learning Center, Bldg. 2247 for FSH personnel interested in pursuing a WBU degree. Information provided will include degrees available, schedule of courses for the spring trimester, and the process for obtaining a free evaluation of college and military education for transfer to the university.

Pre-registration for the spring term begins Jan. 20, and the term begins Feb. 16. For information, call 270-9988, or e-mail jandrew@wbu.edu.

## Quarterly Ammunition inventory set for Jan. 13-16

Supply and Services Division will conduct their quarterly ammunition inventory on Jan. 13-16. Ammunition will not be issued or accepted for turn-in during this timeframe. For more information, call Patricia Gilcrase, Property Management Branch, at 221-4507.

## Unlimited Commissary privileges for Guard and Reserve

Guard and Reserve members now have unlimited commissary shopping privileges, thanks to provisions of the National Defense Authorization Act, which eliminated the 24-day shopping restrictions. Guard and Reserve members will no longer have to present a Commissary Privilege Card when shopping at the Fort Sam Houston Commissary.

# Concurrent receipt pay becomes reality for retirees

Military retirees will begin receiving both retired pay and Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation as the DVA disability offset is phased out.

Previously, the offset reduced the amount of the military retiree's pay by an amount equal to any disability payment received from the DVA.

President George W. Bush signed legislation authorizing concurrent receipt of both forms of compensation on November 24, 2003. The legislation will deliver billions to more than 200,000 disabled military retirees and took effect Jan. 1.

Public Law 108-136 (Sections 641 and 642 of Public Law) authorizes a 10-year, phased elimination of the DVA disability offset to retired pay. This will affect members with non-disability retirements, without regard to years of service. Those

who retired as a result of a service-related disability are also eligible. These members must have at least 20 years of qualifying service. In all cases, the retiree must be rated at least 50 percent disabled by the DVA. Today, more than 200,000 military retirees meet the criteria required to receive an increase in their retired pay.

This legislation expands the field of eligibility for Combat-Related Special Compensation to include retirees with 20 years of qualifying service, who have a combined disability rating of less than 60 percent. It expands eligibility for a tax-exempt payment to replace retired pay lost to the concurrent receipt ban and is open to retirees with 20 or more years of service and disabilities tied to combat or combat-related training. Reserve retirees are included; people who retired under Temporary Early Retirement Authority are not. While this change expands the

number of veterans currently receiving CRSC from about 4,800 today, eligible retirees may not receive both concurrent receipt payments and combat-related special compensation at the same time. The act requires an annual "Open Season" to be conducted to allow veterans eligible for both concurrent payment and CRSC to choose between the two options.

Details on how the annual open season will be conducted will be published separately.

Because the act also repeals the authorization for Special Compensation for the Severely Disabled, which provides veterans benefits for those with disabilities greater than 60 percent, about 37,000 SCSD recipients will be the first to see increases to their retired pay effective Jan. 1, for the payment dated Feb. 2.

System changes are required to fully implement the legislation and will take

several months to complete. The Defense Finance and Accounting Service is working closely with the DVA to implement this legislation and issue the payments to all eligible retirees as soon as possible. When full implementation is completed, payments will include monies that are due retroactively to Jan. 1, 2004.

Interested military retirees should watch for updated information on myPay (<https://mypay.dfas.mil>), which allows retirees to take control of their pay account information online, and the DFAS Website (<http://www.dfas.mil>). Retirees should also visit <http://www.dod.mil/prhome> for other information about benefits, programs and information that affects them.

Information on veterans' benefits is available at <http://www.va.gov>.

Source: Defense Finance and Accounting Service news release.

## USAMEDD

*Continued from Page 9*

ice, postgraduate medical program that prepares senior military medical leaders in ranks of lieutenant colonel and above and civilian equivalents to become strategic health care executives capable of improving health care for their countries in cooperation with others in their region and throughout the world and to further understanding of working within coalitions and alliances. Understanding of and concern for human rights is an integral part of the course, which is offered to both the international and U.S. Department of Defense community. The MSLP is conducted three times per year. Each iteration focuses on a particular region of the world and the significant issues in that region. The course is three weeks in duration.

The first week includes only international students. Attendees receive an orientation to the U.S. Army Medical Department and participate in briefings and discussions on finance, personnel, logistics, operations, education, and medical policy development. Distance learning and telemedicine along with the Knowledge Management Network are demonstrated and discussed. Students visit Brooke Army Medical Center for Observer Training on the hospital ward or clinics. This segment is tailored to the student's personal specialty and specific country needs. Participants also spend a day at Fort Hood, Texas where they are able to experience life on a large Army installation, meet with the Corps Surgeon, and observe field medical equipment.

Senior U.S. officers from all AMEDD branches and the U.S. Army Reserve join the class in week two. This segment is designed to prepare senior medical officers to function in strategic leadership roles. Major areas of instruction include strategic planning and decision-making, military medical readiness, leadership in coalition health-service support operations, task force management, international law, state and federal agency interaction, disaster preparedness planning, and interaction with non-governmental agencies. Guest speakers include commanders, Combatant Command and Joint Task Force surgeons, participants in United Nations peacekeeping operations and operations other than war. Guest speakers from both military and civilian healthcare organizations participate. National Disaster Medical Systems management and various types of multinational contingency

planning support operations, including humanitarian assistance are included. International students each provide an informal presentation on their military organization and their leadership challenges.

Week three takes place in Washington D.C. Students visit Department of Defense healthcare facilities and simulation centers. They meet with The Surgeon General and the Joint Medical Staff. Additional visits are scheduled to area facilities such as The Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, The Walter Reed Army Institute for Research, the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, and the Office of Homeland Defense. The political dimension includes visits with members of Congress, a visit to the U.S. State Department and a meeting with members of the national media.

Since its formal inception in 2002, the MSLP has trained officers from more than 30 countries. Program alumni include Surgeon Generals from Afghanistan, Moldova, and the Czech Republic.

### International Subject Matter Expert Program

The International Subject Matter Expert Program supports our national and Army security strategy by strengthening existing alliances and creating new relationships with our international partners through the exchange of healthcare information. The program format employs four teams located at Fort Sam Houston. Teams are composed of approximately 15 members each, representing a cross section of health services. Team members volunteer for this additional duty. Each team focuses on a specific region of the world associated with a Combatant Command, to include Central Command, European Command, Pacific Command, and Southern Command.

Team members are asked to be familiar with regional healthcare challenges and to compile lists of international

contacts. Members are expected to develop a basic understanding of the culture, government, military healthcare structure, and geography of countries in their region. Program participants attend cross-cultural training to improve communications. Team representatives visit the Combatant Command surgeons annually to gain an understanding of regional programs and training requirements. Occasionally members participate in mobile medical training missions and attend military medical conferences in their region of interest. They routinely attend briefings and functions at the AMEDDC&S that include international students and foreign delegations.

A Web site, located at <https://ke.army.mil/sme> supports the ISME Program. It provides a forum for communication and a repository for healthcare information. International

military medical leaders and senior AMEDD personnel worldwide are invited to join the ISME Program members on this Web site. In addition to exchanging healthcare information online, participants will find information regarding AMEDD training opportunities and numerous items of interest to the international medical community.

Increasingly, the safety and wellbeing of our military personnel, our nation, and the world depends upon our ability to interact with our global partners and to forward the principles and values upon which our nation was founded. As a pre-eminent leader in medicine, from research and development through all echelons of healthcare delivery, the AMEDD possesses the ability to mentor and assist our international colleagues and advance the practice of medicine.

# Army Family Team Building announces upcoming events

**Level I Classes** - Saturday, Jan. 10, 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- Family and Military Expectations (Great Expectations!)
- Impact of the Mission on Family Life
- Military Terms, Acronyms (Break the Code!)
- Military Customs & Courtesies (The Mystery of RSVP)
- Basic Problem Solving (Show me how to fix it!)
- Introduction to Military/Community Resources
- Supporting Your Child's Education
- Benefits, Entitlements & Compensation
- Chain of Command/Chain of Concern (Who's in charge?)

All classes are held in the Roadrunner Community Center, for registration or information, call 221-2705. Registration deadline is today, Jan. 8.

**Open House just for student spouses** - Monday, Jan. 12, 10-11 a.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, 2010 Stanley Rd. Bldg. 2797 between the tennis courts and the San Antonio Credit Union building on Fort Sam Houston

- This is a great chance for spouses of students in any of the Army programs at Fort Sam Houston to find out what's here, who's here, and why you're here!

- You will meet other student spouses, and you will be greeted by Army spouses who will share a little of their own Army experiences with you.

- If you have no childcare, bring the kids along as you discover what it's like to be an Army spouse. There will be welcome folders full of information, giveaways and light snacks.

- Very casual dress and no r.s.v.p. required - for information, call the AFTB office at 221-2705.

# Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Day 2004

The Fort Sam Houston Human Relations/ Equal Employment Opportunity Office in conjunction with the Equal Opportunity Advisors and the Special Emphasis Programs will host and support two major events in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Day 2004. The theme for the celebration is "Remember! Celebrate! Act! A day on, not a day off!"

**On Jan. 15**, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Fort Sam Houston will host a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Ceremony at the Road Runner Community Center. The keynote speaker will be Chaplain (Col.) Edward Maney, Installation Chaplain, FSH. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the ceremony.

**On Jan. 19**, the FSH Community is invited to participate and support the City of San Antonio's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual City Parade.

For information, call Steven Matkowsky, Black Employment Program Manager at 221-9174 or Phyllis Bergen at 221-5869.

# Post prepares to celebrate African-American/Black History Month

The Fort Sam Houston Human Relations/ Equal Employment Opportunity Office in conjunction with the Equal Opportunity Advisors and the Special Emphasis Programs will host the celebration of African-American/ Black History Month.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Brown V. Board of Education, 50th Anniversary."

**On Feb. 5**, Fort Sam Houston will host a Black History Month Recognition Ceremony at the Roadrunner Community Center, Bldg. 2797, Stanley Road, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Reverend Dr. Sarah Davis, Pastor, Bethel A.M.E. Church is the keynote speaker. Attendees are encouraged to participate in an ethnic food-tasting event, which will take place at the conclusion of the ceremony.

For information, call Steven Matkowsky, Black Employment Program Manager at 221-9174 or Phyllis Bergen, chairperson, BEP at 221-5869.

# Family Readiness Group Leadership Team Workshop

Friday, Jan. 9, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center

This workshop is open to all units on the installation whether or not you have an FRG. The purpose is to provide standardized training to unit commanders, first sergeants, family member FRG leaders, and any other unit representative with an interest in family readiness.

The material presented in the workshop is from the Operation READY program developed by The Texas Cooperation Extension of Texas A&M University under contract with Headquarters, Department of the Army, Community & Family Support Center, and Army Community Service.

**Agenda:**

8-8:30 a.m.	Registration
8:30-9:15 a.m.	Introduction/FRG Overview
9:15-10 a.m.	Leadership for Effective FRGs
10-10:10 a.m.	Break
10:10-10:40 a.m.	Building Your FRG – Getting Started
10:40-11:20 a.m.	Building Your FRG – Volunteers
11:20-11:45 a.m.	Building Your FRG – Making Contact
11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12:30-1:15 p.m.	Running the FRG – Communications
1:15-1:45 p.m.	Running the FRG – Special Events
1:45-1:55 p.m.	Break
1:55-2:30 p.m.	Running the FRG – Money Matters
2:30-3 p.m.	Running the FRG – JAG
3-3:30 p.m.	The FRG – Bringing it All Together
3:30-3:50 p.m.	Workshop Wrap-up
3:50-4 p.m.	Certificates

Pre-registration is required and class size is limited. For reservations and information, call the Mobilization & Deployment Office in ACS at 221-2705.

**Note:** The next scheduled workshops are Feb. 20 and March 12.

# Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program January 2004 Class Schedule

Class	Dates	Time
Basics of Breastfeeding	21	10:30 a.m. to Noon
Beyond Your First Baby	9	8 a.m. to Noon.
Boys Only! Ages 6-8	14	3-4 p.m.
Ages 9-10	28	3-4 p.m.
Building Effective Anger Management Skills (B.E.A.M.S.) (Series 4-6)	8, 15, 22, 29	11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Commanders' Training	29	8 – 9:30 a.m.
Conflict Management	23	11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Coping with Difficult People	21	11 a.m. to Noon.
Getting Ready for Childbirth (3-part series)	8, 15, 22	9 a.m. to Noon
Girl Talk! Ages 9-10	21	3-4 p.m.
Healthy Pregnancy	29	9 a.m. to Noon
Helping Us Grow Securely (H.U.G.S.) Playgroup	13, 20, 27	9-11 a.m.
Parenting with Love & Logic (Early Childhood)	13, 20	1:30-4 p.m.
Parenting with Love & Logic (School Age)	8, 15, 22	9-11:30 a.m.
S.T.E.P. Program for Parents of Teens	21, 28	11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Stress Management I & II	13, 20	12:30-2 p.m.
Teen Talk	8, 15, 22, 29	4-5 p.m.
Truth or Consequences?	13, 20, 27	4-5 p.m.
You & Your Baby	14, 28	8 a.m. to Noon
Saturday Marathon!!	24	9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To sign up for classes or for more information, call ACS Family Advocacy Program at 221-0349/2418.

## Provost Marshal reminds post residents to register weapons/firearms

If you have not registered privately owned weapons, you are in violation of Fort Sam Houston Regulation 190-7. All residents of Fort Sam Houston who maintain (storing) a privately owned weapon/firearm (this includes air guns such as pellet and BB pistols/rifles and long bows or cross bows) on the installation for more than three duty days must register it with the Provost Marshal Office. This must be accomplished by the end of the third duty day after arrival on the installation or after obtaining the weapon/firearm. Failure to register your weapons with the Provost Marshal Office could result with being charged with

Article 92 of the UCMJ, Failure to Obey Order or Regulation.

To register your firearm/weapon, obtain and properly fill out two copies of FSH Form 60 for each weapon/firearm to be registered. Deliver the completed form to the Provost Marshal Registration Office, located in Bldg. 367, between 8 a.m. and 3:45 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Once the registration is accomplished, return the approved copy of the form to the unit commander or his/her designated representative. If the weapon is no longer stored on the installation or has been sold, lost, or stolen, personnel will clear

the registration office as quickly as possible.

Authorized privately owned weapons/firearms may be stored in family quarters if they are registered and if occupants adhere to the following: the firearm is not loaded; firearms and dangerous privately owned weapons are stored in a locked container or cabinet, or stored where they will not be accessible to children or other unauthorized persons; ammunition and hard-tipped arrows are stored separately from firearms and bows.

If these requirements cannot be met, the privately owned firearms/weapons will be stored in authorized storage areas

at the individual's assigned unit.

It is also recommended that all firearms be secured with a safety device, such as a trigger lock or a cable lock, to prevent a tragedy from occurring. The Provost Marshal has cable locks that will be provided free of charge to personnel registering their weapons on the installation. If you have already registered your firearm(s), contact the Crime Prevention Section at 221-9686 and ask for one. For personnel who live off the installation, contact your local police department for free cable locks.

Source: Law Enforcement Command news release.

## Be aware of prohibited items on Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis

Fort Sam Houston Regulation 190-7, dated April 1999, states "the below listed Privately Owned Firearms Privately Owned Weapons are either illegal or unauthorized, and as such, the possession, the transportation, or the storage of any one or more of such POFs/POWs is strictly prohibited."

- Armor piercing ammunition
- Clubs
- Contraband POFs/POWs
- Destructive devices or components of such as listed in Title 18 United States Code, Section 844(j). This means any explosive or incendiary bomb, grenade, rocket or mine that is designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury, death, or substantial property damage, or for the principal purpose of causing such a loud report as to cause undue public alarm or terror, and includes a device designed, made, or adapted for delivery or shooting a destructive device. Includes any other compound, mixture, or device, which is an explosive within the meaning of Title 18 United States Code Section 232(5) or Section 844(j). The term includes fireworks, pyrotechnics, and any compounds for making destructive devices.

- Automatic (machine gun) POFs, stolen POFs, short barrel POFs, or POFs that have had the importers' or manufacturers' serial numbers removed or altered.

- POF silencers
- Hoax bombs
- Cane swords;

Knives with blades longer than three (3) inches; switch blade knives; daggers; to include but not limited to a dirk, stiletto, and poniard; bowie knives; martial arts throwing stars; and any other knives/devices that were designed or adapted to stab or cut

when thrown. Exceptions: Knives that were manufactured for preparing foods or for other legal purposes; if such knives are legally being used at legally being stored at, or legally being transported to or from functions where such knives are commonly required/authorized.

- Brass knuckles or other devices that were made, designed or adapted to be worn over the hand for the purpose of causing serious bodily injury or death by striking another person with a fist.

- Shooting pens or other pressure or percussion type devices that were designed to appear innocuous, but were manufactured or adapted for the purpose of discharging a projectile, producing an electrical shock or producing a toxic agent that can cause serious bodily injury of death.

- Illegal or unauthorized war trophies.
- Blowguns or similar devices that expel a dart or other object that can

cause serious bodily injury or death.

- Zip guns.
- Chemical dispensing devices, other than pepper and tear gas dispensers sold commercially for self-protection that were designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of dispensing a substance capable of causing an adverse psychological or physiological effect on a human being.
- Swords and spears may be maintained in family/bachelor quarters as part of a collection of souvenirs or for decorative purposes. Unless otherwise authorize by the installation commander, swords and spears are not permitted in the living areas of unit billets, offices, or other buildings.





Photo by Janet Bolin

Left to right, Caitlyn McCoole, Sean Chislett, and Jonathan Simpkins were selected to the ATSSB Area competition to be held Jan. 10 in Orange Grove, Texas.

## Cole talented students advance to area band competition

By Dr. Gloria Davis  
Fort Sam Houston ISD

Four Robert G. Cole High School band students were selected to the Association of Texas Small School Bands All-Region Band in La Vernia, Texas on Dec. 1. The students competed in the Music Region 12 tryout auditions against other area A, AA, and AAA district band students. Senior Ashley Cochran (clarinet), and juniors Caitlyn McCoole (clarinet), Sean Chislett (trumpet), and Jonathan Simpkins (percussion) received the honor and also participated in the All-Region Clinic and Concert in Lytle, Texas in mid-December.

Caitlyn McCoole, Sean Chislett, and Jonathan Simpkins were selected to the ATSSB Area competition that will be held on Jan. 10, in Orange Grove, Texas. The students will be competing against A, AA, and AAA band students from South and Central Texas for places in the ATSSB All-State Band and a concert at the Texas Music Educators Association State Convention, which will be held in San Antonio on Feb. 11-13. This is the second year Sean Chislett has been selected to the All-Region Band.

Fort Sam Houston ISD band director Jon

## SLS looking for young artists and writers for 'On the Move' magazine

The Fort Sam Houston School Liaison Services office announces the Military Child Education Coalition is looking for children's artwork, poems and essays for the "On The Move" magazine that will be published in April, the "Month of the Military Child" as well as a 2005 calendar. All entries must be postmarked by Feb. 15.

For more information, call Keith Toney at 221-9613 or e-mail at Keith.Toney@cen.amedd.army.mil or Denise Graham at (254) 953-1923 or e-mail at Denise.Graham@MilitaryChild.org.

Phillipus reports, "This is a very prestigious honor. Our students will not only get to participate in the All-State Convention with students from around the state, but they will also have other opportunities which will present themselves as a result, such as scholarship opportunities, etc."

## Fort Sam Houston ISD Weekly Calendar January 12-17, 2004

### Fort Sam Houston Elementary School

GATE Nominations Taken All Week

#### Tuesday, Jan. 13

- Group Pictures Taken

#### Wednesday, Jan. 14

- School Report Card Public Meeting in Library

#### Friday, Jan. 15

- Spirit Day

### Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School

#### Tuesday, Jan. 13

- Girls Soccer at Providence, 4:30 p.m.

- Boys Soccer vs Antonian at Cole, 6:30 p.m.

- Varsity Girls Basketball vs Randolph at Cole, 5 p.m.

- Boys Basketball vs Randolph at Central Post Gym, 5 and 8 p.m.

#### Friday, Jan. 16

- City Championship Swim Meet at SA Natatorium, 8 a.m.

- Girls Basketball at Poth, 5 and 6:30 p.m.

- Boys Basketball at Poth, 5 and 8 p.m.

Friends don't let friends



ride without a safety helmet.



Photo by Connie E. Dickey

More than 2,000 Advanced Individual Training Soldiers from Fort Sam Houston turned the Alamodome into a sea of green, as they cheered the East and West teams during the annual U.S. Army All-American Bowl Saturday.

## FSH provides 'Sea of Green' for All-American Bowl

By **Connie E. Dickey**  
**Army 5th Recruiting Brigade**

The Alamodome set the stage for more than 2,000 Fort Sam Houston Soldiers Saturday, as the U.S. Army All-American Bowl highlighted the top 78 high school football players from around the United States.

The Advanced Individual Training students assigned to the 32nd Medical Brigade, Army Medical Department Center and School, cheered the teams, split into an East vs. West competition.

More than 25,000 spectators, as well as Soldiers from the 82nd Airborne Division viewing the bowl game live in Ramadi, Iraq, watched as the East demolished the West 45-28.

This is the fourth year for the bowl game and the third year the game has been sponsored by the U.S. Army and played in San Antonio. Previously the game was aired on ESPN, but this year it was carried live on the NBC network.

Lt. Gen. Dennis Cavin, commander of the U.S. Army Accessions Command, said the bowl game helps the recruiting effort in reaching out to a cross-section of young Americans, but also reaches their parents, friends and relatives who help these young adults make important decisions.

The theme of the U.S. Army All-American Bowl this year is "Leadership and Teamwork in Action," and included introductions of some 80 Soldiers who have participated in Operation Iraqi

Freedom. The Soldiers were introduced as players and coaches were announced at the beginning of the game. Pre-game and halftime activities featured "An All-American Tribute to Freedom" honoring those 'heroes' serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

About 30 Fort Sam Houston Soldiers helped with moving equipment on and off the field during the activities and hustled in getting sound equipment and a stage set up during halftime for a special performance from five-time Grammy award winner, Alicia Keys.

More than four days of fun, competition and awareness led up to the game on Saturday. Prior to game day, several high school football players traveled to Brooke Army Medical Center to visit

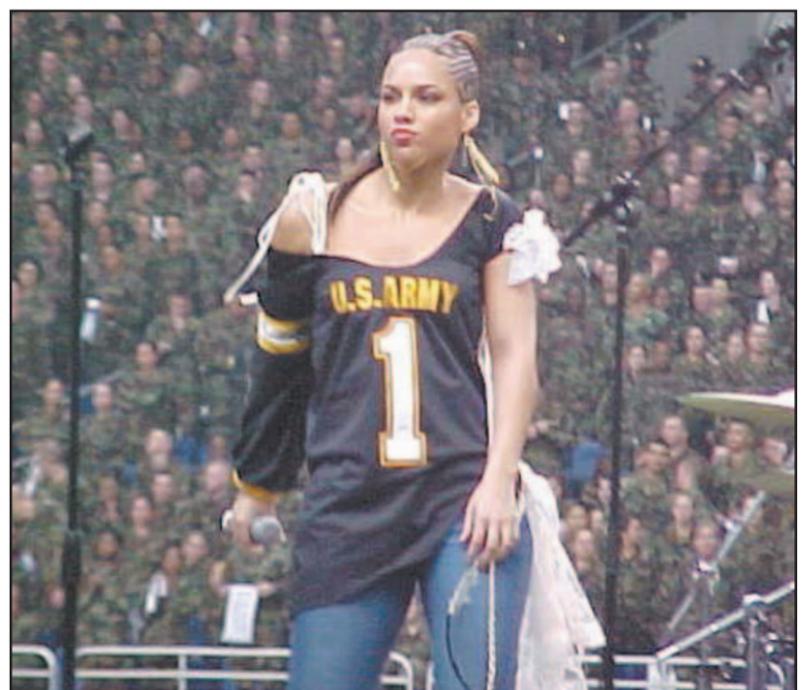
with patients there from Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq.

The football players, along with Col. James E. Granger, commander of the U.S. Army 5th Recruiting Brigade, talked with several wounded Soldiers at BAMC on Monday, Dec. 29.

On Friday, Jan. 2, the high school football coaches of the 78 players, plus local high school football coaches, were at the Fort Sam Houston NCO Club to hear Bobby Ross, former NFL and college coach and Arena Football Head Coach Joe Avezzano of the Dallas Desperados, speak about their individual coaching strategies and answered questions.



Photo by Connie E. Dickey



Courtesy photo

Five time Grammy award winner Alicia Keys entertained the troops during halftime activities.

Sgt. 1st Class Veronica McClain stands in front of some of the 32nd Medical Brigade Soldiers. More than 2,000 Advanced Individual Training Soldiers from Fort Sam Houston turned the Alamodome into a sea of green, as they cheered the East and West teams during the annual U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

# Families gather to bid farewell to BAMC troops



Photo by Nelia Schrum  
Jesse and Danny Izquierdo wave their flags in honor of their dad, Sgt. Daniel Izquierdo, a respiratory therapist, who will serve with the 31st Combat Support Hospital.



Photo by Nelia Schrum

Staff Sgt. Ryan Lampien, a pharmacy technician, and daughter Rainey, 5, share a playful moment Friday as they await the beginning of the farewell ceremony.



Photo by Mike Dulevitz

Deputy Commander for Nursing Col. Lark Ford says goodbye to Lt. Francella Smoker Friday who is holding her daughter Amber.



Photo by Nelia Schrum

Deploying physician, Lt. Col. Mark Dayrude, and sons, Breton (left) and Colton (right) watch as their wife and mom, Kathy, is interviewed by Shelly Miles from WOAI-TV.



Photo by Nelia Schrum

Maj. Dawn Garcia, a surgical nurse, gives her husband Jose a hug Friday before departing for a year long deployment to Iraq.

## Officer Christian Fellowship Bible study group

Are you interested in a Bible study? Join the Officer Christian Fellowship study group at the home of Lt. Col. Bob Griffith, 1008 Gorgas Circle, on Fridays. Come for supper at 6 p.m. or join us at 7 p.m. for a study of the Gospel of Luke.

For information, call Lt. Col. Griffith at 226-1295 or e-mail thegrif-gang@cs.com or Chaplain Schlichter at 221-1968 or e-mail david.schlichter@cen.amedd.army.mil.

## Blood is the fluid of life

The BAMC Blood Bank is running critically low of O Negative blood.

Akeroyd Blood Donor Center is reaching out to you for your support to accomplish a mission for life.

Contact the Donor Center to lend a helping hand. To donate blood now, call the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center at 295-4655 or 295-4989.



## Post worship schedule

**Main Post Chapel**, Bldg. 2200, phone numbers: (210) 221-2754.

**Catholic Services:**

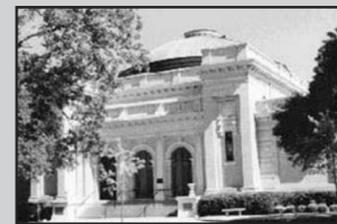
4:45-5:15 p.m. - Confessions - Saturdays  
5:30 p.m. - Mass - Saturdays  
9:30 a.m. - Mass - Sundays  
11:30 a.m. - Mass - Weekdays

**Protestant Services - Sundays:**

8 a.m. - Traditional Protestant  
11 a.m. - Traditional Protestant

**Jewish Services:** phone numbers: (210) 379-8666 or 493-6660.

Fridays: 8 p.m. - Worship and 8:30 p.m. - Oneg Shabbat



**Dodd Field Chapel**, Bldg. 1721, phone numbers:

(210) 221-5010 or 221-5432.

**Catholic Services - Sundays:**

12:30 p.m. - Bilingual Mass

**Protestant Services:**

8 a.m. - Contemporary Protestant - Sundays  
10:30 a.m. - Collective Gospel Protestant - Sundays  
9:30-11:30 a.m. - Women's Bible Study (PWOC) -  
Wednesdays, childcare is provided



**AMEDD Regimental Chapel & Evan's Auditorium**, Bldg. 1398, phone numbers: (210) 221-3390 or 221-4210.

**Catholic Services:** Sundays:

9:15 a.m. - 32nd Medical Bde. Soldiers

**Protestant Gospel Services:** Sundays:

11:30 a.m. - 32nd Medical Bde. Soldiers

**Evan's Auditorium:**

9:15 a.m. - 32nd Medical Bde. Soldiers

Protestant Service

11:30 a.m. - Troop Gospel Service



**FSH Mosque**, Bldg. 607A, phone numbers: (210) 221-5005 or 221-5007.

1:30 p.m. - Jumma - Fridays

10:30 a.m. - Children's Religious Education - Sundays

7:30 p.m. - Adult Religious Education - Thursdays

**Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel**, Bldg. 3600, phone number: (210) 916-1105.

**Catholic Services:**

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Sundays

11:15 a.m. - Mass - Sundays

11 a.m. - Mass - Weekdays

**Protestant Services:**

10 a.m. - Worship Service - Sundays

Noon - Worship - Wednesdays



**232nd Medical Battalion Classroom**, Bldg. 1380, phone numbers: (210) 221-5005 or 221-5007. **Mormon Services:** 10:30 a.m. - Sundays

**Web site:** [www.cs.amedd.army.mil/chaplain](http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/chaplain)

# The Randolph Roadrunners to host Trinity walks



Brian and Antonia M. Rafferty and "Frosty" stop for a picture in front of the Japanese Sunken Gardens along the walk trail last year.

Story and photo by Martin L. Callahan  
Special to the News Leader

The Randolph Roadrunners volkssport club will host its annual Trinity University 10-kilometer (6.2 mile) walks in San Antonio on Saturday, Jan. 10. The start point is at the Chapman Graduate Center and the start time is between 8 a.m. to noon, finish by 3 p.m.

The late architect O'Neil Ford originally modeled the 117-acre Trinity University campus on an Italian village, with distinctive red brick architecture. The most prominent feature that can be easily seen both on and off the spacious, beautifully landscaped campus is the Murchison Tower. You can visit Trinity University online at [www.trinity.edu/index.htm](http://www.trinity.edu/index.htm).

The Olmos Park walk will give you an excellent tour of the large homes and estates of the city. The city began in the 1920's as an exclusive community for dealers of automobiles and car batteries, lawyers and bankers. The advent of the automobile allowed suburbs such as Olmos Park to grow away from the trolley lines they had clustered around in the past.

The Monte Vista Historic District is the last

surviving neighborhood of San Antonio's "Gilded Age" (1890-1930) that has survived pretty much untouched. Famous Texas architects such as Alfred Giles, designed homes for the elite of the San Antonio community in the district. After walking through Monte Vista you will follow the trail through Brackenridge Park past the train station for the "Brackenridge Eagle" (a 1/5th scale model of a diesel-type train) and San Antonio Zoo that was built on ancient Spanish stone quarries.

Walkers will then follow the trail along the pylons for the Aerial Sky Ride up to a fabulous view of the beautiful Japanese Sunken Gardens. The Japanese Sunken Gardens were built in the pit of an abandoned quarry. Stone from this quarry was used to build the Quadrangle at historic Fort Sam Houston in 1876. You will next be treated to a great view of the Sunken Garden Theatre, a large open-air theater made in the style of an ancient Greek amphitheater, before returning to the finish.

For information, call Larry Cook at 525-8900 or e-mail him at [larcoo@texas.net](mailto:larcoo@texas.net) or view the club's Web site at [www.geocities.com/randolphroadrunners/](http://www.geocities.com/randolphroadrunners/)

## Recreation and Fitness

**MWR Web site** - Find all the latest news on Morale, Welfare, and Recreation programs, facilities and activities at [www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com](http://www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com).

**BOSS Valentine Dance** - Dance the night away at the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers Valentine's Day Dance Feb. 12, 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at the NCO club. Tickets are \$7. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served. Dress is casual/semi formal.

**BOSS Valentine Balloon Bouquets** - Show that special someone you care with a balloon bouquet. Orders begin Jan. 12. For information, call your BOSS representative or Spc. Phyll at 295-4054.

**Varsity Men's and Women's Softball Tryouts** - Tryouts will be held from Jan. 26-29, 6:30 p.m. Men's tryouts will be held at Leadership Field and the Women's will be at the Hacienda Field. For information, call Earl Young at 221-1180 or e-mail [earl.young@samhouston.army.mil](mailto:earl.young@samhouston.army.mil)

### Intramural Leagues:

For information on the following leagues, call 221-1180.

**Intramural Ping Pong** - Coaches meeting will be held tomorrow, Jan. 9, 1 p.m. in the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Season begins Jan. 16.

**Intramural Billiards** - Coaches meeting will be held tomorrow, Jan. 9, 1 p.m. in the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Season begins Jan. 16.

### Fitness Programs:

The following Fitness Programs are held at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center:

**Weight Loss Classes** - Every Tuesday, 10-10:30 a.m. and 5-5:30 p.m.

**Karate Classes** - Every Tuesday, 6:45-8:15 p.m. and every Friday, 6-7:30 p.m. Initiation fee is \$80 and includes uniform and belt; \$45 per month and \$35 per family member. For information, call Al Francis at 264-1391 or Lucian Kimble at 221-2020.

**Biking, Walking for Lunch Bunch, Stairmaster, and Bench Press** - These programs are just a few of the on-going fitness programs available at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center.

**Run/Walk for your Life** - Get in shape and stay in shape with this self-paced, progressive distance running program. Conducted in three phases, the Run/Walk for Your Life program is designed to improve the physical fitness and general health of all participants.

**60 Days of Fitness** - A motivating fitness and weight loss program to help you safely lose 15 pounds in 60 days using a point system. This self-paced program requires you workout 45 out of 60 days and includes a seven-page fitness assessment, body fat analysis and body measurements. You will also attend two 30-minute weight loss classes. Cost for the program is \$20, which includes a t-shirt.



Photo by Esther Garcia

### New recruits visit post facilities

U.S. Army Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Johnny Gray speaks about his military experiences to recently enlisted delayed entry program recruits on Saturday, Dec. 20. During the tour, which included lunch at the Rocco Dining Facility, the young men and women visited Benner Barracks, the Brought Fitness Center, the medical department and the post museums.



## Post Garage Sale, Feb. 7

The Post Garage Sale will be held Feb. 7, 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Location to be determined. To sign up, call 221-2926.

## Child and Youth Services offer program opportunities for military families

**Certified FCC providers available** - Family Child Care offers home-based childcare for ages 4 weeks to 12 years on and off post with certified providers. Types of care are full day, part day, before and after school care, hourly care, extended hours care and long term care. Referral information and child registration are available at Child and Youth Services Central Registration, 221-4871. FCC is looking for family members interested in becoming certified FCC providers to offer home based childcare. There is a no-cost start up plan. For more information, call 221-3820 or 221-3828.

**CDC has full day openings** - Child Development Center has immediate full day opening for children ages 3-5. To register, patrons will need to present

immunization records including Hepatitis A and a copy of a Leave and Earnings Statement. Fees range from \$181 - \$522 per month and are assessed by calculating total family income. For more information or to register, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

**3-Day Part Day Preschool enrollments** - The 3-Day Part Day Preschool has been placed on hold due to lack of enrollment numbers. If you are interested and have questions concerning the 3-Day Part Day Preschool Program, notify Central Registration to place your name on a list. Fees will range from \$151 - \$200 per month and will be assessed by calculating total family income.

**Wait List for full day care** - If your child's name is on the Wait List for full day care, check the status of the list

every 90 days from the day you complete the form; otherwise your child's name will be purged from the list. To check your status, call Central Registration 221-4871 or 221-1723.

**After school and weekend open recreation available at SAS** - School Age Services (Kindergarten - 5th grade) offers after school and weekend open recreation opportunities and after school hourly care options. Hourly care and open recreation must be reserved in advance by calling School Age Services at 221-4466. Children must be registered through Central Registration prior to utilizing the School Age program. To register, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

Instructional classes available - If you are interested in instructional classes

such as Tae Kwon Do, piano or gymnastics, call 221-4882 or 221-4871.

**Red Cross Babysitter Training Jan. 10** - Child and Youth Outreach Services will offer certified Red Cross Babysitter Training to youth ages 13 years old and up on Saturday, Jan. 10 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center. Cost is \$15. Bring a sack lunch. To register, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723. Space is limited.

**CYS registration increases from \$15 to \$18** - Child and Youth Services registration fee increased from \$15 per child to \$18 per child or maximum registration fee of \$40 (from \$35) per family for 3 or more children. This is a requirement from Department of Defense and must be implemented consistently within and across installation management agency.

# BAMC taps 20 for Order of Military Medical Merit

Story and photo by Nelia Schrum  
BAMC Public Affairs

Nineteen Soldiers and one civilian from Brooke Army Medical Center received the Army's Order of Military Medical Merit at a Dec. 20 ceremony at the Marriott Rivercenter.

The Order of Military Medical Merit, established in 1982, recognizes excellence and promotes fellowship and esprit de corps among Army Medical Department personnel.

Members of the Order are recognized for the dedicated application of talent, effort and spirit while making exemplary contributions to the Army Medical Department. The award recognizes military members, civilians and retirees who have made significant contributions to Army medicine over a substantial period of time. The awardees are considered to be in the top 10 percent of their respective fields.

Since the Order of Military Medical Merit was established 21 years ago, approximately 6,000 individuals have been granted membership.

Each new inductee from BAMC



Master Sgt. Todd Rich receives the Order of Military Medical Merit Dec. 20 from Brig. Gen. C. William Fox, Jr. Rich is the senior clinical non-commissioned officer for the Department of Nursing.

received a medallion from the Commander, Brig. Gen. C. William Fox, Jr.

The BAMC inductees include 13 officers:

Col. Mark Bagg, chief of orthopedics and consultant to the Surgeon General, Col. Michael Kaminski, chief of

Optometry; Lt. Col. Debra Aparico, civilian nurse liaison; Lt. Col. Christine Halder, BAMC's Executive Officer; Lt. Col. Richard Harris, chief of the Animal Lab Science Services; Lt. Col. Joseph Helminiak, chief of Anesthesiology; Lt. Col. Christopher Meilinger, chief of

Clinical Operations; Lt. Col. Michael Morris, assistant chief of Clinical Investigations and chief of Microbiology Services; Lt. Col. William Nauschuetz, Army Lab Response Network clinical coordinator; Lt. Col. Linda Robinette, chief nurse for Medical Surgical; Lt. Col. Beatrice Stephens, chief nurse for Critical Care; Maj. Danny Jaghab, chief educational training, Nutrition Care Division; and Chief Warrant Officer Charles Wood, chief of Medical Maintenance.

Six non-commissioned officers selected for the Order of Military Medical Merit include: Sgt. Major Eddie Jones from Security Plans and Operations; 1st Sgt. Alexis Arturo King, from BAMC's Bravo Company; 1st Sgt. Jose Adrian Barcedo from BAMC's Charlie Company; Master Sgt. Jorge Morales-Scharon, with the Medical Surgery Department; Master Sgt. Todd Rich, the senior clinical non-commissioned officer in the Department of Nursing; and Sgt. 1st Class Karon Floyd, with BAMC's Clinical Investigations.

One civilian, Rose Juarez, who serves BAMC as the chief of the Civilian Resources Branch was selected for the honor.

## Promotion easier for mobilized Army Reserve Component officers

Opportunities to promote U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard officers during mobilization have been expanded, according to a new Army policy. The Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Reginald Brown, recently signed the policy change, which will impact deployed reserve officers.

The policy for promoting officers to the ranks of captain through colonel in the Selected Reserve has been modified to allow immediate promotion for officers to a vacant position of a higher grade. The revised Army promotion policy satisfies the needs of the Army's manning requirement and is consistent with the Reserve Officer Personnel Management Act.

ROPMA requires, as a condition for promotion, that officers in the Selected Reserve be assigned to a permanent Reserve Component position requiring the higher grade, or transferred to the

Individual Ready Reserve when they meet their maximum time in grade. Under this new policy, Reserve Component officers are promoted and serve at the higher grade while mobilized, but have a requirement to transfer within 180 days of demobilizing to either a vacant higher graded position or the Individual Ready Reserve—whether a member of the Army Reserve or Army National Guard.

Within the Army Reserve, a mobilized officer who is approved for promotion may be promoted immediately to a vacant position of higher grade in the U.S. Army Reserve. Within the Army National Guard, a mobilized officer on an approved promotion list may be promoted immediately when appointed in the state to a vacant position of higher grade in a federally recognized unit in the National Guard.

The revised policy impacts officers involuntarily mobilized, either as an indi-

vidual or with their unit, to support current operations.

The Global War on Terrorism had an impact on promoting Reserve Component Officers mobilized in the service of our Nation. Reserve Component officers, when mobilized, were limited in their ability to transfer to positions of higher grade to accept promotions because they were generally tied to the position in which they were called to active duty. By having limited opportunities to transfer from the position in which they were mobilized, they were potentially disadvantaged, and could have been delayed in obtaining a promotion. Therefore, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs has modified the Army's existing policy for promoting officers to the ranks of captain through colonel in the Selected Reserve.

Certain officers not covered by the mobilization promotion policy Selected

Reserve officers who are in the Chaplain, Judge Advocate, Medical and Dental Corps are covered by Army regulations that allow for their promotion, to include promotion while mobilized, without a vacant unit position in the higher grade. A second group of officers—those assigned to the Individual Ready Reserve—are promoted without a vacant unit position of a higher grade. Officers assigned to the Individual Ready Reserve are promoted on the date they complete the maximum years of time in grade: five years for first lieutenants, and seven years for captains and majors.

The intent of Congress in implementing ROPMA was to tie Reserve Component officer promotions in the Selected Reserve to valid Reserve Component vacancies in a higher grade. Congress expected Reserve Component officer promotions to be aligned with manning requirements and Army needs.

## Contributions to AAFES' 'Gifts from the Homefront' program tops \$300,000

Since its inception, more than 16,000 Americans have made a contribution to the Army & Air Force Exchange Service's Gifts from the Homefront program. "We saw a tremendous amount of support during the past thirty days," said Cyber Region Vice President Bob Carreras. "The holidays prompted many people to think about America's deployed troops."

Since Dec. 11, AAFES issued nearly 4,000 gift certificates worth \$77,080. This outpouring of support contributed to pushing total "Gifts from the Homefront" donations to \$325,045. The troops serving in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom are the ultimate benefactors of the gift certificate program, according to Lt. Col. Debra Pressley. "As of today,

AAFES' 'Gifts from the Homefront' initiative has generated more than \$300,000 for the support of deployed Soldiers and Airmen. The program is proving to be an incredible morale boost for deployed troops."

Because the gift certificates can be used for merchandise already stocked at AAFES locations in OIF/OEF, "Gifts from the Homefront" are a safe alternative to traditional care packages that place unnecessary strain on the military mail system. Furthermore, Soldiers are sure to get exactly what they need with the certificates that can be applied to a wide range of products. Reports from Iraq indicate that the certificates that have been distributed are being used for the latest CDs and DVDs, comfort items such as

snacks and beverages and phone cards for those all-important calls home.

Those wishing to send a "Gift from the Homefront" can simply log on to [aafes.com](http://aafes.com) or call (877) 770-4438 to purchase gift certificates in \$10, \$20, \$25 or \$50 denominations. From there, the "Gift from the Homefront" is sent to an individual service member designated by the purchaser or distributed to "any service member" through organizations such as the American Red Cross, Air Force Aid Society or Fisher House.

"Gifts from the Homefront" gift certificates can be redeemed at any AAFES facility in the world including OIF/OEF locations. To date, AAFES operates some 52 stores throughout central and southwest Asia (31 in Iraq/three in

Afghanistan), serving troops and lifting morale of those soldiering in austere, harsh conditions.

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service is a joint command of the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force, and is directed by a Board of Directors who is responsible to the Secretaries of the Army and the Air Force through their Chiefs of Staff. AAFES has the dual mission of providing authorized patrons with articles of merchandise and services and of generating non-appropriated fund earnings as a supplemental source of funding for military Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. To find out more about AAFES' history and mission or to view recent press releases visit our Web site at [www.aafes.com/pa/default](http://www.aafes.com/pa/default).



1st Lt. Greg Santiago, Brooks City Base, and 1st Lt. Lauren Steinmetz, Wilford Hall Medical Center, Pediatric Oncology Unit, helped Santa distribute special packages to families.

## Optimist clubs help young patients

Story and photo by Phil Reidinger  
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

The Fort Sam Houston and the Alamo Heights Optimist Clubs sponsored a special holiday party at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Course. The party was for the hematology and oncology pediatric unit at Wilford Hall Medical Center. The families of 21 patients enjoyed a special evening surrounded by optimist club members who helped Santa present special gifts to the pediatric patients. Betty Gower, president of the Fort Sam Houston Optimist Club, greeted Santa played by Tom Auxier. Tom Morefield, a member of the Town and Country Optimist Club, and chairman of the Clown Patrol created animal figure balloons to the delight of the children. The optimist clubs joined with City Brooks Base employees to provide patients and families toys donated for the party.

## Fort Freebies



Freebies are published on a first come, first serve basis. Commercial advertisements are prohibited. The deadline is noon Monday. Freebies are intended for personal household goods and privately owned property, and may only be submitted by active, retired or reserve component military members and civilian employees working on Fort Sam Houston. To submit paid classified ads or commercial advertising, contact Prime Time at 453-3300. To submit a Fort Freebie, e-mail to: [news.leader@samhouston.army.mil](mailto:news.leader@samhouston.army.mil) or fax to 221-1198. Ensure your military/Fort Sam Houston civil service status, phone number and name appears on request. Limit of five items per entry.

**For Sale:** German shepherd female dog about one year old, has all shots and is very active and playful, \$250 cash. Call 916-3206 daytime or 661-5960 after 6 p.m.

**For Sale:** 2002 Gold Honda Reflex, 250 cc. 70 mpg, 85 mph top speed, Givi extended windshield, travel box, extended warranty, three helmets, crank type hauler fits in 2 inch receiver hitch, all for \$3,500. Call 493-0183.

**For Sale:** 1976 Seacrest bass boat, rebuilt 40 hp mercury outboard, loaded to include trolling motor, Bimini top and extra propeller, galvanized trailer, \$2,000. Call 493-0183.

**For Sale:** 1991 Ford Escort, 4-door, auto, A/C \$1,000 obo. Call 654-0578 and leave a message.

**For Sale:** Hundreds of children's books, \$.50 each, Playstation, \$50. Call 229-1707.

**For Sale:** Two wing back chairs, fabric upholstered, \$45 each or 80 for both. Call 342-6407.

**For Sale:** GE dryer, \$50; Sanyo refrigerator, \$45; entertainment center, \$65; PC, monitor, keyboard and mouse, \$99; Chinese rug, \$120; and many more items. Call 637-6579 or 241-1291.

**For Sale:** American Airline ticket to anywhere within the 48 states. Ticket is good through December 31, 2004, \$300. Call 637-6579 or 241-2191.

**For Rent:** Cozy 1 bedroom duplex, living room, dining room, hardwood floors, and more, located close to FSH, off Broadway Blvd. Rent is \$490 for military, \$515 for non-military. Credit check/lease required. Call 916-2482 or 822-6592.

## Career Clips



The Army Career and Alumni Program office provides numerous services to eligible people in transition including job assistance. Information on these and other positions is available to ACAP customers in the ACAP office, Bldg. 2264 or call 221-1213.

**Health Information Manage Coder** - San Antonio. CCS and RHIT and one to two years of acute care hospital-coding experience.

**Health Care Finder** - San Antonio. Will be screening referral request for medical necessity and appropriateness using Milliman and Robertson criteria and screening preauthorization requests. Must have great data entry and computer skills

**Mammography Technologist** - San Antonio. Patient care, friendly to all customers and patients at all times. Understands and uses the scales, field of view, gain, voltage, amps and other adjustments and factors on the equipment in order to produce high quality images. Quality Control and Safety.

## FSH Technology Exposition 2004, Jan. 15

The Fort Sam Houston Technology Exposition will be held on Thursday, Jan. 15 in the Fort Sam Houston Officers' Club, Bldg. 407 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

More than 20 exhibitors will be demonstrating the latest in computer hardware, software and information services.

Some featured technologies include: Knowledge Management Solutions, Data Warehousing, Network Operations Services, Information Assurance/Security, Mobile/Wireless Computing, Collaboration Tools, Hardware/Software and Much More!

Complimentary refreshments and free giveaways will be available while supplies last. POC is Terran Potor at 888-603-8899 ext. 219 or [potor@ncsievents.com](mailto:potor@ncsievents.com)

## Civilian Workshop Schedule

The Army Career and Alumni Program staff will conduct Resume, Writing, and Interviewing Workshops for DoD civilian employees who are contemplating leaving federal service workforce. Workshops are being offered on the following dates: Jan. 28, Feb. 11, March 10.

To register as an ACAP client and to reserve a seat in one of the workshops, call 221-1213. Workshops will be cancelled and clients rescheduled, if there are less than 10 confirmed attendees one week prior to the workshop. Register now and get your friends and family members to do the same.

## Need an ID Card?



The ID Card Office located in Bldg. 367, has resumed accepting appointments in the afternoon from 1-3:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. Normal walk-ins are still between the hours of 7:30-11 a.m., daily. To schedule an appointment, call 221-2278 or 221-0415. You can also obtain an ID Card at the Brooke Army Medical Center ID Card Office, located in the lower floor within the TRICARE Office. To schedule an appointment, call 916-0838.

## Vehicle registration is mandatory on post

Vehicle registration on this installation is mandated by AMEDDC&S and Fort Sam Houston (FSH) Regulation 190-5. Paragraph 1-6 of the regulation is paraphrased as follows: "All Privately Owned Vehicles (POVs), to include motorcycles/mopeds, that are owned or operated by active duty or retired military personnel, their family members, civilians employed on FSH and its sub-installations, and persons having valid reasons for entering the installation frequently, will register the vehicles at the Provost Marshal's Office Vehicle Registration Office, Bldg. 367."

Paragraph 2-5, Army Regulation 190-5, Motor Vehicle Traffic Supervision, requires commanders and supervisors to enforce the POV registration program. Failure to comply with registration requirements may result in withdrawal of on-post driving privileges, and other disciplinary or administrative actions, as may be taken by the commanders or supervisors.

During recent inspections at the Binz-Engleman and Walters Street gates, military police inspected 920 vehicles. Following the inspections owners of 74 vehicles registered their vehicles on site. Military police issued 41 traffic citations for operating vehicles with expired driver's licenses, no proof of current insurance, or expired state vehicle registration in addition to other offenses.



## Community events

### Auditions for 'Steel Magnolias' at Harlequin

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre will hold open auditions on Jan. 12 and 13, 7-8:30 p.m. for Steel Magnolias, with Bruce E. Shirky directing. There are roles for six women. Other volunteers are needed as light and sound technicians, props and stage crew. Performances will be Wednesday through Saturday evenings from Feb. 25 through March 27. Those who come to auditions should enter Fort Sam Houston through the Walters Street gate. For more information, call the Harlequin Dinner Theatre at 222-9694.

### 'Murder at the Vicarage' at Harlequin

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre is featuring 'Murder at the Vicarage' a mystery by Agatha Christie, Wednesday through Saturday evenings from Jan. 14 through Feb. 14.

Prices are \$25.95 on Fridays and Saturdays and \$22.95 on Wednesdays and Thursdays. There are discounts for military and students. The theatre opens for salad bar and cocktails at 6:15 p.m., the buffet is open from 6:30-7:30, and curtain is at 8 p.m. For reservations, call the Harlequin Dinner Theatre at 222-9694. The box office is open from noon to 5 p.m. weekdays and 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. Theatre is handicapped accessible.

## Otras Cosas

### Workforce Recruitment Program for college students with disabilities

The Department of Defense pays salaries and work years and you get a great college student to work for you for the summer. Students may be employed on or after May 15 and must be off the rolls no later than Sept. 30. Submit a brief statement of essential job skills/college studies a student should have that are related to the job you wish to fill for the summer to no later than Jan. 28 to Glennis.Ribblett@samhouston.army.mil. For information, call Glennis Ribblett at 221-9401, or fax number 221-2126.

### Tuition assistance available for active duty Soldiers

Tuition assistance for active duty Soldiers is \$4,500 per fiscal year with a cap of \$250 per semester hour to include fees. The current policy of \$4,500 per year is still in effect for the U.S. Army in fiscal year 2004. Soldiers will need a degree plan from the university or college they are attending no later than completion of nine semester hours. This is a regulatory requirement that must be complied with prior to continuing in any college program. Visit the Army Continuing Education System, Bldg. 2248, to review educational goals with a professional guidance counselor. To schedule an appointment, call 221-1738.

### Ten Star All-Star Basketball Camp

Applications are now being evaluated for the Ten Star All-Star Summer Basketball Camp. This camp is by invitation only. Boys and girls ages 10-19 are eligible to apply. Past participants include Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, and Vince Carter. Players from 50 states and 11 foreign countries attend the camp. Basketball scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American team. For a free brochure, call (794) 373-0873 anytime.

### Visit the new MWR ticket office

The new MWR Ticket Office is located in Bldg. 1395 on Chaffee Road in the main entrance of the NCO Club. Hours of operation are Tuesday - Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Office has season passes for Splash Town, Fiesta Texas and tickets for Ripley's Wax Museum, Imax Theater and San Antonio Tours. For information,

# ¿Que Pasa?

call 224-2721.

### Turn-ins by appointments only at DRMO San Antonio

Notice to all generators, DRMO San Antonio effective January 2004, Turn-ins by appointment only. To schedule appointments, call 221-3657, 3651 or 3662. For information, call Barbara Roberts at 221-3738 or Mary Rocha at 221-3657.

### Scholarship applications now being accepted

Established in 1992, the Bernard P. Randolph Scholarship Fund supports college-bound seniors or full- and part-time college students in the San Antonio military, civilian, or dependent community. Independent evaluators will judge 600-800 word essays. Applications may be obtained at Brooks City-Base, Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases and Fort Sam Houston libraries, education offices, or Family Support Centers. Applications and essays are due at 1 p.m., Feb. 4. The scholarships will range from \$500 to \$1,000 and will be awarded at the Scholarship Luncheon, Feb. 25, 11:15 a.m. at Brooks Air Force Base. For more information, call Lt. Lorrie C. Carter at 536-4896 or Lt. Goldie Boone at 536-6727 or visit the Web site [www.brooks.af.mil/aaca/](http://www.brooks.af.mil/aaca/).

### Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial NASA Space Camp Scholarship information available

Keith Toney, Fort Sam Houston School Liaison Officer, has information on the 2004 Bernard Curtis Brown II Memorial NASA Space Camp Scholarship. Bernard, the 11-year-old son of Chief Petty Officer and Mrs. Bernard Curtis Brown, was killed on September 11, 2001, when the hijacked airliner on which he was a passenger, crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. At the time, he was on his way to represent his school at a National Geographic event. The Military Child Education Coalition funds the scholarship. For information, call Keith Toney at 221-9613 or visit the MCEC Web site at [www.spacecamp.com](http://www.spacecamp.com).

### Direct commissioning program available

The U.S. Army Health Care Recruiting Team is looking for qualified applicants for their direct commissioning program. Anyone working toward a bachelors' degree in any science, nursing, physics, nutrition or engineering may qualify to become an Army officer. Interested individuals can apply at anytime. The program is open to active duty, reserve, National Guard and civilians. For information, call Capt. Beverly S. Casiano at 692-7376 or 834-7879 or e-mail at [Beverly.Casiano@usarec.army.mil](mailto:Beverly.Casiano@usarec.army.mil).

### Check out the new improved ACAP Web site

The Army Career and Alumni Program Web page has been upgraded. There is much more information now available for transitioners, employers and Army leaders. All are encouraged to take a look at the Web site and see what might be useful to you, [www.acap.army.mil](http://www.acap.army.mil).

## In the classroom

### Red Cross Babysitter training offered at CYS

Child and Youth Outreach Services will offer certified Red Cross Babysitter training for youth ages 13 years old and older on Saturday, Jan. 10 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center. Cost is \$15. Bring a sack lunch. Spaces are limited, call Central Registration to reserve a space at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

### Become a certified teacher while earning a master's degree

St. Mary's University offers a graduate program designed for students with a four years degree to become a certified teacher after taking 18 semester hours while earning a Master of Arts in Educational Leadership. The courses are taught at Fort Sam Houston and St. Mary's campus. Active duty military, retired military, DoD employees and spouses are eligible for substantial tuition

grants. Spring 2004 begins Jan. 12. For information, call the St. Mary's representative at 226-3360 or visit the office in Bldg. 2247.

### DMRTI to host course Jan. 11-16

The Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute will host the Joint Operations Medical Managers Course at the Hilton Austin Airport in Austin, Texas. For course information, contact Tech. Sgt. Ramirez at 221-9218. To register, call Master Sgt. Rodriguez at 221-9029.

### Free computer training for family members

Family Member Employment Assistance offers free computer training for family members. Morning and afternoon training sessions are available on all Microsoft Office software and much more. Appointments are required. For information, call Pat Fory at 221-0516.

### ESL classes for foreign-born spouses are back

English as a second language classes will be held every Monday and Wednesday, 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Bldg. 2797. These classes are for foreign-born spouses to increase reading comprehension, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Classes are appropriate for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. Region 20 Education Center and the Army Community Service Relocation Program sponsor classes. For information, call 221-2418.

## Meetings

### Installation Sergeant Audie Murphy Board set for Jan. 12

The next Installation Sergeant Audie Murphy Board will be held on Jan. 12, in the AMEDD Center and School Conference Room, Room 305. For more information, see your unit's first sergeant or command sergeant major.

### Purple Heart veterans sought

Purple Heart Veterans are invited to join the meeting of Military Order of the Purple Heart on the first Saturday of every month, 9 a.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center to learn more about combat related entitlements and claims benefits. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Bring your DD For 214 and a short biography.

### USAWOA - Lone Star Chapter meetings

The Lone Star Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at VFW Post #8541, 2222 Austin Highway (between Eisenhower and Walzem Road). All active duty, retired, Reserve, National Guard and family members of current or former Warrant Officers are invited to attend. For information, call WO1 Matthew Watterson at 295-8773 or e-mail [matthew.watterson@us.army.mil](mailto:matthew.watterson@us.army.mil).

### FSH Sergeants Major Association seeks new members

The Fort Sam Houston Sergeants Major Association meets every third Thursday of the month, 6 p.m. in the FSH NCO Club. Retired Sgt. Maj. Howard T. Ray, president of the association, extends a cordial invitation to all Active Duty and retired command sergeants major, sergeants major and master sergeants on the promotion list from all service branches to attend the meetings and share in the relaxed atmosphere of our social activities. For membership information, call Sgt. Maj. Hector Viczaino at 221-7305.

### Calling all single Soldiers to join BOSS

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of every month, 1:30 p.m. at the Hacienda Recreation Center. The BOSS committee was established to provide Soldier input to the commander, who uses the committee's recommendations to improve single Soldiers' Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. For information, call BOSS President Kimberly Vaughan at 916-1772 or BOSS Program Manager Ben Paniagua at 224-7250.