



Year in Review

Inside . . .

January

- Preston takes oath1
- Soldiers head for Iraq1
- New blood mobile2

February

- 32nd Medical Brigade building dedication2
- Soldier medic saves boy3
- Technology data center relocates to FSH4

March

- 94th Anniversary of first military flight5
- BAMC excels in accreditation process6
- 328th Personnel Services Battalion deploys6

April

- Sgt. Maj. of the Army visits . . .7

May

- Kiley nominated as 41st Army Surgeon General8

June

- Bush announces Reagan's death9
- USARSO moves to old BAMC9
- Army celebrates birthday10

July

- MEDCOM change of command10

August

- National Night Out11

September

- Post community commemorates Patriot Day14
- Post welcomes Maj. Gen. Weightman14

October

- Most Efficient Organization stands up15
- Kiley confirmed as Army Surgeon General15
- Fort Sam unveils state-of-the-art training facility16

November

- New Secretary of the Army . .17

December

- SFAC celebrates first anniversary17
- Texas governor honors Soldiers19



Day break



Photo by Staff Sgt. Jose Raymundo

The rising sun outlines Sgts. Orasinh Erickson and Donald Nelson, as they begin the three day 418th Medical Logistics Company Squad Stakes competition at the post NATO track. The competition includes a physical fitness test, road march, drill and ceremonies and obstacle course.

January

Preston takes oath as 13th SMA

By Joe Burlas
Army News Service

Introduced by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter Schoomaker as the right man for the job, Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Preston was sworn in as the 13th sergeant major of the Army during a Pentagon ceremony Jan. 15.

Preston replaces Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack Tilley who was recognized for his 35 years of service during a retirement ceremony earlier in the day.

As sergeant major of the Army, Preston will act as the Army chief of staff's personal adviser on all enlisted-related matters, particularly in areas

affecting Soldier training and quality of life. That job entails extensive travel throughout the Army to observe training and talk with Soldiers and their families. He will also sit on a variety of councils and boards that make decisions impacting enlisted Soldiers and their families and testify before Congress on Soldier issues.

"(Preston) is the finest non-commissioned officer in the (NCO) Corps," Schoomaker said. We have a real Soldier here. I am confident he will serve our Soldiers well as we transform and reorganize our Army."

"With 20 to 25 percent of our forces currently in Iraq being

Guard or Reserve, their issues are important," Preston said.

Among Preston's stated priorities in his new job are: ensuring Soldiers are properly trained and equipped to win against the nation's enemies; instilling the warrior ethos in all Soldiers as "every Soldier is a rifleman first;" facilitating change as the Army embraces new formations, technologies and tactics; and caring for Army families.

Change has been and will continue to be the norm for the Army, Preston said.

"Our enemy on freedom's frontier is adapting to our tactics everyday and so must we adapt and change out tactics to

defeat this threat," Preston said.

"Change and evolution are not new to us. Our veterans here today have seen many improvements and changes in our structure and tactics over their service."

"With the foundation of basic Soldier skills to build upon, we will continue to chart an azimuth to adapt to this ever-changing battlefield."

Preston has served in the Army for 28 years, mostly in armor units throughout his career. Prior to his selection as sergeant major of the Army, he was the command sergeant major for Combined Joint Task Force 7 in Baghdad, Iraq.

(From Jan. 22 issue)

BAMC Soldiers head for Iraq with 31st CSH

By Nelia Schrum
BAMC Public Affairs

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

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

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

During the ceremony, the BAMC

Commander, Brig. Gen. C. William Fox, Jr., thanked the departing Soldiers and their families for their sacrifices.

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

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

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

to be there so that if severe injuries occur, you are there to restore them to health."

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

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

(From Jan. 8 issue)

January

BAMC unveils new 'Soldier-med' blood mobile



Brig. Gen. C. William Fox, Jr., cuts the ribbon on the new Great Plains Regional Medical Command and Brooke Army Medical Center blood mobile Jan. 23.

Story and photo by Mike Dulevitz
BAMC Public Affairs

The Great Plains Regional Medical Command and Brooke Army Medical Center unveiled a state-of-the-art blood mobile on Jan. 23 in a ribbon cutting ceremony held at the Fort Sam Houston NCO Club.

The blood mobile is a 48-foot branded tractor-trailer rig specifically designed and built to meet the needs of the GPRMC and BAMC donor needs.

"The blood mobile you see is the proud product of a process that began in 2001 with a MED-CASE packet," said Capt. Marti Blose, the director of the donor center.

She said that despite funding obstacles the combined efforts of BAMC, the U.S. Army Medical Command, the U.S. Army Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command, and General Service Administration Engineers made the blood mobile become a reality.

Blose said that during the project's conception, "the entire donor center staff taped out the layout

of the blood trailer on the floor of the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center. The taped out design became the plan for the mobile as well as the prototype for the Army's mobile blood collection units.

Brig. Gen. C. William Fox, the commander of Great Plains Regional Medical Command and Brooke Army Medical Center, said the branded mobile blood unit depicting a Soldier medic and American Eagle is a significant addition to save Soldiers on the battlefield.

"This (blood collection) is extremely important to what we do to save Soldiers' lives on the battlefield," Fox said. "The ability of all of our services to gather blood to save lives on that battlefield is becoming a bigger challenge all of the time."

"The way we will do that, of course, is with a professional team and a professional mobile donor unit like we have here," he said. "We are going to take this on the road around Great Plains Regional Medical Command. We are going to take it out to federal installation areas that we have and ask people to donate blood."

(From Jan. 29 issue)

February

32nd Medical Brigade Headquarters building dedication

By Maj. Shon-Neil Severns
Special to the News Leader

The Army Medical Department Center and School dedicated the 32nd Medical Brigade Headquarters, building 902, in honor of Lt. Col. Karen J. Wagner on Feb. 20. Wagner, a Medical Service Corps officer and a San Antonio native, was assigned as a Personnel Policy Officer in the Office of The Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. While serving in this position, Wagner was killed as a result of a terrorist attack on the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

Col. Richard Agee, chief of staff, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston, and Col. Maureen Coleman, 32nd Medical Brigade commander, hosted the dedication ceremony. Approximately 500 attendees that included family members, dignitaries, officers, and numerous friends attended the ceremony.

Chaplain (Maj.) Jeffrey Giannola began the dedication ceremony by presenting the invocation on behalf of the command. Agee and Coleman gave dedication speeches reflecting on Wagner's legacy

and contributions to the U.S. Army Medical Department.

Coleman stated that "On September 11, 2001, the Wagner family and the United States Army lost Lt. Col. Karen Wagner. She was a beloved daughter, sister, athlete, officer and leader." Coleman also remarked how proud Wagner was serving in the military and concluded with, "I believe this proactive woman, this shining example of how a life should be lived, even in death supplies the motivation for a nation to wake up to something larger than self."

Agee listed Wagner's numerous contributions to the Army Medical Department and concluded by stating, "Today the name and memory of Lieutenant Colonel Karen J. Wagner will join those of great Americans, Soldiers, and leaders whose service to our nation is permanently etched in our history at Fort Sam Houston as an Army installation."

After the remarks were complete, Agee and Coleman assisted Mattie Wagner with the unveiling of the plaque that symbolized the renaming of building 902.

(From Feb. 26 issue)

February

BAMC Soldier medic saves boys from rushing water

By Capt. Mark Williford
BAMC Public Affairs

Pfc. Kimberly Johnston, a Brooke Army Medical Center operating room specialist, helped save two San Antonio children after both fell into a drainage ditch filled with rushing water following the Jan. 16 storms.

Johnston pulled into a Texaco convenience store around 9 p.m. on Jan. 16. As she walked past a 12-year-old boy sitting on the curb, she had a strange feeling something was wrong.

"He was shaking and soaking wet," Johnston said, "I asked him if he was okay and he said his friend was in the ditch across the street."

Johnston said she could tell the boy was showing signs of shock and hypothermia. It was then that her medical training took over.

"I told the store clerk to call for help," Johnston said. "I ran across Harry Wurzbach Road to check on the other one."

Not knowing what lay ahead, Johnston said she was afraid she was going to find a youngster floating face down in the water dead.

"I saw a 10-year-old standing on a log and holding on to a concrete bridge column," Johnston said. "I asked him how he was doing and he said he was cold."

Seeing the child shivering and standing in four feet of rushing rainwater, she had to make a quick decision.

"There was about a 10 foot drop into the concrete ditch and I had to figure a way to get him out," said Johnston. "If he fell back into the water, I knew he would be swept away."

Johnston said the only option

she had was to pull the child out. Having no belt or rope available to throw out as a rescue line only made matters worse.

"I tried to wave down several cars but no one wanted to stop," Johnston said. "So I had no choice, I pulled off my shirt and used it as if were a rope."

Using her shirt as a lifeline showed promise at first. As the boy began pulling himself out of the culvert, he fell back into the rushing current.

"I jumped into the water and grabbed him," said Johnston. "The current was so strong that it made it hard to walk to the edge."

Johnston said she was able to push the boy out of the ditch by using her head.

Having the boy sit atop her head as if were a seat cushion, she literally benched pressed him up like a car jack lifting an auto-



Courtesy photo

Pfc. Kimberly Johnston points to the drainage area where she saved a 10-year-old boy from the Jan. 16 storm.

mobile in the air.

The youngster was able to pull himself up and out onto the grass embankment.

Johnston said she, "just reacted" and credits her childhood swimming experiences in Miami,

Fla., and her military training for helping her take quick action.

"I know people saw the boy sitting at the convenience store but no one ever stopped to ask him if he needed help."

(From Feb. 5 issue)

February

Medical information technology data center relocates to FSH

By Phil Reidinger
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

Civic, business and political leaders joined the post community on Feb. 20 to celebrate the grand opening of the north Beach Pavilion complex.

U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith, state Sen. Jeff Wentworth, Bexar County Commissioner Tommy Adkisson, San Antonio city staff, members of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, and representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers attended the ceremony commemorating the first building occupied utilizing the Army's enhanced use lease agreement with Orion Partners at Fort Sam Houston.

Army Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. James Peake, could not attend the ceremony. He offered his congratulations in a letter saying, "The U.S. Army Medical Information Technology Center is an important organization supporting our entire U.S. Army Medical Department. It is appropriate that it is now housed here at the home of Army Medicine on this enduring installation. This new business process is an example that is rightfully being emulated around our Army."

Congressman Lamar Smith noted the event heralded the future of Fort Sam Houston as a model Army installation. "My thanks to the military leaders who thought out of the box in order to make this happen. My congratulations to the pri-

ivate sector, Orion Properties and Weston Solutions, who were willing to take the entrepreneurial risks to make this happen. And, to my colleagues in Congress who supported the enabling legislation that allowed this positive public-private partnership," he said. Smith also remarked about the location of the United States Army Medical Information Technology Center's high-tech medical information systems operations in a building that for many decades was part of the famed Brooke Army Medical Center. "What goes around does indeed come around. It just doesn't always make the curve as successfully as this project," he said.

Brig. Gen. Daniel Perugini, Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston commander noted, "Opening this beautiful building as the new home of U.S. Army Medical Information Technology Center reinforces the availability of resources and the adaptability of our base operations infrastructure to accept new, demanding missions."

The USAMITC is the first of three tenants attracted to the post due, in part, to the availability of flexible, mission-specific office space created by the partnership of locally based Orion Partners, Inc. and Pennsylvania based Weston Solutions, Inc.

USAMITC provides information technology and data communication functions to the U.S. Army Medical Department, its hospitals, clinics, and the 55,000-plus military personnel around the world. The center currently operates 85 projects supporting AMEDD business communications such as electronic mail, video teleconferencing, and supports health care operations such as Pre/Post Deployment Health Assessment and Patient Safety.

"Fort Sam Houston is on the receiving side of another significant mission relocation because of the opportunities afforded by the renovation of the former Brooke Army Medical Center (Old BAMC) and the North and South Beach Pavilions," said Tom Chandler, president of Orion Partners, developers of the "Offices at Fort Sam." "U.S. Army Medical Information Technology Center is an ideal tenant for Fort Sam Houston and for North Beach, putting a vital military function in the secure environment of the post and assuring force protection, while providing a state-of-the-art building and infrastructure for one of the world's most advanced information and technology centers."

The USAMITC lease is the first of three recent acquisitions of the private development, and will be the first tenant to move into completed office space. Leases for space totaling 165,000 square feet at old BAMC with the U.S. Army South and the Southwest Regional Office of the U.S. Army Installation Management Agency were completed shortly after the USAMITC lease.

Occupying approximately 75,000 square feet in the converted and renovated Army hospital annex, USAMITC will house 375 employees over three floors of the historic property. North Beach Pavilion's exterior was restored to its original 1931 appearance according to federal and state historic guidelines, while the interior was taken back to shell condition and rebuilt with state-of-the-art mechanical, electrical, plumbing, life safety, elevator and communications systems. (Ron Gossen, Strategic Communications, contributed to this article)

(From Feb. 26 issue)



Photo by Rudy Flowers

Maj. Gen. Lester Martinez-Lopez, commander Medical Research and Material Command; U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith, 21st Congressional District; Thomas Chandler, Orion Partners; Lt. Col. Jose Lopez, U.S. Army Medical Information Technology Center commander; Brig. Gen. Daniel Perugini, Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston commander; and Thomas Swoyer, Weston Solutions, cut the ribbon opening the Beach Pavilion complex offices of the U.S. Army Medical Information Technology Center.

March



Flight Captain retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Bruce Smith, Stinsons Flight #2, Order of the Daedalians, Lt. Col. Michael Drumm, president, Alamo Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America and U.S. Army retired and former Army aviator, Brig. Gen. Charles Canedy, place the traditional commemorative wreath at the "Birthplace of Military Aviation" marker honoring Benjamin Foulois.

Ceremony commemorates 94th anniversary of first military flight

Story and photo by Esther Garcia
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

A wreath laying ceremony held March 2 at the post flagpole commemorated the first military flight by 1st Lt. Benjamin Foulois 94 years ago on the grounds of historic Fort Sam Houston. The Stinsons Flight #2, Order of the Daedalians, and the Dibrell Chapter, Army Aviators Association of America, sponsored the annual ceremony. The solemn ceremony recognizes the courage and pioneering spirit of the first Army flyers and the important role that San Antonio played in the early days of aviation.

The ceremony began with the posting of the colors by members of the Special Troops Battalion Color Guard and the playing of the national anthem by the Army Medical Command Band. Master of ceremonies Flight Captain retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Bruce Smith, Stinsons Flight #2, Order of the Daedalians, then asked the audience to join him in the pledge of allegiance. Stinsons Flight Chaplain (Maj.) John Beebe provided the invocation.

Smith said, "It is my honor to help remember a most significant event in military aviation history, the first solo flight by a military officer in a military-owned aircraft." Before the keynote speaker was introduced, Smith explained what the ceremony was about.

He related that on these very grounds, 94 years ago today, 1st Lt. Benjamin Foulois climbed onto the small seat of a Wright Flyer labeled "Aero-Plane Number 1" and made military aviation history. While Foulois was a certified dirigible pilot and had ridden in a Wright Flyer as a passenger in Maryland with Orville Wright, he had never flown an airplane solo.

Tasked by the Army Chief Signal Officer to 'crate-up Aero-Plane Number 1, take plenty of spare parts, go to Texas and teach yourself to fly,' Foulois was then given a budget of \$150 for repairs and three mechanics. Corresponding with the Wright Brothers in Dayton, Ohio, Foulois obtained both assembly and flying instructions at Fort Sam Houston. On March 2, 1910, he

made his first takeoff, first solo, first landing and first crash. His first flight was 100 feet in the air at a speed of 50 miles per hour for a whopping seven minutes. The ceremony commemorates that historic event.

Lt. Col. Michael Drumm, president of the local Chapter of the Army Aviation Association of America, the Dibrell Alamo Chapter, introduced the guest speaker U.S. Army retired Brig. Gen. Charles Canedy. "Canedy is the JEB Stuart of Air Cavalry. He organized and trained one of the first two divisional air cavalry troops. He organized, trained, deployed, and fought one of the Army's first three separate Air Cavalry Squadrons in Vietnam. He was the first commander of the 6th Cavalry Brigade (Air Combat)," Drumm said.

Drumm highlighted Canedy's distinguished military career, which included assignments with the 1st Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas, where he received orders to organize an air cavalry troop and to be prepared to fight if the division received the order to invade Cuba. He scrounged cast off Air Force and Navy weapons, mounted them on H-13s and UH-1As, trained the troop and planned its deployment.

In 1964 Canedy was summoned by the Pentagon to help develop an Army position paper that laid the doctrinal groundwork for the employment of air cavalry and attack helicopter units in support of the ground commander's scheme of maneuver.

As director of Army Aviation, Canedy was responsible for the UH-1 fleet. In this job he was the primary action officer to gain approval of an Army purchase of the Bell AH-1 Cobra. In 1967 Canedy was selected to organize the 1st Air Cavalry Squadron. Due to his success, the squadron was selected to be the first in Vietnam to be equipped with the AHBIG Cobra. In 1973 he took command of the 2d Brigade (Air Cavalry), 1st Cavalry Division (TRICAP). Upon successful completion of the Air Cavalry Combat Brigade tests, it was renamed the 6th Cavalry Brigade (Air Combat) and was assigned to III Corps, Fort Hood, Texas.

(From Mar. 11 issue)

March

BAMC excels in accreditation process

By Nelia Schrum
BAMC Public Affairs

Brooke Army Medical Center officially received the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization's Gold Seal of Approval in February by demonstrating compliance with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization's national standards for health care quality and safety.

The final JCAHO report accredits BAMC for a three-year period and makes a preliminary score announced in December official.

The hospital participated in a weeklong onsite visit by the JCAHO surveyors in December receiving a preliminary score of 97 with no major findings. The initial out-

brief and recommendation by the Joint Commission was announced by the surveyors Dec. 19 in the BAMC auditorium packed with hospital staffers.

Cheers went up when Dr. Nelson Sirlin gave his preliminary report.

"You are accredited for a three-year period of time," Sirlin said. "You have no Type 1 recommendations and you have a grid score of 97."

Sirlin, who led the three-person team that looked at BAMC, said the score was a great accomplishment that "just demonstrates the tremendously effective leadership you have and support you have and the great caregivers you have."

The Department of Defense Health Affairs chose the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

as the accrediting agency for all DoD hospitals and clinics. The purpose of the external accreditation is to have objective measurement and documentation of hospital quality with comparable ratings between military hospitals and the civilian sector. The surveys occur once every three years.

"Only 15 percent of hospitals surveyed by the Joint Commission receive a score of 97 or better," said Brig. Gen. C. William Fox, Jr., the commander of BAMC. "We are one of them."

Fox said the Joint Commission is dedicated to continuously improving the safety and quality of the nation's health care through voluntary accreditation. The three-member survey team applied national standards intended to stimulate continuous systematic and

organization-wide improvement in an organization's performance and the outcomes of care.

"The Joint Commission surveyors validated the outstanding team effort here," Fox said. "The military community should be proud that BAMC is focusing on the most challenging goal — to continuously raise quality and safety to higher levels."

Ann Halliday, who serves as BAMC's director of quality and spearheaded the preparation work for the survey, said she was extremely proud of how the hospital staff all contributed to the accreditation of BAMC. She called the accreditation process "proof of an organization-wide commitment to providing quality care on an ongoing basis."

(From Mar. 4 issue)

328th Personnel Services Battalion deploys to the Middle East

Story and photo by Esther Garcia
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

Thirty-three Soldiers assigned to the 328th Personnel Services Battalion, Detachment 3, 90th Regional Readiness Group, and their families gathered at the Roadrunner Community Center on March 28, for a deployment ceremony. Detachment 3 will be based in Kuwait with a wide scope of personnel service responsibilities. The detachment will provide casualty identifica-

tion and personnel support throughout the Theater of Operations.

Col. Christopher Serpa, deputy commander, 90th Regional Readiness Group and guest speaker, said, "I want to extend my gratitude to all the families here. This unit is the best trained, best equipped, and best led to do the job. I am proud of you and you will be back before you know it, I salute you."

(From April. 8 issue)



Pfc. Noe DonJuan spends time with his 4 year-old son during the deployment ceremony held March 28 at the Roadrunner Community Center. Thirty-three Soldiers and their families met one last time at the community center prior to departing to Fort Hood in the early morning hours of March 29.

April

Sgt. Maj. of the Army visits post, medical training

By Phil Reidinger
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

Soldiers enjoying breakfast at the post's new Rocco Dining Facility got a chance to meet the Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston and several Soldiers were invited to join him during breakfast.

Immediately following breakfast, Preston addressed the F Company, 232nd Medical Battalion 91W graduating class. He toured the 91W simulation center where he observed how human patient simulators are used to train Soldiers attending Initial Entry 91W combat medic training.

Prior to departing Fort Sam Houston, Preston spoke at the Alamo Chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army. He told more than 650 members attending the quarterly luncheon that he had

spent the last year in Iraq observing first hand medics saving Soldiers every day. Noting that 25 million Iraqi's are free after one year, he said, "No other organization can serve as ambassadors as well as the American Soldier." Preston expressed his concern for safety. He asked the NCOs and Soldiers for their commitment to help him enforce safety and discipline to reduce the numbers of non-battle deaths and injuries. "In the past six months this year there are as many non-battle deaths and injuries as all of last year," he said. Preston said that Soldiers coming into the Army want to be part of something bigger than themselves. And Army Transformation and force stabilization initiatives are focused on insuring ready forces, helping retention, and easing stress on quality of life.

(From April 1 issue)



Photo by Sgt. Jan Allende

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston observed how Soldiers attending Initial Entry 91W combat medic training use computer driven human patient simulator systems to practice hands-on patient care skills learned during didactic instruction.

Oprah visits BAMC



Photo by Nelia Schrum

Oprah Winfrey visits spouses of deployed medical staff at Brooke Army Medical Center March 24 for an upcoming show entitled, "The Oprah Winfrey Show: Life After War," that aired April 6.

May

Kiley nominated as 41st Army Surgeon General

President George W. Bush has nominated Maj. Gen. Kevin C. Kiley for promotion to lieutenant general and appointment as the 41st Surgeon General of the U.S. Army and commander of the U.S. Army Medical Command.

Following confirmation by the U.S. Senate, Kiley will replace Lt. Gen. James B. Peake, who will retire from active duty in July after four years as the Army's "top doc."

Kiley has served as the commanding general of the Army's North Atlantic Regional Medical Command and of Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C., since June 2002.

He is a 1972 graduate of the University of Scranton, with a bachelor's degree in biology. He received his medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine in 1976. He served a surgical internship and then an obstetrics and gynecology residency at William Beaumont Army Medical Center, El Paso, Texas, graduating in 1980.

Kiley's first tour was with the 121st Evacuation Hospital in Seoul, South Korea, where he was the chief of OB/GYN services from 1980 to 1982. He returned to the residency-training program at William Beaumont and served as chief of the Family Planning and Counseling Service. He then served as assistant chief of the OB/GYN department until February 1985.

He was then assigned as division surgeon of the 10th

Mountain Division, a new light infantry division, in Fort Drum, N.Y. In July 1985, he assumed command of the newly activated 10th Medical Battalion, 10th Mountain Division. He served concurrently in both assignments until May 1988. He returned to William Beaumont, where he first served as the assistant chief and then as the chairman of the OB/GYN department.

In November 1990, Kiley assumed command of the 15th Evacuation Hospital at Fort Polk, La., and in January 1991, he deployed the hospital to Saudi Arabia in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Upon his return, he was assigned as deputy commander for clinical services at Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, N.C., from August 1991 to July 1993.

He is a 1994 graduate of the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pa. Kiley assumed command of Landstuhl Regional Medical Center and what is now U.S. Army Europe Regional Medical Command at Landstuhl, Germany, June 30, 1994. He also served concurrently as command surgeon, U.S. Army Europe and 7th Army, from September 1995 to May 1998.

In April 1998, he assumed duties as Assistant Surgeon General for Force Projection; Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Health Policy and Services, U.S. Army Medical Command; and chief of the Army Medical Corps. On June 5, 2000, Kiley became com-



Maj. Gen. Kevin C. Kiley

mander of the U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and continued as chief of the Medical Corps. On June 28, 2002, he assumed command of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and North Atlantic Regional Medical Command and became Lead Agent for TRICARE Region I.

Kiley is a board-certified OB/GYN physician and a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Among his awards and decorations are the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with three oak leaf clusters, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters, Army Commendation Medal, the "A" designator, the Order of Military Medical Merit and the Expert Field Medical Badge.

(Source: Office of the Surgeon General/Medical Command news release)
(From May 27 issue)

June

Bush announces Reagan's death, proclaims National Day of Mourning



Photo by David Kennedy

Ronald Wilson Reagan
February 6, 1911 - June 5, 2004

TO THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES:

It is my sad duty to announce officially the death of Ronald Reagan, the fortieth President of the United States, on June 5, 2004.

We are blessed to live in a Nation, and a world, that have been shaped by the will, the leadership, and the vision of Ronald Reagan.

With an unshakable faith in the values of our country and the character of our people, Ronald Reagan renewed America's confidence and restored our Nation. His optimism, strength, and humility epitomized the American spirit. He always told us that for America the best was yet to come.

Ronald Reagan believed that God takes the side of justice and that America has a special calling to oppose tyranny and defend freedom. Through his courage and determination, he enhanced America's security and advanced the spread of peace, liberty, and democracy to millions of people who had lived in darkness and oppression. As America's President, Ronald Reagan helped change the world.

President Reagan has left us, but he has left us stronger and better. We take comfort in the knowledge that he has left us for a better place, the shining city that awaits him.

Proclamation

NOW, THEREFORE, I GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, in honor and tribute to the memory of Ronald Reagan, and as

an expression of public sorrow, do hereby direct that the flag of the United States be displayed at half-staff at the White House and on all buildings, grounds, and Naval vessels of the United States for a period of 30 days from the day of his death. I also direct that for the same length of time, the representatives of the United States in foreign countries shall make similar arrangements for the display of the flag at half-staff over their Embassies, Legations, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and stations.

I hereby order that suitable honors be rendered by units of the Armed Forces under orders of the Secretary of Defense.

I do further appoint Friday, June 11, 2004, as a National Day of Mourning throughout the United States. I call on the American people to assemble on that day in their respective places of worship, to pay homage to the memory of President Reagan. I invite the people of the world who share our grief to join us in this solemn observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of June, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

USARSO moves to Old BAMC

By Robert Appin
U.S. Army South Public Affairs

U.S. Army South moved into its new headquarters in building 1000, formerly the Brooke Army Medical Center.

The more than 500 USARSO employees moved into their new offices after patiently waiting for several months.

"The building is 210,000 square feet and we are occupying the third to seventh floor as well as some of the second floor and basement," said Col. John R. Luce, USARSO, deputy chief of staff for engineering and the officer-in-charge of the renovation.

However, prior to moving into the new offices, many details that ranged from remodeling the interior to ensuring proper communications had to be resolved.

"We had to literally gut-out the building and ensure that we did not violate any of the policies or directives for renovating a historical building," added Luce. The renovation encompassed the safe removal of asbestos, new plumbing, rewiring the building and many other necessary actions to have the building fully functional.

Maj. David G. Sanchez, logistics officer, deputy chief of staff for logistics, was the officer-in-charge of the physical move of the USARSO staff sections.

"We moved several tons of equipment and boxes of material to the new building

during a span of five weeks," said Sanchez. "It took us several months of prior coordination with the contractors as well as the staff sections to synchronize the move," Sanchez added.

Coordination and synchronization were key ingredients that ensured that the majority of the USARSO employees were happy in their new offices.

Martiza E. Santiago, administrative support assistance, deputy chief of staff operation, aviation division, summarized her feelings succinctly, "I am simply in love with my (new) office." Santiago's comment was echoed by fellow colleagues.

Erika Holmes, secretary, deputy chief of staff for logistics, stated "I am especially happy; everything is new. I have a good work area and understand that it is not 100 percent finished but, it is our new home and as new homes, there are always details that need to be completed."

Ivonne L. Walcott, budget analyst, deputy chief of staff for resource management, said, "The new office is very nice. The only problem I am encountering is access to my (work) area."

Many staff sections were involved in the preparation for the move. Some of these key players were the deputy chief of staff for information management and deputy chief of staff for intelligence's security office.

Lt. Col. Raymond C. Rembish, assis-



Photo by Sgt. Jan M. Allende

The Old BAMC, formerly known as the Brooke Army Medical Center, was closed in 1996. The construction of the hospital took place between 1935-1937 and served as a premier medical center through 1990. It was placed in the National Register of Historic Places on Dec. 1, 2001.

tant deputy chief of staff for information management stated, "The new headquarters facility provides state-of-the-art communications and automation capabilities that leverage the power of information technology and provide global connectivity to units deployed throughout Latin America and the Caribbean regions."

Although the move is complete there are nevertheless adjustments that must be made.

Lucy Ortiz, command security manager, acknowledged that there were still minor details being corrected on the personnel access to the various sections within the new building.

Keith S. Plum, chief, C4 architecture division, deputy chief of staff for information management, stated, "The current com-

munications and automation situation in our recently occupied headquarters building is an initial operating capability. We will continue to improve and expand these information systems until we reach our objective C4 architecture by the end of this summer."

U.S. Army South relocated to Fort Sam Houston from Fort Buchanan, Puerto Rico in July 2003.

Building 1000 was closed in 1996 following the construction of the new Brooke Army Medical Center. The construction of the hospital took place between 1935-1937 and served as a premier medical center through 1990. It was placed in the National Register of Historic Places on December 1, 2001.

(From June 10 issue)

June

Army celebrates birthday

By Phil Reidinger
FHS Public Affairs Office

Soldiers dressed in period uniforms carrying 174 campaign streamers recalled the history of the Army on its 229th birthday during a ceremony on June 14 widely attended by the Fort Sam community, San Antonio veterans and civic and political leaders.

The invocation by Chaplain (Col.) Edward Maney, Fort Sam Houston installation chaplain, recalled the legacy of America's warriors from all walks of life and faith. "We are proud and noble Soldiers, the vanguard of our Nation's

defense. We continue to stay the course and defend the cause of freedom and our Nation's interest," he prayed. He noted that from Valley Forge to the current missions in Afghanistan and Iraq the Army achieved success because Soldiers are prepared for victory. "We train hard. We live hard. We fight hard. And, we die hard for the sake of love our county, our flag, our families and our friends," he added. He reminded the audience of America's willingness to strive against the ills of the world and champion those who have the least in freedom and opportunity.

Members of the Fort Sam

Houston Honors Platoon fired a rifle volley as Soldiers presented the campaign streamers to U.S. Army Garrison Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Johnny C. Gray who attached them to the Army flag.

Brig. Gen. Daniel Perugini, Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston commander, emphasized that the Army Medical Department was established only a month following the creation of the Army in June of 1775. "Think about the significance for us here at the home of Army Medicine that we began treating and caring for America's Soldiers on those first battlefields of the Revolutionary War." He noted that the campaign streamers attached to the Army flag are a visual representation of the blood and sacrifices Soldiers have made in defense of the Nation. He emphasized the importance of both the Army birthday and the anniversary of the adoption of the flag as the national symbol. "Our flag flies proudly around the world as a symbol of our Nation. Its bold colors reflect the energy, the tenacity, and the courage of the American people," he said. The flag, he noted, symbolizes the unity of our government and the diversity of the citizens who define the character of the Nation.

(From June 17 issue)



Photo by Esther Garcia

Special Troops Battalion, 32nd Medical Brigade, and Brooke Army Medical Center Soldiers, dressed in period uniforms, hold the Army's battle streamers prior to presentation and attachment to the Army Flag during the celebration of the Army's 229th Birthday held June 14 at the post flagpole.

July

Army Chief of Staff reviews troops during MEDCOM change of command ceremony

Maj. Gen. Kevin C. Kiley became acting commander of the U.S. Army Medical Command in a July 8 ceremony here. He replaces Lt. Gen. James B. Peake, who retired from active duty at the same ceremony.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker presided over the ceremony, passing the flag of the Army major command from Peake to Kiley.

Kiley has been nominated for promotion to lieutenant general and the position of Army surgeon general. That nomination requires confirmation by the U.S. Senate. If confirmed, he would serve concurrently as surgeon general and MEDCOM commander.

Peake was presented the Distinguished Service Medal, the Army's highest peacetime award, upon completing 38 years of service. Peake graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1966 and served as an infantry officer in Vietnam, earning a Silver Star, a Bronze Star for valor and the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster. He earned his medical doctorate in 1972. Peake became MEDCOM commander and Army Surgeon General in September 2000.

MEDCOM provides command and control of Army fixed-facility medical, dental and veterinary units within the United States, Europe and Japan. Its annual budget of approximately \$9.7 billion and staff of some 27,000 Soldiers and 28,000 civilian employees provide health care for more than 5 million beneficiaries. On a typical day, MEDCOM's people see about 37,000 patients in clinics and perform almost 29,000 dental procedures, 5,400 immunizations, 6,300



Photo by Ed Dixon

Maj. Gen. Kevin C. Kiley accepts the Medical Command color from Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, assuming command of the U.S. Army Medical Command during the July 8 change of command ceremony at MacArthur Field.

radiology procedures, 82,000 pharmacy procedures and 52,500 laboratory procedures.

Source: Medical Command news release.

(From July 15 issue)

August

National Night Out a big success!

Story by Linda Furlow
Special to the News Leader

Fort Sam Houston residents participated in the 21st anniversary of National Night Out Aug. 3. The nationwide program is designed to heighten crime prevention awareness, to strengthen neighborhood camaraderie and to improve police-community relationships.

Nationally, about 33 million people were expected to participate in National Night Out, including the astronauts in the International Space Station.

A big thanks goes out to the Youth Center Staff, Human Resources Business Center, Readiness and Logistics Business Center, U.S. Army Garrison headquarters, the Army Medical Department Center and School Force Sustainment Section in building 44.

Congratulations to the following families who hosted NNO events at their quarters: Lt. Col. Terry Lantz and his wife, Laura; Capt Edward Schupbach and his wife, Kate; Senior Officer Candidate Alvin Johnson and his wife, Maria; and Sgt. 1st Class Harold Larvins and his wife, Miki.

Col. Richard Agee, representing the installation Commander, Brig. Gen. Daniel Perugini, took time out to visit every party and spoke with those in attendance. He stressed the importance of residents' participating in crime prevention events such as National Night Out. Agee also thanked those that hosted the parties and presented them with a Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the commanding general. Agee also visited several office NNO events during the day and presented certificates to the sponsoring staffs.

U.S. Army Garrison Commander, Col. Garry Atkins, attended NNO events hosted by the Government Hill and Westfort Alliance neighborhood associations. Atkins met with residents, city police officials, State Representative Ruth McClendon, and members of the respective neighborhood association boards to discuss community relationships.

Next year, National Night Out will be observed on Tuesday, August 2, 2005, so mark your calendars! Expect next year's event to be even bigger!

(From Aug. 12 issue)



Photo by Phil Reidinger

From left Sparky, mascot for the Fort Sam Houston Fire Department and McGruff, the Crime Fighting Dog, joins Col. Garry F. Atkins, commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Sgt. 1st Class Larry Ramos, Command Sgt. Maj. Johnny C. Gray, fire fighters John Sanchez, Brian Davila, Randy Johnson; kneeling, Spc. Carson Lang, Staff Sgt. Stephanie Cole, Spc. Jeremy Bryant, Spc. Eric Alvarado and Armando Chavez at the Garrison's National Night Out luncheon held Aug. 3. Atkins thanked the residents and command staff for making the Fort Sam Houston National Out a success.

Published by:

Prime Time, Inc., The Herald Newspaper Group
17400 Judson Road, San Antonio, Texas 78247
(210) 453-3300

Layout by:

Lori Newman

September



Photo by Esther Garcia

Command representatives from Fort Sam Houston march to the flagpole for the wreath presentation and retreat ceremony in observance of Patriot Day and POW/MIA Day held Sept. 10.

Post community commemorates Patriot Day and remembers POW/MIA

By Phil Reidinger
FSH Public Affairs Officer

On Sept. 10, a bell tolled once for each of the 50 states and territories of the United States at the post Gift Chapel, honoring the sacrifices of those members of our Armed Forces killed and wounded combating terrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Two services provided the post and San Antonio communities opportunities to reflect on the impact of lost lives, the courage of first responders, and the valor of the men and women of the nation's Armed Forces waging the Global War on Terrorism.

The services also served as a reminder of the sacrifices and hardships suffered by our nation's prisoners of war, and the families of those still listed as missing in action.

At the post chapel, retired Command Sgt. Maj. Howard T. Ray, president of the POW/MIA Association, described the sacrifices and POWs and the anguish of MIA families. Retired Army Chaplain (Col.) Willie Peacock led a reflection of the day's events and the horror of the planes crashing into the Twin Towers as the nation watched.

Following a procession from the chapel to the post flagpole, the sounds of a bagpiper play-

ing Amazing Grace, began the retreat ceremony that included a presentation of wreaths by Maj. Gen. George Weightman, Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston commander; Brig. Gen. Shelia Baxter, Medical Command; Brig. Gen. C. William Fox, Great Plains Regional Medical Command and Brooke Army Medical Center commander; Col. Garry Atkins, U.S. Army Garrison commander; Col. Luke Green, Fifth U.S. Army, Col. Thomas Heaney U.S. Army South; and Command Sgt. Maj. Kenneth Fyffe, Southwest Region, IMA. (From Sept. 16 issue)

Post welcomes Maj. Gen. George Weightman as new commander

By Phil Reidinger
FSH Public Affairs Officer

A formation of the three 32nd Medical Brigade battalions and the Army Medical Department NCO Academy spread across MacArthur Parade Field during the change of command ceremony on Sept. 9 recognizing Maj. Gen. George W. Weightman as the new Army Medical Department and Center and School commander. As the Fort Sam Houston senior mission commander, Weightman also serves as the installation commander.

The unit formation represented the more than 28,000 officers, NCOs and enlisted personnel, including Navy and Air Force students, who attend training at the Army Medical Department Center and School each year.

Maj. Gen. Kevin C. Kiley, acting commander, U.S. Army Medical Command, was the host and reviewing officer for the ceremony.

Following the change of command ceremony, the post community bid farewell to Brig. Gen. Daniel F. Perugini and his wife Coleta, who retired after 30 years of service. Kiley presented the Distinguished Service Medal to Perugini and recognized Coleta Perugini's extensive volunteer service with the Secretary of the Army Public Service Award.

Prior to assuming command here, Weightman served as the commanding general, 44th Medical Command and Corps Surgeon, XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, N.C. His previous assignments included commanding general of 3rd Medical Command (Forward) and Coalition Forces

Land Component command surgeon for Operation Iraqi Freedom following an assignment as assistant Surgeon General for Force Projection.

Awarded a Doctorate of Medicine Degree from the University of Vermont, he completed his Family Practice residency at Eisenhower Medical Center at Fort Gordon, Ga.

(From Sept. 16 issue)



Photo by Ray Turner

Maj. Gen. George W. Weightman accepts the Army Medical Department Center and School colors from Maj. Gen. Kevin C. Kiley, acting commander, U.S. Army Medical Command.

October

Base ops Most Efficient Organization stands up Oct. 1

By Elaine Aviles
Fort Sam Houston News Leader

The Fort Sam Houston community will see the results of more than six years of hard work and countless challenges when the Base Operations Most Efficient Organization stands up Oct. 1.

Although the change should be transparent, for the most part, to FSH customers, the MEO affects hundreds of civil service employees as eight new organizations with mission and structural changes become functional.

"How well we operate from tomorrow on will measure our success," said Mike Merrill, Base Operations MEO program manager. "This is a big undertaking but we have the tools and the right people in place to make it work."

The MEO is the culmination of a four-year study to determine the most cost-effective method of obtaining services available in the commercial market. The study is conducted under guidelines spelled out in a document called



Photo by Esther Garcia

Col. Garry Atkins, U.S. Army Garrison commander, informs post employees about the Most Efficient Organization during a monthly town hall meeting.

the Office of Management and Budget A-76 Circular.

After the Department of Army announced an A-76 study for FSH base operations support, government and commercial firms developed proposals for their "most efficient organizations."

"This was the largest-scale operation of this type the Army has seen," said Merrill. "Normally studies are implemented for individual functions, but in this case, we were looking at converting functions post-wide."

In 2002, the contracting office

opened up a bid. In this case, the government won.

"A qualified private sector offer wasn't received," said Jeana Berban, Business Development Office A-76 operations chief. "We determined that keeping the business 'in house' was the best deal for the taxpayer."

With a final decision in hand, FSH leaders were then faced with the massive task of streamlining and realigning its current workforce to match the proposed organization, or the MEO, that won the bid.

"We had to take more than 1,200 garrison employees and streamline to an end strength of 500-plus people," Merrill said.

Determined to minimize the impact on employees, post leaders struggled to find acceptable solutions. Some Department of Defense civilians opted for early retirement and others will assume new responsibilities, job descriptions and, in some cases, move to different work centers Oct. 1.

"Our job, our mission, is to provide a better quality of life for our

Soldiers and their families and making Fort Sam Houston a better place to live," said Col. Garry Atkins, U.S. Army Garrison commander. "We will continue to focus on that mission."

The MEO, CGA and a visual information MEO, the results of a separate study, fall under Michael Waldrop, deputy to the Garrison commander. Non-studied functions, such as civilian personnel, chaplains, community activities and the staff judge advocate, still fall directly under the Garrison commander.

"I want to thank our employees for their steadfast support through the transition, and now into the implementation of the first Whole Base Competitive A-76 Study won by the government," Atkins said. "I ask that they continue their efforts providing the very best base operations support to the installation's 62 tenant organizations and their command missions and operations supporting the nation at war."

(From Sept. 30 issue)



Lt. Gen. Kevin C. Kiley

Kiley confirmed as next Army Surgeon General

The U.S. Senate has confirmed Maj. Gen. Kevin C. Kiley as the next Surgeon General of the Army and promotion to lieutenant general. Kiley was officially pinned with his third star in a ceremony at the Pentagon.

Kiley succeeds Lt. Gen. James B. Peake, who retired from active duty this summer after more than 38 years of service.

In addition to Surgeon General, the Army's senior medical advisor, will serve as commander of the U.S. Army Medical Command.

MEDCOM provides command and control of Army fixed-facility medical, dental and veterinary units within the United States, Europe and Japan. Its annual budget of approximately \$9.7 billion and staff of some 27,000 Soldiers and 28,000 civilian employees provide health care for more than 5 million beneficiaries. On a typical day, MEDCOM's people see about 37,000 patients in clinics and perform almost 29,000 dental procedures, 5,400 immunizations, 6,300 radiology procedures, 82,000 pharmacy procedures support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Upon his return, he was assigned as the Deputy Commander for Clinical Services at Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, N.C.

(From Oct. 7 issue)

October



Maj. Gen. George Weightman, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston commander, and Reverend Paul Jennings, son of Col. William Jennings, unveil a plaque during the dedication ceremony. Jennings traveled from Florida to attend the ceremony in honor of his father.

Fort Sam unveils state-of-the-art training facility

Story and photo by Elaine Aviles
Fort Sam Houston News Leader

With post and community leaders present, Fort Sam Houston unveiled its newest state-of-the-art training facility during a dedication ceremony Oct. 21.

Jennings Hall, the new 30,000-square-foot home to the 91T Animal Care Specialist Course, is the culmination of several years of hard work and planning.

"The students and instructors used to be in a bunch of temporary buildings that were cramped and improperly designed," said Maj. Gen. George Weightman, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston commander. "They did a lot with very little. We owed them much better. This world-class training facility is the result."

The new school is vastly superior to the old one, with larger classrooms, cutting-edge technology and facility-wide equipment upgrades.

"It sends the right message to the students,"

Weightman said. "It will be a model animal care teaching facility."

The building is named after retired Col. William Jennings, who passed away in 2003. Jennings was a leader in the Veterinary Corps dating back to World War II. During his 27-year military career, he served as director of veterinary science at the Medical Field Services School and as chief veterinarian for U.S. Forces Europe during the Cold War. After his military career, he continued to serve as a professor of veterinary medicine.

"His vision and focus drove the vet corps to what it is today," Weightman said.

His son, Reverend Paul Jennings, traveled from Florida to deliver the invocation.

"I'm sure this is a proud moment for them and for you," Weightman said to Jennings.

"The veterinarian corps is, in many ways, the unsung corps," he continued. "These Soldiers have a direct affect on readiness and security worldwide. They are very deserving of this building."

(From Oct. 28 issue)

Medics on maneuver



Photo by 1st Lt. Christopher Nordin

The Salado Creek training area offers a rugged training environment for 187th Medical Battalion common task training and testing, which includes movement to contact and patrolling techniques. Combat medics learn to maneuver with combat units and also practice squad tactics drills necessary for recovery of wounded Soldiers on the battlefield.

November

New secretary of the Army sworn in

Dr. Francis J. Harvey was sworn in at the Pentagon as the 19th secretary of the Army.

"This is a great honor for me. My top priority will be to serve our Soldiers, civilian employees and family members of the active component, Army Reserve and Army National Guard," Harvey said. "I look forward to working with the secretary of defense, the Army Chief of Staff Gen. Pete Schoomaker, and the Army senior leadership as we fight the Global War on Terrorism while continuing to transform the force."

The Senate confirmed President Bush's nomination of Dr. Harvey Nov. 16.

"It's great to have Dr. Harvey on board as our secretary," said Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, the Army chief of staff. "Dr. Harvey has a wealth of experience leading large organizations with diverse work forces, managing major programs and leading technology development. His education and industry experience will serve us well as he leads our Army in this window of strategic opportunity."

As secretary of the Army, Harvey has statutory responsibility for all matters relating to Army manpower, personnel, reserve affairs, installations, environmental issues, weapons systems and equipment acquisition, communications and



Photo by Sgt. Carmen L. Burgess
Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld looks on while Raymond DuBois, director of administration and management, swears in Dr. Francis J. Harvey as the 19th secretary of the Army Nov. 19.

financial management. Harvey is responsible for the department's annual budget of \$98.5 billion. He leads a work force of more than 1 million active duty, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve Soldiers, 220,000 civilian employees, thousands of contractors, and has stewardship over 15 million acres of land.

(Source: Department of Defense news release)
(From Nov. 24 issue)

December

SFAC celebrates first anniversary

By Phil Reidinger
FSH 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.

"The day we opened, there were 47 visitors. As of Dec. 6, there have been more than

28,000 visitors," Markelz said.

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.

"I could tell you about the emotional experiences every one of these past 365 days have brought," Markelz said. 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 gath-

er 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.

For 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.

(from Dec. 9 issue)

Fort Sam festivities



Photo by Esther Garcia

You can't have a Fiesta celebration without the traditional mariachi music. Las Erendiras, a local female mariachi group, performed for the crowd at Fort Sam Houston's Fiesta celebration on April 18.



Photo by Esther Garcia

Ashley Anderson rings the bell thirteen times commemorating the thirteen original states, which first formed the United States of America, during the 4th of July "Salute to the Nation" ceremony held at the main post flagpole.



Photo 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.



Photo by Elaine Aviles

Andrew Carrel, a member of the United San Antonio Pow Wow performs the Eagle Dance during the National Native American Indian ceremony Nov. 4 at Evans Theatre.



On your mark, get set, GO!

Photo by Phil Reidinger

Combat Medic Run participants, military and civilians, take off at the start point on Worth Road for the 10K run, the final event of the Combat Medic Run July

24. Events included the 5K, 10K and a 2-mile walk. Military events included the 28-Soldier formation run and the 5-Soldier guidon run.

December

Texas governor honors injured Soldiers

Story and photo by Nelia Schrum
BAMC Public Affairs

Texas Governor Rick Perry joined Brig. Gen. C. William Fox, Jr., Brooke Army Medical Center commander, Dec. 6 to present Purple Hearts to four Soldiers injured in Iraq who are recovering at BAMC.

The four Texas Soldiers included Sgts. Daniel Stubblefield and Cesar Trevino, Spc. Kristofer Clinkscales, and Pvt. Patrick Feges.

"These ceremonies are all about recognizing duty, honor and country," said Fox. "Today is a great opportunity to show dignity and respect to those Soldiers who were injured while serving their country."

The governor said the four Soldiers were heroes in every sense of the word and he considered the Purple Heart ceremony sacred.

"There are times when I am humbled just to stand alongside

great Texans whose courage towers over all who come near."

Perry said that Americans are grateful for the Soldiers and their defense of the nation and freedom-loving people across the globe.

Perry told the injured Soldiers that Texans could never repay the great cost each Soldier incurred.

"Today and everyday after, we will honor the valor of your sacrifice and celebrate the legacy of your heroism which is the freedom we so cherish."

The governor said that America has been freedom's greatest friend and guardian.

"The proof is not in the rhetoric," said Perry. "It is in the eyes of thousands of American Soldiers who, like these four men, bear the scars of freedom."

Stubblefield, 23, entered the military in July 2000 as an infantryman, continuing a family tradition of joining the military.

From Mineral Wells, he currently

calls Fort Sam Houston home.

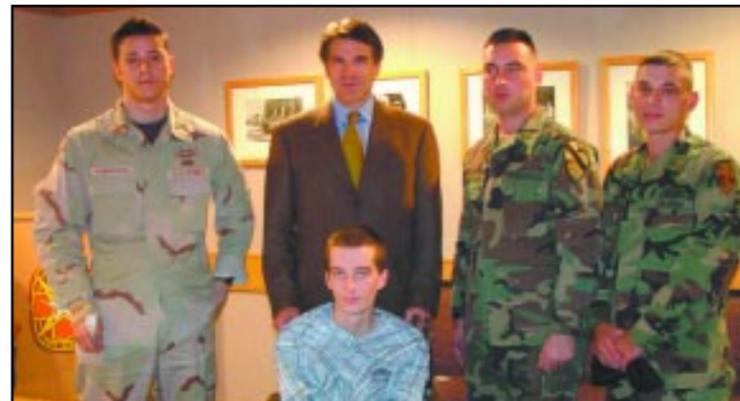
He deployed to Iraq in February from Schweinfurt, Germany. Sept. 1, he was hit by an improvised explosive device in Samarra, Iraq, sustaining shrapnel wounds to his right knee, left shoulder and neck.

Trevino, 25, from Laredo, is a combat engineer and has served in the military since July 1998. A former Marine from Laredo, he deployed with the 1st Cavalry out of Fort Hood, Texas.

Trevino sustained his injuries to his right arm, hand and hip Aug. 13 in Baghdad, Iraq, when he was hit with a mortar round.

Clinkscales, 22, was born in Dallas and now calls San Antonio home. A 2000 graduate of Alamo Heights High School, he entered the military as an infantry man and is an Army sniper.

Deploying from Fort Hood, Texas, Clinkscales was injured in Fallujah, Iraq, Nov. 10 when



Texas Governor Rick Perry visits Dec. 6 with Purple Heart recipients recovering at Brooke Army Medical Center. Spc. Kristofer Clinkscales, Pvt. Patrick Feges, and Sgts. Daniel Stubblefield and Cesar Trevino received Purple Hearts for injuries sustained in the Global War on Terrorism.

the building he was operating from was hit by a rocket. He sustained shrapnel injuries to his right arm and elbow.

Feges, 20, from Sugar Land, entered the military in July 2003 as a food service specialist. He

deployed to Iraq in August with the 2nd Battalion, 17th Field Artillery, Camp Hovey, Korea. Hit by mortar rounds Nov. 1 in Ar-Ramadi, he sustained shrapnel wounds to his stomach.

(From Dec. 16 issue)