



Briefs . . .

Dr. King commemorations

Fort Sam Houston

The Fort Sam Houston Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. birthday commemoration will be today from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center on Stanley Road. The guest speaker will be Dr. Carey H. Latimore, professor of African American studies at Trinity University. For more information, call Master Sgt. Michael Boehringer at 221-9276.

Brooke Army Medical Center

Brooke Army Medical Center will celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a ceremony today from 1 to 2 p.m. at the BAMC medical mall. The guest speaker will be Dr. Granville Coggs, a renowned doctor, musician and a 2001 inductee into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame. BAMC will also feature "The Life of Martin Luther King Jr." from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the medical mall.

Tax center opens Wednesday

The Tax Assistance Center will celebrate its grand opening Wednesday at 11 a.m. at the 1st Legal Support Organization, Building 133A, 2420 Liscum Road, just behind the Garrison Staff Judge Advocate Office. The hours will be Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call 295-1040 or 295-0061 or visit <http://www.samhouston.army.mil/tax/index.html>.

AECP commissioning ceremony

The Army Medical Department Enlisted Commissioning Program will commission new second lieutenants into the U.S. Army Friday at 9 a.m. at Blesse Auditorium. For more information, call Capt. Carolyn Carden, commander, AMEDD student detachment, at 221-3141.

Walters Street gate update

Phase one of the Walters Street Access Control Point upgrade project will continue through Feb. 3. The exit lane will remain open; however, the two inbound lanes will be closed for about 30 days. All traffic, with or without a decal, must enter through the two inbound visitor's entrance lanes. Upon entry, drivers must turn right on Parker Street or go straight on 7th Street in front of the clothing sales facility; 7th Street will be one way north to Wilson Street. To avoid delays, motorists who use the Walters Street entrance are encouraged to use an alternate ACP.

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Showdown at Alamodome

East defeats West in Army All-American Bowl

By Rich Lamance
Army and Air Force Hometown News Service

America's top high school athletes shared center stage with America's top Soldiers during the 2006 U.S. Army All-American Bowl high school all-star football game Saturday in the Alamodome.

East vs. West players battled in front of a nationally televised audience and in front of 31,565 fans, the largest in the Army's six-year history of hosting the event. The East won the contest 27-16.

During pre-game activities, 78 Soldiers, who were awarded either the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Bronze Star or the Purple Heart, were announced to the audience along with the nation's top 78 high school players.

Soldiers attending medical advanced individual training at Fort Sam Houston marched onto the field to recite the Soldier's Creed, along with the U.S. Army Field Band, who provided a musical salute.

A group of 100 San Antonio delayed entry program recruits were given the oath of enlistment by Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard A. Cody during a pre-game ceremony.

Two ROTC graduates were also commissioned by Gen. William Wallace, the commanding general of the Training and Doctrine Command. Second Lt. Chris Adams graduated with a master's degree from the University of Texas at San Antonio and 2nd Lt. Shannon Christian was commissioned after receiving a bachelor's degree from the same school.

See SHOWDOWN on Pages 16 and 17



Photo by Daren Reehl

Soldiers from Fort Sam Houston show their support during the U.S. Army All-American Bowl high school all-star football game in the Alamodome Saturday. The Army-sponsored event is in its sixth year and had a record-setting crowd of 31,565.

Leaders thank 'real heroes' for their role in OIF

By Elaine Wilson
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

Although in town for the U.S. Army All-American Bowl, the commanding general of the 90th Regional Readiness Command left the football game at halftime to personally thank the "real heroes" — the Soldiers of the 340th Quartermaster Company (Field Service).

"We all appreciate these exceptional high school athletes, but what they do doesn't compare to what you did for 12 months in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom," said Maj. Gen. James R. Sholar at the company's Welcome Home Awards ceremony Saturday at the Roadrunner Community Center.

The ceremony marked the end of the reservists' activation and provided a venue for leaders to personally thank them for their service and present them with medals.

The reservists, cross-leveled from units throughout the United States, arrived home in October after a harrowing year in Iraq.

While in Iraq, the company's 127 Soldiers were scattered at forward operating bases throughout Iraq where they served as convoy escorts; shower, laundry and clothing renovation specialists; and as oversight at third country national yards where foreign supply truck drivers waited for supplies to offload.

However varied, each mission presented its share of danger, said Command Sgt. Maj. David Stading, 90th Regional Readiness Group command sergeant major.

"It was dirty, it was hot and it was dangerous," he said. "But, you stepped up to the challenge."

Capt. Mark Braswell, company commander, and his Soldiers

garnered numerous medals for their yearlong support of OIF. Along with the campaign, service, achievement and commendation medals presented at the ceremony, a few Soldiers stood out.

Spc. Frank Vargas earned a Bronze Star for his work in communications. His skills and bravery were put to the test as he served as master communication technician and designated lead vehicle commander on combat logistics patrols. He was attacked twice during patrols, once by a vehicle borne improvised explosive device.

"We were lucky; there weren't any casualties," he said. "I had to keep calm and communicate with the FOB to get help."

Spc. Samuel Rocha, a gunner and combat lifesaver in Iraq, received the Army Commendation medal with a Valor "V" device for his quick thinking and selfless actions while on convoy duty.

"A Marine convoy hit some double-stacked anti-tank mines and four Marines were wounded, one fatally," Rocha said. "I was on a convoy heading their way and they asked us for help. I was the closest combat lifesaver."

Rocha and a fellow Soldier ran 200 meters down the road to reach the convoy.

"We immediately started rendering aid, IVs and bandages," he said. "We stayed with them until they were (medically evacuated), then cleaned up the site while Marines looked for the attackers."

Rocha later found out the road he ran down to administer aid was peppered with four landmines embedded in potholes.

"We didn't know that till later, but I would do the same either way," he said.

See REAL HEROES on Page 4

Commander stresses safety over long weekend

By Maj. Gen. George W. Weightman
Fort Sam Houston and AMEDDC&S commander

Throughout his lifetime, Dr. King sought to forge the common ground on which people from all walks of life could join together to address important community issues. Working alongside individuals of all ages, races and backgrounds, Dr. King encouraged Americans to come together to strengthen communities, alleviate poverty and acknowledge dignity and respect for all human beings. Service, he realized, was the great equalizer.

On Jan. 16, as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday, Americans across the country will celebrate by honoring the life

and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Let us celebrate with "SAFETY" as the watchword. Unfortunately, our Army continues to lose Soldiers to accidents at an unacceptable rate of nearly one per day. Even more disturbing is the fact that 71 percent of accidental deaths this fiscal year have occurred behind the wheel in privately owned vehicles or tactical vehicles. Leader emphasis on POV safety must be unrelenting. Negative behavior such as traffic offenses, alcohol abuse, misconduct and poor performance often are indicators of potential POV accident victims. Identify "at risk" Soldiers and employees, counsel them and take proactive measures to modify their risky behavior.

Set high standards and remain uncompromising on the enforcement and use of seatbelts and motorcycle safety equipment. Educate your Soldiers and employees on the risks of speed, fatigue and use of alcohol. Conduct mandatory POV inspections.

Leaders must also emphasize sexual risks, prevention and response in their safety briefings; guidance is available at www.sexualassault.army.mil. Army policy promotes sensitive care for victims of sexual assault and accountability for those who commit these crimes.

I wish you all a safe holiday weekend and hope you will take advantage of this time to honor Dr. King's legacy of tolerance, peace and equality.



Maj. Gen. George W. Weightman
Fort Sam Houston and AMEDDC&S commander

Emergency numbers

Dial 911 when calling from a Fort Sam Houston or Camp Bullis telephone number prefix.

Dial 554-4713 when calling from a cell phone or from anywhere on Fort Sam Houston other than the post telephone number prefixes.

On Camp Bullis, dial 295-7517 from a cell phone or

non-Camp Bullis prefix.

The fire prevention office has phone stickers for these numbers. Stop by Building 4196, Room A37 or call 221-5452.

Fort Sam Houston News Leader

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Electricians shed light on post

Story and photo by Elaine Wilson
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

When a light goes out at Fort Sam Houston, most people simply change out the 60-watt bulb or toss one lamp in place of another.

However, a seemingly simple bulb change can become a bit more complicated when dealing with a 1,500-watt bulb situated 50 feet off the ground. Throw about 3,500 more lights into the mix and people can get an idea of the challenges facing a handful of post electricians on a daily basis.

These electricians, from the Directorate of Public Works, maintain the street lights that illuminate post housing areas, sports fields, barracks, hospital, guest houses, office buildings and parking lots.

They are responsible for more than half of the street lights on post, with the other 1,500 lights belonging to City Public Service, a distinction that can be confusing to some.

"When a street light goes down and we get a call, we usually have to visit the site to determine whether it's one of ours or a CPS light," said John Brenneman, chief, engineering and maintenance operations division. "Although, if it's in a parking lot, sports field, or wired to a building, then it's definitely ours."

If the light has an historic appearance, then it also belongs to the post. Most CPS

lights are ones attached to power lines, Brenneman said.

As for maintenance of CPS lights, "CPS periodically visits post to do a check of their street lights," said Eddie Rodrigues, utilities systems mechanic supervisor. "But, if you notice a light is out for an extended period of time, then people can give us a call and we'll report it to CPS."

Brenneman said the directorate relies on calls from the community.

"People who are sitting in their office can tell right away if a light in their office goes out," said Brenneman. "But, unless we are out driving around post every night, we won't know a light is out until someone reports it."

Once a call is received, the electricians are dispatched to the site to assess the problem, which, depending on the severity, can take anywhere from 45 minutes to half a day, according to electrician Sergio Zertuche.

But, with so many lights to repair, "as soon as we fix one batch, another goes down," Zertuche said. "With so many lights, the ones we fixed first will start going out as we fix the last on the list."

Despite the challenges, Brenneman said they are making progress, with most post lights working. The Department of Emergency Services also lends a hand with sweeps of areas to look for unlit street lights.



Contractor Eddie Maldonado repairs a street light at the softball field near the Hacienda Recreation Center. Maldonado is one of a handful of electricians qualified to maintain the 3,500 post street lights.

However, "we can't be everywhere at once, so we hope people will call in," Brenneman said. "The key is for people to call with specifics about the location of the street light to help narrow our search."

The hard work pays off each day as the post community is ensured a safer environment, said Rodrigues.

"We know people are running in the

early morning and at night and try to ensure popular running areas always stay lit," Rodrigues said. "We also keep an eye on the lights by the guest house near Brooke Army Medical Center. If we know of an area with a special need, we try to give that area a little more attention."

To report an unlit street light, whether it belongs to the post or CPS, call 221-3144.

Briefs cont. . . .

Mandatory SAEDA, OPSEC training

Department of Defense personnel, including contract employees, are required to attend subversion and espionage directed against the U.S. Army and Operations Security training on an annual basis. People who did not attend the training in fiscal 2005 must attend prior to Sept. 30. The next training for U.S. Army Garrison personnel will be Wednesday from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in Blesse Auditorium. People should arrive early to sign in and report training to their training coordinator. For more information, call 221-1906, 221-1859, 221-9500 or 221-9611.

Accident Avoidance training

Accident Avoidance training class will be Jan. 19 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Building 902. All military personnel under age 26 are required to take a minimum of four hours of classroom instruction in traffic safety. Commanders and supervisors are encouraged to send personnel who have been convicted of a serious moving traffic violation or were at fault in a traffic accident. The course is also open to civilian personnel. To sign up, call Mitch Geary at 221-3824.

Public hearing

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District invites parents and community members to a public hearing Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in the Professional Development Center, 1902 Winans Road, Building 1908, for the purpose of discussing the 2006-2007 school year calendar. FSHISD is considering requesting a waiver from the Texas Education Agency to begin school Aug. 14, 2006, in lieu of Aug. 21, as required by TEC §25.0811.

BAMC driveway closure

The Brooke Army Medical Center Main Bed tower entrance driveway is closed for construction through Jan. 20. The Main Bed tower entrance doors and walkway are still available for use.

Civilian pay raise takes effect

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The upcoming pay period for Defense Department civilian General Schedule employees will reflect a 2.1 percent across-the-board pay raise, plus a range of locality pays that bring the overall pay hikes between 2.83 and 5.62 percent, an Office of Personnel Management spokesman said.

The 2006 federal pay raise goes into effect with the first full pay period of the year, which for most DoD employees began Sunday, Mike Orenstein said.

Pay charts on the OPM Web site show new annual and hourly rates for GS workers, DoD's white-collar work force, and special geographically unique charts cover increases in 31 designated locality pay areas. Wage-grade or blue-collar workers, who make up a small percentage of the DoD work force, will receive comparable increases for their areas, Orenstein said.

GS workers not in a designated locality pay area, such as San Antonio, come under the "rest of the United States" designation on the charts and will receive a 2.83 percent pay increase, Orenstein said.

The exception are GS workers in Alaska, Hawaii and U.S.

territories, who receive a nonforeign cost of living allowance that was first introduced in the mid-1940s to attract workers, he said.

Among GS workers in designated locality pay areas within the continental United States, those in the Raleigh-Durham-Cary, N.C., region are this year's biggest winners, receiving a 5.6 percent increase, Orenstein said.

This is the first time this area is a designated locality pay area, and the 2006 pay hike is designed to help bring that region's salaries more on par with those offered in the private sector, he said. Future pay hikes for the region are not likely to be as high.

Other locality pay areas to receive significant hikes this year are San Francisco-San Jose-Oakland, 3.95 percent; New York-Newark, 3.77 percent; Buffalo, 3.75 percent; Hartford, Conn., 3.62 percent; and the Washington-Baltimore-Northern Virginia region, 3.44 percent.

Locality pay is based not on the cost of living, but on the cost of labor in a particular area, Orenstein said. By offering locality pay to workers in those regions, government agencies can be more competitive in recruiting and retaining qualified workers, he said.

For more information and pay chart information, visit the OPM Web site at <http://www.opm.gov/oca/06tables/indexGS.asp>.

2006 defense budget increases military pay, benefits

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Bush ushered in an across-the-board 3.1 percent military pay raise, effective Jan. 1, and a variety of other new or enhanced benefits for service members and their families when he signed the 2006 National Defense Authorization Bill into law Friday.

In addition to a pay raise that is a half percent higher than the average private-sector increase, the new budget provides about 20 new or increased bonuses or special pays or benefits, reflecting a trend DoD officials emphasize is becoming increasingly rare in the private sector.

The new law provides a variety of benefits designed to better compensate

service members, improve their quality of life, bring reserve-component benefits more on par with those for the active force and promote recruiting and retention, said Chuck Witschonke, DoD's deputy director for compensation.

"Not only does it contain the routine annual pay raise, which is one-half percent higher than the raise measured in the private sector, but it also includes a number of increases in ceilings on some very important pays," he said.

The following are a few of the law's most significant features:

- An increase in the maximum reenlistment bonus offered, from \$60,000 to \$90,000;
- A higher maximum enlistment bonus, up from \$20,000 to \$40,000;
- A new ceiling on hardship-duty pay,

from \$300 to \$750 a month;

- A doubling of the maximum assignment incentive pay for hard-to-fill billets or assignments, from \$1,500 to \$3,000 a month, now payable either in a lump sum or installments;
- A new allowance to cover the first \$150,000 in Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance premiums for troops serving in Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom;
- A new bonus of up to \$2,500 for service members who agree to transfer from one service to another and serve for at least three years;
- An incentive pay of up to \$1,000 for service members who refer someone who enlists in the Army and successfully completes basic training;

Reserve unit prepares to deploy

By Phil Reidinger
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office

When Brig. Gen. Philip Hanrahan, commanding general, 90th Regional Readiness Group, announced "publish the order," Soldiers assigned to the 345th Public Affairs Detachment were activated for service in Afghanistan.

The general gave the order during a ceremony at the Roadrunner Community Center Sunday in front of the Soldiers' family and friends.

The Fifth U.S. Army order activated the unit for service supporting Operation Enduring Freedom for a period of 545 days. The detachment will manage the Coalition Public Information Center in Bagram and support command information programs for units operating in Afghanistan.

During his remarks, Maj. Gen. James R. Sholar, commanding general, 90th Regional Readiness Command, said he is still touched by the emotion of sending Soldiers in harm's way even after speaking at dozens of activation ceremonies in the past three years.

"I know you will do well. I know you will take care of each other. I know you are well prepared to execute your missions in a dangerous place," he said.

"We will take care of your families during your deployment."

Sholar said America's citizen-Soldiers give a special

the coins will be returned upon successful mission completion.



Courtesy photo

Brig. Gen. Philip Hanrahan (far right), commanding general, 90th Regional Readiness Group, speaks to Soldiers of the 345th Public Affairs Detachment and family Sunday while Command Sgt. Maj. David Stading (far left), 90th RRG; Maj. Ramon Becerra (third from left), 345th PAD commander; and 1st Sgt. David Frames, 345th PAD first sergeant, look on during the 345th PAD's activation ceremony. The detachment will deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Real heroes

Continued from Page 1

Spc. Jaime Garcia, who served on gun truck duty (convoy escort) in Iraq, will receive a Purple Heart for injuries sustained in September.

"I was on a convoy and we were one mile from the Jordan border," Garcia said. "I was in the last gun truck."

Garcia, who was usually the gunner, turned over his regular duties to another Soldier that day, a decision he later regretted.

"We got hit by artillery rounds; I got shrapnel in my leg, side and head," Garcia said.

The 150 mm high explosive artillery rounds were made into improvised explosive devices and planted alongside the road by insurgents.

The gunner was more severely injured, with a gaping wound on his leg. Garcia put his own pain aside to perform aid on his friend.

While a few Soldiers were given higher honors for their combat actions, all

played a significant role in the birth of a free and democratic nation, said Brig. Gen. Philip Hanrahan, 90th RRG commanding general.

"Birth is not an easy process," he said. "There is pain and suffering but the results are significant. Iraq has a long way to go but it has already come a long way. Each of you has played a part in allowing that to happen.

"These medals and ribbons are small tokens, but very symbolic of the gratitude of Americans."



Photos by Elaine Wilson

(Above) Capt. Mark Braswell, 340th Quartermaster Company commander, congratulates Spc. Jaime Garcia for medals earned during a yearlong deployment to Iraq during a Welcome Home Awards ceremony Saturday. Garcia will receive the Purple Heart for injuries sustained during a convoy.

(Left) Maj. Gen. James R. Sholar, 90th Regional Readiness Command commanding general, pins a medal on Spc. Samuel Rocha's uniform Saturday at the Roadrunner Community Center during the 340th Quartermaster Company's Welcome Home Awards ceremony.

Military pay

Continued from Page 3

- An average 5.9 percent increase in housing allowances, with authority to increase set levels temporarily by as much as 20 percent in areas affected by natural disasters or troop surges resulting from force realignments;
- An increase of 2,000 pounds in the household goods weight allowance for senior NCOs E-7 and above;
- Enhanced death benefits, resulting in a total of \$238,000 for all deaths not previously qualified for enhanced benefits, and the permanent institution of a policy that continues the basic allowance for housing or government quarters for one year for families of deceased service members;
- Authority to pay the applicable overseas cost-of-living allowance to dependents who remain at their location outside the continental United States when a service

member deploys from that location;

- Expanded eligibility or increased ceilings for special pays for designated medical and dental officers, and officers with nuclear qualifications;
- A bonus of up to \$12,000 per year for both active and reserve members with certified language proficiency; and
- Payment of travel and lodging for families of hospitalized service members wounded in combat zones or other designated areas.

The law also provides a variety of benefits for members of the reserve components, which include:

- Full housing allowance payments for reserve members called to active duty for more than 30 days vs. the previous 140-day requirement;
- Income replacement benefits to help offset the pay loss some reservists and guardsmen experience when called to

active duty, based on specific guidelines provided in the law;

- Increases in the maximum payment for accession and affiliation bonuses, from \$10,000 and \$15,000, respectively, to a consolidated \$20,000 for enlistment in the Selected Reserve;
- Boosts in the maximum affiliation bonus for officers in the Selected Reserve, from \$6,000 to \$10,000;
- A bonus that could total up to \$100,000 over a career for members with a designated critical skill or who volunteer to serve in a designated high-priority unit; and
- Extension of eligibility for a prior-service enlistment bonus to include Selected Reserve members who previously received one.

Witschonke emphasized that the new law does not guarantee that all service members will qualify for these pays and

benefits, or that those who do will receive the highest amounts authorized. Rather, he said, the law gives defense and service leaders the flexibility they need to tailor the force to meet operational, recruiting and retention goals.

The 2006 authorization act, like those in recent years, reflects steady progress in compensating service members and their families with increased benefits and opportunities, he said.

"Every year for the past several years, our service members have gotten larger pay, increased benefits and increased special incentive pays. This is a clear reflection of our Congress, our administration and our country wanting to take care of our service members and their families," he said.

For more information, visit DoD's military compensation Web site at <http://www.dod.mil/militarypay/>.

Post Pulse: How are you preparing for tax season?



"I'm just waiting for my W-2."

Sgt. Hector Ramos
470th Military Intelligence Brigade



"I will re-examine and set goals for where I want to be financially in the future."

Capt. Stephen Jensen
U.S. Army Dental Command



"I will do my tax return myself. (Before) I always had someone else do it for me."

Jon Mendez
Army and Air Force Exchange Service concessionaire



"I will gather everything I can use to calculate my taxes, in order to get it done in a timely fashion."

Sgt. 1st Class Shiela Cowans-Johnson
Medical Task Training Battalion

Primer deciphers mystery of federal, state taxes

For many, the word "taxes" inspires fear and frustration. This article offers a simple overview of federal and state income taxation to help people better understand the process and relieve fears.

Federal income tax

For most people, the greatest tax burden is their federal income tax. The United States has six tax brackets: 10 percent, 15 percent, 25 percent, 28 percent, 33 percent and 35 percent.

The rate at which income is assessed is based upon two factors: the taxpayer's filing status and the amount of the taxpayer's "taxable income." A taxpayer's filing

status — single, married filing jointly, married filing separately, head of household or qualifying widower — is generally determined by examining the taxpayer's relationship with others.

A taxpayer's taxable income is measured by adding up the taxable sources of income, such as wages, capital gains, interest earned and business income, and subtracting certain adjustments, to include alimony paid, contributions to IRAs and student loan interest payments; exemptions, based on age, blindness and filing status; and deductions, based on dependency.

For taxpayers filing single, taxable income, up to \$7,300, will be taxed at a

rate of 10 percent. Taxable income between \$7,300 and \$29,050 will be taxed at a rate of 15 percent. Similarly, taxation at the rate of 25 percent is imposed on taxable income between \$29,051 and \$71,950. For example, a single taxpayer with a taxable income of \$5,000 will have to account for \$500 in federal income tax, as the taxable income falls entirely within the 10 percent tax bracket. If the same taxpayer made \$32,000, the first \$7,300 will be taxed at the 10 percent rate, the second \$21,750 will be taxed at the 15 percent rate and the remaining \$2,950 will be taxed at the 25 percent rate. In this case, the taxpayer would have to account

for about \$4,665 in federal income tax.

If married and filing a joint tax return, taxable income, up to \$14,600, will be taxed at a rate of 10 percent, as well. Taxable income between \$14,601 and \$59,400 will be taxed at a rate of 15 percent and taxable income between \$59,400 and \$119,950 will be taxed at a rate of 25 percent. For example, if a married couple files a joint return and their combined taxable income is \$50,000, the first \$14,600 of their income will be taxed at the 10 percent rate. The remaining \$35,400 will be taxed at a rate of 15 percent. Therefore, they would be liable for about \$6,040 in federal income tax.

See **PRIMER** on Page 7

FSH service providers score high marks on ICE

By Shasta Bell
Directorate of Morale, Welfare and Recreation

While response to the Interactive Customer Evaluation initiative on Fort Sam Houston has been relatively sluggish, figures indicate that, overall, the community is satisfied with services on post.

ICE is a Department of Defense Web-based customer feedback system that gives customers direct access to supervisors and managers to voice their opinions.

More than 300 ICE surveys have been taken and 92 percent indicate that community members are satisfied with the current level of services they receive on Fort Sam Houston in the areas of facility appearance and hours, attitude of the staff, and timeliness and effectiveness of the services provided.

To date, Army Community Service has received the most ICE responses out of the service providers listed on the Web site. The total responses for the Army Contracting Agency, Southern Region-

West have also been substantial.

“Army Community Service has done the best job of promoting ICE, but there are actually over 100 services listed for Fort Sam Houston, to include all MWR services, the exchange and the commissary,” said Terry Read, management analyst.

ACS is part of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation directorate, which has the largest number of service providers listed on ICE.

ACS program managers promote the initiative by consistently informing their patrons that ICE exists, and encouraging them to use it. However, the Web site initially had some problems that had to be addressed.

“When ICE first came online at Fort Sam, the system was very slow. It is understandable that some people may have become frustrated and gave up trying to use it,” said Read. “The system is performing much better now. I would encourage anyone who got frustrated before to give it another try.”

Wilson Apkarian, ACS division chief, said managers should be committed to making ICE readily available to customers because ICE has proven significance for ACS and other programs.

“It is important to know that your time spent with ICE has some real value,” he said. “Through ICE, our customers will determine which programs have value and how much value. ICE ensures that the understanding of the ACS mission value happens in a real, objective and measurable fashion.”

The purpose of the evaluation system is for management to monitor customer feedback and use this information as a basis for improving overall customer service.

“ICE is more than just scoring a service provider well to pat them on the back or scoring a service provider poorly if you are mad,” Read said. “ICE has a comments’ block so you can specifically state what you would like to change or what you are happy about.”

Managers can facilitate improvements or maintain the quality of existing services by comparing their program’s survey results with those of similar programs at other DoD installations.

Military members, family members, retirees and DoD civilian employees are encouraged to take the interactive survey, which primarily consists of six questions.

Employees benefit from the feedback program as well. Customer comments can identify staff members who exemplify high standards of customer service and result in employees receiving recognition and accolades from management.

To access ICE, visit <http://ice.disa.mil>. Once on the ICE home page, select Army CONUS or type in Fort Sam Houston then click the select button, click on Fort Sam Houston or Fort Sam Houston Community, then click on the appropriate service provider. People can also call Terry Read, Plans, Analysis and Integration Office, at 221-1194.

Military, civilian medals approved for hurricane relief work

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Service members and civilians who took part in Hurricanes Katrina and Rita relief efforts may be eligible for a medal.

The director of the Joint Staff has approved awarding the Humanitarian Service Medal and the Armed Forces Service Medal for U.S. military personnel. Department of Defense civilians may receive the Armed Forces Civilian Service Medal.

To qualify for the HSM, service members must have provided

direct support to immediate relief operations for at least one day in the area of eligibility — east of and including Houston (designated as 96 degrees longitude), Alabama, Louisiana or Mississippi — from Aug. 29 to Oct. 13, 2005.

Service members eligible to receive the AFSM must have pro-

vided direct support to relief operations for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days in the continental United States from Aug. 27, 2005, to Feb. 27, 2006 — minus the specific area and time period used to qualify for the HSM.

People who receive an HSM for Katrina relief operations cannot receive a second HSM for Rita. The same applies for the AFSM. However,

people who receive the HSM may later qualify for the AFSM if their direct support does not include the dates and actions used in their qualifications for the HSM.

To qualify for the AFCSM, civilians must have provided direct support to relief operations for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days in the same area of eligibility and period as the AFSM.

Eligible personnel must pro-

vide proof of entitlement to their servicing military personnel flight (for Army, S-1/PAC) or civilian personnel office.

Supporting documentation may consist of assignment orders, temporary duty orders or travel vouchers, a decoration citation, an enlisted or officer performance report reflecting participation or other official documentation that verifies participation.

Any colonel in a command billet or civilian equivalent can approve the awarding of these medals if supporting documentation is not available.

Once verified, the servicing military or civilian personnel flight will update individual records. For more information on civilian medals, call 221-0639. For more information on military medals, call Earnest Bridges, chief, human resources administration, at 221-2916.

(Source: Air Force Personnel Center News Service)

DoD to restrict cell phone use on military bases

By Sgt. Sara Wood
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Defense Department installations have begun implementing new cell phone restrictions for drivers on military bases.

The new regulation, published in the Federal Register in April 2005, states that anyone driving a motor vehicle on a DoD installation cannot use a cell phone unless the vehicle is safely parked or the driver is using a hands-free device.

The post's policy regarding cell phone use has been in place since October. This policy mirrors the DoD regulation but also

bans drivers from using any other wireless communication device, both hand-held and hands-free, while driving on post.

Many installations, such as Fort Sam Houston, already have implemented the new restrictions, and the rest will implement the rules on their own schedule, said John Seibert, assistant for safety, health and fire protection for DoD. There is no deadline for installations to implement the restrictions, Seibert said, but he expects most will do so this year.

"We have not issued an implementation schedule," he said. "But, it's definitely getting everyone's attention."

The law enforcement policy offices for each military department are putting together policies and procedures for the implementation and enforcement of the restrictions, Seibert said. He explained that this regulation is a minimum requirement, and installation commanders still have the authority to put stricter rules in place. Each installation will determine the punishment for violation of the rules, he said.

As the installations implement the restrictions, they have a responsibility to notify the public by putting up signs or putting notices in base newspapers, Seibert said. Many installations are allowing a

grace period in which motorists in violation of the rule will be warned and not ticketed.

This regulation was developed based on information from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, which studied driving distractions as the cause of motor vehicle accidents, Seibert said. The study found that cell phone use is the fastest growing and most visible distraction that leads to accidents, he said.

The DoD regulation follows suit with many regulations that states and cities have already imposed. Currently, only Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and the District of

Columbia ban hand-held cell phones for drivers, but many cities have imposed their own rules, according to the Governors Highway Safety Association.

"We are in front of the majority, but we certainly are not the first ones to do this," Seibert said.

This cell phone regulation will increase traffic safety on installations, Seibert said, but more importantly, it will encourage safe driving habits.

"Our intent is that this will drive an increased attention to the importance of safe driving and that we'll see a change in driving behavior, both on military installations and off," he said.

Primer

Continued from Page 5

State tax law

People lucky enough to be residents of Texas, Alaska, Florida, Nevada, Utah, Washington or Wyoming do not pay state income tax. However, for military members, figuring out their state of residence can be complicated.

Active duty members are usually still residents of the state they lived in when they joined up, unless they took certain steps to

change residency. This is because federal law allows people to retain the residency they had when they entered the service even though they are not stationed in that state. People who decide to change their legal residence should record that change by filling out a DD Form 2058.

To complicate matters further, civilian spouses who find local employment at each duty station they move to may be considered residents,

part-year residents or nonresidents, depending on various state-specific circumstances.

For more information about state residence or filing income tax returns, visit the Fort Sam Houston Tax Assistance Center at the 1st Legal Support Organization, Building 133 on Liscum Road; call 295-1040 or 295-

0061; or visit www.irs.gov. People can also submit tax law questions by e-mailing the News Leader at news.leader@samhouston.army.mil. Questions may be addressed in future articles.

(Source: Fort Sam Houston Tax Assistance Center)

DeCA streamlines return check process

By Rick Brink
Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. — New streamlined processing procedures for returned checks are viewed as a win-win situation for commissary shoppers and for store employees looking for better ways to provide customer service.

Shoppers win because the new centralized returned-check processing doesn't affect the way they write checks. Commissary employees win because the process eliminates the return to the commissary of all paper checks for insufficient funds.

Returned checks normally routed back to commissaries for collection are instead routed to a centralized processing site run by a business that has successfully performed this service for a variety of businesses that process a high volume of transactions, said Pam Conklin, Defense Commissary Agency's chief financial executive.

Instead of commissary employees having to contact customers who wrote insufficient-fund checks, the centralized processor electronically deducts the amount of the checks from the customers' checking accounts and starts procedures to assess the insufficient fund administrative fee. These deductions have a high success rate

because pay cycles have sufficiently replenished customers' accounts to cover the checks.

This more efficient process, which doesn't cost customers any more money in insufficient-fund service charges, standardizes redemption processes within commissaries and allows store employees to devote more time to customer service, said Conklin, who called it a "win-win situation."

A handful of continental U.S. commissaries initiated the process in 2003, and last year European stores came on line. Remaining stateside stores and commissaries in the Far East and Iceland wrapped up worldwide implementation in November 2005.

The new process results from a collaborative effort between DeCA, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service, the U.S. Department of Treasury, Bank of America and Solutran, the firm that provides the returned check processing services.

For more information about the program or collection process, call Judy Blair or J.D. Littman, agency customer service liaisons, at (866) 893-5015 Monday through Friday between 6 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. EST, or e-mail judy.blair@deca.mil, john.littman@deca.mil or rcmprogram@deca.mil. Allow five to seven business days for the check to reach the processing center.



Troop Salute

232nd Medical Battalion



Soldier of the Week

Name: Pfc. John Krause
Unit: E Company
Hometown: Farmington, Conn.
Reason for joining: To serve my country and give back what this country has given to me.
Hobbies: Hiking and camping.



Junior Leader of the Week

Name: Pfc. Ryan B. Dykes
Unit: E Company
Hometown: Omak, Wash.
Reason for joining: I want to become a flight medic and serve for 20 years.
Hobbies: Tennis, swimming, backpacking, kayaking and anything outdoors.

Officials postpone training for new personnel system

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — National Security Personnel System training for Defense Department managers and rank-and-file employees is being postponed while a component of the new system is being reviewed, an NSPS official said.

"We've asked the services to put a hold on their training for January because we're reviewing and assessing the performance-management design (portion), which is part of the training," NSPS spokeswoman Joyce Frank said.

She said the changes will be made before the NSPS training is conducted. She couldn't say when the training, originally slated to start this month, would be rescheduled.

DoD and OPM are partnering to establish the

NSPS pay for performance system to replace old civil service rules that rewarded employees for length of service rather than performance. More than 650,000 DoD civilian employees are slated to come under NSPS.

It's important that NSPS is "simple, clear and understandable" to DoD's managers and rank-and-file employees, Frank said.

So "we think that we need to make some adjustments to it," said Frank, who noted the changes involve the pay for performance component of the system.

"We're redoing the way that we assess employees' performance, and pay is tied to that system," Frank said. "And so we've decided to make some adjustments to the design that we have. That will cause us to change our training as well."

For more information, visit the NSPS Web site at <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/>.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Dr. King's dream helps shape civil rights movement

By Master Sgt. Bonalyn Harris
Fort Sam Houston Equal Opportunity Office

The establishment of a day to honor a man who lived his life working toward civil rights for all people was a difficult bill to pass.

Four days after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated in 1968, Congressman John Conyers, democrat from Michigan, introduced legislation for a commemorative holiday; however, it took 15 years to create the federal Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The bill was stalled, so supporters submitted petitions with 6 million names endorsing the holiday to Congress. Conyers and Rep. Shirley Chisholm, democrat from New York, resubmitted King holiday legislation each subsequent legislative session, until public pressure for the holiday mounted during the 1982 and 1983 civil rights marches in Washington.

Finally, Congress passed the holiday legislation in 1983, which was then signed into law by President Ronald Reagan. A compromise of moving the holiday from Jan. 15, King's birthday, which was considered too close to Christmas and New Year's, to the third Monday in January helped overcome opposition to the law. A number of states resisted the holiday. Some opponents said King did not deserve his own holiday, contending that the entire civil

rights movement rather than one individual, however instrumental, should be honored. So, it seems appropriate during this month to look at King's history and accomplishments toward civil rights.

King was born Jan. 15, 1929, in Atlanta. He was the first son and second child born to the Reverend Martin Luther King and Alberta Williams King.

King married the former Coretta Scott June 18, 1953. The Kings had four children: Yolanda Denise, Martin Luther III, Dexter Scott and Bernice Albertine.

During his lifetime, King sought to forge the common ground on which people from all walks of life could join together to address important community issues. Working alongside people of all ages, races and backgrounds, King encouraged Americans to come together to strengthen communities, alleviate poverty and acknowledge dignity and respect for all human beings. Service, he said, was the great equalizer.

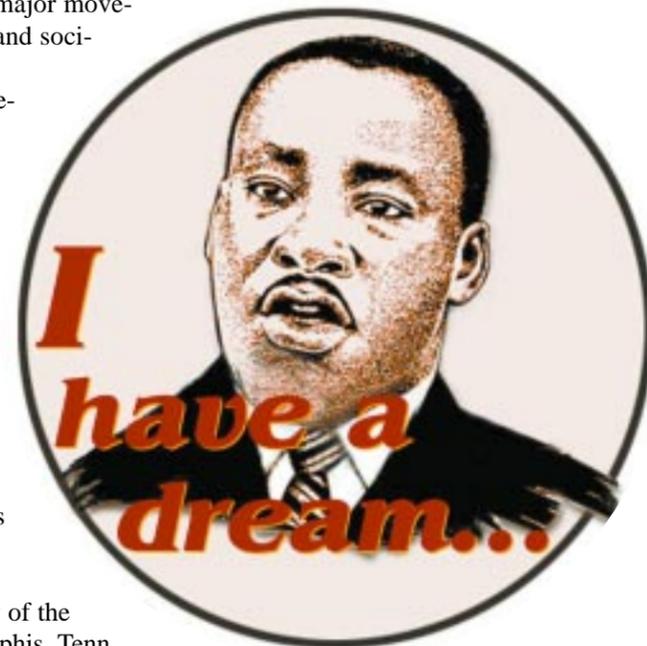
King's courageous and selfless devotion gave direction to 13 years of civil rights activities, and his philosophy of nonviolent direct action, and strategies for rational and non-destructive social change, touched the conscience of the nation.

The civil rights movement began in 1955 with an act of mild disobedience by a black woman on a bus. Between 1954 and 1965, the civil rights move-

ment developed into a major movement for social justice and societal change. The tactics undertaken by the movement were violent at times; however, with the influence of King, nonviolent demonstrations, known as passive resistance, predominated. His 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech about peace and racial equality remains one of the most powerful speeches in American history.

King was shot while standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., April 4, 1968, by James Earl Ray. King was in Memphis to help lead sanitation workers in a protest against low wages and intolerable conditions. James was arrested and was to stand trial for the assassination of King. Prior to the trial, he entered a guilty plea and was sentenced to 99 years in the Tennessee State Penitentiary.

King's funeral was April 9, 1968, in Atlanta at Ebenezer Church on the campus of Morehouse College. The president proclaimed it a day of mourning; flags were flown at half staff. King is entombed at Freedom Plaza and sur-



rounded by the Freedom Hall Complex.

Monday, Americans will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Martin Luther King Jr. federal holiday and honor King's life and work.

Fort Sam Houston will celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day today from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center. The guest speaker will be Dr. Carey H. Latimore, professor of African American Studies at Trinity University in San Antonio. The event is open to the public. For more information, call 221-9276.

Hot Texas days take on fiery meaning

The word "hot" is used routinely during Texas summers. But, the words "burning hot" are being heard more as wildfires are being reported across the state, Texas Cooperative Extension reports.

The increased fire hazard is a result of hot, dry weather and excess vegetation from above-normal rainfall received early last year. Moisture kept vegetation green, growing and damp, which prevented it from catching fire. However, once the rain stopped, the excess vegetation dried out and became flammable.

Baked by almost unrelenting summer heat, vegetation quickly becomes stressed for moisture and in many areas, grasses and weeds became cured and fire-prone.

Wildfires can occur almost anywhere, from dried-out pasture land to Texas forests, although dry grasses ignite most easily.

The increase in wildfire activity started during April and May when the state entered a weather pattern more typical to mid-to-late summer conditions, hot and dry with only isolated showers.

Texans have a chance to keep those numbers lower by preventing wildfires from occurring. Most wildfires are caused by people and their actions.

Safety and a watchful eye are needed to keep fire numbers manageable. Texans can help by obeying burn bans, practicing good outdoor fire safety and by watching out for equipment-caused fires.

Most wildfires are preventable if everyone does their part to keep fire safety a top priority.

During periods when a high fire potential exists in forests and rangelands remember what Smokey the Bear says, "Only you can prevent forest fires." Wildfires can be prevented by:

- Not smoking or by being careful with cigarettes in the outdoors. They should be carefully extinguished and disposed of;
- Not parking cars or trucks on dry grass;
- Knowing your county's outdoor burning regulations and never burning trash in an unlawful manner;
- Inspecting your campsite when you leave to ensure your camp fire is out;
- Never taking burning sticks out of a fire;
- Never taking any type of fireworks on public land;
- Keeping stoves, lanterns and heaters away from things that can catch on fire;
- Storing containers with flammable liquids in a safe place; and
- Never using stoves, lanterns or heaters inside of a tent.

The Texas Forest Service is distributing the red and white flags flying at fire departments and courthouses in hopes that they become a recognizable image to the public, a signal to stop outdoor burning and begin conserving water.

Should any part of the state of Texas experience extended periods of fair, windy weather, the implementation of countywide bans on outdoor burning may be advised as a wildfire prevention tool in that area. The main goal of these burning bans is to limit or restrict outdoor burning to prevent wildfires.

(Source: Texas Forest Service)

Historic Artillery Post homes receive modern updates

Fort Sam Houston Family Housing, Limited Partnership Development has completed several renovations on Artillery Post with more to come.

The homes, located within the National Historic Landmark District, were built between 1905 and 1908 in a Georgian Revival style and feature large porches and yards.

The development division is working to repair significant structural defects and drainage problems in the older homes, as well as repair roofing and restore the porches. The houses are also being redesigned to create more spacious living areas with modern room sizes and arrangements.

The renovation includes specific kitchen, bath and bedroom remodeling for each home depending upon current layout. The homes' hardwood floors will remain. Existing fireplaces will be maintained in the houses; however, they will not be useable. Some mechanical and electrical systems have been updated, and further updating will be completed as required.

Additionally, a detached garage will be built for each house with approval from the State Historic Preservation Office and in accordance with the Programmatic Agreement on Historic Homes. The design has been approved by SHPO and is currently being priced



Courtesy photo

Work is under way to renovate the interiors and exteriors of the historic Artillery Post homes.

for construction.

FSHFH, LP will also provide residents with a master suite with a new bathroom and walk-in closet, a walk-in closet in the second bedroom, hall closet, increased kitchen size with more counter space and cabinets, a first floor powder room, increased exterior storage and a conversion of the rear room into a dining room.

While most renovations take place after a house is vacant, homes with unsafe porches will undergo exterior work while occupied.

Each floor plan in Artillery Post is unique and every effort is being made to accommodate all of the renovations.

For more information, call the Residential Communities Initiative office at 221-0891.

(Source: RCI)

Off Duty Travel, Clear Channel offer discount Broadway tickets

By Tim Hipps

U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Military personnel can now access discount-priced tickets to Broadway shows without being part of a tourist group.

Off Duty Travel and Clear Channel Entertainment have joined forces to offer priority access to Broadway and off-Broadway shows in New York and other select cities for Morale, Welfare and Recreation customers.

MWR patrons, including those affiliated with the Coast Guard, can visit www.offdutytravel.com for information about the program and click on the "Broadway Shows & Broadway Touring Shows" link on the left.

"For years, military communities have responded enthusiastically when offered the opportunity to purchase tickets for touring Broadway shows, as well as filling spaces on occasional group tours to New York City, where show tickets are a big part of the reason for going," said Dan Yount, chief of Leisure Travel Services at the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center.

Clear Channel periodically will determine the best shows available and place them on its EventUsher.com system, allowing MWR patrons

access to tickets for marquee shows before they become scarce.

Traditional shows will be featured during holidays and peak periods. Other shows will be added to the Web site as tickets become available.

The July 7 performance of Disney's "Tarzan the Broadway Musical" at Richard Rodgers Theatre in New York is the first play offered in the MWR program.

MWR offices are responsible for distributing tickets, so it's important for MWR patrons to list their location in the system's appropriate field. A \$4 per ticket processing fee will be charged, but shipping is free. A portion of the proceeds will benefit MWR.

If the dates and shows desired do not appear on the Web site, customers can make requests by e-mail to NYGroups@clearchannel.com. If sufficient interest is expressed in particular shows and dates, Clear Channel officials said, they will attempt to make tickets available.

The theater program eventually is planned to expand into more venues.

"In the future, the Web site will post availability for touring Broadway shows coming to local venues such as Baltimore; Washington, D.C.; San Antonio and many other cities located close to military installations," Yount said.

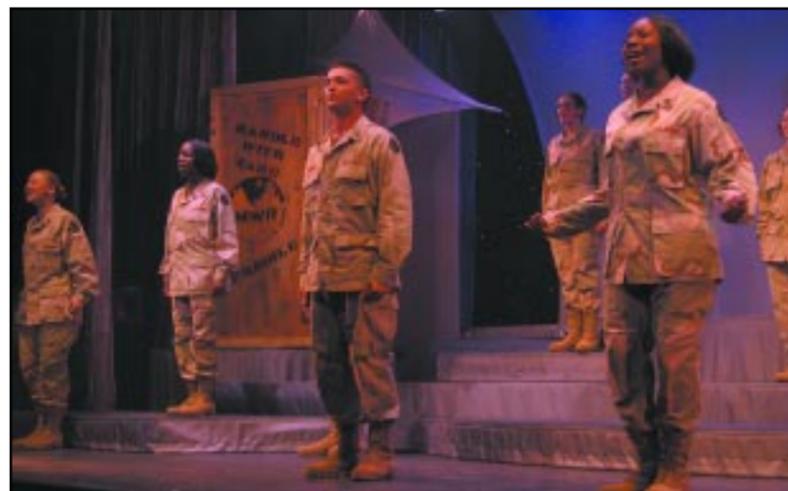


Photo by Jack L. Gillund

Members of the 2005 U.S. Army Soldier Show sing the finale of "Operation America Cares" at Fort Belvoir, Va. The deadline has been extended until Jan. 18 for submission of nominations for participation in the 2006 Soldier Show.

Army extends deadline for Soldier Show nominations

By Tim Hipps

U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — Army Entertainment officials have extended the deadline to Jan. 18 for nominations of performers and technicians to participate in the 2006 U.S. Army Soldier Show.

Because of deployments and increased difficulties in getting Soldiers released from units, the deadline was extended with hopes that more performers and technicians will answer "the artistic call to duty," said Soldier Show director Victor Hurtado.

Vocalists, dancers and musicians, particularly those who can sing, are encouraged to apply, along with specialty acts. On the technical

side, help is needed with audio, video, lighting, carpentry and stage management.

Video auditions are scheduled for late January and live auditions are slated for March at Fort Belvoir, Va. Those who complete the Soldier Show's six-month tour will receive 12 credit hours from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey.

Sixteen performers were selected from more than 400 Soldiers who applied for auditions in the 2005 Soldier Show. Three technicians also were part of the cast and crew that made 102 performances in 50 locations throughout the continental United States, Alaska, Korea and Japan.

For more information, e-mail Joey Beebe, Soldier Show executive producer, at joey.beebe@cfsc.army.mil.

Calling all unit commanders

Do you have new Family Readiness Group and key personnel in your unit? Have your FRG leaders and unit liaisons attended Family Readiness Group training?

When was your last unit ongoing readiness briefing?

OpReady has the information your Soldiers' families need for success in the military.

To schedule your briefings at the unit or Army Community Service, or to reserve space in FRG leader training, call Jutta Aviles at 221-0946.

Change of charge



Courtesy photo

Capt. Gene Barron, outgoing officer in charge of the Naval School of Health Sciences San Diego Detachment, shakes hand with Capt. Florence Crosby, commanding officer, NSHS SD Det., while Capt. William C. Perry, the new officer in charge looks on during a change of charge ceremony Dec. 16. "Our mission is to deliver education and training in support of force health protection," Perry said. "As members of the military health system, medical care for our Sailors and their families is a fundamental promise that we make to them. We will only succeed if we can get people with the right skills to the right place at the right time."

Army shows appreciation for joint training

By Air Force Master Sgt. Kimberly Spencer
59th Medical Wing Public Affairs

LACKLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — Senior leaders from the Army Medical Department Center and School presented the 59th Medical Wing's Inpatient Psychiatry Department with a plaque of appreciation Friday during a ceremony at Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

The plaque was given in appreciation for the training provided by the hospital's psychiatry department to Army enlisted members training to be mental health specialists.

"This is a great opportunity to strengthen and call attention to the strong working relationship between the school and Wilford Hall Medical Center in its role as a clinical training venue," said Col. Brian Scott, chief of the department of preventive health services at Fort Sam Houston.

Along with WHMC, the Kerrville State hospital, San Antonio State Hospital and VA Medical Center provide hands-on training for students in the Mental Health Specialist Course. The four-week clinical practicum is the culmination of 20 weeks of training.

"The clinical practicum is the first opportunity students have to interact with the patients," said Maj. Stephania Dover, officer in charge of directed clinical practicum for the course. "It is especially helpful to be able to provide students with the opportunity to interact with patients who have issues that are unique to the military. These are the same types of problems these Army specialists will see in the field.

"Without the help of Wilford Hall and the other hospitals in San Antonio, we would not be able to provide the same high caliber of training," said Dover.



Thank you



*For Caring. For Giving.
For Saving a life.*

January is National Volunteer Blood Donor month and we would like to thank our donors for the amazing gift they give all year long – the gift of life. Your giving spirit ensures lifesaving blood is available at all times for military community members at home and around the world. We extend our thanks on behalf of those you have saved.

Akeroyd Blood Donor Center



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The Financial Readiness Program at Army Community Service offers this service. For more information, call 221-1612.

Cole High School Sports Update

Teamwork name of game for Cole soccer

As the season winds to an end, Robert G. Cole High School boys' and girls' soccer coaches Brandon Jones and Ron Pritchard believe that playing well together as a group accounted for the teams' successes this year.

Playing primarily against private schools from the San Antonio area, the Cougars routinely faced quality veteran squads.

Boys' soccer coach Jones, a second grade teacher at Fort Sam Houston Elementary School, credits his team's ability to come together for their 5-3-1 record.

"We only had the kids together for a week before our first game. The teams we play against practice virtually year-round," Jones said. "That makes it tough, but our record shows we can compete with the best of them."

The team is led by senior goalkeeper Matt Newcomer and senior Cody Oswald, who scored 12 of the team's 21 goals.

Long-time Cole coach, Pritchard, leads the Lady Cougar soccer program.

"We are a young team, with only three seniors this year. I would have to say that team chemistry is definitely the key to our success."

The girls are 6-2-2 for the season and have the core to have a winning season next year.



Cole senior Amy Rarig dribbles against SA-FAEST schools. The Lady Cougars won the Jan. 5 game 3-1.

Cole Cougar basketball season well on its way

The Robert G. Cole High School boys' basketball team is enjoying a winning season. Trinity Christian came to Cole Jan. 3 with a 13-3 record and was defeated by the Cougars 48-33. Cole had a balanced scoring attack led by Sha Cameron, Angel Ramirez, Erin Simmons and Paul Parker, with 11, nine, seven and seven points, respectively.

The Cougars traveled to Corpus Christi, Texas, Friday to play perennial 3-A powerhouse West Oso Independent School District. Cole suited up only seven players but played extremely well, especially on the defensive end, and came away with a 63-44 win. All seven players scored and Sha Cameron, Robert Davis and Greg Farris tallied double digits. Cameron scored 21 and Davis and Farris both chipped in 10.

The Cougars lost to Ingram ISD 66-48 Monday. Shane Russe led the scoring with 14 points, Sha Cameron with 10 and Robert Davis with 10. Other scorers were Farris with six, Ramirez with four, Washington with two and Brantley with two. The varsity record now stands at 16-4 for the season. Ingram began the year No. 1 in 3-A, and has one loss on the year. The boys will begin district play Friday when they travel to Johnson City to play the Eagles.

Herb More is the 2005-2006 coach.

(Source: retired Lt. Col. Robert Hoffmann)



Photo by Cheryl Harrison

Special promotion

Matt Waugh demonstrates how to get a hole-in-one while fellow Olympians Tim Taggart (left) and Heidi Bush (center) watch and encourage him during a Special Olympics promotion at the Fort Sam Houston Commissary Friday. The "score big with a hole in one" promotion gave customers the opportunity to donate \$1 for a possible hole-in-one and a chance for a prize. All donations support the local Special Olympics chapter.

Sports Briefs . . .

Intramural Sports

Softball tryouts

Post softball tryouts for men and women are from Jan. 31 to Feb. 4 at 6:30 p.m. (rain dates are Feb. 7 to 11). Men practice at Leadership Field, and women practice at Lady Leadership Field. For more information, call Earl Young at 221-1180 or e-mail earl.young@samhouston.army.mil.

Intramural billiards

Season starts Jan. 19. For more information, call 221-1180 or e-mail earl.young@us.army.mil.

Intramural pingpong

Season starts Jan. 17. For more information, call 221-1180 or e-mail earl.young@us.army.mil.

Spring soccer

Register online for the Alamo Heights Fort Sam Houston spring soccer season. Children born between Aug. 1, 1986, and July 31, 2001, are eligible to play. Register at www.ahfsh.com, click on "Here is the registration page" link. People can make registration payments as well as sign up for vehicle passes on the Web site. There will also be a walk-in registration Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Youth Services, Building 1630, off Winans Road, at Fort Sam Houston. Registration closes Jan. 31. For more information, visit <http://www.ahfsh.org>.

Fort Sam Houston Independent School District

Weekly Calendar – Monday to Jan. 21

Fort Sam Houston Elementary School

Monday

Martin Luther King Jr. Day/school holiday

Tuesday

School report card public hearing in library, 3:40 p.m.

Wednesday

Early dismissal – kindergarten to fourth grade, 2 p.m.

Early dismissal – fifth and sixth grade, 2:45 p.m.

Public hearing to discuss 2006-2007 school year calendar in Professional Development Center, 4:30 p.m.

Jan. 20

Spirit day

Group pictures

Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School

Monday

Martin Luther King Jr. Day/school holiday

Tuesday

Girls' basketball vs. Randolph at Cole, Moseley Gym, 5 and 6:30 p.m.

Boys' junior varsity basketball vs. Randolph, Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, 5 p.m.

Boys' varsity basketball vs. Randolph, Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, 8 p.m.

Girls' and boys' soccer vs. TMI at Cole, 5 and 7 p.m.

Wednesday

Public hearing to discuss 2006-2007 school year calendar in Professional Development Center, 4:30 p.m.

Jan. 20

Girls' basketball at Navarro, 5 and 6:30 p.m.

Boys' basketball at Navarro, 5 and 8 p.m.

City Invitational Swim Meet at Davis Natatorium, TBA

Academic decathlon regional competition, Boerne High School

Jan. 21

Junior ROTC Military Ball at Holiday Inn-Riverwalk, 7 p.m. to midnight

Academic decathlon regional competition, Boerne High School

School network maintenance

The Fort Sam Houston Independent School District's network will not be operating Saturday through Monday for maintenance and improvement efforts. For more information, call the technology department at 368-8707.

High School News

Cole Jr. High School students win in UIL contest

Story and photo by retired Lt. Col.
Robert Hoffmann

Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School

The District 27-2A Junior High University Interscholastic League contest was a big success for the Cole Jr./Sr. High School students last week. The contest, held in Johnson City and Blanco, included many school districts from the San Antonio area.

The following students placed in the competition:

Art Individual

Seventh grade - Mollie Starnes, fourth; and Sarah Quick, fifth

Eighth grade - Ariel Huffman, best alternate

Art Team

Seventh grade - Mollie Starnes, Sarah Quick and Samantha Valdez, second

Dictionary Skills

Eighth grade - Margaret Manalo, second; and Brittany Starr, third

Impromptu Speaking

Seventh grade - Gabriel Perez, second

Eighth grade - Megan Davis, fourth

Maps, Graphs and Chart

Seventh grade - Heather Fonte, fifth

Eighth grade - Margaret Manalo, fourth

Math

Eighth grade - Margaret Manalo, fourth

Oral reading

Eighth grade - Megan Davis, fourth

Ready Writing

seventh grade - Megan Renz, first

eighth grade - Brittany Starr, sixth

Science

Seventh grade - Hayley Benjamin, first; Megan Renz, fifth; and Kayanna Ward, best alternate

Eighth grade - Adam Shaw, sixth

Spelling

Eighth grade - Margaret Manalo, first

Cole faculty members Rita Hansen, Ron Tullius, Jo Chacon, Kim Chandio,



Eleven Cole Jr./Sr. High School students placed in the District 27-2A Junior High UIL competition last week. They are (front row, from left) Chris Staton, Hayley Benjamin, Karen Thompson and Gabriel Perez; (back row, from left) Kaitlin Sheridan, Margaret Manalo, Lindsey Wafford, Sarah Quick, Mollie Starnes, Samantha Valdez and Megan Renz.

Janice Monroe, Kelly Palmer, Theresa Hoggard, Eric Boehme, Jennifer Lopez, Nancy Hildenburg (UIL coordinator) and Jennifer Wilbur were coaches for the team.

Cole offers parents online access to students' grades

Exciting new technology will enable Cole parents to access their children's grades online starting this semester.

The Web-based system, called the "Pinnacle Internet Viewer," will be accessible through a link on the Cole Web page later this month. As teachers enter grades into the school's computer-based grade book program, the Internet viewer will be updated automatically. Parents will be able to access grades using a school-issued student ID and password.

The school will sponsor informational meetings about the new system Wednesday in the Cole cafeteria. The junior

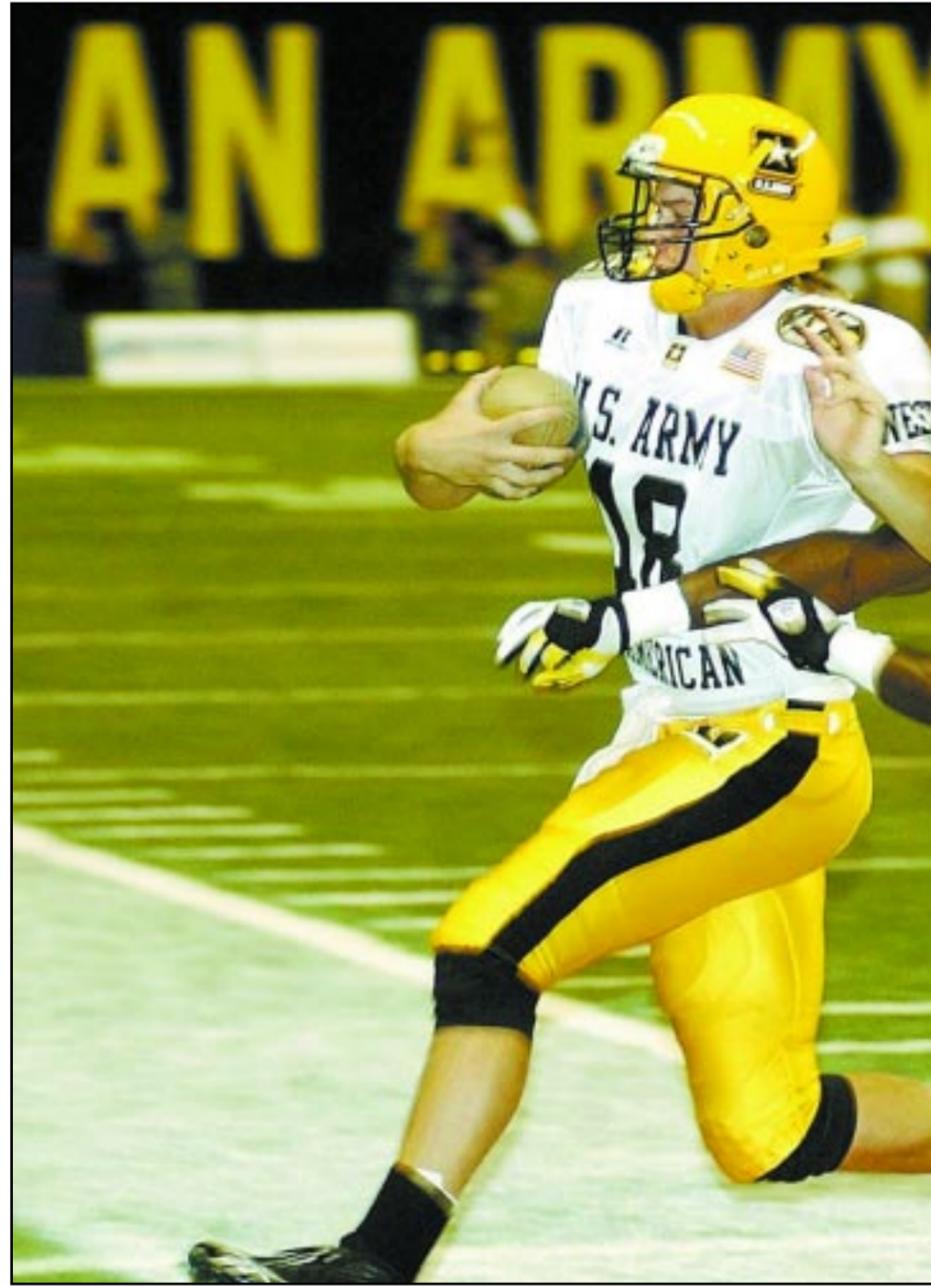
high parent meeting will be from 6 to 6:45 p.m., and high school parents will meet from 7 to 7:45 p.m.

If parents have students at different grade levels, they can choose to attend either session. The Cole computer lab will be open after each meeting if parents need help with online access for the first time.

At the meeting, Cole staff will inform parents about the new system, issue student IDs and passwords and share important information about the upcoming state assessment, the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills.



Four Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division air assault school at Fort Campbell, Ky., rappel from the rafters of the Alamodome to present the game ball to kick off the game.



A wide receiver from the West squad is forced out of bounds during the first quarter of the 2006 U.S. Army All-American Bowl high school all-star football game.



(Above) Soldiers attending advanced individual training at Fort Sam Houston are part of pre-game activities during the 2006 All-American Bowl high school football game at the Alamodome.



Recording artist Darryl Worley sings "Have you Forgotten" with the U.S. Army Field Band in the background during pre-game activities.



Members of the U.S. Army Field Band play during pre-game activities at the Alamodome.

Showdown

Continued from Page 1

Four Soldiers from the 101st Airborne Division airborne assault school at Fort Campbell, Ky., (Sgts. Jeremy Mitchell and Mike Cortez and Staff Sgts. Ira Hutton and Warren Feaster) capped the pre-game ceremony by rappelling from the rafters of the Alamodome to present the game ball to the players.

Army Reserve Sgt. Chris J. Neiweem, a military policeman with the 814th Military Police Company in Arlington Heights, Ill., one of the OIF veterans honored before the game, believes the messages he and his fellow Soldiers articulate during the week are important ones. "Our trip to San Antonio is a real celebration of courage from several different angles.

"We have competitive young athletes who represent the best in the country, and we have Soldiers who have put it on the line for their country representing the best of the Army," he said. "It's kind of fitting having this contest in the city of the fighting spirit of those who fought in the Alamo. Both sides represent leadership and are role models to our communities and nation as a whole."

Sgt. 1st Class Shawn P. Caskin, an air defense platoon sergeant with Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery at Fort Sill, Okla., believes that the greatness of our country is closely linked to the greatness of our Army.

"Americans need to realize that we would not be the great country we are today without having the best military in the world," said Caskin. "To continue to have the freedoms and liberties we enjoy, people must be willing to serve their country. I feel that it's important for our citizens to give back, and I think every young person should serve in some way."

For more information on the All American Bowl, visit www.army.mil/2006allamericanbowl/.



Photos by Daren Reehl

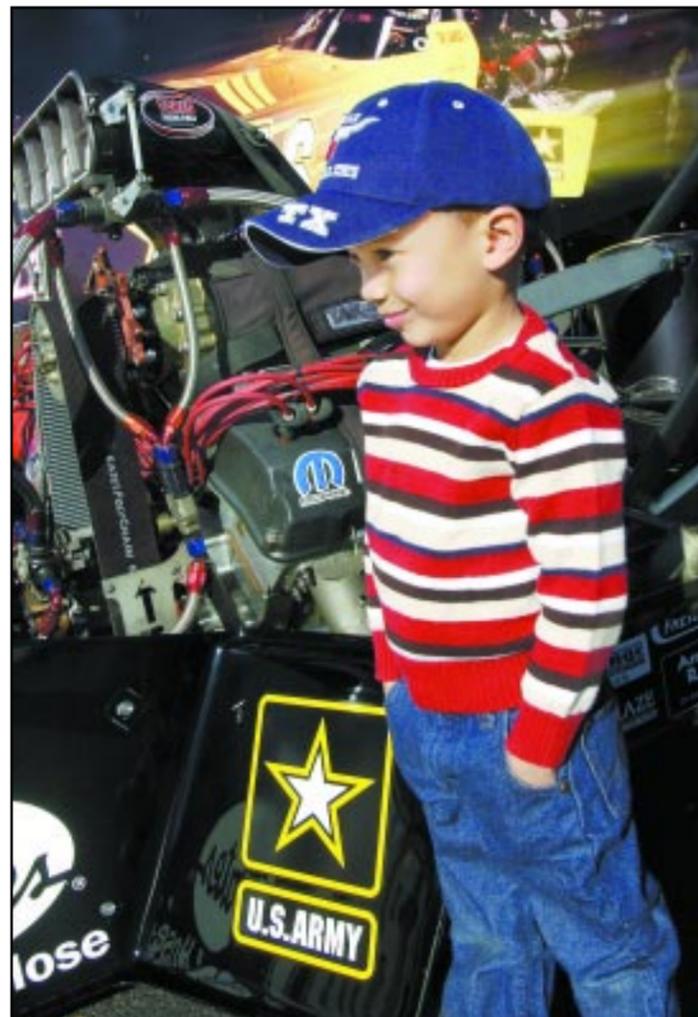
Ball game Saturday at the Alamodome. The East won the nationally televised contest 27-16.



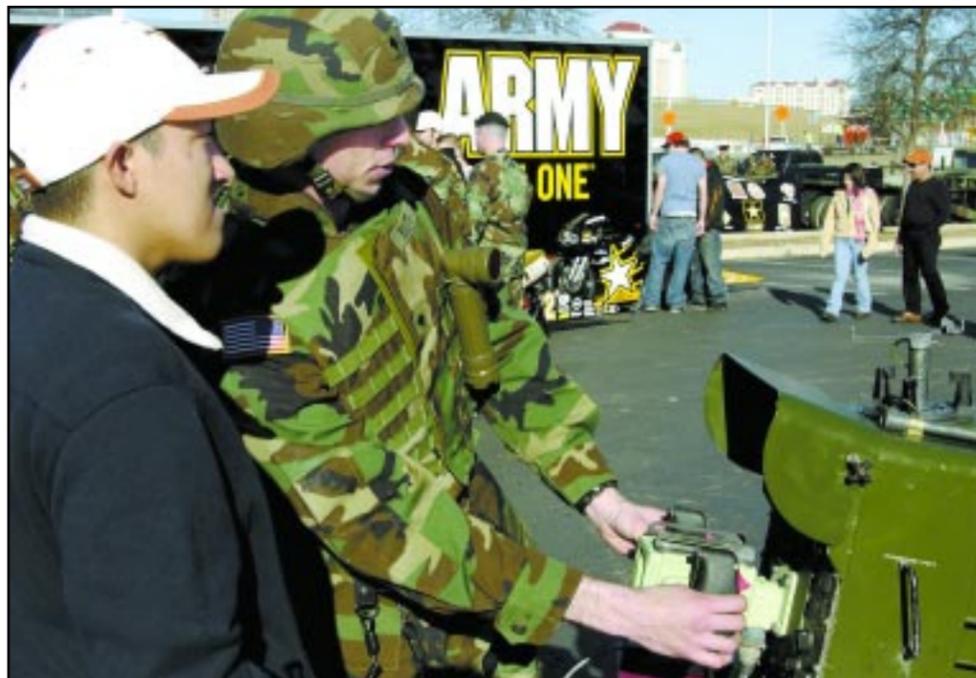
Sgt. 1st Class Gerald Wolford flips the coin to start the All-American Bowl high school all-star game with Army Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard A. Cody (far right) watching during the Army-sponsored event at the Alamodome.



Dusty Rutledge checks out the Army's dragster at the Fan Fiesta outside the Alamodome prior to the start of the U.S. Army All-American Bowl.



Spc. Adam Butt, an Avenger crewman assigned to the 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery at Fort Hood, Texas, goes over the details of the weapon system with 19-year-old Matthew Carrasco from San Antonio during the Army-sponsored Fan Fiesta outside the Alamodome before the start of the all-star football game.



Post Worship Schedule

Main Post Chapel, Building 2200, 221-2754

Catholic Services:

4:45 to 5:15 p.m. - Confessions - Saturdays

5:30 p.m. - Mass - Saturdays

9:30 a.m. - Mass - Sundays

11:30 a.m. - Mass - weekdays

Protestant Services - Sundays:

8 a.m. - Traditional Protestant

11 a.m. - Traditional Protestant

Jewish Services: 379-8666 or 493-6660

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

Dodd Field Chapel, Building 1721, 221-5010 or 221-5432

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

Protestant Services:

10:30 a.m. - Collective Gospel Protestant - Sundays

9:30 to 11:30 a.m. - Women's Bible Study (PWOC) -

Wednesdays, child care is provided.

Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel, Building 3600,
916-1105

Catholic Services:

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Sundays

11 a.m. - Mass - Sundays

11 a.m. - Mass - weekdays

Protestant Services:

10 a.m. - Worship Service - Sundays

12 p.m. - Worship - Wednesdays

AMEDD Regimental Chapel, Building 1398, 221-4362

Troop Catholic Mass:

10 a.m. - 32nd Med. Bde. Soldiers - Sundays

Troop Protestant Gospel Services:

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

Troop Protestant Service: 9 a.m. - 32nd Med. Bde. Soldiers - Sundays

Samoan Protestant Service: 12:30 p.m. - Sundays

FSH Mosque, Building 607A, 221-5005 or 221-5007

10:30 a.m. - Children's Religious Education - Sundays

1:30 p.m. - Jumma - Fridays

7:30 p.m. - Adult Religious Education - Thursdays

Evans Auditorium, 221-5005 or 221-5007

Mormon Services: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. - Sundays

Installation Chaplain's Office, Building 2530, 295-2096

Contemporary service: 11:01 a.m. - Sundays

Web site: www.samhouston.army.mil/chaplain

Religious Happenings . . .

PWOC launches new studies

The Protestant Women of the Chapel will launch a new semester of Bible studies. The daytime study meets Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. and the evening study begins today at 6:30 p.m., both at Dodd Field Chapel. Childcare is provided for both studies. For more information, call Carolyn Wafford at 223-3856 or Lois Griffith at 226-1295, or visit the chapel Web site at <http://www.cs.amedd.army.mil/chaplain/Womensministry/>.

New sermon series

The 11:01 Crossroads Contemporary Service announces a new sermon series called "David at the Crossroads." The sermon series by Chaplains Yvonne Hudson and Darin Olson will search the scriptures for the turning points in the life of the Old Testament prophet. The children's church program, grades kindergarten through sixth, is ongoing during Sunday worship time. Services are Sundays at 11:01 a.m. at the Installation Chaplains Office, Building 2530, Funston Road next to Burger King. For more information, call Carolyn Wafford at 271-3661 or Chaplain Yvonne Hudson at 295-2096.

Financial Peace University

Financial Peace University, a new 13-week program, will begin Feb. 1 from 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. and will meet Wednesdays at the Installation Chaplains Office, Building 2530, Funston Road next to Burger King. The Christian faith-based course, developed by Dave Ramsey, is designed to teach people how to get out of debt, stay out of debt and build wealth. For more information, call Carolyn Wafford at 271-3661 or Chaplain Yvonne Hudson at 295-2096.

Recreation and Fitness

Rampage hockey

Military appreciation night

Join the San Antonio Rampage hockey team as they recognize military members throughout San Antonio and the United States.



A special military appreciation night will be Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. at the SBC Center. Tickets for all Department of Defense ID cardholders are discounted to \$10 per person and include one lower level game ticket, hot dog, soda, chips and a chance to win a special military design Rampage jersey. Ticket order forms are available at the Bowling Center, Army Community Service, Jimmy Brought Fitness Center and other MWR facilities. Ticket orders are due Tuesday. For more information, call 444-5707. Jerseys worn by the players will be auctioned at the end of the game. Proceeds benefit Fort Sam Houston Soldier and Family Assistance Center, San Antonio Fisher Houses, American Red Cross and the Lackland Air Force Base Family Support Center.

Canyon Lake trailer renovations

The Fort Sam Houston Recreation Area at Canyon Lake will continue to have trailers available for rent until Feb. 28. After this time, the trailers are scheduled for renovation and construction. More information on the availability of future reservations will become available at the end of March. Only mobile homes will be affected by this construction; the marina, cabanas and beach will not be affected. For more information, call (830) 226-5357 or (888) 882-9878 if outside the 210 area code.

Water safety instructor course

Anyone interested in becoming swim instructors can sign up now for this six session course beginning Jan. 20. Participants will receive Red Cross Certification upon completion. The cost is \$175 and includes a book and materials. No military ID is required. For more informa-

tion, call 295-8861 or 221-1234.

New Year's fitness

Start the new year off right with a resolution to get fit and stay fit. Stop by the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center to participate in one of the heart-pounding aerobics classes such as kick-boxing, karate, cardio step, body sculpture, seniors' fitness, super abs, stretching and cycling. For more information, call 221-2020.

Intramural sports

People interested in a team sport should consider joining an intramural/varsity sports league. Participation in intramural sports enhances individual morale and unit esprit de corps, promotes teamwork and encourages individuals to reach high levels of physical fitness. For more information or to join, call 221-1180.

3-D archery at Camp Bullis



The next archery shoot is Jan. 28 and 29. Check-in is from 8 to 10 a.m. This competitive shoot includes 30 3-D animal targets placed at unknown distances ranging from 10 to 40 yards in woodland settings.

Awards are given to the top three in each class. The cost is \$15 per person. Minis and cubs shoot free with a paid adult, and a playground is available for younger children. For more information, call the Camp Bullis Outdoor Recreation Office at 295-7577.

Dining and Entertainment

Sam Houston Club, 224-2721

Newcomers' Extravaganza

The Newcomers' Extravaganza has been relocated to the Sam Houston Club. The next event is Jan. 31 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. This event is mandatory for all permanent party military members E-1 through O-6 within 60 days of arrival to Fort Sam Houston. Everyone who attends the extravaganza will receive a voucher for a \$4.95 lunch at the Sam Houston Club following the event. For more information, call Alicia Tyson at 221-2705 or 221-2418.

Sunday brunch

The Sam Houston Club will have a brunch Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. that includes pastries, omelets and breakfast meats. Adult meal served with compli-

mentary champagne. The cost is \$11.95 for members, \$13.95 for non-members, \$6.95 for children ages 6 to 11 and free for children 5 and under. For reservations, call 224-2721.

Lunch buffet

The Sam Houston Club features an "All You Can Eat" lunch buffet, which includes beverage, deluxe salad bar, soup and dessert Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cost is \$5.95 for members and \$6.95 for non-members.

Bingo

Play bingo every Thursday and Friday; doors open at 5 p.m., and Saturday, doors open at 11 a.m. Youth 10 and older may play when accompanied by an adult. There is a free buffet for all bingo players.

Bowling Center, 221-3683

Bowl-A-Jam



Bowl-A-Jam is Saturdays from 7 to 10 p.m. The cost is \$8 per person, which includes shoes and one order of fries per lane. Stop by for music and fun. For more information, call 221-3683.

Golf Club, 221-4388

January special on golf lessons

Get 10 lessons for only \$150. Open to men and women of any level of experience. To register, call 355-5429.



Harlequin Dinner Theatre

"Black Coffee," a mystery by Agatha Christie, is on stage through Feb. 18. Prices are \$26.95 Fridays and Saturdays and \$23.95 Wednesdays and Thursdays. There are discounts for military. Doors open for salad bar and cocktails at 6:15 p.m., the buffet is served from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and the show begins at 8 p.m. For reservations, call the Harlequin Dinner Theatre at 222-9694.

MWR Ticket Office at Sam Houston Club

Discounted tickets for the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo are on sale. The rodeo runs Feb. 3 to 19. Also, Disney and Universal Studios season passes are on sale. Tickets for Laser Quest in San Antonio are \$6.50 and a family fun pack for five is \$32.50. For more information, call the ticket office at 226-1663.

Child and Youth Services



Youth Services registration

Youth Services registration will be Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Central Registration, Building 2797, Stanley Road. To register, parents need to bring current shot records, name and telephone number of two local emergency contacts, physical exam or well baby check completed within the last 12 months with physician's signature affixed, child's Social Security number and proof of total family income such as a current leave and earnings statement or pay stub. There is an \$18 annual registration fee per child, maximum \$40 per family of three or more registering participants. For more information, call Roxanne Lacy at 221-4871 or Arlene Alvarez at 221-1723.

Youth Services volunteers

Youth Services is looking for volunteers to assist with youth programs such as golf, roller hockey, tennis, computers and arts

and crafts. Volunteers with typing or filing skills are needed for the administrative office. Parents and teens can also volunteer to help in the concession stands Saturdays during football season. For more information, call the Youth Center at 221-3502.

Free after-school program

Youth Services offers a free after-school program for sixth to 10th graders Monday through Friday until 6 p.m. YS will pick up children from the school (either the elementary or the high school). At the Youth Center, they will have a snack, work on homework, participate in clubs and do fun, innovative projects at the 4-H club, photography club and the computer tech club. Youth must be registered with Child and Youth Services. The annual fee is \$18, but there is no cost for the program. For more information, call 221-3502 or 221-4871.

Youth baseball registration

Registration for youth baseball will be Jan. 30 through Feb. 27 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Central Registration, Building 2797. Registration will be on site at Youth Services from Feb. 27 through March 3 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. To register, parents must pay a \$45 activity baseball fee and bring



updated immunizations for fifth graders and below, sports physical and a current leave and earnings statement. All participants must have a current Child and Youth Services membership.

Basketball registration

Basketball registration is ongoing. Players and coaches are needed. For more information, call the Youth Sports Office at 221-5513.

Cooking classes

The Youth Center offers cooking classes Fridays from 5 to 6 p.m. For more information, call 221-3502.

Parent Advisory Council meeting

The Child and Youth Services Parent Advisory Council will meet Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Child Development Center. Lunch will be provided. A representative from Community Health will speak on colds and flu. All CYS patrons are encouraged to attend. This is an opportunity to meet staff, learn of upcoming events and attend parent education opportunities.

Family Child Care Online

Family Child Care Online is a marketing tool that allows parents to take a virtual tour of FCC homes. In addition, parents can read about the provider's philosophy of care, hours of operation and back-

ground. This online tool can be accessed through the Child and Youth Services Central Registration office, Building 2797, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Part-day preschool program

Patrons interested in the part-day preschool program at the Child Development Center can call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723. Preschool is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fees are based on total family income.

Home-based child care

Family Child Care offers home-based child care for ages 4 weeks to 12 years on and off post with certified providers. FCC offers full-day, part-day, before- and after-school care, hourly care, extended hourly care and long-term care. For referral information or child registration, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

FCC providers

Family Child Care is looking for family members interested in becoming certified FCC providers. There is a no-cost start-up plan. For more information, call 221-3820 or 221-3828.

CDC waiting list

To remain on the waiting list for the Child Development Center, parents are advised to check their status every 90 days. To check status, call the Child and Youth Services Central Registration office at 221-1723 or 221-4871.

Events

Half price symphony tickets

The San Antonio Symphony will present a concert called "East of Paris," conducted by JoAnn Falletta, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Majestic Theatre. Tickets are available to the military with a 50 percent discount. For more information or to purchase tickets, call Karen Cramer at 554-1000, ext. 152; the box office at 554-1010; or e-mail www.sasymphony.org.

Rainbow Kids open auditions

Fort Sam Houston's Youth Services will hold open auditions for the Rainbow Kids, a performing arts group, Jan. 21 at 2 p.m. at the Fort Sam Houston School Age Services building, located off Winans and Dodd Roads, across from the chapel. Auditions are open for boys and girls ages 6 through 13 who like to sing, dance and perform comedy or special acts. For more information, call Ron Joy at 348-8014 or 295-2093 or e-mail rj96707@yahoo.com; the Youth Center at 221-3502 or 221-4882; or School Age Services at 221-4466.

Black Soldiers photo exhibit

The U.S. Army will host a free traveling photo exhibit called "Strength Through Freedom. The U.S. Army Celebrates African-American History," paying homage to the valor of African-American Soldiers from the Revolutionary War to Operation Iraqi Freedom. The exhibit is open through Monday at the University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures and it is free to the public. Special tours for local high school students are available. For more information, call 458-2330.

Kids Club

Early ON and KLRN Kids Club will host a special event at South Park Mall Feb. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Walkaround Ord from PBS' "Dragon Tales" will make a special appearance. Early ON is part of the kindergarten readiness program. For more information on Early ON, call 657-6278 or visit kln.org/earlyon. For more information about KLRN Kids Club, call 270-9000 or visit kln.org/klnkids.

Trinity to present MLK lecture

In honor of the late Martin Luther King Jr., Trinity University will host a lecture by Randall Kennedy, a Harvard law professor, Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Laurie Auditorium on the Trinity campus. It is free and open to the public. For more information, call Trinity's office of public relations at 999-8406.

Black History Month Observation

St. Philip's College will observe Black History Month in February, the theme is "Celebrating Community: A Tribute to Black Fraternal, Social and Civic Institutions." A series of exhibits, dramatizations, panel discussions, musical performances and educational events will take place throughout the month on the main campus at 1801 Martin Luther King Drive. For more information, call 531-3260 or visit www.accd.edu/spc.

'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof'

The Barshop Jewish Community Center and the Sheldon Vexler Theatre present "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof" Feb. 2 through 25, with performances Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 8 p.m. and two Sunday matinees, Feb. 5 and 19 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call 302-6835.

'Dr. Dolittle'

The Barshop Jewish Community Center and The Sheldon Vexler Theatre present "Dr. Dolittle" Feb. 7 through 26, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m.; Feb. 15 at 7 p.m.; and Sunday matinees, Feb. 12 and 26 at 2:30 p.m. The theater is located on Northwest Military Highway at Wurzbach Parkway. Reservations are required. For more information, call 302-6835.

Training

Army Reserve opportunities

The U.S. Army Reserve is actively recruiting. For more information, call (800) USA-ARMY or visit www.goarmyreserve.com.

Military intelligence recruiting

The 6th Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, seeks Soldiers to fill military intelligence positions at Camp Bullis. For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Barbara Richardson at 295-7629.

Army health care recruiting

A health care professional's greatest calling is to serve the Soldiers who defend our nation's freedom. The U.S. Army offers virtually every health care specialty found in the civilian sector. Call an Army health care recruiter to learn about opportunities for direct commissions, scholarships, internships and residencies at 692-7376 or visit www.healthcare.goarmy.com.

Army physician assistant program

The United States Army is looking for qualified Soldiers to attend the Interservice Physician Assistant Program at the Army Medical Department Center and School at Fort Sam Houston. Graduates of the course receive a commission as a second lieutenant and a master's degree from the University of Nebraska. For application procedures, reference Army Regulation 601-20, The Interservice Physician Assistant Training Program, or visit www.cs.amedd.army.mil/ipap. Local Army education centers can also assist applicants. For more information, call (502) 626-0386, DSN 536-0386, (800) 223-3735, ext. 6-0386 or e-mail ipap@usarec.army.mil.

Range safety officer class

The Range Safety Officer class is Fridays from 1 to 3 p.m. in Building 6107, Room 1A, at Camp Bullis. People should reserve a seat in advance. For more information or to arrange for training on another day, call Mabel Rodriguez at 295-7616 or e-mail mabel.rodriguez@samhouston.army.mil, or Patricia Jennings at 295-7686 or e-mail patricia.jennings@samhouston.army.mil.

Green to Gold briefing

The Fort Sam Houston Education Center provides monthly Green to Gold briefings for Soldiers interested in Green to Gold ROTC scholarships. Capt. Chez Varela, from St. Mary's University, will be available to answer questions Jan. 23 at 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. at Building 2247, next to the education center, in the training room. For more information, call 221-9881.

Job interview workshops

The Family Employment Readiness Program will offer a job interview skills workshop Wednesday from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center. Reservations and a valid military family member ID card are required. For more information, call Gabriele Dias at 221-0516 or Jennifer Swiger at 221-0427.

Free computer training

Family members of active duty military personnel can receive computer training for the job market through the Family Employment Readiness Program. Automated, self-paced training is available on all Microsoft Office software that includes Word, Excel, Access, Power Point, Windows, Outlook, QuickBooks (accounting), customer service, clerical and typing skills. Typing instruction is also available in Spanish. For more information, call Gabriele Dias at 221-0516 or Jennifer Swiger at 221-0427.

Caregiver workshops

KLRN will host Family, Friends and Neighbors training sessions in San Antonio for home-based caregivers. Two sessions will be provided, one in English, one in Spanish. The FFN workshops are free and open to the public. Dinner and childcare is

provided at all of the sessions. The Spanish series is Tuesdays through Jan. 31 from 6 to 8 p.m.; the English series is Wednesdays through Feb. 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. Classes are at the Wesley Community Center, 1406 Fitch St. Space is limited. For more information or to sign up, call 270-9000, ext. 2265.

SDDC workshop

The Surface Deployment and Distribution Command will host the Western Regional Training workshop from Feb. 6 through 9 at the St. Anthony Wyndam Hotel in San Antonio. The workshop will showcase SDDC's expanded distribution and deployment mission. The theme is "Synchronizing the Plan" and is geared for functional level personnel, active duty, reserve component, National Guard and Department of Department civilians, to include installation transportation officers and contractors who work for DoD. For more information, visit www.sddc.army.mil.

Army online training

Army e-Learning is available for all Army personnel. People can access more than 2,600 distance learning courses to include business skills, interpersonal skills, computer professional and computer user skills, environmental, safety and health courses, 29 foreign languages and more than 80 information technology vendor certification exams. Army e-Learning offers personal mentoring for most IT certifications, in addition to promotion points and college credits. Also included is temporary access to more than 8,000 online books so people can assess their value to the workforce. This is a free service. For more information, visit <https://usarmy.skillport.com/rkusarmy/login/usarmylogin.cfm>.

IO opportunities

Functional Area 30 (Information Operations) seeks highly motivated year group 1997-2002 officers for expanding IO opportunities in the Brigade Combat Team, divisions, corps and joint positions. Interested officers in YG 1998-2001 can request career field designation by completing the online preference form at https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/opfamd/cfd_Upcoming_boards.htm or by contacting the IO career management officer, Maj. Gregory Mogavero, at gregory.mogavero@us.army.mil or (703) 325-5791. All other interested officers can request redesignation to IO through the Human Resource Center IO career management officer. For more information, call Lt. Col. Ken Krumm at (913) 684-5318 or H. David Pendleton at (913) 684-5320.

St. Mary's University

St. Mary's University offers more than 20 master of arts and master of science degrees as well as community counseling and international relations online degree programs. Spring term begins Wednesday. Course schedules are available online at www.stmarytx.edu/registrar. For more information, call 658-4852.

Meetings

OCSC luncheon and bingo

The Officer and Civilian Spouses' Club will meet at the Sam Houston Club for lunch and bingo Jan. 17 at 11 a.m. Lunch is \$12 for a baked potato buffet. Reservations or cancellations are due Friday at 12 p.m. For more information, call 226-8806 or e-mail Sigrid.Reitstetter@AMEDD.ARMY.MIL.

ROWW meeting

The Retired Officer's Wives and Widows Club of Fort Sam Houston will meet Jan. 23 at 11 a.m. with lunch at 11:30 a.m. at the Sam Houston Club. The cost is \$12. The program will feature Elizabeth Shannahan demonstrating chair exercises and Robbye Hogg's slide show on Africa. For reservations, call Arline Braswell at 822-6559.

Native Plant Society of Texas

The San Antonio Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will meet Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. at Lions Field Adult Center, 2809 Broadway at E. Mulberry. The meeting will feature Deedy Wright, master gardener, who will present, "Landscaping with Native Plants." For more information, call 733-0034 or visit www.npsot.org/SanAntonio.

SCUCISD future planning meeting

Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City Independent School District will hold future planning meetings Monday, Jan. 23 and 30 and Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m. in the Dobbie Junior High cafeteria, 395 W. Borgfield Road, Cibolo, Texas. Roy Richard and Dr. Tom DeKunder will chair the meetings to discuss a facility plan to present at the February school board meeting. The meetings are open to the public. For more information, call 945-6232.

Comptroller symposium

The Alamo City Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptroller will host the 2006 Professional Development Symposium Feb. 6 and 7 at Retama Park. The theme for this year's symposium is, "Riding The Waves of Change." Certified Defense Financial Manager testing will be available both days. Deadline for pre-registration is Friday. On site registration will be available. For more information, contact an ASMC representative.

BOSS seeks single Soldiers

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets the first and third Wednesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. at the Hacienda Recreation Center. The BOSS committee was established to provide Soldiers input to the commander, who uses the committee's recommendations to improve single Soldiers' Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Micaela Reyes at 221-8947.

Volunteer

Community service day

The Alamo City Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers will hold a community service day in the Sunshine Plaza, an assisted living apartment complex for fixed-income residents, Saturday at 9 a.m. in the main recreation room. Bring a bucket, cleaning cloths, all purpose cleaner, and a lot of energy. For more information, call Jane Keller at 590-7460 or Michele Buckley at 536-3563.

Student exchange program

The American Scandinavian Student Exchange International Program needs area representatives to host exchange students. Representatives will receive training and are reimbursed for expenses. This is a valuable opportunity for high school exchange students to experience the American way of life. For more information, call (800) 473-0696 or (409) 745-2433.

Marching band seeks members

Officials of the Alamo City Community Marching Band have open registration for their 2006 marching band. Seating will be accepted in all sections of the band to include flags and twirlers. Anyone 18 years of age or older is encouraged to apply. The band practices Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, 3518 Fredericksburg Road. For more information, call 733-0120 or visit www.alamocityband.org.

Girl Scouts seek volunteers

Girl Scouts of the San Antonio area are looking for adults to lead Girl Scout troops in the community. Help young girls grow up to be strong, confident and compassionate. Volunteers do not have to have a daughter in a troop to help. For more information, call Carla Mendez at 349-2404, ext. 217 or e-mail cmendez@sagirlscouts.org.

Submission guidelines:

Freebies are published on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline is noon Monday. Freebies are intended for personal household goods, and may only be submitted by active, retired or reserve military members and civilian employees working on Fort Sam Houston. Real estate ads will not be published. To submit a Fort Freebie, e-mail to news.leader@samhouston.army.mil or fax to **295-0512**. Freebies run for one week unless submitter calls to renew. Limit of five items per entry. For more information, call 221-1031.



For Sale: Ashley sofa, sage green and off-white trim, like new, \$300, obo. Call 875-5890.

For Sale: Minnkota trolling motor, \$45; Stingray outboard hydrofoil for 75 hp and above, \$20; water skis, great condition, \$45. Call 221-3549.

For Sale: Glass and iron kitchen table with four chairs, bakers rack, two bar stools, \$300 obo; kids Power Wheels Jeep Wrangler, \$100 obo; Cardio Force exercise equipment, \$50 obo; Eddie Bauer child's car seat, \$20. Call 566-0459 from 5 to 9 p.m.

For Sale: Golf cart, serviced with new batteries, \$950. Call 916-1095 or 822-6587.

For Sale: Twin bed frame and box spring set, \$15; white wood five-drawer upright dresser,

\$25; pine computer desk, \$50; Samtron computer monitor, \$30. Call 821-5479.

For Sale: Cherry finish armoire, \$200; antique oak dressers, \$150 each; oak trestle library table, \$250; antique trunk, \$50; antique oak rocker, \$50. Call Sandi at 826-0308 or 381-4956.

For Sale: Hedstrom game zone table top with basketball, foosball and air hockey, \$25. Call 223-2317.

For Sale: Video rocker, maroon, \$10; Disney videos, \$5 each; White Hot three-ball putter, \$25 obo. Call 697-9261.

Yard Sale: Madonna Neighborhood Center, 1906 Castroville Road, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call Vale Solis, 432-2374, ext. 15.

Career Clips

Disease education, tele-health nurse, San Antonio – Provides health education and utilization management services to members; makes outbound calls to assess patients; documents assessments and interventions; communicates pertinent information to the patient's clinician; and handles inbound/outbound day-to-day monitoring of patients.

Manager, San Antonio – Plans and develops the reimbursement program through the direct supervision of the assistant superintendent, financial operations; coordinates the intake and documentation of financial and demographic data associated with admissions to state mental health facility; and coordinates and supervises use of automated systems.

Bank servicing manager, San Antonio – Experience in servicing deposits, credit cards, consumer loans or home equity products; three years banking operations experience; two years management, project management or other leadership experience; one year of recent call center experience and knowledge of call center management tools.

The Army Career and Alumni Program office provides numerous services to eligible people in transition including job assistance. Information on these and other positions is available to ACAP customers in the ACAP Office, Building 2264, or by calling 221-1213.