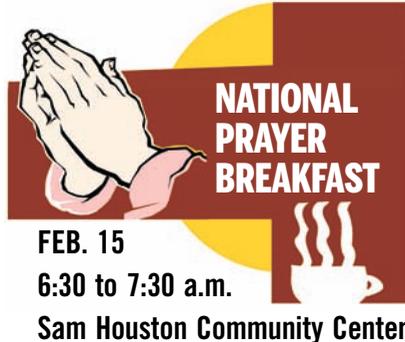


# FORT SAM HOUSTON News Leader

JANUARY 26, 2012  
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## Military Tax Assistance Center opens Jan. 30

Active duty military members, military retirees, and their families can once again take advantage of free tax services on Fort Sam Houston beginning Jan. 30, as the 502nd Mission Support Group's legal office opens the Military Tax Assistance Center for business.

The main site is at 2271 Reynolds Road, which is at the corner of Wilson and Reynolds Roads in the 502nd Mission Support Group

legal office, as well as a San Antonio Military Medical Center satellite office at the L44-6 Conference Room.

The main site is already making appointments to complete federal and state income tax returns. All tax returns are completed on an appointment-only basis. The SAMMC satellite office begins taking appointments Jan. 30.

All customers need to bring their W-2s, 1099-Rs and all other

tax-related documents to their appointment.

The MTAC main site phone number is 295-1040 and the SAMMC satellite phone number is 916-1040.

A grand opening ceremony for the main site is at 9 a.m. Jan. 30. The Army, Navy and Air Force staff of the Fort Sam Houston MTAC looks forward to assisting customers with their tax returns and saving the cost of tax preparation services.

## FLYING FISTS



Photo by Deyanira Romo Russell

Senior Airman Irby Burnett (right) lands a right hook on Jesse Richardson during the Air Force Box-Off Tournament at the Fitness Center on the METC Campus Jan. 21. For story and more photos, see page 16-17.

## ADAPTIVE FITNESS AND SPORTS CAMP



Photo by Lori Newman

Cindy Burkhour, recreation therapist for the U.S. Paralympics Military Program, helps Air Force Capt. Anthony Simone complete a circuit workout Jan. 19 at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. The Air Force hosted the Adaptive Fitness and Sports Camp for wounded, ill and injured Airmen Jan. 19-20 at Joint Base San Antonio. Story and more photos on page 15.

## SMA discusses future of force with Army South Soldiers

By Sgt. Tamika Exom  
ARSOUTH Public Affairs

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III visited U.S. Army South Headquarters, conducted a town hall meeting with more than 300 enlisted Soldiers at Blesse Auditorium, and spoke about possible upcoming policy changes Jan. 6.

Chandler, hosted by Maj. Gen. Simeon G. Trombitas, Army South commander, received a mission brief from Command Sgt. Maj. Gabriel Cervantes, Army South com-

mand sergeant major, before holding the town hall with the Soldiers.

Army South, the Army service component command of U.S. Southern Command, conducts theater security cooperation in order to enhance hemispheric security and stability.

"I was pleased to have the opportunity to inform the sergeant major of the Army of the great things we are doing here at Army South within our area of responsibility, and how we are relevant to the future of the

U.S. Army," Cervantes said.

Army South conducts training exercises and subject-matter expert engagements with partner nations in Central and South America and the Caribbean.

The command has the capability to conduct contingency operations and a variety of missions, which include defeating conventional threats, providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief; and supporting civil authorities in counter-

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# Rules restrict political activity by DOD personnel

By Donna Miles  
 American Forces Press Service

With election activity steadily picking up, defense officials are in the process of issuing regular election-year guidance to remind military and Defense Department civilians that they're subject to rules regulating their involvement in political activities.

This issue – one the department regularly addresses during election periods – came to light recently after an Army Reserve Soldier in uniform appeared endorsing a political candidate.

Several sets of rules help to protect the integrity of the political process, DOD officials said. DOD Directive 1344.10 applies to members of the armed forces, whether they serve on active duty, as members of the reserve components not on active duty, as National Guard members in a nonfederal status, and military retirees.

In addition, the Hatch Act applies to federal civilian employees, and employees also are subject to widely published DOD guidance that discusses participation in political campaigns and elections.

These rules are designed to prevent military members' or federal civilian employees' participation in political activities that imply – or even appear to imply – official sponsorship, approval or endorsement, officials said. The concern, they explained, is that actual or perceived partisanship could undermine the legitimacy of the military profession and department.

That's not to imply, however, that military members and civilian employees can't par-

ticipate in politics. In fact, the DOD has a longstanding policy of encouraging members to carry out the obligations of citizenship, officials said.

The DOD encourages its military and civilian members to register to vote and vote as they choose, they said. Both groups can sign nominating petitions for candidates and express their personal opinions about candidates and issues.

However, officials emphasized, they can do so only if they don't act as – or aren't perceived as – representatives of the armed forces in carrying out these activities.

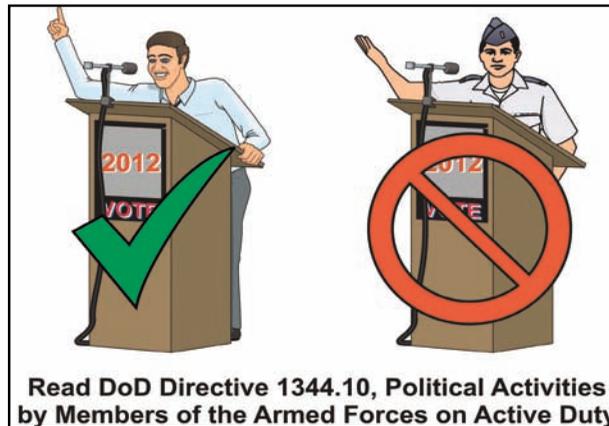
Beyond that, the list of do's and don'ts differs depending on whether the employee is a member of the armed forces, a career civil service employee, a political appointee or a member of the career Senior Executive Service, officials said.

Military members, for example, may attend political meetings or rallies only as spectators and not in uniform. They're not permitted to make public political speeches, serve in any official capacity in partisan groups or participate in partisan political campaigns or conventions.

They also are barred from engaging in any political activities while in uniform.

A combat engineer assigned to the 416th Theater Engineer Company potentially violated these rules Jan. 3 when he stepped onto a stage at Ron Paul's headquarters in Ankeny, Iowa, during the Iowa Caucus to offer a personal endorsement.

Although he was wearing his uniform, the Soldier was not in an active status at the time, Army Maj. Angela Wallace, an



Graphic by James Luman

It is important for Defense Department members to know DOD regulations concerning political activities.

Army Reserve spokeswoman, confirmed.

Wallace emphasized that the Soldier “stands alone in his opinions regarding his political affiliation and beliefs, and his statements and beliefs in no way reflect that of the Army Reserve.”

His chain of command

is aware of the issue and is considering appropriate disciplinary action to take, she said.

Most civilian DOD employees, whose political activities are governed by the Hatch Act, are permitted to be active in and speak before political gatherings and serve as

officers of political parties or partisan groups, officials said. These activities, however, cannot involve fundraising.

Civilian employees also are permitted to manage campaigns, distribute literature, write political articles or serve as a spokesperson for a party or candidate.

There are, however, exceptions to this, including but not limited to Senior Executive Service.

While the dos and don'ts concerning political activity may vary, the basic tenets hold true for all DOD employees.

The bottom line, officials said, is that they should steer clear of any activity that may be reasonably viewed as directly or indirectly associating DOD or the military with a partisan political activity, or that “is otherwise contrary to the spirit or intent” of the rules described.

## News Briefs

### Phase I Army Reenlistment Window Closes Jan. 31

Soldiers with an ETS date between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30 are considered in the reenlistment window during this Phase I. These Soldiers must reenlist prior to Jan. 31 (end of phase I). Soldiers with an FY 12 end of time in service date who do not reenlist during Phase I are no longer eligible for reenlistment. For more information, call the installation career counselor at 221-2800.

### 502nd MSG Legal Office Closure Notice

The 502nd Mission Support Group Legal Office, located at 2271 Reynolds Road on Fort Sam Houston, will close at 2 p.m. Jan. 27 for training. Normal operating hours resume Jan. 30. For legal emergencies, call the command post at 295-8817.

### National Prayer Breakfast

The 502nd Mission Support Group ministry team will host a National Prayer Breakfast from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. Feb. 15 at the Sam Houston Community Center. The guest speaker is retired Lt. Col. Steve Russell, the author of "We Got Him!," a memoir of the hunt and capture of Saddam Hussein. Tickets are \$10. Call 221-5007 or 221-2754.

### Military Service Station Undergoing Renovations

The Joint Base San Antonio Fort Sam Houston Military Service Station, Building 4050 on Wilson Way, is undergoing renovations and expected to be complete on or about Jan. 27. During this process, customers will continue to have 24-hour access to each grade of fuel at this station. However, there may be a limited number of dispensers available for each grade. For more information, call 925-4936 or 925-5374.

### Consolidated Monthly Retirement Ceremony

A ceremony will be held 11 a.m. Jan. 26 at the Fort Sam Houston Quadrangle.

### Schertz Medical Home Changing Hours

The Schertz Medical Home is changing their operating hours to 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., beginning Feb. 6.

See NEWS, P4

# Army Secretary John McHugh awards nine Purple Heart medals at SAMMC, WFSC

By Maria Gallegos  
SAMMC Public Affairs

Nine wounded warriors were honored during Purple Heart ceremonies Jan. 11 at the San Antonio Military Medical Center and Warrior and Family Support Center.

Secretary of the Army John McHugh visited with 19 warriors at SAMMC and presented five warriors with their Purple Heart medals at their bedsides.

After the hospital visit, McHugh toured the Center for the Intrepid and presented four more Purple Heart medals at the WFSC.

Maj. Gen. M. Ted Wong, commander of Brooke Army Medical Center and Southern Regional Medical Command, opened the ceremony followed by McHugh, who presented the medals and certificates.

"When I come to this place like Brooke Army Medical Center, it truly makes you feel young and it makes you feel blessed," McHugh said. "General Wong and Command Sergeant Major Huffman, I want to thank you for your hospitality here this morning.

"Please pass on my deepest appreciation and express admiration; I think you are a great team here, all components of it, and just do incredible things for Army members, Soldiers,



(From left) Command Sgt. Maj. Marshall Huffman, BAMC command sergeant major, along with Staff Sgt. Robert Geer, Staff Sgt. Brian Wayland, Secretary of the Army John McHugh, Spc. Joshua Saul, Pfc. Cameron Congleton and Maj. Gen. M. Ted Wong, commander of BAMC and SRMC, pose after the Purple Heart ceremony Jan. 11 at the WFSC. McHugh presented the Purple Heart medals and certificates to four Purple Heart recipients.

Photo by Maria Gallegos

Sailors, Marines, all across the services," McHugh added. "Of course the great families as well.

"It's truly a miracle of medicine that you perform each and every day," the Army secretary said. "This is something that all of us can take a great deal of pride, and I am greatly appreciative of your expertise and your contribution."

McHugh welcomed the Purple Heart recipients with words of praise for their courage, dedication and sacrifices they made to defend our country and recognized the importance of Army families to the Army and the service men and women.

"The Purple Heart is the longest awarded and continuously

awarded medal of valor. Its an interesting decoration in that it's one of the most recognized certainly, one that just about anyone can identify once they see it. It is something that I hope is worn with great pride, with great devotion," he said.

"It's probably not the first award most Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen and Coast Guardsmen set out each and every day to win," McHugh added. "It's the kind of award that distinguishes service members, who at the most critical moment, land themselves in harm's way and make that great sacrifice.

"I want to say a special word of thanks of appreciation and admiration to the family members," the Army secretary

said. "Those folks, who are here today, those folks who are not here physically, are always with our service men and women in spirit supporting them with their thoughts and prayers and their love because they too sacrificed and we're deeply appreciative of that."

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kin in the name of those who are killed in action or die of wounds received in action. It is specifically a combat decoration and the oldest military honor in the world in use.

## New Army Civilian Record Brief available

The Department of the Army has developed a Civilian Record Brief for all employees. The CRB is a one-page snapshot of an employee's official data pulled from various sources, such as MyBiz, the Defense Civilian Personnel Data System, Notification of Personnel Action (their SF-50s) and Training Application Systems.

By putting all of this information on a single, easily

viewed document, employees will have an uncomplicated method for reviewing their data contained in the DCPDS and taking steps, if necessary, to update or correct the data.

The U.S. Army Forces Command, along with other major Army commands, have made the CRB available to its employees already.

Employees will be able to review and update their CRB

through MyBiz and "Update My CRB" through the CPOL Portal, when available.

Employees are not required to take any steps associated with the implementation of the CRB, but once available they are encouraged to review their CRB for accuracy.

A copy of the employee's CRB will also be available to their supervisor; however, the CRB does not contain any

information that is not already accessible by supervisors. It is merely an additional resource that places pertinent information on a single page making it more accessible, and reviewable, by the employee and their supervisor.

To view a sample CRB along with the CRB Quick Guide, visit the Fort Sam Houston CPAC web page at <http://www.sam-houston.army.mil/cpac/>.

(Source: JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Civilian Personnel Advisory Center)

## News Briefs

from P3

### Type 2 Diabetes Research Study

Military medical beneficiaries (retired and family members of active duty and retired), age 18-65, and diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes may be a candidate for a research study titled "Sleeve Gastrectomy Versus Medical Management For Remission Of Diabetes In Mild To Moderately Obese Patients," even if not being a previous candidate for weight loss surgery before. Active duty personnel are unable to participate. For more information, call the Bariatric Clinic at 292-2210.

### TRICARE Pharmacy Contract With Walgreens Not Renewed

Walgreens is no longer be a TRICARE network provider. If a beneficiary fills a prescription at Walgreens, they will pay 100 percent of the cost and will need to file a paper claim for non-network benefit reimbursement (with a higher cost share). Additional information can be found at the following websites; <http://www.tricare.mil/walgreens/>, <http://www.express-scripts.com/TRICARE>, <http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=66626>. These resources can be used to find information on how to transfer a prescription, find a new pharmacy, or other FAQs. If needed, beneficiaries can take current prescription bottles to a new network pharmacy to have prescriptions transferred. Beneficiaries who need help finding a pharmacy or changing their medications to home delivery, or who have other questions, can contact Express Scripts at 1-877-885-6313.

### Wilford Hall ER Closed

The Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgery Center has closed its emergency department and re-designated the area as an urgent care center. The UCC is an option for common acute minor medical problems when an individual cannot obtain an appointment with a primary care provider or a clinic is closed. The UCC staff will treat minor illnesses and injuries, such as flu, fever, earaches, nausea, rashes, animal and insect bites, minor bone fractures and minor cuts that require stitches. If you go to the Wilford Hall UCC with an emergency injury or illness, you will be sent or transported by ambulance to a hospital emergency department and this could delay your care. Call 292-7331 for more information.

# Army North hosts DHS/DOD future requirements conference

By Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson  
ARNORTH Public Affairs

U.S. Army North brought together more than 75 planners and officials from more than 20 government and military organizations for the Department of Homeland Security/Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2013 Requirements Conference Jan. 10 and 11.

The conference was part of a new DHS/DOD strategic approach to protecting the Southwest border of the United States.

"It is a whole-government approach," said Christian Abbott, deputy director, plans division, DHS. "We are initially focusing on the Southwest border, but we are applying a foundation that will apply nationally. We are doing things more efficiently and more effectively."

Representatives at the conference included those from DHS – to include U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Northern Command, the U.S.

Coast Guard, which are components of DHS – along with those from ARNORTH, Joint Task Force-North, the National Guard Bureau and representatives from California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas, as well as from the U.S. Department of the Interior and many other departments, agencies and units.

They discussed border threats, the availability of DOD resources and capabilities, and plans to streamline and integrate the DHS and DOD processes.

"The focus of the conference was the identification of fiscal year 2013 requirements and to build an enduring process for non-Stafford Act support requirements and other federal partners," said ARNORTH Special Plans Branch chief David Mantiply.

"This enhanced collaboration among federal and state partners during the planning process helped to build a common understanding of threat operations and friendly

See ARNORTH, P11



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson

Richard Chavez (center, speaking), director, Office of Operations Coordination and Planning, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, makes introductory remarks during the senior leader briefing following the DHS/Department of Defense Fiscal Year 2013 Requirements Conference here Jan. 10. (From left) Edward Young, executive director of operations, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol Office of Air and Marine; Tony Crowder, executive director, Air and Marine Operations Center, CBP Office of Air and Marine; Luis Sierra, operations chief for Southwest border, Homeland Security Investigations, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement; John Stanton, executive director, Joint Operations Directorate, CBP; Chavez; Maj. Gen. Francis Mahon, director of Strategy, Policy and Plans, U.S. Northern Command; and Maj. Gen. Walter Davis, deputy commanding general, U.S. Army North, introduced themselves and made introductory remarks before being briefed on the conclusions of the conference.

## New truncal tourniquet ready for battlefield use



Photo by Steven Galvan

Dr. John F. Kragh, an orthopedic surgeon and researcher at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research, demonstrates how to apply the Combat Ready Clamp that is FDA approved and ready for battlefield use.

By Steven Galvan  
USAISR Public Affairs

Saving the lives of combat wounded is one of the main focuses at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research at Fort Sam Houston.

Research on pre-hospital care devices like the tourniquet has proven to save lives in the battlefield from a wound to the arms or legs that was once the most common cause of preventable death.

Now, after almost two years of research on a device to prevent the most common cause of preventable death in the battlefield, the junctional tourniquet is ready for battlefield use.

"Exsanguination, or bleeding to death, from the body is now the most common cause of

preventable death to wounded warriors on the battlefield," said Dr. John F. Kragh, an orthopedic surgeon and researcher at the ISR. "Groin hemorrhage is the most common type of junctional bleeding where regular tourniquets cannot work."

Research on the effectiveness and type of battlefield truncal tourniquet began in 2009 after the Committee on Tactical Combat Casualty Care made it a research priority.

Shortly after, the Combat Casualty Care Research Program of the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command and ISR headquarters requested candidate devices for the research.

The Combat Ready Clamp (CRoC), approved by the U.S.

Food and Drug Administration, manufactured by the Combat Medical Systems in Fayetteville, N.C., was selected from a handful of junctional tourniquet prototypes submitted from those submitted after the request for candidate devices.

"The CRoC is a vice-like tourniquet that can be placed over the groin and lower abdomen," Kragh said. "A pressure ball is screwed-down to press on the artery and to stop the bleeding."

The ISR works to optimize combat casualty care by focusing on providing requirement-driven combat casualty care medical solutions and products for injured Soldiers from self-aid through definitive care across the full spectrum of military operations.

# USAISR Soldier named MEDCOM equal opportunity leader of the year

By Steven Galvan  
USAISR Public Affairs

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery K. Jenkins from the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research was selected as the 2011 Equal Opportunity Leader of the Year for the U.S. Army Medical Command.

Jenkins is the USAISR Research Directorate non-commissioned officer in charge and said that this award will now give him the opportunity to attend the Army's Equal Opportunity Advisor course and get a special assignment as an EOA.

"It also gives me greater responsibilities in the equal opportunity world, to have a great impact on a greater number of Soldiers," he said. "It also enables me to teach and train the force on the fair, just and equal way to work and live."

In a memorandum signed Jan. 6, MEDCOM



Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery K. Jenkins

commanding general and Army Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho, stated that Jenkins promotes the tenets of civil/human rights and equal opportunity within the workplace and throughout the community.

"His inclusive engagement of the community, embracing all backgrounds, cultures, and ethnicities has greatly helped our organization and the United States Army to appreciate and value our rich diversity, and his example serves as an inspiration to all Soldiers with the MEDCOM,"

she wrote.

"He has brought great honor to our organization," said ISR Commander, Col. (Dr.) Lorne H. Blackbourne.

"Equal opportunity is our bridge to eliminate discrimination. Our application and understanding of equal opportunity will open our minds to a world beyond our own lives," said Jenkins.

"Equal opportunity guarantees a balanced distribution to all for all, allowing access to the best that life has to offer. Equal opportunity is an entitlement as well as a right, and I want to educate Soldiers, civilians and contractors about the importance of how all deserve that right.

"Equal opportunity should not have to be earned through works, statistics or quotas, but instead it should be the way life is conducted; fair, just and equal."

## A NEW HOT SPOT OPENS ON JBSA-FORT SAM HOUSTON



(From left) Col. John Lamoureux, 502nd Mission Support Group commander; Manuel Valdez, Fort Sam Houston Community Center manager; Ben Paniagua, Hacienda Recreation Center director; Capt. Lori Frank, Navy Medical Support Training Center executive officer; Terry Frost, 502nd Force Support Squadron director; and James Lancaster, Sustainment Services Flight Chief, cut the ribbon to officially open the Sam Houston Community Center at 1395 Chafee Road Jan. 20.



**Photos by Shawn Kjos**

Students from the Medical Education and Training Campus rack up a few games on the Sam Houston Community Center's new pool tables. More than 200 people were on hand for the grand opening Jan. 20. The facility includes the Morale Welfare Recreation Ticket Office, an arcade game room, Nathan's Famous Frankfurters, spacious ball room with a dance floor, multiple 50-inch televisions with gaming stations and the Java Café.

# AETC: 70 years of training and education programs

By Dianne Moffett  
AETC Public Affairs

The demand for flying training caused by the United States' entry into World War II after the attack on Pearl Harbor, resulted in the creation of the Air Corps Flying Training Command Jan. 23, 1942.

That date marks the Air Education and Training Command's 70th Anniversary. After several re-designations, the Air Corps Flying Training Command became Air Training Command and finally Air Education and Training Command, headquartered at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas.

Despite changing production goals for trained personnel brought on by the events of WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam

War, the end of the Cold War, the Persian Gulf War and the terrorist strike on New York City and the Pentagon, AETC continues to meet the demands for trained and educated Airmen.

Air Education and Training Command recruits, assesses, commissions, educates and trains Air Force enlisted and officer personnel. It provides basic military training, initial and advanced technical training, flying training, and professional military and degree-granting professional education.

The command also conducts joint, medical service, readiness and training to build partnerships with foreign air forces.

Training conducted at AETC bases provides the major Air Force com-

mands and combatant commanders with skilled, expert Airmen who are able to perform at the highest level whether they are at home running nuclear enterprises or overseas fighting in Iraq or Afghanistan.

Today, AETC consists of 12 bases and is hosted at four more. The command is home to more than 56,000 active-duty members, 16,000 civilians, and 4,000 Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve personnel. Over 6,000 Airmen from AETC are also deployed around the world in today's fight.

"Major transformations in training and education came to AETC after the Persian Gulf War and 1992 was designated the Year of Training," said Ann Hussey, an Air Education and Training Command historian.

The initiative to create a single and consistent education and training structure for officer, enlisted and civilian personnel led to AETC's current designation.

"The year of training revamped the Air Force's education and training requiring all enlisted personnel attend technical training," Hussey said. "The goal was to make all Air Force members mission ready upon arrival at their first duty station."

The Air Force merged Air University and ATC July 1, 1993, re-designating the command as AETC. The command gained two numbered air forces, the Nineteenth Air Force to oversee flying training from Randolph AFB, and the Second Air Force to manage basic and technical training from Keesler AFB, Miss.

The command also converted its training centers to training wings and resumed responsibility for much of the aircrew training mission, freeing the operational commands to focus on warfighting.

Hussey said what is most significant at AETC today is its focus on modernization and enhancing the level of education for all Airmen.

"New advanced weapons systems, such as the C-130 J at Little Rock AFB, Ark., the F-22 at Tyndall AFB, Fla., the F-35 at Eglin AFB, Fla., and the CV-22 at Kirtland AFB, N.M., requires highly skilled trainers, pilots and maintainers," Hussey said.

"Simulator flying training integrates new technology while maintaining cost effectiveness and affordability." Currently, Kirtland AFB, N.M. provides high-fidelity training in HC-130 flight simula-

tion, which emulates aircraft handling, refueling, air drops, defensive tactics and emergency procedures for the entire crew.

"Air University offers both in-residence and distance learning opportunities. The Community College of the Air Force offers Airmen online courses that combine military and technical training with accredited courses to receive associate degrees," she said.

Throughout its history, AETC, known as the "First Command," has been committed to creating innovative training and education programs built on the achievements and hard work of thousands of dedicated men and women.

AETC's foundation for success in the Air Force will continue to advance its programs "to develop America's Airmen today ... for tomorrow."

# New order strengthens Army's transition assistance

By Gary Sheftick  
Army News Service

All Soldiers planning to separate from the Army are now required to begin their transition process at least a year before leaving, according to a Department of the Army execution order, known as an EXORD, signed Dec. 29.

The order is part of an effort by the Army to beef up transition assistance, and it places responsibility for the program squarely on the shoulders of commanders, said Walter Herd, director of the Army Transition Office, located at Human Resources Command.

"It really changed Army transition from a staff responsibility to a commander's responsibility," said Herd about the order. Sgt. Maj. of the Army

Raymond Chandler III said during this period of transitioning to a smaller Army, that it's essential to have better transition assistance.

"We have a great program, but we can do better," Chandler said.

"I believe that Soldiers need to take some time and take a little responsibility for themselves and to understand that they are going to be transitioning out of the service," Chandler said, adding that they need to look at their resume, their education and their skill sets. "Then they need to speak with their commander, and their commander has a responsibility to speak with them."

The effort to make transition assistance more robust also includes the opening this week of a new toll-free call center

for transition assistance.

Soldiers can call 1-800-325-4715 for transition advice, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A new website or virtual ACAP Center will soon be available, Herd said.

The added emphasis on transition is partly due to a study undertaken by West Point about two years ago. The U.S. Military Academy Transition Study sent about two dozen scholars, non-commissioned officers and officers all over the Army to talk with transition counselors and Soldiers preparing to separate.

"They came back with a couple of truisms. Number one is, the more time a Soldier has to prepare, the more likely they are to succeed. And that's pretty simple. If you begin the transition process a week before getting out of

the Army, your chances of failure are extremely high," Herd said.

"Two is, the more your commanders are involved, and the more they support it, again the more likely you are to succeed. In a nutshell, that's the gist of this EXORD that was signed December 29th."

What this EXORD does is tell commanders to get their Soldiers into the Army Career Alumni Program, or ACAP, 12 months prior to their planned separation, Herd said. This allows synchronization of requirements with the unit mission, with exercises and operations.

The most common comment from Soldiers participating in the West Point transition study was, "ACAP is a great program, but I don't have enough time to attend,"

Herd explained.

So no later than 12 months out, Soldiers now need to schedule a pre-separation counseling at their installation ACAP Center. Herd said that counseling could actually be scheduled as early as 18 or 24 months out, if Soldiers are able.

At that first counseling, Soldiers begin to draft their Individual Transition Plan, Herd said. They will set their goals and decide if they want to go back to school, go home to work the family farm or business, or join the job market. Then they will determine what ACAP services and programs are necessary to reach that goal.

"You may want to eat everything on the menu," Herd said of the list of available ACAP services, or just sample a couple of items.

Programs include a new Department of Labor

employment workshop. Resume-writing assistance is available. A Veterans Affairs Benefits Workshop can be attended. And assistance can also be obtained on sending job applications out.

"There are several Army initiatives to make that connection between industry and the Soldier," Herd said. He said Transition Offices work closely with the Employer Partnership for the Armed Forces, or EPAF, a group of companies and agencies that have made a commitment to hire veterans.

About 135,000 Soldiers per year leave the Army and don civilian clothes, Herd said. Army civilian employees who are leaving due to Base Realignment and Closure, or just moving on, are also eligible to use ACAP separation services, Herd said. National Guard and Reserve Soldiers are eligible as well.

## NAVY SURGEON GENERAL VISITS METC FACILITIES

Vice Adm. Matthew Nathan, surgeon general of the Navy and chief of the Navy's Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, addresses Navy Medicine Training Support Center instructors and staff during a visit to the Medical Education & Training Campus. NMTSC is the Navy component that supports METC. METC is the Department of Defense's enlisted medical training center for Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. METC's mission is to train the medics, corpsmen and techs; supporting the nation's ability to engage globally.

**Photo by Lisa Braun**



## 2ND AF COMMANDER TOURS METC



Maj. Gen. Leonard Patrick, commander of the Second Air Force at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss., tours an "operating room" used for training students in the Surgical Tech program at the Medical Education & Training Campus. METC is the Department of Defense's enlisted medical training center for Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. METC's mission is to train the finest medics, corpsmen and techs; supporting our nation's ability to engage globally. Patrick was formerly the commander of the 502nd Air Base Wing.

**Photo by Dewite Wehrman**

# Panetta pledges to hold sexual assault offenders accountable

By Karen Parrish  
American Forces Press Service

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta took the podium at the Pentagon briefing room Jan. 18 to announce new policies and respond to reporters' questions on an issue he called a top priority: sexual assault in the military.

"Sexual assault has no place in this department," the secretary said. "It is an affront to the basic American values we defend, and it is a stain on the good honor of the great majority of our troops and ... our families."

The secretary announced DOD initiatives establishing a sexual assault advocate certification program, extending the confidential or re-

stricted reporting option to military spouses and adult family members, increasing funding for military investigators and judge advocates, and assessing leader training in sexual assault prevention and response.

"There are no easy answers," the secretary acknowledged. "But that makes it all the more essential for us to devote our energy and our attention to trying to confront this crime."

In a military force, where the promise is to help each other in battle and to leave nobody behind, that promise must begin by honoring the dignity of every person on or off the battlefield, Panetta said.

"We will be announcing additional initiatives over the coming weeks

and months," he added.

The secretary then took reporters' questions, calling on Air Force Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog, director of the department's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, to join him in responding.

"She knows these issues," Panetta said.

The secretary said by its nature, sexual assault is a difficult crime for law enforcement agencies, whether military or civilian, to resolve.

"Individuals who are the victims hesitate to report these crimes," he said. "There's peer pressure ... not to report it. There is concern about how it impacts on your career. And so, as a result of that and the difficulty of prosecuting these cases, too often



Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Chad J. McNeeley

Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog, director of Defense Department's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, answers questions during a press conference with Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta at the Pentagon Jan. 18. Panetta introduced and emphasized the department's efforts to prevent sexual assaults within the military.

these cases go unreported."

Panetta said he and other Defense Department leaders are working to change the mind-

set on sexual assault.

More reports are coming in and more cases are being prosecuted, but the effort must continue, he said.

"The most important thing I think we can do here is to try to train leaders at the command level to make clear that they're aware of this issue and ... that they take steps to stop it," the secretary said.

Increasing successful prosecutions is another facet to ending sexual assault in the military, Panetta said. "They've got to be able to nail the case in court," he added. "And oftentimes, as you know, these cases come down to one person's word against another."

The secretary stressed the importance of encouraging victims to report assaults quickly and ensuring investigators gather evidence quickly.

"If those steps are

**See PANETTA, P11**

**ARNORTH from P4**

operations, identify areas for potential cost savings and greater effectiveness, provide a clear delineation of supporting DOD forces and increase integration of stakeholders at key planning and coordination activities.”

The U.S. military supports border protection in many ways, including day and night ground

and air reconnaissance, transportation, medical evacuation, law enforcement and geospatial intelligence support, the construction of roads, bridges and barriers, counter-drug field tactical police operations, tunnel detection, sustainment operations, training and other forms of support.

Transnational criminal organizations, terrorism

and other threats have made border protection more important than ever – and more complex.

“We understand that it takes a network to defeat a network,” said Mickey Valdez, associate chief, integrated plans, Customs and Border Protection. “Army North’s support in this conference allows us to improve operational

discipline in regard to planning.”

Representatives from the border states of California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas said they felt the conference was productive.

“The conference gives the states the ability to show DHS what we have available, and it gives us a chance to help them understand some of the constraints upon the use

of military forces and assets,” said Col. Jerry Madison, Joint Counter Narco-Terrorism Task Force, Arizona National Guard. “It also helps us understand what type of support DHS might ask the military to provide.”

Madison thanked Army North for facilitating the conference.

“Army North has done a great job taking the lead in this effort

to foster greater understanding and cooperation amongst the DHS and DOD organizations working to protect the Southwest border of the U.S.,” said Madison.

Luis Sierra, operations chief SW Border, ICE, said that, ultimately, the conference has an important impact.

“We can learn to better utilize and work with the DOD,” Sierra said.

**PANETTA from P10**

taken, what I want to assure, then, is that the prosecutors take these cases seriously and take these cases to court,” he said. “We’ve got to make sure that prosecutors are as aggressive as we feel they should be in these instances ... to make sure that the signal is sent that anybody who does this is going to be

held accountable.”

Hertog noted that hundreds of new members enter the military services weekly.

“Every week, we have to try to inculcate in them the service core values that you take care of each other, that sexual assault is a crime,” she said. “And that’s why training up front, at the beginning, basic training, all the

way through somebody’s career, is so very important, as well as training our officers.”

Hertog said commanders, investigators and prosecutors share responsibility for setting the right approach to sexual assault.

Holding perpetrators accountable requires “making sure that that commander builds that command climate where

somebody feels comfortable in coming forward ... and that investigator knowing what he or she must do to investigate that sexual assault, and that prosecutor to take that strong case to trial,” she said.

Since the military services began a dual-reporting system in 2005, sexual assault reports have increased, the general noted. The dual

system allows victims to file confidential, or “restricted,” reports, which clear the way to medical care and counseling but do not result in charges. Unrestricted reports also lead to victim care and counseling, but also trigger criminal investigations.

The increase in reporting under the dual system is “not always a bad thing,” Hertog said.

“A victim is coming forward and willing to say, ‘I need some help; I’ve been sexually assaulted,’” she said.

“You could also look at it ... [as] yes, more people are now maybe perhaps aware of what sexual assault is. The stigma, maybe, to report has been reduced. So we want them to come forward to make that report to us.”

# BAMC personnel train for Expert Medic Badge

By John Franklin

Taylor Burk Clinic, Camp Bullis

Brooke Army Medical Center has prepared more than 20 candidates for the upcoming Expert Field Medical Badge Competition scheduled from Feb. 28 to March 8 at Camp Bullis.

The training has been conducted since November 2011 at Fort Sam Houston and recently a Field Training exercise Jan. 6 and 7 at Camp Bullis. The exercise consists of officers and enlisted medical personnel.

The Expert Field Medical Badge is one of the most difficult badges to earn, often with less than 20 percent of the people successfully completing the competition and earning the prestigious badge, according to Capt. Rend Yudhistira, BAMC Bravo Company commander, who oversaw the group's preparation for the competition.

"BAMC's EFMB selection and training program is a rigorous five-week program that was designed to assess and select the most suitable Soldiers and Airmen to fill the limited slots available during EFMB testing," Yudhistira said.

The training included events such as road marches, written examinations, medical evacuation training, and warrior task training.

The program culminates with the capstone event, a two-day field training exercise at Camp Bullis. The event intensely evaluates the candidates on EFMB tasks while simultaneously employing the physical prowess they have developed thus far. A significant em-



Photos by John Franklin

Capt. Rachel Acciacca provides medical aid to a simulated casualty during Expert Field Medical Badge competition training at Camp Bullis. Staff Sgt. Anthony Damian observes her actions during the training.

phasis is placed on attention to detail in every aspect of training from being in the correct uniform to completing hands-on tasks.

"Attention to minute details means success for the candidates earning their EFMB," said Staff Sgt. Howard

Sleath, the program's NCOIC. "That is what we instill in them every day from the moment they report for training."

To earn the Expert Field Medical Badge, applicants must score high on a written exam covering a wide variety of medical treatment questions and

common Soldier tasks, demonstrate weapons proficiency, and physical fitness.

The candidates are also required to be proficient in both day and night land navigation which requires they move a particular route over undeveloped land using a compass. The night land navigation aspect is a particularly difficult task.

The competition also requires the candidates to demonstrate their knowledge of combat medical care by successfully treating multiple casualties in a simulated combat environment and their knowledge of medical evacuation procedures once they have treated their patients.

The preparations are academically and physically demanding, said Yudhistira of the competitors. "They are all volunteers."

The EFMB candidates are assisted by more than 30 cadre and support personnel from BAMC during the FTX.

Sleath pointed out that many of the candidates receive their training, before or after duty hours or on weekends, and return to their units to perform their regular duties.

"You do what it takes to accomplish the mission and train your Soldiers," Sleath said.

"Preparing for the Expert Field Medical Badge results in excellent training for those competing, even if the applicant does not successfully earn the EFMB they return to their units with greater skills," Sleath added. "Some candidates compete for the EFMB multiple times before successfully earning the coveted badge of excellence."



BAMC medical staff personnel training for the Expert Field Medical Badge competition prepare simulated casualties for movement to a medevac point. Staff Sgt. John Gonzalez, far left, observes and coaches them.



Capt. Nasser Fiqia provides medical aid to a simulated casualty during Expert Field Medical Badge competition training at Camp Bullis. Spc. Brian Aguridakis plays the role of the casualty.



Sgt. Brandon Tucker observes Staff Sgt. Nicolay Kirillov as he works on a land navigation problem during preparation for the Expert Field Medical Badge competition at Camp Bullis, Jan. 6.

# 470th Military Intelligence Brigade provides battlefield surveillance training

By Gregory Ripps

470th Military Intelligence Brigade Public Affairs

Throughout the last two months of 2011, the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade played a key role in training elements of the 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade.

The training tested 201st Soldiers' individual and collective skills conducting intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance operations in field-like conditions on Camp Bullis.

The 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, consisting of the 109th MI Battalion and 502nd MI Battalion, rotated teams of Soldiers from its home at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., in and out of Camp Bullis every two weeks for two five-day exercises.

"The training focused on small teams with collective events that required Soldiers to exercise their skills

in their respective Military Occupational Specialty," said Lt. Col. Kevin Hosier, S3 (operations and training officer) for the 470th MI Brigade.

"The training centered around signals intelligence and human intelligence collection tasks and took place at several mock villages in the training area and at the IDTF."

The IDTF, which stands for Intelligence and Security Command Detention Training Facility, simulates facilities used overseas for questioning detainees and analyzing information. The 470th MI Brigade operates the IDTF on behalf of INSCOM.

In addition to running the IDTF and the overall battlefield surveillance training event, the Fort Sam Houston-based brigade also provided role-players and observer-controllers, and logistical and general support.

"The training scenarios were

designed to train Soldiers in their individual skill sets, in tactics, techniques and procedures, and with their equipment to prepare them for deployments 'down range,'" Hosier explained.

"The scenarios were also designed to encourage them to 'make the mission happen' at team level and force them to think on their feet when faced with the unexpected."

Maj. Chad Wetherill, 470th MI Brigade's assistant S3 and senior observer-controller for the

exercise, explained that each scenario was designed to test all aspects of mission command as well as the individual and collective intelligence tasks.

"Each multi-functional team leader had to plan, prepare and execute specific missions and figure out how to integrate the team's capabilities into the mission of the ground commander they were supporting," Wetherill said.

"This type of training gave these young lieutenants and their teams invaluable experience conducting troop-leading procedures and complex collective tasks that are hard to replicate at their home station."

A daily exercise for the 201st BSB Soldiers began with orders for a team of about 12 Soldiers to conduct an intelligence mission in the training area, which could take place in a mock village or en route to one.

The intelligence mission might consist of obtaining information about a weapons cache or hostile activity. The team members would have to question villagers, provide "tactical site exploitation" and positive identification of high-value individuals to the ground commander, and make recommendations on whether or not suspect indi-



A Soldier of the 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade screens an individual with the aid of an interpreter (right) after relieving him of "media" on his person that might reveal useful intelligence.



Photo by Gregory Ripps

470th Military Intelligence Brigade Soldiers (left) role-play as villagers during a brigade-supported exercise of the 201st Battlefield Surveillance Battalion on Camp Bullis in November and December.

viduals should be detained for further questioning, according to Wetherill.

After a team arrived at the IDTF with detainees, team members exercised their interrogation skills, analyzed the intelligence gathered, filling intelligence gaps and answering information requirements. After processing and producing the intelligence, they practiced dissemination of that intelligence to higher headquarters.

"These Soldiers went to schools to train with their equipment and in their skills, but they hadn't interacted with Soldiers in other MI skill sets," Hosier said. "This training [at Camp Bullis] was their first opportunity to do their jobs in a training environment together."

Wetherill added that the exercise not only enabled MFTs to exercise collective tasks but also gave each unit commander better understanding of what the remainder of their pre-deployment training should focus on to get their teams mission-ready.

"From a commander's perspective, this exercise was a huge success," Wetherill said. "This type of training is invaluable when preparing your unit for a deployment."

**SMA from P1**

ing illicit trafficking and transnational organized crime.

Chandler later addressed the Soldiers of Army South about professionalism in a forum focused on discussing possible upcoming policy changes. The Army may be faced with possible changes in size and composition after more than a decade of fighting two simultaneous wars.

Chandler spoke about the importance of character, competence and commitment to remaining in the Army asking, "Are you that person demonstrating excellence?"

Chandler addressed several issues Soldiers will be faced with in a realigning Army, to include changes in retention, recruiting, uniforms, the noncommissioned officer education



**Photo by Sgt. Tamika Exom**

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Raymond F. Chandler III (left) and Maj. Gen. Simeon G. Trombitas (right), U.S. Army South commanding general, during Chandler's visit to U.S. Army South, where he received a mission brief on Jan. 6, before holding a town hall for the Soldiers of Army South.

system, and changes to the Army physical readiness test.

According to Chandler, recruiting and retention for both enlisted and officers will see changes. A small percentage of recruits come in with waivers for various reasons. The plan is to reduce the number of waivers

coming into the Army, particularly for those exceeding body mass index, or BMI, standards for basic training.

Currently, Soldiers are able to attend basic training with a waiver if they are within six percent of the target BMI. The plan is to lessen that percentage.

Both enlisted and officers have seen changes in retention control points. RCP's require individuals to be promoted within a certain time frame during the career or they must separate from service.

There are a few options being considered for the new Army combat uniform pattern, none of which include the current ACU pattern. Three uniform patterns being considered are the woodland, desert and the transitional pattern.

In addition, an alternate cut uniform, that was originally made with the female Soldier in mind, but is a unisex uniform for both males and females, is being considered for a more professional look.

Other changes are still being considered to the ACU itself, such as replacing some of the velcro with zippers, and

possibly removing the elastic drawstring from the current cargo pockets. Discussions to weigh the options with senior leaders are slated for this year.

The Army physical fitness uniform is also up for review. According to Chandler, the lack of reflective material on the APFU requires Soldiers to also wear a reflective belt with the uniform. Soldiers have added names, rank, and other unit insignias on the reflective belts, making the force less uniform.

Possible changes to the APFU include adding antimicrobial properties, better reflection, and better sizing. Also, look for the new APRT policy this fiscal year, he said.

When asked if early retirement options would be considered as part of the realignment of the force, Chandler replied "We don't want to do

that yet," adding that would only be used as a last resort. As of now, no changes have been made to the Army's current retirement benefits.

Chandler wrapped up his visit to Army South with lunch at the Sam Houston Club with Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno and installation leaders.

After the luncheon, Chandler was asked, and took a few moments to host an Army South Soldier's promotion ceremony. Sgt. Shinita Ward, cable systems installer/maintainer, was promoted into the noncommissioned officer corps to the rank of sergeant.

Upon the conclusion of his visit to Army South, the sergeant major of the Army wrapped up his trip to Fort Sam Houston with visits to Brooke Army Medical Center and the Center for the Intrepid.

# Adaptive sports camp puts wounded warriors back in the game of life

By Erin Tindell

Air Force Personnel, Services  
and Manpower Public Affairs

When Master Sgt. Christopher Aguilera arrived to breakfast the first day of the Air Force's Joint Adaptive Fitness and Sports Camp held at Randolph Air Force Base, his heart dropped.

In the same room were Capt. Anthony Simone and his wife Andrea, two people he hadn't seen since last year's one-year anniversary ceremony of a HH-60 Pave Hawk crash in Afghanistan. Simone was the pilot and Aguilera was the gunner.

Both were left with wounds and injuries they're still recovering from today. Both were the only two survivors in the crash that killed five others.

From Jan. 17 to 21,

Simone and Aguilera were reunited again as participants in the inaugural adaptive sports camp. The camp, with events also at Fort Sam Houston and Lackland Air Force Base, introduced roughly 35 Air Force, Navy and U.S. Southern Command wounded warriors to adaptive fitness, sports and recreational programs implemented throughout the military and within their local communities.

During the five-day camp, wounded warriors participated in adaptive golf and bowling, aquatics, cycling, strength and conditioning, sitting volleyball and wheelchair basketball.

The camp is part of the Air Force's Adaptive Fitness and Sports Program, which provides quality of life programs supporting

nearly 1,300 wounded, ill or injured Airmen.

"A lot of the wounded warriors are at a point where their rehabilitation has come to a standstill and this is their new 'normal,'" said Master Sgt. Elisha Abercrombie, camp coordinator and sports specialist with the Air Force Services Agency, which hosted the camp with the U.S. Paralympics. "Their injury is not getting any better or any worse for them, but bringing the warriors to a sports camp helps get them back into the game of life."

Officials said the goal of the camp was to familiarize the wounded warriors with sports they can do with their friends and families as well as other opportunities provided by organizations such as the U.S. Paralympics.

"Not only does the

camp teach us ways to get to our new normal, our new 100 percent, through adaptive (sports), but it helps us connect with others who are going through the same thing we are," said Aguilera. "That lets us know we're not the only one with these challenges."

During the crash, Simone suffered a brain injury that put him in a coma for six weeks and made it difficult for him to walk and speak today. Simone's wife Andrea said the adaptive sports camps give him a sense of camaraderie, accomplishment and greater purpose. Before his injury, Simone said he loved outdoor sports such as cycling and archery and was thankful he could still do them through adaptive equipment.

"Being able to par-



Capt. Anthony Simone is lifted from the pool after participating in the Air Force Joint Adaptive Fitness and Sports Camp aquatics event at Jimmy Brought Fitness Center Jan. 19.

Photo by  
Lori Newman

ticipate in adaptive sports means the most to me out of anything I do while recovering," he said.

Abercrombie said the camps help offer a sense of resilience for both the wounded warriors and their families. They can still do fitness and recreational activities, but just in a new way, she said.

"Wounded warriors and families need to know

they don't just have to sit at home; they can go out into the real world and still participate in the fitness and recreational activities they enjoyed before," she said. "It's very important for them to understand their life doesn't stop."

Air Force officials plan to conduct the adaptive sports camps once a quarter.

# JBSA-Fort Sam Houston hosts Air Force boxing tourney

By Steve Elliott  
JBSA-Fort Sam Houston  
News Leader

In what Air Force officials called a “grand slam” for the Fitness Center on the Medical Training and Education Campus, the Air Force Box-Off tournament Jan. 20 and 21 was a big

success.

“The Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines packed the house,” said Ken Hack, the center’s director.

“All branches of the services were at the event and also included family members, active duty service members and Department

of Defense civilian employees.”

A total of nine Air Force boxers took part in the two-day competition, with a fight card filled out by amateurs from San Antonio and South Texas boxing clubs.

There were 10 bouts the first night and 12 the second in a number of weight classes, from 123-pound super featherweights up to 201-pound heavyweights.

At stake in the fights was the chance to advance to the Armed Forces Boxing Tournament at Camp Pendleton, Calif., which takes place from Jan. 28 to Feb. 3.

“This is the competition used to determine who advances,” Hack said. “Boxers also may advance to represent the Air Force at the USA National Boxing Championship. Weight division winners at the Armed Forces Championship may advance to an annual international military championship, if worthy.”

Selected to compete



Photo by Steve Brown

Senior Airman Kent Brinson (left) goes up against Jas Phipps in the heavyweight division.



Photo by Shawn Kjos

Sarah Byrd with Flex Boxing prepares for her first boxing match.

by Air Force boxing coaches Tech Sgt. Steve Franco and his assistant coach Staff Sgt. Bobby DeLeon, there were both open and novice boxers at the competition.

The coaches carefully matched the contestants, since the military rules state that open boxers (those with at least five bouts) can’t box against novice boxers in regulation bouts.

The fighters trained at the Chaparral Fitness Center at JBSA-Lackland.

“We had 16 days to train and learn all the

basics of boxing all over again. We faced some tough opponents, but the hard work is showing and even better, the toughness,” Franco said. “This is a great place to host this event here on Fort Sam Houston. I hope everyone enjoyed it.”

Sanctioned by USA boxing, each match included three, 3-minute rounds with a doctor available to examine each boxer at the conclusion of each bout, as military boxing follows amateur-boxing rules.

Two women led off

the boxing competition Saturday, with Sarah Byrd representing Flex Boxing Club and Sarah Rush boxing for Fit Pit. Rush won the bout.

“It was a good first experience for my first fight,” Rush said. “I thought the atmosphere was great.”

“I feel good,” said Senior Airman Kent Brinson who had just won his match. “It’s nice to come out of here with some wins. It has been a hard night for us as a team,” he added.

See AFBOX, P17

## AFBOX from P16

Brinson is stationed with the 13th Air Support Operation Squadron at Fort Carson, Colo. In the 201-pound class, he defeated Jas Phipps, who represented Miracle Boxing Club.

While the teams have gotten smaller over the past few years, Hack said Air Force boxing is alive and well, despite the rise in popularity in mixed martial arts competitions.

"I know some of the boxers have and do train in mixed martial arts," Hack said. "The Air Force doesn't have a MMA program, so if they compete in that genre, they do it on their own."

Hack said the Fitness Center on the METC Campus is uniquely equipped to handle an event like the box-off.

"It's a state-of-the-art facility that opened in June 2011," the director said. "During the planning of the facility, special events like boxing were taken into consideration.

"We have a physical training room that can be used for multiple functions. For this event, it was used for the weigh-ins, physicals

and then divided during the fights to hold the red and blue teams," Hack said. "Instead of purchasing bleachers, we have 12 portable bleachers on wheels that we can conform to events. The upstairs running track can be used for above-the-event seating."

Hack and his staff are hoping the success of the Air Force Box-Off will increase their chances to hold other services championships in many sports.

"Our next goal is to host DOD-level sports that would attract military competitors from all the services," he said. "A step of above this would be to host a CISM (Conseil International du Sport Militaire) tournament or championship. That would include military from around the world."

CISM is one of the largest multidisciplinary organizations in the world, which organizes various sporting events for the armed forces of its 133 member countries. CISM annually organizes more than 20 military world championships for different sports in which all member nations can take part.

"The success of this



Photo by Deyanira Romo Rossell

Coaches Staff Sgt. Bobby DeLeon and Tech Sgt. Steve Franco working side with Senior Airman Markarios Gordon from Yokota Air Base, Japan.

event showed that joint base events can happen and go well – if not better than – when we stand alone," Hack said.

"We're able to pull resources, manpower and expertise from all three installations in Joint Base San Antonio."

These championships determine the composition of the AF Boxing

Team that once finalized, will compete at the 2012 Armed Forces Boxing Championships at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and the 2012 National Championships in Colorado Springs, Colo.

*(Editor's Note: Deyanira Romo Rossell, 502nd FSS Marketing, contributed to this article.)*



### St. Mary's University Neighborhood Walk

The LoneStar Walkers volk-march club will host a 5k and 10k walk Jan. 28 starting at the University Center Atrium at St. Mary's University, One Camino Santa

Maria. Walks start between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., finish by 4 p.m. Call 830-980-5723.

### Comfort Old Spanish Trail Walk

The Hill Country Volkssportverein volksmarch club will host a 5k and 10k walk Feb. 5 starting at the Comfort ISD Administration Office, 327 High Street in Comfort. Walks start between 8-11 a.m., finish by 2 p.m. Call 830-995-2421 or visit <http://web.me.com/txtrailhead/GG/Comfort.html>.

VISIT NEWS LEADER ONLINE:  
[HTTP://WWW.SAMHOUSTON.ARMY.MIL/PAO](http://www.samhouston.army.mil/pao)



### Unit Trauma Training

Jan. 27, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-1829 or 221-0946.

### 5K Run/Walk

Jan. 28, 7 a.m., Jimmy Broughton Fitness Center, call 221-1234.

### 3-D Archery Shoots

Jan. 28-29, Camp Bullis, call 295-7529 or 295-7577.

### Nurturing Parenting

Jan. 30, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-0349 or 221-0655.

### Car Buying

Jan. 30, 2-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-1612.

### HUGS playgroup

Jan. 31, 9-11 a.m., Middle School Teen Center Building 2515, call 221-0349 or 221-2418.

### Newcomer's Extravaganza

Jan. 31, 9:30-11 a.m., Sam Houston Community Center, call 221-1681 or 221-2418.

### CARE Team Training

Jan. 31, 10-11 a.m., Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-1829 or 221-0946.

### Consumer Awareness

Jan. 31, 2-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-2380.

### Bowl to Win

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

### Word Level 1

Feb. 1, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center Computer Lab, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

### Virtual Family Readiness Group

Feb. 1, 10 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center Building 2797, call 221-1829 or 221-0946.

### Mandatory Initial First Term Financial Readiness

Feb. 1, noon-2 p.m., Education Center Building 2248, call 221-1612.

### Soul Food Sampler Plate Sale

Feb. 3, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Randolph Air Force Base Community Center.

### Excel Level 1

Feb. 7, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center Computer Lab, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

### Excel Level 2

Feb. 8, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center Computer Lab, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

### Word Level 2

Feb. 9, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center Computer Lab, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

### Java Café

The Java Café is open in the Sam Houston Community Center.

### Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library

Story Time for preschoolers, Thursday mornings, 10 a.m.

Gaming Day, first Sunday of the month, 2:30-5:30 p.m. call 221-4702.

### USAF Fit Family

Visit <http://www.usaffitfamily.com> for healthy recipes, fitness tips and health and nutrition articles.

### Send Valentines to Veterans

Shoppers can stop by participat-

ing Exchange facilities through Feb. 6 and fill out a Valentine's Day card or drop off their own. The cards will be distributed to local Veterans Administration hospitals, Fisher House locations and military retirement homes.

### Harlequin Dinner Theatre

"The Mousetrap," Thursday-Saturday through Feb. 18, 6:15 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. curtain, call 222-9694.

### DECA Scholarships

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Commissary is accepting scholarship applications for military children and spouses through Feb. 24. Call 221-4678 or visit <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

### Temporary Hacienda Student Center

Big area tent at 3100 Marvin R. Wood, hours are 5-10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 5-9 p.m. Sundays.

### All You Can Cut Firewood

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

295-7577 for information.

### Hunting on Camp Bullis

Rifle hunting, Saturdays and Sundays, 5:30 a.m. to late evening. Bow hunting for deer, hogs and turkeys Mondays and Thursdays, 5:30-10 a.m. and Friday through Sunday, 5:30 a.m. until late evening. Call 295-7529 or 295-7577.

### Better Opportunities for Single Servicemembers

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

### Air Force Education & Training Center

7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, relocated to a temporary building at 2427 Hood St., call 221-2135.

### Basic Skills Education Program

Classes are Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for a period of 14 working days. Service members will receive instruction in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and math skills. The class is designed to teach basic college preparatory skills to service members with a GT

score less than 110. Call 221-1738 to enroll.

### Brigade Gym Temporary Structure

The temporary gym structure at the corner of Hardee and Williams Roads is open 5 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday through Friday, closed weekends and holidays.

### Central Post Gym

Closed for renovation.

### Varsity Soccer

Players wanted for the FSH varsity soccer team, call 808-5710.

### Sports Scores

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

### Stilwell House

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

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**For Sale:** Vintage 1989 Honda Civic Hatchback DX, automatic, A/C,

CD/AM/FM, excellent mechanical condition, maintenance records available, runs great, \$4,399 value, asking \$3,499; REM dual adjustable Martinique bed with massage, top of the line, excellent condition, mattresses 2 months old, \$6,800 retail, asking \$3,499; Stuyvesant upright piano, \$199. Call 659-6741.

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

**Cloverleaf Communicators Club**

Meetings are held the first and third Thursday of every month 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. at San Antonio Credit Union, Stanley Road, in the conference room. Call 916-3406 or 221-8785 or visit <http://powertalkinternational.com/>.

**Toastmasters Club**

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

**Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association**

The SMA Leon L. Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association meets the third Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Longhorn Café, 1003 Rittiman Rd. All active duty, Reserve, National Guard and retired sergeants major are invited and encouraged to attend. Call 221-0584 or 889-8212.

**Sergeant Audie Murphy Club**

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

**FSHISD WEEKLY CAMPUS ACTIVITIES**

**Fort Sam Houston Elementary School**

**Jan. 31**  
Student Council Meeting in Library, 3:15-4:30 p.m.

**Feb. 2**  
College T-shirt Day  
Progress report sent home

**Feb. 3**  
100th Day of School

**Robert G. Cole Middle and High School**

**Jan. 30**  
Boys Golf host NISD Novice at Cast-Alsatian, tee time 8:30 a.m.

**Jan. 31**  
Boys Basketball JV/V vs. Marion at Marion, 5 and 8 p.m.

**Lost Property**

If you have lost any property on Fort Sam Houston, call 221-2340. To

Girls Basketball JV/V vs. Marion at Marion, 5:30 and 6 p.m.  
Boys Soccer vs. St. Mary's Hall at Cole, 5 p.m.

**Feb.1**  
UIL One Act Play

**Feb. 3**  
Girls Basketball JV/V vs. Nixon Smiley at Cole, 5 and 6:30 p.m.  
Boys Basketball JV/V vs. Nixon Smiley at Cole, 5 and 8 p.m.  
Cole Middle School Valentines Dance, MS Mall, 6-8 p.m.

**Feb. 4**  
Cole Band UIL Solo & Ensemble Contest at Randolph HS  
Cole Zumba Fest, 10 a.m.-noon at Cole Gym (Project Graduation Fundraiser)  
One Act Play Rehearsal on the Mosely Gym Stage 1-4 p.m.

claim items, you must have a form of photo identification and be able to identify the property.

**Weekly Weather Watch**

	Jan 26	Jan 27	Jan 28	Jan 29	Jan 30	Jan 31
<b>San Antonio Texas</b>	68° Partly Cloudy/Windy	69° Sunny	63° Sunny	64° Sunny	69° Partly Cloudy	74° Partly Cloudy
<b>Kabul Afghanistan</b>	31° Sunny	37° Partly Cloudy	39° Sunny	40° Sunny	38° Scat Snow Showers	40° Mostly Sunny

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

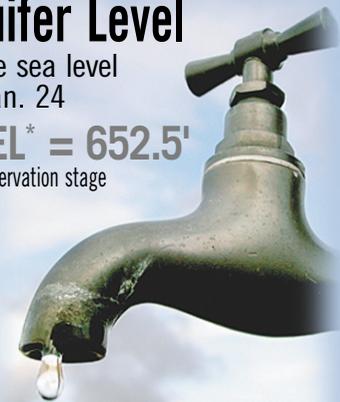
**Edwards Aquifer Level**

in feet above sea level as of Jan. 24

**CURRENT LEVEL \* = 652.5'**

\*determines JBSA water conservation stage

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



Joint Base San Antonio will revert back to Stage I water restrictions; the J-17 Well Level is at 652.7 feet as of Jan. 5 and has been over 650 feet for more than 30 days, allowing for JBSA to return to Stage I conditions. Watering hours are now allowed between the hours of 8 p.m. and 10 a.m. and new turf can be planted at this time.