



Fort Sam Houston

# News Leader<sup>®</sup>



Vol. 36, No. 29

Fort Sam Houston — Home of Army Medicine

July 22, 2004

## Briefs

### Soldier Variety Hour, today

The Hacienda Recreation Center will present the Soldier Variety Hour today at 7 p.m. The production will feature music, dance and special acts performed by Soldiers. The event is Fort Sam Houston's entry in the 2004 U.S. Army Festival of the Performing Arts Competition. For information, call 224-7250.

### Combat Medic Run, July 24

The annual Combat Medic Run will be held July 24, at 7:15 a.m., MacArthur Parade Field. For more information see page 25.

### FSH Newcomers' next 'Extravaganza,' July 27

The "Newcomers Extravaganza," will be held July 27, 9 a.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Bldg. 2797 on Stanley Road. Attendance is mandatory all permanent party in-processing Soldiers in the rank of lieutenant colonel and below, within 60 days of their arrival. For information, call the Army Community Service Relocation Program at 221-2705 or 221-2418.

### 32nd Med. Bde. Change of Command, July 29

Outgoing commander Col. Maureen Coleman will relinquish command of 32nd Medical Brigade to incoming commander Col. Bradley Freeman at a change of command ceremony, July 29, 9 a.m. at MacArthur Parade Field.

### FSH ISD Board Meeting, July 29

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Board will meet on Thursday, July 29, 11 a.m. in the FSH ISD Professional Development Center, 1908 Winans Road.

### 'Pay before you pump,' PX Gasoline Policy, Aug. 2

Effective Aug. 2, the Fort Sam Houston Post Exchange gas stations located on Walters Street and Schofield Road will implement a "Pay before you pump" policy for cash gasoline sales.



Photo by Phil Reidinger

Capt. Martha Gonzales and 1st Sgt. Sergio Rodriguez unfurl the company guidon designating the former 149th Military Police Company as the 236th Military Police during the homecoming celebration ceremony.

## MP Company ends two-year duty at Ft. Hood

Story by Master Sgt. Gregory Ripps  
Texas National Guard

Members of the 236th Military Police Company were welcomed home to San Antonio this weekend after two years of active duty at Fort Hood, Texas.

The welcoming ceremony took place at the Fort Sam Houston Roadrunner Community Center on Sunday. More than 200 family members and friends celebrated the homecoming with Lt. Gen. Wayne Marty, the Texas Adjutant General. Marty noted that the unit departed as the 149th Military Police Company and returns on the same day as the re-activation of the 36th Infantry Division and their own re-designation as the 236th Military Police Company.

Following the official welcome, Brig. Gen. Darren Owens, 36th Infantry Division assistant commander, officiated the company change of command ceremony honoring incoming company commander Capt. Jeff Gilmore, Jr. who succeeded Capt. Martha Gonzales as leader of the company. Owens presented Gonzales the Army Commendation Medal recognizing her performance as unit commander during the deployment.

See **MP COMPANY** on Page 11

## Chief of Staff visits wounded Soldiers, awards Purple Hearts

By Maj. Gregg Tooley and Mike Dulevitz  
BAMC Public Affairs

Gen. Peter Schoomaker, the 35th Chief of Staff of the Army, visited with wounded Soldiers and awarded five Purple Hearts July 8 at the Brooke Army Medical Center.

Schoomaker presented Purple Hearts to Staff Sgt. Brad Smelley, Sgt. Alonso Brown, Sgt. Dale Morgan II, and Spc. Raqeeb Causey in front of a capacity crowd of family, friends and fellow Soldiers at the BAMC auditorium. Pfc. Kenneth Weinert received his Purple Heart from the Army's chief of staff at his bed-

side. The five Soldiers honored were wounded while serving their nation in Iraq.

"These Soldiers have seen the tiger and they have suffered personally," said Schoomaker. "They have served in the most selfless fashion and I am extremely proud of them."

Smelley, a field artilleryman assigned to the 1st Armored Division, suffered serious injury to his eyes April 28 in Baghdad when a car bomb exploded near his vehicle. He lost vision in both eyes; however, surgery has been successful in substantially improving his sight. His wife, Mikela,

and four children traveled all the way from Baumholder, Germany, to attend the ceremony.

Brown, a National guardsman with the 39th Infantry Brigade from Arkansas, was wounded in the shoulder April 8 during a mortar attack near Taja, Iraq. Brown, a cavalry scout, had only been in country two weeks when he was wounded.

Morgan serves as a chemical operations specialist with the 4th Infantry Division in Taji, Iraq. His fighting position was hit February 18 by enemy mortar fire and he sustained serious wounds to one of his

See **PURPLE HEARTS** on Page 18

## Treatment available to troops suffering from combat stress

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

The military member who goes to combat and the one who comes back are never the same person, the Defense Department's director of mental health policy said July 14.

"No one comes back unchanged," said Army Col. (Dr.) Tom Burke in an interview with the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service.

Burke and other DoD health officials try to reach out to those returning home from Iraq and Afghanistan who may be suffer-

ing from combat-related mental health problems or post-traumatic stress disorder, he said.

Last week, the Army released a first-of-its-kind medical report that showed front-line action had adversely affected the mental health of some service members. Burke, who advises DoD leaders on mental health issues, said combat veterans and their families should watch for changes in behavior that can range from mild depressive and anxiety symptoms to trouble sleeping and nightmares.

"In the majority of the cases, these symptoms are transient;

they are common and diminish with time," he said. The service member may have the occasional sleepless night or memories that come back out of nowhere for years, "and that's normal," he added.

Other symptoms to look for, he said, are sad and withdrawn moods, tearfulness, problems sleeping — too much or too little — and problems with appetite, memory loss and concentration. Drug and alcohol abuse also are symptoms of a problem, he added.

But the problems aren't always mild, and the symptoms are not always subtle. "If a per-

son starts talking about hurting themselves, killing themselves, it's important to not panic but to take that kind of talk very seriously and get them to help," Burke said, "even if it involves calling 911."

Burke said that mental problems can go on for years if not treated, and that symptoms of combat-related mental illness "They develop over time," he said.

An Army study published in the July edition of the New England Journal of Medicine stated that only six percent of Soldiers and Marines returning

from combat duty experienced mental health problems. Burke said the low number didn't amaze him, based on what the Army has learned from studying prisoners of war suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

"The number of six to 12 percent is not surprising," he said. "The experience in the past among POWs," he said, "is (that) about 50 percent have PTSD; among Vietnam veterans, over the years, about 30 percent; Gulf War I, 10-15 percent," he said.

He said that declining percentage of combat-related mental

See **STRESS** on Page 5

# Military health officials make 2002 survey data available to government researchers

Defense Department health officials are making anonymous data taken from surveys of active duty service members available to government researchers.

Since 1980, DoD has conducted confidential, anonymous surveys among active duty members through an instrument called the "Survey of Health Related Behaviors Among Military Personnel."

Military researchers generally use summaries of the data to develop health promotion and prevention programs for military forces, officials said.

Data from the most recent survey, taken in 2002, has been placed in a public-use file by researchers working on such issues as strategies for decreasing

alcohol abuse and tobacco use. Under research rules, DoD is required to notify the public this data is being used by researchers.

"This will be the first time that a public-use file for the health-related behaviors survey will be used since the survey series began," according to a DoD health affairs news release.

More than 12,500 randomly selected service members took the 2002 survey. Results were announced in March 2004. Officials stressed all information made available for public use is anonymous and contains no identifying information.

Source: American Forces Press Service

## ***Fort Sam Houston News Leader***

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# 232d Medical Battalion FRG volunteers bag groceries; plan Summer Jamboree

Story and photo by Capt. Alex Gonzales  
Special to the Newsleader

The Family Readiness Group is a unit-level program consisting primarily of volunteers. The FRG is dedicated to helping its unit members and their families in times of peace and mobilization. This is accomplished by holding meetings, sending newsletters, e-mailing, and utilizing family "calling trees" to spread important information. FRG programs provide opportunities for both learning and recreation. These include family day events, summer picnics, holiday meals, and mobilization readiness classes.

This past weekend, the 232d Medical Battalion FRG held a fundraiser at the Fort

Sam Houston Commissary. Members of the battalion, led by Sgt. 1st Class Sherry Omarrow and Lt. Col. Bruce W. McVeigh, bagged groceries from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The proceeds of the fundraiser will be utilized to sponsor a battalion-level Summer Jamboree on Aug. 7 at Canyon Lake. This event will celebrate the end of another successful quarter and will give the battalion's members one last opportunity to have fun prior to the beginning of another school year.

Sgt. 1st Class Sherry Omarrow, Staff Sgt. Craig Watts, and 1st Sgt. Jaime Bonilla bag groceries during 232d FRG fundraiser. Members of the 232d Medical Battalion worked all day on Saturday to raise funds for the Summer Jamboree.



## 'Tusker Medics' welcome new commander



Outgoing commander, Capt. Kirk Reed, 232nd Medical Battalion commander, Lt. Col. Bruce McVeigh, and incoming commander, Capt. Jacob Bustoz, prepare for the change of command ceremony. E Company 1st Sgt. Antwan Nicholson assisted during the traditional ceremonial passing of the unit guidon to the new commander.

Story and photo by Phil Reidinger  
FSH Public Affairs

The cadre and Soldiers of E Company, 232nd Medical Battalion, welcomed Capt. Jacob Bustoz as their new commander during a ceremony in the company area on Friday.

Battalion commander Lt. Col. Bruce McVeigh recognized outgoing commander Capt. Kirk Reed for his command successes training more than 1600 Initial Entry Training Soldiers in the 91W Healthcare Specialist program, reducing training attrition rates, and improving Soldier test scores.

Following completion of the Officer Medical Logistics Course, Reed will be

assigned to the Pentagon Health Clinic. Prior to assuming command of E Company, he served with A Company, 187th Medical Battalion, as an Advanced Course training and counseling class advisor and as medical platoon leader with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Bustoz assumed command following assignments at Eisenhower Medical Center as secretary general staff and aide-de-camp. He is a distinguished military graduate of the Texas Tech University ROTC Program. He served initially in the 4th Infantry Division as a medical platoon leader with the 10th Cavalry Regiment and company executive officer with the 704th Division Support Battalion.

## Soldiers: 'Doing our best to keep our home clean'



Pfc. Eva Marquez and Pvt. Kanasha Murrell, B Company, 187th Medical Battalion patrol Stanley Road in the vicinity of Building 124 on Sunday.

Story and photos by Phil Reidinger  
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

On Sunday, two Soldiers were walking along Stanley Road with trash bags in their hands. When I greeted them and asked how they were doing on a warm, and getting hotter, Sunday afternoon, one Soldier, Pfc. Eva Marquez replied, "Doing our best to keep our home clean," to the agreement of her battle buddy Pvt. Kanasha Murrell. Later they completed their section of Stanley Road and were joined by Spc. Andrew Mahoney and Spc. Adrian Wevers before moving to Dickman Road.

The four Soldiers are 91K (laboratory technician) students assigned to B Company, 187th Medical Battalion, and on Sunday were members of the daily post police detail also supported on a rotating basis by Soldiers assigned to the Special Troops Battalion and the Law Enforcement Command. The detail includes a total of four Soldiers and a driver who spend the day patrolling post streets and perimeter picking up trash and emptying the trash cans along the route.

Fort Sam Houston is a 3,000 acre post with a huge perimeter to police, to include housing areas, parking lots, the Post Exchange and Commissary areas, and the access gate areas. When you see litter in office and unit work areas, help the Soldiers by putting it in a trashcan. Better yet, don't litter and be courteous when passing Soldiers walking along the roads "trying their best to keep our home clean."



Spc. Andrew Mahoney and Spc. Adrian Wevers finish policing the parking lots near the Post Office and the Vogel In/Out Processing Center on Sunday.

# Troop Command salutes outgoing commander; welcomes new commander

By Maj. Gregg Tooley  
BAMC Public Affairs

Brooke Army Medical Center's Troop Command bid farewell to Col. James Mundy and welcomed his replacement Lt. Col. Ricardo Glenn during a July 15 change of command ceremony at the Fort Sam Houston parade grounds.

Brig. Gen. C. William Fox, Jr., the commanding general of the Great Plains Regional Command and BAMC, presided over the ceremony.

"The change of command ceremony is really about the Soldiers on the parade ground today — marching and standing behind the colors and for whom the commander has the privilege of serving with," said Fox.

The commander is the officer, Fox said, entrusted with the unique and all-encompassing responsibility to lead and care for Soldiers assigned to his unit. He must mold the unit into a team capable of accomplishing the mission and must maintain the good order, discipline, and morale of every Soldier assigned in the unit.

"This ceremony is also symbolic of all that is good and important about this nation of ours," said the commanding general. "It recognizes service beyond self and allows us to reflect upon the accomplishments of the command and the commander, who has worked hard to ensure the missions are successfully accomplished."

Fox said Mundy made a profound difference during his two-year tenure. As troop commander, Mundy was responsible for the health, welfare, discipline, and training of seven companies with more than 1,700 assigned Soldiers. Mundy also served as the human resources director managing all civilian personnel at BAMC.

"He has been an extraordinary leader whose enormous accomplishments in these positions truly speak to the selfless service, dedication, duty and compassion that are the characteristics of this leader," said Fox. "Under the circumstances of supporting our Army at war, he utilized masterful planning, keen leadership, and perseverance."

For his accomplishments, Mundy was awarded the prestigious Legion of Merit.

Fox also recognized the contributions of Mundy's wife, Sun by awarding her the Commander's Award for Public Service.

"Sun's support for the mission and the Family Readiness Group really made a difference," said Fox. "This community and the BAMC team have all been made richer for having had the privilege of your time, friendship, love, and support."

Mundy and his family will continue to remain a part of the Fort Sam Houston community. The colonel's next assignment is as the chief of the Military Personnel Division for the U.S. Army Medical Command.

Fox also introduced Glenn, Mundy's replacement, to the BAMC family.

"Fortunately for BAMC, we have gained in Lt. Col. Rick Glenn an equally talented and professional medical leader, an experienced commander, and a tremendous medical personnel officer," Fox said.

Glenn's recent assignments include chief of Personnel Operations at U.S. Army Medical Command and troop commander at William Beaumont Army Medical Center in Fort Bliss, Texas. His wife Yolanda and their two daughters, Michele and Brandi, also joined Glenn.

Fox charged Glenn to remember it is all about the people and to lead with the talents, purpose and instincts that brought him to this point in his career.

Quoting the immortal words of Theodore Roosevelt, the BAMC commander reminded the audience, "It is not the stars and bars or the oak leaves or eagles that make you an officer or inspires Soldiers. It is your honest concern, compassion, selflessness and care for them everyday, placing their needs above your own that earns their respect and inspires them to achieve more than they thought possible to achieve."



Photo by Rudy Flowers

Lt. Col. Ricardo Glenn accepts the Brooke Army Medical Center Troop Command color from Brig. Gen. C. William Fox during the unit change of command ceremony at MacArthur Parade Field also recognizing the accomplishments of outgoing commander, Col. James Mundy.



Photo by Rudy Flowers

Soldiers presented daughter, Martha Mundy, and wife, Sun Mundy, bouquets of flowers while they watched the Troop Command change of command ceremony with Jan Fox, wife of host commander Brig. Gen. C. William Fox at MacArthur Parade Field on July 15.



Photo by Rudy Flowers

Staff Sgt. Richard Erickson presents a bouquet of yellow roses welcoming Yolanda Glenn to the Troop Command family.



Photo by Rudy Flowers

Brig. Gen. C. William Fox, Great Plains Regional Medical Command and Brooke Army Medical Center commanding general, presents Sun Mundy the Commander's Award for Public Service. Fox also presented outgoing Troop Command Commander, Col. James Mundy, the Legion of Merit recognizing his accomplishments and contributions as unit commander.

# Stress

*Continued from Page 1*

health concerns might be attributed to the military's approach to getting better mental health services to Soldiers before, during and after deployment.

"I would like to believe that part of that is because of the proactive care on the battlefield and the full range of services by the military healthcare system," he said, "and the proactive preventive services that are provided by the combat stress control units that are assigned with the combat units."

Also, he said, screening now takes place before deployment, preventive service is provided during deployment, followed by more screening during redeployment and follow-up care at treatment facilities.

Burke said the low percentage also indicates that the majority of service members surveyed are faring well under combat conditions. That may be due to realistic training and having the "best equipment in the world," he said.

He said that tougher training and better equipment, along with a more stable rotation schedule "has contributed to the

resilience of the service member and their ability to handle the stresses of combat."

Burke said that Defense Department doesn't "want to see the Soldiers of today live through years of suffering when there's help available now. The military has a number of resources to help those seeking help, he noted, starting with the service member's chain of command. He also encourages service members to talk with comrades or their chaplains.

He added that DoD "really cares" very much about its service members and their families, and he encouraged them to take

advantage of the various programs that are available.

"The help doesn't work if you don't come in to use it," he said. "Mental health problems are problems that have solutions."

Service members can get confidential counseling service through the military services' "One Source" program. The 24-hour-a-day service is for service members and their families, and provides quick, professional assistance with problems.

For more information visit [www.army-onesource.com](http://www.army-onesource.com) or call 1-800-464-8107.

# BAMC volunteers recognized by United Way

By Maj. Gregg Tooley  
BAMC Public Affairs

Brooke Army Medical Center volunteers were honored at United Way's Volunteer of the Year awards ceremony at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, San Antonio.

BAMC volunteer Penny Crowell was awarded United Way's prestigious Volunteer of the Year and the Patient Transport volunteers were awarded the Volunteer Group of the Year, both in the military category.

"It's a way of giving back," said Crowell, when asked why she volunteers at BAMC. "I was raised in the military and I have always done things as a volunteer. I like doing it."

Crowell dedicates about 35 hours per week helping out at BAMC since the hospital opened in 1996. She works as an American Red Cross volunteer for the pharmacy three days a week. The pharmacy processes on average more than 1,600 prescriptions

per day. She also works one day a week as a greeter at the information desk.

"Ms. Crowell is a truly wonderful person and volunteer in every respect," said Valerie Fox, one of her supervisors. "She is a blessing to this hospital. She continually takes the time to listen to everyone's needs and always responds to patients' frustrations in a positive and caring manner."

Patient Transport consists of 22 local volunteers who transport stable patients in wheelchairs and on gurneys. Each volunteer is required to attend specialized training, both when they start and annually, to help develop their communication skills.

"Many of our patients are hospitalized due to serious illness, burns, and wounds received serving in the Middle East," said Marchell Tillman, the patient transport coordinator. "These patients may be coping with disfigurement, loss of limbs and other serious life altering experiences. These are try-

ing times for them so we are there to listen. Hopefully we can make a difference and make them feel heard, valued, and understood."

As a group, the Patient Transport volunteers assist 400 to 500 patients per month and provide approximately 4,200 volunteer hours each year. This is particularly important since 9/11 because many of the BAMC staff is being deployed overseas in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

"We cannot manage without the Patient Transport volunteers," Tillman said. "They save us time and they are compassionate people who contribute to healing the whole person. They are our 'Partners in Healing.'"

More than 420 volunteers were considered for 21 categories at this year's Volunteer of the Year awards.

There are more than 150 volunteer positions presently available at BAMC. For information about becoming a volunteer, call (210) 916-5083.



Courtesy photo

Valerie Fox and Penny Crowell attend the United Way's Volunteer of the Year awards presentation at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Crowell received the Volunteer of the Year award in the military category.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### AMENDMENT TO THE PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

A Notice of Availability for review and comment on a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FNSI) of the potential environmental and socioeconomic effects associated with implementing a Community Development and Management Plan at Fort Sam Houston under the Army's Residential Communities Initiative (RCI) was published in the July 15, 2004 edition of the San Antonio Express News. This amendment extends the comment period and announces access to the EA and FNSI through the world wide web. The comment period is hereby extended from 12 August 2004 to 14 August 2004. In addition to the availability announced in the July 15, 2004 public notice, the EA and FNSI may also be viewed on the world wide web at following URL [www.samhouston.army.mil](http://www.samhouston.army.mil) Refer to the July 15, 2004 public notice for additional important information.



Courtesy photo

## Lopez departs; Nanton assumes command of USAMITC

The U.S. Army Medical Information Technology Center conducted a change of command ceremony for Lt. Col. Jose L. Lopez and Lt. Col. (P) Ulmont C. Nanton, Jr. at the Fort Sam Houston Roadrunner Community Center July 7.

Maj. Gen. Lester Martinez-Lopez, commanding general of the Medical Research and Materiel

Command and Fort Detrick, Md., officiated the ceremony attended by employees, guests, family members, and former commanders.

During his remarks, Martinez-Lopez welcomed and congratulated Nanton as the new commander of MITC. He is the 12th commander to take office at the center.

Martinez-Lopez also recognized Lopez for his successful tenure at the center. In the past three years, MITC has moved back on post, changed its name, and realized the vision of MEDCOM REG AR 25-1.

Lopez departs MITC to attend the Army War College as a Fellow to the Department of Health and

Human Services, Washington, D.C. this summer.

Nanton's most recent assignment was also as a Fellow to the DHSS at the Army War College.

## Armed with medical skills, National Guard and Reserve forces head for border

Elements of National Guard and Reserve forces are heading for the Rio Grande Valley once again to provide free medical care to local residents.

The reserve component members are part of Operation Lone Star 2004, which also involves a number of state agencies and private organizations, bringing trained personnel to a medically under-served area of Texas.

Sixty-three members of the Texas National Guard will join 52 members of the U.S. Navy Reserve and nine members of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve to constitute the military-uniformed contingent. Thirty-seven Texas guardsmen and 35 Navy Reservists will provide medical and dental services while the other military members will provide administrative and logistical support. The meaningful and realistic training they receive during Operation Lone Star will help prepare them to operate in both wartime situations and natural disasters. In addition, 15 members of the Texas State Guard Medical Rangers are participating.

Civilian agencies and organizations involved in Operation Lone Star 2004 include the Office of the Secretary of State, Texas Department of Health, Cameron County Health Department, County of Cameron, County of Hidalgo, Health and Human Service Commission, Office of the Secretary of State, Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores-Mexican Consulate, Migrant Health Promotion, Texas A&M University Colonias Program, Texas State Technical College Dental Assisting Program, Rio Grande Valley Dental Hygienists' Society, Dentists Who Care, Cameron Works Texas Workforce Centers, Texas Department of Human Services, Wesley Nurses of the Rio Grande Valley, San Antonio College of Dental and Medical Assistants, Career Centers of Texas-Brownsville, UT Health Science Center of Houston School of Public Health/Starr County Health Studies Human Genetics Center, and TAMU-SRPH-STC-HERO Mobile Unit.

Operation Lone Star 2004 offers general medical care, adult dental care, sports physicals, immunizations, diabetic screening, high blood pressure screening and pharmacy service – all without charge. Scheduled service dates and hours of operation are July 26-31 and Aug. 2-4 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Aug. 5 from 8 a.m. to noon. The three treatment sites are:

Chapa Elementary School, 3-1/2-Mile N. Doffing Road, La Joya, Hidalgo County.

Garden Park Elementary School, 855 Military Road, Brownsville, Cameron County.

Rio Grande City Middle School, Fort Ringgold Campus, Farm Road 2360 (south from Highway 83), Rio Grande City, Starr County.

Operation Lone Star 2003 treated more

than 6,200 patients.

For more information, call Ramiro Gonzales at (956) 444-3277.

Source: Texas National Guard news release

# Activated guardsmen, reservists qualify faster for home loans

By Rudi Williams  
American Forces Press Service

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of Department of Veterans Affairs home loans to members of the National Guard and reserves in recent years, according to a top VA official.

The number of loans would increase even more if all guardsmen and reservists knew that being on active duty dramatically reduces the time it takes for them to become eligible for the loans, Keith Pedigo, director of the VA Loan Guaranty Service, said during a recent interview.

He said VA tries to get the word out to all guardsmen and reservists, but it's difficult to reach all of them because they're spread out across the country.

"I would guess that many of them are not aware of the requirements for a home loan," Pedigo said. "However, I would expect that those who are interested in buying a home would go to the trouble to find out exactly what it takes to use the home-loan benefit."

Normally, guardsmen and reservists have to serve six years before becoming eligible for a

VA home loan, Pedigo noted. But, he said, that requirement changes dramatically when they're called to active duty during wartime.

"They're then subject to the same eligibility requirements as a regular active-duty service member," he said. "During wartime, you only have to serve for 90 days to become eligible for a VA home loan."

Those who are discharged with a service-connected disability with less than 90 days are also eligible, Pedigo noted.

During peacetime, the eligibility requirement is 181 days of continuous active duty with an honorable discharge. Eligibility is also granted to those who are discharged with a service-connected disability with less than 181 days service.

Pedigo noted the VA is making "more and more" loan guarantees for guardsmen and reservists, and officials expect that number to continue to climb.

"We try to promote this benefit to the reserves and National Guard through various means," he said. Currently, about 3.5 percent of VA-backed loans are made to those who qualified based on National Guard or reserve service, he said.

There are some differences in the basic eligibility requirements between home loans for active-duty and reserve-component troops, Pedigo noted.

He said the best way for guardsmen and reservists to find out if they qualify for a home loan is to submit an application for a certificate of eligibility to one of the two VA eligibility centers. The center in Winston-Salem, N.C., handles states east of the Mississippi River. The Los Angeles center handles states west of the Mississippi.

"They should submit the application along with a copy of their service record," Pedigo said. The certificate of eligibility proves eligibility for the home-loan benefit.

Another difference between the reserve-component and active-duty benefit is in the amount of fees paid — reservists pay a slightly higher fee, he noted.

The fee consists of a certain percentage of the loan amount: 2.75 percent for National Guard and reserve members, two percent for others. These percentages can be lowered with down payments of five or 10 percent.

The fee doesn't have to come out of the service member's

pocket, Pedigo added. It can be included in the loan amount.

"So if you don't have the cash, that's not a problem," he said.

There are also minor changes to the program during wartime. For instance, reserve-component troops are eligible to benefit from the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act, which affords certain financial benefits.

Under the act, active-duty service members can get a reduction in the interest rate on their consumer credit obligations, including mortgages, Pedigo said.

Activated guardsmen and reservists "can get a stay on an impending foreclosure and have an opportunity to wait until they're discharged in order to get back on their feet financially," he said.

Pedigo said financial institutions are more sympathetic to guardsmen and reservists during wartime. "We have a very active outreach program with the mortgage-lending community, as well as the real estate profession," he said, noting that about 5,000 mortgage bankers and other financial institutions participate in the VA home-loan program.

VA encourages financial institutions across the country to participate in the home-loan program. "Real estate sales professionals are often the first point of contact with veterans or (service members) who are interested in buying a home," Pedigo noted. "We want to make sure that the lenders are aware of the numerous aspects of our program. Then they can promote this to the service member or veteran with accurate information."

Pedigo was named director of the VA Loan Guaranty Service in 1987. He said he believes the VA home-loan program has two responsibilities. "One is to make sure that veterans and active-duty service members have the opportunity to use their home-loan benefit," he said. "But also, we consider it to be a serious responsibility for us to make sure that they have an opportunity to stay in that home if they encounter temporary financial difficulty."

VA has large staffs at nine Regional Loan Centers around the country that are actively involved in assisting veterans who have fallen behind on their loan payments, he noted.

"We make an effort to intercede on their behalf with the lending institution to set up repayment plans," Pedigo said. "When there's no way to avoid foreclosure, we continue to work with the veteran and active-duty service member to try to find the least costly way of terminating that loan transaction."

"So once the loan is made to the veteran, we don't consider that our responsibility is ended," he said. "We consider that we have to try to help that veteran stay in the home and assist them in any way we can."

Pedigo said most people aren't aware that VA will come to their rescue when they get into financial trouble. "Everybody who gets a home loan has an expectation that they'll be able to continue making the payments," he said.

"So the thought probably never occurs to them that the VA might be there to help them if they encounter financial difficulty," he continued. "I think many are surprised when they do fall behind in their payments and get a call from one of the VA loan service counselors offering assistance."

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the VA home-loan program, which was created in 1944 Serviceman's Readjustment Act. VA has made 17.7 million loans to veterans.

"We've made mortgage money available to the amount of \$138 billion during that 60-year period," Pedigo said. "The vast majority of those loans have been made without a down payment. The centerpiece of the VA program in 1944 as well as today is the no-down-payment aspect."

He said the VA is unique in that regard in the mortgage industry. "Veterans need to be aware that they don't need the cash on hand that non-veterans might need to buy a home," he added.

## FSH Newcomers' 'Extravaganza' set for July 27

Attention newcomers! The next Newcomers' "Extravaganza" is scheduled for July 27, at 9 a.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Bldg. 2797 on Stanley Road. Everyone—Soldiers, civilians, and family members—will have an opportunity to learn about Fort Sam Houston and San Antonio and participate in drawings, registrations, and social activities.

This event is the official "Newcomers' Orientation" for Fort Sam Houston and it is mandatory for all permanent party in-processing Soldiers in rank of lieutenant colonel and below, within 60 days of their arrival at FSH. Commanders and supervisors are encouraged to allow Soldiers and civilian employees administrative time to attend. Children are welcome at the Extravaganza.

For additional information, call the Army Community Service Relocation Program at 221-2705/2418.

# Army hits retention mark

By Courtney Hickson  
Army News Service

The active Army is at 100 percent mission accomplished of its retention rate for the third quarter.

In addition, said Brig. Gen. Sean Byrne, chief of Military Policy, G1, said, in a media round table Friday, all 10 divisions are at or above 100-percent retention. He also said the aggregate number of the Army is 100 percent.

When units have Soldiers deployed, those units often have lower retention rates, but when Soldiers return to the base those numbers rebound. Byrne said some of the reasons for the increase are the Soldiers are getting re-involved in the post and discussing their situations with their family. When Soldiers from the 82nd Airborne returned home their retention numbers increased 9 to 10 percent, he said. Additionally, the Army surveys Soldiers as they return from deployment and Byrne said they have been getting good feedback.

"There may be some talking, but Soldiers aren't walking," Byrne said.

The Soldiers impacted by the Stop-Loss are counted as eligible for re-enlistment and the Army is actively perusing them to re-enlist. There were about 9,500 Soldiers impacted by Stop-Loss, according to Byrne.

In order to compete with the civilian sector the Army offers bonuses and competitive wages. A little over half of the military occupational specialties qualify for bonuses at re-enlistment time, with the average bonus for someone who re-ups for three years being \$4,200, and six years, \$8,300. In addition, the Army offers various programs with enlistment.

"You are not going to find a more patriotic group of young Americans," Byrne said.

About 5,600 Individual Ready Reserve were recently notified they were being called to active duty to

fill approximately 4,400 requirements. There may be the need for additional Soldiers in the future, Byrne said.

The IRR Soldiers received a mailgram telling them they are being called to active duty and another packet would arrive with their orders 30 days later. At that point, they will be told where to report and go through an intensive screening and then receive common task training.

If IRR Soldiers have been out of the Army for a while, they will get current military occupational specialty training. They will then report to an installation to join with their unit, 60 to 90 days before deployment.

The Army is also trying to provide predictability for Soldiers, as to when they will deploy.

"We try to get the Soldiers together 90 to 100 days before so they are doing things collectively," Byrne said. "They deploy as a unit and come back together. The focus is on the unit."

This predictability will allow Soldiers to have full knowledge of when they are going to deploy so they can be with their unit before deployment. Additionally, this will allow for greater unit stability. The effort to create predictability is to allow Reservists and National guardsmen called to active duty enough time to work with their employers.

Byrne also spoke briefly about the Reservist and National guardsmen having employee rights, full benefits and having their jobs for them.

Lt. Col. Richard Guzzetta a National guardsmen said as members return from Iraq they are working very closely with the communities to welcome them home properly. He also said there are over 400 family assistance centers to aid families of National Guard members while they are deployed.

## Sealed Bid Auction of NAF Property and Equipment

Non-appropriated Funds will accept sealed bids for a mobile home, 3-bedroom trailer. The trailer is 66 ft. by 14 ft. with one bath and is approximately 20 years old. The purchaser will be responsible for disconnecting existing utilities, installing a trailer towing tongue and removing the trailer from the Canyon Lake Recreation premises. The trailer may be viewed between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily.

Sealed bids will be accepted in the NAF Financial Management Office located in Bldg. 124 (first floor), 1212 Stanley Road, until close of business Aug. 11. Bids will be opened at 8 a.m. on Aug. 12. For more information, call the Fort Sam Houston Recreation Area at 1-(830) 964-3387.

# Malaria prevention begins with medications

By Pfc. Chris Stump  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

Malaria is a mosquito-borne disease that afflicts 300-500 million people in many parts of the world every year and kills approximately one million of them, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

In Afghanistan malaria is endemic, along with the rest of southeast and southwest Asia. Malaria is a parasitical infection, not a virus or bacteria. It enters the human bloodstream through mosquito bites.

Mosquitoes become carriers of malaria when they bite a person infected with the disease. The mosquito then bites another person, transmitting the malaria from the first person, said Col. Scott H. Burner, Task Force 325 Combat Support Hospital emergency physician in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Soldiers in this area of operations can prevent malarial infections and the problems that accompany it by taking a few preventive steps, said Burner.

The most important thing Coalition troops can do to prevent malaria is to take their prescribed anti-malarial medication, he said.

"Malaria is only a problem because people don't take their meds," said Burner.

To ensure troops are taking their medication and preventing possible malaria, leaders need to check for compliance with the standard, said Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery L. Dawson, Company C, 125th Signal Battalion platoon sergeant.

"I am ultimately responsible for my Soldiers' health and welfare," he said.

Dawson supervises a signal shop that provides 24-hour communications support to much of Afghanistan. Just one Soldier out sick with malaria could throw off the entire operation. To keep this from happening, his squad leaders verify at the beginning of each 12-hour shift that all their Soldiers have taken their medication, said Dawson.

"I don't need any of my Soldiers getting sick," he said. "It would decrease our ability to provide communications support to this area of operations."

There have been four cases of malaria in recent weeks at Bagram Air Base, said Burner. All were infected because they failed to take their prescribed medication.

"Malaria meds are almost completely effective against the parasite," he said.

Obedying uniform rules in conjunction with taking preventive medicines and using repellents will almost eliminate the possibility of becoming sick with malaria, said Burner.

Sleeves on uniforms should always remain down to put a physical barrier between the person and the mosquitoes, he said. Uniforms should also be treated with permethrin, an insect repellent that lasts the six-month-life of the uniform, prior to deployment to a region where malaria is prevalent. Uniforms may be re-treated as necessary throughout the deployment.

Insect repellent should also be worn on personnel's exposed skin, he said. Insect repellents are available to troops through individual unit supply and medical systems. Malaria may cause kidney failure, seizures, mental confusion, coma or death if left untreated, according to the CDC.

The most common signs of infection are fever and flu-like illness, including shaking chills, headache, muscle aches and

tiredness. Nausea, vomiting and diarrhea may also occur, as well as anemia and jaundice due to the lack of red blood cells.

Signs of malaria may show in as little as a few days or up to a year after becoming infected.

If malaria is contracted, the patient can be treated in country. The treatment for malaria involves using anti-malarial drugs in stronger doses to eradicate the parasites in the bloodstream.

"Although a serious disease, it can be cured," said Burner. The common misconception that if one gets malaria they have it for life is false.

"But it's still not something to take lightly," he said. "Soldiers should take all the precautions they can to reduce their risk."

"It's very simple to take the precautions necessary to prevent malaria," said Burner.

Taking a daily or weekly pill that could save lives and reduce illness is one of the easiest things Coalition troops can do to safeguard themselves against a serious, but very preventable, disease.

## D Company, 187th Med. Bn. ASI Soldiers set high goals

By Capt. Donald Carden  
Special to the News Leader

While offering medical support during World War II theaters in Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central Europe, the 187th Medical Battalion earned meritorious unit commendations for excellence, courage, and power.

Today, the 187th Medical Battalion maintains those same high standards and values while tasked with the mission of providing med-

ical training to a diverse group of Soldiers who will participate in the Global War on Terrorism. Soldiers based at Fort Sam Houston, who have invested prior service time to the Department of Defense or Army, are assigned to D Company, 187th Medical Battalion.

In addition, D Company is equally excited to continue to train Medical Additional Skill Identifiers following the battalion's realignment. A positive example of why D Company continues this mission

can be displayed by many of these ASI Soldiers.

One such Soldier, Spc. Danielle Bean, a 91WN9, Physical Therapy Specialist student, recently placed first or second in various triathlons throughout the state. She possesses a bachelor's degree in exercise science from Bridgewater College in Mass. She placed first in both the Corpus Christi Triathlon and Father's Day 10K held in San Antonio. Her long-term

goals are to attend medical school and compete in the Ironman Triathlon.

Another ASI Soldier example is Pvt. 2 Daniel McSpadden, a 91WN3, Occupational Therapy Specialist student. McSpadden recently participated in the Medical Command change of command ceremony as the guidon bearer. His goals are to obtain his bachelor's degree and become a commissioned officer.

Both, McSpadden and Bean will compete as part of the company's guidon team in the Combat Medic Run on Saturday.

187th Medical Battalion students, who are interested in attending Additional Skill Identifier courses, should express their interest to the chain of command or their drill sergeant. The point of contact for D Company is Sgt. 1st Class James Schneider at 221-6897.

## MP Company

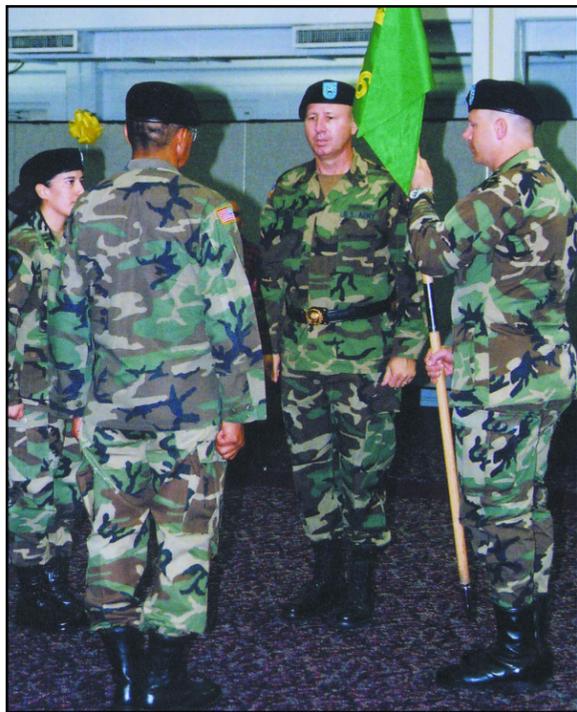


Photo by Phil Reidinger

Capt. Jeff Gilmore assumes command of the 236th Military Police Company. The former commander, Capt. Martha Gonzales, was presented the Army Commendation Medal by ceremony host Brig. Gen. Darren Owens, 36th Infantry Division assistant commander.

Continued from Page 1

During their two years on Fort Hood, the Texas National Guard members supported active-duty Army military police units providing force protection for the huge Army post during deployments of both the 4th Infantry Division and the First Cavalry Division. The company supported the 720th Military Police Battalion until it deployed overseas and, afterwards, the 89th Military Police Brigade.

The 236th Military Police Company's duties included controlling access to Fort Hood, managing its small arms

firing ranges and patrolling installation roads and perimeter. A highlight of their tour of duty was providing security for Air Force One on several occasions.

Members initially thought they would be deployed to the post for only a year; at times they thought they might be deployed to Afghanistan or other overseas locations. They have been working 12-hour shifts since November 2003.

The company's home station is the San Antonio Army Aviation Support Center, Martindale Air Field.



Photo by Phil Reidinger

Hundreds of family members and friends filled the Roadrunner Community Center on Sunday to welcome home the 236th Military Police Company from a two-year deployment supporting Fort Hood security and force protection operations. In addition to music provided by a local DJ, the Soldiers were treated to a luncheon buffet sponsored by the unit family readiness group.

## AAFES 'Gifts from the Homefront' generates \$400,000+ to the troops

Since the Army & Air Force Exchange Service began the "Gifts from the Homefront" program last year, people from all walks of life have rallied around America's troops by contributing \$406,745 towards the program designed to lift the morale of deployed troops around the world. The certificates, which can be purchased by any individual or civic organization, allow service members to purchase items of necessity and convenience at PX and BX facilities around the world.

"Gifts from the Homefront" certificates can be addressed to "any service member" or individual service members. AAFES' charitable partners have been key in the distribution of certificates earmarked for "any service member." The USO, American Red Cross, Air Force Aid Society and Fisher House have distributed more than 7,000 certificates, totaling more than \$120,000, to deployed troops. Friends and family have purchased \$283,645 of "Gifts from the Homefront" certificates for individual service members.

"Working with the USO, American Red Cross, Air Force Aid Society and Fisher House has allowed AAFES to get certificates into the hands of service members that need them most," said AAFES' Chief of Corporate Communications Lt. Col. Debra Pressley. "AAFES' relationship with these charitable partners allows any American to have a direct impact on the morale of a deployed service member, even if they don't have a name or address for a particular Soldier or Airman."

Because the gift certificates can be used for merchandise already stocked at contingency locations, "Gifts from the Homefront" are a safe alternative to traditional care packages that place unnecessary strain on the military mail system and present Force Protection issues. Service members can purchase exactly what they need with the certificates because they can be applied to a wide range of products. Reports from Operation Iraqi Freedom indicate that donated certificates are being used for the latest CDs and DVDs, comfort items such as snacks and beverages and phone cards for those all-important calls home.

Those wishing to send a "Gift from the Homefront" can simply log on to [aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com) or call 1-877-770-4438 to purchase gift certificates in \$10 or \$20 denominations. From there, the "Gift from the Homefront" may be sent to an individual service member (designated by the purchaser) or distributed to "any service mem-

ber" through the USO, American Red Cross, Air Force Aid Society or Fisher House.

"Gifts from the Homefront" gift certificates can be redeemed at any AAFES facility in the world including OIF/OEF locations. To date, AAFES operates some 56 stores throughout central and southwest Asia, serving troops and lifting morale of those soldiering in austere, harsh conditions.

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

# Wilford Hall Medical Center to host Maternity Open House, today

Wilford Hall Medical Center will host a Maternity Care Open House today from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the Hauth Birthing Center (fifth floor). All eligible beneficiaries are invited.

The open house will include briefings, a video, information booths, tours, and a question and answer session. Briefings will be held at 10 a.m., 2 and 6:30 p.m. Tours of the birthing center will be available throughout the day. Refreshments will be served and free prizes will be given away.

Senior-level maternity staff will be on hand to welcome visitors to

the event and answer questions, including Col. (Dr.) William Barth, 859th Medical Operations Squadron commander; Col. (Dr.) Mike Gordon, chief of obstetrics services; and Lt. Col. Beth Ewing (CNM), Maternal Child Flight commander.

Other health representatives will also be available to provide information on the many programs and services available only to Wilford Hall military mothers-to-be and their families.

Booths will offer information on various programs for new parents, such as the hospital's pediatric services,

parent support group, Bundles for Babies, TRICARE, immunizations, lactation consultation, and more.

Open house participants can also view a video, created from a maternity patient's point of view, that highlights these programs.

The Hauth Birthing Center is the first of its kind in the Department of Defense. The center provides care for the entire birthing process—from labor to discharge, in one room. This prevents moving new mothers from room to room as they go through the various stages of the birth of their child.

The birthing center has a private room and bath for each mother and baby. In addition, the spouse or significant other is welcome to stay for the entire hospital experience in the same room.

The hospital offers custom-fit prenatal education, convenient parking for OB patients, sibling classes and comprehensive pain management programs.

For more information, call Karla Blackman, Marketing and TRICARE Plus coordinator at 292-5969.

Source: Wilford Hall Medical Center news release.

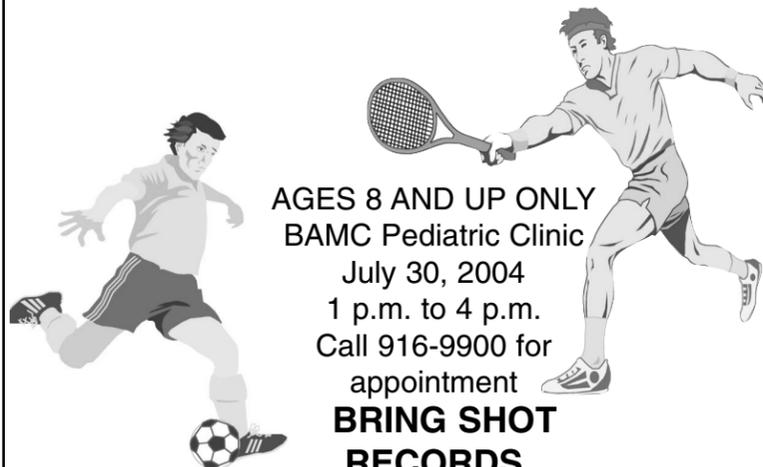


Photo by 1st Lt. Mike Chillstrom  
Lt. Col. Beth Ewing, 59th Medical Wing Maternal Child Flight commander (left) gives a free diaper bag to Starla Appel, wife of Wilford Hall staff nurse, 2nd Lt. Jim Appel, during Wilford Hall's OB open house on Jan. 28.

## STB presents safety program for post residents July 30

Post residents are invited to a Safety Awareness program at the NCO Club July 30 at 9 a.m. Mississippi Highway patrol Capt. Pete Collins will speak about vehicle safety. Collins is the same speaker who appears on the Army Safety Center video. In addition, Richard Brooks, from the San Antonio Snake House will speak about venomous critters in the surrounding area.

**Now's the time...  
Make an appointment for your child's  
PHYSICAL**



**AGES 8 AND UP ONLY  
BAMC Pediatric Clinic  
July 30, 2004  
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Call 916-9900 for  
appointment  
BRING SHOT  
RECORDS**

## Army Community Service Family Advocacy Program July Class Schedule July 2004

Class Title	Dates	Class Time
Building Effective Anger Management Skills (B.E.A.M.S.) Series 3-6	22	11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Commanders Training	22	8 – 9:30 a.m.
Girl Talk! Ages 9-10	28	10:30 – 11 a.m.
Helping Us Grow Securely (H.U.G.S.) Playgroup	27	9 – 11 a.m.
Stress Management I & II	27	1 – 2 p.m.
You and Your Baby	28	8 a.m. – Noon
Saturday Marathon	24	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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

## ACS and USO offer Walking Tour of San Antonio

The Army Community Service Relocation Program and the USO will offer a Downtown San Antonio Walking Tour July 29 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The group will assemble at the Roadrunner Community Center and transportation will be provided to the USO in downtown San Antonio.

The tour will include the world-famous Riverwalk (Paseo del Rio), the Paseo del Alamo, Alamo Plaza, HemisFair Plaza, La Villita and, of course, the Alamo.

Note: Register at ACS table at Newcomers' Extravaganza July 27 or call, ACS, Relocation Program at 221-2418.



## Health Promotion Center

### July Class Schedule

Class	Date	Time
Cholesterol and Lipids	26	9-11:30 a.m.
Diabetes Education	26	12:45-4:30 p.m.
Office Yoga	27	Noon-1 p.m.
Breast and GYN Cancer Support Group	27	5:30-7 p.m.
Introduction to Weight Reduction	30	Noon-1:30 p.m.
Breastfeeding Support Group	30	1-2:30 p.m.

### August Class Schedule

Class	Date	Time
Diabetes Education	2	12:45-4:30 p.m.
Office Yoga	3	Noon-1 p.m.
Diabetes Education	3	12:45-4:30 p.m.
Introduction to Weight Reduction	6	Noon-1:30 p.m.
Breastfeeding Support Group	6	1-2:30 p.m.
Diabetes Education	9	12:45-4:30 p.m.
Office Yoga	10	Noon-1 p.m.
Stress Management	10	1-2:30 p.m.
Diabetes Education	10	12:45-4:30 p.m.
Breast & GYN Cancer Support Group	11	9:30-11 a.m.
Self Care & Health	12	9-11 a.m.
Breastfeeding Support Group	13	1-2:30 p.m.
Diabetes Education	16	12:45-4:30 p.m.
Breast Health	17	9-10 a.m.
Arthritis	17	9:30-11 a.m.
Office Yoga	17	Noon-1 p.m.
Diabetes Education	17	12:45-4:30 p.m.
High Blood Pressure	18	9 a.m.-Noon
Back Pain	19	2-3:30 p.m.
Body Fat Testing	20	8-11 a.m.
Introduction to Weight Reduction	20	Noon-1:30 p.m.
Breastfeeding Support Group	20	1-2:30 p.m.
Diabetes Education	23	12:45-4:30 p.m.
Office Yoga	24	Noon-1 p.m.
Diabetes Education	24	12:45-4:30 p.m.
Tobacco Cessation		
“Readiness to Change”	24	5-7 p.m.
Breast & GYN Cancer Support Group	24	5:30-7 p.m.
Active Duty Self Care	26	8-10 a.m.
Tobacco Cessation		
“Readiness to Change”	26	2-3:30 p.m.
Breastfeeding Support Group	27	1-2:30 p.m.
Diabetes Education	30	12:45-4:30 p.m.
Office Yoga	31	Noon-1 p.m.
Diabetes Education	31	12:45-4:30 p.m.

For further information call Health Promotions at 916-3352. Health classes are open to all DOD civilians and military beneficiaries.

# Postal initiative to speed absentee ballots to Soldiers

By John Runyan  
Army News Service

A new labeling system at the U.S. Postal Service is designed to expedite absentee ballots to Soldiers deployed around the world.

USPS employees will contact 3,000 county election officials all over the country to coordinate

mailing of overseas absentee ballots. Once the blank local ballots are printed, they will be sent by local post offices via overnight Express Mail to San Francisco, Miami and New York, the three military gateways.

USPS will mail successive groups of ballots to military gateways daily and will determine the number of ballots per location at

the gateways. Then the ballots will be sorted by destination and placed in containers specially marked for visibility and priority.

DoD's Military Postal System will then give the ballots priority handling for delivery overseas, will ensure they receive a proper, legible postmark upon return, and will place them in easily identifiable containers. The ballots will then receive priority processing for delivery back to county election officials.

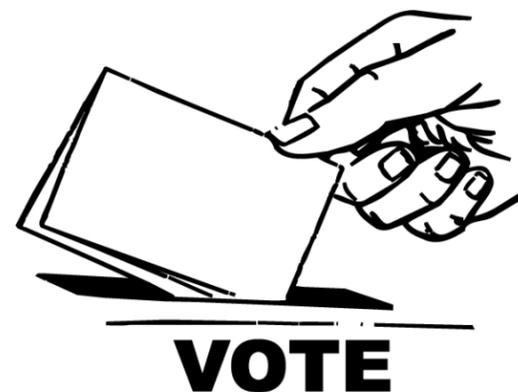
"If anything is moving, (the ballots) will be moving as well," said Mark DeDomenic, assistant deputy director at the Military Postal Service Agency.

The Army is asking that all Soldiers be registered to vote absentee by Aug. 15, said Jim Davis, the Army's voting action officer. That way they should receive their ballots sometime in

September and can have them sent out by the Oct. 11 deadline.

Davis said both of these deadlines are designed for Soldiers in the theater of operations and he encouraged all Soldiers to register and vote, even if they miss the deadlines. Most states will accept absentee ballots until the close of business on Election Day, Nov. 2, but the Oct. 11 deadline should ensure all ballots will arrive in time to be counted.

Each state has specified deadlines for receipt of absentee ballots. For example, absentee ballots for Louisiana must be in no later than the day of the election while New York requires that the ballots are postmarked by the



day before the election. North Carolina ballots must be in by 5 p.m. the day before the election and Pennsylvania absentee ballots must arrive by 5 p.m. on the Friday before the election.

If those Soldiers, family or DA civilians are located outside the United States send in their request for an absentee ballot in sufficient time and didn't receive their ballot, they can use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot. This form allows them to write in their votes and send it in by the deadline.

"Voting assistance officers at each overseas unit are required to have stock of the FWAB for this situation," Davis said.

Davis also said that if a Soldier filled out and sent in the FWAB and then received a ballot, the local ballot could still be filled out and sent back in if it arrived in time.

Currently, Davis said the Army is trying to get the message to get registered, to as many Soldiers as possible.

An AKO-all e-mail was sent at the beginning of May to 1.3 million recipients, reminding them of the importance to register and the details of how to do so. Davis said the e-mail was the largest ever sent out on AKO.

Senior Army leadership has directed an Army-wide Personnel Asset Inventory be conducted during the period July 30 through Aug. 15. This will be yet another opportunity to provide the Federal Post Card Application to Soldiers and to provide the necessary support and assistance, Davis said.

"We've got an emphasis (on this issue) from the secretary of defense all the way down," Davis said. "We want to make sure all the Soldiers are provided with the opportunity to register and cast their ballot."



Courtesy photo

Col. Maureen Coleman, 32nd Medical Brigade commander, recognizes staff members Linda Lara, Rosario Avila, Robert Garcia, and Rosemary Rodriguez for their contributions to the command as administrative assistants assigned to the command group, operations, and logistics offices. Brigade executive officer Lt. Col. Anthony Whaley assisted during the awards presentation.

## 32nd Med. Bde. commander recognizes civilian staff

By Phil Reidinger  
FSH Public Affairs

Col. Maureen Coleman recently recognized five employees assigned to the 32nd Medical Brigade staff during a ceremony at the brigade headquarters.

Coleman presented Linda Lara the Meritorious Civilian Service award for her exceptional performance as an administrative assistant. Lara prepares command group correspondence and manages brigade personnel actions, reports, and correspondence that exceed 170 administrative actions monthly. Coleman noted that Lara is the first to volunteer her services for any special occasion that requires a team effort to plan command special events for Soldiers such as the Soldier Medic Run and Fiesta.

Rosario Avila was presented the Meritorious Civilian Service award for her duty performance and dedication to unit mission as an administrative assistant assigned to the brigade operations section. Avila was recognized for her work ethic, high-energy contributions to event planning, and her ideas to improve brigade-operating procedures.

Rosemary Rodriguez received the Civilian Achievement award as the brigade headquarters' secretary assigned to the logistics section. She was recognized for her anticipation of requirements and unforeseen tasks in addition to success planning activities that require coordination among various staff elements.

Coleman presented the Civilian

Achievement Medal to Joseph Jones who is assigned to the brigade human resources division. He was recognized for his work establishing the command electronic awards program and the associated user instruction manual that allows the command to process more than 900 award recommendations significantly decreasing processing time and administrative errors.

Robert Garcia was presented the Civilian Achievement award for his contributions to the brigade logistics department. Coleman noted his management of resources and careful planning supported cost efficiencies in brigade operations. Garcia was also recognized for his dedication identifying future requirements, ability to adapt to changing work demand priorities, and customer satisfaction related to his support of the three subordinate battalions.

## Texas Department of Transportation announces IH-35 construction

The Texas Department of Transportation announces the closure of the I-35 BAMC exit (heading south on I-35) for four to six months to add an additional traffic lane on the right side of I-35 between the Rittiman Road I-35 on-ramp and the I-35 BAMC exit ramp. Additional improvements will also be made at this time. These improvements will significantly enhance I-35 traffic management when they are completed.

During the construction BAMC staff, patients and visitors to Fort Sam Houston driving south on I-35 will have to take an alternate route to enter

BAMC and the FSH Binz-Engleman gate. Exit at Rittiman and follow the access road to BAMC or continue past BAMC exit and take the SBC Center exit and loop north to Binz-Engleman or BAMC I-35 north exits.

Driving south on I-35, get in the left lane and follow 410 Loop south. Take the first exit after the 410 Loop and I-35 split and follow it to Binz-Engleman. Enter BAMC at the Binz-Engleman Beach gate. This gate is authorized for decals only and operates Monday through Friday from 6 a. m. to 5 p.m.

**Brooke Army Medical Center celebrates**

European Mediterranean Middle Eastern ... Celtic Nordic Australian ...

It's not about where we're from ... It's what we bring to where we are.

We're all different the same

# International Day

A festival of diversity

**Wednesday, July 28, 2004**  
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
**BAMC Medical Mall**

Sponsored by the BAMC EO Office

**Explore the love**

**Music**

**Experience the culture**

**Dancers**

**Sample the flavors**

**Food Exhibits**

# FSHISD's dress code requirements for 2004-2005

The new 2004-2005 School Year for Fort Sam Houston ISD students will begin Aug. 16. Students and parents should keep the requirements of the district's dress code in mind as they prepare and plan for the new school year. FSHISD school personnel remind parents and students of the following dress code requirements that are in effect for 2004-2005.

The purpose of having a dress code is to teach students' proper grooming and hygiene, to prevent disruption and to minimize safety hazards. Because fads in dress and grooming are subject to sudden, and sometimes radical, change, campus administrators reserve the right to rule on dress

and grooming in matters, which involve decency, cleanliness, safety, bizarre, disruptive, or extreme modes of dress for school.

## Look your Best

### General Guidelines:

- Wear clean, neat clothing that is not a health or safety hazard.
- Belts must be worn if pants, skirts, skorts, etc. have belt loops (applies to students in grades 5-12 only).
- Shirts, blouses or tops must be properly tucked in (applies to students in grades 5-12 only).

- Skirts, shorts, skorts and dresses must be no shorter than three (3) inches above the top of the kneecap when the student is standing.

- Shorts and pants must be worn at waist height.
- Safe, appropriate shoes must be worn.
- Hair must be neat and clean.
- Shoulder straps on clothing must be worn on the shoulder.

### Prohibited Items:

- Any pictures, emblems, or writings on clothing that are gang-related, lewd, offensive, vulgar, violent, or obscene.
- Any pictures, emblems, or writings that advertise or depict

tobacco products, alcoholic beverages, drugs, or any other substance prohibited under policy FNCF.

- Any clothing or grooming that may reasonably be expected to cause disruption of or interference with normal school operations.
- Unconventionally colored, multi-colored, or spiked hair.
- Body piercing jewelry except for rings, studs, or other traditional jewelry worn in the ear.
- Gym shorts or biker shorts.
- Warm-up suits, sweat pants, and wind pants except during P.E. classes (applies to students in grades 5-12 only).
- Body stockings without a top and shorts, etc. covering the body stocking.
- Baggy clothing more than one size larger than student's

normal size.

- Saggy pants or shorts.
- Extremely tight, short, unclean torn, tattered, or revealing clothing.
- Cutoffs and/or unhemmed, frayed shorts.
- Apparel exposing the bare midriff, front, back, or side, whether hip or underarm.
- Halter-tops, fish net tops, crop tops, see-through blouses, or tank tops.
- Bare feet.
- Unsafe or inappropriate shoes, including house shoes, shower shoes, steel-toed boots or shoes.
- Hats, caps or bandanas with the exception of JROTC or those that meet the medical needs of students.
- Hair curlers.

## 2004-2005 school year registration dates announced

### FSH Elementary school registration set for July 29 and 30

Fort Sam Houston Elementary registration for new students will be held July 29 and 30 from 8:30 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3:30 p.m. To be eligible to attend the school, parents must reside on the installation or be on the housing list with a move-in date during the 2004-2005 school year. Parents not living on the installation must report to the housing office before registering their children at the school. The 2004-2005 school year runs from Aug. 16 until May 27 for students.

#### Parents need to bring:

- Certificate of immunization
- Copy of birth certificate
- Social Security card for the student
- Report card from previous school
- Other school records from previous school.

Children must be four years old on or before September 1, 2004 to enroll in pre-kindergarten, five years old on or before September 1, 2004 to enroll in kindergarten and six years old on or before September 1, 2004 to enroll in first grade.

**Criteria for enrollment in the school's pre-kindergarten (four-year-old classes) are:**

- Unable to speak and comprehend the English language as measured on an English proficiency test
- And/or from a family whose income is at or below subsistence. The district will apply the same formula used to qualify

students for free or reduced price lunches under the national school lunch program.

- A copy of the latest LES statement and a copy of spouse's latest pay voucher, if applicable.

Students may meet their teachers for the new school year on Aug. 13 from 3 to 4 p.m.

Open house will be held at Fort Sam Houston Elementary School Aug. 19 and 24 at 6 p.m.

### Robert G. Cole Junior/Senior High School registration begins Aug. 5

Robert G. Cole Junior/Senior High School registration begins Aug. 5

If you have a student in the seventh through twelfth grade who will be attend-

ing Robert G. Cole Junior/Senior High School this fall for the first time, registration will be Aug. 5 at the campus located at 1900 Winans Road.

Registration will be conducted on an appointment basis in order to better serve

Fort Sam Houston parents and students. Appointments will be scheduled every thirty minutes beginning Aug. 5. New students will be registered

on the following schedule:

- Aug. 5 - 7th and 10th grade
- Aug. 6 - 8th and 11th grade
- Aug. 9 - 9th and 12th grade

Beginning Aug. 2, Cole's Counselors' Office will re-open. Registration packets, which take approximately 20 minutes to complete, can be picked up as of that date and appointments for registration can be scheduled by calling Jane Morin at 368-8734.

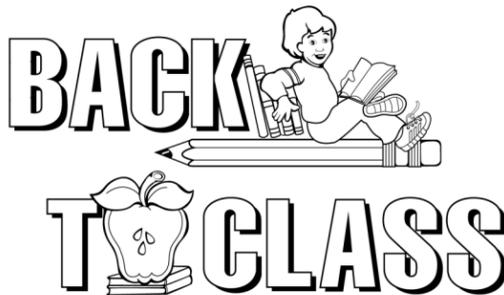
Parents are requested to bring the following materials to their student's appointment in order to complete the reg-

istration process: completed registration packet, immunization records, student's birth certificate, student's social security card, last report card and / or school records from the last school attended.

The applications for admission and enrollment forms are official government records. It is a crime to provide false information of any kind or false records for identification. School officials may ask parents or another adult enrolling a student to provide evidence that they are residents of the school district.

Students who attended Robert G. Cole in May 2004 have already been registered and need not re-register unless the pupil was withdrawn at the end of May by his parents or whose parents had not been assigned quarters as of August 16, 2004. Students who were enrolled at the elementary (sixth grade only) during the 2003-04 school year have been pre-registered. They will receive class schedules on the first day of attendance.

Orientation for 7th and 8th grade students and new high school students will be Aug. 12 at 6:30 p.m. New high school students will meet in the Cole Cafeteria; 7th and 8th grade students will meet in the Moseley Gym. Open House for parents of 9th-12th grade students will be held in the Moseley Gym on Aug. 26 at 6:30 p.m.



## AAFES set to celebrate 109 years of service and support on July 25

On July 25, 1895, the War Department issued General Order number 46 directing post commanders to establish an exchange at every post where practicable. This general order set the standard for the concept and mission of the modern exchange service.

Since the first formal exchanges were established in 1895, an exchange system has served side-by-side with Soldiers and, since 1947, Airmen in tents and trucks in the field and in permanent facilities, on posts and bases around the world. AAFES not only serves alongside the deployed forces, it also provides support to families and other troops "back home."

Today, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service brings a tradition of value, service and support to its 11.5 million author-

ized customers without regard to where they may be stationed. AAFES operates thousands of facilities worldwide. In fact, AAFES has more than 12,000 facilities in more than 35 countries and in all 50 states. These include 3,150 retail facilities, of which 205 are main stores on Army, Air Force and Marine installations throughout the world.

For 109 years, AAFES has provided support to troops serving around the globe. Currently, AAFES brings a bit of home to troops with 56 stores in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, with about 450 associates deployed at any given time. All of these associates live and work right alongside the deployed troops they serve.

In recent years, AAFES has also provided support to the mili-

tary fighting horrific forest fires in the Continental United States, to troops working the Olympic Games in Utah, and to U.S. and allied troops participating in Operation Joint Guardian, Operation Joint Forge and Operations Northern and Southern Watch.

AAFES is a vital part of the services' Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs and a partner with the military in providing for the everyday needs of Soldiers, Airmen and their families. As it was in 1895, AAFES' mission is to provide quality merchandise and services of necessity and convenience to authorized customers at uniformly low prices; and generate reasonable earnings to supplement appropriated funds for the support of Army and Air Force MWR programs.

Now in its second century of service, AAFES remains dedicated to "Serving the Best Customers in the World," providing products and services to authorized customers worldwide and generating earnings for Army and Air Force MWR programs. These contributions to Soldiers and Airmen and their families make AAFES a major non-pay benefit to service members.

Roughly 67 percent of AAFES' earnings are paid to MWR programs. In the past 10 years, \$2.24 billion has been contributed by AAFES to the Army and Air Force to spend on quality of life improvements for Soldiers, Airmen and their families, including: libraries, sports programs, swimming pools, youth activities, tickets and tour services, bowling centers, hobby

shops, music programs, outdoor facilities and unit functions.

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

# 46K take eArmyU courses online

By Courtney Hickson  
Army News Service

More than 46,000 Soldiers have been able to continue their education by taking online classes through eArmyU, including many of the Soldiers deployed, in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Since its creation in July of 2000 eArmyU is a part of the Army's e-learning program that allows eligible Soldiers to work toward a college degree or certificate anywhere. eArmyU is specifically for enlisted Soldiers.

Soldiers who have been deployed continue to be able to work on their degrees from Afghanistan and Iraq. Of the 6,984 eArmyU Soldiers deployed in those theaters 2,098 are enrolled in eArmyU classes.

eArmyU is an educational opportunity for enlisted Soldiers to earn degrees online from one of 29 educational institutions. Soldiers can earn certificates, associate's, bachelor's or master's degrees in 149 degree and certificate programs. The courses are Web-based and allow Soldiers to take classes at any time, no matter where their location. In addition Soldiers can get full tuition reimbursement and a laptop to take the classes with, which becomes their own at the end of the program.

As of June 11, there have been 729 degrees conferred and 122,763 course enrollments. These numbers are up from January 2003 when there were more than 30,500

Soldiers taking classes around the world. The most popular eArmyU degrees are business followed by criminal justice, according to Director of eArmyU Dian Stoskopf.

Currently 72 percent of Soldiers participating are enrolled in associate-level programs, 21.1 percent are signed up for bachelor's programs, 1.7 percent are signed up for master's programs and 5 percent are signed up for certificate programs.

"One of the challenges Soldiers face is when they are deployed not knowing what kind of access they will have," said Gloria Kelsey, a supervisory educational services specialist at Fort Benning, Ga.

"Also finding the time to study, they have long duty days with training," she said. "Or trying to pull from family time for study time."

"There are little to no out of pocket expenses," Kelsey said.

If a Soldier chooses to he or she can go to a school above the semester hour cap, like the University of Maryland and pay the difference. She also said the eArmyU is extremely beneficial for single parents because they can study at home and do not have to pay for a baby sitter.

There are 16 installations including one in Germany and Korea and Fort Riley, Kan. and Fort Stewart, Ga. being the newest installations added. The current installations are: Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Drum, N.Y.; Schofield Barracks/Tripler Medical Center, Hawaii; Fort Campbell, Ky.; Fort Lewis, Wash.; Fort Bragg, N.C.; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort Knox, Ky.; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Benning, Ga.; Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Wainwright, Fort Richardson both from Alaska; Heidelberg Military Community, Germany and in Korea Camp Casey and 2nd Infantry Division (Camps Red Cloud, Page, Howze, Stanley, Greaves and Garry Owen).

With the expansion, Kelsey said it requires more counselors to get involved and know eArmyU, which will allow Soldiers when they transfer to have support from the staff at the new installation.

Kelsey also said Soldiers can take their laptops with them if they are transferred and with eArmyU they can continue their educational experience. "It really is anytime, anyplace," she said.

There are variations to eArmyU — for example the 2nd Infantry Division in Korea is piloting a no-laptop program.

"They have a difficult time traveling out of the area," Stoskopf said.

Because of the limitations in location, the choices for Soldiers in Korea are not as expansive as other installations. The no-laptop program allows the Soldiers to still participate in eArmyU but they must provide their own access to a computer to log onto the courses. Stoskopf said the Soldiers are provided with a boot camp tutorial, which informs them about the eArmyU program and how to configure their personal computers to access the eArmyU portal.

A range of degrees and programs are available through eArmyU available are associate's, a bachelor's of arts and a bachelor's of science and different mas-

ter's degrees. They range from an associate's degree in criminal justice to a bachelor's of science in professional aeronautics to a master's degree in business administration.

First Sgt. Dexter Dean, from Fort Benning, has been in eArmyU for about two years and has six more classes until he completes his associate's degree in criminal justice. "So far it's been a good experience," he said.

Dean also said eArmyU is easy if a Soldier has a little computer literacy and can follow a syllabus. While he has not had to transfer bases while enrolled in eArmyU, he said there should be no problems for Soldiers who may.

Sgt. Erick Espinosa, from Fort Wainwright, said his experience with eArmyU has also been positive. Espinosa has been taking classes since February 2003 and needs only a few more classes to

complete his associate's degree in criminal justice. He said some of it depends on the teachers also, and how quickly they respond but the majority has been good.

He said the biggest challenge he faced was sitting down and doing the class work while juggling his Army work.

"It is a great program; you get a free education and laptop if you do your work," he said.

In order to qualify for a laptop computer, 12 semester hours must be successfully completed; once completed the Soldiers will be able to keep the laptops given to them. In order to be eligible for the laptop version of the program, a Soldier must have three years of active duty remaining. If he or she is not interested in owning the laptop, he or she must have one year of service remaining. Some installations only offer a no laptop program.

# Purple Hearts

*Continued from Page 1*

legs. He was joined at the ceremony by his wife, Melanie and son, Hunter.

Causey, a combat infantryman with the 1st Cavalry Division, was shot in his right thigh during a firefight April 4 protecting his fighting position in Baghdad. He is planning on re-joining his unit after his wounds heal and he is declared fit to return to duty.

Weinert, who hails from Ludington, Mich., sustained an injury to his right arm June 18 from an improvised explosive device blast. He serves with the 1st Cavalry Division's 20th Engineers. His parents, Barbara Stickney and Edward Wienert, along with his sister, Catherine Wienert, were present for his award.

"It is important that our Soldiers and their families understand that we are committed to them all of the way through the process of healing, all the way through the process of transitioning back into the force or into the next chapter of their lives," Schoomaker added. "This is a commitment that is fundamental to us."

The Army chief of staff also thanked those that stay at home for their commitment to the Soldiers who are defending a nation at war.

"There is nothing like being in the Army family," said Schoomaker. "It is a sacrifice in and of itself. Every member of that family serves just as these Soldiers serve. The children serve, the spouses serve, the extended family serves, as our Soldiers stand in harm's way and perform their duties for our nation. That is something we should never forget."

He also praised the Warrior Ethos that guides those in uniform along with their civilian counterparts who continue to proudly serve the nation at war.

"In my view, the Warrior Ethos is everything," he said. "It does not just apply to the Soldiers that are standing up here today from all their great organizations, but to everyone in this room. It is something that we should apply to both our professional and personal lives."

Schoomaker presented the Purple Heart recipients with a set of dog tags bearing the Warrior Ethos — "I will always place mission first. I will never accept defeat. I will never quit. I will never leave a fallen comrade behind."

"These Soldiers are very representative of this great Army we have and I could not be more proud of them," the general said in closing. "Thank you for your service, God bless you, God bless our country and God bless our great Army."



Photo by Nelia Schrum

Pfc. Kenneth Weinert visits with Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, the Army's chief of staff, in his hospital room at Brooke Army Medical Center before receiving the Purple Heart award.



Photo by Maj. Gregg Tooley

(Above) Gen. Peter Schoomaker awards the Purple Heart to Spc. Raqeeb Causey during a ceremony at the BAMC auditorium.



Photos by Maj. Gregg Tooley

(Above) The Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Peter Schoomaker, congratulates Staff Sgt. Brad Smelley and Sgt. Alonso Brown.



(Left) Sgt. Dale Morgan II with wife Melanie and son Hunter pose for camera during Purple Heart presentation ceremony held at BAMC Auditorium July 8.



From left, Brig. Gen. C. William Fox, Jr., BAMC commander, presents Purple Hearts to Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Ezell, Jr., Sgt. 1st Class Victor Mercado-Mendoza, Sgt. 1st Class Louis Merritt, Sgt. Michael Sparks, and Sgt. Shawn Monroe during a ceremony held in the BAMC auditorium on July 7.

# Five NCOs receive Purple Hearts at BAMC

By Michael Dulevitz  
BAMC Public Affairs

Five injured Soldiers were honored and presented with Purple Heart medals during a ceremony held in the Brooke Army Medical Center auditorium July 7.

Brig. Gen. C. William Fox Jr., BAMC commander, presided over the ceremony and presented the awards to the five non-commissioned officers who made their sacrifices while supporting the Global War on Terrorism.

The honored Soldiers included Sgt. 1st Class Jerry D. Ezell, Jr., Sgt. 1st Class Victor J. Mercado-Mendoza, Sgt. 1st Class Louis A. Merritt, Sgt. Michael Sparks, and Sgt. Shawn P. Monroe.

Fox said that it was very fitting that such a ceremony was held so soon after

one of our nation's favorite holidays, Independence Day.

"It is important to take time out to recognize the sacrifice of our Soldiers as they serve our nation in harm's way," Fox said.

Addressing the filled auditorium, Fox emphasized that recognizing Soldiers was important because it paid dignity and respect to the injured and also allowed the BAMC staff to participate in and witness the ceremony that confirms the hard work of the staff assisting in the injured Soldiers recovery.

"Our Army is asked to do more and more today," Fox said, adding that the Army is charged with protecting and defending the nation against all enemies, both foreign and domestic.

Ezell, a member of the 172nd Combat Corps Support Group, was wounded by an

improvised explosive device after being in Iraq only three weeks. His wife, Stacey, and three children were in attendance.

Mercado-Mendoza, a military policeman assigned to Iraq at the war's onset, was injured by a rocket propelled grenade attack causing him extensive injuries. Mendoza will soon join his family in Puerto Rico.

Merritt, a supply NCO assigned to the 393rd Corps Support Group supporting the 1st Cavalry, was wounded in a mortar attack.

Sparks, a combat medic, assigned to the 173rd Airborne Infantry Brigade, was also wounded by mortar fire. He was part of a night combat airdrop in the northern portion of Iraq, and though he will not be able to return to airborne duty, he will return to his job as a combat medic.

Monroe, a military policeman, serving

with the 18th Military Police Brigade out of Germany, was also wounded by a mortar attack. He is now assigned to BAMC. Fox said that Monroe has become an advocate for Soldiers and for Soldiers' benefits.

Monroe regularly attends events supporting the Army and especially his fellow Soldiers still forward. He is on a mission to tell the story of what it is like to be a Soldier in harm's way, and how well the Army Medical Department is treating these Soldiers upon their return.

Fox closed his remarks by stating that all of these Soldiers are an enormous inspiration to many Americans through their personal sacrifices, the sacrifices of their families, and for the service that they have rendered the Army and our nation.



Oklahoma Reservist Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Ezell receives a Purple Heart medal and citation from Brig. Gen. C. William Fox, Jr., BAMC commander, for injuries sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated while serving in Iraq.



(Above) Sgt. 1st Class Louis Merritt, a supply NCO with the 393rd Corps Support Group, receives a Purple Heart medal for injuries received during a mortar attack.



Sgt. Shawn Monroe, a military policeman assigned to the 18th MP Brigade in Germany, receives a Purple Heart from Brig. Gen. C. William Fox, Jr. Monroe was also injured by a mortar attack in Iraq.



(Left) Sgt. 1st Class Victor Mercado-Mendoza, a military policeman, is awarded the Purple Heart during a BAMC ceremony July 7. Mercado-Mendoza sustained injuries from a rocket propelled grenade explosion.



(Right) Sgt. Michael Sparks, a combat medic assigned to the 173rd Airborne Infantry Brigade receives a Purple Heart for injuries sustained during a mortar attack.

Photos by Diane Martinez

# U.S. Army Soldier Show set to take 'The Heart of a Soldier' on the road

By Tim Hipps  
USACFSC Public Affairs

Communication between deployed Soldiers and their loved ones is the driving force behind "The Heart of a Soldier," theme of the 2004 U.S. Army Soldier Show. Although every edition of the Army Soldier Show has a theme, few have woven a storyline throughout quite like this year's emotional rendition, said Soldier Show director Victor Hurtado.

From letters to cellular telephone calls to e-mails, this is a song-and-dance display of how Soldiers touch base with home from the Global War on Terrorism – communications from the front lines and beyond.

The show touches on the realities of mothers deployed without children, fathers who've yet to see their kids, couples who've put marriage on hold, brothers who long to hug their sisters and vice versa, and mothers and fathers, too.

"I hate to give too much of it away," Hurtado said. "It's still going to be a fun and energetic show, but I don't want to give away much more than the gist of the story – it does put a lot of focus on deployments."

Prepare to have your heartstrings tested, Hurtado warns. The show uses a lot of telepathic energy that exists between Soldiers and their loved ones experiencing sleepless nights at home, pondering if and when their hero will return. Songs originate from both sides of the issue, focusing on the significance one life can project upon so many.

"Part of what makes the show is the emotional impact of it," Hurtado said. "Parts are really happy, but there are going to be some emotions, definitely."

Eighteen performers, including a drummer, were selected from 138 Soldiers who auditioned for the show. Seven technicians and four drivers also are part of the cast that will conduct 110 performances during a six-month tour to 21 states, Germany, Italy, Washington, D.C., and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

After opening at Fort Belvoir through May 2, the troupe made German stops in Stuttgart, Heidelberg, Darmstadt, Hanau, Kaiserslautern, Baumholder, Weisbaden, Wurzburg, Ansbach, Grafenwoehr and Bamberg before heading to Vicenza, Italy.

The show played at Guantanamo Bay before returning for the domestic portion of the tour, mostly staged on Army instal-

lations. Along the way, they will perform at U.S. Army Birthday Balls in Atlanta and Washington before venturing inside the Alamodome here in San Antonio, Texas on Aug 11.

"That's going to really be a great challenge and propel us to a very successful tour," Hurtado said of performing at the Alamodome. "It's going to prove our mettle, I'll tell you that, but we never shy away from anything."

Country, rock, pop, gospel, rhythm and blues, Latin and "'80s' hair-band rock," as Hurtado calls it, are intertwined throughout the show, including the works of Prince, ABBA and Outkast. Hurtado said the show "moves really quickly" and won't exceed 90 minutes.

The cast includes active duty, National Guard and Reserve Component Soldiers who vary in rank from private first class to first lieutenant, including a chemical operations specialist, a multi-channel transmission systems operator and a light-wheel vehicle mechanic.

Hurtado said military members and families can easily relate to the plot of this year's show while the general public should be entertained and educated.

"I think it's important to humanize our Soldiers to the American public, and what it takes to fight for America," said Hurtado, who performed in the Army Soldier Show while on active duty from 1986 through '89 and served 1990-92 as tour manager and assistant director. "I don't know that my mentality would've been the same if I hadn't been a Soldier myself. I don't think I would have had the sensibility to put this kind of show together."

Hurtado expresses great confidence in the cast.

"This group has a fairly phenomenal set of instruments – of raw voices, of tongue, of intensity, of character, of attitude," he said. "They have the ability to have fun, but then lock into seriousness and focus. There are a lot of characters in the show, and I'm using their character."

"If I had one word for this cast, they're fearless – completely and utterly trusting of me, and fearless. And that, more than any kind of talent, is an incredible asset for a director to have."

The Soldiers are attached to the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center's Army Entertainment Detachment while on tour. They operate as a deployable military unit under the leadership of a detachment commander, first sergeant, and a Soldier Show NCOIC who also hits the road in their 44-passenger bus, 18-wheel tractor-trailer and 15-passenger van.

Hurtado, a voting member of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences' Grammy Awards who recently completed the directing course of study at Harvard University, is in his fourth year as artistic director.

Dennis Buck has been the show's musical director since he was a Soldier in Third Army. Spc. Joey Beebe, Hurtado's right-hand man, is the associate producer in his fourth season. Broadway performer and acclaimed choreographer Tanya Gibson-Clark also returns.

Spc. Kevin Foreman, who has worked six years with Army Entertainment, is the technical director. Sgt. Randy Batarao, another former performer, serves as assistant director.

**FREE! ~ Open to the Public ~ No Ticket Required**  
~Use the North Entrance of Alamodome~

THE UNITED STATES ARMY COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER PRESENTS  
AN ARMY MWR PROGRAM

**2004**



**United States Army**

**SOLDIER SHOW**

**Date: August 11, 2004**  
**Time: 7:00 p.m.**  
**Place: ALAMODOME**

**"The Heart of a Soldier"**  
AN ARMY ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION

The cast continues the tradition of "entertainment for the Soldier, by the Soldier" established during World War I by Irving Berlin, the founding father of today's Army Entertainment program. Berlin, best known for "White Christmas" and "God Bless America", wrote the first U.S. Army Soldier Show while on active duty in 1918 at Camp Upton, Long Island, N.Y.

During World War II, he created another Soldier Show for Broadway: "This is the Army," which became a 1943 film featuring a military cast with stars Ronald Reagan and Joe Louis. At the request of General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the show toured for three years, performing for troops stationed in Europe and the Pacific.

The sponsors for this year's Soldier Show are lead sponsor and partner the Army National Guard and corporate sponsor AT&T. These sponsors help offset the many costs associated with this Army MWR program.

Army Entertainment is one of more than 50 Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs the Army provides Soldiers and families worldwide.

The U.S. Army Soldier Show will be at the Alamodome Aug 11. Showtime is 7 p.m. with the north entrance doors opening at 6 p.m. The show is free and the community is invited.

## MWR Youth Happenings

**Wanted: Arts and Crafts instructor** - Youth Services and School Age Services are looking for an arts and crafts instructor for the summer. This paid position would be for four 50-minute classes Monday through Friday and two 50-minute classes on Saturdays. Ages of the youth range from 6-18 and are all different skill levels. All materials and supplies will be provided but the planning must follow the coordinated schedule of summer camp weeks. If you are interested, call the Youth Center at 221-3502

**Aerobics** - Youth Services is offering a no cost, low impact aerobics class from 6:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday and Thursday. For information, call 221-3502.

**Teen Summer Discovery Camp** - Registration for the Teen Summer Discovery Camp is going on for youth ages 14 and up. This program is for those who are too old for camp and too young to have a job. During this camp, youth will volunteer at a

work site two half days and the other day will hike, swim, and travel across South Central Texas.

This volunteer time in a work site provides job experience for each individual. There will be tubing on the Guadalupe River, swimming in Canyon Lake, trips to career interest areas and lots more. The cost for this camp is \$65 per week and includes breakfast, lunch and a snack. For information, call 221-3502.

**'French Fry Friday'** - Every Friday is French Fry Friday. An order of seasoned or regular fries is 50¢. Come on by and eat with us and support the Youth Center.

Exploring Life for Middle School students - Youth Services offers an after school program for Middle School youth grades 6-9. This program is held Monday through Friday after school until 6 p.m. YS will pick the child from the elementary or the Jr./Sr. High School and take the child to the Youth Center, provide a snack, work on home-

work, participate in clubs and participate in fun innovative projects that include the 4-H club, a photography club, a Computer Tech club and others. Work will include areas of interest that both the parents and the students like. This program is free for youth registered with Child and Youth Services at an annual fee of \$18. For information, call 221-3502

**Youth Service Volunteers** - YS is always looking for volunteers for assisting with the youth programs. Coaches, computer skilled people, crafty people and those that just care about kids are needed. If you have a special interest or hobby that you would like to share with kids, you can share it at the Youth Center. For information, call the Youth Center at 221-3502.

**Saturday Open Recreation** - Open recreation for youth in grades 1-12 is held at the Youth Center on Saturdays. Activities include computer lab, arts and crafts, basketball, pool, ping-

pong, movies, and more. Youth must be registered with Child and Youth Services to be eligible. For information, call 221-3502. Open recreation hours for youths in grades 1-5, 3-8 p.m.; youths in grades 6-8, 3-10 p.m.; and youths in grades 9-12, 3-11 p.m.

**Parents Wanted** - Parents are needed at the Youth Center every third Saturday of the month from 6-9 p.m. to join the Youth Center Staff team and play basketball against the teens and middle school students. Parents and staff try to out maneuver the teens and score a few baskets. Come join us in a game or two followed by refreshments.

**Tae-Bo** - Join the YS staff as they conduct Tae-Bo Classes every Wednesday from 4:30-5 p.m.

**Saturday Shuttle** - YS offers a Saturday shuttle to and from the Youth Center. There is no cost for this service but parents of children 9 and under must wait for the van and sign them in and out of the van with the YS staff member. The Shuttle schedule is as follows:

3 p.m. - Leave the Youth Center  
3:07 p.m. - Gorgas Circle (picnic tables)

3:10 p.m. - Schofield/Dickman on Schofield

3:15 p.m. - Reynolds and Dickman on Reynolds

3:20 p.m. - Officer's Club tennis Courts

3:25 p.m. - Artillery Post Road at Bus Stop

3:30 p.m. - Easley/Infantry Post Bus Stop 660

3:42 p.m. - Patch Road (playground)

3:46 p.m. - Patch Road Shoppette Parking lot

3:50 p.m. - Foulois/Scott Road Harris Heights

3:54 p.m. - Forage/Foulois

The return Shuttle will leave the Youth Center at 7:30 p.m. for those in 5th grade and below.

There is also a shuttle that leaves at 9:30 p.m. for those in Middle School and at 10:30 p.m. for those in 9th grade and up. The shuttle service is only for youth who live on Fort Sam Houston.

## Child and Youth Services summer news



**The 3-Day Part Day Preschool Program** If you are interested in 3-Day Part Day Preschool Program, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723 to place your name on a list. Fees will range from \$151-\$200 per month and will be assessed by calculating Total Family Income.

**Family Child Care (FCC)** offers home-based child care 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 hour care and long term care. Referral information and child registration are available at Child and Youth Services Central Registration, 221-4871 or 221-1723. FCC is looking for family members interested in becoming certified FCC providers to offer home based child care. There is a no-cost start up plan. For more information please call 221-3820 or 221-3828.

**CYS Parent Advisory Council (PAC)** meeting will be Tues., Aug. 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Child Development Center, 2530 Funtston. Lunch will be provided. This is CYS parents opportunity to learn of upcoming events, meet staff and address concerns.

The Child Development Center

has full day immediate openings for ages 12 months to 5 years. To register please call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

**Before and After School Care** Orientation for Before and After School will be held Wednesday, Aug. 11 at 5 p.m. in Bldg. 1705. For information, call 221-4871 or 221-1723.

**Child Development Center Waiting List** - If your child's name is on the Wait List for full day care at the Child Development Center, check your status on the wait list 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 at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

**Instructional Classes** - If you are interested in instructional classes such as Tae Kwon Do, piano, quarterly babysitter training or gymnastics, call 221-4882 or 221-4871/1723. For babysitter training or information, call 221-4871 or 221-1723.

**School Age Services** (Kindergarten - 5th grade) offers After School and Weekend Open Recreation (Open recreation available to children in 1st - 5th grade) opportunities and After School Hourly Care options. Hourly 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.

**Youth in 6th - 12th grade** seeking summer recreational opportunities may contact Youth Services at 221-4882.

# Post worship schedule

**Main Post Chapel**, Bldg. 2200, phone number: (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:**

5:30 p.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 number: (210) 221-4362.

**Troop Catholic Mass:** Sundays: 10 a.m. - 32nd Medical Bde. Soldiers

**Troop Protestant Gospel Services:** Sundays: 11:30 a.m. - 32nd Medical Bde. Soldiers

**Troop Protestant Service:** 9 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](http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/chaplain)

## U.S. Army Chaplains Corps Anniversary Celebration, July 29

Unit Ministry teams, retired Army Chaplains and Chaplain Assistants and their family members, chapel congregations and members of command team are invited to celebrate the birthday of the U.S. Army Chaplains Corps. An anniversary service will be held at the Main Post Chapel July 29 at 10 a.m. followed by a Memorial Service at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery at 11:15 a.m. for five chaplains buried at the cemetery (Shelter #2). A free luncheon will be held at the NCO Club from noon to 2 p.m. Uniform is duty uniform. For more information, call 221-5005.

## Back to School Program for FSH kids, Aug 14

A back to school program for the children who reside on Fort Sam Houston will be held at the Dodd Field Chapel Aug. 14 from 10 a.m. to noon. Attractions will include Mr. McGruf, the Safety mascot, safety information, door prizes and much more.

For more information, call Master Sgt. Pauline Perry at 221-7804.

## Summer Officer Christian Fellowship, July 30 and Aug. 6, 20

Interested in a Bible study? Join your fellow officers for an Officer Christian Fellowship study at the home of Lt. Col. Bob Griffith, 1008 Gorgas Circle, on Fridays. Come for supper at 6 p.m. or join us at 7 p.m. for a study of the Gospel of Luke. Upcoming and summer study nights are as follows: July 30, and Aug. 6 and 20. For more information, contact Lt. Col. Griffith at 226-1295 or email at [thegrifgang@cs.com](mailto:thegrifgang@cs.com) and CH Schlichter at 221-1968 or email at [david.schlichter@cen.amedd.army.mil](mailto:david.schlichter@cen.amedd.army.mil).

# Privatization to help DoD meet housing quality control

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

With funding levels making it increasingly difficult to maintain acceptable housing conditions at many military installations, the Defense Department in the mid-1990s turned management and maintenance of some 200,000 "below standard" quarters over to private firms.

"We knew that we would never be able to budget enough money to be able fix all of that housing in any short time frame," said Joseph K. Sikes, DoD's director of housing and competitive sourcing, in an interview today with the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service. "We originally estimated in would take about 20 years, based on the

amount of money we were budgeting for housing back in the middle '90s," he added.

Today, Sikes appears much more optimistic. He said DoD's plan for privatizing government housing has meant that 95 percent of the department's inadequate housing will be fixed by 2007.

Sikes said Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld identified military housing as a top priority for the department and that President Bush made housing privatization a key component of his management initiative.

He said that already some 60,000 inadequate housing units have been eliminated at military installations from Fort Hood, Texas, where more than 5,000 houses needed to be fixed, to Elmendorf Air

Force Base, Alaska. By the end of fiscal 2005, the department will have privatized about 136,000 housing units, he added.

Sikes said the move to turn the management and maintenance of government housing over to private firms went slowly at first.

"It was a big cultural change for commanders on bases — as well as the private sector — to actually own and maintain these houses on bases," he explained. "Everyone sort of stood back and waited to see the first project."

The first privatization projects were at Fort Carson, Colo., and Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. He said both projects proved to be successful, and soon commanders realized the program was a way to get housing fixed sooner.

"After 1999, the projects really started coming in at a higher pace," he said. "And what we're seeing now is a result of that increase."

Sikes said that more than 70 percent of base housing is now privatized, and he expects that number to rise.

"After 2007, more and more bases will determine it's easier not to take care of the houses yourself," he explained. "It's better to have a private developer maintaining it and operating it, and so I think we'll see even more projects become privatized."

According to Sikes, thus far 32 projects have been awarded and \$581 million invested in the program. Meanwhile, private firms have invested some \$6.5 billion to improve living conditions and housing for service members and their families, he said.

## Antiterrorism Awareness

- FSH Force Protection Condition is decreased to Alpha -

FPCONs are graduated categories of measures or actions commanders take to protect personnel and assets from terrorist attacks. FPCONs are set by commanders locally based on terrorism threat information and/or guidance from higher headquarters. The FSH Antiterrorism Office is now located in Bldg. 4011, Room 229. For assistance on antiterrorism matters, call the following numbers: 295-0522, 295-0535, 295-0509 or 295-0534.

## 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



## Why wear seatbelts?

- Newer seatbelt design allows total freedom of motion while driving.

- People who are thrown from cars are 25 times more likely to be killed than if they had been held securely in their seats.

- The majority of all car accidents occur within 25 miles of home.

- 80 percent of all serious injuries and fatalities occur in cars going 40 miles per hour or slower.

- In the unlikely event your car catches fire or is submerged, seatbelts can keep you from getting "knocked out" and greatly improve your chances of escape.

- In a crash, unrestrained occupants of a car keep moving during the time the car takes to stop. They are still moving forward at their original speed when they slam into the steering wheel, windshield or other parts of the car.

- You may be a good driver, but there are situations beyond your control such as weather and road conditions that can affect your safety.

- Seatbelts are 57 percent effective in preventing traumatic and fatal brain injuries.

- According to the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration, over the last 10 years, safety belts have prevented some 55,600 deaths, 1,300,000 injuries and saved more than \$105 billion in costs.

Source: Fort Sam Houston Safety Office



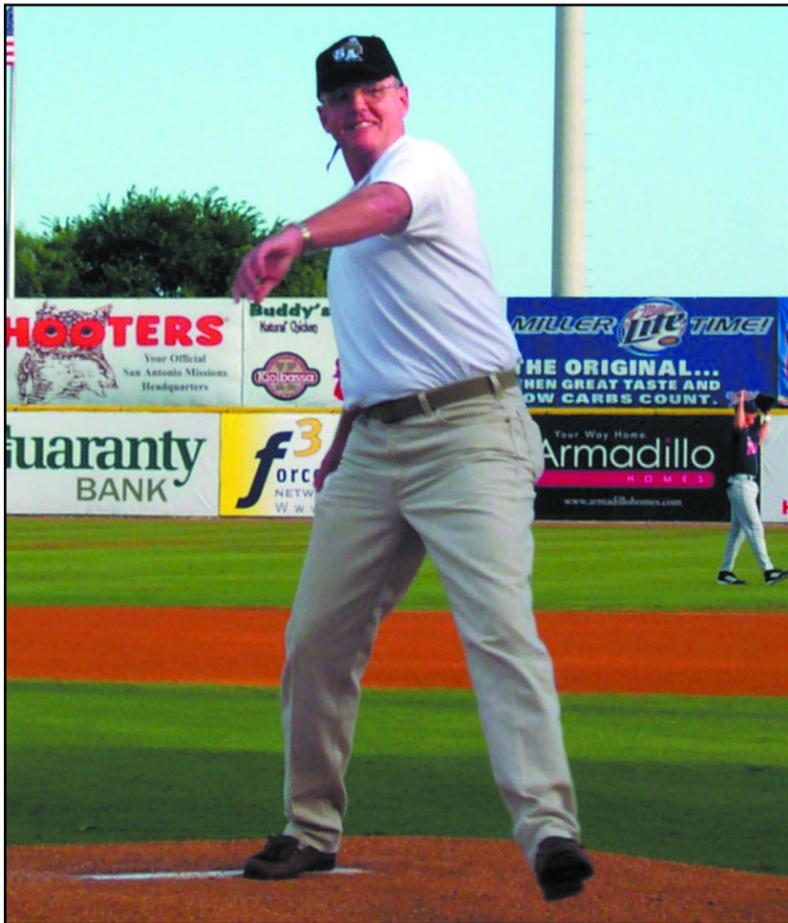


Photo by Michael Broadbent

**Play Ball!**

Fifth U.S. Army Commander, Lt. Gen. Robert T. Clark throws the first pitch during the San Antonio Missions game against Round Rock July 16 at Nelson Wolff Municipal Stadium.

**Enter the Military Youth Essay contest, 'The Person I Admire'**

Kraft Foods, in cooperation with Missions Baseball and MWR, will sponsor a "Salute to Military Families" youth essay contest. Three \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bonds will be awarded, one for each major military installation in San Antonio.

Children interested in entering the contest should write an essay, not to exceed 1,000 words, on the topic: "The Person I Admire." The essay contest program is open to any military family child 18 years or younger that is eligible to use MWR facilities at the participating bases. Essays should include the child's name, age, telephone number, and the base they are associated with. The winner will be asked to confirm eligibility. The essays must be post marked before Aug. 1, and mailed to: San Antonio Missions Baseball Club, Post Cereal Youth Essay Contest, 5757 Highway 90 W, San Antonio TX 78277.

No Federal endorsement of sponsors is intended.



**SPECIAL FORCES**

SPECIAL FORCES will conduct two briefings July 27 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Road Runner Community Center, Bldg. 2797 on Stanley Road.

U. S. Army Special Forces is a specially trained organization of carefully selected volunteers. Special Forces are currently accepting applications from Officers in Year Group 02 and Soldiers in the grades of E-4 to E-7.

Special Forces are looking for motivated, aggressive Soldiers, who are able to work independently or within a small cohesive 12-man team.

If you are interested, call the Fort Hood Special Forces Recruiting Station at (254) 288-5324 or 228-9063, DSN 738-5324/9063



**Defense Travel System is coming Aug. 1**

Fort Sam Houston will implement the Defense Travel System throughout the installation effective Aug. 1. DTS provides better service to customers, quicker reimbursement, quicker approval, easier travel records, less paperwork, and fewer steps and fewer decisions to manage TDY travel and TDY funds.

DTS allows the travelers to input their own travel orders/authorizations, make their own travel reservations, and input their own travel settlement vouchers – all guided by the simplified travel rules built into the system. Documents are processed online to allow for quicker turn-around-time and to facilitate faster reimbursement to both the traveler and to the traveler's government charge card account. DTS is web based and is accessed through the Internet, a DTS icon can be placed on your desktop for quicker access. Access requires the users to have a Common Access Card ID and valid PIN to provide digital signature authentication.

DTS implementation team members will be provided digital signature procedures and training. Your DTS implementation team is working to activate computers and complete the necessary configurations to enable DTS. For more information, contact your Organizational or Lead Defense Travel Administrator (ODTA/LDTA) via e-mail.

# MWR Recreation and Fitness

**MWR Post Garage Sale** - The next post garage sale will be held Saturday, Aug. 7 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. at MacArthur Pavilion parking lot, on the corner of Harry Wurzbach and Stanley Road. Sale is open to the public, however, vendors must have a valid Department of Defense ID card. To register call 221-2926, 221-9904 or 221-2523 or visit the MWR Web site: [www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com](http://www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com). To reserve tables, chairs and canopies, call the Outdoor Equipment Center at 221-5224.

**A Soldier Variety Hour** - Join us at the Hacienda Recreation Center Thursday, July 22 at 7 p.m. for A Soldier Variety Hour. The fully staged production will include a variety of musical, dance and special acts performed by Fort Sam Houston's talented Soliders. This event is Fort Sam Houston's entry in the 2004 United States Army Festival of the Performing Arts Competition. Come and cheer the on.

**Summer Reading Club** - Enroll your children in this reading program at the Fort Sam Houston Library. The program is open to children from preschool through eighth grade. Children can read their own books, or check out the great collection at the library and receive prizes and awards for

reading 10 or more books or 1,000 pages or more. Registration continues through the month of July. For information, call the library at 221-4702. The Library is located at Bldg. 1222 on Harney Rd and is open Wednesday-Sunday: 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

**Archery Lessons at the Equipment Center** - Individual and group archery lessons are now available through the Outdoor Equipment Center. Instructions are given at individual's level of experience from novice to expert. For information, call Skip Dawson, at 221-5225. Children are welcome, however, a parent must accompany dependents under the age of 18. For safety reasons, wear full shoes and no oversized shirts or shorts/trousers.

**Trail Rides** - The Equestrian Center offers 1-hour trail rides every Saturday and Sunday all year long. Patrons ages 7 and up are welcome, however, adults must accompany all children. Cost is \$20 per person. Reservations are required and may be made by visiting the Equestrian Center or by phone. Riding times are as follows: 8:30-9:30 a.m., 10-11 a.m., 12:30-1:30 p.m., 2-3 p.m. For information, call 224-7207. The center is located at Bldg. 3550, Hawkins Road, off Binz-

Engleman and is open Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday from 7 a.m.-5 p.m.

**60 Days of Fitness** - This motivating fitness and weight loss program will help you safely lose 15 pounds in 60 days using a point system. This self-paced program requires you to workout 45 out of 60 days and includes a seven-page fitness assessment, body fat analysis and body measurements. You will also attend two 30-minute weight loss classes. Cost is \$20, which includes a T-shirt. For information, call Lucian Kimble at 221-2020.

**Equipment Rentals** - The Outdoor Equipment Center offers a wide variety of recreational equipment for rent ranging from fishing boats to travel trailers and other camping equipment. Other items available for rental include: large BBQ/Smoker pits on trailers, canopies, tables, chairs, and play bouncers and dunking booths for unit gatherings or birthday parties. Utility trailers, both open and covered, which are useful when moving, are also available. For information, call 221-5224. The center is located in Bldg. 1111, Forage Road and is open Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Summer Fun at Canyon Lake** - The Fort Sam Houston Recreation Area at Canyon Lake

offers a variety of recreation activities including camping, fishing, boating and swimming. Have a family reunion our unit gathering in one of our covered picnic areas or pavilions. Enjoy the overnight accommodations including RV rentals, screened cabanas and tent camping sights. For information, call from the (210) area code, (830) 226-5357 (no fee). From outside the (210) area code, call 1-888-882-9878. Directions to the area: From Fort Sam Houston, take I35 North to exit 191 (Farm road 306), continue 17 miles until you see the sign for Fort Sam Houston Recreation Area, Turn left onto Jacob Creek Park Road and the center is 1/2 mile down on the right. The hours of operation are Sunday -Thursday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday-Saturday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m.

**Bench Press Contest** - The next bench press contest is Saturday, Aug. 7. Weigh-in from 9:30-10 a.m. Start time is 10:30 a.m. Register now for this competitive event prompting injury free weight training. The cost is \$20 and all participants receive a T-shirt. For a registration form, download a copy at [www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com](http://www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com) by following the recreation and fitness link to the "fitness for your life program" or visit the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center.

### Intramural Golf Standings

As of July 19

Place	Team	Points
1st	USARSO	269.5
2nd	CSPBO	266
3rd	*BAMC #1	259
4th	Brew Crew	248
5th	ITBC	241
6th	Bunker Busters	239.5
7th	IMA	233.5
8th	BAMC #3	233
9th	VETCOM	222.5
10th	Composite	218.5
11th	CPAC	218.5
12th	GPRMC	159.5
13th	Academy Bn.	128.5
14th	DFAS	0

\*Commander's Cup Rep

### X-tramural Basketball League Standings

As of Jul 19

Team	W	L
Dependents	5	0
The Fellas	4	0
Lakers	2	2
CKTH	2	2
G.A.M.E	1	2
Rough Riders	1	3
Warriors	0	3
Ramrods	0	3

Updated standings and game schedules for all intramural sports are available at [www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com](http://www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com)

# MWR Dining and Entertainment

**Officer's Club**  
**TGIF** - Every Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. Enjoy finger foods, there is no cover charge. **Lunch Buffet** - Enjoy a buffet lunch very Monday through Friday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Lunch buffet includes beverage and soup.

**NCO Club**  
**TGIF** - Every Friday, Karaoke and disco starts at 6 p.m., finger foods, no cover. **Bingo** - Thursday and Friday, 6:50 p.m. - early bird start, doors open at 5 p.m. Saturday, 12:50 p.m., early bird start, kids 10 and up may play when accompanied by an adult. Note: Free buffet for all bingo players.

**Golf Club** - Twilight special on green fees all day Monday through Wednesday and after 1:30 p.m. on all other days. Check out the specials in the Pro Shop - 10 percent off any bag and Pro Line irons set in stock and 19 percent off all "US Open" merchandise. Sale runs until the end of July. Visit our lighted driving range from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Bowling Center**  
**July is International Family Bowling Month** - The Center will have great bowling and meal specials all month long so come in, cool off and have fun!  
**Lunch and Bowl** - Buy lunch (\$3 minimum) Wednesdays -Thursday, 11 a.m. to

1 p.m. and bowl for free. Offer expires July 31.

**Soldier Appreciation Day** - Every Saturday from 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Bowlers receive free shoe rental and soda.

**Harlequin Dinner Theatre** - "Catfish Moon," a comedy by Laddy Sarten, will be featured now through Aug. 7. For showtimes and ticket information, call the box office at 222-9694.

**Auditions** - The Harlequin Dinner Theatre is holding open auditions on July 19 and 20 for the Neil Simon comedy, "Come Blow Your Horn." Auditions will be from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. both nights. For more information, call 222-9694.

**MWR Ticket Office** - We have Fiesta Texas, Splashtown, Schlitterbahn, SeaWorld, Disney, Universal Studios-Orlando and Hollywood, and Texas Aquarium tickets. We now have Disney Cruise Line packages at great military discount prices. Call now through Sept. 29 and all U.S. active military receive a 40 percent discount on rooms at all Disney Resorts. To make reservations, call (407) 939-7424 and mention "Package Code EVU." Tickets are now available for the Julio Iglesias Concert, Sept. 30 and Johnny Mathis, Oct 3. For ticket information and prices, call 226-1663.

## Fort Sam Houston

### Combat Medic 10K

**Road closures**  
 The Wilson Gate will be closed Saturday, July 24 for the Combat Medic Run from 6-10 a.m. Additionally, Wilson, Dickman, Stanley, S-16, Reynolds Roads, Staff Post and parts of New Braunfels will be closed to automobile traffic at the same times.

# Combat Medic Run

The 24th annual Combat Medic Run will be held July 24 at 7:15 a.m. Pre-registered runners may pick-up their packet July 22-23, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Sunset Pavilion, located at 1174 E. Commerce - [www.sunset-station.com](http://www.sunset-station.com). Race day registration begins at 5 a.m. Events include 10K and 5K individual runs, 5-Soldier guidon team event, 2-mile fitness walk, and a 5K Soldier formation run. For more information, visit the Web site: [www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com](http://www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com).

# FSH participates in National Night Out, Aug. 3

The Fort Sam Houston Military Police will host the annual crime prevention National Night Out, Tuesday, Aug. 3. National Night Out is a nationwide crime prevention activity designed to heighten crime prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime prevention programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police community relations; and send a message to criminals that our neighborhoods are organized and are fighting back against crime. Thanks to the community support last year, Fort Sam Houston placed in the top three in the military category.

Fort Sam Houston residents interested in participating in this event are encouraged to call the Crime Prevention Section at 221-9686 for more information.  
 Source: Law Enforcement Command.

# Que Pasa?



## Community events

### Medina Apple Festival Walk, July 31

The Hill Country Volkssportverein Volksmarch Club will host its annual 10K(6.2 Mile) and optional 5K Apple Festival walk in Medina, Texas on Saturday July 31. After completing the walk the first 150 paid participants will receive a free pass to the festival. For information, call John Bohnert at 830-995-2421 or e-mail Tina Bohnert at tina.bohnert@comfort.txd.net. For information on the Medina Apple festival, call (830) 589-7224 or check the Web site at: www.medinatexas.com.

### 'Catch a Rising Star' at the Sheldon Vexler Theatre

The Teen "Summer Theatre" Troupe Presents "Seussical" the musical based on the works of Dr. Seuss, a musical marvel for the entire family. Come and join The Cat in the Hat, Horton the Elephant and all the wonderful Seussical creations in a fantasy musical that took Broadway by storm. Winner of the Tony Award, this magical merriment was written by Eric Idle of Monty Python fame. The production is cast with some of San Antonio's leading teen talent. Show dates are July 31, 8:15 p.m., Aug. 1, 2 and 7 p.m. and Aug. 2, 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8 per person. The Sheldon Vexler Theatre is located at Barshop JCC/Weinberg Campus on the Lower Level, 12500 NW Military Hwy. At Wurzbach Parkway. For tickets, call 302-6835.

## Volunteer

### ASMC to help community Aug. 7

The American Society of Military Comptrollers will sponsor a community service activity (in coordination with Habitat for Humanity) on Aug. 7. Mark your calendars and reserve this date to participate. We need 70 volunteers to do touch up work at 7 homes in the San Antonio area. Contact Michele Buckley at (210) 536-3563 or drop her an e-mail at michele.buckley@brookes.af.mil

### Botanical Center Children's Fall Garden Program begins Aug. 28

It is time for the fall session of the children's Garden at the Botanical Gardens to begin. This is a great opportunity for children 8-13 to learn about basic vegetable gardening from experienced gardeners. Each child has their own garden plot in which to grow and harvest vegetables to take home. The program is

located at the Botanical Garden Center at 555 Funston and is sponsored by the Men's Garden Club and the San Antonio Botanical Society.

The Fall session starts on Aug. 28 and meets every Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. until early November. Participants must come every week. The registration fee is \$5. Registration is at the Botanical Center. For more information, call 207-3255.

### SHARE seeks host families for international students

Guten Tag! Ciao! Hola! Bonjour! Are just a few ways to say "Hello!" to international high school students. SHARE is looking for host families for international exchange students for the upcoming school year. The students speak English, are covered by medical insurance and have spending money for their personal expenses. Host families provide a bed, meals, as well as friendship, understanding, and a genuine desire to share the American way of life.

Traditional two-parent families (with or without children), single parents or adults, and retired couples have enjoyed hosting one of our bright students. Boys and girls, 15-18 years old from around the world will be arriving in August to attend local high schools for one or two semesters. For information call Yvette Coffman at 1-800-941-ERDT (3738) or visit www.sharesouthwest.org.

### Cultural Homestay International seeks host families

Cultural Homestay International, a non-profit educational exchange program, has many exchange students waiting to be placed with host families for the upcoming school year. Ideal families should be willing to open their home to the world and accept a new culture into their life. To volunteer, contact Ruth Chislett, CHI Academic Coordinator, at (210) 862-2711 or (800) 777-5724. To learn more about CHI, visit www.chinet.org.

## Education

### Digital Battle Command Information Systems Training, Aug. 23 - 26

Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below (FBCB2) is part of Army Battle Command Systems. It is a digital, battle command information system that provides on the move, real time and near real time C2 tactical combats. This is the same system that Soldiers are using in Kuwait, Afghanistan, and Iraq. This training is open to all AMEDD Soldiers to

include AMEDDCS instructors. Training for this course will start Aug. 23 - 26 at Willis Hall, Bldg. 2841, room 2105C. If you are interested in attending, contact Marvin Danzy at 221-4361 or e-mail at marvin.danzy@amedd.army.mil. The FBCB2 Web site is <http://fbc2.monmouth.army.mil>.

### DRMO Disposal

Do you have a disposal questions? Visit our Web site at [www.drms.dla.mil](http://www.drms.dla.mil) and click on generator/installation. The Web site is full of information to assist you with disposal turn-ins. If you are interested in attending a generator meeting to learn the "dos and don'ts," send e-mail to Cynthia.Gutierrez@dla.mil. To schedule an appointment, call 221-3682 and leave a message. For questions on RTD, call 221-3651.

### Tuition assistance available for active duty Soldiers

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

### Direct commissioning program

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. The program is open to active duty, reserve, National Guard and civilians. For information, call Capt. Beverly S. Scott at 692-7376, (877) 570-8053 or e-mail Beverly.Casiano@usarec.army.mil.

## Meetings

### American College of Contingency Planners Meeting, July 27

The next lunch and meeting of the American College of Contingency Planners is scheduled for Tuesday, July 27 at Joe's Crab Shack in the Quarry Shopping Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The meeting is open to civilians and military involved in or interested in contingency planning, disaster preparedness, or homeland security. Lunch is at the attendee's expense and no RSVP is required. For information, call Scott Tanner at 221-2193 or e-mail at scott.tanner@amedd.army.mil.

### PWOC summer program

The Protestant Women of the Chapel's summer program will feature classes on Ruth and Naomi and Women of Faith. Programs meet on Wednesdays from 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Dodd Field Chapel. Free childcare is available. Join us for Praise and Worship, prayer, bible study and fellowship. For more information call Carolyn Wafford at 223-3856 or Lois Griffith at

226-1295. The Fall Kickoff program will be Aug. 25. More information forthcoming.

### SACAA seeks new members

The San Antonio Caribbean American Association was formed in April, and the goal is to promote a working knowledge of the diverse and common elements of culture, the fostering of cultural awareness, the understanding, and appreciation of cultural heritage and the provision of a social atmosphere of togetherness. For information call Mater Sgt. Perry at 310-0123, Cassandra Reefer at 659-9150 or Pauline Coleman 659-7258.

### The Seventh Annual Force Health Protection Conference, Aug. 9-12

The Seventh Annual Force Health Protection Conference will be held in the Albuquerque, N.M., Convention Center Aug. 9 through 12. Presenters will be on hand with a full set of the latest tools for protecting the health of service members everywhere. Check the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine Web site conference link <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/fhp/> for details and to register for this important conference.

### USAWOA - Lone Star Chapter

The Lone Star Chapter of the United States 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, contact CW2 Matthew Watterson at 295-8773 or at [matthew.watterson@us.army.mil](mailto:matthew.watterson@us.army.mil)

### 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.

### 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. Sgt. Maj. Hector Viczaino, 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. For information, call Command Sgt. Maj. Sampson Rush at 221-4129.

### BOSS seeks single Soldiers

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 Staff Sgt. Edward Castro at 221-8760.

## 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, call Prime Time at 453-3300. To submit a Fort Freebie, e-mail to: [news.leader@samhouston.army.mil](mailto:news.leader@samhouston.army.mil) or fax to 221-1198. Ensure your military/Fort Sam Houston civil service status, phone number and name appears on request. Limit of five items per entry.



**For Sale:** Two breastfeeding pillows, \$4 each; Medella breast pump, \$60; two battery-operated baby swings, \$12 each; bouncer seat, \$7; door hanging infant jumper, \$4. Call 824-4770.

**For Sale:** Image 10.0 Treadmill, \$200, Little Tykes car, \$10; baby swing, \$20; bike seat for toddler, \$15; computer desk, \$20. Call (210) 382-0766.

**For Sale:** King size waterbed with bookcase headboard and six drawers at base, linens included, \$95. Call (210) 805-9457.

**For Sale:** Guard grill, \$300; Nerf bars, \$100; rear bumper, \$175 fits 2000

Ford F150 or any similar style truck, all for \$500; Sony 61" projection TV (black) in excellent condition, \$2,000; Bissell Big Green multi-purpose steam cleaner, \$75. Call 414-9785 and leave message.

**For Sale:** Off-white birdcage made by California Cages with two different interchangeable tops, with a total height of 66 inches, may be used for medium to large size birds, \$400. Call (210) 824-3486.

**For Sale:** Four-drawer desk, \$40; antique mirror, \$60; two antique floor lamps, \$30 each. Call (210) 654-9617.

**For Sale:** Solid oak wood futon with mattress, \$125; king size box spring (2 pieces) Denver Mattress Company with metal frame, \$100; Dish satellite and assorted record albums, new and used, call with offer. Call 481-3846.

**For Sale:** Three-year old house in desirable Oakwell Farms, gated community with pool, tennis, and walking trail; 2,600 sq. ft., 3-2.5 with study, covered patio, two-story, and more, close to Fort Sam Houston. Call 824-4770.

**For Sale:** Honda Harmony 215 push lawn mower mulcher/bagger. Call 666-0502 after 6 p.m.

## 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.



**Center Admin. - San Antonio.** Supervises and directs activities of outpatient center. Establishes and implements center policies and procedures in cooperation with regional management. Establishes and maintains work schedules of professional staff.

**Laboratory Technicians - San Antonio.** Must test and analyze specimens of human origin and other substances by established scientific laboratory techniques. Diagnosing, treating, and preventing diseases or to support medical research.

**Network System Monitor - San Antonio.** Provide operations support in the form of system monitoring. Report to Systems Monitoring Supervisor. Will monitor multiple devices connected to our clients network.