

**MLK  
CELEBRATION**  
JAN. 12,  
11:30 A.M.  
FORT SAM  
HOUSTON  
THEATER

A PUBLICATION OF THE 502nd AIR BASE WING — JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO — FORT SAM HOUSTON

## 401st MI Co. Soldiers soak up water survival training

By Staff Sgt. Andrew Sellars  
401st Military Intelligence Company

The 401st Military Intelligence Company recently conducted water survival training to ensure the confidence of its Soldiers when they encounter a “wet environment.”

Sgt. 1st Class Fernando Torres and Sgt. 1st Class David Chacon led the training, which took place in the pool at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center.

Participating were 21 Soldiers from the company, an element of the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade that focuses on counterintelligence and analysis.

“I wish we got to do this more often,” said Spc. Jack Edmiston about the training. “I was able to learn quite a bit about how to make my equipment work for me and what I need to do to survive in a water environment.”

As always, there was a premium placed on safety, with non-swimmers pre-identified and two lifeguards on duty. Training began with a two-minute buoyancy test to help identify non-swimmers, or those personnel who appeared to lack confidence in the water.

After the buoyancy test, Soldiers were taught the difference between the “step-off entry” and the “stride entry” into the pool and how to maintain a low profile while exiting the body of water.

At that point, participants had to complete the “water walk” and the “travel stroke” sequence with full gear and dummy M-16 rifles provided by the

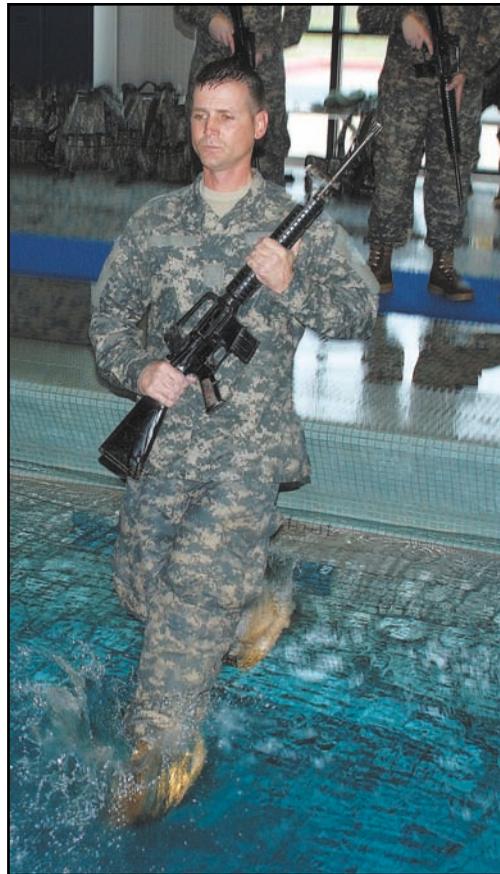


Photo by Gregory Rippes

A 401st Military Intelligence Company Soldier properly executes the “step-off entry” into the pool, keeping his splash to a minimum.

Training Aids Service Center.

Once the Soldiers completed the travel stroke according to standard, they received another course of instruction on properly treading water and the “hanging float.”

Participants, still in full gear but without the M-16 rifles, had to use both of these newly learned skills to remain as still in the water as possible for five minutes.

“That was tough,” said Sgt. Perrie Morgan upon successfully exiting the pool. “It takes all of your muscle groups to keep your motions slow and steady so you don’t

See 401, P6

## Little Warrior Donor Program helps tiniest patients

By Mark Salcedo  
ASBP Blood Donor Recruiter

With the expanded trauma center and addition of a labor and delivery ward, along with neonatal and pediatric intensive care units at the San Antonio Military Medical Center, the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center is increasing the capabilities of

their whole blood program.

“The Little Warrior Donor Program will help provide specialty products for our tiniest patients in the neonatal intensive care unit,” said Capt. Paul Ambrose, officer-in-charge of the center.

“We are continually improving patient care by providing a

See BLOOD, P9

## NEW YEAR'S EVE 5K RUN



Photo by Jim Davis

Off to a flying start for 2012, more than 300 people took part in the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston's annual New Year's Eve 5K Run. Story and more photos on page 6.



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# Defense bill affects pay, separation bonuses, more

By Karen Parrish  
 American Forces Press Service

President Barack Obama signed the 2012 National Defense Authorization Act Jan. 3, which increases active-duty and Reserve pay by 1.6 percent and governs Defense Department activities, from procurement to military personnel policy.

Several provisions in this year's act will potentially affect active-duty and retired service members and their families.

Section 347 requires DOD to finance an independent assessment of overseas troop basing, advising retention, closure, realignment or establishment of U.S. military facilities outside the United States "in light of potential fiscal constraints on [DOD] and emerging national security requirements in coming years."

Section 402 reduces authorized Army minimum end strength from 562,000 to 547,000. The other services' authorized minimum strengths are unchanged, with 325,700 for the Navy, 202,100 for the Marine Corps and 332,800 for the Air Force.

Section 512 of the act creates a new member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which currently includes the Army and Air Force chiefs of staff, the chief of naval operations and the Marine Corps commandant.

The new member will be the chief of the National Guard Bureau, who will have responsibility for "addressing matters involving non-federalized National Guard forces in support

of homeland defense and civil support missions."

Section 526 extends voluntary separation pay and benefits authority, formerly set to expire Dec. 31, to the end of 2018. Section 530 converts the high-deployment allowance from mandatory to authorized.

The allowance currently pays \$100 a day, in addition to all other pay and allowances, to a deployed service member who has been deployed 401 days or more out of the preceding 730 days.

Section 701 limits annual TRICARE enrollment fee increases for retirees and their family members to an amount equal to the percentage by which retired pay

increases that year.

Section 702 sets mental health assessment requirements for service members deployed for contingency operations. The act calls for a series of assessments: one within 120 days before deployment; another during the period between 90 days after a deployment begins and 180 days after it ends; a third within a year after the deployment ends; and a fourth between 18 months and 30 months of redeployment.

The act states assessments are intended to "identify post-traumatic stress disorder, suicidal tendencies, and other behavioral health conditions in order to determine which such members are in need of additional care and

treatment for such health conditions."

Assessments are not required for service members "not subjected or exposed to operational risk factors during deployment in the contingency operation concerned," the act states.

Section 954 affirms that DOD "has the capability, and upon direction by the president may conduct offensive operations in cyberspace to defend our nation, allies and interests," subject to the law of armed conflict and the War Powers Resolution.

Signing the bill into law, Obama acknowledged "serious reservations" about parts of the act, particularly provisions that regulate the detention, interroga-

tion, and prosecution of suspected terrorists.

"I have signed the act chiefly because it authorizes funding for the defense of the United States and its interests abroad, crucial services for service members and their families and vital national security programs that must be renewed," the president said in a statement released Jan. 3.

The act also contains critical initiatives to control spiraling health-care costs within the Defense Department, develop counterterrorism initiatives abroad, build the security capacity of key partners, modernize the force and boost the efficiency and effectiveness of military operations worldwide, he noted.

## News Briefs

### **ARNORTH Assumption of Command Ceremony Jan. 12**

Lt. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV will assume command of U.S. Army North in a ceremony at 4 p.m. Jan. 12 at the historic Quadrangle. Event is hosted by Gen. Charles H. Jacoby Jr., commanding general of U.S. Northern Command and the North American Aerospace Defense Command.

### **Martin Luther King Jr. Program**

An observance honoring Martin Luther King Jr. will be held at 11:30 a.m. Jan. 12 in the Fort Sam Houston Theater, 2427 Stanley Road.

### **Camp Bullis Barber Shop Hours**

Effective Jan. 17 the hours of operation for the barber shop in the Camp Bullis Exchange will be 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturdays and closed Sundays and holidays.

### **Stanley Road Closure Jan. 6 for Battalion Run**

Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion U.S. Army South sponsors a battalion run Jan. 6. To accommodate runners, Stanley Road from the MacArthur Field pavillion to Liscum Road will be closed from 5:45 to 6:30 a.m.

### **Tech Expo at Sam Houston Club**

The Network Enterprise Center hosts the semi-annual Technology Exposition from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Jan. 25 at the Sam Houston Club. The expo is open to all personnel and is free to attend. To pre-register, visit <http://www.federalevents.com>, click on the Fort Sam Houston link and select the pre-register button.

### **Cole Project Graduation**

The Project Graduation committee at Cole High School sponsors a dinner and talent show Jan. 21 at the Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797 at 2010 Stanley Road. An audition for the talent show will be held Jan. 5 from 4 to 7 pm in Cole High School's mall area. The community is invited to join or participate with their talent for this family event. Tickets go on sale in January.

### **Wilford Hall ER Closed**

The Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgery Center has closed its emergency department and re-designated the area as an urgent care center. The UCC is an

See NEWS, P4

# Nigerian Navy delegation visits METC

By Lisa Braun  
METC Public Affairs

Medical officers from the Nigerian navy visited the Medical Education & Training Campus Dec. 12-13 for a tour and discussions about medical training capabilities and curriculum.

The visit was the first step in an ongoing effort by METC, in coordination with U.S. Naval Forces Africa, to assist the Nigerians with improving their military medical training capabilities.

METC will assess the Nigerian navy's medical training programs, make recommendations for improvement and help with curriculum development.

Part of the NAVAF mission is to support medical capacity building in partner nations through Africa Partnership Station, a series of activities designed to build maritime safety and security in Africa through working together with African and other international partners.

Commodore C.A. Abu, surgeon for the Nigerian Western Naval Command; Capt. I.V. Ansa, commander of Nigeria's School of Health Sciences; and Cmdr. R.O. Popoola, a Nigerian Navy Surgeon General staff



Photo by Lisa Braun

The Medical Education & Training Campus hosted medical officers from the Nigerian navy Dec. 12-13 for a tour and discussions about medical training capabilities and curriculum. During their visit, Commodore C.A. Abu, surgeon for the Nigerian Western Naval Command; Capt. David Rollo, maritime affairs officer for Western Africa, Cmdr. R.O. Popoola, a Nigerian Navy Surgeon General staff member; and Capt. I.V. Ansa, commander of Nigeria's School of Health Sciences were given a tour of the Surgical Technician Program by Air Force Maj. Shelley Shelton (far left).

member, toured the Surgical Technician Program, Basic Medical Technician/Corpsman Program, and the Department of Combat Medic Training, as well as engaged in discussions with faculty and staff to share information about current capabilities and what they hoped to gain from their visit.

"We have come, we have seen, and we are taking a lot

back home from this visit," said Abu, who was impressed with the joint training environment he observed during his visit. "What [METC is] doing here is an eye opener." He pointed out how joint training makes sense because "we're on the same team."

The visitors were also amazed at how relatively quickly students complete

their training at METC, compared to the training curriculum window for Nigeria's school. This is one aspect they hope to change with METC's help.

During the visit, the Nigerian medical officers had an opportunity to meet with four U.S. Navy BMTCP students who are Nigerian natives.

The students were asked where they are from and what they thought of their training at METC. They were then given an opportunity to ask questions about the Nigerian navy. The students asked if the enlisted ranks were similar to those in the U.S. Navy, how many ships the Nigerian navy has, and about Nigeria's involvement in anti-piracy operations.

The visit to METC will be followed up with a visit by METC staff to Nigeria to see how they currently operate their medical training center.

The Nigerian navy is also interested in sending personnel to attend courses at METC in the future. They view training as a very important option for theater security cooperation. This, Abu said, will begin the process of "training the trainers."

## Concrete pour under way for WHASC parking garage

By Linda Frost  
59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

Work crews started pouring the first concrete Dec. 9 on the new Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center parking garage at Lackland Air Force Base.

The concrete placement marks the first substantial pour for the \$26 million project on the Lackland medical campus. The structure will have three levels of parking with spaces for more than 1,000 vehicles.

The parking garage is part of the first phase of construction for the new 681,000-square-foot ambulatory surgical center, expected to be completed in 2015.

"I consider this a good news milestone to



A construction worker guides a black 6-foot boom Dec. 9 as concrete flows onto the new Wilford Hall parking garage deck while the others use portable vibrators on their back to allow the mix to flow smoothly and spread evenly. The first placement of concrete marks the beginning of a 1,000-car parking garage for the ambulatory surgical center on Lackland Air Force Base.

Photo by Will Ewing

See WHASC, P6

## News Briefs

from P3

option for common acute minor medical problems when an individual cannot obtain an appointment with a primary care provider or a clinic is closed. The UCC staff will treat minor illnesses and injuries, such as flu, fever, earaches, nausea, rashes, animal and insect bites, minor bone fractures and minor cuts that require stitches. Call 292-7331 for more information.

### Joint Base Travel Survey

The 502nd Air Base Wing is conducting a Traffic Points of Origin study to evaluate military, retiree and civilian population traffic patterns at Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases, Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis. All Joint Base San Antonio active-duty service members, Reserve, Department of Defense civilians and contractors, retirees, and dependents age 18 and older who travel on and around Joint Base San Antonio installations are eligible to participate in the survey. Each respondent will receive a coupon for a free cup of coffee at any JBSA AAFES Express store and automatically be entered to win one of three prizes: a \$100 gas card, or one of two \$50 exchange gift cards. The survey is online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/JBSAsurvey>.

### Electronic Official Personnel Folder coming in February

The U.S. Army is implementing an E-Government initiative that provides easier and faster access to Army civilian's Official Personnel Folders, according to the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Civilian Personnel Advisory Center. Developed for all federal agencies by the Office of Personnel Management, the system is called Electronic Official Personnel Folder, or eOPF for short. The eOPF is not an interactive data system and cannot be updated directly by the employee. It exists primarily to provide employees quick access to important documents. Some of the benefits of e-OPF include accessing the eOPF electronically, better security and people can print documents that they need. In addition, employees can update their work telephone number, email address, handicap codes, ethnicity and race identification, foreign language proficiency and emergency contact information. Army employees at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston will transition to eOPF in February 2012.

# Bicycle theft a problem on Fort Sam Houston

By Det. Sherick D. Watkins  
502nd Security Forces Investigations

Over the past several weeks, there have been more than 15 bicycles reported stolen in the Fort Sam Houston housing communities.

All of the bicycles were left unsecured and unattended either on the front porch and yard or rear patio. Only one of the bicycle owners possessed knowledge of the serial numbers for their stolen property.

During 2011, there were only three bicycles turned into the 502nd Security Forces Squadron's Base Defense Operations Center located at Building 2244 as found property.

All were eventually turned over to Defense Reutilization and Marketing Offices for disposition, because none were registered in the SFS database.

There have been 50 "McGruff tickets" written by SFS officers in 2011 for property found unsecured in parking lots, housing areas, open garages, etc., on Fort Sam Houston.

These are reminders to those who have inadvertently left their respective unse-

cured, thus creating a greater opportunity for a theft.

Register your bicycles with the 502nd SFS Pass & ID office at Building 367. Review the following tips to help protect your personal property and hopefully discourage theft:

- Lock your bicycle, while at home, even in the garage, storage sheds, or your barracks room.
- Lock your bicycle to a fixed, immovable object, like a permanent bicycle rack. Be careful not to lock to items that can be easily cut, broken, or removed. Be careful that your bicycle cannot be lifted over the top of the object to which it is locked.
- Do not lock only one wheel of the bicycle, to include locking your bicycle to itself (the front wheel locked to the frame), because it can be easily lifted and carried away.
- Lock in a visible and well-lit area.
- Lock in a location where there are other bicycles. The chances are better that there will be a bicycle with a less secure lock than yours. Thieves will usually go for the easiest target. If a bicycle rack is full, find another. Do

not try to squeeze your bicycle into a space that will not allow you to secure it properly.

- If you are parking head-in with a "wave" rack, park in the "U" part not, the inverted "U" part.

- Do not secure your bicycle to anything posted illegal and do not block pedestrian passage or use handrails, especially wheelchair ramps and structures near handicapped accessible areas.

- When using a U-lock, position your bicycle frame and wheels so that you fill or take up as much of the open space within the U-portion of the lock as possible. The tighter the lock up, the harder it is for a thief to use tools to attack your lock.

- Always position a U-lock so that the keyway is facing down towards the ground. This makes it more difficult for a thief to attack it.

- Always secure your components and accessories, especially quick-release components, with a secondary cable lock.

- Always check your lock before leaving your bike to be sure you have secured it properly.

- For the greatest theft de-

terrence, use two locks such as a U-lock and a locking cable. The longer it takes a thief to get through the security measure of your bicycle, the less likely your bicycle will be stolen.

- Any locking device is better than the use of no locking mechanism at all!

- Choose a lock that is easy for you (or your child) to use. Difficult-to-use locks often do not get used!

- Every lock can be defeated even if you do all of the right things and your bicycle still may be stolen.

- Also, record your bicycle's serial number. If your bicycle is stolen, the serial number is a key piece of information that the 502nd SFS and local law enforcement agencies can use in attempting to recover your bicycle or stolen property in general.

- Most bicycle serial numbers are located on the underside of the bottom bracket shell near the pedals. Keep your sales receipt and take a picture of your bicycle, as these steps can be very useful during recovery efforts.

For more information, call 221-2222 or 0990.

## Army deploying USA Staffing automated system in 2012

As part of the Department of Defense hiring reform initiative, all DOD components will transition to web-based software owned by the Office of Personnel Management to fill competitive examining and merit promotion vacancies.

During Fiscal Year 2011 and 2012, the Department of the Army will be deploying this automated system called USA Staffing.

The vision of the Army Civilian Human Resource community is to provide a single point of entry for all recruitment and hiring activities.

USA Staffing is fully integrated with USAJOBS.

With USAJOBS, job seekers can upload their resume into their USAJOBS account and store up to five resumes and up to five supplemental documents such as transcripts, military service records and performance appraisals. Applicants can select the best resume for each application submitted. These stored documents can then be used for jobs throughout Army, DOD, as well as other federal agencies.

Applicants will have a single

source for managing and tracking job applications. They can check application status easily because Application Manager accessed through USAJOBS provides easy access to their application status.

USA Staffing will create an application package which includes a resume, responses to the assessment questionnaire, and supporting documents.

To assist in ensuring the application package is complete, the job announcement will identify all required documents. The job applicant will be able to demonstrate job-

specific qualifications through this self-assessment because qualifications and eligibility will be determined based on selected responses to a series of questions in the assessment questionnaire.

Fort Sam Houston will begin using USA Staffing for all recruitment starting February 2012 and will complete any ongoing RESUMIX recruitment.

(Source: Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Civilian Personnel Advisory Center)



# More than 300 take part in New Year's Eve 5K run

By Jim Davis  
502nd FSS Marketing Director

While San Antonio offers a wide variety of activities to partake in for New Year's Eve, more than 300 runners, joggers, adults, kids and dog walkers decided on a healthy start to 2012, taking part in Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston's annual New Year's Eve 5K Run.

Before the race, strollers with young children, families and friends, and even family pets filled the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center as participants gathered for last-minute registrations

and to buy commemorative t-shirts, refresh water bottles, and discuss strategies.

"The Jimmy Brought Fitness Center goes beyond expectations to



Photos by Jim Davis

Some of the participants cool off and chow down at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center after completing the New Year's Eve 5K Run.

ensure the service men and women of the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston community have an opportunity to participate in an alcohol-free, family fitness event

each year," said James Lancaster, 502nd Force Support Squadron Sustainment Flight Chief.

At the stroke of midnight, fireworks lit up the downtown San Antonio sky and the participants began their New Year by running or walking the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston New Year's Eve 5K. The route included many historic sites on the post as well as a view of the San Antonio fireworks.

Finishing first for the men was Converse resident Alex Hernandez, who clocked in at 16 minutes, 10 seconds. For the women it was



(From left) First-place men's finisher Alex Hernandez and second-place finisher Dimas Gonzales relax after completing the Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston's annual New Year's Eve 5K Run.

Rebecca Holt in 18 minutes, 25 seconds.

After the event, all participants were treated to light snacks, music, party decorations and a glass of sparking grape juice.

"This event is not a competitive race, it's

all about families sharing a life of fitness," said Doug Price, Jimmy Brought Fitness Center manager. "In addition, it's extremely difficult for children to get into trouble when they are out at midnight jogging with their families."

## WHASC from P3

start seeing some above ground vertical construction and get the project out of the ground," said Lt. Col. Doug Harper, program manager, Lackland Project Health Facilities Office.

It took 30 trucks to deliver 269 cubic yards of concrete on the second floor of the garage, covering just more than 10,000 square feet.

In all, 35,000 cubic

yards of concrete will be used to build the structure – a total of 36 pours.

A 54-member crew started work in the pre-dawn hours at 3 a.m. to avoid traffic due to the high volume of concrete that was delivered.

Since Lackland was the only major customer at that hour, the early start also ensured each batch of concrete had the same consistency of materials from truck to

truck, according to construction officials.

The construction company encountered a two-day weather delay associated with cold weather which impacts the concrete.

Company officials opted to wait until conditions were optimal to ensure the best possible product.

When the parking garage is complete, it will have over 300,000 square feet of concrete.

That amount is enough to construct a two-lane road seven miles long. It is scheduled for completion in summer 2012.

The medical construction projects on Lackland Air Force Base are part of the San Antonio Military Health System's objective to improve its military health care facilities and provide better access to care and treatment for its beneficiaries and their family members.

## 401 from P1

float all over the pool."

Soldiers completed two more events during the day: the "travel stroke" without rucksack, which focuses on keeping the M-16 muzzle out of the water to maintain combat efficiency, and the five-minute buoyancy test without the rucksack as a floatation device.

"Obviously, the goal is to increase confidence,"

said Torres after training was complete. "We have to raise the water skill level of all Soldiers in the company and teach the tools that will be useful if we are confronted with having to maintain Army operations in a wet environment."

The 401st MI Company plans to continue water survival training, eventually moving to the intermediate (class II) and advanced (class III) courses of instruction.

## WOUNDED WARRIORS, FAMILIES WELCOME NEW WFSC PLAYGROUND



**Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson**

(From left) Barbara Gentry, USAA senior vice president for community affairs; Judith Markelz, Warrior and Family Support Center program director; Owen Reel, son of Capt. Bradley Reel, Brooke Army Medical Center; and Mike Matthews, deputy director, Army Service Activity, Fort Sam Houston, cut the ribbon Dec. 12 on the new playground at the WFSC. Employees at USAA donated more than \$200,000 to Returning Heroes Home, Inc., who used the funds to build the new playground at the WFSC.

## SERGEANTS MAJOR ASSOCIATION BRINGS GIFTS TO VETERANS HOME



**Photo by Sgt. Maj. Tony Williams**

(From left) Sergeants Major Tony Pena and David Cruz, along with Mable Williams, unload presents for the residents of the Frank M. Tejada Texas State Veterans Home in Floresville Dec. 17. They were among a group of nine people from Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston's Sgt. Maj. of the Army L. Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association chapter that donated gifts as part of the home's Snowflake Project.



## BLOOD from P1

safe and adequate supply of blood and blood products,” Ambrose said. “We must adapt to the changing mission at San Antonio Military Medical Center, so blood is readily available in the blood bank for the adult, pediatric or neonatal patients.”

Ambrose said the new program is similar to those found in the civilian sector, but since San Antonio Military Medical Center’s deliveries will be military dependents, the program matches permanent party donors who have O-positive or O-negative blood to newborns needing blood.

“Most of the donors are already in our database and have tested negative for the cytomegalovirus – which is the major hurdle for finding blood for ba-



Photo by Mark Salcedo

Staff Sgt. Stacy Peiffley, medical laboratory non-commissioned officer assigned to the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center, puts a blood pressure cuff on Angie Hudson, an employee in the San Antonio Military Medical Center’s new labor and delivery ward.

bies,” Ambrose said.

The cytomegalovirus, or CMV, infection is typically unnoticed in healthy people, but can be life-threatening for

the new born infants.

Because only about 40 percent of the local military population is CMV-negative, the donor center is seeking

more permanent party and family members to become Little Warrior donors.

“Our trainees are not tested for the CMV virus, so we can’t rely on them in an emergency situation,” Ambrose said.

“Some of our newborns will require blood and blood products. When they do, the blood they receive must be O-positive or O-negative, less than five days old and CMV-negative, said Lt. Col. Barbara Bachman, chief of blood services at SAMMC.

“If a baby has to undergo extra corporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) as a treatment, it is critical that donors are immediately available,” Bachman said. “This provides the blood bank with a steady sup-

ply of fresh blood products during the course of treatment, which can typically last up to seven to 10 days.”

ECMO is a life-saving procedure allowing the infant to rest while natural healing of the heart and lungs takes place. It is used for newborns and children suffering respiratory and/or cardiac failure as a result of birth defects, trauma or severe infections.

Program donors must be either O-positive or O-negative, pass the same medical screening requirements for donating whole blood and be willing to be called during emergency situations. Because the CMV test is included as part of the donor center’s viral marker testing package, donors do not need to know their CMV

status.

Walk-in donors are welcome at the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center between 8:00 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday. The center is located at B1240 Harney Road, behind Budge Dental Clinic on Fort Sam Houston.

For more information, call 295-4655 or 4989. To find an upcoming blood drive and schedule an appointment, visit <https://www.militarydonor.com/index.cfm>.

To find out more about the Armed Services Blood Program or to schedule an appointment, click on <http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil>. To interact with the staff and get the latest news, “friend” the center at [www.facebook.com/militaryblood](http://www.facebook.com/militaryblood).

# U.S. Army All-American Bowl showcases the best of high school football talent

By Steve Elliott  
JBSA-FSH News Leader

Are you ready for some more football??

The best high school football players in the nation once again gather at the Alamodome at 100 Montana Street in downtown San Antonio to battle it out during the U.S. Army All-American Bowl, scheduled for noon Jan. 7.

The 12th edition of the bowl features the nation's most elite football players and marching band musicians, and has honored more than a thousand Army Strong Soldier-heroes since its inception.

The game, which is televised live on NBC affiliate News 4 WOAI, features the nation's top 90 high school football players.

The game has been a stepping stone for college and NFL stars such as Adrian Peterson, Mark Sanchez, Ndamukong Suh, Tim Tebow, Andrew Luck and Marcus Lattimore.

In its history, the bowl has produced almost one thousand NCAA athlete alumni, with more than 180 alumni currently play in the NFL.

Two local stars are on the West roster: defensive lineman Javonte Magee from Sam Houston High School and punter Ethan Perry of Smithson Valley High School in Spring Branch.



This year's game has 15 Texas players on the West roster, down from 19 Texas players and a bowl-record six area players in last year's game. California leads in players with 16.

If you haven't gotten your tickets yet, there are a limited number of free ticket vouchers for the upper decks of the Alamodome at the MWR Ticket Office in Building 1395 on Chaffee Road. The office is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and can be reached at 226-1663.

Last year's edition of the contest drew a crowd of nearly 38,000, the largest in its history. As well as becoming an iconic high school all-star event, it's also must-see TV for college recruiters and football media writers from across the nation.

While most of the athletes have already made their college choices, one of the most interesting features of the game is the stream of on-the-spot college declarations made by players who still had not quite made up their mind.

And while the action on the field is nonstop and hard-hitting, you and the kids might want to get there early to check out the latest in gee-whiz high-tech Army goodies at the Army Strong Zone, located near Sunset Station.

The Army Strong Zone is a 129,000-square-foot interactive display area featuring some of the Army's elite technology and assets.

Army Soldiers are also on-site to provide Americans with a glimpse into Army life and the many options and opportunities available.

Army technology on display will include robotics, culinary arts, vehicle and aviation technologies, engineering and educational displays.

The Army Strong Zone is open 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Jan. 6; 9 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 5 p.m. Jan. 7 and is free and open to the public.

There are also other events open to the public.

On Jan. 6, the U.S. Army National Combine takes place from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Alamodome. Five hundred of the nation's top high school football underclassmen will again gather for the free event.

Held annually in association with the U.S. Army All-American Bowl, the combine is the first opportunity for the nation's top underclassmen to demonstrate their physical talent for top scouting organizations. Tests include 40-yard dash, bench press, vertical jump, broad jump, three-cone drill, 20-yard shuttle and 60-yard shuttle.

For those wanting a lower-level seat on the Alamodome's plaza, mezzanine and club levels, ticket prices range from \$18.52 and \$32.93, while upper level seats (rows 1-28) cost \$18.52.

For more information about the game, visit <http://www.usarmyal-americanbowl.com>.

# Two local football stars on All-American Bowl roster

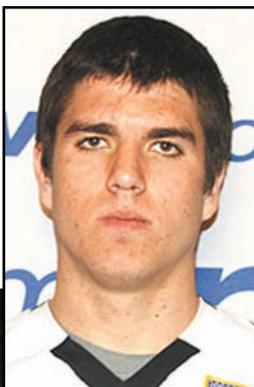
By Steve Elliott  
JBSA-FSH News Leader

Sam Houston High School is starting to get used to seeing the selection committee from the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.

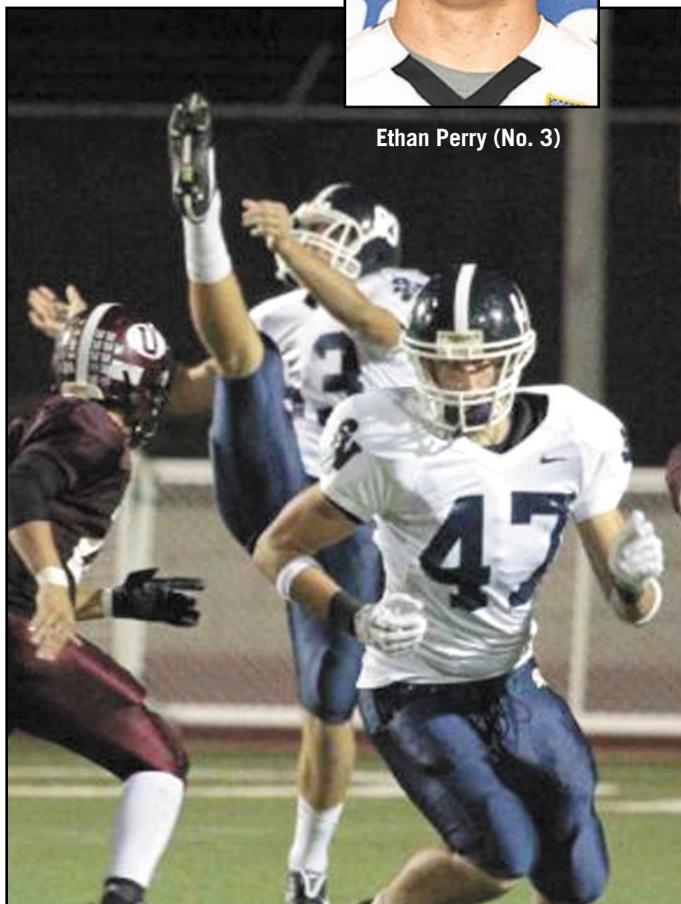
For an unprecedented second year in a row, the selection tour made a stop at the San Antonio Independent School District location on E. Houston Street Nov. 16 to honor one of the nation's finest high school football players as a U.S. Army All-American.

Senior defensive lineman Javonte Magee of the Hurricanes is described as a tough run defender who uses his good size to move blockers and to be tough at the point of attack.

"He shows good leverage with his pads and moves well," said Jason Howell of Rivals.com, a sports recruiting media coverage group. "He also knows how to use his hands and strength to



Ethan Perry (No. 3)



Photos courtesy of Rivals.com

keep blockers at bay and to bull rush the line. His tackling is solid and he shows the potential to become a tough defensive lineman at the collegiate level."

"Magee is a huge defensive end at 6 foot 6 and 265 pounds, but he is still able to get off the line quickly," added Brian Perroni, Rivals.com Southwest Recruiting Analyst. "Though a true strong side defensive end, he is still a force to be reckoned with as a pass rusher. He is a tough matchup for most offensive linemen."

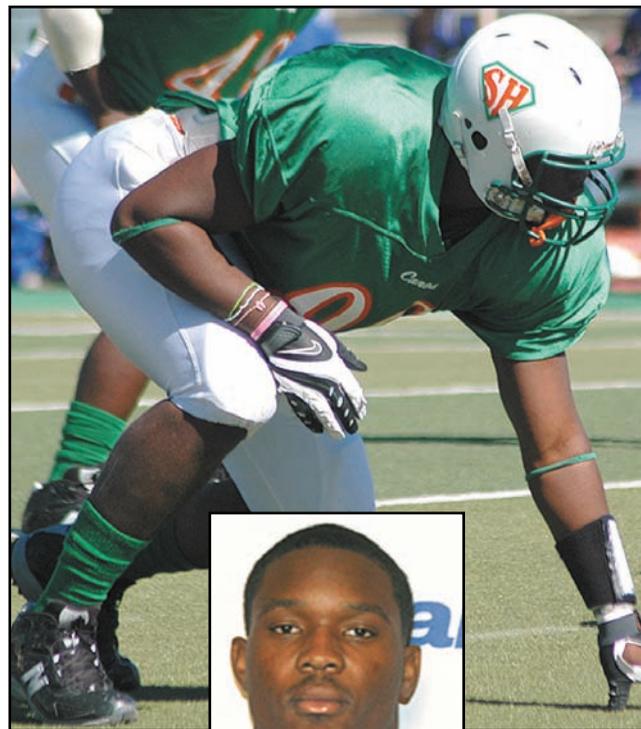
Sports publishing company Scout.com has Magee rated as the No. 2 defensive end in the state of Texas and the No. 84 player overall nationally; a four-star prospect.

Magee is a two-time All-Area selection and the ninth-ranked defensive end in the nation according to Rivals.com. Magee said he expects to make his college commitment in soon. Baylor, recent winners of the Valero Alamo Bowl, is his leading candidate, along with Texas A&M and Missouri.

Sam Houston head coach Gary Green has seen Magee grow and progress on the field and believes there is no doubt Magee is very rare talent.

"I've had a lot of experience. I played major college football and made All-American there and played in the National Football League. And for a long time a lot of people thought I was one of the best, if not the best, cornerback in football," Green said.

"I know football and I know talent and I've seen a lot of guys play. I think Javonte is going to blow it up not just on Saturdays but



Javonte Magee

on Sundays as well," the coach said in a recent Longhorns Digest article. "I can't imagine anyone being better. I'm sure there are a lot of guys as good, but at his position he's one of the best I've ever seen."

"Barring major injuries, with his attitude, his work ethic and his tremendous natural ability, I think in five or so years, he'll be off in the National Football League," Green said. "I would even venture to bet that he'll be one of the ones featured (in the Green Room) on ESPN on Draft Day. He could be a very high draft pick."

"Javonte's a step above just about anyone I've seen," Green said. "He's so explosive. And this is something he's just starting to figure out. He's trying things and coming back, saying 'I had no idea I could do that.' The sky is really the limit. He's a humble kid, and I don't think he ever stops and looks at himself as being good. He's too busy getting better."

Meanwhile, up in Spring Branch, punter and multi-positional player Ethan Perry also got the good news that he was selected for the West roster of the U.S. All-American Bowl.

A 6 foot 5 senior weighing in at 220 pounds, Perry was an all-state punter as a junior, averaging 43 yards per attempt. Described by the bowl selection committee as a natural fit as a punter with his long frame and big leg, his punts show good hang time and he is able to accurately aim the ball with his ability to kick spirals.

"Perry is able to get very good hang time on his ball that has his net average very close to his punting average," Perroni said. "He also starred as a tight end for his school team."

Perry also lined up at fullback, halfback, tight end and wide receiver when the Smithson Valley Rangers were on offense this season, spending an average of 60 plays per game on the field for the Rangers' football team this season.

He averaged only two punts per game during Smithson Valley's bi-district championship season that fell short in the area round against four-time defending Class 4A state champion Lake Travis.

"It's a great honor," said Perry, who averaged 43.8 yards per punt this season and will head to Texas Christian University next fall to continue his athletic and academic careers. "I put so much time and effort into football and to be able to end my career and represent Smithson Valley in the Army All-American Bowl is really mind boggling."

"You start talking about the top 90 high school players in the country, and then you narrow it down to two punters, that's pretty special," said Smithson Valley head coach Larry Hill.

"Ethan deserves this not only for what he's done on the field but the way he's carried himself off the field," Hill added. "I have no doubt he'll excel at TCU and after that will continue to be an excellent young man in whatever he decides to do in the future."

# USAMITC employee participates in Army Civilian Intern Program

By Kenneth Blair Hogue  
USAMITC Public Affairs

A U.S. Army Medical Information Technology Center employee has a lot to be thankful for in his professional career.

USAMITC Information Technology Policy and Plans Specialist Neftali "Nef" Ruiz is the command's only participant in the Department of the Army Internship Program.

The intern program is for full-time, entry level permanent civilian positions with the Department of the Army.

The term "intern" refers to an Army management training program where entry grade levels GS-5 and GS-7 are hired, trained and developed to later assume mid-level management positions GS-9 or GS-11.

The Army internship is two years and consists of on-the-job training, combined with formal classroom training.

Ruiz stumbled upon this opportunity quite by accident.

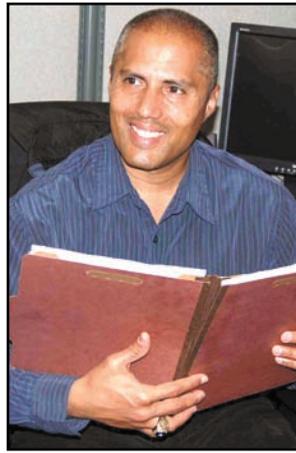
"I applied for more than 50 job openings on USAJOBS.gov that were information technology positions," he said.

"One day, I unexpectedly received a tentative offer for this intern position from an email. There was no interview or anything," he said.

"I'd applied for this so long before that I didn't remember what this job offer was for."

After serving 21 years and retiring from the Air Force, Ruiz worked for the State of Texas Health and Human Services for a year.

He then worked in a



**Photo by Kenneth Blair Hogue**  
Neftali Ruiz from USAMITC's Sustainment Division is the command's only participant in the Department of the Army Internship Program.

term position at Lackland Air Force Base for six months when this intern position opened up at Fort Sam Houston.

Ruiz has been in the intern program at

USAMITC for nearly a year.

Ruiz received a lot of support when this opportunity presented itself.

"My boss at Lackland didn't want to let me go, but she encouraged me since the intern program is good for promotions and career enhancement," he said.

Ruiz had the opportunity to rotate to different areas of the command, thereby deciding where he might want to work later. He works currently in USAMITC's Sustainment Division in the Operations Support Branch for Tony Colby, the OSB chief. "Mr. Colby has been terrific," he said.

Ruiz has worked at three other sections within the Sustainment Division, and he gets to pick where he wants to go within the command

when the program ends.

"You have to be very flexible; moving to different areas of the command and working with different leadership styles," he said. "That's where your own leadership style comes into play because you have to be very flexible and patient dealing with diversity."

Ruiz said that his training while in the internship program had been, and is, extremely challenging.

"There's training that's unique and specific to this program that's required on top of the command training requirements for USAMITC," he said.

Ruiz also had his personal educational goals he was striving to accomplish simultaneously.

"For the last 11 months that I've been

involved in this program, I not only had training from both USAMITC and the intern program, but I was also working on my bachelor's degree to get it out of the way."

Ruiz had some advice for anyone program.

"Be proactive and take the lead in learning about the program. You have to take the initiative in doing the leg work to get into the program and accomplish this for yourself," he said.

Ruiz said he's enjoyed the time he's spent at the command and owes a special debt of gratitude to the people of USAMITC.

"I also want to thank the leadership and my co-workers for allowing me to be part of this great and outstanding organization," he concluded.



Photo by Robert Hoffmann

Cole High School students and parents erect a roof truss during their participation for Habitat for Humanity Dec. 9.

## Cole NHS builds for the needy

The National Honor Society at Robert G. Cole High School took 32 volunteers, students and parents to Habitat for Humanity at Cole-

man Ridge for a day of service Dec. 9.

This was the fifth year Cole's NHS has worked on a house in the San Antonio area.

This year, they worked on two houses putting up roof trusses, painting, fixing framing errors, and installing insulation panels.



## Announcements

### Retired cats need homes

The Animal Health Branch of the Department of Veterinary Science has five cats for adoption. They have been part of the Animal Care Specialist training program and are being retired. There are four male cats and one female ranging in age from 2 to 8 years and they are in good health. There is no adop-

tion fee, but the department does require that the individual complete an adoption form. Call 221-5435.

### Looking For Golfers

Join the Fort Sam Houston Dawg Fight golf group. The group plays on weekends and holidays, at top local area resorts and private courses. Visit <http://www.dawgfight.com>.

### Basic Skills Education Program

The Fort Sam Houston Education Center Basic Skills Education Program is designed to teach and refresh basic college preparatory skills to service members with a

GT score less than 110. Classes are Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for a period of 14 working days. Service members will receive instruction in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and math skills. Call 221-1738 to enroll.

### Stilwell House

The Fort Sam Houston Stilwell House, a historic landmark since 1888, is open for tours, receptions and parties. The Stilwell House is managed by the Society for the Preservation of Historic Fort Sam House, Inc. a 501(C)(3) Corporation not affiliated with the Depart-

ment of Defense. Call 224-4030 or 655-0577.

### Cloverleaf Communicators Club

The Cloverleaf Communicators Club is open to military, family members and civilians who are interested in developing or enhancing their leadership and communications skills. Meetings are held the first and third Thursday of every month 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. at San Antonio Credit Union, Stanley Road, in the conference room. Call 916-3406 or 221-8785 or visit <http://powertalkinternational.com/>.

### Toastmasters Club

The club meets the second and fourth Wednesday of every month noon-1 p.m. in the Joint Program Management Office conference room 1A, Building 4196. Call 663-4814 or 850-420-1610 or visit <http://www.futurespeakers.freetoast-host.org>.

### SMA Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association

The SMA Leon L. Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association meets the third Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Longhorn Café, 1003 Rittiman Rd. All active duty, Reserve, National Guard and retired

sergeants major are invited and encouraged to attend. Call 221-0584 or 889-8212.

### Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

The SMA Leon L. Van Autreve Chapter of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club meets the third Thursday of each month at noon in the Men's Card Room at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club. All Sergeant Audie Murphy or Sergeant Morales members are invited and encouraged to attend. Call 808-1732 or 221-0144.

See **COMMUNITY, P15**

## Force Support Squadron

### Family & MWR

## Announcements

### Bowl to Win

Through Jan. 31 at the Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center. Three winners will be randomly selected weekly to win custom bowling balls and bags. Bowling results must be submitted at <http://www.usafbowling.com>.

### All You Can Cut Firewood

Bring your chainsaw and cut all the oak firewood you can fit into a small truck for \$5 or a large truck for \$10 at Camp Bullis Outdoor Recreation Area. Call 295-7529 or 295-7577 for information.

### Hunting on Camp Bullis

Rifle hunting, Saturdays and Sundays, 5:30 a.m. to late evening. Bow hunting for deer, hogs and turkeys Mondays and Thursdays, 5:30-10 a.m. and Friday through Sunday, 5:30 a.m. until late evening. Call

295-7529 or 295-7577.

### Better Opportunities for Single Servicemembers

BOSS meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at the BOSS Zone in the Benner Barracks. Call 221-4242.

### Sports Scores

For Fort Sam Houston and 32nd Medical Brigade intramural sports results, visit <http://bit.ly/MWRsports>.

## Calendar of Events

### Mandatory Initial First Termer Financial Readiness

Jan. 5, 10 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-1612.

### Scream Free Parenting

Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-0349.

### Man of the House

Jan. 6, noon-1 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-0349.

### Virtual Family Readiness

Jan. 6, 9-11 a.m., Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-1829 or 221-0946.

### Savings and Investing

Jan. 9, 2-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-2380.

### Children in the Middle

Jan. 9, 23, 30 and Feb. 6, 10 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-0349.

### Infant Massage

Jan. 9, 19, 23 and 30, 10-11:30 a.m., Dodd Field Chapel, call 221-0349.

### Microsoft Word Level 1

Jan. 10, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

### Credit Management

Jan. 10, 2-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-2380.

### HUGS playgroup

Tuesdays, 9-11 a.m., Middle School Teen Center Building 2515, call 221-0349 or 221-2418.

### Baby Talk

Tuesdays, 1-2:30 p.m., Dodd Field Chapel Building 1721, call 221-0349 or 221-0655.

### Girl Talk

Jan. 10, 4-4:30 p.m., School Age Services, call 221-0349.

### Teen Talk

Jan. 10, 4:30-5 p.m., Child and Youth Services Building 2797, call 221-0349.

### Building Effective Anger Management Skills

Tuesday and Thursday through Jan. 26, 5:30-7 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-0349.

### Pre-Deployment Planning

Jan. 10, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-1829 or 221-0946.

### Microsoft Word Level 2

Jan. 11, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

### Bringing Baby Home

Jan. 11 and 25, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Red Cross Building 2650, call 221-0349.

### Talk is Cheap

Jan. 11 and 18, 10-11:30 a.m., Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-0349.

### Mandatory Initial First Termer Financial Readiness

Jan. 11, noon-2 p.m. at the Education Center Building 2248, call 221-1612.

### Couponing

Jan. 11, 2 to 4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-2380.

### 5 Love Languages of Teens

Jan. 11, 18, 25 and Feb. 8, 6:30-8 p.m., Dodd Field Chapel Building 1721, call 221-0349.

### Microsoft Excel Level 2

Jan. 12, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

### Safety Seat Clinic

Jan. 19, 1 to 3 p.m., Auto Craft Shop Building 2410, call 221-0349, 221-0326 or 221-0221.

**COMMUNITY from P14**

**Lost Property**

If you have lost any property on Fort Sam Houston, call 221-2340. To claim items, you must have a form of photo identification and be able to identify the property.

**Calendar of Events**

**AUSA Luncheon Features Army Chief of Staff as Speaker**

The Alamo Chapter of the Association of the United States Army will hold a luncheon Jan. 6 at 11:30 a.m. at the Sam Houston Club. The guest speaker is Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno. Visit <http://www.alamochapterausa.org> for information.

**Trinity University Walk**

The Randolph Roadrunners volksmarch club will host two 5k and two 10k walks Jan. 7 starting at the Bell Athletic Center at Trinity

University, One Trinity Place. Walks start between 8 a.m.-noon, finish by 3 p.m. Call 723-7711 or visit <http://randolphroadrunners.info/>.

**San Marcos Spring Lake Preserve Walk**

The San Marcos River Walkers volksmarch club will host a 5k and 10k walk Jan. 14 starting at the Texas Rivers Center, 951 Aquarena Springs Dr., San Marcos. Walks start between 8 a.m.-noon, finish by 3 p.m. Call 512-396-4463.

**Martin Luther King Jr. March**

The march will begin at 10 a.m. Jan. 16 from the March Luther King Jr. Academy traveling up Martin Luther King Drive to Pittman Sullivan Park. Visit <http://www.visitsanantonio.com> for more information on MLK events scheduled throughout San Antonio.

**CSRS Retirement Planning Seminar**

		Jan 5	Jan 6	Jan 7	Jan 8	Jan 9	Jan 10
San Antonio Texas		68° Partly Cloudy	72° Partly Cloudy	68° Partly Cloudy	64° Partly Cloudy	60° Few Showers	61° Few Showers
		38° Snow Shower	33° Snow Shower/Wind	36° Mostly Sunny	38° Sunny	41° Sunny	43° Sunny
Kabul Afghanistan							

(Source: The Weather Channel at [www.weather.com](http://www.weather.com))

The Alamo Federal Executive Board will host a Civil Service Retirement System planning seminar is 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Jan. 18 at the Schertz Community Center, 1400 Schertz Parkway, Building 5. Cost is \$10 per person. Call 565-1860 or email [afpc.afeb.workflow@us.af.mil](mailto:afpc.afeb.workflow@us.af.mil).

**FERS Retirement Planning Seminar**

The Alamo Federal Executive Board will host a Federal Employees Retirement System planning semi-

nar is 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Jan. 19 at the Schertz Community Center, 1400 Schertz Parkway, Building 5. Cost is \$10 per person. Call 565-1860 or email [afpc.afeb.workflow@us.af.mil](mailto:afpc.afeb.workflow@us.af.mil).

**Warrant Officer Association Meeting**

The Lone Star Silver Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association will meet at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 23 at Chacho's & Chulucci's, 8614 Perrin Beitel Rd. Call 221-7327 or 666-9818.



**For sale:** Walt Disney World 4-day park hopper pass, expires April 2012, \$125. Call 393-8295.  
**For Sale:** Black 2008 Harley Davidson FXSTB Night Train motorcycle, \$13,000 obo. Call 392-3262.  
**Fort Sale:** Twin bed with mattress, excellent condition, \$200; also selling other household goods. Call

646-9680 for details.  
**For Sale:** Classic 1989 Honda Civic Hatchback DX, automatic, A/C, CD player, AM/FM radio, excellent mechanical condition, maintenance records available, runs great, bank assessment value, \$4,399; REM Martinique bed, dual adjustment with massage, \$6,800 retail value, \$3,799; Stuyvesant upright piano, \$299. Call 659-6741.  
**For Sale:** Metal Christmas tree stands, \$8; lady's fur jacket, \$42; new Oakley sun glasses with hard case, \$65; woman's three-quarter length fur coat, \$675; computer desk, 41 inches long, 16 inches wide, 28 inches high, \$17. Call 313-0061.

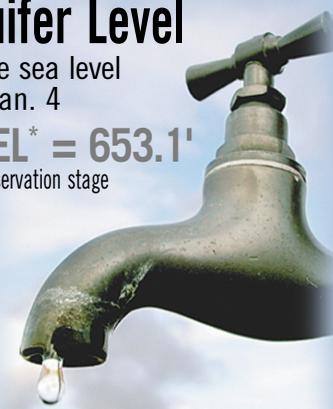
**Edwards Aquifer Level**

in feet above sea level as of Jan. 4

**CURRENT LEVEL\* = 653.1'**

\*determines JBSA water conservation stage

- Normal - above 660'**
- Stage I - 660'**
- Stage II - 650'**
- Stage III - 642'**
- Stage IV - 640.5'**
- Stage V - 637'**



Joint Base San Antonio water restrictions have been returned to Stage II. As of Oct. 17, the Bexar County index well J-17 was at 651.7 feet. The JBSA Drought Management Plan calls for levels to revert to next higher level after 30 days of being above trigger. The J-17 has stayed above 642.0 feet since Sept. 16.