



Briefs

Black History Month luncheon, today

The Chaplains office will sponsor a Black History Month luncheon, today, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the FSH NCO Club. Duty uniform. Cost is \$6. Open to all FSH personnel.

Red Cross Open House, today

The American Red Cross will hold an Open House today, 2-4 p.m. at the Station House, corner of Patch and Harney Roads. For information, call 221-3355.

Office closures, tomorrow

The Gen. Vogel Processing Center, Bldg. 367, Student Personnel, Bldg. 1290, and the ID Card Office at BAMC will be closed tomorrow. The offices will resume services on Feb. 17, 7:30 a.m.

'Legacy of Heroes' exhibit to present speaker, Feb. 17

The U.S. AMEDD Museum is hosting an exhibit illustrating the contributions of orthopedic surgeons during World War II. On Feb. 17, 5 p.m. Col. Mark Bragg, Chief of Orthopedics, BAMC, will present his observations about orthopedics in Iraq. Joining Dr. Bragg will be several orthopedic surgeons who recently returned from Iraq.

D Company, 187th Medical Battalion Change of Command, Feb. 19

Outgoing commander Capt. Jerardo Lopez will relinquish command of D Company, 187th Medical Battalion to incoming Capt. Donald Carden at a Change of Command ceremony Feb. 19, 5 p.m. in Bldg. 1002, near old BAMC.

Bldg. 902 Memorialization Ceremony, Feb. 20

The 32nd Medical Brigade will conduct a memorialization ceremony of the Lt. Col. Karen Wagner Hall, Bldg. 902 on Harney Road, Feb. 20, 10 a.m.

Newcomers' Extravaganza, Feb. 24

Newcomers' Extravaganza will be held Feb. 24, 9 a.m. at Roadrunner Community Center, Bldg. 2797 on Stanley Road. For information, call 221-2705/2418.



Photo by Rudy Flowers

Maj. Gen. Lester Martinez-Lopez, commander Medical Research and Material Command; U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith, 21st Congressional District; Thomas Chandler, Orion Partners; Lt. Col. Jose Lopez, U.S. Army Medical Information Technology Center commander; Brig. Gen. Daniel Perugini, Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston commander; and Thomas Swoyer, Weston Solutions, cut the ribbon opening the Beach Pavilion complex offices of the U.S. Army Medical Information Technology Center. See more photos on Page 4.

State-of-the-art medical information technology data center relocates to FSH

By Phil Reidinger
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

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

U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith, state Sen. Jeff Wentworth, Bexar County

Commissioner Tommy Adkisson, San Antonio city staff, members of the Greater San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, and representatives of the Army Corps of Engineers attended the ceremony commemorating the first building occupied utilizing the Army's enhanced use lease agreement with Orion Partners at Fort Sam Houston.

Army Surgeon General, Lt. Gen. James Peake, could not attend the ceremony. He offered his congratulations in a letter saying, "The U.S. Army Medical Information Technology Center is an important organization supporting our entire U.S. Army Medical Department. It is appropriate that it is now housed

See Center on Page 4

Army announces force stabilization initiative

The Department of the Army announced Feb. 9 Force Stabilization and its two manning initiatives for designated installations that will fundamentally change how the Army assigns Soldiers to its warfighting forces.

Beginning 4th quarter FY04, the Army will begin implementing Home-basing and Unit Focused Stability, two complementary manning strategies designed to stabilize the force and pro-

vide Soldiers and families increased predictability in its Continental United States-based force.

Under the Home-basing strategy, Soldiers will remain on their initial installation for six to seven years, well beyond the current three-year average. Soldiers can expect to be stationed at one installation through squad leader or company command (or equivalent) positions respectively. Leaders will

attend leader development schools such as the Basic Non-Commissioned Officer Course, and the Captain's Career Course in a temporary travel status and return to their stabilized family at their Home-base installation.

During the Home-basing period, the Soldier remains stabilized with his family at one installation. The Soldier and his unit will deploy to meet Army

See Army on Page 4

Regional Vaccine Healthcare Center opens at Wilford Hall

The Regional Vaccine Healthcare Center is now open at Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland Air Force Base. Since August 2003, the staff has been dedicated to supporting programs, research and services that enhance vaccine safety, efficacy, and acceptability.

"Vaccines are the most important medical intervention of the last century," states Dr. David Hrcir, medical director for the VHC. "Next to sanitation and clean drinking water, vaccines are the reason our country is safe from many infectious diseases."

The VHC is the fourth Department of Defense center of excellence established in the past two years. The VHC network was established as a program between DOD and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop ways to enhance vaccine safety. As an executive agency established under the Army's

North Atlantic Regional Medical Command, it provides services to all branches of active duty military and beneficiaries.

The VHC vision is to develop collaborative centers of excellence for vaccine safety that support education, focused clinical services for adverse events case management, DOD/CDC rare adverse events surveillance and case definition, research and continuous quality improvement of immunization healthcare and vaccine adverse events reporting. Services include providing clinical management of vaccine-related adverse events, educate health care professionals on when and how to report an adverse event, provide information on standards of immunization delivery, serve as a resource center for the latest information and schedules for adult immunization, and address questions or

concerns encountered during vaccine administration.

As part of their educational outreach, the VHC offers a free provider Immunization Tool Kit. The tool kit is a set of laminated, pocket-sized reference cards containing general recommendations on immunizations, vaccine schedules and doses. The information in the tool kit is based on the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Another outreach program is Project Immune Readiness, a free web-based, interactive tool for nurses, medical technicians and providers to help improve the delivery of immunization services. It consists of separate modules for individual vaccines, which cover the span of core knowledge needed to provide quality immunization care. The tool kit and training modules are located on the VHC Web

site at www.vhcinfor.org.

The Web site is a resource for healthcare professionals who want to learn the latest information on immunization standards or how to report an adverse reaction. The Web site is also an excellent resource for military personnel and their families who have questions or concerns. It is a goal of the VHC to provide education and advocacy for fair treatment of vaccine recipients to include fair access to vaccine safety programs and quality treatment. To discuss your immunization questions or concerns, visit, call, e-mail or call the VHC. Confidentiality can be maintained when asking questions, discussing concerns and filing a vaccine related adverse event.

To learn more about how the VHC can help you or to request a presentation, contact Barbara Cochran, Health Educator at 292-0486.

Commander's Presidents Day safety message, Feb. 13-16

Presidents Day, is set aside to honor Presidents Washington and Lincoln as well as our nation's other presidential leaders. As this day approaches, you must make the effort to enjoy a safe extended holiday weekend.

Safety success involves four factors:

- Leadership involvement, which equates to command emphasis on safety programs.

- The importance of improving the soldier's ability to identify hazards, assess the risks those hazards impose, and implement controls to mitigate those

risks.

- Enforce and adhere to standards set by leaders and Soldiers.

- Improve self-discipline.

We must continue to implement these four factors for safety success during our everyday activities.

In fiscal year 2003, off-duty ground accidents claimed the lives of 125 Soldiers. These accidents resulted from a serious breakdown of risk management.

Privately owned vehicle (POV) safety is critical and must also be stressed during pre-holiday safety briefings. I

encourage you to use the new POV Risk Assessment Tool from the Army Safety Center Web site

<http://safety.army.mil/home/html>. This tool is designed to mitigate risks through knowledge and sharing. It will help you plan your trip prior to departure and ensure it has been planned sufficiently to get you safely to your destination and back.

The Secretary of Defense has directed a clear challenge for us: reduce the number of accidents by at least 50 percent over the next two years.

People do not become a holiday statistic if they remain alert to hazards and use risk management to reduce or avoid them.

Be safe and enjoy the holiday!



Daniel F. Perugini
Brigadier General, MC
Commanding General

Fort Sam Houston News Leader

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Fort Sam Houston
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Brooke Army Medical Center 2nd Lt. Sarah Hayes representing active duty nurses and 1st Lt. Joseph Ukonu from the 4005 Combat Field Hospital representing reserve nurses cut the Army Nurse Corps birthday cake Jan. 30.

Army Nurse Corps marks 103 years of caring

Story and photo by Nelia Schrum
BAMC Public Affairs

The Army Nurse Corps celebrated its 103rd birthday Jan. 30 with a joint celebration between Brooke Army Medical Center and the Army Medical Department Center and School at the Stilwell House.

"People are amazed at the strength of the Army Nurse Corps," said Col. Lark Ford, Brooke Army Medical Center's deputy commander for nursing. "I can see that tradition will last on and on."

Ford said that every year the nurses celebrate another milestone while marking the Corps' birthday.

This year, she said, the nurses wanted to especially salute the contributions made by reserve nurses to Army medicine.

Referring to the more than 800 patients from Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom who have been treated at Brooke Army Medical Center, Ford said activated reservists have made significant contributions in patient care.

"We couldn't have done it without the activated reservists," Ford said. "We need the reserve. This year alone without the reservist working side by side with us, we couldn't have done it at Brooke Army Medical Center or within the Great Plains Regional Medical Center."

Ford said that the reservists often report for a yearlong tour with less than a 24-hour notice. While leaving their families behind, many of the reserve nurses reported to installations they knew nothing about.

She said the activated reserve nurses also were involuntarily extended for 90 days just two weeks ago.

With all of these challenges Ford said that the reserve nurses "have not missed a beat in seeing that the Army Nurse Corps stays strong."

The birthday cake at the Fort Sam Houston celebration honoring the Army Nurse Corps for 103 years of caring was jointly cut by reservist 1st Lt. Joseph Ukonu from 4005 Combat Field Hospital and 2nd Lt. Sarah Hayes, an active duty nurse who works at Brooke Army Medical Center.

BAMC nurse keeps childhood promise to serve U.S.

Story and photo by Capt. Mark Williford
BAMC Public Affairs

At six years old, Maj. Keyla Gammarano, a Brooke Army Medical Center nurse, made a promise she would serve the United States in gratitude for saving her family.

In April of 1965, the Dominican Republic exploded in violence. President Lyndon Johnson ordered the 82nd Airborne Division to intervene and prevent a junta from restoring leftist dictator Juan Bosch.

As, 20,000 members of the All-American Division restored President Joaquin Balguer to office; they also saved the Gammarano family.

Gammarano said she remembers being scared when she heard explosions and gunfire. She said she asked her mother why people were in the street bleeding.

"It was the green Soldiers and the big green plane that saved us," said Gammarano. "I promised myself as a child that when I got older I was going to serve that country," she said.

Gammarano's promise to pay her debt of gratitude is indeed being repaid in full. Serving at BAMC as a nurse, she was deployed to Iraq with 49 BAMC Soldiers in early January.

Gammarano said during the conflict, her family meandered their way under gunfire and angry mobs to the American Embassy.

"We left the embassy and rode a bus to the airport. It felt wonderful to be safe," said Gammarano. "My father

told me the Soldiers were good people from the United States of America," she said.

On the plane, she remembers how a simple act of kindness made a lasting impression.

"The Soldiers gave us food and water on the plane and I have always remembered how kind they were," said Gammarano.

After immigrating to Puerto Rico, she later graduated from Sacred Heart University and earned an advanced degree in nursing from St. Peter's College in Florida.

Gammarano, joined the Air Force and was stationed at Wilford Hall. She later transitioned to the Public Health Service. There, she served with the Veteran's Administration health care system. She then worked with inmates incarcerated within the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

Working as a nurse for the Alaskan Indian Health Agency, her duties included seeing patients in remote villages throughout Kodiak. She later served as a member of the Public Health Service's Disaster Medical Assistance Team during the 911 tragedies in New York.

"I always wanted to be in the Army so I switched from the Public Health Service to Army nursing," said Gammarano. She completed Officers Basic Course in November and was surprised how two months later she learned of her deployment.

Gammarano said she feels honored to be selected to serve in Iraq with the 31st Combat Support Hospital. "I



Maj. Keyla Gammarano poses before boarding a bus to San Antonio International Airport last month. She was one of 49 Brooke Army Medical personnel deployed in support of the 31st Combat Support Hospital in Iraq. Gammarano said she wanted to serve in the United States Army to fulfill a promise she made to herself as a child, when American Soldiers rescued her family during the 1965 Dominican Republic revolution.

have to keep my promise and serve the people who saved me and my family during the revolution," Gammarano said.

Recapping the history of the Army Nurse Corps

The Nurse Corps was established in 1901 after Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee wrote a bill passed by Congress known as the Army Reorganization Act. The Surgeon General Sternberg said that the nurses had made major contributions during the Spanish American War.

"American women may well feel proud of the record made by nurses in 1898-1899 for every medical officer with whom they served has testified to their intelligence, skill, earnestness, devotion and self-sacrifice," Sternberg said.

The authorized strength of the Nurse Corps was increased to 125 in 1912 and to 150 in 1914.

The Nurse Corps was redesignated the Army Nurse Corps by the Army



Reorganization Act of 1918. Base pay was restricted to \$60 monthly.

The peak strength of the Army Nurse Corps reached 21,480 in 1918 during World War I. Demobilization after

the war reduced the Army Nurse Corps to 851 nurses with one major, four captains, 74 first lieutenants and 772 second lieutenants.

Retirement for disability incurred in the line of duty was authorized for nurses in 1930.

When America entered World War II less than 7,000 nurses were on active duty. Six months later the nurse ranks had swelled to 12,000 nurses.

In 1942, Lt. Della Raney, while serving at Tuskegee Air Field, Ala., was selected

as the first African American chief nurse.

Few degree completion programs were available for nurses in 1950. The Army Nurse Corps had a goal of an undergraduate degree in nursing for its staff. In 1951, the Department of Defense through Directive 750.04-1 said registered nurses were to be relieved of custodial and housekeeping duties, clerical duties, food service and other non-nursing functions in patient care areas.

With the construction of the Berlin Wall in 1961, the commissioning criteria for reservists changed to increase the strength of the Army Nurse Corps. Reservists under the age of 40 in the rank of major and below could apply for one year of active duty and could apply in one of five clinical nursing areas: anesthesia, community health, maternal health nursing, operating room nursing and psychiatric nursing.

Ten Army nurses were assigned to the 8th Field Hospital, Nha Trang, South

Vietnam, in 1962, as the first contingent of nurses.

Brig. Gen. Lillian Dunlap, the second Army Nurse Corps officer to serve as a general officer was sworn in as the 14th Chief of the Army Nurse Corps in 1971.

DA Pamphlet 40-4 outlining the Army Nurse Corps standards of nursing practice was published in 1981. That same year the first Phyllis J. Verhonick Nursing Research Symposium took place in San Antonio as a forum for research, design, and methodology for reporting Army nursing research.

During Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1991, 2,265 nurses deployed to Southwest Asia. That same year, Brig. Gen. Adams-Ender became the first Army nurse to continue service as a general officer after serving as chief of the Army Nurse Corps. Col. Nancy Adams was promoted to brigadier general as the 19th Chief of the Army Nurse Corps replacing Adams-Ender.



Photo by Rudy Flowers

Brig. Gen. Daniel Perugini escorts Congressman Lamar Smith to the front entrance of the Medical Information and Technology Center offices for a tour of the command's new high-tech facilities in the renovated Beach Pavilion complex. The command's operations and 375 staff members will occupy 75,000 sq. ft. and three floors of the building.



Photo by Rudy Flowers

Thomas Chandler, Orion Partners, presents USAMITC commander, Lt. Col. Jose Lopez, a plaque commemorating the grand opening of the command's operations at Beach Pavilion. The USAMITC lease is the first of three tenants to be moved into Fort Sam Houston office space redeveloped by Orion. The North Beach Pavilion exterior was restored to its original 1931 appearance. The interior was rebuilt with state of the art mechanical, plumbing safety, elevator, and communications systems.

Center

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here at the home of Army Medicine on this enduring installation. This new business process is an example that is rightfully being emulated around our Army."

Congressman Lamar Smith noted the event heralded the future of Fort Sam Houston as a model Army installation. "My thanks to the military leaders who thought out of the box in order to make this happen. My congratulations to the private sector, Orion Properties and Weston Solutions, who were willing to take the entrepreneurial risks to make this happen. And, to my colleagues in Congress who supported the enabling legislation that allowed this positive public-private partnership," he said. Smith also remarked about the location of the United States Army Medical Information Technology Center's high-tech medical information systems operations in a building that for many decades was part of the famed Brooke Army Medical Center. "What goes around does indeed come around. It just doesn't always make the curve as successfully as this project," he said.

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

The USAMITC is the first of three



Photo by Rudy Flowers

Maj. Gen. Lester Martinez-Lopez, commander Medical Research and Materiel Command, discusses operational initiatives with U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith, 21st Congressional District. Smith is the chair of the House subcommittee on the Internet and Intellectual Property. His committee assignments also include Homeland Security, Science, and Research.

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

USAMITC provides information technology and data communication functions to the U.S. Army Medical Department, its hospitals, clinics, and the 55,000-plus military personnel

around the world. The center currently operates 85 projects supporting AMEDD business communications such as electronic mail, video teleconferencing, and supports health care operations such as Pre/Post Deployment Health Assessment and Patient Safety.

"Fort Sam Houston is on the receiving side of another significant mission relocation because of the opportunities afforded by the renovation of the former

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

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

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

Army

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requirements, redeploy to home station, and refit the unit based on normal attrition.

Once a non-commissioned officer becomes leader qualified as a squad leader or equivalent, assignment to other duties to include drill sergeant, recruiter, and other career enhancing positions is more likely.

Similarly, officers will qualify as leaders at company-level command or equivalent at about the seven-year mark.

Following this, they will leave the

installation to assignments such as ROTC, recruiting, or to attend advanced civil schooling.

Under Home-basing, some Soldiers may not be able to remain in their current organization based on unit structure and professional development needs. These Soldiers will be reassigned on the installation if possible, or fill other Army CONUS or overseas requirements if no vacancies exist at their installation.

The Army will continue to rotate Soldiers to Korea for one year. After completion of that tour, they will return

to their Home-base installation where their family remained.

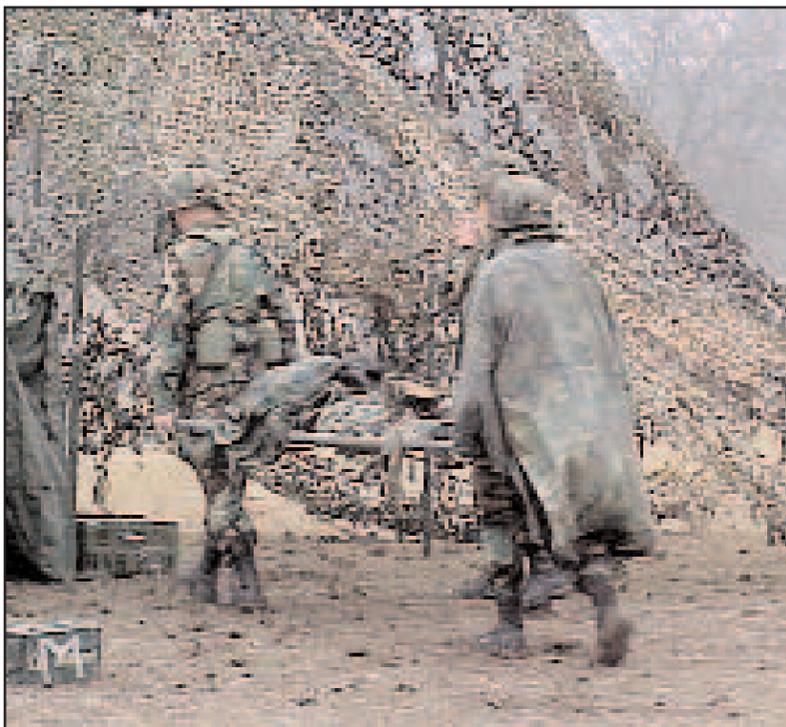
Home-basing reduces moves and provides predictability for Soldiers and families, and provides the basis for expansion of Unit Focused Stability, a manning process which synchronizes the Soldier's assignment cycle to the unit's operational cycle.

Under Unit Focused Stability, Soldiers will arrive, train, and fight together. It sets the conditions for the Army to build better and more deployable combat units. Soldiers assigned

under Unit Focused Stability will serve in a unit for the duration of the unit's operational cycle of approximately 36 months. During this time they can expect to complete an operational deployment or rotation of six to 12 months.

Force Stabilization is one of the Army's Chief of Staff, Gen. Peter Schoomaker's 16 focus areas.

Source: Department of the Army News Release.



E Company, 232d Medical Battalion Soldiers transport a simulated casualty during the Battle Aid Station exercise last week.

'Tusker' medics prepare for final FTX

Story and photo by Roman Kubyskovsky
Special to the News Leader

Last Thursday, Soldier medics from E Company, 232d Medical Battalion, conducted a situational training exercise under adverse, rainy conditions at Fort Sam Houston. The E Company, 'Tusker' medics were fine-tuning the skills they have learned during the past 14 weeks in preparation for their final Field Training Exercise at Camp Bullis. The Tusker medics conducted NBC decontamination training, Military Operations on Urban Terrain training, patient evacuation, and Battalion Aid Station operations.

232d Medical Battalion Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Kelley said, "This training helps build the teamwork necessary for these Soldier medics to accomplish the missions and tests they will be given at the Soldier medic training site at Camp Bullis." When asked about the training they were receiving, Tusker medics said it was great and it really helped bring together everything they were taught during the 91W course. When asked if the weather was having any adverse effects on the training, the Tusker medics replied, "If it ain't raining, we ain't training!"

Army kicks off new safety campaign

By Sgt. 1st Class Marcia Triggs
Army News Service

The Army is hoping that saturating Soldiers with two simple and heartfelt words can keep them alive. Acting Secretary of the Army Les Brownlee announced Feb. 5 that "Be Safe" will be the Army's official safety campaign theme. The campaign will attempt to decrease accidents by 50 percent over the next two years.

Brownlee came up with the slogan after hearing the phrase continuously used by Soldiers and their commanders in Iraq when he visited there.

"Be Safe" wasn't used flippantly by the Soldiers in the box, Brownlee said. He explained that they were a "band of brothers" with a fundamental concern for one another's safety.

From fiscal year 2001 to 2003 the Army's accident rate has spiked from 168 accidental deaths to 255, according to officials from the Army Safety Center, Fort Rucker, Ala.

The plan is to plaster the theme all over installations to remind Soldiers and leaders of the importance of safety in all endeavors, locations and environments, safety officials said. The goal is to provide leaders with the resources to minimize risks, and the training to help Soldiers identify and avoid hazardous behaviors, officials said.

The specifics of the campaign will not be released until after Safety Center officials brief at the Senior Army Commanders Conference at Carlyle Barracks, Pa., this week.

Leader-driven risk management is what it's going to take to stem the increased accident rate Army wide, officials said. This is a responsibility of the entire chain of command, they added.

The announcement of the campaign was not

the first initiative to improve the Army's accident rate. During the Christmas season the Army announced that it was joining the nationwide "Click It or Ticket" campaign.

There have already been 29 deaths this year caused by privately owned vehicles, according to officials from the Safety Center. Last fiscal year POVs were responsible for 40 percent of accident fatalities.

Military police are aggressively ticketing people who disregard seatbelt laws, and showing zero tolerance during holiday weekends.

Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the Combined Joint Task Force-7 commander, had POV safety in mind when he started Operation Guardian Angel. The program calls for family members and friends to adopt a service member while they're at home on their two-week Rest and Recuperation leave.

"While on leave, we entrust the care of our Soldiers to their family and friends. We are asking those families and friends to assist in caring for our troops by participating in Operation Guardian Angel to ensure their safe return to duty," Sanchez wrote in a memo announcing the program.

Operation Guardian Angel is not initially part of the Army's "Be Safe" campaign, but Sanchez intends to expand it Army wide and lend it to other services and coalition forces.

The Army is not alone in its campaign to decrease its accident rate. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld formed the Defense Safety Oversight Council last year, and challenged all defense agencies to reduce the number of accidents and injuries recorded in 2002 by 20 percent in fiscal year 2004 and 50 percent in 2005.

Remain alert, follow antiterrorism individual protective measures

The following are antiterrorism measures for Soldiers to follow in support of homeland security:

At all times:

- Maintain the "Buddy System."
- Avoid crowded areas.
- Be especially alert exiting clubs, restaurants, etc.
- Always carry money for cab, bus and pay phones. Maintain copy of unit phone numbers.
- Know emergency phone numbers for police, ambulance and hospital.
- Don't divulge family/personal information to a stranger.
- Don't divulge unit information to include, training dates, times, PT run Routes, upcoming events, daily class schedule.
- Unless necessary, don't wear uniform or military items in public.
- Don't establish a pattern; vary times/places for shopping, lunch, and other appointments.
- Don't flash large sums of money, expensive jewelry, or luxury items.

Post worship schedule

Main Post Chapel, Bldg. 2200, phone numbers: (210) 221-2754.

Catholic Services:

- 4:45-5:15 p.m. - Confessions - Saturdays
- 5:30 p.m. - Mass - Saturdays
- 9:30 a.m. - Mass - Sundays
- 11:30 a.m. - Mass - Weekdays

Protestant Services - Sundays:

- 8 a.m. - Traditional Protestant
- 11 a.m. - Traditional Protestant

Jewish Services: phone numbers: (210) 379-8666 or 493-6660.

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



Dodd Field Chapel, Bldg. 1721, phone numbers:

(210) 221-5010 or 221-5432.

Catholic Services - Sundays:

- 12:30 p.m. - Bilingual Mass

Protestant Services:

- 8 a.m. - Contemporary Protestant - Sundays
- 10:30 a.m. - Collective Gospel Protestant - Sundays
- 9:30-11:30 a.m. - Women's Bible Study (PWOC) - Wednesdays, childcare is provided

AMEDD Regimental Chapel, Bldg.

1398, phone number: (210) 221-4362.

Troop Catholic Mass: Sundays:

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

Troop Protestant Gospel Services: Sundays:

- 11:30 a.m. - 32nd Medical Bde. Soldiers

Troop Protestant Service:

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



FSH Mosque, Bldg. 607A, phone numbers: (210)

221-5005 or 221-5007.

- 1:30 p.m. - Jumma - Fridays

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

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

Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel, Bldg. 3600, phone number: (210)

916-1105.

Catholic Services:

- 8:30 a.m. - Mass - Sundays
- 11:15 a.m. - Mass - Sundays
- 11 a.m. - Mass - Weekdays

Protestant Services:

- 10 a.m. - Worship Service - Sundays
- Noon - Worship - Wednesdays



232nd Medical Battalion Classroom, Bldg. 1380, phone numbers:

(210) 221-5005 or 221-5007. **Mormon Services:** 10:30 a.m. - Sundays

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

Be aware of 'Return Preparer Fraud'

Return Preparer Fraud generally involves the preparation and filing of false income tax returns by preparers who claim inflated personal or business expenses, false deductions, unallowable credits or excessive exemptions on returns prepared for their clients.

Preparers may also manipulate income figures to obtain fraudulent tax credits, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit.

In some situations, the client (taxpayer) may not have knowledge of the false expenses, deductions, exemptions and/or credits shown on their tax returns.

However, when the IRS detects the false return, the taxpayer must pay the additional taxes and interest and may be subject to penalties and criminal prosecution.

The IRS Criminal Investigation Return Preparer Program focuses on

enhancing compliance in the return-preparer community by engaging in enforcement actions and/or asserting appropriate civil penalties against unscrupulous or incompetent return preparers.

While most preparers provide excellent service to their clients, the IRS urges taxpayers to be very careful when choosing a tax preparer. You should be as careful as you would in choosing a doctor or a lawyer. It is important to know that even if someone else prepares your return, you are ultimately responsible for all the information on the tax return.

Helpful Hints When Choosing a Return Preparer

Things to consider when choosing a return preparer include:

- Avoid tax preparers who claim they can obtain larger refunds than other pre-

parers.

- Avoid preparers who base their fee on a percentage of the amount of the refund.

- Use a reputable tax professional that signs your tax return and provides you with a copy for your records.

- Consider whether the individual or firm will be around to answer questions about the preparation of your tax return months, or even years, after the return has been filed.

- Review your return before you sign it and ask questions on entries you don't understand.

- No matter who prepares your tax return, you (the taxpayer) are ultimately responsible for all of the information on your tax return. Therefore, never sign a blank tax form.

- Ask questions. Do you know anyone who has used the tax professional? Were they satisfied with the service they received?

- Tax evasion is a risky crime, a felony, punishable by five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

Taxpayers hearing claims from preparers offering larger refunds than other preparers are encouraged to check it out with a trusted tax professional or the IRS before getting involved.

Information contained in this article is general in nature and does not constitute legal advice. Consult an attorney to answer questions particular to your situation.

Source: Fort Sam Houston Tax Assistance Center.

Tax Assistance Center saves taxpayers money

The Fort Sam Houston Tax Assistance Center saved taxpayers thousands of dollars during its first week of business. After filing 256 returns in the amount of \$589,169, Soldiers and retirees saved \$38,397 worth of tax fees if a commercial tax preparation company had prepared their tax returns.

The Main Fort Sam Houston Tax Assistance Center is located in the Officer's Club, Bldg. 407 on Dickman Road. The center is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and will remain open until April 17. A limited number of clients are seen each day with priority given to active duty in uniform. Sign-in sessions begin at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. For information, call the TAC at 295-1040.

Note: Closed Feb. 13-14 in observance of Presidents Day.

TRICARE Briefings for those under age 65

TRICARE is the Military Health Care System that covers Active Duty personnel and their family members, retirees and their family members under age 65 and retirees and family members age 65 and older. A TRICARE information briefing for those under age 65 will be held at Brooke Army Medical Center, 4th floor, on Feb. 17, 5-7 p.m. and April 15, 5-7 p.m.

For information on TRICARE briefings, call 1-800-406-2832 or visit their Web site at www.hnfs.net.

Soldiers learn planning skills at Rock Drill

Story and photo by Roman Kubyszkowshy
Special to the News Leader

Soldiers from A Company "Gators," 232nd Medical Battalion recently attended training on operational terms and graphics, echelons of care, and how to conduct a rock drill, at the Army Medical Department Center and School Rock Drill facility.

The leadership of A Company, 232nd Medical Battalion, Capt. Sean F. Del Grego and 1st Sgt. Carl D. Clark, saw a vital need to train their Soldier medics on these subjects in order to help them integrate quickly into their first operational unit following graduation from the course.

Clark said, "we have Soldiers graduating the course and deploying directly to units in combat. A lot of times these Soldiers are thrown into a situation and they don't really know where or how they fit in. This training will help them understand what their roles and responsibility are before they get in that situation."

Lt. Col. Ron Benton and Maj. Michael Hastings, Infantry officers assigned to Combined Arms Branch, along with Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Reyes, the NCOIC of the AMEDD Rock Drill facility, instructed the Gator medics about basic Army operational terms and graphics, to include phase lines, avenues of approach, and objectives.

They then showed them the basics of how to use a military map to build a terrain model. The Gator medic cadre discussed the echelons of care, focusing on echelons one and two medical support and the vital lifesaving role of the 91W.

After the lectures, the Gator medics were divided into small groups and given a tactical platoon level operations scenario during which they had to plan the medical support. After they developed their plan, with mentoring and guidance from the instructors, they conducted a 'rock drill.'

A rock drill is a rehearsal technique on a tabletop or terrain model to assist in synchronizing actions on the battlefield. During a rock drill, Soldiers recreate the contours of a military map on the ground or in a sand box to help them see the map in three dimensions. The terrain model can be composed of any improvised item such as twigs, rocks, dirt, and sand. Often, units will create sand table kits at their home station to carry to the field consisting of wooden models of vehicles, various colors of yarn, engineer tape, and spray paint. The operational graphics are then displayed on the terrain model to include enemy and friendly units, avenues of approach, possible obstacles, and objectives.

Reyes believes that this rock drill training should be a requirement for every Military Occupational Specialty in the Army. "Everyone will encounter a sniper or a rowdy crowd in a foreign country. You must have an understanding on how to



Soldiers assigned to the 232nd Medical Battalion learn how to use maps and operational graphics to plan avenues of approach, phase lines, and illustrate tactical objectives during training at the Rock Drill facility.

execute the mission in case your leader dies. You must be ready to take over for your buddy, even though it might not be your job. With this experience, you'll feel more knowledgeable and more secure," he said.

Benton wants all Soldiers to be prepared for war, "I don't want their first time in combat to be the first time they see these things and learn these skills," he said.

Lt. Col. Bruce W. McVeigh, commander, 232d Medical Battalion, believes "this training will help the Soldiers to visualize the battlefield and the planning process. It will give them a better understanding of why they are here and the role of each unit across the battlefield."

Pfc. Francesca Beauduy learned to expect the unexpected. "The training gave me a better perspective of what happens on the battlefield and the planning and preparation process," she said. Pvt. Melissia Cyrus elaborated, "I have a better understanding of what I would do to counteract their actions."

Protect your home system from viruses and intruders – at no cost

By **Drew White**
ITBC Security Division

Computer viruses are appearing at an alarming rate. Today it is estimated that

there are more than 64,000 in existence and more than 100 new viruses are identified every week! Unfortunately, these viruses target all computers. They can cause the loss of valuable data or open

your computer to even greater vulnerabilities.

The Fort Sam Houston Information Technology Business Center protects your government system with the latest anti-

virus software and ensures current definition files are in place.

But wait! You say you have a computer at home you use? You can also protect your home system from viruses and intruders – at no cost! The Department of Defense has made a provision for the protection of their network assets, to include your home computer. All DoD employees may download the latest antivirus and firewall software, even from home, using these Web links.

Although you are encouraged to exercise this opportunity to protect your home investment, the Fort Sam Houston Information Technology Business Center does not provide technical assistance for your home computer should you choose to use one, or more, of the following products:

- Symantec (Norton): www.acert.1stiocmd.army.mil/Antivirus/symantec.htm
- McAfee: www.mcafee.com/dod

The Army Computer Emergency Response Team-Chief Network Operations is your authoritative source for Information Assurance and Computer Security. Access them from anywhere with your AKO login, www.acert.1stiocmd.army.mil/Antivirus/.

If you have antivirus questions contact the DoD Virus Team at virus@1stiocmd.army.mil.



It's Not Easy Being Green CONFERENCE 2004

A Celebration of Military Life

**FEBRUARY 27 & 28
DODD FIELD CHAPEL
FORT SAM HOUSTON**



The purpose of this conference is to uplift, enlighten, motivate, and strengthen our lives in the military as men, women, husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, & invaluable contributors to the community.

Registration forms are available at ACS, FSH Library, NCO Club, O'Club, BAMC Medical Mall Information Desk, OCSC February Luncheon, Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, and CYS Central Registration. Registration is due by Feb. 18.

**Don't miss this opportunity to recharge your battery for all the hats we wear in the military community. It's all about you! You deserve to attend!
Free childcare available on a first-come first-served basis!
Register Today!**

OUR KIND SPONSORS

BAMC Auxiliary, First Command

AUSA, SACU, USO, OCSC

For more information call

Judith Merkelz 210-655-0238 Kim Taylor 210-566-6526

'It's Not Easy Being Green' conference offers classes for many interests

By Kathy Richardson
Special to the News Leader

The "It's Not Easy Being Green" Conference scheduled for Feb. 27-28 at Dodd Field Chapel will come alive with attendees buzzing from class to class to learn more about areas that spark their interests. Although many popular classes will return for this year's conference, many new favorites will unfold.

New for 2004 is Larry Johnson's session on resilience. Titled "Rebound: the Seven Strategies to Resiliency," Johnson's lessons come from his experiences as a blind person. He is a master in the area of using adversity to succeed in life, and his class will motivate individuals to live their very best lives.

Another new session for 2004 is JoAnna M. Lund's segment "Entertaining Family and Friends—Fast, Cheap, and Easy!" Lund specializes in what she calls "common folk" healthy recipes. She will do a short cooking demonstration and share tips and ideas as well as answer questions. She appears regularly on QVC, writes a syndicated newspaper column, and has hosted two PSB series. We are lucky to have her as a presenter for our conference.

Carol Leeds returns this year as one of our most popular speakers. Leeds designed her presentation about 12 years ago to help people gain confidence and enjoy public speaking. She uses a comical and interactive approach to speaking before an audience. Titled "Freedom to Speak,"™ Leeds' presentation illustrates "How to Lose an Audience in Ten Easy Ways" and how to avoid the major mistakes many speakers make. Her presentation is both non-threatening and empowering.

Classes at the "It's Not Easy Being Green" conference cover a wide range of subjects and activities. You may choose from yoga, line dancing, self-defense, weight training, digital photography and more. To register pick up a registration form at Army Community Service, Fort Sam Houston Library, the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, Brooke Army Medical Center Information Desk or the NCO or Officers' Club; choose your favorite classes, and return your form along with a \$5 check or money order by Feb. 18. Lunch, snacks, gift bags, and more are included in your registration fee. Childcare is available for no extra cost but spaces will fill up early, so register today.

Army Community Services Family Advocacy Program Class Schedule February 2004

Class	Dates	Time
Anger Management Awareness	17	11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Basics of Breastfeeding	18	10:30 a.m. to Noon
Boys Only! Ages 6-8	18	3-4 p.m.
Conflict Management	20	11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Getting Ready for Childbirth	15, 22	9 a.m. to Noon
Girl Talk! Ages 9-10	25	3-4 p.m.
Helping Us Grow Securely (H.U.G.S.) Playgroup	17, 24	9-11 a.m.
Parenting with Love & Logic (ages 0-12)	19	9-11:30 a.m.
S.T.E.P. Program for Parents of Teens	18	11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Stress Management I & II	17	1-2 p.m.
Teen Talk	19	4-5 p.m.
New Series (1 -2)	17, 24	4:30-5:30 p.m.

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

Valentine's poses potential danger for pets

Many pet owners don't realize the perils that Valentine's Day gifts pose for their canine and feline best friends. According to the pet care experts at Best Friends Pet Resorts and Salons, the national pet hospitality company, there are many dangers in this holiday's traditions:

- **Chocolate** - As delicious as it is to humans, chocolate can be toxic to dogs because it contains theobromine and caffeine, stimulants, which can be hazardous, and even fatal, to pets.

- **Jewelry** - Sparkling gems are appealing to our four legged friends, too. Ingesting jewelry can cause stomach ailments and possible breathing difficulties.

- **Flowers** - Some flowers and plants are dangerous if ingested by pets, including buttercups, calla lilies and tulips. The packaged plant food that accompanies some floral arrange-

ments can lead to stomach problems as well if eaten.

- **Other dangers** - A romantic candlelit dinner can turn into a fiery disaster by a pounce on the table from a curious cat. And scented cards and love letters spell danger if ingested.

What do pets really want?

One way to keep pets out of trouble is to offer them presents of their own. In fact, more than three-quarters of all pet owners in America give gifts to their pets on special occasions. From heart-shaped plush toys, to Valentine's Day bones and pink and white "puppy Popsicles," there are a variety of toys and treats from which to choose. For more Valentine's Day gift ideas, visit www.best-friendpetcare.com or call 1-888-FOR-PETS.

Treating your pet to a comforting day at the salon is another gift idea. "February is actually a great time for a grooming make-over," said Val Penstone, national director of grooming for Best Friends. During the winter months, grooming is often neglected and, with the windows closed and the heaters on, low humidity can make your pet's skin and coat dry and scaly. A thorough grooming will leave your pet clean and comfortable from head to toe, and much nicer to be near.

Vet clinic announces Walk-in Vaccination Clinic, Feb. 28

The Fort Sam Houston Veterinary Clinic will conduct a Walk-in Vaccination Clinic for cats and dogs on Saturday Feb. 28, 8 a.m. to noon. (No sick call please.)

Active duty personnel, retirees, their dependents and reservists on active duty status (with copy of orders) are eligible to bring their pets for care. All regular prices will apply. Call the clinic in advance at 295-4260, so that records may be prepared prior to pet's arrival.

FSH Army Family Action Plan Community Forum scheduled for March 25-26

The Army Family Action Plan Community Forum is the first step in the process that conveys input from The Army Family to Army Leadership. The process lets soldiers, DA civilians, retirees, and their families say what is working and what is not working in their community – and what they think will fix it. It alerts commanders and Army leaders to areas of concern that need their attention and provides a mechanism for reporting back to the local community on the progress of the issues submitted.

The FSH AFAP Community Forum is scheduled for March 25-26. This is your opportunity to let the Army leadership know what you think is working and what is not working for the “Army Family.” Representatives from Active and Reserve components, retirees, surviving spouses, DA civilians, family members and tenant organizations, will evaluate and prioritize the issues submitted.

Issues are researched with the help of subject matter experts and classified for work at the installation, MACOM, or DA level. Installation level issues are entered into the FSH AFAP process and tracked until

resolved. Issue resolution is reported back to the FSH community through the AFP Steering Community. Issues needing resolution at the MACOM or DA level are forwarded to those agencies. Many AFAP actions impact quality of life for all services.

The Army is the only branch of the DoD that has such a program. Key to the success of this process is your input into the forum. You have an opportunity to have your voice heard by Army leadership.

Submit your issue(s) to the 2004 Fort Sam Houston Army Family Action Plan Forum by using the format accompanying this article. The format may be duplicated and you may submit as many issues as you like. Each issue should be on a separate form and returned to: Army Family Action Plan, Army Community Service, Bldg. 2797, 2010 Stanley Road #95, Fort Sam Houston, Texas, 78234. Issue forms may also be dropped off at the Roadrunner Community Center information desk. You may also e-mail your issue, using the format provided to, Suella.York@samhouston.army.mil. Deadline for submitting issues is March 5.

Community Forum Issue Submission Format

Use the following format to submit you issue (s) by e-mail to Suella.York@samhouston.army.mil. or mail to ACS/AFAP, Bldg. 2797, 2010 Stanley Road #95, Fort Sam Houston, Texas 78234.

You may also hand-carry packet to the Roadrunner Community Center information desk. Deadline for submission of issues is March 5.

Subject: Community Forum Issue Submission

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

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

Recommendation(s): (Tell us what you want to happen. Do not tell why, that has already been defined in the scope. Prioritize and number recommendations. Use strong descriptive verbs and end with a measurable outcome.)

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

Use a separate page for each issue. You may duplicate this format.

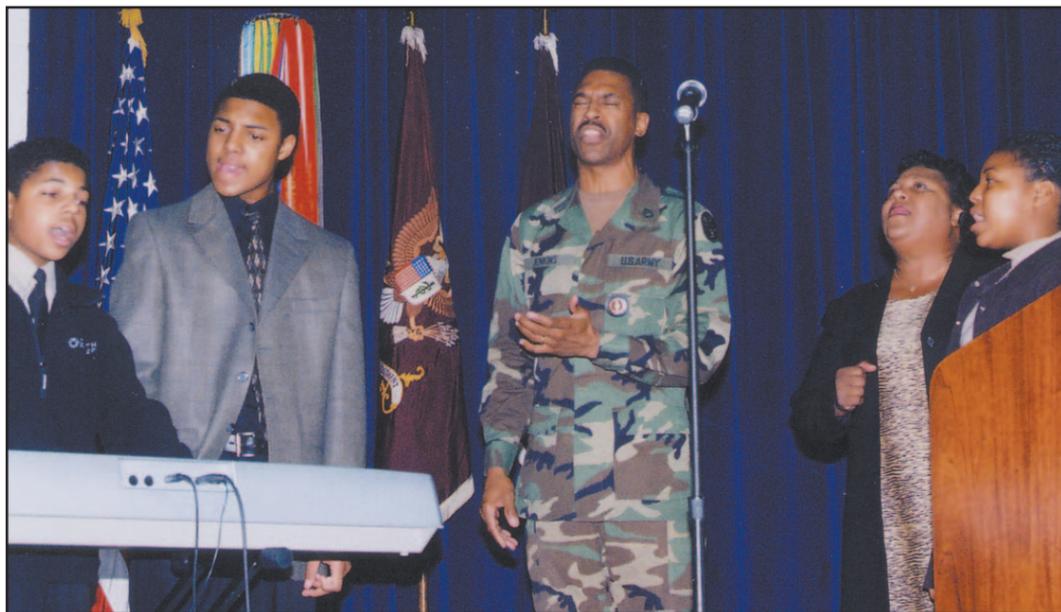
Issue Submitter's Name: _____ **Phone:** _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip Code:** _____

E-mail: _____

Note: Personal information is optional and will be used for administrative purposes only. It will allow us to contact you for clarification of the issue if necessary and to provide feedback. Commanders and forum participants will not see it.



Jenkins family members, Mahalia, Mica, Justan and Joshua led by Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Jenkins, filled the Roadrunner Community Center with inspirational words and music during the Fort Sam Houston Black History Month opening ceremony Feb. 5. The program included audience participation singing a gospel rendition of "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Anniversary of historic court decision calls attention to progress still required

Story and photos by Phil Reidinger
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs

This year, Black History Month activities focus on the May 17, 1954, U.S. Supreme Court decision known as Brown vs. Board of Education. The Court determined that segregation of public schools deprived children equal educational opportunities. Referring to the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, the Court reversed the separate but equal concept of segregation practices.

U.S. Army Garrison commander, Col. Garry Atkins noted that segregation deprived Americans the opportunity to learn in an environment collectively as Americans. "Segregation prevented our children from sharing, appreciating, accepting and understanding our individual abilities and potential, regardless of race, color and creed." Atkins also noted that equal access to education is especially true in the 21st Century where change is rapid and based on technology advances which demand a life-long pursuit of knowledge and education.

A stirring performance of a medley of traditional gospel songs by the Jenkins family filled the community center. City Councilman Joel Williams present a proclamation issued by Mayor Ed Garza recognizing the post Black History Month celebration. A copy of the proclamation was presented also to Sgt. Casaundra

Grant, recovering from injuries received while serving in Kuwait with the 96th Transportation Unit, 180th Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas. Retired Sgt. Maj. Charles Shelby presented Davis with a postage stamp panel recognizing the life and contributions of Sojourner Truth.

Chaplain (Col.) Edward Maney introduced the opening ceremony program keynote speaker, the Rev. (Dr.) Sarah F. Davis, pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. "She takes her faith and puts it into action. She is an esteemed teacher and community leader," he said.

Davis said that time has moved on since a little girl, Linda Brown, was forced to ride a bus five miles to attend a segregated school, passing other schools closer to her home along the way. She acknowledged that the Supreme Court decision helped change America forever. However, she cautioned, "You can change law, policy, and rules. But, the need is to change the human factor."

She continued, "If you don't stand for something. You will fall for anything." It does not matter how smart we are she noted. "It really matters how minds and heart change. Now is the time to share our success by helping others succeed as well. Davis told the audience that each of us (Americans) is on center stage. "The world is observing the kinds of choices we make," she said.



Col. Garry Atkins, U.S. Army Garrison commander, presents the city of San Antonio proclamation recognizing the command's multiple activities in observance of Black History Month to the Rev. (Dr.) Sarah Davis, pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church. Davis presented the keynote remarks during the ceremony.



Sgt. Casaundra Grant was a special command guest during the Black History Month opening ceremony. She also was presented the city of San Antonio Black History Month proclamation. Grant was assigned to the 96th Transportation Unit, 180th Battalion and is recovering from serious injuries received while supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom operations in Kuwait.

Black History Month Trivia Questions of the Week

In recognition of Black History Month, during the month of February, a series of trivia question about well-known facts, events and personalities will be published. The answers and the winner's name will be published in the following week's issue. Answers must be sent via e-mail to Gayle.Ellis@CEN.AMEDD.ARMY.MIL or delivered in a sealed envelope, addressed to Gayle Ellis, Black Employment Program committee member in Bldg. 2841, Room 1335, by close of business Tuesday, following the publication of questions. The winner will be the first set of correct answers received. E-mail responses are highly encouraged.

The following are the questions for this week:

1. The documentary film entitled "Soldiers without Swords" celebrates what important issue concerning blacks in American History?
2. In 1865, what did General William T. Sherman's Field Order #15 provide or deed to the freed black families on the South Carolina and Florida coasts?
3. The Civil Rights Movement in the United States included many violent events. What event is known as Bloody Sunday?
4. Who organized the first blood bank project in 1941? His efforts saved thousands on the battlefields during World War II.
5. In 1994, the Land Loss Prevention Project filed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit on behalf of black farmers. What was the intent of the lawsuit?

Hint: Use www.pbs.org or www.encyclopedia.msn.com to find the answers.

No winner for Feb. 5 Trivia Questions. Unfortunately, due to network problems, no winner was announced in time to publish this week.

The following are the answers to questions published Feb. 5:

1. Payload commander on the Shuttle Columbia that broke up during reentry to earth.
2. It was the location of a premiere summer resort for affluent and middle class blacks.
3. The Tuskegee Syphilis Study conducted on black males without their consent and without allowing them treatment for their disease.
4. Ronald E. McNair.
5. Possible answers are: Jackie Robinson, baseball; Althea Gibson, tennis; Jessie Owens, track and field; and Willie O'Ree, ice hockey.

FSH Celebrates African American History Month February 2004

Today - Black History Month Luncheon sponsored by the Installation Chaplains Office will be held at the NCO Club, 11:30 a.m. Guest speaker is Chaplain (Col.) Richard M. Hartsell, SWR CMD. Tickets are \$6 per person and may be obtained by calling the Garrison Equal Opportunity Advisor at 295-0561.

Feb. 18 - Workshop "Where Do We Go From Here?" will be held in the basement of Bldg. 2263 on Stanley Road, 7:30 a.m. to noon. Information on the following topics will be available: 14th Amendment, Affirmative Action Plan, Conflict Management, Education updates, Job Assistance, Financial Aid and Health Issues.

Feb. 19 - For Soldiers in Initial Entry Training, the Capoiers Dancers will perform at the Hacienda Recreation Center, 6-7 p.m.

Feb. 19 - Medical Command Black History Program will be held in Wood Auditorium, 10:15 a.m. to 1 p.m. Guest speaker is Dr. Angela McPherson Williams, assistant to the principal, St. Phillips College. Food sampling will be available.

Feb. 20 - A memorialization ceremony for Lt. Col. Karen Wagner Hall, Bldg. 902, 32nd Medical Brigade, located on Harney Road will be held at 9:45 a.m.

Feb. 26 - An Oratory Competition will be held in Wood Auditorium, Medical Command Headquarters, 10-10:45 a.m. The deadline to register is Feb. 13. Deadline to submit essay is Feb. 18. The topic is: Applying Jefferson's writings that "all men are created equal," do you believe America has made progress in education? This event is open to the public. For information, call Maj. Vereen at 221-6722.

Post Garage Sale draws crowd of treasure hunters, despite cold chill

Story and photos by Alexandra Nordeck
Special to the News Leader

Despite frigid temperatures of 29 degrees, more than 65 members of the Fort Sam Houston military community came to sell their household items at the post garage sale, Saturday at MacArthur Pavilion parking lot. Items ranged from clothing and children's toys to furniture and sports equipment. One seller, Gary Shmidt, sold items from his son's overgrown collection of Russian medals and artifacts. "His collection just got too big for him to store," said Shmidt. Crowds interested in the medals gathered around his booth as he showed old photographs and talked about the items.

A crowd of more than 700 braved the temperatures in search of a special bargain treasure. Many of the shoppers went home happy carrying bags full of good merchandise.

The next Post Garage Sale will be held May 1. Watch the News Leader for upcoming announcements. This event was sponsored by the MWR.



Gary Shmidt demonstrates to prospective buyers his son's great collection of Russian medals and decorations.



Georgiana Weisner, a happy shopper, found bargains galore during Saturday's garage sale on post.



Gary Cooper shows some of the baseball cards he had for sale at the post garage sale to a shopper.



Donovan Mosley plays with a toy he bought at the post garage sale.



A bargain seeker looks through racks of clothing that were available for sale at one of the vendor booths during the post garage sale Saturday.



Cole Cheerleaders show off their 1st place trophy for their "Spirit Chili" entry in the school's Chili Cook-off.

Cole cheerleaders win Chili Cook-off

Story and photo by Dr. Gloria Davila
 FSHISD Associate Superintendent.

The Cole Jr./Sr. High School "Go Rodeo" Chili Cook-off was held Feb. 5 in observance of the annual San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo. From all indications, it was a tremendous hit with the students, staff, and community members. Thirteen teams participated with their own ideas of "chili." They were judged on taste, consistency, aroma, use of spices, and presentation.

The winning "Chili" recipes were:

First Place: Spirit Chili, prepared by the Spicy Spirit Squad (cheerleaders Ashley Mullins, Peyton Bell, Vanessa Medina, Mallory Plasentillo, Lesleigh Hayes, Amanda Jeter, Coleinette Smith, and Whitney Wheathersby)

Second Place: Check Out Chili, prepared by the Chili Library Aides (Kathleen Beierle,

librarian, Monique Lane, DeBesh West, Cyrelle White, Craig Lott, Jovan Ebalanza, Fred Moreno, Cathy Waring, Jackie Goins, and Mike Rogers)

Third Place: Fire and Brimstone Chili, prepared by Name Goes Here (Jared Morris, Michael Hewitt, Chris Hixson, Patrick Pantab)

The judges, who had to taste thirteen different samples of chili, including some that were super spicy and hot, were "Tough Texan" Keith Toney, Fort Sam Houston ISD Board president and Special Needs director, Child and Youth Service Division; "Wild West" Jeanne Warren, board member and director of Youth Services; "Jumping" Jim Evetts, director of FSH Community Activities Business Center; "Rough Riding" Dr. Roland Rios, principal; "Saddle Sacking" Doug Smith, marketing and vocational education teacher; and "Darling" Dr. Gloria Davila, FSHISD Associate Superintendent.

FSHISD Board of Trustees Meeting, Feb. 26

Fort Sam Houston ISD Board of Trustees will meet Feb. 26, 11 a.m. in the FSHISD Professional Development Center, 1908 Winans Road.

Fort Sam Houston ISD Weekly Campus Activities February 16-21, 2004

Fort Sam Houston Elementary School

Monday, Feb. 16

- Student Holiday/Staff Development Day – President's Day

Tuesday, Feb. 17

- Storyteller

4th, 5th, 6th, Grades in Cafeteria, 9 to 9:45 a.m.

2nd, and 3rd, Grade in Library, 10 to 10:30 a.m.

Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and 1st Grade in Library, noon to 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 18

- Early Dismissal for Teacher Professional Development

Friday, Feb. 20

- Spirit Day

Robert G. Cole Jr. /Sr. High School

Monday, Feb. 16

- School Holiday/Staff Development Day - President's Day

Tuesday, Feb. 17

- Begin 5th Six Weeks

- Boys Basketball vs Stockdale at Cole, 6 and 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 19

- Baseball Scrimmage vs Somerset at Cole, 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 21

- JROTC Drill Meet at Fort Worth, TBA

- UIL State Meet at UT Austin Pool, TBA

Cole team scores high in Academic Decathlon

By Dr. Gloria Davila
FSHISD Associate Superintendent

On Jan. 30-31 the Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School Academic Decathlon team competed at the Regional XI Academic Decathlon meet in San Marcos, Texas. Cole was one of 19 teams including five Large Schools (5A), four Medium Schools (4A), and nine Small Schools (3A and below).

Team members included David Parker, Martin Castorena, Lisa Ahrens (Varsity Division); Jonathan Simpkins, Michael Gresenz, Caitlyn McCoole (Scholastic Division); and Scott Gibson, Amanda Collyer, and Caitlin Gresenz (Honors Division). Alternates were Amy Jackson, Jennifer Bagg and William Molina.

Cole's Academic Decathlon team, coached by Sue Rowland, Barbara Lien, and James Cox, won 38 individual medals, including 15 gold, 11 silver, and 12 bronze. Team medals included first place in the Super Quiz Relay, first place in Super Quiz overall, and first place in Region. Fort Sam Houston ISD is now rated number 3 as it advances to state competition. Lackland ISD is rated number 10, while Randolph Field ISD is rated number 11. The next competition will be the State Academic Decathlon Meet on Feb. 27-28 at San Antonio College.

Academic Decathlon, the premiere national scholastic competition for high school students, was created to provide opportunities for students to experience the challenges of rigorous team and individual academic competition. Each student competes in ten events: Economics, Essay, Art, Interview, Language and Literature, Math, Music, Science, Social Science and Speech. The program strives to foster a greater respect for knowledge, to promote wholesome inter-school academic compe-



Robert G. Cole High School Regional Winning Academic Decathlon Team members proudly display their medals. Seated from left are: Team coach, Sue Rowland, and William Molina; (second row) Scott Gibson, Amanda Collyer, Caitlin Gresenz, Caitlyn McCoole, Lisa Ahrens, Amy Jackson, and Team coach, Barbara Lien; (third row) Team coach, James Cox, Michael Gresenz, Jon Simpkins, David Parker, Martin Castorena and Jennifer Bagg.

tion, and to further develop student communication skills.

Individual Gold Medal winners in Varsity are: David Parker in Economics, Overall Individual Varsity Score, Highest

Individual and Varsity Score for Cole; Lisa Ahrens in Mathematics and Science.

Winner in Scholastic's are Jonathan Simpkins in Mathematics, Music, Overall Individual Scholastic Score, and Highest

Individual Scholastic Score for Cole. Honor's winners are: Amanda Collyer in Super Quiz, Language and Literature, Speech, Overall Individual Honors Score, and Highest Individual Honors Score for Cole; Scott Gibson for Individual Super Quiz.

Individual Silver Medal winners in Varsity are: David Parker, Individual Super Quiz, Language and Literature, and Essay; Martin Castorena, Economics; and Lisa Ahrens, Interview. Scholastic's winners are Michael Gresenz, Individual Super Quiz; Caitlyn McCoole, Mathematics and Art and Jonathan Simpkins, Interview. Honor's winner was Amanda Collyer in Music and Interview.

Individual Bronze Medal winners in Varsity are: David Parker, Mathematics and Science; Lisa Ahrens, Economics, Essay, and Overall Individual (3rd Place); Martin Castorena, Music, Speech, and Overall Individual (5th Place). Scholastic's winner was Michael Gresenz, Mathematics and Economics. Honor's winners are: Caitlin Gresenz, Individual Super Quiz and Amanda Collyer, Mathematics.

Recreation and Fitness

MWR is on the Web - Find all the latest news on MWR's programs, facilities and activities at www.fort-samhoustonmwr.com.

Archery Shooters of All Ages - Archery classes are available by contacting the Outdoor Equipment Center at 221-5225. The fee for a one-hour class is \$15. Instruction is given by Skip Dawson award winning archer, at your level of experience. Military family members under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent.

3-D Archery at Camp Bullis - The next 3-D archery shoot will be held Feb. 28-29 at Camp Bullis. This excit-

ing competitive shoot includes 30 3-D animal targets placed at unknown distances ranging from 10 to 40 yards in a woodland setting. Prizes will be awarded to the top three in each class. Check-in from 8-10 a.m. Saturday's shoot is \$15, all competitive and Sunday's shoot is either competitive for \$15 or non-competitive for \$10. Minis and cubs shoot free with a paid adult and a playground is available for kids. Open to the public.

Come walk with us Feb. 21-22 - Join the Texas Wanderers at Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area for two trails, each 10 Ks in distance. The events will start and finish at the Rust house at Guadalupe River state park, 3350 Park Road, Spring Branch, Texas on Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 21-22. Start between 8 a.m. and noon, finish by 3 p.m. For information about this event or about the Texas Wanderers, visit the Web site at www.walktx.org/Wanderers.html or contact Lynn Ward at 651-6536, Lward10kM@aol.com.

Fishermen - The white bass run is on across South Texas. Stop by the Outdoor Equipment Center and reserve a boat now.

Sweetheart Dance - Dance the night away at the Sweetheart Dance Feb. 12, 7-11 p.m. at the NCO Club. Cost is \$3 individual/\$5 couple. Heavy hors d'oeuvres will be served until 8:30 p.m. Dress casual/semi formal. Sponsored by Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers.

FSH Intramural Sports

Participants are needed for the following intramural sports:

Racquetball - Coaches meeting will be held Feb. 16 and the season starts Feb. 23.

Flag Football - Coaches meeting will be held Feb. 13 and the season starts Feb. 23.

Golf - Letters of intent are due Feb. 20, coaches meeting will be held March 3. First team captains meeting will be held Feb. 24, 11:30 p.m. followed by meetings on March 9, noon and March 22, noon. Entry deadline is March 29, noon. Send entries to Billy.Davis@cen.amedd.army.mil. Season starts April 6, 5:30 p.m. All meetings will be held at the Golf Club House.

Join the fun and register for your favorite intramural sport today. For information, call Earl Young at 221-1180.

Health and Wellness Fair and Blood Drive - Stop by the Fitness and Health Fair Feb. 25, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Event highlights include cholesterol screening, diabetes screening, proper weight training, raffles, nutrition info and many more. The event will promote health and fitness. There will also be a Blood Drive, free food, and giveaways.

60 Days of Fitness - A motivating fitness and weight loss program to help you safely lose 15 pounds in 60 days using a point system. This self-paced program requires you workout 45 out of 60 days and includes a seven-page fitness assessment, body fat analysis and body measurements. You will also attend two 30-minute weight loss classes. Cost for the program is \$20, which includes a T-shirt. For information, call Lucian Kimble at 221-2020.

Weight Loss Classes - Every Tuesday, 10-10:30 a.m. and 5-5:30 p.m. For information, call Lucian Kimble at 221-2020.

BAMC seeks 'Partners in Healing' volunteers

Brooke Army Medical Center is looking for upbeat volunteers to become "Partners in Healing." BAMC wants those who understand the hardships that Soldiers experience during separation from loved ones while coping with illness or injury. Compassionate and understanding volunteers are also needed to tend to the special needs of hospitalized seniors. BAMC currently offers 130 positions ranging from clerical, administrative and direct staff support and will match your skills and interests with administrative or patient care needs. No experience is necessary. For information, call the Office of Volunteer Services at 916-5083.

Youth Happenings

Exploring Life for Middle School Students - Youth Services offers an after school program for middle school youth grades 6-9 on Monday through Friday after school until 6 p.m. YS will pick up your child from the school (either the elementary or the Jr./Sr. high school and take students to the Youth Center. Students will have a snack, work on homework, participate in clubs and do participate in fun innovative projects such as 4-H Club, a Photography Club, a Computer Tech Club and others. The best feature of this program is that this is a free program. Youth must be registered with Child and Youth Services at an \$18 annual fee. For information, call 221-3502.

Youth Services Volunteers needed - YS is looking for volunteers to assist with youth programs. Sports coaches, computer skilled people, crafty people and those who just care about kids are welcome. If you have a special interest or hobby that you would like to share with kids, call the

Youth Center at 221-3502.
Baseball Registration, now through Feb. 27 - Youth Services baseball registration, now through Feb. 27. Cost is \$45 for 5-18 year olds and \$25 for 3-4 year olds. The season runs from mid March to the beginning of June. Birth certificate, and physical are required. All participants must be registered with the Child and Youth Services. For information, call 221-3502.

Dance Class Registration - Registration is ongoing through Feb. 27, for Spring Dance Classes with the recital in May. Classes will be held on Friday at the School Age Services Center, Bldg. 1705. Cost is \$26 for 40 minutes, \$28 for 50 minutes and \$30 for 60 minutes.

The following is the schedule: 3-4 year-olds, 5:30-6:10 p.m.; 5-6 year-olds, 6:10-7 p.m.; and 7 and up, 7-7:50 p.m. For information, call the Youth Center at 221-3502

Saturday Open Recreation - Open

recreation for youth in grades 1-12 is held at the Youth Center on Saturdays. Activities include computer lab, arts and crafts, basketball, pool, ping-pong, movies, and more. If you are registered with Child and Youth Services then you are eligible. Bring your child to the Youth Center for an afternoon of fun!! For information, call 221-3502. The following are the hours: 1-5th grades, 3-8 p.m.; 6-8th grades, 3-10 p.m.; and 9-12th grades 3-11 p.m.

Saturday Shuttle - Youth Services offers a Saturday afternoon shuttle to and from the Youth Center. There is no cost for this service, but parents of children 9 and under must wait for the van and sign them into and out of the van with the YS staff member. The Shuttle Schedule is as follows:

- 3 p.m. - Van leaves the Youth Center
- 3:07 p.m. - Gorgas Circle (Picnic Tables)
- 3:10 p.m. - Schofield/Dickman on

- Schofield
 - 3:15 p.m. - Reynolds and Dickman on Reynolds
 - 3:20 p.m. - Officer's Club tennis Courts
 - 3:25 p.m. - Artillery Post Road at Bus Stop
 - 3:30 p.m. - Easley/Infantry Post Bus Stop 660
 - 3:42 p.m. - Patch Road (Playground)
 - 3:46 p.m. - Patch Road Shoppette Parking lot
 - 3:50 p.m. - Foulois/Scott Road Harris Heights
 - 3:54 p.m. - Forage/Foulois
- The return shuttle leaves the Youth Center at 7:30 p.m. for those in 5th grade and below. There is also a shuttle that leaves at 9:30 p.m. for those in Middle School and at 10:30 for those in 9th grade and up. Shuttles service is only for youth who live on post.

Child and Youth Services offer program opportunities for military families

Certified FCC providers available - Family Child Care offers home-based childcare for ages 4 weeks to 12 years on and off post with certified providers. Types of care are full day, part day, before and after school care, hourly care, extended hours care and long term care. Referral information and child registration are available at Child and Youth Services Central Registration, 221-4871. FCC is looking for family members interested in becoming certified FCC providers to offer home based childcare. There is a no-cost start up plan. For information, call 221-3820 or 221-3828.

3-Day Part Day Preschool enrollments - The 3-Day Part Day Preschool has been placed on hold due to lack of enrollment numbers. If you are interested and have questions concerning the 3-Day Part Day Preschool Program, notify Central Registration to place your name on a list. Fees will range from \$151 - \$200 per month and will be assessed by calculating total family income.

Wait List for full day care - If your child's name is on the Wait List for full day

care, check the status of the list every 90 days from the day you complete the form; otherwise your child's name will be purged from the list. To check your status, call Central Registration 221-4871 or 221-1723.

After school and weekend open recreation available at SAS - School Age Services (Kindergarten - 5th grade) offers after school and weekend open recreation opportunities and after school hourly care options. Hourly care and open recreation must be reserved in advance by calling School Age Services at 221-4466. Children must be registered through Central Registration prior to utilizing the School Age program. To register, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

Instructional classes available - If you are interested in instructional classes such as Tae Kwon Do, piano or gymnastics, call 221-4882 or 221-4871. For Babysitter Training, call 221-4871 or 221-1723.

Health Promotion Center February Class Schedule

Class	Date	Time
Self Care & Health	12	9-11 a.m.
Breast & GYN Cancer Support Grp.	17	6-7:30 p.m.
High Blood Pressure	18	9 a.m. to Noon
Office Yoga	18	Noon to 1 p.m.
Back Pain	19	2-3:30 p.m.
Introduction to Weight Reduction	20	Noon to 1:30 p.m.
Breastfeeding Support Group	20	1-2:30 p.m.
Cholesterol & Lipids	23	8:30-11:30 a.m.
Diabetes Education	23	12:45-4:30 p.m.
Breast Health	24	9-10 a.m.
Diabetes Education	24	12:45-4:30 p.m.

Note: Appointments for Diabetes Education are scheduled through the Internal Medicine Clinic at 916-0794. Appointments for the Fibromyalgia Treatment Group require a consult to Behavioral Medicine Clinic. To schedule Winning Combination and Introduction to Weight Reduction, call the Nutrition Care Division at 916-5525. To schedule Back Pain, call Physical Therapy at 916-3247.

Career Clips

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



Senior Marketing Manager-Managed Care - San Antonio.

Responsible for developing and implementing strategic marketing programs. Assists in the development of strategies, develop marketing and sales programs, analyze data and information, and track results of programs.

Administrator - San Antonio. Responsible for all agency services including supervising professional and support staff, training, and management of financial statements and budgets. RN with 3 years experience in home health service administration.

Managed Care Claims Analyst - New Braunfels. Communication skills, medical terminology, type 40+ wpm, ability to research, resolve and reconcile issues concerning claims submissions and collection of payments. Know HCPCS, HDFA 1500, and ICD-9 codes.

Paramedic - San Antonio. Current state/national registry Paramedic Certification. Current BCLS, ACLS, PALS, BTLS, or PHTLS Provider Certification.

Accessing Resumix workshop offered Feb. 24

Accessing Resumix workshop will be held Feb. 24, 8-9:15 a.m. for Garrison employees. Class is by reservation only and limited to eight students. For information and reservations, call 221-2276.

Civilian Workshops scheduled

The Army Career and Alumni Program staff will conduct Resume, Writing, and Interviewing Workshops for DoD civilian employees who are contemplating leaving federal service workforce. Workshops are being offered on the following dates: March 10, April 16, and May 5.

To register as an ACAP client and to reserve a seat in one of the workshops, call 221-1213. Workshops will be cancelled and clients rescheduled, if there are less than 10 confirmed attendees one week prior to the workshop. Register now and get your friends and family members to do the same.

Golf intramural event coordinator needed



The Fort Sam Houston Golf Club is seeking an Active Duty Golf Intramural Coordinator to assist in running this year's Intramural Program. The person selected should have a good knowledge of golf and keen desires to assist the troops enjoy a successful Intramural Golf Program. The Program will run from April to June. If interested in this worthy program, call Gordon Zambrano at 221-4388.

Fort Freebies

Freebies are published on a first come, first serve basis. Commercial advertisements are prohibited. The deadline is noon Monday. Freebies are intended for personal household goods and privately owned property, and may only be submitted by active, retired or reserve component military members and civilian employees working on Fort Sam Houston. To submit paid classified ads or commercial advertising, contact Prime Time at 453-3300. To submit a Fort Freebie, e-mail to: news.leader@samhouston.army.mil or fax to 221-1198. Ensure your military/Fort Sam Houston civil service status, phone number and name appears on request. Limit of five items per entry.



For Sale: Wedding dress with a matching crown veil and long train, size 18 (fits like 14), was worn only for pictures, paid \$600, will sell for \$200 obo. Call 927-1011.

For Sale: Sanyo microwave oven, still in original box, \$55; rims with almost new tires, 4 each (15") for 98 Jeep Grand Cherokee, \$190; Schlage home security system with remote control, new, unopened, \$50; 1994 Suzuki GSX-R 750 sport bike, custom painted, includes gloves, 2 helmets, jacket, battery charger, runs like new, \$2,900 obo. Call 493-8420.

For Sale: Animal crate, 34" wide by 34" tall by 44" long, has holes on all sides and top, built to meet the airline shipping requirements, \$300. Call Mary at 673-0444 and leave a mes-

sage.

For Sale: 4-wheeled hand-brake walker, seat and basket, \$150; 3 Turkish 3' x 5' rugs, \$150 each; 1 Turkish Kilim, \$75; Necchi console sewing machine with attachments, \$250; 1996 Atlanta Olympic Games Coca Cola patio set, \$375, auctioned after games for \$550. Call Alan at 659-3629.

For Sale: 1962 Chevy II Nova, runs good, body good, original motor and transmission, \$4,500 obo. Call 825-2322.

For Sale: Home, 2 bedrooms, 2 full bath, 1055 sq. ft. (not including Florida room), garage, ceramic tile, ceiling fans, fireplace, vinyl siding, and appliances included, only five minutes from FSH, \$54,999. Call 310-0535, after 6 p.m.

Pre-Job Fair 'Tune-up,' March 12



- How to work a Job Fair
- Who will be there, times
- What to bring, how to dress
- Fine tune your Job Fair skills
 - March 12, 9-11 a.m.
- Sign-up at ACAP Center, 221-1213
- Bring your resume to class



San Antonio community Job Fair, March 24

More than 100 employers are expected at the San Antonio Military Community Job Fair March 24, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Live Oak Civic Center, 8101 Pat Booker Road.

The event is sponsored by:

- Fort Sam Houston Army Career & Alumni Program
- Fort Sam Houston Family Member



Employment Assistance Program

- Lackland AFB Transition & Career Focus Programs
- Randolph AFB Transition & Career Focus Programs
- Webster University Alumni Association

- Texas Workforce Commission
For information, call the Fort Sam Houston ACAP Center at 221-1213.

Need an ID Card?

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



Community events

OCSC February Luncheon, Feb. 17

The Officer Civilian Spouse Club will host the February Texas Two-Step Luncheon on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 11 a.m. at the Officers' Club. For reservation, call Brenda Hebron at 444-0259 or Karen Cole at 564-0124 before noon on Friday, Feb. 13.

Author of 'Crash and Burn' book to visit FSH PX, Feb. 19-21

Jack Edward Wright author of "Crash and Burn, the Survival Story of a Fighter Pilot," will be autographing and selling copies of his book at the Fort Sam Houston Post Exchange on Feb. 19-21, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Auditions for 'Arsenic and Old Lace' set for Feb. 23-24

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre will hold open auditions Feb. 23-24 for "Arsenic and Old Lace," a comedy by Joseph Kesselring. Auditions will be from 7-8:30 p.m. on both nights with William C. Champlin directing. There are roles for 11 men and three women. Other volunteers are needed as light and sound technicians, props and stage crew. Those who come to auditions should enter Fort Sam Houston through the Walters Street gate. Performances will be held Wednesday through Saturday evenings April 7 through May 8. For information, call the Harlequin Dinner Theatre at 222-9694.

S.A. Chapter of MOAA to host luncheon, Feb. 24

The San Antonio Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America will host their February luncheon at the Randolph Air Force Base Officers' Club on Feb. 24. Social hour starts at 11 a.m. with lunch served at noon. Cost is \$13 per person. For information or reservations, call 228-9955 or 228-9956.

'Steel Magnolias' at the Harlequin starts Feb. 25

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre at Fort Sam Houston will feature "Steel Magnolias," a play by Robert Harling, Wednesday through Saturday evenings from Feb. 25 through March 27. Prices are \$25.95 on Friday and Saturday and \$22.95 on Wednesday and Thursday. There are discounts for military and students. The house opens for cocktails and salad bar at 6:15 p.m., dinner is served from 6:30-7:30 p.m. and show time is 8 p.m. For reservations, call 222-9694 or visit the theatre in advance. The box office is open Monday through Friday from noon to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 1-5 p.m. Theatre is handicapped accessible.

94th Anniversary of the Foulis Flight, March 2

A ceremony commemorating the 94th anniversary of the first military flight by 1st Lt. Benjamin Foulis will be held March 2, 11 a.m. at the "Birth of Military Aviation" marker located near the post flagpole on Stanley Road. Keynote speaker is U.S. Army retired Brig. Gen. Charles Canedy.

ACOG sponsors 'Dial-A-Trailer Dumpster' Day March 6

The Government Hill Alliance Neighborhood Association will sponsor "Dial-A-Trailer Dumpster Day" on Saturday March 6, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. South of Interstate 35, West of Hackberry Street near Crosby Street. Garbage trucks will be stationed ready to receive items too large for regular trash pickup. Plan to clean your yard, garage, attic, tool shed and join the clean up effort. Bring your items to the pickup site. Note: Do not bring hazardous chemicals, paint, concrete, bricks, sod, commercial or industrial waste and other hazardous material. For information or to volunteer, call 226-6352.

iQue Pasa?

7th Annual Komen San Antonio Race for the Cure, March 27

The 7th Annual Komen San Antonio Race for the Cure will be held March 27 at the Alamodome. Recruit your military team of 10 or more and enjoy easy advance registration and early team Race packet pick-up. There will be an award for the largest military team. Deadline for team registration is March 5. For information on team registration or to volunteer to help on Race day, log on to www.sakomen.org or call the Race Hotline at 822-8700.

Otras Cosas

RLBC, Supply and Services Division personnel to relocate March 1

Effective March 1, Readiness, Logistics Business Center's Supply and Services Division, Property Management Branch personnel will relocate from Bldg. 4197 to Bldgs. 2640 and 4011.

The following changes will occur:

- Customer Services Section will move to Bldg. 2640, Room 46, upstairs in the CIF building.
 - Material Management Section depot item managers and hand receipt managers will relocate to Bldg 4011, Room 115.
 - Central Issue Facility, Admin Section will remain in Bldg. 2640, but will move downstairs to Room 12.
 - Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants Section will move to Bldg. 2640, Room 11, downstairs in the office of the chief, Supply and Services Division.
 - Supply Systems Analyst will remain in Bldg. 2640, but will relocate to Room 14, Food Service Branch.
- The telephone numbers remain unchanged. Point of contact for this move is Vanessa Alford at 221-4575.

Tuition assistance available for active duty Soldiers

Tuition assistance for active duty Soldiers is \$4,500 per fiscal year with a cap of \$250 per semester hour to include fees. The current policy of \$4,500 per year is still in effect for the U.S. Army in fiscal year 2004. Soldiers will need a degree plan from the university or college they are attending no later than completion of nine semester hours. This is a regulatory requirement that must be complied with prior to continuing in any college program. Visit the Army Continuing Education System, Bldg. 2248, to review educational goals with a professional guidance counselor. To schedule an appointment, call 221-1738.

Ten Star All-Star Basketball Camp

Applications are now being evaluated for the Ten Star All-Star Summer Basketball Camp. This camp is by invitation only. Boys and girls ages 10-19 are eligible to apply. Past participants include Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, and Vince Carter. Players from 50 states and 11 foreign countries attend the camp. Basketball scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American team. For a free brochure, call (704) 373-0873 anytime.

Direct commissioning program available

The U.S. Army Health Care Recruiting Team is looking for qualified applicants for their direct commissioning program. Anyone working toward a bachelors' degree in any science, nursing, physics, nutrition or engineering may qualify to become an Army officer. Interested individuals can apply at anytime. The program is open to active duty, reserve, National Guard and civilians. For information, call Capt. Beverly S. Scott at 692-7376 or (877) 570-8053 or e-mail Beverly.Casiano@usarec.army.mil.

In the classroom

Earn a master's degree in 12 months

The National Graduate School of Quality Management is now accepting applications for a master's program scheduled to start in March. Classes will be held one night a week, 6-10 p.m. at Fort Sam Houston. Students will earn an M.S. in Quality Systems

Management. Master's Business Project replaces thesis. Our institution is regionally accredited, nationally recognized and eligible for VA/TA benefits. Call 1-800-838-2580 or local 410-9147 or 213-1248 or visit www.ngs.edu.

Free workshop for prospective school board members, Feb. 23

A free two-hour workshop will be held for anyone wishing to become a local school board member will be held at Education Service Center Region 20 located at 1314 Hines Avenue, San Antonio on Monday Feb. 23, 7 p.m. For information, call the Texas Association of School Boards at (800) 580-8272 or the Fort Sam Houston School Liaison Services office at 221-9613.

AER Fund Campaign meeting March 9

Project Officers and key workers for the Army Emergency Relief Campaign "Kick-off" are invited to a meeting on March 9, 10 a.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Bldg. 2797, Stanley Road. Details for conducting the campaign will be discussed and campaign materials will be distributed at that time. Names of designated project officers and key personnel should be provided to the AER office no later than March 8. For information, call the AER office at 221-1612 or 221-1474.

470th MI Groups seeks Army reservists for training in March

The 470th Military Intelligence Group seeks MI Army Reservists to train for 30 days, March 15 through April 15, in San Antonio. If you have left Active Duty, but was considering the U.S. Army Reserves, if you are in the Individual Ready Reserve or know someone who is, we are looking for personnel in the following Military Occupational Specialties: 96, 97, 98, 350, 351, and 352. We will also have Troop Program Unit positions opening up soon. For information, call 295-6061.

Meetings

Purple Heart veterans sought

Purple Heart Veterans are invited to join the meeting of Military Order of the Purple Heart on the first Saturday of every month, 9 a.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center to learn more about combat related entitlements and claims benefits. Registration begins at 9 a.m. Bring your DD For 214 and a short biography.

USAWOA - Lone Star Chapter meetings

The Lone Star Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month at VFW Post #8541, 2222 Austin Highway (between Eisenhower and Walzem Road). All active duty, retired, Reserve, National Guard and family members of current or former Warrant Officers are invited to attend. For information, call WO1 Matthew Watterson at 295-8773 or e-mail matthew.watterson@us.army.mil.

FSH Sergeants Major Association seeks new members

The Fort Sam Houston Sergeants Major Association meets every third Thursday of the month, 6 p.m. in the FSH NCO Club. Retired Sgt. Maj. Howard T. Ray, president of the association, extends a cordial invitation to all Active Duty and retired command sergeants major, sergeants major and master sergeants on the promotion list from all service branches to attend the meetings and share in the relaxed atmosphere of our social activities. For information, call Sgt. Maj. Hector Viczaino at 221-7305.

Calling all single Soldiers to join BOSS

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of every month, 1:30 p.m. at the Hacienda Recreation Center. The BOSS committee was established to provide Soldier input to the commander, who uses the committee's recommendations to improve single Soldiers' Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. For information, call BOSS President Kimberly Vaughan at 916-1772 or BOSS Program Manager Ben Paniagua at 224-7250.