



News Leader[®]

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Fort Sam Houston — Home of Army Medicine

January 15, 2004

Briefs

MLK Remembrance Day, today

A ceremony honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. will be held today, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Roadrunner Community Center. Installation Chaplain (Col.) Edward Maney will be the keynote speaker.

OCSC Bingo Luncheon, Jan. 20

The Officer and Civilian Spouses' Club of Fort Sam Houston will hold their January Bingo Luncheon on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 11 a.m. at the Officers' Club. For reservations, call Brenda Hebron at 444-0259 or Karen Cole at 564-0124 by noon tomorrow.

Wilson Gate closed Jan. 21

The Wilson Vehicle Access Control Point will be closed for installation of the new gate on Wednesday, Jan. 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Normal operating hours will resume after the new gate is installed.

ID Card Sections closed Jan. 27

"The ID Card Sections in Bldg. 367, Processing Center, and Bldg. 1290, Student Personnel Center, will be closed on Tuesday, Jan. 27. Both sections will resume service on Wednesday, Jan. 28, at 7:30 a.m.

FSH ISD Board meeting Jan. 29

The Fort Sam Houston ISD Board of Trustees will meet Thursday, Jan. 29, at 11 a.m. at the Fort Sam Houston ISD Professional Development Center, 1908 Winans Road.



New Braunfels gate study begins Jan. 20

Story and photo by Phil Reidinger
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

Between Jan. 20 and Feb. 20, the New Braunfels gate at Grayson Street will be open from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. for exiting traffic only. The Law Enforcement Command will operate the gate during these designated times, Monday through Friday.

The U.S. Army Fort Sam Houston Garrison command is conducting an environmental assessment to evaluate the impacts of mandatory access control

requirement at Fort Sam Houston gates.

The Law Enforcement Command will be recording gate usage information. The Law Enforcement Command will maintain a usage log for analysis in conjunction with a study of various alternatives under review regarding post access procedures.

The Law Enforcement Command and the Public Works Directorate have been collecting traffic flow data on various streets and at the currently operating Fort Sam Houston gates.

New Braunfels/Grayson gate opera-

tions are a continuation of an ongoing data collection to support the Fort Sam Houston environmental assessment evaluating impacts of current post access control procedures.

The pedestrian gate that is currently operated on Grayson Street will remain open and with no change in current operating hours.

The Fort Sam Houston Garrison will prepare a draft assessment environmental document that will be available for public comment in a variety of locations to include Fort Sam Houston at a later date.

Soldiers, officers can now view records online

Soldiers can now review their personnel information on the Web in a one-page Enlisted Records Brief. Official photographs were added last month to the online Officer Records Briefs, which first became available on the Web in June. The ERBs went online in December.

MyERB and MyORB are now both on the U.S. Army Human Resources Command homepage at <https://www.hrc.army.mil>. Just click on the "Active" link at bottom right. Then the MyORB and MyERB links can be found in the left chimney.

The Web-based solution enables active-duty Soldiers to prepare for promotions by

reviewing their records summary via the Internet, HRC officials said. Army Reserve Soldiers and officers can review some of their personnel information via the My2Xcitizen portal. Both the HRC and Reserve portals require Army Knowledge Online accounts and passwords.

"We believe that Soldiers' access to their personnel information is the best it's ever been with the ERB going online," said Col. Reuben Jones, commander of the Enlisted Records and Evaluation Center.

"If Soldiers need to make changes they should still contact their S-1," Jones said. "Once changes are made in eMILPO,

Soldiers should see corrections to their ERB within 24 to 48 hours."

The ERB virtually replaces two forms — the old three-page ERB and the four-page DA form 2-1 for enlisted personnel, officials said. They added that the new ERB is now available for viewing 24/7 on the EREC homepage.

Similar to the ORB, the ERB contains personnel information used to manage professional development, assignments, and promotions such as assignment history, civilian and military education, awards and decorations, special skills, and individual qualifications. Both documents are updated from the data stored in eMILPO.

Currently, only the ORB includes a photo. The ERB will incorporate enlisted official photographs from the Department of the Army Photo Management Information System, known as DAPMIS, in a couple of months, officials said.

The ORB site has had about 25,000 "hits" since Dec. 18 when the photos were added.

"It is important that everyone ensures personnel information is accurate and updated," said Brig. Gen. Rhett Hernandez, director of Officer Personnel, HRC. "MyORB with the photo is another step toward that end state."

Source: Army News Service

VA directive gives 'priority access' to disabled veterans

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

The Veterans Affairs Department wants to send veterans with service-connected medical problems to the front of the line when it comes to receiving medical treatment at VA facilities.

VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi issued a new directive to all VA medical facilities requiring that "priority

access" be given to qualifying veterans seeking appointments for treatment.

The directive covers hospitalization and outpatient care, and does not apply to veterans seeking care for medical problems not related to a service-connected disability.

Priority access, Principi explained, means that when qualifying veterans come to a VA treatment facility for inpatient or outpatient care, they will receive an appointment within 30 days.

"It's really as simple as that," he said. Veterans seeking treatment need only let the administrative clerk or nurse know of their service-connected disability status, the secretary added.

If a VA facility is unable to schedule an appointment within the 30-day time limit, an appointment must be arranged for care at another VA facility, or at a facility under contract in the private sector.

See VA on Page 3

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.



Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Commander's Holiday Safety Message



Daniel F. Perugini
Brig. Gen., MC
Commanding

On Jan. 19, Soldiers, civilians, and their families will honor the life of a great American, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. During the holiday period, Jan. 16-19, we will all celebrate in our own way, but I hope we will do so safely. No matter where your long holiday weekend takes you, whether on the highways, to recreational areas, or if you stay at home, remember to be smart and avoid hazards.

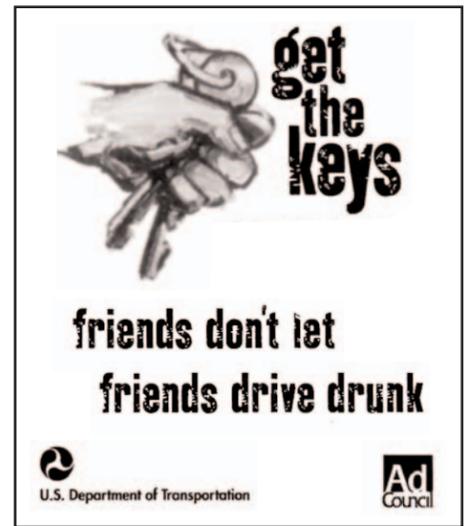
Commanders and directors will ensure aggressive and positive actions are initiated to impress upon each Soldier and civilian the importance of their individual role in accident prevention. As a minimum, commanders and directors will emphasize

the main causes of traffic related deaths and injuries within the U.S. Army Community.

These causes are:

- Excessive speed for conditions.
- Driver fatigue.
- Failure to yield the right of way.
- Failure to use child restraint devices and seat belts.

I wish you all a safe holiday weekend and hope you will take advantage of this time to remember Dr. King's many contributions toward human justice and the challenge he presented to each and every one of us to keep his dream alive.



Fort Sam Houston News Leader

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Revision made to hard copy LES

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 Earning Statement. This change is being expedited because of concerns with identity theft and will affect the hard copy LES, which is mailed to 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 you 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 one via the current Web site.

Source: DFAS news release.



Photo by Nelia Schrum

Tilley visits BAMC patients

Sergeant Major of the Army Jack Tilley visits with Sgt. Shawn Monroe Jan. 4. Monroe, a military policeman, was injured in October by mortar fire in Iraq.

GAO upholds TRICARE award to Express Scripts Inc.

Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr., assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, announced recently that on Jan. 12 the Department of Defense received notice that the General Accounting Office upheld the award of the TRICARE Retail Pharmacy Contract to Express Scripts Inc. of Maryland Heights, Mo. The TRICARE Retail Pharmacy contract is for a pharmacy benefits manager to provide a nationwide network of retail pharmacies to fill prescriptions for TRICARE beneficiaries in the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The GAO review was prompted by protests filed by four of the losing bidders: ACS State Healthcare LLC, PharmaCare Government Services Inc., PBGA LLC, and Humana Military Healthcare Services Inc.

"We are pleased with the GAO's decision and look forward to continuing our work with Express Scripts on the transition of this important healthcare benefit to a new and innovative contract. This decision is a clear recogni-



tion of the integrity and diligence applied by the government team that had the daunting task of reviewing a large number of highly competitive proposals," said Winkenwerder.

The new contract is designed to improve service and satisfaction for TRICARE beneficiaries and substantially reduce the cost of the benefit to the American taxpayer. DoD will implement the new contract in 2004 as a key part of the transformation of the military health system. DoD and the outgoing and incoming contractors will take

every measure to assure uniformed services beneficiaries of a seamless transition of the retail pharmacy and all other healthcare benefits.

The TRRx contract was awarded to ESI on September 26, 2003. The total value of the contract, which does not include the cost of prescriptions paid with government funds, is estimated at \$245,439,268 for the period of performance, including the 6-month base period and five 1-year option periods. The transition to the new retail pharmacy contract began on October 1, 2003, with the turnover of responsibility for delivery of retail pharmacy services occurring nationwide on April 1, 2004. The contract was competitively procured with seven offers received, and the TRICARE Management Activity, Aurora, Colo., is the contracting activity. ESI was previously awarded a contract in September 2002, to provide a worldwide full-service mail order pharmacy program to the 8.9 million Military Health System beneficiaries.

Source: TRICARE news release.

Federal hiring of nation's military veterans increases

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**
American Forces Press Service

Hiring of military veterans across the federal civilian work force increased in fiscal 2002, the government's director of personnel recently reported.

In fact, hiring of veterans in the federal work force was up more than 19 percent over the previous fiscal year, Kay Coles James, director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, noted in her agency's most recent annual report to Congress, dated Sept. 30.

In a Jan. 5 OPM news release, James asserted that the employment of veterans

within the federal government and in private industry is appropriate, because "the many freedoms we enjoy as a nation did not come freely. They were earned through the lives and selfless sacrifices of our veterans."

According to the OPM report, 47,510 veterans were hired government-wide in fiscal 2002, compared to 39,874 hired the year before, representing a 19.2 percent increase.

About one out of 10 veterans hired in government during fiscal 2002 worked in professional occupations, the report noted, while 25.8 percent of new veteran hires worked in administrative jobs and 19 percent took blue-collar jobs.

The OPM report noted that the percentage of disabled veterans in the federal civilian work force was 4.5 percent in fiscal 2002, a drop of 0.1 percent from the previous year. However, the percentage of veterans in the federal work force with 30 percent or more disability in fiscal 2002 was up 1.9 percent over the previous year.

The Defense Department hired 21,657 veterans in fiscal 2002, representing 45.6 percent of all new veteran hires across the federal government that year, according to the OPM report. Non-DoD federal organizations with the highest percentages of all new veteran hires in fiscal 2002 included the Veterans Affairs Department with 23.5

percent, and the Justice Department with 19.7 percent.

In OPM's fiscal 2002 congressional report, James said she was proud of federal agencies' efforts in hiring veterans.

"With our military actively engaged in the fight against terrorism, we must not falter in our commitment to the employment of these dedicated Americans," James declared.

"Nor can we forget," she continued, "that disabled veterans are heroes who have paid a price so dear that it will stay with them for the rest of their lives."

The federal government employed 450,100 veterans during fiscal 2002, according to the OPM report.

VA

Continued from page 1

"I've always felt that it is important to give veterans with service-connected disabilities a priority for care," he said. "I want to make sure that those who have disability related to military service have a high priority for health care, whether it is inpatient or outpatient, and this new priority scheme is to ensure that those who are disabled go to the 'front of the line.'"

The new policy will not be without its challenges. Some 25 million veterans are in VA's health care system, and the department reports the number of veterans seek-

ing medical care has risen significantly, from 2.9 million in 1995 to nearly 5 million in 2003. The VA operates more than 1,300 medical facilities, including 162 hospitals and 800 outpatient clinics, but officials report the increase in veterans seeking care "outstrips VA's capacity to treat them."

The secretary acknowledged that veterans have suffered long waits for appointments at medical facilities in some parts of the country, but he said the goal for his department will be to reduce those lines and to ensure that veterans are cared for in a timely manner.

In the past, priority access to health care went only to veterans with disabilities rated at 50 percent or more; for severely disabled veterans, priority is extended for non-service-connected medical problems, according to VA guidelines. However, Principi said, the new directive now makes priority access available to all veterans injured in service to the country.

He said the VA was established to care for the men and women who served in the armed forces, and that "we should never lose sight of that." He said his

department's priority must "always be the men and women disabled in service to their country."

In addition, Principi said his department will work harder to reduce the backlog of disability claims for veterans. And he said VA is making "tremendous progress" in that effort.

"They've shown renewed commitment ensuring that if a veteran files a claim for disability compensation, he or she doesn't have to wait six months to a year. We are going to get that claim decided in 100 days or less."

Walter Reed ocularist helps Soldiers who have lost an eye in OIF



Photo by Michael E. Duker

While painting an iris for Sgt. Gary Boggs, Walter Reed Ocularist Vince Przybyla compares his work to the original.

By Brett McMillan
Army News Service

"These guys are going through a tremendous emotional battle that no one else really knows," said Vince Przybyla, who creates prosthetic eyes for these patients. "Sometimes losing an eye is one of many injuries. Emotionally it's a big deal."

"We're all conscious about our appearance, and if you've got an eye lost it seems to stick in your mind that it's the worse thing that can happen," he said. "So when they receive that prosthetic eye, it makes them feel whole again."

Giving them an eye, knowing he's helped to restore a Soldier's confidence and outlook, is "the best feeling in the world," Przybyla said.

Another one of Przybyla's patients was a Spc. Eric Lanstrum from the 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division.

Lanstrum was on a nightly presence patrol in Iraq in early October when a rocket-propelled grenade, IED and machine gun fire ambush claimed his left eye.

"I lost my eye; shrapnel wounds throughout my body, lost a piece of my skull and got messed up pretty good," Lanstrum recalled.

"At first, I was so messed up I didn't think about my eye, I was happy to be alive, and, even to this day, it doesn't bother me that I lost my eye," Lanstrum said. "I see guys around here missing a lot more than an eye. I'm going to take care of the one eye I have left and just carry on."

Lanstrum said he couldn't feel sorry for himself when three of the five guys in his vehicle died. "Me and another guy, who lost his eye also, were the only ones to walk out of my truck so I feel pretty fortunate."

After visiting the ocularist recently at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Boggs and Lanstrum both talked about their experiences and how they were getting used to seeing with one eye. They compared their slightly decreased depth perception to wearing night vision goggles and joked about the "blind spot" they have when driving.

But apart from the vision loss, which the two insisted they wouldn't let the injury impact them. They admit a degree of emotional disturbance from the stares and awkward looks from curious people wondering what lies beneath the patch.

After several weeks of dealing with that awkwardness, Boggs and Lanstrum will no longer have to. Each spent hours watching Przybyla create them a prosthetic eye — a near-perfect match to their remaining eye, which will also move as if it were real — eagerly awaiting the time they'll be wearing the eye instead of a patch.

Prosthetic eyes improve patients' outlook

An Ohio National Guardsman was heading back from Iraq Sept. 26 for a couple weeks of rest and relaxation, when the road home took a tragic turn.

"This was going to be my first day off since May 2," said Sgt. Gary Boggs of the

1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division.

A couple miles south of the Tikrit base camp, the Humvee Boggs was riding in was badly damaged by an improvised explosive device. Shrapnel pelted the left side of his body. "I took some nice pieces in my arm," Boggs said. "Luckily I didn't lose it." But he ended up losing his left eye.

Boggs is among more than a dozen Lanstrum said he looked forward to receiving his eye, as it marked another step in his recovery and being able to return to his unit and get back to work. "Wearing a patch, it's OK, but it'll be a little less hard for people to look at me and stare."

Given his eye last on Friday, Boggs said he spent the weekend with college friends in the area. "It's nice. They were really impressed how well it turned out. I'm happy."

"The funny thing is that some of my friends were like, 'Why don't you get a purple one, or red?' I think it's hard for them to realize that I don't want people to stare. I want to be normal, so it's nice to have this in."

"It's still awkward — I feel like I'm not wearing my eye patch and I'm waiting for someone to look at me ...," Boggs said Monday. "I'm not used to having an eye in again."

"Now, with the eye in, with the exception of my scar, really no one could ever tell I was blown up pretty much in an IED accident," Boggs said. "I think I'm very fortunate — it could have been a lot worse. I can do everything I did before, and now having the eye back and not the patch gives me a little more confidence. I just want to be normal."

Post 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 staff will host the following events to celebrate African-American/Black History Month:

Jan. 15 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Remembrance Day 2004 – This event will be held at Roadrunner Community Center, Bldg. 2797 on Stanley Road, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The keynote speaker will be Installation Chaplain (Col.) Edward Maney. This event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Feb. 5 – Black History Month Recognition Ceremony – This event will be held at the Roadrunner Community Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Reverend Sarah Davis, pastor, Bethel A.M.E. Church, San Antonio, will be the keynote speaker.

A sampling of ethnic foods will be available for patrons to taste at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Other Martin Luther King events include:
Jan. 19 – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Annual City Parade – The FSH community is invited to participate and support the city of San Antonio's annual parade, from 10-11:45 a.m. Parade begins at East Side Boys and Girls Club, MLK Freedom Bridge, 3503 Martin Luther King Drive, and ends at MLK Plaza Houston and New Braunfels.

Jan. 22 – Medical Command Martin Luther King, Jr. Program – This event will be held at 10:30 a.m. in MEDCOM Wood Auditorium, Bldg. 2792. The keynote speaker will be Pastor Jessy Truvillion, Pilgrim Presbyterian Church, San Antonio.

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



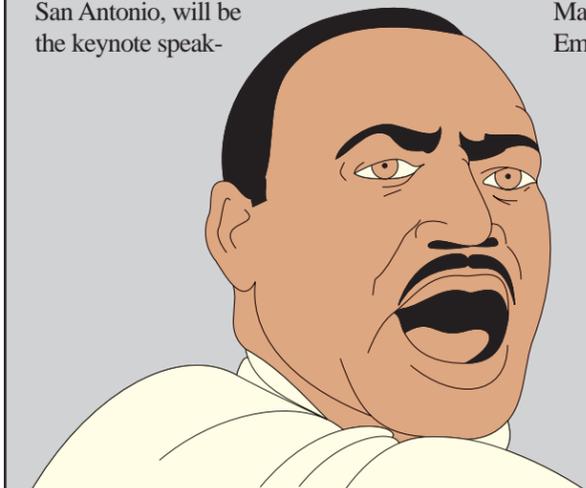
Photo by Master Sgt. Christopher S. Allbright

Task Force Guardian's NCO and Soldier of the Year selected

Staff Sgt. Richard Harp and Spc. Lendsi Edwards are the newly selected winners of Task Force Guardian's Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year. Winners represent nearly 7,500 deployed National Guardsmen and Reserve task force members mobilized in support of Operation Noble Eagle III. The competition was conducted here Jan. 8 at the TF Guardian headquarters in Bldg. 44. They will compete later this year for the Fifth U.S. Army NCO and Soldier of the Year titles.

*'I have
a dream'*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



FSH Army Family Action Plan Community Forum scheduled for March 25-26

The Army Family Action Plan Community Forum is the first step in the process that conveys input from The Army Family to Army Leadership. The process lets soldiers, DA civilians, retirees, and their families say what is working and what is not working in their community – and what they think will fix it. It alerts commanders and Army leaders to areas of concern that need their attention and provides a mechanism for reporting back to the local community on the progress of the issues submitted.

The FSH AFAP Community Forum is scheduled for March 25-26. This is your opportunity to let the Army leadership know what you think is working and what is not working for the "Army Family." Representatives from Active and Reserve components, retirees, surviving spouses, DA civilians, family members and tenant organizations, will evaluate and prioritize the issues submitted.

Issues are researched with the help of subject matter experts and classified for work at the installation, MACOM, or DA level. Installation level issues are entered into the FSH AFAP process and tracked until resolved. Issue resolu-

tion is reported back to the FSH community through the AFP Steering Community. Issues needing resolution at the MACOM or DA level are forwarded to those agencies. Many AFAP actions impact quality of life for all services.

The Army is the only branch of the DoD that has such a program. Key to the success of this process is your input into the forum. You have an opportunity to have your voice heard by Army leadership.

Submit your issue(s) to the 2004 Fort Sam Houston Army Family Action Plan Forum by using the format accompanying this article. The format may be duplicated and you may submit as many issues as you like. Each issue should be on a separate form and returned to: Army Family Action Plan, Army Community Service, Bldg. 2797, 2010 Stanley Road #95, Fort Sam Houston TX, 78234. Issue forms may also be dropped off at the Roadrunner Community Center information desk. You may also e-mail your issue, using the format provided to, Suella.York@samhouston.army.mil. Deadline for submitting issues is March 5.

Army Family Action Plan 2004 Community Forum Issue Submission Format

Use the following format to submit you issue (s) by e-mail to Suella.York@samhouston.army.mil. or mail to ACS/AFAP, Bldg. 2797, 2010 Stanley Road #95, Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234.

You may also hand-carry packet to the Roadrunner Community Center information desk. Deadline for submission of issues is March 5.

Subject: Community Forum Issue Submission

Issue: (Summarize the problem/concern in a few words.)

Scope: (Define the issue/problem/concern in paragraph form. State the impact and validate with facts. Include any regulations, laws, or policies you are aware of that may impact the issue. Give enough information that the delegates will clearly understand the issue.)

Recommendation(s): (Tell us what you want to happen. Do not tell why, that has already been defined in the scope. Prioritize and number recommendations. Use strong descriptive verbs and end with a measurable outcome.)

Provide as much of the requested information as you can on your issue. We understand you may not be familiar with the format. We need enough clear and concise information in each section to understand the problem, its impact, and what you want done about it.

Use a separate page for each issue. You may duplicate this format.

Issue Submitter's Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

E-mail: _____

Note: Personal information is optional and will be used for administrative purposes only. It will allow us to contact you for clarification of the issue if necessary and to provide feedback. Commanders and forum participants will not see it.

Walk-in vaccinations at the FSH Veterinary Clinic Jan. 24

The Fort Sam Houston Veterinary Clinic will conduct a Walk-in Vaccination Clinic for cats and dogs (No sick call) on Saturday Jan. 24 from 8 a.m. to noon. Persons eligible for services for their pets include: active duty, retirees, their family members and reservists on active duty status (Bring in a copy of orders). All regular prices will apply. Call the clinic in advance at 295-4260.



1st Special Forces Operation Detachment-Delta (Airborne) seeks new members

The 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta (Airborne) will be at Fort Sam Houston, during the period Feb. 2 – 5. Briefings will be held in the basement of Bldg. 2263, Room 100 on, Tuesday Feb. 3 and 4 at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Point of Contact is Master Sgt. McWhorter at 221-2800.

Prerequisites for officer and noncommissioned officers:

- Male
- Volunteer
- MOS/Branch immaterial
- Minimum of 22 years of age
- Pass a background security investigation (minimum of Interim Secret to attend Selection Course).
- Pass the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), FM 21-20, 75 points each event in the 22-26 age group, (55

pushups in 2 minutes, 62 sit-ups in 2 minutes, and a 2-mile run in 15:06 or less), wearing your unit PT uniform.

- No limiting physical profile.
- Pass a modified Class II Flight medical examination.
- Airborne qualified or volunteer for airborne duty.
- Have no history of recurring disciplinary action.
- A minimum two-year commitment upon selection.
- Army Active duty, Reserve, or National Guard.
- United States Citizen.

Additional prerequisites for NCOs:

- Rank of specialist, sergeant, staff sergeant, or sergeant first class with a minimum of four years time in service.
- A GT score of 110 or higher (you may retest).

Additional prerequisites for officers:

- Rank of captain or major.

- Graduate of Advanced Course.
- Must have completed 12 months successful Company Battery, Troop, SF Detachment or Aviation Platoon Command time.
- College graduate (BA or BS).

The Assessment and Selection Course is conducted twice a year - the Fall Course begins the third week in September and the Spring Course begins the third week in March. If you have any questions that the local POC cannot answer, call 1st SFOD-D at DSN 236-0649, Commercial (910) 396-0649, or toll free 1-800-606-1370.

1st SFOD-D is also interested in a wide variety of combat support and service support personnel to serve in support roles. For more information on prerequisites and assignment opportunities, call the 1st SFOD-D Support Recruiter at DSN 236-0986 or Commercial (910) 396-0986.

Fifth U.S. Army's CSM retires Jan. 30



Harman

Fifth U.S. Army's senior non-commissioned officer will retire during a ceremony 2 p.m., Jan. 30, in the historic Quadrangle here. Command Sgt. Maj. Teddy E. Harman Sr. has been Fifth U.S. Army's command sergeant major since September 19, 2000.

The Fifth Army commanding general, Lt. Gen. Robert T. Clark, will host the ceremony.

Harman will complete nearly 33 years of active duty service culminating with his current assignment as the senior noncommissioned officer in the 21-state Fifth Army area. The command sergeant major advises the commanding general on NCO and enlisted matters including training, quality of life and morale issues.

Harman joined the Army in March 1966 in Great Falls, Montana. He served on active duty for three years at Fort Meade, Md., Camp Drum, N.Y., Fort Greeley, Alaska, and in Vietnam. He then had a five-year break in service. He reentered the Army in 1974 and has served in airborne, air assault, mechanized and light infantry assignments.

Harman, who is a recipient of many medals and awards including the Legion of Merit and Bronze Star, has held positions of increasing responsibility from rifleman to command sergeant major.

In the event of inclement weather, the retirement ceremony will be held at the Fort Sam Houston Officers' Club.

Source: Fifth Army news release.

Be aware of rental car liability coverage

By Capt. Kristy Radio
Special to the News Leader

Before you rent a car authorized under Government TDY orders, read this! To protect your pocketbook, the Military Traffic Management Command has contracted with rental car agencies so that in most situations should an accident occur, the car rental company, and not you, foots the bill. The military also has a special arrangement with VISA to help protect you from liability. But to fully take advantage of the MTMC arrangements and VISA's protections, you need to take several steps before renting a car.

How do I protect myself?

If you fail to follow the proper procedures, the car rental company could charge you for damages resulting from an accident.

- **First**, make your reservation through your Commercial Travel Office. The CTO will ensure that the rental agency chosen participates in the MTMC agreement.

- **Second**, when you pick up your car at the rental agency, present either your Government Travel Credit Card, if you

have one or a copy of your official travel orders. This will let the rental company know your official status.

- **Third**, provide the rental company with a valid unit designation and address.

- **Fourth**, decline the collision damage waiver coverage offered by the rental company to activate VISA's coverage. If you fail to decline the CDW coverage, VISA's protections will not apply. In addition, VISA's protections apply when a traveler rents the car for 31 days or less. Rentals of over 31 days do not qualify.

- **Fifth**, rent an authorized vehicle, which includes cars and most minivans but not trucks or motorcycles.

What about additional drivers?

Any additional licensed Government employee acting within the scope of their employment, are authorized to drive the rental vehicle. MTMC agreement does not require that additional drivers who are properly licensed and in the scope of official duties be listed on the rental contract. VISA, however, does require that additional drivers be listed. Therefore, to ensure maximum protection and convenience, additional drivers should be listed on any rental contract.

What to do if you are involved in an accident?

If an incident does occur in which damage is caused to the rental car or other property, or in which personal injury occurs, the renter should immediately take the following steps:

- **First**, notify the rental agency of the accident.

- **Second**, if possible, obtain a police report.

- **Third**, call the VISA program administrator, as soon as possible, but no later than 20 days from the date of the accident, at 1-800-VISA-911.

Am I protected from all liability?

When the government traveler is acting within his or her scope of employment, the rental company, through the MTMC agreement, will cover damages to the rental car, other property, and personal injury or death to third parties up to a certain dollar amount. VISA's coverage applies only to the rental vehicle.

Therefore you should take appropriate steps to notify both VISA and the rental company of any accident.

Unless prohibited by state law, the rental company is not liable for the loss under cer-

tain situations. Examples of these exclusions include obtaining the vehicle through fraud or misrepresentation; operating the vehicle under influence of intoxicants or for any illegal purposes; using the vehicle to carry people or property for hire; operating the vehicle in live artillery fire exercises or tactical training maneuvers; operation of vehicle off paved, state or professionally maintained roads or driveways; and theft of a vehicle if the renter can not produce the keys or show the keys were stolen through theft or robbery.

Under the MTMC, rental agencies are prohibited from placing any debt for accidents on your personal credit card. If, however, such charges do show up on your credit card, or if you are contacted personally regarding an accident, notify the Fort Sam Houston Claims Office. If you have any questions regarding information contained in this article please contact the Claims Office, 221-1973 located in Bldg. 153, or the Legal Assistance Office at 221-2282 located in Bldg. 134.

Information contained in this article is general in nature and does not constitute legal advice. Please consult an attorney to answer questions regarding your particular situation.

FSH ISD seeks nominees for Board of Trustees

Did you know the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District has a five member Board of Trustees nominated by the Garrison Commander and appointed by the State Board of Education?

Enlisted military personnel or their spouses, spouses of military officers, and civilians employed on the installation may serve. Military officers cannot serve as Board of Trustee members based on 10 U.S. Code 973, which prohibits a regular officer from accepting a state "civil" office such as a Board of Trustees. A majority of the trustees

must be civilians including spouses of military members.

To be a board member, you must be a registered Texas voter and have lived in Texas for the past twelve months; live or be employed on the installation; be willing to volunteer your time and serve without compensation.

The time commitment required is to serve a two-year term of office; attend monthly board meetings; receive Board of Trustee training (approximately 20 hours the first year, 8 hours thereafter) and support the Fort Sam Houston schools by attending special events and functions.

If you meet these qualification and are interested in being considered for a position on the Board of Trustees, submit a resume with your full name, home and work addresses, home and work telephone numbers, marital status, age of children (if any), educational and work background, community activities, current association with any school(s) and any other information you want to share about yourself by Feb. 6 to: Headquarters, U.S. Army Garrison, ATTN: MCCA-BCA, Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234-5020

For additional information, call Jim Evetts at 221-0733.

MCEC offers Parent Workshop Jan. 20

Military Child Education Coalition offers this free and practical workshop to provide tools for military-connected parents. The workshop will be offered on Jan. 20 from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. at the

Roadrunner Community Center, Bldg. 2797, Stanley Road. For more information contact your School Liaison Services (SLS) office at 221-9613 or the MCEC website at www.militarychild.org.

Workshop topics will include: Looking at the Total School Experience, Fitting in - Social/Emotional Support and Getting Off on the Right Foot-The "New School".

New tax changes for families in 2003

What changes have occurred since you filed your 2002 return? The child tax credit and the child and dependent care credit amounts have increased. Also there's finally some relief for those who have suffered from the "marriage penalty." Lower income families who qualify for the earned income tax credit can take advantage of increased income and credit amounts. Adoption credit amounts have also increased.

Child Tax Credit

The child tax credit increased to \$1,000 per child for 2003, and 25 million taxpayers received an advance child tax credit check during the summer of 2003. When

filing a 2003 tax return, those who received checks must reduce the credit amount they claim on their return by the amount of the check received. Also taxpayers should have received IRS Notice 1319 containing information about the advance payment. The child tax credit is received for each qualifying dependent under age 17 and who is the taxpayer's child, stepchild, adopted child, grandchild, or eligible foster child.

Child and Dependent Care Increases

The limit on the amount of qualifying expenses for the child and dependent care has increased. Qualified expenses may be allowed for up to \$3,000 for one eligible

individual, \$6,000 for two or more.

Married Deduction

The standard deduction is now \$9,500 for married filing jointly, twice the single standard deduction of \$4,750.

Adoption Credit Amounts Increases

The maximum adoption credit or exclusion amount is \$10,160. In 2003, a \$10,160 credit will be allowed for adopting a special needs child, regardless of whether the taxpayer has qualifying expenses.

Additional Tax changes for Service Members

Members of Armed Forces, National Guard, and Reserves may be able to amend past years' tax returns to take advantage of some of these changes:

- Exclusion of Sec. 132 payments from income - These are payments issued through the Defense Department's Homeowner Assistance Program to Armed Forces and some Defense Department employees due to qualified military base realignment or closure. This provision is effective on or after November 11, 2003.

- Exclusion of Death Gratuity Payments from income - Qualifying military survivors can exclude up to \$12,000 of military death payments received after September 10, 2001.

- Coverdell Education Savings account distributions - Qualified military academy attendees will not have to pay a 10 percent additional tax on a distribution from a Coverdell Education Savings accounts or Section 529 plan.

- Travel, meals and lodging for National Guard and Reservists - An above-the-line deduction for non-reimbursed overnight travel, meals, and lodging expenses of National Guard and Reserve members who must travel more than 100 miles from home to fulfill their military obligations.

- Sale of a home - Generally, a homeowner must live in their primary residence two of the last five years to avoid paying taxes on the first \$250,000 of profits if they are single, or \$500,000 if they are married.

Under the new change, this period is extended for up to ten years for an individual or individual's spouse who is on qualified official extended duty as a member of the uniformed services or the Foreign Service of the United States. This is in effect for home sales after May 6, 1997, even though the tax year in question is otherwise closed for refund purposes. Affected military taxpayers have until November 11, 2004, to file for a refund.

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.

New year brings new Tax season

By Capt. Mary E. Meek
Fort Sam Houston Tax Assistance Center

With the holiday season over, another more dreaded season approaches – tax season. Almost all Soldiers must file a federal income tax return, and many should receive a refund. Although tax forms can be confusing, assistance within Fort Sam Houston is readily available.

Each company-sized unit has an officer or a senior NCO appointed as the Unit Tax Advisor. The UTA has received tax training from the IRS and the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate. They are the Soldier's first point of contact for tax forms and tax preparation assistance.

Additionally, tax assistance will be provided beginning the last week of January at the Tax Assistance Center, located in the Officer's Club. Soldiers may go to the

center for tax forms, preparation assistance and electronic filing. Electronic filing of tax returns will allow Soldiers to receive refunds in about three weeks. Commercial tax preparers often charge more than \$50 for electronic filing. This service, like all tax assistance offered, will be free at the Tax Assistance Center.

Although many off-post tax preparers offer "instant" or "rapid" refunds, this service is actually a loan against the Soldier's tax refund. First, the Soldier pays the preparation fee, which can range from \$50-\$100. Then, the Soldier pays the service fee for the "instant" loan against the Soldier's refund, which can be anywhere from \$25-\$30. Finally, the tax preparers charge bank fees (or interest) against the "refund" amount. Thus, the fees charged on these "instant" refunds can equal an annual interest rate

of about 450 percent. With a free electronically filed return from the Fort Sam Houston Tax Assistance Center, refunds are typically generated within 7-10 business days.

The earlier a tax return is filed, of course, the sooner the taxpayer will receive a tax refund, if eligible. Taxpayers can file a return after obtaining all tax-related documents. In particular, the taxpayer must obtain W-2 forms from all employers and the employers of the taxpayer's spouse, if applicable.

For tax year 2003, Soldiers with active "My Pay" accounts will not receive a hard copy W-2 form; they must print their military W-2 from "My Pay" online. For active duty Soldiers, W-2 information will become available on "My Pay" between the dates Jan. 16 through Jan. 26.

Soldiers who do not have active "My Pay" accounts should receive their Army W-2 form with their January end-of month

Leave and Earning Statement. The W-2 is required to prepare the tax return; therefore the January Leave and Earnings Statements will not be accepted in lieu of the actual W-2.

The deadline for filing 2003 federal tax returns is April 15, 2004. Federal tax regulations allow an automatic two-month extension to Soldiers who are on active duty outside the United States and Puerto Rico on April 15. Taxpayers planning to file a return after April 15 should attach a note to their returns stating that they are serving overseas in the military, or are employed by the DoD working overseas. Be careful to keep documentation to prove this claim in the event of an IRS audit.

Watch future issues of the News Leader for tips on tax filing. The Tax Assistance Center will celebrate its grand opening Jan. 27 at 9 and will remain open until April 17. It is located in the Officers' Club, Bldg. 407 on Dickman Road.

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.



Holiday Helping Hands program sets new record

By Phil Reidinger
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

Tom May, the Holiday Helping Hands program coordinator this year reports that the Thanksgiving and Christmas food assistance program during the holidays provided needed support to nearly 850 local military families. The toy warehouse provided toys to 884 children, making their holiday better than their families anticipated.

May, a training specialist with the Department of Combat Medic Training, confirmed the 2003 Holiday Helping Hands program family assistance totaled at \$36,242. "This was a record year. We have never assisted in these numbers or dollar amounts," he said.

Holiday Helping Hands is a private volunteer organization that operates solely for the purpose of providing Thanksgiving and Christmas food assistance and Christmas toy assistance to families in the Fort Sam Houston community. Post commissary food vouchers and H.E.B. gift cards are provided as need indicates to families of active duty Soldiers, activated reservists,



Photo by Phil Reidinger

From left Tom May, Holiday Helping Hands chairman and committee members, Nancy Moore, Harry Ruthrauff as Santa and Linda Wenck pose surrounded by donated toys.

and government civilian workers. Toy donations help moms and dads find a special toy for each child at the program toy warehouse.

Since the program began eight years ago, volunteers have distributed approximately \$250,000, assisting 85 percent of active duty families in need of help. The largest fundraiser is the gift-wrapping operation during the holiday period at the Post Exchange where volunteers accept donations for gift-wrapping. Toy donations during Holiday Balls and monetary donations by post commands also support program goals.

"Holiday Helping Hands is the post community reaching out to our families and making the holiday season a happier one for our Fort Sam Houston military community," May said.

Helping May coordinate the program were Robb Wood, Dodd Chapel; Lucy Miller, Community Activities Business Center; Nancy Moore and Emily Cunningham, installation Chaplain's Office; Julie and George Vasquez, 91D branch; Lt. Col. Bruce McVeigh and Staff Sgt. Laura Mincey, 232nd Medical Battalion; Linda Wenck, Academy Battalion; First Sgt. Alexis King, Brooke Army Medical Center; and Staff Sgt. Erika Silvia, AMEDD Center and School.

Fort Sam Houston Soldier joins U.S. Army Express Band

By Ben Paniagua
Special to the News Leader

Quite an interesting year looms ahead for a Fort Sam Houston Soldier who has been selected to be in the United States Army Express Band. Sgt. Melissa Gomez, of Company A, Law Enforcement Command has been selected to tour with the band. The U.S.A. Express Band, from the United States Army Entertainment Division of Community & Family Support Center in Washington, D.C. is slated to entertain troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait this year. A group of Soldiers were selected by CFSC to form a band. The band consisted of vocalists who are fully choreographed and costumed, and who perform fast-paced, high-energy entertainment that is geared to young Soldiers.

Sgt. Gomez, a highly talented



Photo by Phil Reidinger

Sgt. Melissa Gomez, Law Enforcement Command, entertains the guests at the Holiday Ball held Dec. 5.

vocalist, has performed at the Holiday Ball for two years in a row, and was named Best Female Vocalist in the 2003 United States Army Festival of the

Performing Arts Competition. She also competed in the 2003 Stars of Tomorrow

Competition where she was named one of the best vocalists in the contest.

Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program January 2004 Class Schedule

Class	Dates	Time
Basics of Breastfeeding	21	10:30 a.m. to Noon
Boys Only! Ages 9-10	28	3-4 p.m.
Building Effective Anger Management Skills (B.E.A.M.S.) (Series 4-6)	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)	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	20, 27	9-11 a.m.
Parenting with Love & Logic (Early Childhood)	20	1:30-4 p.m.
Parenting with Love & Logic (School Age)	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	20	12:30-2 p.m.
Teen Talk	15, 22, 29	4-5 p.m.
Truth or Consequences?	20, 27	4-5 p.m.
You & Your Baby	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.

Test your knowledge, take the Force Protection Survey

During the month of December, 1,492 people participated in the Force Protection Survey conducted by D Company, 212th Signal Battalion, Law Enforcement Command. The intent of the survey was to assess the community awareness of reporting suspicious person(s) or vehicle(s) to the proper authority. As members of the Fort Sam Houston community, we must be aware of current force protection level and know where to immediately report all suspicious person(s) or vehicle(s) to the appropriate authority. Your life may depend on it!

If you did not participate in the survey, now is your chance to test your knowledge.

Force Protection Survey

1. Do you know where the Military Police Station is located? Yes or No
2. Do you know the Military Police phone number? Yes or No
3. Do you know the current Force Protection Level? Yes or No
4. Do you know where the Fire Department is located? Yes or No
5. Do you know the phone number of the Fire Department? Yes or No
6. If you observed a suspicious person carrying a suitcase or container, to whom would you report this observation?

If you could not answer all the above questions, fear not, they are provided for

you below.

Answers:

1. Location of MP station is Building 2244, Corner of Wilson & New Braunfels.
2. Phone Number is 221-2222 if call from resident housing, if called from a LAN phone, then 911 if emergency.
3. Current Force Protection Level: Bravo Time of the survey: Alpha
4. Location of Fire Department: Bldg 3830 Corner of Schofield Road and Garden Avenue
5. Fire Department phone number is 221-2727.
6. Report all suspicious persons to the Military Police station immediately upon

observance.

How did you do? Here's how our 1,492 participants fared:

Question #:	Percent of correct answers:
1	69%
2	21%
3	40%
4	77%
5	72%
6	19%

If you correctly answered all 6 questions, then you have done your homework. Stay alert, stay alive!

Law Enforcement Command checks 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 and 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

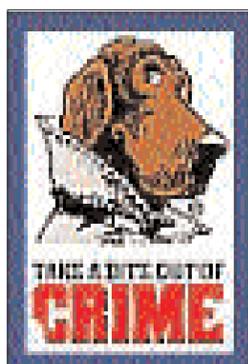
Binz-Engleman

Number of contractors vehicles without decals - 6

Military/civilian personnel vehicles without decals - 9



Nearly 75% of all cycling deaths are due to head injuries.



The Texas Wanderers host Garden Ridge Walk

By Martin Callahan
Special to the News Leader

The Texas Wanderers volkssport club of Fort Sam Houston will host a 10-kilometer (6.2 mile) walk in Garden Ridge, Texas on Saturday, Jan. 17. A shorter walk route will also be available. This walk is on city streets and is entirely in the city limits of Garden Ridge, a small residential community of approximately 2,000 residents. The city was incorporated in 1972 and is located in the southeastern corner of Comal County, about twelve miles southwest of the county seat of New Braunfels.

Walkers will follow a trail by many lovely, landscaped homes and through the newly developed area on George Ranch, with some great views of the surrounding hill coun-

try. You will also have the opportunity to see many of the deer, which have established their home in Garden Ridge. For more information on the City of Garden Ridge you can check out their Web site at www.ci.garden-ridge.tx.us/index.html.

Attractive embroidered souvenir patches from previous walks will be available for purchase. The start point is at the Forest Waters Club House at 21320 Water Wood Drive in Garden Ridge, Texas. The registration fee for walkers is \$3 and the start time for the walk is between 8 a.m. and noon, finish by 3 p.m. For additional information call Lyn Ward at 651-6536, or e-mail Lward10km@aol.com, or visit the club's Web site at www.walktx.org/Wanderers.html. On the day of the event you can call 651-9541 or 651-6505.

Smoke-free and courageous forever

Attend smoking cessation classes in the Health Promotion Center and learn how to find the courage to give up the nicotine habit forever, whether you smoke, dip, or chew. Become one of our graduates and earn your "wings".



Health Promotion Center
Ward 3 West, BAMC
916-3352 or 916-5538

Recreation and Fitness

MWR is on the Web - Find all the latest news on MWR's programs, facilities and activities at www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com.

Post Garage Sale - Come to buy or to sell at the next post garage sale Saturday, Feb. 7 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Macarthur Pavilion parking lot located on the corner of Harry Wurzbach and Stanley Road. To participate in the garage sale you must have a valid Department of Defense (DoD) ID card. Call 221-2926 to sign up. Those vehicles without a DoD sticker will enter at the Walters Gate off Interstate 35 to obtain a pass. Sale is open to the public.

FSH M*A*S*H Run - Sign up now for the Fort Sam Houston M*A*S*H Half Marathon and two-person relay Feb. 8, 8 a.m. starting from the Brigade Gym. There will be a best look-a-like contest dressed as M*A*S*H stars and free M*A*S*H long sleeve T-Shirts for participants. To register, visit www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com or pick up a form at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Registration fees are: teams \$30 through Feb. 8, late fee \$40 and individual \$25 through Feb. 8, late fee \$35.

Make A Fitness Lifestyle Change - Visit the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center during their new weekend and holiday hours, 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. The center features a gymnasium with three basketball courts, racquetball courts, a 25-meter indoor pool, cardio equipment and weight room, as well as classes in aerobics, water aerobics, swimming, scuba, lifeguard, and weight loss.

Experience A Texas Trail Ride - The Equestrian Center offers one hour trail rides every Saturday and Sunday. Patrons age seven and up are welcome, however, parents must accompany all children. Cost is \$20 per person. Reservations are required and may be made in person or by phone. The center is located off Binz-Engleman Rd. Phone number is (210) 224-7207. Special reservations may be made for other riding times when available. Riding times are as follows: 8:30-9:30 a.m., 10-11 a.m., 12:30-1:30 p.m., and 2-3 p.m.



Tinker With Your Car - Make a necessary repair, or just tinker with your car at the Fort Sam Houston Auto Craft Shop. The shop, located at Bldg. 2410, Funston Road, offers the experienced mechanic and novice alike a place to work on their vehicles at a reasonable cost.

Attention Hunters - If you are interested in Texas Hill Country Hunting contact the Outdoor Equipment Center at 221-5224. Hunts are available for bow, rifle and handguns. Lodging is also available with a max group of 10 individuals. Special prices available for father/child hunts.

Archery Shooters of all Ages - Archery classes are available by contacting the Outdoor Equipment Center at 221-5225. The fee for a one-hour class is \$15. Instruction is given by Skip Dawson award winning archer, at your level of experience. Military family members under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent.

Fishermen - The white bass run is on across South Texas. Stop by the Outdoor Equipment Center and reserve a boat now.

Varsity Men's and Women's Softball Tryouts - Tryouts are at 6:30 p.m. from Jan. 26-29. Men's tryouts will be held at Leadership Field and the Women's will be at Hacienda Field. For more information, contact Earl Young 221-1180 or e-mail earl.young@sam-houston.army.mil.

Intramural Seasons Begin - The Spring season starts Jan. 16 for both Ping Pong and Intramural Billiards. Watch for game schedules and information or call 221-1180.

Sweetheart Dance - Dance the night away at the Sweetheart Dance Feb. 12 at the NCO Club from 7 to 11 p.m. Cost is \$3 individual/\$5 couple. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served until 8:30 p.m. Dress casual/semi formal. Sponsored by Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers.

Valentine Balloon Bouquets - Show that special someone you care! Order a Valentine Balloon Bouquet delivered on post for only \$8 (includes myler balloon, candy and carnations). To place your order, contact your BOSS representative or call Spc. Phyll at 210-295-4054.



Intramural Basketball League Standings

Jan. 9			
Team	W	L	
DFAS	4	0	
BAMC	4	0	
Navy/Marines	1	0	
STB	3	2	
Acad Bn	2	2	
NCO Academy	3	3	
LEC	1	4	
418th Med Log	1	4	
5th Recruiting	1	5	

Jan. 6			
Team	W	L	Points
STB	64	LEC	36
BAMC	59	NCO Academy	53
DFAS	50	418th Med Log	32
Acad Bn	63	5th Recruiting	43

Jan. 8			
Team	W	L	Points
BAMC	64	LEC	54
418th Med Log	64	STB	63
NCO Acad	43	Acad Bn	40
Navy/Marines	2	5th Recruiting	0

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.

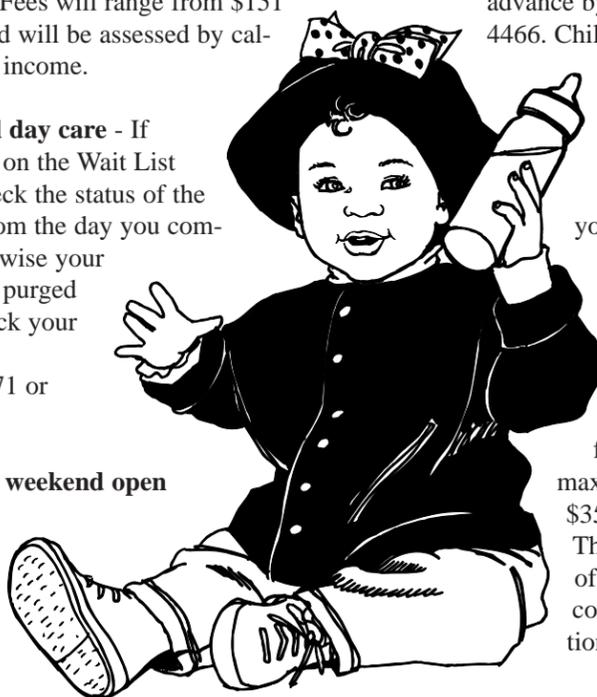
Wait List for full day care - If your child's name is on the Wait List for full day care, check the status of the list every 90 days from the day you complete the form; otherwise your child's name will be purged from the list. To check your status, call Central Registration 221-4871 or 221-1723.

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.

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.



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, Bldg. 1398, phone numbers: (210) 221-3390 or 221-4210.

Troop Catholic Mass: Sundays:

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

Troop Protestant Gospel Services: Sundays:

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

Troop Protestant Service:

- 10 a.m. - 32nd Medical Bde. Soldiers



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

New U.S. citizen receives Purple Heart Medal

By Capt. Mark Williford
BAMC Public Affairs

Spc. Eduardo Prado is truly an All-American Soldier. The 23-year-old, 82nd Airborne Division Soldier, received the Purple Heart Medal just seven months after becoming an U.S. citizen.

Prado, who was awarded the medal Dec. 16 at an award ceremony at Brooke Army Medical Center by BAMC Commander Brig. Gen. William Fox, Jr., said he was proud to be an American.

Like all good 82nd Airborne Division paratroopers, he said he was even prouder to be a Purple Heart recipient from the All-American Division.



Sp. Eduardo Prado, who was wounded in Iraq by shrapnel from a rocket attack, receives a Purple Heart from Brig. C. William Fox Jr. with his wife, Sophia, in attendance.

"I don't regret joining the Army,"

Prado said, "Yes, I was wounded, but I'm happy to have served with the most professional Soldiers in the world."

Prado, the second son of eight children, said he immigrated with his family to the U.S. in 1991. Born in Maracaibo, Venezuela, Prado applied for citizenship while attending Texas A&M University.

"I did not join the Army to become a citizen," Prado said, "I had applied two years prior to my enlistment."

Prado, who holds a bachelor of business administration degree in finance from A&M, said he took the oath of citizenship just after graduation from Advanced Individual Training and Airborne School.

"It was quite a long process but I am happy to be serving my country," Prado said.

Prado said his injury happened suddenly and unexpectedly, "Our compound was attacked by three rockets and shrapnel the size of a 9mm round penetrated my chest and spleen," Prado said. "The first rocket shrapnel hit me and my buddy Spc. Christopher Tooney."

Prado said after the first blast, an unknown Soldier grabbed and pushed both Soldiers against a wall. Seconds later, the second and third rockets slammed into the compound spraying shrapnel where the three Soldiers had stood.

Once Prado was hit, he said he was dazed at first.

"I'm certain we would have been killed if we had not been pushed out of the way," Prado said. He said that a piece of



Sp. Eduardo Prado was joined by his parents, six of his brothers and sisters, nieces, and nephews for the award of his Purple Heart medal in December. Prado and his family have recently become U.S. citizens.

shrapnel the size of a softball was dug out of a stonewall near their location.

Prado said a combat medic administered first aid and recalls the professionalism of the Soldier. "He was really calm and confident and it made me relax," Prado said, "My buddy (Tooney) had taken shrapnel to his elbow and foot and was in a great deal of pain."

Rushed by ambulance to a field hospital, Prado said his lung was beginning to collapse. He said he was operated on in a field hospital within the Saint Mere

Forward Operating Base near Fallujah.

"My spleen and diaphragm was repaired and the doctor gave me the shrapnel in a zip lock baggie as a souvenir," Prado said, "I don't know if they removed my spleen or repaired it but I do know I have a 13 inch scar across my abdomen."

After his care in Baghdad, he was flown to Landstuhl, Germany, and then evacuated to BAMC.

"I really appreciate the Army allowing me to be at a hospital so close to my family and wife," Prado said.

Purple Heart recipient credits BAMC doctors with saving her arm

By Capt. Mark Williford
BAMC Public Affairs

When Spc. Mary Herrera arrived at Brooke Army Medical Center she had already received care from two BAMC physicians while in Iraq and in Germany.

Herrera, an Arizona National Guardsman, was awarded the Purple Heart Medal by BAMC Commander Brig. Gen. William Fox, Jr. Dec. 16, at a formal awards ceremony in the 4th floor auditorium.

Suffering a bone shattering wound to her right forearm from an Iraqi AK-47's rifle bullet during a roadside ambush in Iraq, Herrera's chain of medical care was almost exclusively performed by BAMC physicians.

BAMC doctors assigned to the 21st Combat Support Hospital in Fallujah were there first to administer care to her shattered forearm.

In Landstuhl, Germany, again it was a BAMC doctor that performed procedures and supervised two blood transfusions to save her limb from amputation.

"She had a devastating injury to her right forearm," said Col. Mark Bagg, chief orthopedic surgeon at BAMC. Bagg described her wound as a blast injury with an open fracture to the right forearm and humerus.

Bagg said her forearm suffered a "huge gaping hole" 3- to 4 inches in diameter.

"After we repaired the damaged bone she required a skin graft to close the opening," Bagg said. "Fortunately, because of the excellent care she received at the Landstuhl and the CSH, we saved her arm."

After the ceremony, Herrera recounted how her Military Police unit was attacked while providing escort to a convoy traveling along a main supply route from Fallujah to Ramadi.

Herrera said her unit, the 855th MP Company, transported detainees to a collection point. Then, on the return

mission, transported several wounded Soldiers back to their units.

"I was in the lead vehicle when I heard an improvised explosive device detonate," Herrera said.

Shortly afterward, she saw Iraqi tracer rounds and began firing her squad automatic weapon to suppress the source of the incoming direct fire. "The Iraqi's were at pretty close range and a AK-47 round shattered my arm," she said.

"We passed a certain point and after two improvised explosive devices detonated on both sides of the convoy, I saw two RPG's fly right between our vehicles," Herrera said.

"When I was first shot, I could see my limb was exposed and I was losing blood fast. I was holding on to my SAW (weapon) with my left hand until another soldier took it from me," said Herrera. As she slid down into the gunner's turret, a wounded officer whose leg was in a full cast was firing his M-16 out the window. After the firefight, the officer applied pressure to her arm for over one hour to slow the bleeding.

Herrera was flown to Baghdad, then to Kuwait and to Landstuhl, Germany. She then was transported to Brooke Army Medical Center and admitted to undergo orthopedic surgeries.

Herrera said she met one of the doctors at the 21st Combat Support Hospital who told her he was a physician at BAMC in San Antonio.

While in Landstuhl, she was told that procedures performed by the staff at the 21st saved her from becoming an amputee.

There is no question about it, if it was not for the care she received prior to reaching BAMC; even the simple first aid measure to control bleeding, she would have lost her arm," said Maj. Myrna Ortega, head nurse of the BAMC Orthopedic Ward.

Ortega said Herrera underwent several surgeries for a period of two months and had shown remarkable resiliency regarding her injury.

"Mary never has shown any signs of bitterness or



Sp. Mary Herrera, an Arizona National Guardsman, is awarded the Purple Heart by Brig. Gen. C. William Fox, Jr. at a Brooke Army Medical Center. Herrera was injured in Iraq when an AK-47 round shattered her right forearm.

anger over her injury. She has always maintained her military bearing and professionalism," Ortega said.

Herrera said the biggest challenge that her injury has brought her will be learning to write with her left hand.

"I will not be able to rotate my hand, but will have limited use of it," Herrera said.

Before her mobilization, she was a junior at the University of Arizona where she said writing was "critical" to complete her coursework. Herrera said she has begun practicing writing as a "south paw" and was determined to return to Phoenix and complete her degree in psychology.

Herrera said she joined the Arizona National Guard and was proud to serve her country. "I joined the Guard because I loved my country and wanted to serve in the War on Terrorism," Herrera said.

Siller assumes district's top leadership position



Courtesy Photo

Dr. Gail Siller is the new Superintendent of Schools for the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District.

By Dr. Gloria Davila
Associate Superintendent, FSH ISD

Dr. Gail Siller, former Associate Superintendent, assumed the duties as Superintendent of the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District on Jan. 5. She was selected for the position last February by the district's Board of Trustees and succeeds Dr. Anne Kiehle who retired in December.

A district reception was held on Jan. 7 to officially welcome Dr. Siller as the new Superintendent. District faculty and staff attended as well as guest from the military community. Guests included Col. Richard Agee, Chief of Staff for the Army Medical Department Center and School and representative for Brig. Gen. Daniel F. Perugini, commander AMED C&S and Fort Sam Houston, Jim Evetts, director of the Community Activities Business Center, Phil Reidinger, Public Affairs Officer, and Tom Moseley, former Superintendent of the Fort Sam Houston ISD for 16 years. Keith Toney, president, Eustace Lewis, vice president, Dr. CEM Maxwell, and Jeanne Warren represented the FSHISD Board of Trustees.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Siller welcomed everyone and thanked the Board for providing the opportunity to serve as superintendent, and the faculty and staff for all their support. "Our district's future is bright and promising," stated Dr. Siller, "because of the shared commitment our school board members, administrators, teachers and parents have in helping our military students succeed."

Dr. Siller believes in continuing FSHISD's tradition of quality education. She stated, "Although our district has earned a reputation for providing a quality educa-

tion to the children of our Army community, resting on our laurels is not an option. Our success in the future cannot be shaped without knowing what we value or want for our Fort Sam Houston students."

Dr. Siller received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Texas at Austin, a Master of Education degree from Trinity University, and Doctor of Philosophy from Texas A&M University at College Station. She began her career as a teacher in the Richardson ISD in 1972-1973 and then assumed administrative responsibilities in North East ISD, including assistant principal at Roosevelt and Robert E. Lee High Schools and as Associate Director of Purchasing in the North East ISD. After serving as Student Teaching Supervisor and Instructor at Trinity University, Dr. Siller began her 16-year career at Fort Sam Houston ISD in 1987 as Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent. She then served as Director of Special Programs and Associate Superintendent.

Dr. Siller is committed to the Military Child Education Coalition, holding the position of Co-Chair from 1998-2001 and currently serving as member. Dr. Siller was selected to serve on the Texas Academic Decathlon Board of Directors in 1997 and is also currently serving on the Board of Directors of the United States Academic Decathlon. As State Chairman of the Texas Small Schools Academic Decathlon State Meet, she chaired and coordinated the competitions for hundreds of students and judges. Dr. Siller stays active in the American Association of School Administrators, Alamo Area Association of Supervisors and Curriculum Development, the Texas Association of School Administrators, and other educational organizations.

Dr. Siller is married and has two children.

Cole teacher receives KENS –TV/SACU ExCEL Award

Story and photo by Dr. Gloria Davila
Associate Superintendent, FSH ISD

Robert G. Cole High School Art teacher, Rita Hansen, has been selected as the 2004 KENS-TV/SACU ExCEL Award winner for Fort Sam Houston Independent School District. KENS-TV and the San Antonio Federal Credit Union have partnered with area school districts to recognize and honor outstanding teachers. The goal is to "recognize the outstanding educators in the San Antonio area who are making a positive impact on the lives of our children." Through this program, Deborah Knapp,

Channel 5 News Anchor, visits the district and presents the teacher with a Golden Apple and a check for \$1,000 at a school assembly. In addition, Knapp films the teacher in her classroom and interviews colleagues and students. The segment is broadcast during the succeeding week to the Channel 5 viewing area.

"I am so honored to have been chosen as Fort Sam Houston ISD's representative this year for the ExCEL Golden Apple Award. What a wonderful honor!" Hansen reported when being interviewed by Deborah Knapp.

Hansen has 29 years of teaching expe-

rience, with 14 of those at Cole High School. She earned an undergraduate degree from Southwest Texas State University and a master's degree from Texas A&I University at Kingsville. In 2003, she was selected one of 112 art teachers from across the U.S. who attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago's Teacher Institute in Contemporary Art. Through this once-in-lifetime opportunity, Hansen studied with nationally renowned artists, critics, and lecturers in the visual and new media arts. Her art students benefited from this new gained experience and knowledge.



Rita Hansen, Cole Junior/Senior High School Art teacher, shows off the Golden Apple Award she received as Fort Sam Houston ISD's 2003 – 2004 KENS-TV/SACU ExCEL Award winner.

Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Weekly Campus Activities January 19 – 24, 2004

Fort Sam Houston Elementary School

Monday, Jan. 19

- School Holiday/Martin Luther King Day

Friday, Jan. 24

- Spirit Day

Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School

Monday, Jan. 19

- School Holiday/Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday, Jan. 20

- Pep Rally: Nixon Basketball Game in Mosely Gym, 3 p.m.

- Girls Basketball vs Nixon-Smilely at Cole, 5 and 6:30 p.m.

- Boys Basketball vs Nixon-Smilely

at Central Post Gym, 5 and 8 p.m.

- Girls / Boys Soccer at

Alamo Heights, 7 p.m.

- ATSSB Junior High Regional Band Auditions at La Vernia, TBA

Wednesday, Jan. 21

- Girls Soccer vs Incarnate Word at Cole, 4 p.m.

Thursday, Jan. 22

- UIL District 29-4A Swim Meet at Palo Alto, 5 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 23

- Girls Junior Varsity Basketball at Stockdale, 5 p.m.

- Girls Varsity Basketball

at Stockdale, 6:30 p.m.

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

Saturday, Jan. 24

- JROTC Military Ball, TBA

Cougar basketball teams make the hoops

The Cole Cougars earned their 16th victory by beating the Gervin Academy Coyotes Jan. 9. Billy Collins was high scorer with 21 points followed by Donell Weary with 16 points. The ladies' basketball team overpowered Gervin Academy on the same evening 81 to 15, increasing their number of wins to 13. Joie Jolivet led the team with 21 points.

In a nail-biting overtime, the Cole Cougars lost to the Randolph

High School Ro-Hawks 51 to 50. The teams were tied at 43 at the end of regulation time. High scorer for the Cougars was Donnell Weary with 19 points, followed by Josh Collins with 11, and Billy Collins with 10. The team's record is now 16-3. The lady Cougars trounced the lady Ro-Hawks 59 to 21, earning the team their 14th victory. High scorer was Jovan Ebaloroza with 13 points, Joie Jolivet with 13, and Brittany Harris with 10.

SLS seeks young artists, writers

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.

ECPI Online AAS Degree presentation, Jan. 27

Electronics, Communications, Programming and Information Systems College of Technology will conduct several briefs and enrollments opportunity for Associates of Applied Science (AAS) Online Degree programs on Jan. 27, noon to 1 p.m. and 2:30-3:30 p.m. at the Fort Sam Houston Education Service Center, Bldg. 2248, Stop 30, 2408 New North Braunfels Ave.

ECPI is a fully approved and accredited academic institution with a primary mission to provide quality collegiate education. ECPI is accredited by the Commission of Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges, and approved by State Council of Higher Education of Virginia; Texas Workforce Commission and Texas Education Coordinating Board.

We are a participating member of Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges and are ranked 2nd in the nation in Computer and Technology Sciences AAS Degrees awarded.

Our main campus is located in Virginia Beach, Virginia and was founded in 1966. We have 7 campuses in Virginia, 4 campuses in North and South Carolina with over 8,000 students enrolled. We

have on base sites at Naval Air Station Oceana, Virginia and Naval Station Norfolk Virginia. We are also reaching and serving our military personnel at naval bases in South Texas: Naval Station Ingleside, Texas, Naval Air Stations Corpus Christi and Kingsville Texas.

We are planning and coordinating in providing the same quality collegiate education and opportunity to our military personnel and their family members at Fort Bragg, North Carolina and Fort Sam Houston, Texas

- We offer four Online Degree programs:

- Networking and Security Management
 - Computer Network Technology
 - Accounting Administration
 - Business Administration
- Why ECPI Online?

Convenient: Learn anywhere...anytime, designed for your schedule

Small class sizes: Means more individual attention to you

Multiple schedule choices: Lets you graduate quickly - Earn your degree in less 2 years

Hands-On learning: Featuring state of the art simulation software

Two-way communication: Using the latest in Internet Technology

Quick and Easy Access to Faculty: One-on-one tutorial assistance

Toll Free 24/7 Tech Support

Personalize Access to the ECPI Media Center and Library

Scholarships and Financial Aid

Available:

- Military Serviceman of the Quarter can be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship towards an Online Degree Program or a six-month certification program

- Military Serviceman of the Year can be awarded \$2,500 scholarship towards an Online Degree Program only

- Other Military Scholarships available (Military Merit and Victory awards)

- You can transfer your earned college credits towards your AAS degree program

- You can earn college credits from your military experience and technical training towards your degree program.

Will require DD-295 to be reviewed and evaluated to determined college credits

- EPCI accepts College-Level

Examination Program (CLEP) and Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Support (DANTES) exams.

- For military personnel: ECPI is approved for Veterans Benefits and Tuition Assistance.

- Graduate Career Placement Assistance. We help you develop a career plan and conduct a job search Online courses with ECPI meet the same high standards as on-campus classes. Courses are "real world" to enhance your value to potential employers. Faculty members have the academic background plus "hands-on" experience. Advisory Boards, representing industry, provide input for our programs. Typically, each course is completed in 6 weeks.

Start your exciting career in computer and information technology today! Please stop by and visit us at the ECPI College of Technology Online Degree presentation Jan. 27 at the Education Service Center Fort Sam Houston. For more information contact ECPI Texas Military Representative, Chico Buyo at 361-775-2976 or email fbuyo@ecpi.edu, or visit the Web site at www.ecpi.edu.

DoD resumes Anthrax Vaccine Immunization Program

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

A federal judge ruled Jan. 7 that the Defense Department could again legally administer anthrax immunizations to troops.

That same day, DoD personnel chief Dr. David S.C. Chu noted in a department-wide memorandum that military commanders "should immediately resume the anthrax vaccination program."

The department's anthrax vaccine immunization program had been in hiatus since Dec. 23, after an injunction granted the previous day by the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia

caused DoD to suspend the program.

The department, Chu wrote in the memo, "remains convinced that the AVIP complies with all legal requirements, and there is now no judicial restraint" on administration of the vaccine.

Senior DoD leaders, including Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, maintain that the anthrax vaccine is a safe and necessary prophylactic for U.S. troops deployed in the war against terrorism where enemies may employ biological, chemical or nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

Both Rumsfeld and Myers have received anthrax shots.



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 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: White, metal framed bunk bed that can also separate into two twin beds or a day bed, ladder and mattresses included, \$150. Call 270-9696.

For Sale: Futon fold out bed, black metal, very sturdy, clean, bed, 71" by 53", \$75. Call 945-9905.

For Sale: Corner computer desk, \$60; roll top desk, \$250; Futon, full size, \$125; non-slip pet ramp, \$90; PC monitor, keyboard and mouse, \$75. Call 662-0234 or 865-9227.

For Sale: 2002 Gold Honda Reflex, 250 cc. 70 mpg, 85 mph top speed, Givi extended windshield, travel box, 2100+ miles, extended warranty, service manual, three helmets, crank type hauler fits in 2 inch receiver hitch, all for \$3,500. Call (210) 493-0183.

For Sale: 1976 Seacrest bass boat in excellent condition, rebuilt, 40 hp Mercury outboard. Bimini top and extra propeller, galvanized trailer, \$2,000. Call (210) 493-0183.

For Sale: Bernhardt sofa, \$300 obo; fifty-year-old solid cherry bed and matching bureau with mirror, mattresses included, \$500 obo. Call 228-0787.

For Sale: Sears Kenmore electric dryer; \$50, obo, works well; RCA 21-inch color TV with remote, cable ready, \$25. Call 659-8166.

For Sale: Parabody 400 home gym station in mint condition, more than 30 full body exercises, 200 lbs weight stack, enamel finishing, \$1,275 obo. Call daytime (210) 632-5056 or evenings (210) 658-7137.

For Sale: Sanyo refrigerator, 2.5 cubic ft., \$40; entertainment center, 53" by 43", \$65; Dell computer, monitor, keyboard and mouse, \$90; commercial copy machine, \$300; large metal desk, \$ 30. Call 637-6579 or 241-1291.

For Sale: Round-trip airline ticket to travel anywhere with in the 48 U.S. states. Ticket is good through December 31, 2004, \$300. Call 637-6579 or 241-1291.

Health Promotion Center January 2004 Class Schedule

Class	Date	Time
Back Pain	15	2-3:30 p.m.
Tobacco Cessation		
"Readiness to Change"	15	2-4 p.m.
Arthritis	20	9:30-11 a.m.
High Blood Pressure	21	9 a.m. to Noon
Office Yoga	21	Noon to 1 p.m.
Self Care and Health	22	1-3 p.m.
Breastfeeding Support Group	23	1-2:30 p.m.
Cholesterol and Lipids	26	8:30-11:30 a.m.
Diabetes Education	27	12:45-4:30 p.m.
Breast Health	27	9-10 a.m.
Office Yoga	28	Noon to 1 p.m.
Introduction to Weight Reduction	30	Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Breastfeeding Support Group	30	1-2:30 p.m.

Note: Appointments for Fibromyalgia Treatment Program require a consult to Behavioral Medicine Clinic. Schedule Winning Combinations and Introduction to Weight Reduction through Nutrition Care Division at 916-5525. Schedule Back Pain through Physical Therapy Clinic at 916-3247.

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.

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.



Community events

OCSC Bingo and Luncheon, Jan. 20

The Officer and Civilian Spouses' Club of Fort Sam Houston will hold their January Bingo and Luncheon on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 11 a.m. at the Officers' Club. Join us for a fun, relaxing luncheon and stay for bingo and great prizes to kick off the New Year! For reservations call Brenda Hebron at 444-0259 or Karen Cole at 564-0124 by noon on Friday, Jan. 16. Menu choice number one is a soup and salad menu for \$12, and choice number two is a hot lunch featuring "Almond Baked Chicken" for \$14. Select your menu choice when phoning in your reservation. It is not too late to join OCSC. Dues are \$10 for new members for Jan. - May.

'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 now 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.

'It's Not Easy Being Green' Conference, Feb. 27-28

A Celebration of Military Life is the theme for this year's 'It's Not Easy Being Green' Conference which will be held Feb. 27 and 28 at Dodd Field Chapel. Registration forms are available at ACS, FSH Library, NCO Club BAMC FRG Office, BAMC Medical Mall Information desk, OCSC February Luncheon, Jimmy Brought Fitness Center and CYS Central Registration. Deadline to register is Feb. 18. For information, call Judy Markelz at (210) 655-0238 or Kim Taylor (210) 566-6526.

Otras Cosas

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.

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

¿Que Pasa?

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, 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/.

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.

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.

470th MI Groups seeks Army reservists for training in February

The 470th Military Intelligence Group seeks MI Army Reservists to train for 30 days in February in San Antonio. If you have left Active Duty, but was considering the U.S. Army Reserves, if you are in the Individual Ready Reserve or know someone who is, we are looking for personnel in the following Military Occupational Specialties: 96, 97, 98, 350, 351, and 352. We will also have Troop Program Unit positions opening up soon. For information, call 295-6061.

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.

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.

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.

Meetings

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.

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.

In the classroom