



## Briefs . . .

### **BAMC gate closure**

The Brooke Army Medical Center gate at Interstate Highway 35 will close today at 6 p.m. and reopen Tuesday at 5 a.m. The closure is for the installation of larger canopies. During this period, the only entry and exit point for BAMC will be the Binz Engleman gate, which is open 24 hours a day. For more information, call the Provost Marshal Office at 221-1490.

### **New stop sign**

The yield sign at the Dickman and Pershing Gate has been replaced with a stop sign. For more information, call the Provost Marshal Office at 221-1490.

### **Museum closure**

The Fort Sam Houston Museum will be closed Sunday in observance of the Presidents Day holiday. For more information, call 221-0019.

### **ISR orientation**

Orientation training for Installation Status Report points of contact (building managers or representatives) for installation activities will be Tuesday and Wednesday from noon to 4 p.m. at Building 4196, Room 22. Attendance is required at one session only. No reservation is required. For more information, call Judy Barta at 295-4922.

### **HQ move**

The 187th Medical Battalion's A Company headquarters will move to Aabel Hall, Building 2840, Room 23. The grand opening is March 7 at 4:30 p.m.

### **Band on leave**

The U.S. Army Medical Command Band will be on leave March 14 to 18. No missions will be approved for that period. For more information, call 221-9595.

### **NAF cash and carry sale**

A non-appropriated funds property sale will be today and Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Building 407 (former Officers' Club). All sales are final. Property sold as is. Used items available for sale include microwave ovens, carpet tiles, desk chairs, wall art, monitors, televisions and chandeliers. There will also be new items for sale. For more information, call the Morale, Welfare and Recreation warehouse at 221-4449 or 221-4950.

## Combat ready



Photo by Robbin Cressell

Airmen train in the combat-type skills they will need during convoy operations in Iraq at the Air Force's Basic Combat Convoy Course at Camp Bullis. See related article, Page 3.

## Joint venture

### Military, civilian partnership improves training for OR techs

By Elaine Aviles  
Fort Sam Houston News Leader

A joint venture between Brooke Army Medical Center, Army Medical Department Center and School and a local Veterans Affairs hospital is changing the face of Army operating room technician training.

The Audie L. Murphy Memorial VA Hospital in San Antonio is the newest addition to the AMEDD team and the first civilian hospital to join the 91D (operating room technician) roster.

"This partnership marks a paradigm shift for us," said Lt. Col. Joseph Paulino, 91D Branch chief. "A lot of elements had to come together to make this happen."

The hospital, which offers care to veterans nationwide, is now one of 23 training

sites that provide Phase 2 training for OR technicians.

The intense 19-week OR technician training takes part in two phases. Phase 1, a nine-week class at Fort Sam Houston, is primarily conducted in the classroom. Students are then shipped out in groups of up to 10 students to the various Phase 2 sites throughout the world to put their book learning into practice in the OR. They receive real-world, hands-on experience on equipment sterilization, surgery set-up and assisting surgeons.

Prior to the partnership, the students were only sent to Army military treatment facilities. But then, about two years ago, the potential for war became a nagging source of concern to 91D instructors.

"Due to world events, we wanted to have

the option of increasing the number of trained OR techs to meet military demand," Paulino said. "Also, our sites were tapped out. Some were on the cusp of not being able to meet our students' needs."

Once the war was under way, the sites were stressed further as medical personnel deployed in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, leaving fewer people to handle the additional duty of student training.

"We needed to find another alternative," Paulino said. "We'd exhausted our MTFs, so we started looking outside the Army. We explored other options, including other military branches, but the VA seemed to be the best fit."

See **JOINT VENTURE** on Page 16

## New trauma registry captures valuable wartime data

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

A new registry being established at Fort Sam Houston is helping track casualty information from Iraq and Afghanistan to give senior leaders the concrete information they need as they make decisions about everything from what protective gear troops will use to how to better deliver combat casualty care.

The Joint Theater Trauma Registry is ensuring that decision makers have more than anecdotal evidence to guide their decisions that directly affect troops on the ground, explained retired Army Col. L. Harrison Hassell, director of the registry system.

The registry captures details about wounds received and the medical care provided from combat support hospitals, aboard ships and aircraft and throughout the course

of their treatment, as well as the results.

This shows medical care providers what treatments were most effective as they apply those lessons learned to other patients with similar wounds, Hassell said.

"A lot of the focus is on life-saving measures at the point of injury," he said.

Medical care providers call this the most important stage of the patient's treatment and ultimate recovery.

The data collected in the registry

demonstrates the effectiveness of new medical devices and techniques, such as one-armed tourniquets, Hassell said.

"You really want to know are you having an impact with a new device you have developed? Is it saving lives?" he said.

The registry also helps medical instructors better tailor their training for the theater, he said.

See **REGISTRY** on Page 4

# Put safety first during Presidents Day weekend

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

The upcoming Presidents Day weekend will afford our Soldiers, civilian employees and their family members the opportunity to take pleasure in various recreational and leisure activities. I encourage all of you to enjoy your holiday endeavors, with "Safety" as the watchword. Every effort must be made to make it safe by minimizing risk.

Privately owned vehicle accidents continue to kill more Soldiers than all other

accidents in the Army. The Medical Command alone has had five fatalities this fiscal year with POVs being the No. 1 killer. POV safety is critical and must be stressed during our pre-holiday safety briefings. Buckle up, don't drink and drive, know your surroundings, consider the weather conditions and observe speed limits — all are definitive examples of incorporating risk management into everything we do.

All leaders will conduct pre-holiday safety briefings with their Soldiers and civilian employees. I recommend the fol-

lowing topics be included in your briefing: POV safety, seat belt use and recreational safety (cycling, swimming etc). Emphasize the dangers of operating a POV when fatigued, speeding, drinking alcoholic beverages or taking medication. This deadly combination is the No. 1 killer of Soldiers.

Additionally, please have your leaders emphasize sexual assault risk, prevention and response in their safety briefings. Guidance is available at <http://www.sexualassault.army.mil/>.

Enjoy the holiday and be safe!



Maj. Gen. George W. Weightman

## Fort Sam Houston News Leader

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# Airmen learn convoy security skills at Camp Bullis

By Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

When Master Sgt. William Chapman joined the Air Force transportation field 20 years ago, he never dreamed he'd use his skills far beyond the flight line or base cantonment area.

Recently returned from Iraq, Chapman is teaching his fellow Airmen critical skills they'll need to conduct convoy security missions there.

It's a nontraditional mission the Air Force hasn't carried out since Vietnam but took on again early in 2004 to help ease the burden on the Army and Marine Corps, explained Air Force Master Sgt. Phil Coolberth.

Coolberth helped establish the Air Force's new Basic Combat Convoy Course at Camp Bullis, a training site that belongs to Fort Sam Houston.

Today, the Air Force is a full partner with the Army and Marine Corps as it runs convoys throughout Iraq in support of military operations, with more than 1,000 transporters, special police and medical and personnel specialists trained to help provide security, explained Air Force 1st Lt. Leo Martin, course commander.

To ensure Airmen are prepared, the Basic Combat Convoy Course, or BC3 for short, packs into just four weeks the combat skills Airmen will need to stay alive as they carry out the mission: weapons, tactics, maneuver and small-unit leadership skills, among them.

That's no small task, considering the limited ground combat training most Airmen receive. Airmen typically receive just one week of field experience during basic training and fire their weapons only once every two years.

"Unless your specialty is security forces or special operations, our knowledge of field skills is pretty limited," Martin said.

While acknowledging that the training represents a real "cultural switch," Coolberth said Airmen's lack of field combat skills when they enter the training isn't all bad. They come to the course without ingrained bad habits and are open to the course material as they undergo training specifically geared to the convoy mission, he noted.

"We're building the perfect set of skills for this exact mission," Coolberth said.

He was among the first Airmen who deployed to Southwest Asia to conduct convoy security. He received a patchwork of training stateside and at Camp Virginia,



Photo by Robbin Cressell

Airmen training for convoy security missions in Iraq get realistic training at the Air Force's Basic Combat Convoy Course at Camp Bullis.

Kuwait, before moving into Iraq.

Coolberth said he and his colleagues, backed up by senior Air Force leaders, quickly recognized the need for a comprehensive, standardized training program geared specifically for the mission in Iraq.

Coolberth sketched out the basic training plan on a restaurant napkin, then worked with members of the 342nd Training Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, to create a full-blown course to prepare Airmen for the threats they are likely to encounter.

Students qualify on M-4 assault rifles and M-249 machine guns and learn to shoot long distances at night, learn the rules of engagement and laws of armed conflict, and train in land navigation and tactical communications. They practice convoy maneuvers, learning how to react if their vehicle comes under fire, hits a roadside bomb or breaks down, and how to protect themselves if they're forced to abandon their vehicle. One-quarter of the students receive basic combat lifesaving training so they can come to the aid of their fellow troops if needed.

Then the Airmen go to the field for a four-day tactical exercise that puts their new knowledge to the test under realistic conditions.

"We train them on the basic skills sets so when they get into a situation, they can

make split-second decisions and make them right," Coolberth said. "We instill confidence in them and make sure they're mission ready."

"Our emphasis is on small-unit leadership," said Staff Sgt. Walter Voltz, the student first sergeant who earned a Bronze Star while conducting a convoy mission in Iraq. "This is an exercise in teaching these young kids how to make sound decisions using a model that's tried and true."

After completing the training at Camp Bullis, the BC3 students head to Fort Hood, Texas, to validate their skills, then deploy to Southwest Asia "within days," Coolberth said. This ensures "very motivated students," he said. "We don't have any trouble keeping them awake in the classroom."

Airman 1st Class Todd Martin, who is more accustomed to driving tractor trailers and forklifts around Kadena Air Base, Japan, than providing convoy security in a combat zone, said the training he and his fellow Airmen are receiving here "is preparing us for everything that could come our way."

Now in his final week of training, Martin said the BC3 course is giving him "a lot more confidence" for the mission he will soon carry out in Iraq.

"We're learning a lot here," he said. "They're teaching us as much as they can, and most of the instructors have been

there. That's as good as it can get."

To keep the training up-to-date, Coolberth said, the staff constantly taps into the latest intelligence from Iraq and incorporates that information into their program.

"Our exercises mirror scenarios on the ground," he said. "We're constantly changing the curriculum to match the intelligence. Intelligence drives the operations, and operations drive the training."

Of all the information presented to the Airmen before they deploy to Iraq, the cadre agreed that the most important lessons are in focusing on the mission, paying attention to detail, and being flexible to the situation at hand.

If there's any measure of the success of the Air Force's BC3 training program, it's how students are received in the field. Voltz admits he ran into "a little skepticism at first from Army units on the ground." But after seeing the Airmen perform, he said, the Soldiers "were asking for them by name."

The BC3 course will soon be conducted at a new training facility under construction at Camp Bullis. It will be named Camp Anderson-Peters, in memory of two Airmen killed in Bayji, Iraq, while conducting convoy security missions: Airman 1st Class Carl Anderson Jr. and Staff Sgt. Dustin Peters.

## American unit rotations continue in Iraq

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — With the Army's 18th Airborne Corps taking over as the Multinational Corps Iraq headquarters, the 2004 to 2006 rotation of troops is well under way.

Troops have been flowing into and out of Iraq since October as part of the rotation. When finished, there will be about 138,000 American servicemembers in Iraq.

DoD officials said spreading out the rotation makes sense from both an operational and logistical standpoint. Spreading out the rotation allows for a mix of experienced and new units in

country. Logistically, the flow in and out of theater is more manageable.

The 18th Airborne Corps, based at Fort Bragg, N.C., replaced the Army's 3rd Corps, based at Fort Hood, Texas. The headquarters is at Camp Victory outside Baghdad. The Multinational Corps commands all coalition forces in country with the exception of special operations forces, the Multinational Transition Security Command Iraq and coalition forces involved in detention operations.

The New York National Guard's 42nd Infantry Division headquarters took over command of Multinational Division North Central from the 1st Infantry

Division on Feb. 14. The division is headquartered in Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit and includes such hot spots as Samarra and Baqubah. Units of the Big Red One have been returning to their bases in Germany. Two brigades of the 3rd Infantry Division will serve under the 42nd as will the Idaho National Guard's 116th Brigade Combat team and the Tennessee Guard's 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

The troopers of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment out of Fort Irwin, Calif., took command from Task Force Olympia on Feb. 13. The 1st Brigade (Stryker), 25th Infantry Division, is serving under the cavalry's

command. The unit has been in country since September.

In the west, the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, normally based at Camp Pendleton, Calif., is due to turn over command to the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C. The MEF is responsible for Anbar province, which includes Fallujah, Ramadi and all the way to the Syrian and Jordanian borders. The Army's 2nd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, will serve under the MEF commander.

Concurrently, the 2nd Marine Air Wing, Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, N.C., will replace the 3rd Wing — Miramar Naval Air Station, Calif. The unit

is based in Al Asad, Iraq.

The 3rd Infantry Division will begin its second tour in Iraq when it relieves the 1st Cavalry Division by the end of February. The 3rd — out of Fort Steward, Ga. — will lead Multinational Division Baghdad and will consist of two brigades of the 3rd, the 256th Brigade Combat Team from the Louisiana National Guard, the 3rd Brigade of the 1st Armored Division and the 2nd Brigade of the 10th Mountain Division. The 1st Cavalry will return to Fort Hood.

The Hawaii Guard's 29th Brigade Combat Team will replace Washington state's 81st brigade around Baghdad.

## Makeover story

# Mother applies skills to help son, other wounded troops

Story and photo by Donna Miles  
American Forces Press Service

Debby Schick arrived at Brooke Army Medical Center sad and afraid of what laid ahead. Her son, Marine Cpl. Jacob Schick, had been medevaced here after his Humvee hit an anti-tank mine in Iraq, severing his right leg just below the knee.

With a long recuperation ahead for him, Debby left her Dallas home and put her career as an interior decorator on hold to be by her son's side as he began the long process of treatments and therapy.

What she didn't expect was that she'd get the opportunity to put her professional skills to use to make life just a little bit nicer for her son and other service members being treated here for wounds received in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Working side by side with the medical center staff, Schick volunteered her services to transform the center's assisted daily living center from a cold, institutional office into a homey environment where wounded troops can practice the skills they'll need when they leave the hospital.

Army Capt. James Watt, an occupational therapist at the hospital, described the new center as "a lifelike obstacle course" where patients can learn to do the day-to-day activities they'll perform in their homes.

There's a bedroom area, with a carpet patients must negotiate across, a fully stocked kitchen with a washer and dryer and dining area and a living room — all

decorated in a style that looks fresh out of a designer magazine.

Schick said she wanted the new area to feel welcoming to patients, many learning to do chores that have become far more challenging with wounds and, in some cases, prostheses. She chose warm, soothing colors, modern furnishings and art and lots of mirrors that not only make the space look larger, but also give patients an opportunity to watch their movements.

"We wanted the best possible environment for the young men and women who had been injured — something they would enjoy being in," she said. "Now it's a great place for them to interface with each other as they recover and build their confidence."

"It's hard to believe that this was nothing more than a glorified break room," Watts said as he surveyed the area. "Now it feels like home. It's a place where patients can temporarily step out of the hospital experience and work on the skills they'll need so they can go home and be independent."

Schick said she's hopeful the new center will bring recovering troops comfort and a temporary escape from the institutional hospital environment as they prepare to return to their homes. "Hopefully this will bring the patients a lot of joy," she said.

She called the project "a way to give back" for the "five-star treatment" she said her son is receiving at BAMC while helping her work through her own emotions. "It's been a lot of fun, and it's been very therapeutic for me," she said.



Capt. James Watt, an occupational therapist at Brooke Army Medical Center, worked with Debby Schick to create a center where wounded troops can train in day-to-day activities they'll perform in their homes.

## Army Safety Center becomes Combat Readiness Center

**FORT RUCKER, Ala.** — The Army Safety Center has been recast as the U.S. Army Combat Readiness Center by order of Secretary of the Army Dr. Francis J. Harvey.

Harvey directed the change to advance the principles, understanding and practice of Composite Risk Management. Composite Risk Management will focus on sustaining readiness and managing all risks — those posed by the enemy, the environment, materiel and systems, and human error — logically shifting from accident-centric to Soldier-centric.

Transformation of the Army Safety Center to the Combat Readiness Center supports Army transformation and supports the Global War on Terrorism, said

Brig. Gen. Joseph A. Smith, the center's commander.

"The change is intended to move beyond the old concept of 'safety' which had become viewed by many Soldiers as an occasional action rather than a constant foundation for all other activities," Smith said.

"In some cases, Soldiers do not grasp the outcome of being unsafe until 'one of their own' is involved — recognizing, too late, the consequences of the accidental loss in making the unit less prepared, lowering its readiness, and potentially putting the unit mission at risk," Smith said.

The USACRC will function as a field operating agency of the Army chief of staff.

Safety remains a foundational component of the new organization, officials said. They said the Army Safety Office, located in Washington, D.C., becomes the "front door" of Army Safety by focusing on the compliance aspects and reinforcing the use of Composite Risk Management as a tool to help prevent all loss.

The Combat Readiness Center will establish new processes leveraging information from Army organizations to collect, distill and distribute knowledge about losses that impact combat readiness, officials said. The center's mission includes:

- Primary responsibility for investigation of Army accidents.
- Focal point for instigating the necessary

cultural changes and developing the processes, structure and training necessary to Composite Risk Management Army-wide.

- Development of predictive trend analysis using digital technology and data mining in order to identify loss trends and preventive measures.

The Army Combat Readiness Center will enhance safety by providing the Army with a "close-the-loop system" of information about losses, officials said. They said the new center will capture the analytical expertise of all loss-related professionals — safety and combat — to provide commanders across the Army with actionable knowledge about any loss.

(Source: Army News Service)

## Registry

Continued from Page 1

But the data has longer-term implications as well, Hassell said, helping planners look to the future as they conceive the next-generation combat support hospital and better methods of evacuating patients from the battlefield.

In addition to improving the quality of trauma care, the registry is providing concrete data about a full range of issues of interest to military leaders and decision makers, such as the effectiveness of the new Kevlar helmet and the impact of roadside bombs on the force.

"This is data that affects people fighting

right now," Hassell said. "It's helping answer the question, 'What should we do to protect them, and if they are injured, to save them?'"

The Army's Soldier Support Center in Natick, Mass., is studying the data as it strives to improve body armor systems, and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency is evaluating the amputation data as it works on futuristic limb regeneration concepts.

Monthly reports that summarize the data collected so far have whetted the military's collective appetite for more information.

"It's like a feeding frenzy," Hassell said. "They all want more."

But providing more information and speeding up its delivery aren't as simple as it might seem. It's a slow, labor-intensive process that involves sorting through files of hand-written notes from weary battlefield healthcare providers, extracting the critical details, translating them into medical codes and entering them into the database.

"It's painfully slow," Hassell acknowledged, emphasizing that until all the data is collected and up-to-date, it offers only a partial view of the big picture.

But in the meantime, the database is providing combat trauma care information never before available, and certainly not

while the war was still under way. In the past, medical data from the theater was never collected, and inpatient records were retired to the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis as soon as each patient left the hospital.

Hassell said the emerging registry is already beginning to pay off in terms of supporting medical improvements, logistics and operational planning, force modeling, casualty forecasting, training and research and development.

"It's helping ensure that when decision makers or policymakers go forward, they're making decisions based on the best data available," he said.

## It's Not Easy Being Green Conference 2005

### A Celebration of Military Life

**Feb. 25 and 26**  
**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 and invaluable contributors to the community.

Don't miss this opportunity to recharge your battery for all the hats that 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.

Registration forms are available at ACS, FSH Library, NCO Club, BAMC Medical Mall information desk, Jimmy Brought Fitness Center and CYS Central Registration. Registration due by Friday. For more information, call Judith Markelz at 655-0238 or Kim Taylor at 566-6526.

#### *Our sponsors:*

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## OBC students benefit from Army One Source

**By Capt. James J. Jones**  
**187th Medical Battalion, A Company commander**

Officer students attending courses at the Army Medical Department Center and School have received help with everything from relationships to car buying through Army One Source.

Army One Source provides Soldiers with expert advice and resources to deal with almost any of life's various challenges. Topics include preparing for a new baby, dealing with relationship issues, preparing for deployments and reunions, getting out of debt, buying a car, locating a tutor, helping family members find a job and obtaining legal assistance.

"The Army One Source helped my family locate a house

and a babysitter at my new duty assignment before my arrival," said 2nd Lt. Michael Smith, Officer Basic Course student. "The personnel at the Army One Source were professional and quickly located the information I needed."

Army One Source provides customized responses 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Service is free and confidential.

To talk to a consultant, people in the United States can call (800) 464-8107; from overseas, call (800) 4648-1077 or call collect at (484) 530-5889. Soldiers can also visit a counselor in person, in their local community. People have access of up to six in-person counseling sessions with a licensed counselor at no cost.

To learn more about the benefits of the Army One Source, go to <http://www.armyonesource.com>.

## FSH hosts Army Family Action Plan conference

**By Suella York**  
**Fort Sam Houston AFAP program manager**

The Army Family Action Plan held its annual conference at the Sam Houston Club Feb. 1 and 2. Forty-two delegates and facilitation team members along with representative of the Fort Sam Houston community reviewed 77 issues, prioritizing 22 for resolution at the installation, major command or Department of the Army level.

Delegates briefed Col. Garry Atkins, garrison commander, and Col. Richard Agee, chief of staff, Army Medical Department Center and School, on the top five issues from each workgroup.

Issues briefed included pet relocation allowance, Exceptional Family Member Program funding for respite care, TRI-CARE Prime coverage options upon separation, 24-hour shoppette on post and substandard NCO Academy barracks. Col. Atkins updated the delegates on initiatives at Fort Sam Houston and

responded to questions from conference attendees.

Issues requiring action at MACOM or DA will be forwarded to the MACOM conference. Issues requiring action at the installation level will be forwarded to lead agencies for response and briefed to the commanders' steering committee.

Updates on the AFAP process will be submitted to the News Leader and posted on the Army Community Service Web site beginning in March.

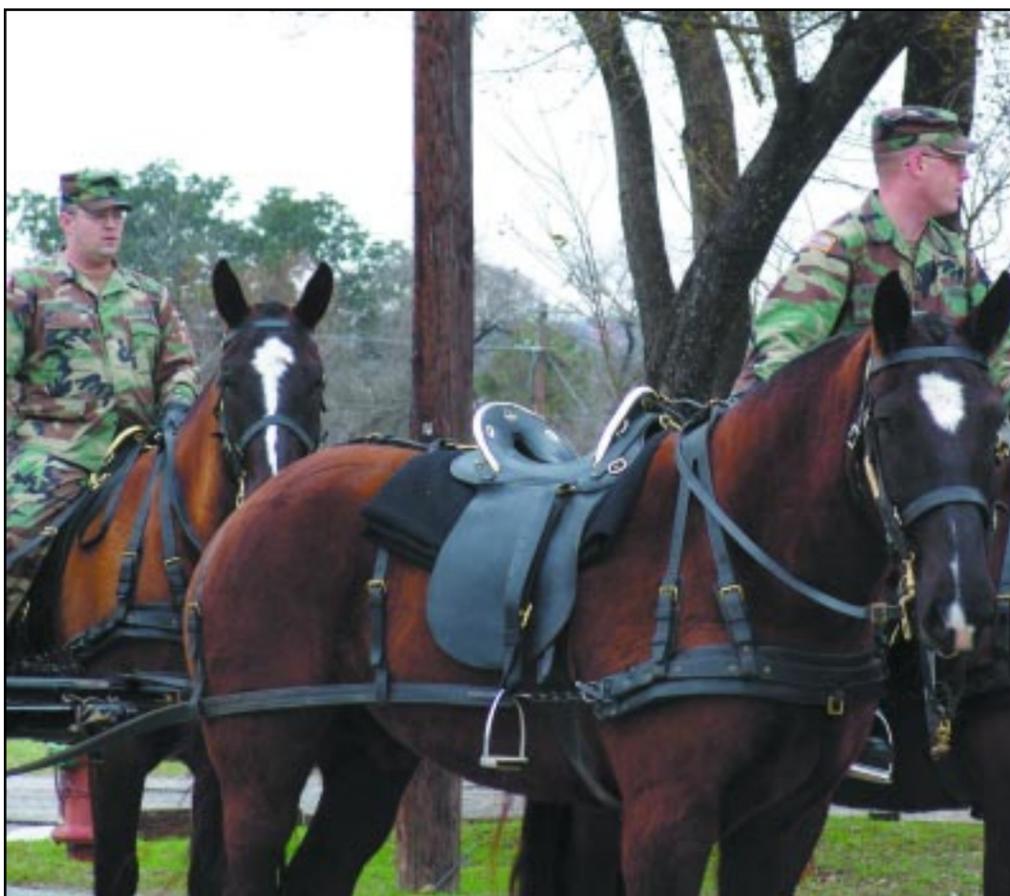


## 2005 Brown Bag Series Calendar

March 2 11:30 a.m.	Arcy Longoria President, FSH FEW Chapter Topic: Federally Employed Women Organization
April 6 11:30 a.m.	Angela Swain Family Advocacy Victim Advocate Topic: Creative Anger Management Styles
May 4 11:30 a.m.	Rudy Garza CPAC Personnelist Topic: National Security Personnel System

Sessions are at the San Antonio Credit Union Training Room. For more information, call 221-9401 or 221-9356 or e-mail [Maria.preda@samhouston.army.mil](mailto:Maria.preda@samhouston.army.mil). If reasonable accommodation is needed, call 221-9401 in advance.

# Headquarters Company hosts Army Equine Conference



Cpl. Robert Woolverton and Spc. Jonathon Pope, both from the Fort Sam Houston Caisson Section, conduct a caisson demonstration during the fiscal 2005 Army Equine Conference.

Story and photo by Capt. Martin L. O'Donnell  
Special Troops Battalion Headquarters

Soldiers and civilians from a myriad of organizations and installations gathered at the Military Honors Platoon Feb. 9 and 10 for the fiscal 2005 Army Equine Conference.

Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion and the Military Honors Platoon and Caisson Section hosted the event.

The conference provides a forum for equestrian units to discuss equine issues, gain a firsthand look into an individual unit's conduct of daily operations and tour an individual unit's installation.

Representatives from the equine units of Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Riley, Kan.; Fort Sill, Okla.; Fort Myer, Va.; and Fort Sam Houston, along with a representative from the United States Cavalry Association, attended the conference.

Lt. Col. Steven G. Bolint, STB commander, welcomed conference attendees. After his opening remarks, each unit presented their operational briefing to provide situational awareness and identify each unit's task organization, mission and mission essential task list tasks. The first day concluded with a caisson and full honors demonstration by the Fort Sam Houston Military Honors Platoon and Caisson Section.

The second day included a briefing from John Manguso, Fort Sam Houston historian, on the history of horses on post and a museum tour. After the tour, the attendees moved to the Quadrangle for a historical presentation.

The attendees also toured Jennings Hall where Army veterinarians receive training. The keynote speaker, retired Col. Sam Myers, from the United States Cavalry Association, discussed the association and its upcoming competition in September.

The Army currently maintains eight equestrian units located at Fort Irwin, Calif.; Fort Huachuca, Ariz.; Fort Hood; Fort Riley; Fort Sill; Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Myer, and Fort Sam Houston. Of those units, only Fort Sam Houston and Fort Myer maintain a Caisson Section, charged with providing caisson support to Arlington and Fort Sam Houston national cemeteries.

## Final tribute



Courtesy photos

(Above) Soldiers from the Military Honors Platoon escort the caisson carrying retired Maj. Gen. Kenneth Orr to his final resting place in Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. Orr was a former Brooke Army Medical Center and Army Medical Department Center and School commander.

(Left) Members of the Military Honors Platoon and Caisson Section, (from left to right) Spc. Jonathon Pope, Cpl. Robert Woolverton and Sgt. 1st Class John Tolentino, participate in retired Maj. Gen. Kenneth D. Orr's funeral services at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

# DoD, OPM publish new civilian personnel rules

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Department of Defense and the Office of Personnel Management published the regulations Monday that will govern how the new National Security Personnel System will operate.

The proposed regulations are in the Federal Register, and officials invite comment. People can access the Federal Register Web site at <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/index.html>.

Navy Secretary Gordon England said once the public comment period ends March 16, officials at DoD and OPM will confer with the various federal employee unions and then give all comments "fair and full consideration."

"Our plan, then, is to begin the implementation this summer," England said. "We'll learn through doing. We'll do this in phases. And we will progressively add

more and more employees (and) learn as we go until completion at the end of 2008."

The publication marks the end of the first phase of implementing the personnel system. The system, enacted by Congress in 2003, will allow DoD to better manage civilian personnel. Once in place, the department will be able to shift personnel among jobs, hire faster and reward good workers.

"Now NSPS is going to replace a 50-year-old system," England said. "We're going to replace (the current system) with a very modern system that we need to attract, recruit, retain, compensate fairly and manage our employees."

The system will focus on performance, flexibility and accountability, the secretary said. "It will be much more responsive to the national security environment, and ... it will fully preserve our employee protections, our veterans preference and employee benefits."

If all goes well, the first 60,000 people under the NSPS will transfer to the system in July. They will transfer at their current salaries. General-schedule workers will stop being GS-designated employees and will transfer to pay bands. It will be a year before the first decisions are made on performance pay raises, officials said.

Dan Blair, the OPM's acting director, said the new rules will not change merit system protections, whistle-blower protections, veterans preference, benefits, rules against prohibited practices or leave and work schedules.

NSPS will change the general schedule system and job classification standards. It will give managers more flexibility in reassigning employees to fulfill critical needs and more flexibility in where employees will work.

"We have encouraged our unions to work constructively with us, and also with the federal mediation and conciliations

services so we can find common ground and make this an even better system," England said.

However, five federal employees unions announced they will challenge the system in court. The unions contend DoD and OPM have not adequately consulted with the unions.

Blair said that with NSPS the entire federal government personnel system has "reached a tipping point." DoD, the Department of Homeland Security and a number of other federal agencies will be covered under new, more responsive personnel rules.

"More federal workers will be covered by reformed and modernized systems than the current general schedule," he said. "These changes haven't come easily. But this new system, coupled with the DHS system, show that transformation can take place in an environment which honors merit and ensures collaboration and cooperation."

## Army budgets for 2006, 2007 include raise for Soldiers

By Eric Cramer  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Soldiers will get an across-the-board 3.1 percent pay raise in 2006 under a proposed budget released by U.S. Army officials Feb. 4.

The Army's proposed 2006 and 2007 budgets provide for barracks modernization, equipment upgrades and increases in personnel, while setting a foundation for fighting the Global War on Terrorism, Army officials said.

The Army budget for fiscal 2006 is \$100 billion, with a proposed \$111.4 billion for fiscal 2007, Army officials said during meetings with media Feb. 4.

Of that, the largest amount, 41 percent, goes to personnel. The proposed budget is designed to bring the active component to a strength of 482,400 Soldiers, and the reserve component, including the National Guard, to 555,000.

The budget maintains zero "out-of-pocket" expenses for Soldiers' housing and continues the Residential Communities Initiative privatizing family housing on more installations.

Fiscal 2006 will see \$716 million allotted to the Whole Barracks Modernization

program with an additional \$726 million the following year. Both budgets also contain additional funding for the construction of on-post family housing.

Outside the personnel arena, the budget sets aside 32 percent for operations and maintenance. The Army will spend 12 percent of its budget on procurement.

Army officials said the budget funds the active duty force to a strength of 482,400 Soldiers, and the reserve component to a strength of 555,000.

Among the high-profile items funded in the proposed budget is the continuation of the Stryker armored vehicle. The Army plans \$875 million for the Stryker program in 2006, and an additional \$726 million in 2007. This funding will buy 240 vehicles for Stryker Brigade Combat Team 6, fields SBCT 5 and sustains SBCT 4.

The Army will spend about \$800 million over two years to fund modifications to the M1 Abrams tank and its engines.

The budgets also continue to fund development of the Future Combat System, a network of systems designed to allow Soldiers, commanders and support personnel to communicate effi-

ciently. The budget supports this systems development, and the development of manned and unmanned ground and aerial vehicles and sensors the system will use when it is deployed.

Research development test and evaluation efforts include the initial operational testing of a unit of action equipped with FCS, and continued development of the Joint Tactical Radio System.

In Army aviation, the budget sets aside \$684 million in 2006 to provide upgrades to the AH-64 Apache helicopter, and another \$820 million for the following year.

In 2006, the Army plans to buy 41 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters at a cost of \$510 million — the following year an additional 45 UH-60s for \$666 million.

The proposed budgets also fund the rebuilding of the dual-rotor CH-47 Chinook helicopter into the CH-47F configuration, and for buying several new CH-47Fs. The Army budgets \$651 million for the Chinook fleet in 2006, and \$588 million in 2007.

The budget for both years includes increased purchases of ammunition and missiles for use in the training and field environments.

## 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, Building 2264, or call 221-1213.*

**Technical Support Specialist, San Antonio.** Knowledge of pertinent ES payroll and personnel products and a proven proficiency in the application of this knowledge to resolve client questions and problems of all levels of complexity. Knowledge of hardware and software-related issues dealing with PC-based clients required.

**Credentialing Coordinator, San Antonio.** Maintain credentialing files for physicians for insurance companies. Must have knowledge of MS Office, and experience with CAQH (Web-based program) and Texas Commons.

**Safety Coordinator, San Antonio.** Responsible for coordinating and overseeing various components of the safety management program, including safety committee, emergency preparedness, accident prevention and investigation and general safety, and hazard surveillance and hazardous materials.

# U.S. Army Chorale entertains Soldiers, community

By Alexandra Nordeck  
Morale, Welfare and Recreation

The U.S. Army Chorale performed at Trinity University Saturday in front of a crowd of Soldiers, retirees and civilians.

Stationed in Washington D.C., the chorale is recognized as the premier vocal entertainment ensemble of the United States Army Band.

The chorale performed a variety of tunes including country songs like Shania Twain's "Any Man of Mine," popular tunes like Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" and a selection of patriotic tunes including Toby Keith's "Angry American." The audience sang along to many of the songs and gave standing ovations.

At the conclusion of the show, Col. Garry Atkins, garrison commander, presented a plaque to the chorale on behalf of Fort Sam Houston.

"It is always a privilege to welcome Soldiers to our community who proudly represent the Army and our values during concerts at military installations and civilian communities," he said. "You celebrate our national heritage during your performance of memorable music."



Photos by Phil Reidinger

(Above) The U.S. Army Chorale entertained the audience Saturday with a variety of tunes at Trinity University.



(Left) Col. Garry Atkins, garrison commander, presents a plaque to the U.S. Army Chorale on behalf of Fort Sam Houston during the concert Saturday.

## DO YOU KNOW WHAT IS ON YOUR CREDIT REPORT?

Would you like to get a credit report and have it reviewed by a credit specialist?

For more information on how you can do this, call the Financial Readiness Branch of Army Community Service at 221-1612.



## Spotlight your unit

The Public Information Office welcomes articles, photos or story idea submissions for the Fort Sam Houston News Leader.

To submit a story or idea or for more information, call 221-0615, e-mail [news.leader@samhouston.army.mil](mailto:news.leader@samhouston.army.mil) or stop by the office in Building 124 (second floor).

**Children's Dental Health Month**

**A 'sweet tooth' can lead to oral decay**

Now more than ever, we are faced with a bewildering array of food choices from fresh produce to sugar-laden processed convenience meals and snack foods. What we eat and when we eat it may affect not only our general health but also our oral health.

Americans are consuming foods and drinks high in sugar and starches more often and in larger portions than ever before. It is clear that "junk" foods and drinks gradually have replaced nutritious beverages and foods for many people. Alarming, a steady diet of sugary foods and drinks can ruin teeth, especially among those who snack throughout the day. Common activities may contribute to tooth decay. These include "grazing" habitually on foods with minimal nutritional value and frequently sipping on sugary drinks.

When sugar is consumed over and over again in large, often hidden amounts, the harmful effect can be dramatic. Sugar on teeth provides food for bacteria which produce acid. The acid can eat away the enamel on teeth.

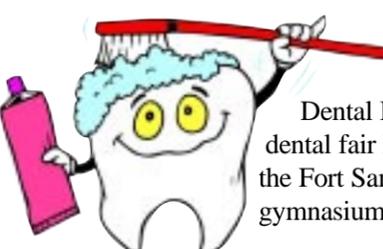
Almost all foods have some type of sugar that

cannot and should not be eliminated from our diets. Many of them contain important nutrients and add enjoyment to eating. But there is a risk for tooth decay if a diet is high in sugars and starches. Starches can be found in everything from bread to pretzels to salad dressing, so read labels and plan carefully for a balanced, nutritious diet.

**Reduce your risk of tooth decay:**

- If you choose sugary foods and drinks, do so with meals. Saliva production increases during meals and helps neutralize acid production and rinse food particles from the mouth.
- Limit between-meal snacks. If you crave a snack, choose nutritious foods and consider chewing sugarless gum afterward to increase saliva flow and help wash out food and decay-producing acid.
- Drink more water.
- Brush teeth twice a day and clean between teeth with floss or an interdental cleaner.
- See your dentist regularly.

(Source: Budge Dental Clinic)



**Dental Health Fair**

To recognize Children's Dental Health Month, there will be a dental fair Feb. 24 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Fort Sam Houston Elementary School gymnasium.

**Akeroyd Blood Center urges donors to give "5 in '05"**

The Akeroyd Blood Center challenges eligible blood donors to give five donations during 2005 during its "5 in '05" campaign.

Participating donors will receive a "5 in '05" card and be recognized at a special ceremony at the end of the year.

For more information on the "5 in '05" program, call the Akeroyd Blood Center at 295-4655 or 295-4989 or stop by the center at 1240 Harney Road between 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays.



**Health Promotion February Class Schedule**

CLASS	DATE	TIME
AD Self Care	today	8 to 10 a.m.
Breast Health	Tuesday	9 to 10 a.m.
Colonoscopy	Tuesday	10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Diabetes Education	Tuesday	12:45 to 4:30 p.m.
Breast and GYN Cancer Support Group	Tuesday	5:30 to 7 p.m.
Office Yoga	Wednesday	12 to 1 p.m.
Breastfeeding Support Group	25	1 to 2:30 p.m.
Diabetes Education	28	12:45 to 4:30 p.m.
Diabetes Foot Care	28	1 to 2:30 p.m.

To register for classes or more information, call the Health Promotion Center at 916-3352.

**Army Community Service**

**Family Advocacy Program Class Schedule  
February 2005**

Class Title	Dates	Class Time
Boys only – Ages 9-10	Wednesday	3 to 4 p.m.
Building effective anger Management skills series (4-6)	today	11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Saturday class (two-part)	26	9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Commanders training	24	8 to 9:30 a.m.
Divorce care	today and 24	11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.
Getting ready for childbirth 1 and 2	today and 24	9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Helping us grow securely (H.U.G.S.) playgroup	Tuesday	9 to 11 a.m.
P.A.I.R.S couples communication	26	1 to 4 p.m.
Teen talk	today and 24	4 to 5 p.m.
You and your baby	Wednesday	8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

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



# OIF, OEF veterans wanted as special recruiters

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Army is asking veterans from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom to volunteer for a new mission.

However, this time the mission is not overseas, but right in their own hometown as part of the Special Recruiter Assistance Program.

The Army wants OIF and OEF veterans to go to their local communities to talk about life in the military and their experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan. This, officials say, is an effort to raise awareness about the military, while at the same time encouraging young adults to join the Army.

"That has always been a goal of the Army as far as enlisted accessions is concerned," said Alphonsa Green, senior Army recruiting policy and programs

manager. "The more people know about the military, the higher the propensity across the country for our youth to join."

"We want to provide our veterans an opportunity to give a first-hand account of their experiences," he added. "But at the same time, we want to raise awareness so that we can get more volunteers."

The Army sees the program as way of helping reach its recruiting goal of 80,000 regular Army Soldiers for fiscal 2005, and 22,175 for the Army Reserve.

According to Army Recruiting Command statistics for the current fiscal year, the Army recruited 22,246 Soldiers for the active Army and 4,597 for the Army Reserve, as of Jan. 31.

Through the program, OIF and OEF veterans will get up to 14 days of temporary duty at a recruiting station near their hometown. There, they assist with recruiting activities, speak at college and com-

munity events, and participate in interviews with local media.

"We ask them to talk about service to country, 'I'm doing this, and here's why,'" Green said. "We ask them to mention the various occupational specialties that we offer. We ask them to talk about leadership, discipline and our core values — all of that coupled with their experience."

About 300 Soldiers have signed up for the special recruiting program, with some 35 veterans having already completed duty, Green said.

The Army Recruiting Command, which administers the program, encourages enlisted Soldiers age 25 or younger in stateside units, who have served overseas in support of Operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom, to apply online at the USAREC Web site.

However, officials said they should wait until their units return stateside before

applying. Those approved for the program will receive acceptance by e-mail.

Green said a similar recruiting program is being made available for Army officers as well.

He said the program may serve another purpose as well: to dispel "negative rumors" about military service.

Green noted there is lot of "good news" not being reported about the military and what Soldiers are doing in theater. "This program will show the positive side," he said.

For those considering SRAP, Green, a retired Army sergeant major who served 15 years as a recruiter, said that recruiting duty is not the "tough assignment" that most Soldiers consider it to be.

"Once you learn the business, and learn it's a people's business," he said. "And once you learn to communicate effectively with the audience, it's not as big of a task as one would think."

## No backlog for combat-related monthly benefit applications

By Eric W Cramer  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — When military retirees apply for Combat Related Service Compensation, their applications will now be processed within 30 days of when received, since CRSC has cleared a backlog of nearly 14,000 applications.

Col. John Sackett, chief of the CRSC division of Army Human Resources Command's Physical Disabilities Agency, said his office was flooded with applications when the benefit began in June 2003.

"We had 11,000 applications in the first months," he said. "We had 16,000 between June and August of 2003. That was a problem because we didn't exist before June 1, we were literally pushing machinery in the door then."

Sackett said the backlog started to reduce beginning in August 2004, when CRSC division added more staff.

"We've been trying to tackle the backlog all along," Sackett said. "But we cleared it by adding staff. We went from a staff of 10, to 22, 35, and ultimately 70."

He said most of the staff came from Booz Allen Hamilton, a strategy and technology firm hired to assist the CRSC program.

"Now we're making a concerted outreach and trying to notify everyone that might be eligible for the benefit," Sackett said.

He explained that the CRSC benefit is for military retirees, active or reserve, who have 20 years or more of service and a Veteran's Administration disability rating of 10 percent or more. Applicants must be entitled to retired pay offset by VA disability payments or in other words, they must have a VA waiver.

Sackett said that to receive the benefit, the disability must be combat related, but that the injuries don't necessary need to have actually happened in combat.

"The key word is related. We're more interested in 'how' you were injured," he said. "If you were training to go to combat, that's related to combat. I've had applicants bring in stack after stack of paper showing me what their disability is, but what I need is how they became disabled."

Officially CRSC says that "combat related" disabilities are:

- As a result of armed conflict
- While engaged in hazardous service such as flight, diving or parachute duty
- In the performance of duty under conditions simulating war or
- Through instrumentality of war, such as combat vehicles, weapons or Agent Orange.

Sackett said the lifetime monthly benefit is available retroactively back to the program's inception in June 2003.

For more information about the CRSC benefit, or to determine eligibility, retirees should visit the CRSC Web site at [www.crsc.army.mil](http://www.crsc.army.mil).

## Special valentine

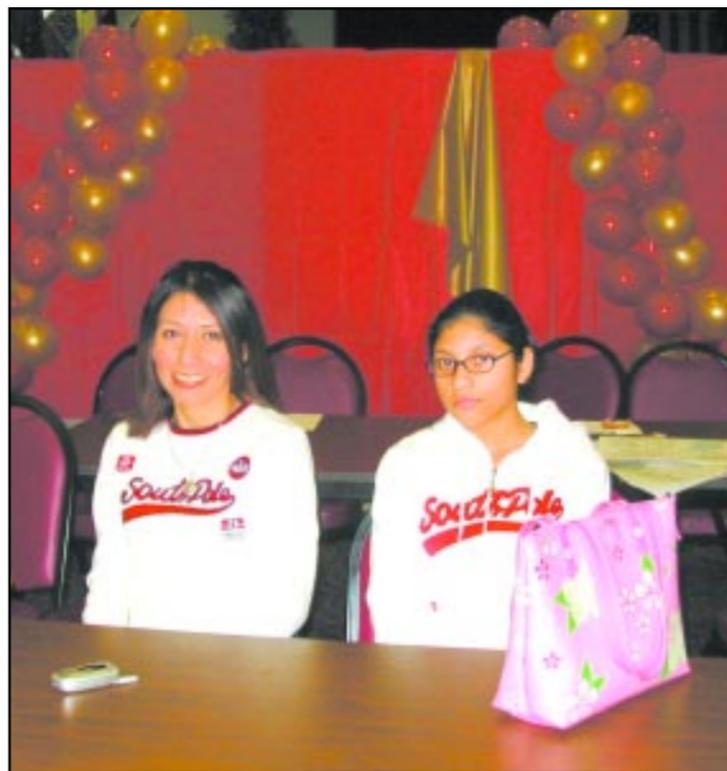


Photo by Carol McGilvray

Lisa Palmer and her daughter anxiously wait for a chance to see and speak with Sgt. Ronald Palmer during a special Valentine's Day video teleconference between family members at Fort Sam Houston and Soldiers at the 228th Combat Support Hospital in Mosul, Iraq. VTCs were broadcast live from the Roadrunner Community Center Saturday and Sunday to unite family members for Valentine's Day.

## Crime Watch

### ***Thieves target local pickup truck owners***

In recent weeks, thieves have stolen tailgates and bed liners from pickup trucks in areas surrounding Fort Sam Houston. These incidents (nine last week) are occurring in the afternoon hours everyday.

As of today, the thieves have not struck on post, but thefts of tailgates and spare tires were prevalent during the summer of 1998, mainly at the Brooke Army Medical Center parking lot. Pickup truck drivers may want to invest in tailgate locks, available at many auto parts stores. Tailgate locks may be an option on some new model trucks. These locks are sold for approximately \$30.

People should report suspicious people or vehicles to military police at 221-2222. Remember, crime prevention is everyone's job.

(Source: Provost Marshal Office)

## Antiterrorism Awareness

Antiterrorism Awareness Training (Level I) is required annually for all Soldiers and Department of Defense civilians per AR 525-13. DoD contractors are provided this training as specified in the contract. The training is available online at <http://www.at-awareness.org>. The access code is aware.

The Fort Sam Houston Antiterrorism Office has a "Quick Start Guide" available to help you sign up and complete this mandatory training online.

For more information, call Terri Stover, FSH Antiterrorism Office, at 295-0535.

## Why wear seatbelts?

- The majority of all car accidents occur within 25 miles of home.
- Eighty percent of all serious injuries and fatalities occur in cars going 40 mph or slower.
- In a crash, unrestrained occupants of a car keep moving during the time the car takes to stop. They are still moving forward at their original speed when they slam into the steering wheel, windshield or other parts of the car.
- You may be a good driver, but there are situations beyond your control such as weather and road conditions that can affect your safety.
- Seatbelts are 57 percent effective in preventing traumatic and fatal brain injuries.
- According to the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration, over the last 10 years, safety belts have prevented some 55,600 deaths, 1,300,000 injuries and saved more than \$105 billion in costs.

(Source: Fort Sam Houston Safety Office)



## Bedside visit



**Courtesy photo**  
Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Col. Lester McGilvray, 228th Combat Support Hospital commander, visit injured patients Friday at the 228th Combat Support Hospital in Mosul, Iraq. Soldiers from the 228th CSH deployed to Iraq from Fort Sam Houston in December.

# Retired military, community leaders visit post

Story and photos by Esther Garcia  
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office

Residents from The Towers, a military retirement community located on Harry Wurzbach, spent Friday morning touring Fort Sam Houston. The tour began with greetings from Maj. Gen. George Weightman, U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston commander, at the Roadrunner Community Center.

Weightman presented an overview of the installation and spoke about the new organizations that have moved on post. Judith Markelz then provided an introduction of the Soldier and Family Assistance Center. The center, located at the Powless Guest House, is a place where Soldiers, who have returned in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom, and their family members gather for companionship and information.

The group then visited Fifth Army, where Lt. Gen. Robert Clark, commanding general, provided an overview of the Fifth Army mission and its participation in Iraq. The next stop was at the 232nd Medical Battalion. Lt. Col. Caron Wilbur presented combat medic training and a demonstration of the patient simulator, a real life-like mannequin used as a teaching tool for the students.

The tour ended with lunch with 232nd Medical Battalion students at the Slagal Dining Facility.

"This was definitely the best of several tours that I have been in," said Mark Carrigan, a resident at The Towers. "The highlight of the tour was eating lunch with the 232nd Medical Battalion students and the patient simulator demonstrator we witnessed.



Residents of The Towers, a military retirement community, observe a demonstration of the patient simulator, a mannequin with life-like functions, which is used as a teaching tool for students attending the combat medic course. The 232nd Medical Battalion was one of many stops for the residents during their tour Friday.



Retired Gen. Ralph Haines, a Towers resident, spends time with 232nd Medical Battalion students at the Slagal Dining Facility Friday.



(Left) Maj. Gen. George Weightman, Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston commander, welcomes residents from The Towers to Fort Sam Houston.

## Gift of music



Photos by Esther Garcia

Anita Reyes, United Service Organizations representative, accepts 500 "X" CDs by Intocable Tuesday from Paul Olivarri, Intocable musician, and Fernandez Sanchez, EMI Latin vice president, who produced the CD. Intocable, which is Spanish for untouchable, is a Grammy award winning Tejano/norteno group from Zapata, Mexico. The USO will include 500 of the CDs in packages routinely mailed to various units supporting Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

Fort Sam Houston Soldiers show off the newest CD, "X," by Intocable Tuesday at the Soldier and Family Assistance Center. Members of Intocable donated 1,000 of their newest CD to Soldiers and family members.



## Be aware of post safety regulations

When running on Fort Sam Houston roads, joggers are reminded to wear appropriate bright colored clothing or fluorescent or reflecting personal protective equipment during periods of reduced visibility.

Also, running with headphones or earphones is not permitted, except on running tracks.

If you are one of many runners who use installation roadways as your personal physical training track, be forewarned. Signs have been posted along major installation roadways, including Stanley, Dickman and Artillery Post, which prohibit running on the road.

Fort Sam Houston Military Police are ticketing individuals jogging on these roads, who are in violation of FSH Regulation 385-5 and 190-5, Running Safety and Motor Vehicle Traffic Code, respectively. Individual joggers should use the running tracks and physical training fields when possible.

Post policy prohibits running on Stanley, Dickman, Wilson, Artillery Post, Harry Wurzbach, New Braunfels, Scott and Schofield. It is permissible to run on the sidewalks that border these roads.



# SPORTS

## Cub Scouts thank Soldiers for helping hand

By 1st. Lt. Mia Jones  
D Company, 232nd Medical Battalion

Cub Scout Pack 343 of Selma, Texas, formally thanked Soldiers Jan. 29 for their help with the 12th annual Pinewood Derby.

The Cubs issued a certificate and flag to each of the nine Soldiers from D Company, 232nd Medical Battalion.

"The Cub Scouts wanted the Soldiers to receive these flags so they will always be able to carry a piece of home with them wherever they may go," said Cub Master Richard Derfler. "It's important for these kids (Cubs) to see the sacrifice our Soldiers make on a daily basis; it gives them a sense of patriotism."

Fifty Cub Scout packs participated in the derby. They raced hand-crafted wooden cars and large soapbox push carts.

The Soldiers were assigned as race officials and assisted in the overall safety of the race-track, the go-cart push races, and assisted with taking photos of the scouts with the Top Fuel Dragster provided by the San Antonio

International Race Car Association.

This wasn't the first time Pack 343 has shown gratitude to service members. In June, the pack constructed two large American flags made up of red and white hand-prints. The flags were sent overseas to 1-82 Field Artillery, 1st Cavalry in Afghanistan and flown Sept. 11 in remembrance of those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks.



A Cub Scout from Pack 343 in Selma, Texas, presents American flags to Soldiers from D Company, 232nd Medical Battalion, Jan. 29 to thank them for their help with the 12th Annual Pinewood Derby.



Photos by Julie Price  
Soldiers from D Company, 232nd Medical Battalion, and Cub Scouts from Pack 343 in Selma, Texas, pose with the Top Fuel Dragster brought to the derby by the San Antonio International Race Car Association.

## SPORTS BRIEFS . . .

### Walk, run for a good cause

"Scamper thru the Park," a 5K fun run and walk, will be Saturday at 9 a.m. at McAllister Park. Proceeds benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Entry fee is \$20; make checks payable to the hospital. People can register at Women's Super Fitness, 2267 NW Military, 342-8880, or Roger Soler's Sports, Broadway or Jackson-Keller location. For more information, call 366-3701.

### Women only

The Central Post Gym, Building 961, will be reserved for women only Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30 to 11 a.m. and 5 to 7:30 p.m. Stop by

and work out on the cardio equipment, free weights and resistance machines. The facility also has a basketball court, equipment issue room and locker room. For more information, call 221-3593.

### All Army Men's Basketball

Applications are being accepted through April 20 for All Army Men's Basketball. The Trail Camp is June 21 to July 16. People can pick up applications from the Intramural and Varsity Sports office at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. For more information, call Earl Young at 221-1180.

### Senior slow pitch softball

San Antonio Seniors Softball League

seeks players for 60+, 65+ and 70+ men's senior slow pitch softball. The league's 17th season begins in March. Open practices, weather permitting, are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. at Rusty Lyons Field, at Basse and McCullough. All skill levels are welcome. For more information, call Dale Carver at 826-1460 or Bill Altman at 651-5507.

### Flag football league

A local flag football league needs participants. The league has four or eight-man teams. The entry fee is half-price for military teams from Fort Sam Houston, Lackland Air Force Base and Randolph AFB. For more information, call 737-3131.

### Basketball camp

The Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp is accepting applications from 10 to 19-year-olds. Past participants include Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan and Vince Carter. College basketball scholarships are possible for players accepted to the All-American Team. For more information and camp locations, call (704) 373-0873.

### Lacrosse players

The San Antonio Men's Lacrosse Team is looking for experienced lacrosse players to fill all positions. The dues are \$175 for the year. For more information, call Ryan Meegan at 387-9983.

# MWR

## Recreation and fitness

### 'Buns on the Run' fun run

The free 5K fun run/walk is Feb. 26 at 10 a.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Participants receive a free T-shirt. This event is in conjunction with the Lighten Up! Tighten Up! promotion.

### Archery lessons



Individual and group archery lessons are available through the Outdoor Equipment Center. Instruction is given at your level of experience, from novice to expert. Children are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult if under the age of 18. Participants should wear full shoes and not wear oversized shirts or pants. For more information, call the Archery Shop at 221-5225.

### Free Salsa and Merengue classes

Free dance classes are available at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center Mondays and Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

### Library highlights

The library now features African American History Month items on display, including history books, novels by African American authors, videos and pictures.

### Tax time help

The library offers federal tax forms and instruction booklets. They can provide the main forms plus other frequently used forms. Visit the library at Building 1222, corner of Harney and Chaffee Road, Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, call 221-4702 or 221-4387.

### Morning step aerobics

Free morning step aerobics are at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center Mondays and Wednesdays at 6 a.m.



### Trail rides

The Equestrian Center offers one-hour trail rides Saturdays and Sundays year round. People ages 7 and up are welcome; however, adults must accompany children. Cost is \$20 per person. Riding times are 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., 10 to 11 a.m., 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. and 2 to 3 p.m. Reservations are required and may be made by visiting the Equestrian Center at Building 3550, Hawkins Road, off Binz-Engleman, or by calling

224-7207. The center is open weekdays from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### Cycling classes

The Jimmy Brought Fitness Center offers free cycling classes. Get your heart pumping with fast-paced rides set to music. Classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 4:45 to 5:30 p.m.

### Jump rope aerobics

Join the 15-minute jump rope aerobics class featuring basic jumps. Bring your own rope to the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 5:30 p.m. for this free class. For more information, call 221-1234.



### 60 Days of Fitness

The program is a motivating fitness and weight loss program to help people safely lose 15 pounds in 60 days using a point system. This self-paced program requires people to work out 45 out of 60 days and includes a seven-page fitness assessment, body fat analysis and body measurements. People will also attend two 30-minute weight loss classes. Cost for the program is \$40, which includes a T-shirt. For more information, call Lucian Kimble at 221-2020.

### Riding lessons

Weekday riding lessons are available at the Equestrian Center. Lessons slots are Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for Western, English and Jumping. For more information, call 224-7207.

### Equipment rentals

The Outdoor Equipment Center (Building 1111, Forage Road) offers a wide variety of recreational equipment for rent including fishing boats, travel trailers, camping equipment, large barbecue and smoker pits, canopies, tables, chairs, play bouncers and dunking booths for unit gatherings or birthday parties. Utility trailers, both open and covered, are also available. For more information, call 221-5224.

## Dining and entertainment

### Golf Club

#### Golf Lessons

Private customized and personalized instructions are offered at the Golf Club.

### Ladies Clinic

A class for beginners is Tuesday.

### Spring sale

The Golf Club is slashing prices during their spring sale. Stop by to get from 10 to 20 percent off items.

### Junior Camp 2005

The Golf Club's Junior Camp is March 15 and 17 from 9 to 11 a.m. Cost is \$50. Class includes instruction on putting, chipping, etiquette, safety, irons, drivers and fairway woods. For more information, call 222-9386.



### Sam Houston Club

#### Sunday brunch

The Sunday brunch is from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$11.95 for members, \$13.95 for non-members, \$6.95 for children 7 to 11 years old and free for children 6 and under. Adult meals include a complimentary glass of champagne.

#### Comedy night

Comedy night is March 4; doors open at 7:30 p.m. Showtime is 9 p.m. Advance tickets are \$12 and \$15 at the door. Price includes a complimentary meal from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

#### Play bingo

Come play bingo Thursdays and Fridays (6:50 p.m. – early bird start). Doors open at 5 p.m. Saturday (12:50 p.m. – early bird start). Children 10 and up may also play when accompanied by an adult; \$10,000 is ready to be given away. Free buffet for bingo players.

#### Super TGIF

The bar opens at 4:30 p.m. this Friday for super TGIF. Open buffet for everyone and no cover charge for members; non-members pay \$3.

#### Sams Sports Bar

SoundTraxx DJ Greg Norton provides entertainment Friday and Feb. 25.

#### Light lunch

The Sam Houston Club serves assorted sandwiches, soups and salads along with the "All You Can Eat" buffet Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch includes beverage, salad bar, soup and dessert. For more information, call 221-2721.

### Bowling Center



#### Bowling lessons

Lessons are Tuesdays and are free to league bowlers (\$25 for non-league bowlers).

#### Family bowling

Family bowling day is Sundays; adults and youth 12 and up pay \$1.75 per game (children under 12 bowl free). Shoe rental is \$1. The special excludes birthday parties and cannot be combined with other special offers.

#### Soldier appreciation

Soldier appreciation day is Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Free shoe rental and medium soda with purchase of game.

#### Cyber Bowl

Cyber Bowl is Saturdays from 8 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$10 per person 12 and up, \$5 per person under 12.

### Harlequin Dinner Theatre

"Driving Miss Daisy," a play by Alfred Uhry, will be performed from March 2 to April 2. Discount tickets are available for military and students. Call the box office at 222-9694 for show times and tickets.

### MWR Ticket Office

The ticket office has Disney and Universal Studios tickets. The 2005 Season Passes for Sea World and Fiesta Texas are now available. Disney Line has special rates for military that start at \$349. Disney on Ice presents "Finding Nemo;" tickets are available for March 24 to 27. Tickets are only \$12 for March 25 and 27. There are also tickets for the San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo; tickets are \$35. Carnival tickets for the Rodeo are also available. Fiesta tickets are available for April 22 to 23; tickets are \$8. Tickets are on sale for the Ebony Fashion Fair; cost is \$35. Proceeds benefit the Big Brother and Sister Organization. The ticket office is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call 226-1663.

## New Orleans getaway

To show appreciation to its customers, the Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center is conducting a drawing to win a New Orleans Getaway Package. The package includes round trip transportation for two, hotel accommodations and a rental car. The trip is April 1 to 3. To enter, stop by the Bowling Center, Building 2521, Schofield Road, and fill out an entry form. The drawing is March 4. The contest is open to people 18 years old and up with a Department of Defense ID card. The winner will be asked to confirm eligibility. For more information, call 221-2307 or 221-2926. The getaway package is sponsored by Caliber Collision Center, Southwest Airlines, Comfort Suites and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

## Lighten Up! Tighten Up! Program helps shed extra pounds

MWR patrons still trying to shed extra holiday pounds can find help at their local club, snack bar and installation sports and fitness center.

This winter, participating food and beverage activities will offer special menus featuring healthy dining options as part of a "Lighten Up! Tighten Up!" promotion.

Diners will receive a frequent "healthy" diner card that will be stamped when they purchase one of the healthy meals. Cards can be redeemed after 10 healthy meals for a fitness prize, to include pedometers, talking jump ropes, fitness and walking journals, and body fat analyzers.

In addition to prizes, the cards will be entered into a grand prize drawing for a seven-day spa resort vacation package from [www.GovArm.com](http://www.GovArm.com), a BowFlex by Nautilus home gym or one of two gas grills provided by Gardenburger.

Complementing the "healthy" menus, will be a series of activities offered by the local sports and fitness teams. Enter to participate in the "Buns on the Run" 5K run Feb. 26 at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, another event tied in with the Lighten Up! promotion.

Lighten Up! Tighten Up! will run until the end of March, while prizes last. At Fort Sam Houston, you can find Lighten Up healthy lunch menus at the Sam Houston Club, Mulligan's Snack Bar at the Golf Club and the Bowling Center.

(Source: MWR)

# CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES

## Youth Happenings

### Cheer clinic

Youth Services sponsors a weekly cheer clinic beginning in March for two age groups: 5- to 8-year-olds and 8- to 12-year-olds. Participants must be registered with Child and Youth Services. Cost is \$30 per child. For more information, call 221-3502 or 221-5513.

### Instructional classes

People interested in instructional classes such as Tae Kwon Do, quarterly babysitter training or gymnastics can call 221-4882, 221-4871 or 221-1723.

### Boredom remedy

Youth Services offers after school and weekend opportunities for sixth through 12th graders. For more information, call Youth Services at 221-4882 or Child and Youth Services central registration at 221-4871.

### Open recreation

School Age Services offers after school, weekend open recreation and after school hourly care to children in first through fifth grade. People have to sign up for hourly and open recreation in advance. Children must be registered through central registration prior to using the School Age Program. For more information, call School Age Services at 221-4466. To register, call central registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

### Saturday open recreation

First through 12th graders can participate in open recreation at the Youth Center Saturdays. First through fifth graders meet from 3 to 8 p.m., sixth through eighth graders from 3 to 10 p.m. and ninth through 12th graders from 3 to 11 p.m. Activities include computer lab, arts and crafts, basketball, pool, pingpong and movies. People must be registered with Child and Youth Services to attend. For more information, call 221-3502.

### Sports registrations

Registration for baseball, softball and T-ball runs through Feb. 28. The cost is \$45 for the first child, \$40 for the second and \$35 for the third if all are from the same family. For 3 and 4 year old step T-ball, the cost is \$30 per child. Track registration is also under way. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services, and a birth certificate and a physical are required. For more information, call 221-3502 or 221-5513 or stop by the Youth Center, Building 1630, between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

### Free after school program

Youth Services offers an after school program for sixth through ninth graders weekdays until 6 p.m. YS will pick up children from either the elementary or high school. Students go to the Youth Center, have a snack, work on homework, participate in clubs and do fun, innovative projects. Students must be registered with Child and Youth Services, which has an \$18 annual fee, but the program is free. For more information, call 221-3502.

### Volunteers needed

Youth Services is looking for volunteers to assist with youth programs, including coaches, computer-skilled people, people with craft hobbies or anyone who just cares about kids. People who can type or file are also needed. For more information or to volunteer, call the Youth Center at 221-3502.

### Parents wanted

Parents are invited to come to the Youth Center Saturday from 8 to 10:30 p.m. to join the Youth Center staff and the teens and middle school youth in a game of basketball. Parents and staff try to outmaneuver the teens and score a few baskets. For more information, call the Youth Center at 221-3502.

### Saturday shuttle

Youth Services offers a Saturday shuttle to and from the Youth Center. There is no cost, but parents with children 9 years old and younger must wait for the van and sign them in and out. The shuttle schedule is

3 p.m. - leave the Youth Center  
 3:10 p.m. - Gorgas Circle (picnic tables)  
 3:13 p.m. - Schofield/Dickman on Schofield  
 3:16 p.m. - Reynolds and Dickman on Reynolds  
 3:20 p.m. - Officers' Club tennis courts  
 3:25 p.m. - Artillery Post Road at bus stop  
 3:30 p.m. - Easley/Infantry Post at bus stop 660  
 3:37 p.m. - Patch Road (playground)  
 3:40 p.m. - Marvin R. Wood (basketball courts)  
 3:47 p.m. - Patch Road (shoppette parking lot)  
 3:51 p.m. - Foulois/Scott Road (Harris Heights)  
 3:54 p.m. - Forage/Foulois  
 4:02 p.m. - Powless Guest House.

The return shuttle will leave the Youth Center at 7:30 p.m. for those in fifth grade and below. There is also a shuttle that leaves at 9:30 p.m. for those in middle school and at 10:30 p.m. for those in ninth grade and up. These shuttles are for youth who live on the installation. For more information, call 221-3502.

## Parent News

### Home-based child care

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

### FCC providers

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

### PAC meeting

The Child and Youth Services Parent Advisory Council will meet March 15 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Child Development Center, 2530 Funston. Lunch will be provided. This is an opportunity

for parents to learn of upcoming events, meet staff and address concerns.

### Check wait list

People on the full-time day care wait list at the Child Development Center should check their status on the wait list to avoid losing status. To check status, call central registration at 221-4871.

### Full-time day care

If you need full-time day care for children 3 to 5 years old, call central registration at 221-4871.

## STOMP conference

A Specialized Training of Military Parents, or STOMP, conference will be Feb. 24 and 25 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Education Service Center, Region 20 conference center, 1324 Hines Ave. STOMP is a federally funded parent training and information center established to assist military families who have children with special education or health needs. The conference will cover basic rights and regulations and topics include TRICARE, Medicaid, wills, guardianship, communication skills, Exceptional Family Member Program and basic education rights. The STOMP staff comprises parents of children with disabilities who have experience raising their children in military communities and traveling throughout the world. For more information, call Kerry Dauphinee, installation EFMP manager, or Riccardo Reeves, EFMP assistant manager, at 221-2705.

## TAPPetry conference

The 2005 TAPPetry conference will be Feb. 26 from 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at the Education Service Center, Region 20 conference center, 1324 Hines Ave. The conference title is "Parent and Professional Partnerships: The Ties that Bind" and is for teachers, administrators, parents and other professionals working with special needs students. The conference includes a presentation on communication, and The Playmakers, a San Antonio-based acting troupe of men and women with developmental disabilities, will perform "Now What," which deals with transitions. Other topics include behavior, early childhood, specific disabilities and differentiated instruction. Administrators, teachers and other professionals can register online at <http://www.esc20.net/workshop.htm>. For more information or a parent-registration form, call Dawn White at 370-5402 or Becky Tarwater at 804-7201, ext. 382.



Photos by Elaine Aviles

Spc. Alma Rivera, (left) a 91D operating room technician student, assists physicians and staff members during foot surgery at the Audie Murphy Memorial Veterans Affairs Hospital in San Antonio. The Army and VA hospital have teamed up to improve OR technician training.

## Joint Venture

*Continued from Page 1*

Not only did the VA offer a wide variety of medical cases, but it was also close to an Army installation, a necessary element in the collaboration.

"Because most of the students are fresh out of basic training and the majority are young, we need to maintain command and control," Paulino said. "An installation nearby allows us to maintain training and provide for the Soldiers' basic needs."

The federally-run VA also posed less legal concerns than other civilian facilities. The partnership between the military-tied VA and the Army seemed to make sense, not just to Army leaders, but to the VA as well.

"We love students; we train high school and nursing students as well," said Pat Haney, VA operating room supervisor. "This was a wonderful opportunity. It's a privilege for us to train Soldiers, teach them something that will save lives.

"The VA is closely tied with the military," she added. "Many of us have been active duty or reservists. We're very much at home training future OR technicians."

With the VA on board, the Army was left to work out the logistics, which was no small feat, Paulino said.

Transportation, meals, lodging and even seemingly minor issues like locker space and computers all needed to be resolved before the partnership could be solidified.

Brooke Army Medical Center, which already takes more 91D students than any other Phase 2 site, agreed to take on the responsibility of 10 additional students per class.

Maj. Javier F. Altamirano, BAMC Perioperative Nursing Course director and a former 91D student, volunteered to provide oversight for the BAMC part of the program, which

includes housing, feeding and monitoring Army training for the Soldiers.

"I did my Phase 2 training in Fort Leavenworth (Kan.) and wished I could have seen more cases," said Altamirano. "I vowed to make an impact on training by providing our students with the most exposure to the most cases. That's the best education."

With a week under their belts, the first class of VA-trained 91D students said they find that exposure a double-edged sword.

"I didn't know there were so many tools and types of surgeries," said Nicole Campbell, a reservist from Minnesota. "It's a very different situation than in the classroom."

To ease the transition from the classroom to operating room, the students are paired each day with a VA staff member, who teaches them the "tricks of the trade." They are then evaluated on their performance every afternoon by Sgt. 1st Class George Glover, a Phase 1 instructor who volunteered to take on the role of full-time Phase 2 OR technician instructor at the VA.

"I came here a month prior to the students arriving to prepare the VA staff as to what was expected of them," Glover said. "At first the staff was apprehensive, but the students are performing well and the staff is giving good feedback."

Haney said the students have exceeded everyone's expectations.

"They may be young, but they are very professional and willing to learn," she said. "Hopefully, the students will remember this experience for their entire lives."

Paulino hopes the program will last just as long.

"It took two years, but everything came together perfectly," he said. "I can't envision this working anywhere else. It was truly a team effort."



Pvts. Darin Keespie and surgical equipment for a



Melissa Gutierrez, a VA medical supply specialist, shows Pfc. Shanna Burns, a 91D operation room technician student, various surgical tools in the material supply center.



Sgt. 1st Class George Glover (right), the full-time Phase 2 OR technician instructor at the VA, describes surgical equipment used for an upcoming trigger finger release procedure to Pvt. Adam Busby.



Spc. Juan Dominguez Jr., an operating room technician-in-training, sets up a sterile basin set for a trigger finger release surgery at the VA hospital in San Antonio.



A VA staff member helps Pfc. Julian Munoz Jr. with sterile gowning and gloving prior to a surgery at the VA hospital.



Angela Pitts, both 91D operating room technician students, open sterile upcoming procedure at the VA hospital.

# RELIGIOUS HAPPENINGS . . .

## **Positive moms group**

The Protestant Women of the Chapel sponsor an enrichment class for Fort Sam Houston women seeking positive ways to deal with the complex job of being a mom. The class is Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Dodd Field Chapel. The group will read and discuss, "The Power of a Positive Mom" by Karol Ladd over a 10-week period. Childcare for infants to 5-year-olds will be provided. For more information, call 829-4479.

## **Officer Christian Fellowship**

Find out what Officer Christian Fellowship is all about at Bible study Friday and Feb. 25, and March 4 and 11. Dinner is at 6 p.m. and Bible study is 7 p.m. at 1008 Gorgas Circle, near the old Brooke Army Medical Center. For more information, call Lt. Col. Bob Griffith at 226-1295 or e-mail rgriffith3@satx.rr.com.

## **Couples' retreat**

A Dodd Field Chapel group will host a couples' retreat March 5 and 6. Free childcare will be provided for all attendees until 3 p.m. Attendees must provide their own childcare for the overnight. There is a suggested donation of \$30 per couple and \$15 per single. For more information, call Bonnie Miller at 822-6619 or e-mail bonniemiller68@yahoo.com, or Cindy Richardson at 262-9551 or e-mail zinzia@aol.com or visit [www.samhouston.army.mil/chaplain](http://www.samhouston.army.mil/chaplain).

## **National prayer breakfast**

Fort Sam Houston's national prayer breakfast will take place March 10 at 6:45 a.m. at the Sam Houston Club. Maj. Gen. Dorian T. Anderson, commanding general, U.S. Total Army Personnel Command and commanding general, U.S. Army Human Resources Command, will be the guest speaker. Tickets can be purchased from unit ministry teams for a \$2 donation. For more information, call Chaplain James Benson at 221-2755.

## POST WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Main Post Chapel, Building 2200, 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:** 379-8666 or 493-6660

Fridays: 8 p.m. - Worship and

8:30 p.m. - Oneg Shabbat

### **Services:**

Sundays: 11:30 a.m. - 32nd Med. Bde. Soldiers

**Troop Protestant Service:**

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

**FSH Mosque, Building 607A, 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, Building 3600, phone number: 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

**Evans Auditorium**

221-5005 or 221-5007

**Mormon Services:** 9:30 to

11:30 a.m. - Sundays

**Web site:**

[www.samhouston.army.mil/chaplain](http://www.samhouston.army.mil/chaplain)

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

**Catholic Services - Sundays:**

12:30 p.m. - Bilingual Mass

**Protestant Services:**

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,**

Building. 1398, 221-4362

**Troop Catholic Mass:**

Sundays: 10 a.m. - 32nd

Medical Bde. Soldiers

**Troop Protestant Gospel**

## Post Pulse: Who is your favorite president?



*"President John F. Kennedy – I remember when I was 9 years old; my mother and father were affected by his death and as I grew up I realized the impact he had on the whole nation. We have not seen the likeness of him since."*  
 Maj. Javier F. Altamirano,  
 Brooke Army Medical Center



*"I like both President Bushes. I'm really a conservative, and I agree with their views a lot even though I'm from a democratic state."*  
 Pvt. Darin  
 Kleespie, student



*"John F. Kennedy – because he seemed to be the most sincere and caring president in the history of the United States."*  
 Edwin Sierra,  
 MWR



*"Franklin D. Roosevelt – because he contributed a lot during the depression and instituted the Social Security (program) in which he made it instrumental in helping people."*  
 Jennifer Morris, MWR  
 intern

# SCHOOL NEWS

## FSH Independent School District

Weekly Campus Activities  
 Monday to Feb. 26

### Fort Sam Houston Elementary School

**Monday**  
 Student holiday/staff development day – President's Day

**Tuesday**  
 Grade 4 writing – TAKS\*/SDAA\*\* II

**Wednesday**  
 Grade 3 TAKS\* reading/SDAA\*\* reading release  
 Grade 5 TAKS\* reading/SDAA\*\* reading release

**Feb. 24**  
 FSHISD School Board Meeting in Professional Development Center, 11 a.m.  
 Mobile Discovery Lab

**Feb. 25**  
 Spirit Day  
 Mobile Discovery Lab

### Robert G. Cole Jr. / Sr. High School

**Monday**  
 School holiday/staff development day – Presidents Day  
 Boys basketball bi-district playoffs, TBA

**Tuesday**  
 Grade 7 TAKS\* and SDAA\*\* writing  
 Grade 9 TAKS\* reading  
 Grade 10 and 11 TAKS English language arts  
 Grade 12 TAAS\*\*\* retest writing  
 Grades 9 – 12 alternative TAAS\*\*\* writing/ARD  
 Baseball vs. St. Mary's Hall at Cole, 4 p.m.  
 Boys' basketball bi-district playoffs, TBA

**Wednesday**  
 Grade 12 TAAS\*\*\* Retest math and exit TAKS\* math retest  
 Grade 12 alternative TAAS\*\*\* math/ARD

**Feb. 24**  
 Grade 12 TAAS\*\*\* retest reading and exit TAKS\* retest social studies  
 Grade 10 makeup test TAKS\* English language arts  
 Grades 9 – 12 alternative TAAS\*\*\* reading / ARD  
 FSHISD school board meeting in Professional Development Center, 11 a.m.  
 SAISD track meet (varsity only) finals – half day  
 State DECA Contest in Dallas  
 State Academic Decathlon Contest at San Antonio College  
 Boys' basketball area playoffs, TBA

**Feb. 25**  
 Grade 11 TAKS\* exit science retest  
 State swim championships at University of Texas Austin natatorium, TBA  
 Baseball at S.A. Christian, 4:15 p.m.  
 State DECA Contest in Dallas  
 State Academic Decathlon Contest at San Antonio College  
 Boys' basketball area playoffs, TBA

**Feb. 26**  
 UIL band solo ensemble at La Vernia High School, All Day  
 State swim championships at UT Austin natatorium, TBA  
 State DECA Contest in Dallas  
 Boys' basketball area playoffs, TBA

\*TAKS – Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills Test – state mandated  
 \*\* SDAA – State Developed Alternative Assessment Test – state mandated  
 \*\*\*TAAS – Texas Assessment of Academic Skills – state mandated

## Cougar Battalion hosts 37th Military Ball

By Cadet 1st Lt. Alexa Collins  
 Cougar Junior ROTC Public Affairs Officer

The Robert G. Cole High School Junior ROTC hosted its 37th Annual Military Ball Saturday at the Holiday Inn Riverwalk.

The Military Ball, touted by the cadets as "the best dance of the year," proved to be an exciting experience for all. The ball consisted of a formal dinner, promotions, awards, the coronation of the Military Ball Queen and dancing.

Cadet Ashley Kelley, Cole senior and battalion executive operations officer, was crowned Military Ball Queen from a group of candidates including Jennifer Bagg, Caitlyn McCoole, Erika Persaud and Nadine Willis.

"The Military Ball for the JROTC cadets is a memorable occasion," said Kelley. "It is a memory we will take with us for the rest of our lives."

Kelley, a JROTC cadet since her freshman year, is a member of the Color Guard, the National Honor Society and the Spanish National Honor Society. She plans to attend Texas Christian University on a JROTC four-year scholarship with a major in nursing.

Retired Lt. Col. Robert Hoffmann is the senior Army instructor, and retired Sgt. 1st Class John Clinton is the Army instructor.

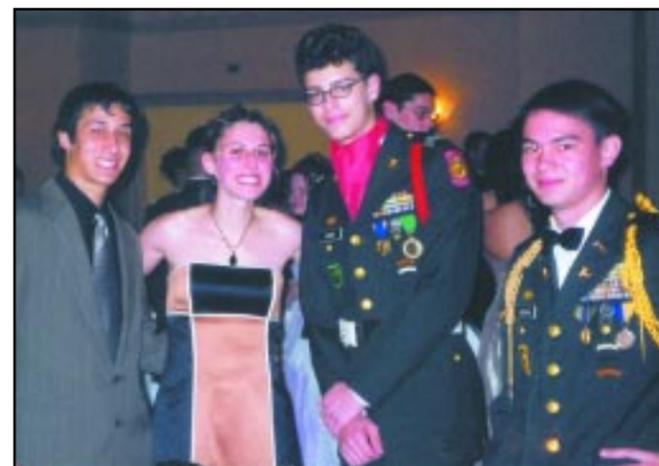


Photo by Robert Hoffmann

Ashley Kelley, the 2005 Military Ball Queen, celebrates her coronation with (from left) Mike Ruiz, Tommy Leeds and Scott Gibson.

Guests included Dr. Gail Siller, superintendent of schools, Dr. Roland Rios, Cole Jr./Sr. High School principal, and Larry Ransom, Cole athletic director.

## Cole academic decathlon students win in region competition

By Dr. Gloria Davila  
 Fort Sam Houston ISD associate superintendent

Six Cole Junior/Senior High School students competed in the 2-A Academic Decathlon Regional Competition Jan. 28 and 29 at Sul Ross University in Alpine, Texas.

Since the team had only two members per division instead of the usual three, the Cole Cougars were considered underdogs. However, the students impressed their opponents by earning fourth place in the region.

The team left Alpine with 19 medals:

seven gold, three silver, three bronze and six for fourth place. The competition included teams from Randolph Field ISD, Marfa ISD, Lago Vista ISD and other 2-A and 3-A districts.

Teachers Barbara Lien, theatre arts, Jim Cox, business education, and Cassandra Malcolm, biology and science, are the team coaches for 2004-2005.

The winners included:

**Varsity Division**  
 Antonio Vizcarrondo - Gold medals for highest standing per division per team, speech and mathematics; bronze for super quiz; and fourth place medal

William Molina - Gold for interview, silver for speech, bronze for economics and fourth place medal

### Scholastic Division

Alexa Collins - Gold for highest standing per division per team and fourth place medal

Cody Oswald: - Fourth place medal

### Honors Division

Joshua Heaney - Silver for super quiz, bronze for social science and fourth place medal

Amy Jackson - Gold medals for highest standing per division per team and interview, silver for speech and fourth place medal

## Exercise tests School District's crisis planning efforts

Dr. Gloria Davila  
 Fort Sam Houston ISD associate superintendent

Fort Sam Houston School District personnel make every possible effort to ensure the safety of all students and staff members. To achieve this goal, they collaborate with installation emergency personnel to prepare for potential threats.

"For some time now, our administrators have been coordinating with representatives from the Installation Operations Center and the (Fort Sam Houston) Antiterrorism Office to ensure that our crisis management plans are in concert with our community's emergency preparedness plans," said Dr. Gail Siller, Fort Sam Houston ISD superintendent.

The antiterrorism office coordinated a Crisis Management Tabletop Exercise Feb. 4 with school district officials. Floyd Williams, Directorate of Plans, Training, Mobilization and Security director, Brad Barrett, Theresa Stover, Charles Alfonso, Arthur Hasting and other key emergency management officials participated.

"The scenario was a train derailment with a chlorine leak that required both schools to shelter in place for an extended period of time," said Barrett, the event's facilitator. "The school staff did an outstanding job implementing and discussing their emergency plans in response to this incident."

At the district level, participants included Siller, Dr. Gloria Davila, Larry Stavinoha, Janet Bolin, Kathy McKinney and

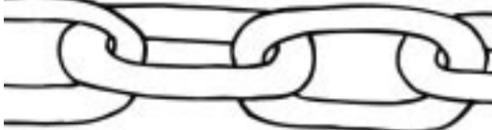


Photo by Theresa Stover

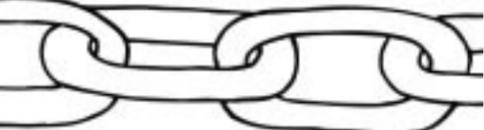
Antiterrorism Office and Installation Operations Center personnel participate in a Crisis Management Tabletop Exercise Feb. 4

Tom Shults. Cole High School participants were Dr. Roland Rios, Elizardo Hernandez and Kim Gresenz. Also participating in the exercise were Fort Sam Houston Elementary School staff members Jayne Hatton, Scott Cheney and Robin Harvel.

"This exercise provided an excellent opportunity to test our emergency response measures and lines of communication," said Siller. "It was especially beneficial to receive direct feedback and practical suggestions from those trained to handle emergency situations on how we could strengthen our preparedness."



# COMMUNITY LINK



## Happenings

### Historic Fort Sam tour

The Fort Sam Houston Officer and Civilian Spouses' Club will sponsor a Tour of Homes on historic Fort Sam Houston April 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Advanced tickets may be purchased today for \$10 in front of the PX. Tickets may be purchased the day of the tour for \$12 at the Stilwell House. For more information, call Betty Kotoriy at 545-0815.

### Garden Ridge walk

The Texas Wanderers volksmarch club will host a 10-kilometer (6.2 mile) and a 5-kilometer walk in Garden Ridge Saturday. The walk will start from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Forest Waters Club, 21320 Water Wood Drive in Garden Ridge. It will finish by 3 p.m. The walk route will follow trails through attractive neighborhoods with beautiful landscaping and lots of trees. For more information, call Lyn Ward at 651-6536, e-mail LWard10Km@aol.com or check out the club's Web site at [www.walktx.org/TexasWanderers/](http://www.walktx.org/TexasWanderers/).

### Driftwood Winery walk

The Selma Pathfinders volksmarch club will host a 10-kilometer (6.2 mile) walk in Driftwood, Texas Feb. 26 and 27. The walk will start at the winery at 21550 Ranch Road 12 in Driftwood. The Saturday start will be between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. and will finish by 4 p.m. The Sunday start will be between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. and will finish by 3 p.m. For more information, call Phyllis at 496-1402, e-mail milchene@juno.com or check out the club's Web site at [www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Gorge/8195](http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Gorge/8195).

### Children's vegetable garden

The San Antonio Botanical Gardens is accepting registration for their Spring 2005 Children's Vegetable Gardening program. The program teaches children, ages 8 to 13, how to plant, care for and harvest their own organic vegetable garden. Participants will meet every Saturday morning from 9 to 10:30 a.m., Feb. 26 through June 12. Children must be accompanied by a parent or an adult guardian. Enrollment is available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call 207-3270.

### Camp Fair 2005

Parents interested in registering their children for OUR KIDS magazine's 11th annual camp fair can attend an informational session Feb. 27 from 1 to 4 p.m. at Home Court America, 8131 Pinebrook at I-10 and Callaghan. For more information, call Mary Anne Moffett or Pat Ramotowski at 349-6667.

### Fiesta tickets

The Cougar Pride Club of Robert G. Cole High School has parade tickets for April 22 Battle of the Flowers and April 23 Fiesta Flambeau. The tickets are \$8 and the seats are located along the 100 block of East Commerce Street. All proceeds go to the Cougar Pride Club, which provides scholarships to students and contributes to various activities at Cole. Call Lana Dochnal at 226-2746 for tickets.

### Cougar bake sale

The Cougar Pride Club will sponsor a bake sale today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in front of the commissary. Funds raised by

the sale will support scholarships, activities and events sponsored by the club.

### WWII anniversary commemoration

The Department of Defense World War II Veterans Commemoration Committee will present a tribute to veterans April 3 at 2 p.m. at San Antonio's Villita Assembly Building, 401 Villita. The event is open to public with priority for WWII veterans and their guests. For more information, call (800) 868-2058 or visit [www.60wwii.mil](http://www.60wwii.mil).

### Free tax assistance

St. Philip's College will offer free income tax filing assistance to the community through the volunteer efforts of students and faculty from the college's accounting information systems and Microsoft IT Academy programs during the tax filing season. For more information, call 531-3368.

### Scholarship offered

The Fort Sam Houston Officers and Civilian Spouses' Club will be awarding scholarships to family members of active duty, active Guard and Reserve, and retired or deceased Army personnel who reside in the San Antonio area. There are two categories – a graduating high school senior and an adult continuing education. Applications must be postmarked no later than April 11. Interested applicants may obtain a copy of the application from their high school counselor or by contacting Janie Gamez at 212-6951.

## Professional Development

### Special Forces opportunities

U.S. Army Special Forces will conduct two briefings Tuesday at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center. Army Special Forces are currently accepting applications from officers in year group 02 and Soldiers in the grades of E-4 to E-7 and are looking for motivated, aggressive Soldiers who are able to work independently or within a small cohesive 12-man team. Call the Fort Hood Special Forces Recruiting Station at (254) 288-5324 or 9063 or DSN 738-5324 or 9063.

### 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 one night a week from 6 to 10 p.m. at Fort Sam Houston. Students will earn a M.S. in Quality Systems Management. Master's business project replaces thesis. The institution is regionally accredited, nationally recognized and eligible for VA/TA benefits. For more information, call (800) 838-2580, 410-9147 or 213-1248 or visit [www.ngs.edu](http://www.ngs.edu).

### Job fair

The semi-annual San Antonio Military Community Job Fair will be March 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Live Oak Civic Center, 8101 Pat Booker Road. More than 100 employers will be represented. People should bring several copies of their resume to provide to potential employers. For a list of participating employers, go to <http://www.taonline.com> and follow prompts to job fairs. For more information, call the Fort Sam Houston Army Career and Alumni Program at 221-1213.

### University offers degree plans

A St. Mary's University representative will be available in Building 2247, by the Education Center, March 1 from 11 a.m. 3 p.m. Programs include accounting and business management, computer science and computer information systems, education, engineering systems management, and international relations. Selected programs are offered at Fort Sam Houston, Lackland and Randolph air force bases. Active duty and retired military, DoD employees and spouses of these groups are awarded a grant of 50 percent off tuition per three-hour course. For more information, call Judy Olivier at 226-3360.

### Homeland security course

The Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute offers a Homeland Security Medical Executive Course from June 13 to 17. The course will be conducted at the Omni Hotel at South Park in Austin, (512) 383-2602. For course information, call 221-2434 or DSN 471-2434. For registration and other course information, visit DMRTI's Web site at <http://www.DMRTI.army.mil>.

## Meetings

### Wives and widows meeting

The Retired Officers' Wives and Widows club will meet Feb. 28 at the Sam Houston Club at 11 a.m. Sandy Sullivan will speak on fraud management. For reservations, call Arline Braswell at 822-6599.

### Annual Joint Services luncheon

The Fort Sam Houston Officers' and Civilian Spouses' Club will host an annual Joint Services luncheon at the Sam Houston Club March 22. The social hour will begin at 11 a.m. The entertainment will be provided by the Texas Children's Choir. Cost is \$14.50 and reservations are required by March 16. Mail your reservations to Sigrid Reitstetter at 426 Graham Road, San Antonio, Texas, 78234.

## Volunteer

### Eczema study

Parent of children ages 2 to 12 with a history of eczema can have their children participate in a research study. For more information, call Crystal Triplett, research coordinator, at 916-3931.

## Black History Month observation

The U.S. Army Medical Command will host their annual Black History Month program Wednesday from 10 to 11 a.m. in Building 2792, Wood Auditorium. For more information, call Theda Smith at 221-6522.

### Read Along Program

Volunteers are needed to read books on topics about black history to elementary school children. For more information, call Master Sgt. Pauline Perry at 221-7804.

## Black history trivia contest

1. The Brownsville incident, in which black Soldiers of the 25th Infantry were falsely accused of a crime, was in the eyes of many, the low point of the Theodore Roosevelt administration. It became clear in later years that the townspeople of Brownsville had framed the Soldiers, reflecting a fear of black men in uniform that had its roots in Reconstruction Days. Which president later signed a bill and corrected the records of these Soldiers to reflect an honorable discharge and paid \$25,000 to the sole survivor?

2. What program formed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1935, provided new employment opportunities for blacks and focused on cultural accomplishments of many African Americans including preserving many of the oral histories of freed slaves?

3. With the entrance of the United States into World War II in 1942, the graphics units of the Fine Arts Project of the WPA was absorbed by the Defense Department's War Services Division. That division produced hundreds of posters in support of the war effort, including one that encouraged people to read more. Read more about what?

4. What African American, despite never finishing high school, holds the distinction of having twice won the Pulitzer Prize for plays depicting the African American experience: "Fences" and "The Piano Lesson"?

5. What black female educator, political activist and civil rights leader founded a hospital that provided medical training for blacks who were denied access to training programs at white hospitals? A college was later named after her.

### Feb. 10 trivia answers

- (Answer: They have stamps in their honor).
- (Answer: Kwanzaa. It is estimated that some 18 million African Americans take part).
- Answer: Killing three civil rights workers in Mississippi in 1964; the movie is entitled Mississippi Burning).
- (Answer: Maya Angelou).
- (Answer: He became the first black member of the United States Senate).

Trivia contest answers must be sent via e-mail to [Gayle.Ellis@cen.amedd.army.mil](mailto:Gayle.Ellis@cen.amedd.army.mil) or delivered in a sealed envelope addressed to Gayle Ellis, Black Employment Program committee member, Room 1335, Building 2841, no later than the Wednesday following the publication of the questions. The winner will be the person who submits the first set of correct answers. E-mail responses are encouraged.

Trivia answers for this issue will be published in the Feb. 24 issue of the News Leader; however, the contest winner's name will not be published until the following week.

**The winner of the Feb. 10 Black history trivia contest was Capt. Rachel Wienke, B Company, 232nd Medical Battalion commander.**

# FORT FREEBIES

Freebies are published on a first-come, first-served 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. Real estate ads will not be published. To submit paid classified ads or commercial advertising, call Prime Time at 453-3300. To submit a Fort Freebie, e-mail to [news.leader@samhouston.army.mil](mailto:news.leader@samhouston.army.mil) or fax to 221-1198. Ensure your military and Fort Sam Houston civil service status, phone number and name appear on request. Freebies run for one week unless submitter calls to renew. There is a two-week maximum and a limit of five items per entry.



**For Sale:** Natural maple wood baby crib with firm mattress, like new, \$150; Tubside bath helper, \$15; Crib sheet, crib mattress pad, crib ruffle, \$5 each. Call 824-4770.

**For Sale:** Mustang Recaro dual power lumbar seats, front and back, like new, \$1,100; Mustang IBOC progressive rate lowering springs, \$125. Call Brian at 363-6851.

**For Sale:** 2003 Ford Focus, four door, \$9,500. Call (512) 396-0412 in the evening.

**For Sale:** Above ground, 18-foot-round swimming pool, 3 feet high, new pump and hoses, ladder, chlorine tabs, water testing kit, pool cover, cleaning gear, puts up and takes down easily, everything works, great for young swimmers, \$100 (negotiable). Call 659-2006.

**For Sale:** One queen size wooden futon with upgraded cushion, cover and pillows included, \$150; one full size white

metal futon with red cushion, \$50. Call Bernadette at 533-1993 or 221-6385.

**For Sale:** 1984 Cadillac Seville, restored and in excellent condition, \$2,000 obo. Call 599-2006.

**For Sale:** 1995 Ford F-150 Supercab XLT, 124,500 miles, V8, auto, air, dual fuel tanks, tinted power windows and door locks and lumbar support, running boards, bed cover and liner, towing and chrome package, two-tone paint, bug deflector, \$6,500. Call Bob Thacker at 826-1878 or 382-3768.

**For Sale:** 2000 tan Jeep Cherokee Laredo, auto, air, V6, four door, two-wheel drive, Pioneer CD, new brakes, new tires, alloy wheels, great interior, 104K, \$9,500 obo. Call Clevester Douglas at 661-9929 or 422-8628

**For Sale:** 2001 burgundy Jeep Wrangler Sahara, sport utility two-door, 49,000 miles, four by four, six cylinder,

4.0, automatic, AC, CD player, hard top and soft top, \$14,200; 75-gallon fish tank, with accessories, \$250 obo. Call 391-8998.

**For Sale:** Beautiful large beige sofa bed, 7.5 feet wide, includes colored and matching soft pillows and formal green French chair, \$210 for set with your pick up. Call 490-3048.

**For Sale:** Pier 1 Imports dining room table, 60 by 36 by 30 inches, retails \$400, will sell for \$150. Call Rosa at 262-2099.

**For Sale:** Goodyear Eagle GT II tires, size P255-60-R15, never mounted, \$300 for set of four; Goodyear Eagle RH, size P225-70-R15, used for 100 miles, \$50. Call Fred at 494-8401.

**For Sale:** 1995 Ford Aerostar Van, gold, auto, AC, privacy glass, clean and in great condition, 78K, ready for long trips, \$3,500. Call Guy at 661-9769.

**For Sale:** 2002 Itasca Sunova motor home, 31-feet long with slide with many accessories, has 5,500 miles, must sell due to health reasons, \$55,000; 2003 Honda Civic EX tow car, 13,000 miles for the motor home, \$15,000; will sell both for \$68,000 obo. Call Mac at 437-0042.

**For Sale:** White wood book shelf, \$25; microwave oven, \$10; black entertainment center, \$45; upright Dirt Devil vacuum, \$20; Panasonic VCR, \$25. Call Sandy at 241-1291.

**For Sale:** 2001 Ford Windstar minivan LX, 47,500 miles, inside rear mounted wheelchair with scooter hydraulic lift, five door, two sliding, AM/FM cassette and CD, AC, alarm, keyless entry, cruise control, cargo rack, new tires and transferable service contract with 29 months or 30,675 miles remaining, \$11,500. Call Cynthia at 391-2338.