



News Leader[®]



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Fort Sam Houston — Home of Army Medicine

Dec. 9, 2004

Briefs . . .

32nd Medical Brigade run

The 32nd Medical Brigade will sponsor its annual Holiday Run Wednesday at 5:30 a.m. The run will start at MacArthur Pavilion down Stanley Road to New Braunfels, then return to Schofield. The brigade will then take one lap around the MacArthur track.

32nd Med. Brigade Challenge

The 32nd Medical Brigade Challenge will be Friday starting at 5:30 a.m. on the PT track in the 232nd Medical Battalion area. The challenge is an annual event used to provide a sense of motivation and unit pride and promote safety awareness throughout the holiday exodus. The 187th and 232nd Medical Battalions will compete against each other in nine events.

Crime watch

People should secure their vehicles when visiting the cemetery. In two recent thefts, people visited a gravesite, left their car unlocked with valuables inside and the items were stolen. Whether on or off post, people should lock their cars and take valuables and keys with them.

Town Hall meetings

The U.S. Army Garrison December Town Hall meetings are at the Roadrunner Community Center, Bldg. 2797, Tuesday from 1:30 to 3 p.m. and at the Camp Bullis headquarters conference room, Bldg. 5000, Dec. 16 from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Legal office closure

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate's claims division, trial defense services and the Legal Assistance Office will be closed Dec. 16 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the OSJA holiday party. The office reopens Dec. 17. For emergencies, call the on-call-officer at 286-6227.

Harris Heights soil tests

The Residential Communities Initiative developer is drilling a series of soil sample holes to test soil conditions throughout Harris Heights. The purpose is to evaluate the soil to design proper foundation for new housing. For more information, call GZ Benavides at 221-2250.

Patch Chaffee sewer line replacement

AP Resources, Inc. is replacing the main sewer line at Patch Chaffee from 817 through 822 Patch. The contractor work hours are from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and will take about 60 days to complete. For more information, call the Engineering and Maintenance Operations Service Desk at 221-3144.

Speed limit decreases

The speed limit on Roger Brooke Road at Brooke Army Medical Center has decreased from 30 to 25 mph.

Army trauma center trains 228th Combat Support Hospital



By Col. (Dr.) Lewis Walker
228th Combat Support Hospital

Although common for the Army's Forward Surgical Teams, the U.S. Army Trauma Training Center in Miami delivered its training course for the first time to a combat support hospital in November.

For people from the Fort Sam Houston 228th Combat Support Hospital, this was a priceless opportunity. A CSH is a 296-bed field hospital whose mission is to be a deployed trauma center for severely injured Soldiers.

Since 2001, ATTC, in cooperation with Jackson Memorial Hospital's Ryder Trauma Center in Miami, has functioned as a national training center for Army FSTs. The Army chose Ryder Trauma Center, one of three stand-alone trauma centers in the country, as the ATTC site because it offers exposure to a high volume of traumatic injuries that closely mimic those seen on the battlefield. The center has trained more than 500 Army medical personnel since it opened.

The post's CSH joined the numbers as 20 doctors, nurses and critical care specialists from the 807th Medical Command's 228th CSH completed the 14-days "in-the-box" course to help prepare them for future deployments. Drawn from throughout the United States, the 228th combined active and Reserve people for training, many for the first time.

The challenge was not only to sharpen their life-saving skills but also to infuse a team approach to trauma management.

The course began with two days of didactic lectures, refresher courses on basic clinical skills and a simulated mass casualty exercise, but transitioned rapidly into hands-on experience in critical

See **TRAUMA** on Page 3

Photo by Maj. Brad West
(Left to right) Maj. Mary Ann Morone, Col. Ann Mancino, Maj. John Knickrehm and Maj. Deborah Stewart perform resuscitation in the trauma resuscitation unit. Members of the 228th Combat Support Hospital at Fort Sam Houston received training from the U.S. Army Training Center in Miami for the first time.

Medical specialists back-fill for deployed Soldiers

Story and photo by Elaine Aviles
Fort Sam Houston News Leader

More than 230 Soldiers from throughout the United States and Puerto Rico attended an all-day deployment briefing at Fort Sam Houston to provide them with the tools they need to support Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

Unlike most Soldiers, the Reservists aren't heading to Iraq or Afghanistan. This group of medical technical specialists will back-fill Army medical centers, hospitals and clinics throughout the continental United States. A few will fill slots in the European Theater.

About half of the Soldiers are assigned to the 5501st U.S. Army Hospital, and the rest were cross-leveled from units throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. Cross-leveling is when Soldiers

from a specific specialty are gathered from throughout the United States.

"The 5501st has been mobilizing and deploying Soldiers in support of current operations since 9-11," said Col. Daniel Dire, 5501st commander. "The unit plays a critical role in the provision of quality medical care in support of the war on terror."

This mobilization will deploy the Soldiers for 18 months. To help prepare them, the briefing included speakers from family readiness, retention, Red Cross, safety, Army Community Service and TRI-CARE. The Association of the U.S. Army provided lunch for the event. The primary purpose of the day was to take care of the Soldiers, said Judy Correa, 5501st administrator.

See **BACK-FILL** on Page 3

Soldier and Family Assistance Center celebrates first anniversary

By Phil Reidinger
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office

One year ago, volunteers, led by facility coordinator Judith Markelz, opened a reception area in the Powless Guest House for Soldiers recovering at Brooke Army Medical Center from wounds received while supporting Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Soldiers assigned to the BAMC Medical Hold Company and visiting family members quickly adopted the facility as a

favorite place to meet and communicate with family, friends and comrades still stationed with their units in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"We opened this facility with borrowed furniture, old computers and a coffee pot from the post lending closet. The day we opened, there were 47 visitors. As of Dec. 6, there have been more than 28,000 visitors," Markelz said.

The assistance center will soon have new furniture. Several telephones and computer terminals provide communications links for

Soldiers and visiting families. Community members donated tickets to sporting and entertainment events in town, a large screen television and DVD player, video games, books, magazines, toys for children and plenty of baked goods and snack items that arrive every day. Markelz said bottled water and phone cards are constant favorites with Soldiers.

Initially, Army Community Center staff manned the reception desk from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the Soldiers assigned to the

See **ANNIVERSARY** on Page 4

Shoplifting — It's not worth it

By Capt. Diane Weed
AAFES Headquarters Public Affairs

Shoplifting is a crime that could cost a military member his or her career and a whole lot of money, too.

"Whatever excuses people come up with to justify their actions, the fact remains that none of them are good enough reasons to risk a career over," said Steve Bass, Army and Air Force Exchange Service Headquarters loss prevention manager.

Military exchanges spend millions of dollars each year to foil shoplifters,

including measures to deter and detect thefts, according to Bass. As a result, AAFES apprehends more than 10,000 shoplifters each year, who are then turned over to base security and their units for criminal and Uniform Code of Military Justice action.

On top of those actions, AAFES and other federal retailers are authorized to collect a \$200 administrative fee, in addition to the value of the shoplifted items. This fee offsets the shoplifting expenses AAFES incurs.

The Civil Recovery Act, which went

into effect March 1, 2002, allows AAFES to collect the flat administrative cost in addition to the value of the shoplifted items from those shoplifting in an AAFES store.

Sponsors are also financially responsible for their family members' actions under the terms of the AAFES program. Parents of minors caught shoplifting will be billed for the costs. These administrative charges are separate from any criminal prosecution or military disciplinary action.

"Unfortunately, when individuals steal,

they commit a crime against themselves, their family members, other Soldiers and Airmen, and the military community," said Brig. Gen. Toreaser Steele, AAFES vice commander. "It's a real shame since they are taking money out of the hands of commanders who use the AAFES dividend to improve their quality of life. They seriously reduce the dollars given back from sales of this \$7.3 billion organization, that's dedicated to ensuring the quality of life for all troops everywhere, going where they go and being of value to them everyday."

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Trauma

Continued from Page 1

life and death decision-making.

Depending on their respective areas of training, team members integrated into the trauma resuscitation unit, trauma surgery teams and critical care units.

The ATTC training culminated with a mass casualty exercise called "Capstone." During Capstone, all 20 team members reunited as an integrated trauma team to begin 48 hours of continuous operations as the primary

trauma teams at Ryder.

Under the watchful eyes of the ATTC faculty and the full-time RTC staff, the team was tasked to manage all aspects of patient care, including supply and logistics, patient tracking, emergency resuscitation and surgery, as well as the critical care nursing needed for their patients. During the training, the team had to efficiently manage work-rest cycles to avoid physical exhaustion that could adversely affect performance and cost lives.

The ultimate goal of the ATTC is to "train teams to be a team." A small slice of the 228th CSH could attend the training, so they will pass on knowledge to the larger unit.

The training taught the CSH that working together as a team is the only intangible weapon to combat the chaos of trauma. This experience will enable CSH to save the lives of critically injured Soldiers around the world.

Lt. Col. James Ficke, Brooke Army Medical Center chief of orthopedic surgery service, teaches intubation skills to Spc. Mario Estrada during trauma training.



Photo by Maj. Brad West

Back-fill

Continued from Page 1

"We're providing information that will help the Soldiers and their families throughout the coming months," she said.

Spc. Margarita Guerra, from Laredo, Texas, was eager to find out ways to stay in touch with loved ones back home. Guerra, a combat medic deploying to Fort Knox, Ky., is the mother of twin boys who turned 4 years old Wednesday.

"I celebrated their birthday on Thanksgiving," she said. "We had a piñata and I bought them a ton of presents. I also bought a train set and will send tracks piece by piece until I get back.

I'm lucky because their father was a Marine and is familiar with deployments. Experiences like this just make us stronger as a family."

Maj. Luis Sanchez, an orthopedic spine surgeon from Puerto Rico, is not only leaving three daughters behind, but also a thriving private practice.

"I knew this was coming, but I still had a lot to do when I got word," said Sanchez, who deployed to Fort Hood, Texas. "I had surgeries scheduled out until February. My patients all wanted their surgery before I left, so I was very busy in November. But, the military has helped me and now it's my turn to pay back."

Capt. Yvette Wright, an operating room nurse from El Paso, Texas, finds a focus on service makes the departure an easier one.

"I just think about serving my country and doing what I have to do," said Wright, who was deployed to Fort Gordon, Ga.

Although closer than Soldiers serving overseas, the Reservists will still be far from family and friends during the holidays.

"I love the Army," Guerra said. "I always promised myself that I would do things to make my children proud. They know I'm away 'patching up people' and I believe they're proud of me for that."



Judy Correa, 5501st Combat Support Hospital administrator, briefs Maj. Luis Sanchez, an orthopedic spine surgeon from Puerto Rico, about his upcoming deployment to Fort Hood, Texas, Nov. 30 at the Hacienda Community Center.

Officials announce distribution dates for tax statements

ARLINGTON, Va. — As the end of the year approaches, Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials announced the schedule for distributing 2004 tax statements.

The schedule lists when service members, military retirees and annuitants and defense civilian employees can access their statements through myPay and when they can anticipate receiving a paper copy in the mail.

Customers once again can view, save and print their tax statements from myPay at <https://mypay.dfas.mil>.

Tax statements will be available as fol-

lows:

- Retired Annual Statement: available online now and mailed between Dec. 17 and 29.
- Retired 1099R: available online Monday and mailed between Dec. 17 and 29.
- Annuitant Annual Statements: available online Monday and mailed between Dec. 28 and 29.
- Annuitant 1099R: available online Tuesday and mailed between Dec. 27 and 29.
- Reserve W2s: available online Dec. 27 and mailed between Jan. 4 and 5.
- Civilian W2s: available online Jan. 6 and mailed between Jan. 10 and 14.
- Active Duty W2s: available online Jan. 14 and mailed between Jan. 18 and 24.

and mailed between Jan. 4 and 5.

- The following statements are available only by mail:
 - Special Compensation for Severely Disabled 1099Rs: mailed Dec. 17.
 - VSI/SSB W2s: mailed between Jan. 4 and 5.
 - Travel W2s: mailed between Jan. 10 and 11.
 - Savings Deposit 1099INTs: mailed

between Jan. 10 and 11.

"During the months of January, February and March 2004, an average of 1.4 million myPay users viewed their tax statements each month, and we continue to encourage users to view and print their statements online," said Jim Pitt, director of electronic commerce at DFAS' military and civilian pay services. "Earlier access to W-2s and other tax statements is another way myPay gives users control of their pay information." (Source: Department of Defense news release)

Installation managers review accomplishments, plan future

The Army Installation Management Agency made great strides in its first full year as the Army's single overseer for installation management, proving its worth in cross-leveling resources and enabling installations to fulfill their flagship role for the transforming Army.

Predictably, there is much to do as the IMA continues to build, particularly in validating the standards and organizational structure that will determine how Army posts are funded and managed for the future.

This review of the past two years and discussion of the next steps were the topics of the second annual IMA Garrison Commanders Conference, hosted by IMA Director Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson Nov. 15 to 18 at Fort Bliss, Texas. Attending were the IMA principal staff, IMA regional directors, and garrison commanders and command sergeants major of all 181 Army garrisons throughout the world.

Following a rousing confer-

ence opening by the 82nd Airborne Division All American Chorus, Johnson discussed the state of the IMA and the Common Levels of Support model that will lend predictability and quality to installation management, even during times of funding shortages. CLS encompasses 373 service support programs that make up the component parts of 54 services assigned to IMA under the Installation Status Report.

Johnson compared IMA's fast-paced establishment period to building an airplane while flying it and talked about the high expectations facing the organization.

"The Army expects us to provide two dollars of BASOPS support for every dollar of funding," Johnson said. "No corporation would be expected to show a profit in the first year, but the expectations are high for us."

Referring to the funding shortages that challenged IMA and Army installations last year,

Johnson said the Common Levels of Support model will enable the organization to quantify the base support services in terms of cost, so IMA can tell the Army leadership, as well as customers, what services will be provided at any given level of funding.

"CLS is a methodology to tell Army how funds should be spent when we don't get 100 percent of the funds we need," Johnson said. "My bet is we'll never get 100 percent funding for the 54 ISR services we have to provide, so we need a methodology."

Over the past year, the IMA Plans Directorate has developed the 373 SSPs based on reducing the 54 ISR services to their component parts. Of the 373 SSPs, 246 were determined to be must-fund, while the others are discretionary and can be prioritized by need.

Once finalized and approved by the Army senior leadership, these standards will be uniformly applied to each of the 181 Army

installations in the world. Some flexibility will exist to accommodate specific geographic or demographic needs, but the aim is consistency. Customers will find the same kinds and levels of services at one installation as they do at another.

"There is no such thing as a unique post, but there are unique situations. We're more like McDonald's than Burger King — you don't get it your way, but we'll adapt where we can," Johnson said.

Following the Director's overview, IMA Deputy Director Philip E. Sakowitz Jr. detailed the CLS implementation plan for the next two years. Sakowitz told the garrison commanders they have a March deadline to submit detailed reports, validate services and costs with Service-Based Costing criteria and to compare the SSP fit with installation missions. Also due are implementation plans for each garrison. IMA staff will use the information from this data call to adjust CLS

criteria and finalize the model for implementation in fiscal year 2006.

In addition to the IMA leadership, conference attendees heard feedback and guidance from the principal deputy assistant secretary of the Army for installations and environment, Geoffrey Prosch, discussed current garrison issues such as base realignment and closure; housing, utilities and lodging privatization; and environmental strategies from the Army perspective.

IMA leadership also got some perspective from two senior mission commanders, who have mission priorities that sometimes challenge the garrison's ability to adequately support.

Overall, the IMA role in supporting mobilization and deployments in support of two wars received high marks for enabling resource distribution and access that would have been unlikely or impossible without IMA as the central broker.

(Source: IMA news release)

Anniversary

Continued from Page 1

Medical Hold Company manned the desk from 4 to 9 p.m., keeping the center open 12 hours per day. Today the facility is still run by post and community volunteers, with the help of Soldiers who know what their colleagues need most when visiting the center.

"I could tell you about the emotional experiences every one of these past 365 days have brought," Markelz said. She recalled the frantic middle-aged couple standing in the middle of the assistance center desperately trying to grasp the reality that their son has been injured, but had not yet arrived at BAMC.

The Soldier and Family Assistance Center is a unique program that offers a safe environment outside the hospital for Soldiers while they continue with outpatient treatments. It also is a welcome place for families to gather for networking and to learn to be an integral part of their loved ones' recovery process.

"The significance of this first

year anniversary is to acknowledge an effort by many volunteers and incredible support by the San Antonio community to help our military men and women as they return from battlefields. Their lives and the lives of their families are forever changed," Markelz said. She keeps a record of all donations to acknowledge every heartfelt gift delivered to the center.

Col. Garry Atkins, U.S. Army Garrison commander, recalled the first meetings with Kim Miller, Markelz and the Army Community Service Center staff when patients began arriving at BAMC and were soon followed by their families.

"This anniversary celebration today is an opportunity to thank you – members of the post and San Antonio communities for all that you do to support the Soldiers and Family Assistance Center," he said.

Master Sgt. Pam Nelson, a BAMC patient assigned to the Medical Hold Company, spoke on behalf of the Soldiers thanking the community for all the dona-



Photo by Esther Garcia

Col. Garry Atkins, U.S. Army Garrison commander, thanks the Soldier and Family Assistance Center volunteers during the first anniversary recognition ceremony. Lynn Atkins planned the anniversary event at the Powless Guest House to recognize members of the post and San Antonio community members who donated time and support items to the center.

tions. "This facility is a place for Soldiers to come to and meet with other Soldiers and center volunteers when they have no one else. Please continue to sup-

port the center for Soldiers who may be coming here in the future after we are gone," said Nelson.

For more information about volunteering and donating items

to the Soldier and Family Assistance Center and various Soldier and family support activities, call Judith Markelz at 241-0811.

Army recruiters take 'boxing' to new level to aid needy



Sgt. 1st Class Chad Christenson, Reagan Recruiting Station, helps Anita Reeves bag her donation of clothes in front of her home in Castle Hill Nov. 19.

Story and photos by Jennifer Gunn
U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion

A homeless woman was sleeping under a construction sign on the Frontage Road sidewalk of Loop 410 East at Fredericksburg Road using sandbag weights as her bed.

In the parking lot across the road, a small group of San Antonians gathered to spend the night sheltered only by cardboard boxes as part of an all-night vigil to generate donations for the area's needy.

Recruiters from the San Antonio Battalion joined their efforts Nov. 18, sharing the "Army of One" spirit by collecting blankets, coats and other items for five local charities.

Sgt. 1st Class Chad Christenson, Staff Sgt. Rene Garcia and Sgt. Jerry Smith from Reagan Recruiting Station, along with Spec. Nola Dzwonek from Brooke Army Medical Center and Smith's daughter, Alexis, slept in cardboard boxes in the Crossroads Mall parking lot.

The event was part of San Antonio's "We've Got You Covered" Charity Drive, sponsored by the San Antonio Food Bank.

The recruiters' involvement began several weeks ago when Christenson began to research benevolent opportunities in San Antonio.

"As I was surfing, I came across the 'We've Got You Covered' Web site," said Christenson. "Others joined me, and we got command approval to represent the Army here."

"With everything going on with the Army right now, it's

good for the community to see that the Soldiers at home are here to help too, especially during the holiday season," said acting company 1st Sgt. Greg Hidalgo.

The recruiters began their efforts by sending letters asking for donations and support to the community. They delivered the letters door-to-door within their stations' recruiting area. They canvassed these areas in the "Army of One" humvee to pick up donations.

All the donated items go directly to San Antonio charities like SAM Ministries, Any Baby Can, The Battered Women's Shelter and the San Antonio Food Bank to help the needy and less fortunate in the area.

More than 25,000 people in San Antonio are homeless and thousands more are in need of the basic necessities of life.

San Antonio, Dallas and Austin rank among the 20 "meanest" cities of more than 179 communities in regards to how they treat their homeless, according to a National Coalition for the Homeless study, making Texas the fourth "meanest" state in the nation.

According to the San Antonio Housing Authority, current shelter resources can accommodate less than one half of the city's homeless.

Donations can still be made to help offset the need during the holiday season.

Some items of need include blankets, clothes, baby diapers, formula, shampoo, cleaning supplies, canned foods and other basic necessities. For more information on how to help, visit <http://www.wevegotyoucovered.org>.

'Gift of Groceries' offers unique way to celebrate season

By Martin J. Jackson
Fort Sam Houston Commissary store director

Anyone can show support for military families this holiday season with a "Gift of Groceries."

"Whether it is for a national or installation charity, families of deployed service members or simply as a gift for a neighbor, the general public can help support military families with commissary gift certificates," said Patrick B. Nixon, acting director and chief executive officer of the Defense Commissary Agency. "Since the program began in the fall of 2002, nearly \$5 million in gift certificates have been given as gifts or donated to military families."

During the holidays in particular, gift

certificates have proven to be handy for food basket programs by allowing recipients to purchase the groceries they need and prefer, rather than getting food items they might not be able to use.

"And since commissaries sell food at cost, military families save an average of 30 percent or more by using their commissary benefit," said Nixon. "That's critical for families on a tight budget – at the holidays or any time of the year."

The public can also donate gift certificates to worldwide organizations that assist military families such as the United Service Organization, Air Force Aid Society and Fisher House Foundation. Since the "Gift of Groceries" program began, nearly \$130,000 has been donated to those specific charities.

"The commissary gift certificates are obviously appreciated and used by families staying at Fisher Houses worldwide," said Jim Weiskopf, vice president of communications for Fisher House Foundation. Fisher Houses are comfort homes located near military medical facilities. "Most donated certificates are being used to buy groceries for families staying at our homes while their loved ones recover from injuries sustained in Afghanistan or Iraq."

The "Gift of Groceries" program is made possible through a business agreement with CertiChecks Inc. at no cost to DeCA or the federal government. The program allows anyone to purchase commissary gift certificates through a link at <http://www.commissaries.com> or by calling toll free (877) 770-

GIFT. The certificates can be given as gifts or donated, but only authorized commissary shoppers can spend them. A standard charge of \$4.95, paid by the purchaser, covers the costs of handling, printing and mailing. Additional charges may apply for large orders or special delivery.

Gift certificates, in \$25 denominations, are now available in all 273 commissaries worldwide. The availability of gift certificates in stores is intended as a customer convenience - filling the need for a last-minute gift. A handling fee of \$1 per \$25 certificate offsets printing, shipping and handling costs, and only cash or check is accepted on gift certificates acquired directly through a commissary customer service office.

Sgt. Audie Murphy Club inducts Fort Sam Soldiers

Story and photo by Esther Garcia
FSH Public Affairs Office

First Sgt. Roy Velez, Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Heflin, Academy Battalion C Company; and Staff Sgt. Natasha Love and Staff Sgt. Johnny Seawright, 232nd Medical Battalion G Company, are the newest members of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, Sergeant Major of the Army Leon L. Van Autreve Chapter at Fort Sam Houston.

The Soldiers were welcomed into the club during an induction ceremony Dec. 1 at Blesse Auditorium.

"There is no secret throughout the world that the strength behind the United States Army is the noncommissioned officers," said Maj. Gen. George Weightman, Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston commander and host for the Audie Murphy induction ceremony. Weightman presented each



Courtesy photo

Audie L. Murphy
June 20, 1924 – May 28, 1971

inductee with the commanding general's coin of excellence, a letter of congratulations and the Army commendation medal.

"It is important we recognize these fine NCOs. They have recently undergone a demanding board," said Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Burke, who presented each inductee with the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club certificate. "In order to get inducted into this prestigious club, it takes years and years of hard work and dedication in learning how to be a fine NCO, and those NCOs recognized by the board are inducted into the club."

The Sergeant Audie Murphy club recognizes NCOs who set the example for leadership and excellence, qualities Murphy also embodied.

Audie Murphy was assigned to the 15th Infantry Regiment of the Third Infantry Division, and fought in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, France and Germany. He spent 400 days on the front lines earning a battlefield commission and earned more than 33 military awards, citations and decorations, including three French and one Belgian medals, the Distinguished Service Cross and two awards of the Silver Star. Murphy was also awarded this nation's highest decoration for gallantry and bravery, the Medal of Honor, for



(From left) 1st Sgt. Roy Velez, Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Heflin, Academy Battalion C Company; and Staff Sgt. Natasha Love and Staff Sgt. Johnny Seawright, 232nd Medical Battalion G Company, were inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, Sergeant Major of the Army Leon Van Autreve Chapter at Fort Sam Houston Dec. 1 at Blesse Auditorium.

his actions Jan. 26, 1945, near Holtzwihr, France.

Murphy was the highest decorated Soldier in American history. He was killed in a plane crash on a mountain top near Roanoke, Va., May 28, 1971. His body was recovered two days later, on Memorial Day. He is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

The original club was started to honor Murphy at Fort Hood, Texas, in 1986. The SMA Van Autreve Chapter, which has the distinction of being the only chartered club in the U.S. Medical Command, focuses on community involvement. Members regularly visit veterans at the Audie Murphy Veterans Memorial Hospital,

conduct drives to collect school supplies, and are involved with the Veterans Against Violence And Drugs Program.

Guest speaker Command Sgt. Maj. David A. Eddy, U.S. Army Medical Command, congratulated each new member and said, "While you can be proud of your individual accomplishments, I submit to you it's what you will do for God, country and for your Soldiers tomorrow that is more important. Bottom line is your work does not end at the conclusion of this ceremony. In fact, it marks a new beginning, for your life-long endeavor to influence and mentor the future of tomorrow's leaders."

Appointment system improves

Brooke Army Medical Center and Wilford Hall Medical Center have joined forces to improve the system used for booking primary care and specialty clinic appointments.

The joint San Antonio Market Consult and Appointment Management Office has the responsibility to book appointments in both medical centers.

"Beneficiaries calling in to book appointments have noticed a long wait during the past week," said Col. Suzanne Cuda, San Antonio Multi-Market Office director. "There were issues with the phone system and while trying to resolve the problem, unfortunately, the waiting times increased."

Continuous work on the phone system and process has now resulted in major improvements. Currently, the wait time is 10 minutes on average during peak times and six minutes average the rest of the time.

"All possible solutions to upgrade the system are being investigated and we will not stop until the wait-time goal of six minutes at peak and three minutes on average is reached," Cuda said.

The goal of the Consult and Appointment Management Office is to maximize care for beneficiaries within military treatment facilities.

Cuda said it was the first time that both hospitals are resourced to do this. She said all resources available in San Antonio military facilities are being used to optimize care for patients. The Consult and Appointment Management Office also provides the venue for patients who are enrolled to primary care providers in the network to receive specialty care in the military hospitals.

"Our military health system provides the full range of specialty care at the highest quality, and we want our beneficiaries to be able to benefit from this," said Cuda. "Beneficiaries must have a consult from their primary care manager for all specialty clinics."

For more information, call the appointment line at 916-9900.

(Source: Brooke Army Medical Center)

Transit of Venus

Ceremony commemorates rare astronomical occurrence

Story and photo by Yolanda Hagberg
Public Information Office

A team of NASA Johnson Space Center scientists traveled from Houston, Texas, to witness the unveiling of a historic marker in front of Bldg. 623 on Infantry Post Road Friday.

Their journey was not unlike the team that traveled to Fort Sam Houston from Washington, D.C. 122 years ago to observe the passage of the planet Venus across the sun. The results allowed astronomers to refine the measurement of distance of the Earth to the sun and provided information on the scale of the solar system.

In spite of the cold temperatures, the scientists, along with other community leaders, assembled and listened as U.S. Army Garrison Commander Col. Garry Atkins welcomed them and enlightened them with the historic vision of the event, which occurred on Dec. 6, 1882, when an expedition of U.S. Naval Observatory personnel photographed the transit of Venus as it passed in front of the sun. The group was led by Asaph Hall, an

astronomer who in 1877 had single-handedly discovered the only two known moons of Mars with a 26-inch diameter telescope at the Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C.

"We are proud of our history and heritage and we are very appreciative of your efforts to document this important scientific expedition as case markers in our history," Atkins said.

Paul Maley, from the NASA Johnson Space Center Astronomical Society and guest speaker for the ceremony, explained the significant proportions of the historic event.

"On June 8 of this year, for the first time in over a century, Venus appeared again silhouetted against the sun and many people were able to see it. This is a sight that was not witnessed by anyone currently alive until this year," said Maley.

Maley further explained that typically only two transits of the planet occur in any particular century and the next one will take place eight years from now.

"Not only is the transit of Venus rare, but the alignment of the Earth, Venus and the sun lends itself to the method of



Col. Garry Atkins, U.S. Army Garrison commander, and Paul Maley, from the NASA Space Center Astronomical Society, unveil a historic marker in front of Bldg. 623 on Infantry Post Road Friday.

working called the solar parallel, which is the basis for measuring, as Colonel Atkins pointed out, the distance from the earth to the sun," Maley said.

Maley concluded his remarks by stating that as an amateur astronomer and a native of San

Antonio, he is very proud to have played a small part to help establish this historic marker.

"What makes this special is that this is the only place in the state of Texas where there is such a marker commemorating an astronomical observation," said Maley.

Transits of Venus across the disk of the sun are among the rarest of planetary alignments. Only six such events have occurred since the invention of the telescope. The next transit of Venus is expected to occur in June 2012.

470 MI change of command



Photo by Elaine Aviles

Sgt. 1st Class Ricardo Sanchez (back right), acting company first sergeant, unfurls the guidon during the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade's B Company change of command Nov. 30 at the Officers' Club. Capt. Gabriel Menchaca assumed command of the company from Capt. Phillip Lopez. The brigade, a direct support unit to U.S. Army South, deploys Soldiers to Cuba, Kuwait and Iraq in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom. "It's not only a blessing to be able to command one of the first multi-compo (reserve and active duty) companies in the U.S. Army, but to be afforded the opportunity to command in the place where I grew up," Menchaca said.

New commander piped aboard



Photo by Esther Garcia

Lt. Cmdr. Angela Katson, U.S. Navy, is piped aboard as the incoming commander of the San Antonio Military Entrance Processing Station. The traditional Navy change of command ceremony was held at the Officers' Club Dec. 3.

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
Room L31-9v, BAMC
916-3352 or 916-5538



Change of responsibility



Photo by Shadi May

Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Paskos accepts the 187th Medical Battalion colors during a change of responsibility ceremony Nov. 30. "The Army is undergoing such transformation fighting the war against terrorism, so my goal is to train Soldiers to be able to survive in the battlefield," said Paskos.

Pet vaccination clinic



The Ft. Sam Houston Vet Clinic will sponsor a vaccination-only clinic for dogs and cats from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday. Pet owners eligible for services are valid ID card holders – active duty, retirees and their dependents. Reservists on active duty status will need to bring in a copy of their orders. All regular prices will apply — cash checks and credit card are accepted for services. For more information and to make an appointment, call 295-4260.

Need an ID Card?

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



Military spouses can start portable careers as 'virtual assistants'

Training program comes to Fort Sam Houston aspiring entrepreneurs

Military spouses face unique career challenges resulting from a lifestyle that often involves frequent relocations — sometimes to remote, isolated posts, high-cost areas and areas where the prospects for employment are less than ideal.

These moves impact employment prospects, family income and spouses' career progression.

Thanks to the growth of the Internet and the emergence of the virtual assistance industry, military spouses with expertise in administrative support and related areas will find it easier to spread their entrepreneurial wings and develop viable, portable careers.

Virtual assistants are self-employed people who provide off-site business support services to their clients. These services vary based on assistants' experience and expertise, and can include day-to-day administrative tasks, competitive research, Web site design, resume writing, accounting, bookkeeping services, marketing support, translation and graphic design. Work assignments are communicated through e-mail, phone, fax, mail, diskette transfer and real-time online messaging. The virtual nature of these relationships lends itself easily to the transient or "nomadic" lifestyle that is so much a part of military family life.

Josie Gonzales, Employment Readiness

Program manager has been certified by Staffcentrix, LLC, a company that specializes in training military spouses to become virtual assistants. The program is designed to teach spouses to launch and grow their own virtual assistant businesses, and thus embark on a rewarding, challenging and truly portable career.

The program entails a series of workshops scheduled for Jan. 11 to 13 (application deadline is Jan. 5). Participation is limited to 12 people who will be selected based on the information they provide in their training application.

Candidates for the program should have a minimum of two years of administrative support experience, Internet access, a good working knowledge of basic software, a computer with a Windows 95 or newer operating system, and above all, a strong desire for employment or employment change.

Active-duty Army military spouses who would like to participate in this free training program must complete and submit the online application at http://www.msvas.com/application_samhouston.htm. For more information, call Gonzales at 221-0516.

(Source: Employment Readiness Program Office, Army Community Service)

Army Community Service

Family Advocacy Program Class Schedule – December 2004

Class Title	Dates	Class Time
Anger Management Awareness	Wednesday	11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Basics of Breastfeeding	Wednesday	10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Building Effective Anger	Tuesday	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Management Skills Series 1 to 4 New Series (1-3)	Friday and 17	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Commanders Training	16	8 to 9:30 a.m.
DivorceCare	Today and 16	11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Getting Ready for Childbirth	Today	9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Girl Talk! Ages 9 to 10	Wednesday	3 to 4 p.m.
Holiday Stress I and II	Today and 16	1 to 2:30 p.m.
SMART Girls	Today	4 to 5 p.m.
Teen Talk	16	4 to 5 p.m.
The Middle Way	20 and 27	11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Parenting Class – Truth or Consequences?	21 and 28	4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

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

Tips for safe, happy holiday season

This holiday season, don't let the spirit of giving lull you into giving burglars, muggers and pickpockets a better chance to do their dirty work. Crooks love the holidays just as much as everyone else, but chiefly because it's an opportune time for crime.

During the holidays homes are jam-packed with glittering gifts; stores, malls, and downtown streets teeming with unsuspecting shoppers; and people rushing around, stressed out and careless, looking for last-minute gifts, trying to get everything done. All this combined is enough to make a crook giddy with holiday joy.

Here are some tips on how to celebrate safely this holiday season:

If you're traveling:

- Get an automatic timer for your lights.
- Ask a neighbor to watch your home and park in the driveway from time to time.
- Don't forget to have mail and newspaper delivery stopped. If it piles up, it's a

sure sign you're gone.

- Call or stop by the military police station and sign up for the House Watch Program.

If you're out for the evening:

- Turn on lights and a radio or television so it looks like someone's home.
- Be extra cautious about locking doors and windows when you leave, even if it's just for a few minutes.
- Don't display gifts where they can be seen from outside.

If you're shopping:

- Stay alert and be aware of what's going on around you.
- Park in a well-lit space, and be sure to lock the car, close the windows, and hide shopping bags and gifts in the trunk.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash; pay with a check or credit card whenever possible.
- Deter pickpockets and purse-snatchers. Don't overburden yourself with pack-

ages. Be extra careful with purses and wallets. Carry a purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in an inside coat or front pants pocket.

- Shopping with kids? Teach them to go to a store clerk or security guard if you get separated.

- Be aware of scam artists offering you a deal that is too good to be true.

Take a holiday inventory

The holidays are a good time to update, or create, your home inventory. Take photos or make videos of items, and list descriptions and serial numbers. If your home is burglarized, having a detailed inventory can help identify stolen items and make insurance claims easier to file. Make sure things like televisions, VCRs, stereo equipment, cameras, camcorders, sports equipment, jewelry, silver, computers, home office equipment and power tools are on the list. Remember to check it twice.

If a stranger comes to the door, beware. Criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering gifts. And, it's not uncommon for people to try to take advantage of others' generosity during the holidays by going door-to-door for charitable donations when there's no charity involved. Ask for identification, and find out how the funds will be used. If you aren't satisfied, don't give. Help a charitable organization you know and like instead.

Last, but not least, don't let holiday stress get the best of your holiday spirit. Make time to get together with family, friends and neighbors. And think about reaching out in the spirit of the season and helping someone who's less fortunate or lonely.

Do your part to make the holidays a safe and happy time for everybody — except criminals.

To report suspicious activity, call military police at 221-2222.

(Source: Provost Marshal Office)

Con artists target Fort Sam community

By Linda Furlow
Provost Marshal Office

Area law enforcement personnel have been alerted to several scams on Fort Sam Houston and in the San Antonio area.

The elderly, although likely targets, are not always the victims of con artists. Any unsuspecting person or Good Samaritan can fall prey to these criminals.

Recently, at the Fort Sam Houston gym and commissary, a black male claiming to be from South Africa approached patrons. For the scam, the man tells people he has a large amount of money and needs help to get to

another location, such as a hotel. The male then shows a large sum of money or tells a story about inheriting a large amount of money, and says he cannot take it back to South Africa. He offers potential victims a portion of the money and asks that they contribute the remainder to charity. He asks that they first put up "good faith" money. Another stranger, who is part of the scam, will encourage the victim to go along with him or puts up some money as "good faith." The victim is convinced to withdraw a substantial amount of money from his or her bank account. The stranger and the South African create a ruse to go into a

building or around a corner and disappear with the victim's cash.

The first suspect in the latest incident is described as a light-skinned black male, mid-40s, medium build, approximately 5 feet, 5 inches and 155 pounds. He is described as well groomed and well dressed (wearing a suit). He said he just arrived in the United States and was lost and driven around San Antonio by a taxi driver who charged him \$200. The suspect handed the Good Samaritan a card with the name of a hotel with a San Antonio address and said he needed a ride to the hotel. The suspect convinced the person to give him a ride and, during travel, related

the above story and convinced the driver to stop and get directions. This is where the second suspect came into play. The second suspect is described as a dark-skinned black male, mid-40s, "lanky" build, approximately 6 feet and 165 pounds. He is reported to have gold upper teeth and wears glasses. He is carrying a briefcase, is also well dressed, and said he works for a local restaurant and is also in real estate. Both men encouraged the Samaritan to withdraw money from a teller machine. The money the suspect gave the victim got switched when the victim was distracted.

The bottom line: never give money or personal information to

someone you know nothing about, no matter how innocent they may appear. Con artists are very convincing and clever at countering your suspicions. Never let anyone that you do not know into your home.

The old caveat stands true ... if it sounds too good to be true, then it probably is.

If you feel you may have been the victim of a similar crime, call the military police at 221-2222 or your local police department.

For more information about local scams, go to www.sanantonio.gov/sapd and look for Scam Alerts. Other Web sites listing scams are www.crimes-of-persuasion.com or www.fraud.org.

Donor center seeks apheresis donors

Apheresis is the collection of separate blood products (red cells, platelets and plasma) using automated technology.

The process takes about two hours during which a concentrated platelet pack is collected while the red blood cells are returned to the donor. A platelet product is only good for five days; therefore, management of collections can be difficult and there is great demand for them.

An apheresis donation is the equivalent of six to eight individual donors donating whole blood for enough platelets for one transfusable dose.

Donor criteria is very similar to that of whole blood donors:

- No trips to England more than three months

and European countries more than six months cumulatively from 1980 to 1996

- No history of cancer
- No tattoos or body piercings in the past year
- Patients must weigh more than 110 pounds
- Platelet counts must be 150,000 (this will be checked at the initial appointment)
- Hemoglobin more than 12.5 g/dl
- No medications such as Ripfuel, Xenadrine or any medication with aspirin or motrin
- Must know shot history for the past month
- No donations of whole blood in the last 57 days
- No high risk behaviors

To donate, call Azeb Gordon or Richard Willis at 295-4655 or 295-4989 to schedule an appointment.

Health Promotion Center

December Class Schedule

Class	Date	Time
Self Care and Health	Today	9 to 11 a.m.
Breastfeeding Support Group	Friday	1 to 2:30 p.m.
Diabetes Education	Monday	12:45 to 4:30 p.m.
Diabetes Foot Care	Monday	1 to 2:30 p.m.
Diabetes Education	Tuesday	12:45 to 4:30 p.m.
Stress Management	Tuesday	1 to 2:30 p.m.
High Blood Pressure	Wednesday	9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Office Yoga	Wednesday	12 to 1 p.m.
AD Self Care	16	8 to 10 a.m.
Back Pain	16	1:30 to 3 p.m.
Body Fat Testing	17	8 to 11 a.m.

For more information, call the Health Promotion Center at 916-3352. Health classes are offered for Department of Defense civilians, active-duty military, retirees and family members.

Flu shots available

Flu shots for medically high risk military beneficiaries will be available on a walk-in basis at the Roadrunner Community Center, Bldg. 2797, Stanley Road, today, Friday, Monday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Dec. 17 from 8 to 11 a.m.

Flu shots will be given only to the following medically high-risk groups:

- People 65 years old and older
- People 2 years old and older with underlying long-term illness (heart or lung disease, metabolic disease (like diabetes), kidney disease, a blood disorder or a weakened

immune system, including people with HIV/AIDS

- Pregnant women
- People who live in nursing homes or other chronic-care places
- People who are 6 months to 18 years of age and take aspirin daily
- People who have or take care of a baby under 6 months old

People will be asked to complete a questionnaire prior to receiving a shot to determine if they are high risk. For more information, call 916-7358.

232nd Med. Bn. hosts annual holiday party



A visit by Santa Claus was the highlight of the day for many of the children.

Story and photo by 1st Lt. Mia Jones
232nd Medical Battalion

The 232nd Medical Battalion sponsored its annual Christmas party at the Northwood's Ice Center Dec. 7. More than 400 officers, NCOs, civilians and family members from throughout the battalion enjoyed the festivities.

Santa Claus arrived bearing gifts and brought excitement to the children who anxiously lined up to sit on his lap.

Ice-skating was the highlight of the day for the children and any adult daring enough to risk the cold temperature or a painful fall on the hard ice. Maj. Gen. George Weightman, Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston commander, attended the day's events and reestablished his ties to Vermont when he laced up his skates and showed the Soldiers his ice-skating skills.

A competitive game of Broom Ball between the officers and NCOs of the battalion ended the day and made the party a memorable gathering.

232nd Med. Bn. Soldier and Junior Leader of the week



Courtesy photos

Spc. Anthony Saffier-Ewing, Soldier of the Week from the 232nd Medical Battalion D Company, is from Canyon, Calif. Saffier-Ewing said the most significant lessons he's learned in the Army are "to work with others, giving 100 percent no matter what the situation and leadership." When he goes home for the holidays, Saffier-Ewing said he will enjoy the simple things, like spending time with family and friends, playing with his dog and relaxing.



Pfc. Kristopher Ayers, Junior Leader of the Week, 232nd Medical Battalion D Company, is from Woburn, Ma. Learning what it takes to keep this country free has been a great lesson to him, Ayers said. When asked what he plans to do when he goes home for the holidays he said, "I plan to go snowboarding and spend some quality time with my family." Ayers enjoys playing hockey and snowboarding.

MEPS commander receives recognition



Photo by Esther Garcia

Col. Sheila M. Q. Scanlon, U.S. Marine Corps, commander, Western Sector, U.S. Military Entrance Processing Command, presents Lt. Cmdr. Pat Williams, outgoing commander, San Antonio MEPS, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal at the change of command ceremony at the Officers' Club Dec. 3. Williams was responsible for the relocation of the processing station to Fort Sam Houston from its San Antonio location. She also worked with her staff of 24 active duty military and 22 Army civilians to design and furnish the new facility to accommodate Defense Department recruiting support activities.

Post Pulse: What does the holiday season mean to you?



"Family, good food and a time to give thanks for all our blessings — a time to reconcile with God."

Staff Sgt. Manny Frias



"The birth of Christ and a time for us to reflect on being as much like him as we can throughout the year."

Diane Packer



"A time of sharing, spending time with family and reflecting on God's gift to the world."

Staff Sgt. Terry Ceasor



"It's a family time. It's time of letting go of troubles and being close with family, friends and neighbors. It's too bad every day is not like Christmas."

Jo'Anne Kimmey

FSH Independent School District

**Weekly Campus Activities
Monday through Dec. 17**

Fort Sam Houston Elementary School

Tuesday

PTO meeting, cafeteria, 6 p.m.
PTO Christmas program in cafeteria, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 17

Second nine weeks ends

Robert G. Cole Jr. / Sr. High School

Monday

Second nine weeks tests:
English and science
Boys basketball vs. Memorial at
Cole, 6 and 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday

First nine weeks test: math

Wednesday

Semester exams: periods 1 and 2

Dec. 16

Semester exams: periods 3, 4 and 7
Boys soccer vs. Holy Cross at
Cole, 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 17

Semester exams: periods 5 and 6
Second nine weeks ends
First semester ends
Boys basketball vs. Pearsall at
Cole, 5 and 6:30 p.m.
Girls basketball at Nixon-Smilely,
TBA

Cole students earn title of Commended Students

By Dr. Gloria Davila
Fort Sam Houston ISD associate superintendent

Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School students Jonathan Brown and Jonathan Simpkins were named Commended Students in the 2005 National Merit Scholarship Program.

A letter of commendation from the school and National Merit Scholarship Corporation, which conducts the program, was presented to the scholastically talented seniors.

About 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation have been recognized for their exceptional academic promise. These students placed among the top 5 percent of more than 1 million students who entered the 2005 competition by taking the 2003 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

"We are very proud of our students honored as Commended Students in the 2005 National Merit Program," stated Dr. Roland Rios, Cole principal. "Jonathan Brown and Jonathan Simpkins are examples of the type of students here at Cole that exhibit outstanding academic performance."

Simpkins has been enrolled in advanced placement classes throughout his high school career. He has been a member of Academic Decathlon, Gifted and Talented Education, Freshman Academic Bowl, the varsity swim team, varsity band and the varsity tennis team. Off campus, he is an usher at the Christ Lutheran Church of Alamo Heights, a volunteer construction worker for Habitat for Humanity and a volunteer at the Kingsley Place Retirement Home.

Brown has also been enrolled in advanced placement classes in high school. He has been in varsity football, basketball, cross-



Courtesy photo

Cole seniors Jonathan Simpkins (left) and Jonathan Brown were named Commended Students in the 2005 National Merit Scholarship Program.

country and track. In 2003 and 2004, he was the 800-Meter Run District champion. He competed in University Interscholastic League Ready Writing, UIL Science and UIL Number Sense. Off campus, he is a member of his church choir, a worship leader of his youth group and an active participant in his church youth group throughout high school. As a volunteer, Jonathan has attended the Gold Youth Leadership seminar, worked at the 4th Street Inn, a non-profit restaurant, and served as an IMPACT partner.

Fort Sam Houston ISD meets Adequate Yearly Progress

By Dr. Gloria Davila
FSH ISD associate superintendent

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110), signed by President Bush Jan. 8, 2002, reauthorizes and amends federal programs established under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

Under NCLB, accountability provisions that formerly applied only to districts and campuses receiving Title I, Part A funds now apply to all districts and campuses in Texas.

Not only do public school districts and campuses in Texas have to meet state accountability standards, but they now are

evaluated annually in the federal accountability system for Adequate Yearly Progress in reading and language arts, mathematics, and graduation rate or attendance rate. The all-students group, African American, Hispanic, white, economically disadvantaged, special education and limited English proficient students are required to meet performance and participation standards.

The Fort Sam Houston ISD, Robert G. Cole Junior/Senior High School and Fort Sam Houston Elementary attained the rating "Meets AYP" for the school year 2003 to 2004.

The results from the following assessments were included in determining the rating: the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills, the State Developed Alternative Assessment for special education students, the Locally Determined Alternate Assessment for special education students exempted from the TAKS and SDAA, the Reading

Proficiency Test in English for limited English proficient students exempted from TAKS by the Language Proficiency Assessment Committee and the released TAKS mathematics assessments for LEP-exempt students.

"We are especially proud of earning the 'Meets AYP' status at both the campus and district levels, and we honor the students, teachers and administrators who worked so hard to earn this achievement," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Gail Siller. "Our students are constantly being encouraged to improve their academic performance in order to achieve their personal goals and potential, which is reflected in our academic achievement."

"Our schools have a long and proud history of academic excellence that I believe will continue far into the future," Siller added.

"This is partly because we are blessed with a supportive and caring community and actively involved parents."

Boxes link hearts apart

Catholic community supports deployed Fort Sam Houston members

Story and photo by Shadi May
Fort Sam Houston News Leader

The Catholic Women of Fort Sam Houston's chapels gather the first Friday of each month at Dodd Field Chapel for the rosary, Mass and to help a local charity or support a good cause.

Developing one's spirituality as well as lending a helping hand to the Fort Sam and San Antonio communities are the primary missions of the organizations.

They collected food for San Antonio's food bank last month, and gathered infant formula for the Seton Home, a home for unwed teen mothers, in October.

This month, they will send care packages to Soldiers and people within Fort Sam's Catholic community who are deployed to Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan.

"We have so far about eight boxes worth of goods we will send to addresses of three parish members, and they will in turn distribute the items within their units," said Sara Garza, president of the Catholic Women of the Chapel.

"The boxes will contain snacks, razors, toothpastes, toothbrushes and other essential items," said Garza.

Garza's husband, 1st Lt. Nathaniel Garza was deployed to Iraq last year during the holidays.

"A lot of outreach has been within the community, and we



Sara Garza, Mindy Pusateri and Ana Castillo pack boxes to send holiday treats to deployed Catholic community members.

wanted to make sure our Soldiers knew that the Fort Sam Catholic community is thinking about them and supporting them," said Garza.

Ana Castillo's husband will also benefit from this program. Castillo is now a civilian in Kuwait working as a warehouse manager.

"It's a great program," said Castillo. "It's like a passage way to us. My husband says to me that the program is a link to reality."

"I think it's good for the Soldiers deployed and the families here," said Mindy Pusateri, wife of Maj. Tony Pusateri, 321st Civil Affairs Brigade Company commander.

"Everybody feels great doing

it. It makes us here feel like we are doing something to help the Soldiers," said Pusateri, whose husband was deployed to Afghanistan last year.

The idea to send packages to the parish members was both Garza's and Pusateri's, as well as a collaboration of the chapel members involved in the program. Next month, the group has decided to collect school supplies to distribute to a local school district which is running out of supplies.

To support the Catholic women or for more information, call Brian Merry, the Catholic director of religious education at 221-5005 or e-mail brian.merry@samhouston.army.mil.

POST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Main Post Chapel, Bldg. 2200, phone number: 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: 379-8666 or 493-6660

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

Dodd Field Chapel, Bldg. 1721, phone numbers: 221-5010 or 221-5432

Catholic Services - Sundays: 12:30 p.m. -

Bilingual Mass

Protestant Services:

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: 221-4362

Troop Catholic Mass: Sundays:

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

Troop Protestant Gospel Services:

Sundays: 11:30 a.m. - 32nd Med. Bde. Soldiers

Troop Protestant Service:

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

FSH Mosque, Bldg. 607A, phone numbers: 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: 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: 221-5005 or 221-5007

Mormon Services: 10:30 a.m. - Sundays

Web site: www.cs.amedd.army.mil/chaplain

Let there be lights

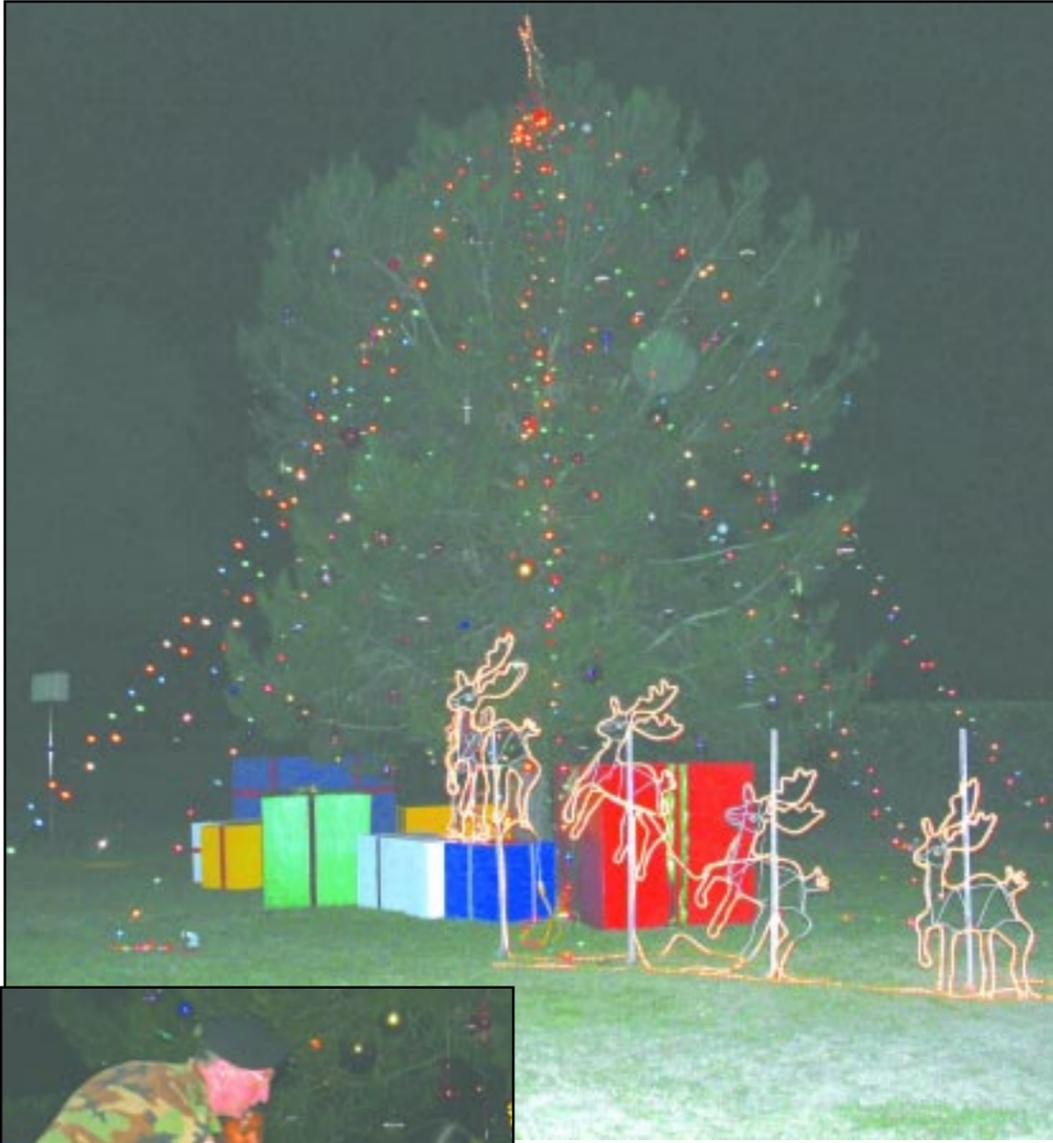


Photo by Olivia Mendoza

(Above) The post Christmas tree, at the Garrison flagpole, lights up the night.

(Left) Maj. Gen. George W. Weightman, Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston commander, receives assistance from Darleliss Cameron-Gonzalez and Mario Bethel to light the post Christmas tree at the Garrison flagpole Tuesday.



Photos by Esther Garcia

More than 120 pony express riders gallop across MacArthur Parade Field to deliver the governor's holiday message as the 36th Infantry Division Band plays traveling music.



Members of the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Fandango Dance Troupe entertained the crowd throughout the afternoon.



Soldiers from the Military Honors F Company, present the colors.

(From right) Al Notzon, Alamo Area Council of Governments executive director, and San Antonio Postmaster Robert Larios watch as Lt. Gen. Wayne Marty, Texas National Guard adjutant general, opens the governor's holiday message.



Pony Express couriers deliver governor's holiday message

Story and photos by Esther Garcia
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office

The 16th Annual Christmas Along the Corridor Pony Express Courier Run Finale and Fair was Saturday at MacArthur Parade Field.

The pony express run, a celebration of American history, heritage and the holidays, is hosted by the Alamo Area Council of Governments and the U.S. Postal Service.

More than 120 Pony Express Christmas Couriers traveled over 120 miles carrying proclamations to communities in seven counties along the historic Alamo-LaBahia Corridor and other segments of the 300-year-old Camino Real de Los Tejas. The Alamo-La Bahia Corridor parallels the San Antonio River from Mission San Antonio de Valero (the Alamo) in San Antonio and runs 90 miles southeast to the Presidio La Bahia in Goliad. These couriers deliver a special holiday greeting from the governor of Texas to San Antonio.

"The postal service is proud to be here today as we recreate one of the greatest moments in American history. The pony express mail service was extremely important to the development of the American West," said Robert Larios, San Antonio postmaster.

The initial ride of the pony express in the United States was made on April 3, 1860, and began over a northern route covering

1,950 miles between St. Joseph, Mo. and Saramento, Calif., Larios said. The pony express involved 119 stations, 90 riders, 500 horses and an average ride took 10 days. The text of President Lincoln's inaugural address was carried on that famous ride. He said the pony express operated less than 10 months and became a legend when the Transcontinental Telegraph line was completed in 1861.

Prior to the arrival of the pony express couriers on Fort Sam Houston, the fair featured entertainment and exhibits including the Guadalupe County Sheriff's Mounted Posse rodeo drill, holiday medleys from the 36th Infantry Division Band of the Texas National Guard, Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers, Cadence Cloggers and Native American dance by the Native American community of San Antonio. Additional features included a temporary U.S. Postal Station offering special pony express postmarks, "Go Texan" vendors with information booths and pony rides for the children from the Fort Sam Houston stables. A new addition to the fair was a real live "longhorn" on display.

Highlights from the event were the spectacular delivery of the Texas governor's holiday message for San Antonio by more than 120 Pony Express riders and their spirited steeds as the National Guard Band played cavalry traveling music, and a demonstration of the pony express mail transfer.



atton Caisson Section, Special Troops Battalion Headquarters



(Above) Members of the Escaramuza Rosas de Castilla, an equestrienne drill team, perform intricate sidesaddle and bareback drills.

(Left) Jack Cowan, dressed as George Washington, poses for students from the Coppini Academy of Fine Painters.

MWR

Recreation and fitness

Red Cross lifeguard class

The Jimmy Brought Fitness Center will sponsor a Red Cross lifeguard class. People must be 15 years old or older and have a valid Department of Defense ID card. The class is six days: Dec. 20 to 22 and Dec. 27 to 29 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Cost is \$165 and includes course materials and AED training. For more information or to register, call the pool staff at 295-8861.

Free step aerobics

The Jimmy Brought Fitness Center offers free intermediate step aerobics classes Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6 to 6:45 p.m.

Free cycling classes

Free introductory cycling classes are offered at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Get your heart pumping with fast-paced rides set to music. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 6:45 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesdays from 4:45 to 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 to 9:45 a.m.

Archery lessons

Individual and group archery lessons are available through the Outdoor Equipment Center. Instruction is given at different levels of experience. Children are welcome; however, a parent must accompany dependents under the age of 18. People should wear full shoes and no oversized shirts, shorts or trousers. For more information, call instructor Skip Dawson at 221-5225.

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 barbecue/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, are also available. For more information, call 221-5224, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or go to Bldg. 1111 on Forage Road.

Dining and entertainment

Officers' Club

New Year's Eve party

Celebrate New Year's at the Officers' Club. Dinner is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. and breakfast from 12:30 to 1 a.m. Prices are \$35 per person and \$60 per couple. Reservations are required. For reservations, call 224-4211.

Sunday Brunch

The last Sunday Brunch at the Officers' Club is from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$11.95 for members, \$13.95 for non-members, \$5.95 for children from 7 to 11 years old and free for children 6 and younger.

Sam Houston Club

Bingo

Bingo is Thursdays and Fridays at 7 p.m., early bird start. Doors open at 5 p.m. Saturdays, 12:50 p.m., early bird start. Children 10 and up may play when accompanied by an adult. The club provides free buffet for all bingo players.

New Year's Eve comedy bash

A New Year's Eve comedy bash is Dec. 31 at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$40 per person and \$70 per couple. Price includes dinner until 9 p.m., party favors, champagne and midnight breakfast. For more information, call 224-2721 or 226-1663.

Golf Club

Do your holiday shopping at the Pro Shop and get 10 percent off golf bags, shirts, shorts, windshirts and jackets. Don't forget balls and tees are great stocking stuffers. The Pro Shop is closed at noon Dec. 24 and all day Dec. 25. For more information, call the Pro Shop at 222-9386. Mulligan's Snack Bar is open seven days a week.

Bowling Center

Bowling lessons

Bowling lessons are Tuesdays; lessons are free to league bowlers and \$25 for non-league bowlers.

Family Bowling Day

Sundays are Family Bowling Day. Adults and children 12 years old and older pay \$1.75 per game (children under 12 bowl free). Shoe rental is \$1.

Soldier Appreciation

Soldier Appreciation is Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; free shoe rental and medium soda with purchase of a game.

Cyber Bowl

Cyber Bowl is Saturdays from 8 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person and \$5 per person under 12 years old.

Harlequin Dinner Theatre

"Harvey," a comedy by Mary Chase, will be performed through Dec. 18. Call the box office at 222-9694 for show times and tickets.

MWR Ticket Office

The MWR Ticket Office has Disney and Universal Studios tickets and 2005 Entertainment Coupon books. There are also 2005 season passes for Sea World and Fiesta Texas available. Disney Line offers special rates for military starting at \$349. Alamo Bowl College Football Tickets are available for Dec. 29; tickets are valued at \$25 but will be sold for \$9 through Dec. 18. Big 12 Football Teams will participate. For more ticket information, call 226-1663.

The Commanding General
Fort Sam Houston
presents

A

Holiday Concert

Featuring

**The United States Army
Medical Command Band**

7:30 PM
16 December 2004
Scottish Rite Cathedral
Avenue E at 4th Street
San Antonio
Texas

CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES

Youth Happenings

Holiday operating hours

The Youth Center will be open Dec. 20 to 23 from 1 to 9 p.m. and will close Dec. 24 and 25. The center will open Dec. 27 to 30 from 1 to 9 p.m. and will close for New Year's Eve Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

Cooking classes

Youth Services offers the following December cooking classes at the Youth Center:

- Friday - chocolate fudge, 4 to 5 p.m.
- Monday - Christmas sugar cookies, 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 17 - apple turnovers, 4 to 6 p.m.
- Dec. 18 - gingerbread houses, 4:30 p.m.
- Dec. 20 - Christmas cookies, 3:30 p.m.
- Dec. 23 - gingerbread cookies, 2 p.m.

Holiday dance

Youth Services will host a Christmas Dance Saturday from 8 to 11 p.m. for sixth through 12th graders. The cost of the dance is \$3 per member and \$4 for non-members. Come celebrate the holiday season. The van shuttle will take on-post youth home after the dance.

Crafts classes

The youth center will offer the following crafts classes for sixth through 12th graders:

- Today - make your own stocking, 5 to 6 p.m.
- Monday - encouragement jars, 4 to 5 p.m.
- Tuesday - pinecone trees, 4 to 5 p.m.
- Wednesday - beaded creations, 4 p.m.
- Dec. 16 - heart garland, 4 p.m.
- Dec. 21 - gingerbread ornaments, 6 p.m.
- Dec. 22 - Christmas cones, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 27 - bottle top snowflakes, 2 p.m.
- Dec. 28 - beeswax candle, 2 p.m.
- Dec. 29 - jellybean jars, 4:30 p.m.
- Dec. 30 - silly snowballs, 2 p.m.

Teen Council Meeting

The Teen Council Meeting will be Saturday from 4 to 5 p.m. Council members are asked to be there to help plan future calendars and holiday events.

Parent-staff-teen basketball games

The staff and parents will challenge middle school students and teenagers to a series of basketball games Dec. 18 from 8 to 10 p.m. This is a monthly event and the staff seeks parents to assist them in this lively competition.

Basketball registration

Youth Services Basketball registration is ongoing from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. for 3 to 17 year olds. The cost for 5 and older is \$45 for the first child and \$40 for all other siblings in

the same family. The cost for 3 to 4 year olds is \$25 per child. Practice will begin in December and games in January. A birth certificate, physical and CYSD registration are required to register. To volunteer or for more information, call 221-5513 or 221-3502.

Basketball cheerleaders

Registration for basketball cheerleading is under way. The youth center will register people from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The cost will be \$30 for the first child and \$25 for siblings. Space is limited and cheering will be for home games only. Uniform will be T-shirts and black shorts. For more information, call 221-3502.

AHFSH soccer registration

Alamo Heights Fort Sam Houston Soccer League will sponsor spring soccer registration Jan. 8 and 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost is \$50 per person. The uniform cost will be announced at a later date. For more information, call the Youth Center at 221-3502.

Free after school program

Youth Services offers an after school program for sixth through ninth graders weekdays until 6 p.m. YS will pick up children from either the elementary school or high school. Students go to the Youth Center, have a snack, work on homework, participate in clubs and do fun, innovative projects. They can join the 4-H club, photography club, a computer technology club and a variety of other clubs. YS can add areas of interest that appeal to parents and students. Students must be registered with Child and Youth Services, which has an \$18 annual fee, but the after school program for middle and high school students is free. For more information, call 221-3502.

Youth Services seeks volunteers

Youth Services is looking for volunteers to assist with youth programs, including coaches, computer-skilled people, people with craft hobbies or anyone who just cares about kids. For more information or to volunteer, call the Youth Center at 221-3502.

Open recreation

School Age Services (kindergarten through fifth grade) offers after school opportunities and 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 using the School Age Program. To register, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

Parents wanted

Parents are invited to come to the Youth Center every third Saturday of the month from 6 to 9 p.m. to join the Youth Center staff and the teens and middle school youth in a game of basketball.

Parents and staff try to outmaneuver the teens and score a few baskets. Refreshments are provided. For information, call the Youth Center at 221-3502.

Saturday open recreation

First through 12th graders can participate in open recreation at the Youth Center Saturdays. First through fifth graders meet from 3 to 8 p.m., sixth through eighth graders from 3 to 10 p.m. and ninth through 12th graders from 3 to 11 p.m. Activities include computer lab, arts and crafts, basketball, pool, pingpong and movies. People must be registered with Child and Youth Services to attend. For more information, call 221-3502.

Saturday shuttle



Youth Services offers a Saturday shuttle to and from the Youth Center. There is no cost but parents with children 9 years old and younger must wait for the van and sign them in and out. The shuttle schedule is

- 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. - Officers' Club tennis courts
- 3:25 p.m. - Artillery Post Road at bus stop
- 3:30 p.m. - Easley/Infantry Post at bus stop 660
- 3:42 p.m. - Patch Road (playground)
- 3:46 p.m. - Patch Road (shopette parking lot)
- 3:50 p.m. - Foulis/Scott Road Harris Heights
- 3:54 p.m. - Forage/Foulis
- 4 p.m. - Powless Guest House

The return shuttle will leave the Youth Center at 7:30 p.m. for those in fifth 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 ninth grade and up. These shuttles are for youth who live on the installation.

Instructional classes

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

Piano instructor wanted

Youth Services seeks a certified piano instructor willing to teach first through 12th graders. Instructor must be able to teach on weekday afternoons and evenings or Saturdays. For more information, call the Youth Center at 221-3502.

Tae-Bo classes

Youth Services offers Tae-Bo Wednesdays from 4:15 to 4:45 p.m. at the Youth Center. Classes are held in the gym and all youth are welcome to attend. The class is free. For more information, call the Youth Center at 221-3502.



Alternative dance class

Come join the Youth Services staff and volunteers for the next dance craze. The class includes salsa, hip hop, swing, country line dancing and more. Classes are Tuesdays from 5 to 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 221-3502.

Aerobics

Youth Services offers a youth aerobics class Thursdays from 5:30 to 6 p.m. in the Youth Center gym. For more information, call 221-3502.



Youth opportunities

Sixth through 12th graders seeking after school and weekend opportunities can call Youth Services at 221-4882 or Child and Youth Services Central Registration at 221-4871.

Parent News

PCI holiday closure

Parent Child Incorporated will be closed from 12 p.m. Dec. 17 through Jan. 3. Families in need of care during this time can contact Child and Youth Services Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723 for assistance.

FCC openings

Family Child Care offers home-based childcare for children 4 weeks to 12 years old 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. For referral information and child registration, call Child and Youth Services Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723. FCC is looking for family members interested in becoming certified FCC providers to offer home-based childcare, which offers a no-cost start up plan. For more information, call 221-3820 or 221-3828.

PCI headstart

Parent Child Incorporated/Headstart program is currently taking applications.

PCI/Headstart is a federally funded program on post that provides free childcare. Patrons must meet federal guidelines. For more information, call 221-3788 or 221-3835.

CDC wait list

If your child's name is on the wait list for full-time day care at the Child Development Center, check your status on the wait list from the day you complete the form, or your child's name will be purged from the list. To check your status, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

CDC openings

The Child Development Center has full-time day openings for 3- to 5-year-olds. To register, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

CYS meeting

Child and Youth Services Parent Advisory Council will meet Dec. 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Child Development Center, 2530 Funston. Lunch will be provided. This is CYS parents' opportunity to learn of upcoming events, meet staff and address concerns.

Post's Rainbow Kids schedule holiday performances

The Fort Sam Houston Rainbow Kids will present their only public holiday performance Dec. 18 at 7 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. The show is free and open to the public. Enter the post via the Walters Street gate off of Interstate Highway 35.

Performing this season with the Rainbow Kids are Giovana (Gigi) Arcchi, Alana Dvorak, Raven Harden, Talia Howard, Cara Kiger, Elizabeth LaFrance, Emily Mazak, Katie McHargue, Liam Merkle, Perry Moore, Amy Mulkey, Cady Mulkey, Natalie Palmer, Jennifer Pederson, Luisa Rodriguez and Victoria Ziegler.

The Rainbow Kids are sponsored by the Fort Sam Houston Youth Activities under the direction of Ron Joy. For more information, call Joy at (830) 980-7786 or 295-2093.



COMMUNITY LINK



Happenings

O. P. Schnabel City Park Walk

The Trinity Trekkers Volkssport Club will host a 10-kilometer (6.2 mile) and a 5-kilometer (3.1 mile) walk at the O. P. Schnabel City Park, intersection of Bandera Road and Braun Road in the Northwest side of San Antonio, Saturday. The start point is at the Graf (RED) Pavilion between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m., finishing by 4 p.m. The route will descend to the rugged Greenbelt trail along the Leon Creek. For more information, call David Toth at 521-8684 or email Toth at: dntoth@sbcglobal.net.

Christmas in Boerne

Mark your calendars for a Hill Country Christmas treat at Boerne. All weekends through Dec. 18, the historic retail corridor of Main Street will transform into an exciting holiday season spectacular of cultural events, shopping, fun and entertainment. The themes are Celebration Along the Cibolo, Friday and Saturday; and A Cowboy's Christmas, Dec. 17 and 18. For more information and schedules, visit www.ahillcountrychristmas.com.

Wives' Christmas brunch

The officers' and civilians' wives club will hold a Christmas brunch at the home of Karen Clark, 6 Staff Post Road, Tuesday at 10 a.m. RSVP to Sigrid Reitsetter at 226-8806 by Friday.

Silver Caduceus Society's inaugural luncheon

The Silver Caduceus Society is an independent organization established to provide camaraderie, mentorship and corps information to medical service corps officers. The society welcomes new members. The luncheon is Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Officers' Club, Sam Houston Room. Guest speaker is Brig. Gen. Sheila R. Baxter, chief, Medical Service Corps. Everyone must be seated by 11:30 a.m. It will be a buffet style lunch at attendee's own expense. Call your unit representatives: MEDCOM, Col. J. Crocker, 221-7297; BAMC, Capt. J. Schwartz, 916-2411; 32nd Med Bde, Maj. J.K. Weaver, 221-3899; GPRMC, Maj. R. Mon, 295-2568; AMEDDC&S, Maj. S. Owens or Maj. C. Zeise, 221-9922.

Comptrollers' holiday social

The Alamo Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers annual holiday social will be hosted by 5th U.S. Army Dec. 20 at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club from 5 to 7 p.m. The social is open to members and their invited guest. There will be light hors d'oeuvres and a pay-as-you-go bar. ASMC requests members bring an unwrapped gift for donation to a children's shelter. For more information, call your organization's ASMC vice president or Deborah Rush, 221-2001, or e-mail Rush at Deborah.Rush@Fifth.army.mil by Friday.

Armed Services YMCA art contest

Dependents of active duty military personnel or retired Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard and National Guard and Reserves can stop by the Roadrunner Community Center, Bldg. 2797 to pick up an entry form for the 2005 art contest. The Armed Services YMCA will award six U.S. Savings Bonds of \$500 for first-place entries and \$100 bonds for second place. DoD civil-

ians' children may enter in an honorary category for a \$100 U.S. Saving sBond. The top military entries will be used on the 2005 Military Family Month poster sponsored by GEICO Direct. Winners must present a social security card to be issued bonds. Entries are due Dec. 14 and Army Community Services will recognize local entries at a ceremony Dec. 16 at the Roadrunner Community Center. All entries will be forwarded to Armed Services YMCA in Alexandria, Va. before the Feb. 14 deadline.

Volunteer

Gift wrap booth volunteers

Holiday Helping Hands, an organization of volunteers who support the Army community with commissary food vouchers and a toy warehouse, needs volunteers for its gift wrap booth at the post exchange parking lot. The booth is open through Dec. 23 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. For more information or to volunteer, call 295-2027 or go to www.holidayhelpinghands.org.

BAMC seeks volunteers

Brooke Army Medical Center is looking for active and upbeat volunteers to be "Partners in Healing." BAMC wants volunteers who understand the hardships of coping with illness or injury and who empathize with the special needs of patients. BAMC offers 130 positions to match each volunteer's skills and interests. To volunteer, call the Office of Volunteer Services at 916-5083.

Professional Development

Degree plans offered for Army health career specialists

Soldiers interested in advancing their careers in physical therapy and nutrition care can earn their degrees through the Servicemembers Opportunity Colleges Army Degrees program. SOCAD programs allow Soldiers to earn credit toward an associate or bachelor's degree for Army training and military occupational specialty experience. SOCAD will also suggest alternatives for meeting the remaining degree requirements. Soldiers with MOS 91W, physical therapy specialist, and MOS 91M, nutrition care specialist, can visit the SOCAD Web sites at <http://www.soc.aascu.org/socad/91W.html> and <http://www.soc.aascu.org/socad/91M.html> for more information. They may also call 1-800-368-5622 or e-mail socad@aascu.org.

St. Mary's University Counselor at ESC

St. Mary's University will have a counselor available at the Education Services Center, Bldg. 2248, upstairs in Room 206, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. To learn more about the master of arts in educational leadership program and teacher certification, call 226-3360 and schedule an appointment.

Job search assistance

The Employment Readiness Program offers job search assistance to family members. Services include job search, resume writing, interview preparation, skills testing and more. For more information or to make an appointment, call Katja Lunsford at 221-0427 or Josie Gonzales at 221-0516. A valid military family member ID card is required.

Free computer training

The Employment Readiness Program has morning and afternoon session openings for family members seeking computer training for the job market. Automated training is available for Microsoft Office software, accounting, customer service, clerical and typing skills (typing instruction also available in Spanish). For more information or to register, call Katja Lunsford at 221-0427 or Josie Gonzales at 221-0516. A valid military family member ID card is required.

Meetings

Officers' Wives and Widows Club

The Retired Officers' Wives and

Widows Club will meet Monday at 11 a.m. at Fort Sam Houston Officers' Club. For reservations, call Arline Braswell at 822-6559.

BOSS seeks single Soldiers

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meet the first and third Wednesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. at the Hacienda Recreation Center. The BOSS committee was established to provide Soldiers 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.

Family Action Plan gives voice to Soldiers', families' concerns

An Army Family Action Plan Community Forum is the first step in the process that conveys input from the Army family to leadership. The process lets Soldiers, Army civilians, retirees and their families identify what is working and what is not working in their community and the Army worldwide. It alerts commanders and Army leaders to areas of concern that need their attention and provides a mechanism for reporting back to the local community on the progress of the issues submitted.

The Army is the only branch of the Department of Defense that has such a program. This process has resulted in

the enhancement of local programs and quality of life, change in regulations and enactment of new legislation in support of military components.

Be a part of this important process. Submit issues to the 2005 FSH AFAP conference using the format provided. The program needs delegates representative of the community, including civilian employees, spouses of enlisted, NCO and officers, and retirees. Delegates attend pre-conference training and two-day conference Feb. 1 and 2. For a delegate application, call the AFAP program manager, Sue York, at 221-0275. Soldier delegates will be identified through their units.

FORT SAM HOUSTON ARMY FAMILY ACTION PLAN (AFAP) 2005 COMMUNITY FORUM PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING ISSUE PAPERS

Please use the following format when preparing your paper. You may submit as many issues as you like. Use a new form for each issue. Use the form below as a guide or as the actual form.

- Type or print clearly.
- The document should be one page in length.
- Review your issue paper. Will someone else understand what the problem is, whom it impacts and what you want done to fix it?

Make your voice heard – submit your issues by Jan. 15

ARMY FAMILY ACTION PLAN 2004 COMMUNITY FORUM ISSUE SUBMISSION FORM

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

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

Recommendations (s): (Tell us what you want to happen. Do not tell why; that is in the scope. Prioritize and number recommendations. Use strong descriptive verbs and end with a measurable outcome.) _____

Return completed Issue Submission Form to ACS/AFAP, Bldg 2797, 2010 Stanley Road #95, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234. Issues may also be submitted by e-mail to Suella.York@samhouston.army.mil. E-mail submissions should be in the above format.

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

- Use a separate page for each issue. You may duplicate this format.
- Personal information is optional and will be used for administrative purposes only. It will allow us to contact you for clarification of the issue if necessary, and provide feedback. Commanders or forum participants will not see it.

Issue Submitter's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Zip Code: _____ E-mail: _____

FORT FREEBIES

Freebies are published on a first come, first served, 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 or fax to 221-1198. Ensure your military and Fort Sam Houston civil service status, phone number and name appears on request. Limit of five items per entry.



For Sale: Off white love seat and couch with matching lamps, coffee table and two side tables in cherry wood finish, only 18 months old, \$250. Call Brigitte Patton at 656-5046.

For Sale: 1996 Honda Odyssey LX, super clean, loaded with front and rear air

conditioning, fold away third seat into floor, 158,000 miles, oil and filter changed every 3,000 miles since first day, \$5,300 obo. Call Allen Scarsella 646-7371.

For Sale: Three-foot high refrigerator with small freezer, lots of space inside, bought new in April, used

only three months, \$70. Call Capt. Dave Kinnamon at 545-4913 or 221-0312.

For Sale: Cherry dining table with six chairs, \$350; 7 1/2 foot pre-lit Christmas tree, \$80, cost \$325 new; single pedestal desk, \$65; antique dresser, \$85; chest, \$85. Call Alan Crouch at 662-8887.

For Sale: Two three-month old Miniature Rex rabbits, one black, one mocha, very gentle, \$10 each. Call Bobby Register at 223-7206 or 295-7637.

For Sale: 1993 Pontiac Grand Prix, 3.4L V6, 95k, runs very well, \$1,650 obo; dark blue sofa, \$200. Call 508-7483.

Ethics Training

Ethics training for Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston military and civilian personnel is Wednesday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in Evans Theater, Bldg. 1396, on Garden Avenue.

The training is mandatory and attendance will be reported to the acting secretary of the Army.

No reservations are required and seating is on a first-come basis.

Commanders and supervisors may contact Mario Rendon by e-mail for an electronic copy of the sign-in sheets to verify their employees' attendance.

For more information, call the ethics counselor for AMEDDC&S and Fort Sam Houston at 221-2373 or 221-0485.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT IS ON YOUR CREDIT REPORT?

Would you like to get a credit report and have it reviewed by a credit specialist?

For more information on how you can do this, contact the Financial

Readiness Branch of Army Community Service at 221-1612.



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.

Site Safety Officer, San Antonio. Full-time Spanish speaking site safety officer experienced in confined space, hot work and industrial hygiene to oversee corrosion control procedures. EM 385-1-1 experience is a plus.

Senior Consultant RHIA MSN, San Antonio. Excellent presentation skills and ability to do client training. Strong clinical, administrative and performance improvement background. Consulting and training with clients on customer service software to improve service to patients.

IT Control Specialist, San Antonio. Evaluates IT management effectiveness in the attainment of IT control objectives. Assists in the identification of controls over information systems. Performs annual scoping process. Reviews and tests controls in IT systems and functions for the corporation to ensure the security and integrity of corporate information assets.