

"One Team, Supporting Military Missions and Family Readiness!"



Soldiers face scenes of devastation during Vibrant Response 11.1

By Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson
ARNORTH Public Affairs

In a macabre scenario during Vibrant Response 11.1 – which included cold and drizzle, rubble, overturned cars and fires burning sporadically – Soldiers went door to door at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Complex in Indiana March 15, searching for survivors and victims of a fictional 10-kiloton nuclear detonation in Louisville, Ky.

The “dead,” portrayed by local citizen roleplayers and mannequins,

lay on floors, in beds and even sprawled in front of their homes. Survivors huddled in small clusters in the most functional rooms of the still-standing structures.

Facing this scene of devastation were Soldiers from Fort Bliss’ 591st Military Police Company, who searched each home and the surrounding areas to ensure that those injured received the medical care they needed.

The military policemen, along

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Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson

A convoy of Soldiers from the 591st Military Police Company from Fort Bliss, along with fellow first responders, conducts door to door searches for casualties March 15 during Vibrant Response 11.1, a U.S. Northern Command exercise led by U.S. Army North from Fort Sam Houston.



Photo by Lindan Moya

The Schertz Medical Home opened for business March 16 and is located at 6051 FM 3009 in Schertz, in the Horizon Center near the intersection of Interstate 35 South and FM 3009. The 10,000-square-foot facility has 18 exam rooms, one patient treatment room, seven offices for clinical and administrative personnel and a conference room.

Schertz Medical Home to accommodate influx of active duty service members, families

By Maria Gallegos
BAMC Public Affairs

Brooke Army Medical Center celebrated and opened its newest addition – the Schertz Medical Home – during a ribbon cutting ceremony March 16.

Because of the increasing numbers of people relocating as a part of 2005 Base Realignment and Closure law, the

Army has implemented 17 off-post primary care clinics in 11 different communities across the nation to provide better service and access to health care for active duty service members and their families.

Fort Sam Houston is expected to receive an additional 10,000 military families, with many expected to move to the Schertz area, according to Army officials.

The Schertz Medical Home is the sixth of the 17 medical homes and was designed to provide the necessary health care for service members and their families residing in the Schertz community.

The patients of Schertz Medical Home will receive comprehensive health care by a team of doctors and nurses to ensure their health

See **BAMC, P5**

News Leader
OFFICIAL ARMY PUBLICATION
Editorial Staff

502nd Air Base Wing Commander
Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick

502nd Mission Support Group
 Commander
Col. Mary Garr

Public Affairs Officer
Karla L. Gonzalez

Editor
L. A. Shively

Editor
Steve Elliott

Writer/Editor
Lori Newman

Layout Artist
Joe Funtanilla

News Leader office:
 2380 Stanley Road
 Building 124, Suite 4
 Fort Sam Houston
 Texas 78234-5004
 210-221-0615/2030
 DSN 471-0615/2030
 Fax: 210-221-1198

News Leader Advertisements:
 Prime Time
 Military Newspapers
 2203 S. Hackberry
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 Phone: 210-534-8848
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News Leader e-mail:
 news.leader@conus.army.mil

News Leader online:
 www.samhouston.army.mil/
 PAO

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Think rapid refunds are a good idea? Think again!

By Capt. Lindsay Jenschke
 502nd ABW Legal Office

You've heard the commercials and seen the ads for tax refund anticipation loan checks, promising money while you wait or help for those with immediate cash needs.

The refund anticipation loan is a short-term consumer loan obtained in anticipation of the expected refund for a tax return.

These loans, which are secured by the expected tax refund, are offered by companies to cut out the waiting time for customers by offering cash now. These loans may come in the form of "gift" debit cards or checks.

What taxpayers may not know about is the high interest rate and fees that are charged by companies to customers who obtain these loans. And with electronic filing and direct deposit, most taxpayers can get their money refunded in as little as eight to 10 days, IRS officials have noted.

Under typical RAL terms, when the IRS issues your refund, it can be directly deposited to the lender, minus interest and fees. Examples of fees include hidden administrative fees and fees assessed for mistakes made by the tax preparer in calculating their refund.

Interest rates charged for RALs can range from a minimal amount to 500 percent. According to the Arkansas Attorney General's Office, some 7 million American taxpayers received RALs and paid more than \$650 million in interest and fees in 2009. This has

prompted many state AG offices and consumer protection agencies to warn against RALs.

An RAL is immediate gratification in the most extreme form. Legislation is being considered in many states and even federally that would restrict or ban refund anticipation loans. That is how badly many government officials view this financial strategy.

For a speedy return, the 502nd Air Base Wing Legal Office recommends that you file your tax return electronically with instructions for a direct deposit of your refund into your bank account. Any refunds assessed to your account will be deposited more quickly than physically mailing the returns.

Joint Base San An-



tonio tax centers are currently open to help eligible individuals prepare their tax returns free of charge:

Lackland AFB

By appointment only
 Hours: Monday – Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Phone: 671-5847

Location: Building 7065, Room 321B (at corner of Selfridge and Carswell Avenues)

Randolph AFB

By appointment only
 Hours: Monday – Thursday, 8 a.m. to 4

p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Phone: 652-1040

Location: Building 202 (the old dry cleaners)

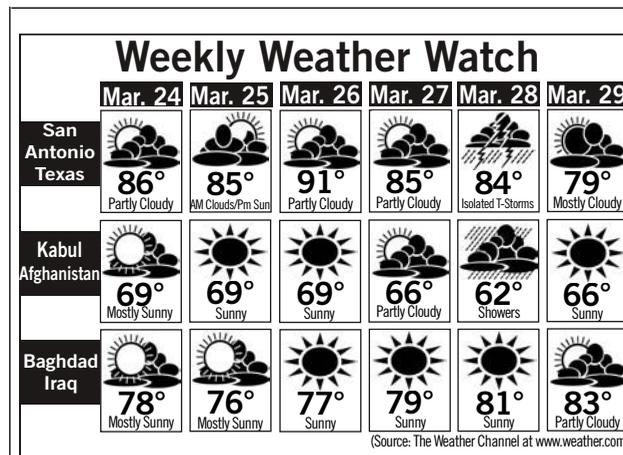
Fort Sam Houston (Main Location)

Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Phone: 295-1040

Location: 2272 Rattlesnake (off Wilson Road between Jimmy Brought Fitness Center and the main post chapel)

Brooke Army Medical Center Location

Hours: Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Phone: 916-1040



News Briefs

Budge Dental Clinic Ribbon-Cutting

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held March 25 at 9 a.m. at the Budge Dental Clinic, Building 1278.

106th Signal Brigade Change of Responsibility

First Sgt. Katrina Goodley will relinquish responsibility of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 106th Signal Bde. to 1st Sgt. Gilbert Acevedo during a ceremony March 25 at 10 a.m. at the FSH Quadrangle.

Women's History Month Celebration

Fort Sam Houston will hold a Women's History Month celebration March 25, 10-11 a.m. at the Middle School and Teen Center, 2515 Funston Road. The guest speaker is Texas State Senator Leticia Van de Putte. Call 221-9543 for information.

Military City USA 5K Run

The Annual Military City USA 5K Run is open to the public for any individual, five-person guidon teams and 28-man formations who are interested in participating. The opening ceremony begins at 6:45 a.m., runners line up at 7 a.m. Call 221-1234.

502nd Contracting Squadron Moving

The 502nd Contracting Squadron will be moving from Building 4197, Suite 202 into swing space portable Building 4011D sometime between March 21 and 30. Service to customers will continue during this time but may be somewhat delayed with respect to the move. Phone numbers and points of contact for the contracting office will remain the same.

Practical Nurse Course Graduation

The graduation ceremony for the Brooke Army Medical Center Practical Nurse Course, 68WMM6, Class 10-05, will be held March 30 at 9 a.m. in the Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. All are welcome to attend.

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Army Contracting Command director visits MICC

By Daniel P. Elkins
Mission and Installation Contracting
Command Public Affairs

Sharing the command's priorities and successes were among the topics discussed by the Army Contracting Command executive director during a visit to Fort Sam Houston March 16 and 17.

Jeffrey P. Parsons visited the Mission and Installation Contracting Command to discuss various issues with MICC leadership, visited the future home of the MICC at the former Long Barracks and educated members about the ACC mission during an afternoon town hall meeting.

Parsons recognized the hard work by all in successfully bringing three contracting headquarters to full operational capacity in less than two years.

The director also called for continued support in ensuring that new Soldiers and interns coming into the contracting

career field receive that same commitment to develop their contracting skills.

Among other discussions between Parsons and Brig. Gen. Stephen B. Leisenring, the MICC commanding general, were the progress of standing up intermediate level commands and an update on the award of follow-on contracts for the Arlington National Cemetery.

Parsons also had the opportunity to view ongoing renovations of the historic Long Barracks during a tour. Members of the MICC are projected to move into the Long Barracks in early 2012 following the completion of renovations.

The MICC is responsible for planning, integrating, awarding and administering contracts in support of Army commands, direct reporting units, U.S. Army North and other organizations to provide the best value for the mission, Soldiers and their families.



Jeffrey P. Parsons (right) and Brig. Gen. Stephen B. Leisenring view ongoing renovations at the Long Barracks March 16. The Long Barracks will be the future home of the Mission and Installation Contracting Command. Parsons is the executive director of the Army Contracting Command and Leisenring is the commanding general of the MICC.

Photo by
Daniel P. Elkins

San Antonio planting 9,000 trees, invites JB SA to event April 1

In an initiative designed to improve San Antonio's tree canopy, the city of San Antonio has embarked on a \$1.4 million tree planting initiative, funded from the Tree Mitigation Program, that will result in 9,000 trees being planted in city parks by May 2011.

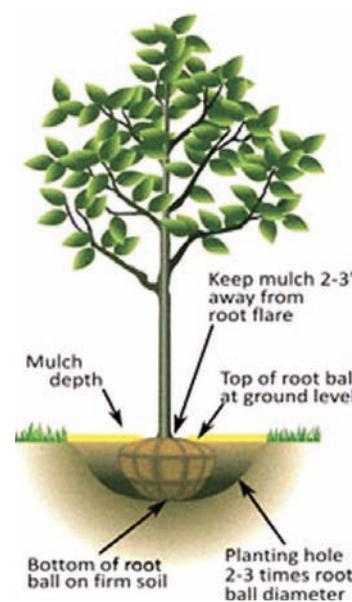
As part of Earth Day/Month activities, Joint Base San Antonio participants are encouraged to attend the City 9,000 Tree Initiative Planting Event in San Pedro Park from 8 to 11 a.m. on April 1.

The campaign features the planting of trees in more than 80 city parks. Some parks will receive as many as 300 or more new trees. Their locations have been strategically planned in all 10 City Council Districts for maximum benefit.

According to the San Antonio Parks and Recreation

website (http://www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec/spotlight_tree.aspx), as part of the campaign to improve the city's tree canopy, the city is partnering with City Public Service Energy, San Antonio Water System, and the Texas Forest Service to implement a Tree Rebate for Energy Savings Program for both commercial and residential customers.

Through this program, which will kick off this fall, citizens will be able to purchase up to three trees and receive



a rebate from CPS of \$50 per tree. This program is expected to result in the planting of an additional 7,632 trees.

San Antonio officials are also encouraging citizens and businesses to join in the initiative, which has the long term goal of increasing the tree canopy from 38 percent

to 40 percent. To reach that goal, San Antonio must plant 450,000 trees.

The city's website also offers

the following tips on how to properly plant a tree:

- Select the right tree for the right location.
- Keep large species at least 20 feet away from structure and overhead utility lines.
- Call 811 for free public utility locates, also know private buried utilities on your property.
- Dig a hole twice as wide as the root ball but not deeper.
- Cut or remove girdling roots; plant with root flare visible.
- Backfill halfway with original soil and water in thoroughly.
- Backfill the rest of the original soil and water in thoroughly.
- Mulch with wood chips, 2-3 foot radius, 2 inches deep; but keep 2-3 inches away from trunk.

(Source: <http://www.sanantonio.gov>)

News Briefs

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Call 295-4120 or 295-4050 for information.

56th Signal Brigade Uncasing Ceremony

An uncasing ceremony for the 56th Signal Brigade will be held April 1 at 10 a.m. at the FSH flagpole.

418th MEDLOG Co. Change of Command

A change of command ceremony for the 418th Medical Logistics Company will be held April 1 at 1 p.m. at the FSH flagpole.

LMH Closure

Lincoln Military Housing offices will be closed April 8 in order for the staff to attend their corporate awards presentation.

Fiesta & Fireworks

Fort Sam Houston's largest event, Fiesta and Fireworks, will be 1-9 p.m. at MacArthur Parade Field. This event is officially recognized by the Fiesta San Antonio Commission as part of the city-wide celebration, and is open to the public. Enjoy live entertainment, a wide variety of food and beverages, elaborate military ceremonies and fireworks finale. Visit <http://www.FortSamHoustonMWR.com> for detailed information.

Tax Centers Taking Appointments

The Fort Sam Houston Military Tax Assistance Center and the satellite tax center at Brooke Army Medical Center are open. Active duty service members, their family members and military retirees are eligible for free tax preparation services. The FSH main location at 2272 Rattlesnake Rd. is open Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. by appointment only, call 295-1040. The BAMC location is open Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., by appointment only, call 916-1040.

Clinical trials seek to improve warriors' burn care

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

New hope is on the horizon for wounded warriors suffering debilitating burns as the Armed Forces Institute of Regenerative Medicine at Fort Detrick, Md., and its partners at leading medical research centers launch three promising clinical trials.

Burns are among the most painful and debilitating battlefield wounds and often turn deadly if infection sets in.

In an effort to speed up the development of revolutionary new treatments for burns and other common battlefield injuries, the Defense Department launched AFIRM in 2008.

Just three years into the program, AFIRM is seeing big signs of success as it helps advance technologies that use laboratory-grown tissues and biosynthetically developed compounds to treat injuries and illnesses.

The ultimate aim of regenerative medicine is to enable patients' bodies to re-grow bones, skin and tissues – even whole organs and limbs.

Ten clinical trials already are under way or about to start in five areas specific to wounded warrior care. Three focus on burn repair.

The idea, explained AFIRM Director Terry Irgens, is to push the envelope in exploring technologies that, while promising, are simply too expensive for the private sector to pursue alone.

With funding from the Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, as well as the Navy, Air Force, National Institutes of Health, Department of Veterans Affairs and other public and private entities, AFIRM is helping advance technologies over the gap referred to as the "valley of death."

"It's where the existing technology ends, and there is a gap and nobody has the funding to get it to the next step," Irgens said.

Two research consortia, made up of some of the best and brightest minds from 31 universities, are partnering with the U.S. Army Institute for Surgical Research at Fort Sam Houston to help bridge that gap.

The goal is to get an industry partner to step in and pick up where they leave off, Irgens said. "Once you get some good, promising data, that's when the commercial companies will come forward," he said.

One of the new clinical trials, now entering its second phase, involves spraying a patient's own healthy cells onto the burned area.

Seven patients already are enrolled in the trial, with a quota of 106 to participate based on the Federal Drug Administration protocol, Irgens said.

As many as a dozen hospitals will be involved in the trial, with the Army Institute for Surgical Research expected to join it this summer.

Dr. Smita Bhonsale, AFIRM's deputy director for science and technology, explained how the spray treatment works. The patient is rolled into the operating room, where doctors harvest a postage-stamp-size piece of skin from an unburned part of the body.

The biopsy is broken apart into single cells, which are then suspended in a gel-like solution so they can multiply and create new skin tissue. Within a matter of hours, the cells are sprayed onto the patient's burns, covering an area up to 80 times the size of the original biopsy.

The procedure requires



U.S. Army photo

Occupational therapist Hector Romero works with Staff Sgt. Jonathan Kearns following Kearns' skin-graft surgery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.

no skin grafts and, because the cells are grown from the patients' own tissue, there's no risk of rejection.

Another clinical trial, also entering its second phase, will use the patient's own healthy skin cells and multiply them in a flask under laboratory conditions. But rather than spraying the new cells onto the patient, doctors will apply the new cells as sheets of skin.

Up to 14 patients are expected to participate in that clinical trial, to be conducted at the Army Institute for Surgical Research.

Unlike the spray technology that's effective only on more superficial burns, this process can be used to treat patients with more severe, third-degree burns, Bhonsale explained. It eliminates the need for extensive and repeated skin grafting, and because it uses the patient's own skin cells, the body won't reject the new cells.

While promising, the technology isn't without its drawbacks.

The new skin takes up to six weeks to grow, requiring other temporary dressing to prevent infection and protein loss.

A third clinical trial, now entering its second phase, will use a biosynthetic skin substitute to treat deep, third-degree burns. Thirty patients are expected to participate at four proposed sites, including the Army Institute for Surgical Research.

The advantage of biosynthetic skin is that it can be developed in a laboratory setting and put into storage in a refrigerator until it's needed, explained Army Lt. Col. Brian Moore, AFIRM's deputy director.

"This is something we are very interested in because we can grow a lot of it and then put it on the shelf," he said.

"Then when someone gets burned, we can take that off the shelf and apply it."

Because burn patients could receive this treatment immediately, they have less risk of infection and protein loss. And, unlike skin from cadavers, which typically is used as a temporary wound covering for burn patients, the biosynthetic skin contains substances that help the body better accept future skin grafts, Moore explained.

But there's a down side to this treatment, too. Biosynthetic skin is a temporary fix, and at least for now, and must be removed later and replaced with living cells. Also, the new cells have no pigmentation or sweat glands, but Bhonsale said scientists already are at work on the next-generation technology to address the shortcoming.

Although all of the clinical trials are being conducted in-

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BAMC from P1

and wellness by delivering preventive screenings and services, taking care of new health concerns as they arise and managing chronic health problems.

“I am pleased to be here as we celebrate the opening of a facility that will bring patient-centered medical care to the Schertz area, closer to where many of our Soldiers and their families reside,” said Brig. Gen. Joseph Carvalho, commander of Brooke Army Medical Center and the Southern Regional Medical Command.

The 10,000-square-foot, single-story facility has more than 35 staff members, including 18 exam rooms, one patient treatment room, seven offices for clinical and administrative personnel and a conference room.

Some of the available services include chronic disease management, preventive health care services, urgent care, laboratory, pharmacy

and a licensed behavioral health professional to provide marriage, family and individual counseling.

Each family practice team assigned to the Schertz Medical Home will have a nurse case manager to follow patients with chronic illnesses and a triage nurse who will facilitate and enhance communication with patients through e-mails and messages from appointing agents.

This team will also have a care coordinator, a licensed practical nurse who will track referral and patient care received outside of the Schertz Medical Home.

Schertz Medical Home is located in the Horizon Center near the intersection of Interstate 35 South and FM 3009.

The address is 6051 FM 3009, Schertz, TX 78154, the hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For more information, call 808-2729 or 2726.

SENATE STAFFERS VISIT LACKLAND, FORT SAM HOUSTON



Photo by Robbin Cresswell

(From left) Brian George from the 802nd Civil Engineer Squadron briefs Jay Maroney and Lucian Niemeyer, staff members from the Senate Committee on Armed Services, during a tour of the 331st Training Squadron facilities March 21. Maroney and Niemeyer toured Joint Base San Antonio construction projects at Lackland Air Force Base and Fort Sam Houston.

COMBAT MEDICS GRADUATE**Photo by Esther Garcia**

Former Army Sgt. Noah Galloway (left) and 232nd Medical Battalion leadership congratulate and present diplomas to 418 68-Whiskey combat medic graduates in front of families and friends at the Lila Cockrell Auditorium March 18. Galloway, keynote speaker for the ceremony, lost an arm and leg in Iraq. He credits combat medics for saving his life before he was evacuated.

Lt. Col. Peter Leehning (left), commander, 232nd Medical Battalion presents Spc. Andrew Lester with the Col. Brian D. Allgood distinguished graduate award during A Company, 232nd Medical Battalion graduation ceremony March 18 held at Lila Cockrell Theatre.

Photo by Esther Garcia**ECHO COMPANY WELCOMES NEW COMMANDER****Photo by Esther Garcia**

Capt. Dustin Mullins prepares to relinquish command of E Co., 232nd Medical Battalion at a change of command ceremony Feb. 7. Incoming commander Capt. Joshua Thompson (center) was recently an Officer Basic Course instructor.

CHARLIE COMPANY CHANGE OF COMMAND**Photo by Esther Garcia**

Outgoing commander Capt. Jonathan Hicks relinquishes command of Echo Company, 232nd Medical Battalion, to battalion commander Lt. Col. Peter Leehning, as incoming commander 1st Lt. Adrian Spears looks on during the ceremony at the Charlie Company Covered Training Area March 7.

DELTA COMPANY, 232ND MED. BN. CHANGE OF COMMAND**Courtesy Photo**

Incoming commander Capt. Jonathan Haines accepts the guidon of Delta Company, 232nd Medical Battalion, from battalion commander Lt. Col. Pete Leehning as outgoing commander Capt. Adrian Danczyk looks on during the change of command ceremony at the Delta Company Covered Training Area Feb 24.

PITCHING IN AT THE SAN ANTONIO FOOD BANK

Charlie Company, 232nd Medical Battalion, had 19 Soldiers currently attending the combat medic training course volunteer more than 9 hours of their off-duty time March 12 to support the San Antonio Food Bank. They packed more than 939 boxes with a variety of food. Each box will feed a family for one week. The group also helped the organization plant 640 tomato plants, which will potentially produce more than 1,600 tomatoes, enough to feed a few thousand people.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Javier Zuniga**CHARLIE COMPANY HELPS HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Thirty Soldiers from Charlie Company, 232nd Medical Battalion attending the combat medic training course volunteered more than 9 hours of their personal time March 5 supporting a Habitat For Humanity project. The group helped to put the finishing touches on six houses by painting, building a porch and installing kitchen cabinets.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Javier Zuniga

Building surveys start March 28 across Fort Sam Houston, Camp Bullis

In accordance with the implementation of Joint Base San Antonio, the Air Education and Training Command has retained the professional services of a consultant to conduct a two-phase program to gather data on selected buildings across Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis.

The objective of this study is to collect the necessary facility and occupant data enabling the transition to U.S. Air Force Civil Engineering Management systems.

Teams from Tetra Tech – a provider of consulting, engineering, and technical services worldwide based in Pasadena,

Calif. – will need access to entire facilities, while minimizing disruption to the daily operations of the occupants.

Restricted areas within facilities will be coordinated through 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron prior to Tetra Tech's arrival.

During the second phase, starting March 28, facility managers will be interviewed and interior building layout and exterior surveys will be done.

During this process, team members will review and update facility floor plan drawings, account for the number of personnel working in each area of the facility

and verify the organizations occupying the areas. In addition, photographs will be taken of facilities.

Team members will be required to carry a memorandum with them at all times. The Tetra Tech team and JBSA asset management personnel will contact facility managers to schedule dates and times to survey facilities.

Building managers and occupants may be asked to answer a few facility-related questions from the teams. There may also be brief interruptions as room areas are measured. This study is essential to support the transition to

Air Force management of JBSA.

"We ask for your full cooperation in ensuring that these consultants are provided the best opportunity possible to accomplish their assessments in a timely manner," said Col. Mary Garr, 502nd Mission Support Group commander, in a letter that went out to commanders, mission support partners and tenants.

For more information, call Judi Tepperman at the 502d Air Base Wing at 808-7531 or Missy Rodriguez at 221-5325 and Judy Barta at 295-4922 at the 502nd CES.

(Source: 502nd CES)

Military Historical Trivia

- Q. What is the inscription on the bronze plaque inside the Sally Port in the Quadrangle?
- Lincoln's Gettysburg Address
 - Preamble to the U.S. Constitution
 - The 11 General Orders for Sentinels
 - National Historical Landmark



A. The answer is "A." The Fort Sam Houston Quadrangle, built by George Henry Griebel, is the oldest structure at Fort Sam Houston. It was originally a supply depot, and during that time, it also housed Geronimo and those Apaches captured with him while the Federal government decided whether they were prisoners of war or common criminals. The Quadrangle is now an office complex housing the command-ing general and staff of U.S. Army North.

Servicemember's Civil Relief Act protects active duty military, deployed troops

By Capt Lindsay Jenschke
502nd ABW Legal Office

Did you know the Servicemember's Civil Relief Act of 2003 provides a wide range of protections for individuals entering the military, members called to active duty or deployed service members?

It's a federal law that gives all military members some important rights as they enter active duty. It covers such issues as rental agreements, security deposits, prepaid rent, eviction, installment contracts, credit card interest rates, mortgage interest rates, mortgage foreclosure, civil judicial proceedings and income tax payments.

The SCRA, which replaced the Soldiers

and Sailors Civil Relief Act of 1940, is intended to postpone or suspend certain civil obligations to enable the military member to devote full attention to duty and relieve stress on their family members during deployment.

It provides for the temporary suspension of judicial and administrative proceedings and transactions that may adversely affect the civil rights of service members during their military service.

It also provides many important protections to military members while on active duty. For example, the SCRA allows service members who receive permanent change of station orders or who are deployed for 90 days or more

the right to terminate a housing lease.

What people may not know is that there have been recent updates to the SCRA that expand upon these protections.

Before the SCRA was updated, service members and their families were protected from eviction from housing while on active duty due to nonpayment of rents \$1,200 per month or less.

Under the new law, which incorporates today's higher cost of living, leases up to \$2,932.31 are covered, with annual adjustments made to account for inflation.

The new changes to the SCRA also allow service members to terminate cell phone contracts under certain conditions.

Basically, anytime a

military member receives orders to go to a location where they cannot have cell phone service for more than 90 days, they have the right to terminate the contract.

If they are on a family plan and move or deploy, the service can be terminated by whoever is paying for the plan.

Additionally, the SCRA makes it clear that early termination fees are prohibited when terminating a residential lease because the service member has received orders to move or to deploy.

When military members receive PCS orders or deploy to a location for more than 90 days, they have the right to terminate their lease. In order to terminate

the lease, they must give written notice to the landlord or housing company.

Oral notice is not sufficient.

If the service member is on a month-to-month lease, the termination becomes effective 30 days after the first date on which the next rental payment is due, subsequent to the date when the notice of termination is given.

For example, if they pay rent on the first of the month, and give notice on April 1, then the next rental payment is due and payable on May 1. May would then be the effective date of termination and no rent would be due. Any security deposit paid must then be returned to the service member upon termination of the lease.

There are also pro-

visions in the SCRA protecting leases of motor vehicles. Military members should seek the advice of a legal assistance attorney for more information about the SCRA and how it affects them.

JPMorgan Chase recently announced new programs for servicemembers that expand upon SCRA protections.

Beginning April 1, the following programs are effective:

Eligible borrowers' effective mortgage interest rate will be lowered to 4 percent while the member is on active duty and for a year thereafter, subject to any required approvals. Under this program, Chase will put in place a rebate or similar program for

See SCRA, P12

Wilson Road closure

There will be a temporary road closure at the intersection of Wilson Road and Reynolds Road March 26 through 27. This intersection will be closed from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily and re-opened from 5:30 p.m. to 7 a.m. This closure is required to install underground utilities. Motorists are urged to use caution during the evening and overnight hours, as steel plates will cover the opening in the pavement.

Officials generally pleased with base closure process

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

Defense Department officials are generally pleased with the progress of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure process as it moves toward its final months, an official involved in the effort said March 16.

The 2005 BRAC law has over 200 recommendations affecting over 800 locations and some 125,000 people. It is one of the largest realignments in the department's history, and its purpose was different from those that went before, said Peter Potochney, director of the Pentagon's basing directorate.

Unlike earlier closures and realignments, the push in the 2005 process was for the department footprint to make more sense, Potochney said.

"It was to use BRAC

as a change agent," he explained. "The 2005 [process] was more about restructuring than it was about trimming excess capacity."

The 2005 law called for the department to look 20 years into the future and configure installations and capabilities to support that force.

"The biggest difference in this BRAC was we set up these joint groups that looked across service lines and were empowered to make recommendations," he said. These recommendations received the same weight and attention that service recommendations received.

The questions became whether functions aligned correctly and how organizations should be based to encourage open communication, efficiencies and synergy.

"It made for a much more complicated background," Potochney said during a recent interview.

It was one thing, for example, to manage a program getting rid of excess capabilities or infrastructure, but something quite different to mix and match organizations from different services with the assorted cultures, requirements and methods of doing business.

The support functions in the military particularly lend themselves to the process. Defense research labs, military medical care, logistics and industrial facilities were among those consolidated.

"A lab that looks at guns, for instance," Potochney said. "Are they similar across the services or not? Would you need separate service labs, or not?"

All this has to be accomplished without violating the Title 10 authority the services maintain to "man, train and equip" the forces.

The fact that the nation is at war complicated implementation of the BRAC, if not the BRAC selection, Potochney said.

"We were very careful to ensure we didn't violate any warfighting equities," he said.

The pace of these realignments is different also. The earlier realignments and closures "peaked out somewhere around year three," Potochney said. "This round peaked closer to the sixth year, and that pushes us up against the deadline," which is Sept. 15.

Functions are the operative word in the base realignment process, he said.

"If an old organization had 10 people doing something – say travel – and at the new site there is consolidation and there may be some efficiencies there

and you made need only eight people, so be it," he said. "It's the function being transferred, not just the people."

Potochney said he thinks the process will meet its deadline.

"A lot of [the realignments] are already done, a lot of them are finishing now, and then there is a handful -- five or six -- that are bumping up against the deadline," he said.

A good example of the latter is the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center at Bethesda, Md.

"We think there is enough time to do it," he said. "But if a tornado came through tomorrow and blew the building down, would we move medical care just because the BRAC recommendation says it? I don't think we would jeopardize our medical care. I don't have a crystal ball, but I am reasonably sure we will make it. But we're watching it because it is extremely complex."

Joint basing is another outgrowth of the

process. The Defense Department now has 12 joint bases that truly are mergers, with all the facilities and infrastructure personnel becoming parts of the new organization, Potochney said.

The process does not say how the missions will be accomplished, only that they will be, he noted, and those involved must meld procedures from different services to make the process work. Officials expect these mergers will save money, he added, and are giving the organizations time to operate together and then will look for efficiencies.

BRAC is extraordinarily hard because it directly affects peoples' lives, Potochney said. But looking at it broadly, "this BRAC will set us up to be ready for the 21st century," he said.

"It sounds like a cliché, but this is really going to position us for years and years to come," he added. "Painful? Yes. But also necessary."

Schofield Road closing March 28 through April 8

There will be a temporary road closure along Schofield Road between Stanley Road and Scott Road and between Scott Road and South entrance to the gas station March 28 to April 8. Road sections will be closed and traffic routed around various roads and intersections. This road closure is required to complete pavement repairs along Schofield Road on Phase II of the project. For more information, call the 502nd Civil Engineer Squadron at 221-5611/3110.

Officials extend deadline for 'Stop Loss' pay

The deadline for eligible service members, veterans and their beneficiaries to apply for special retroactive pay as compensation for involuntary extensions of their military

service contracts has been extended to April 8, Defense Department officials announced March 21.

The deadline extension is included in the continuing resolution

President Barack Obama signed March 18 that provided funding for government operations through April 8.

The Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay was established to com-

pensate for the hardships military members encountered when their service was involuntarily extended under Stop Loss authority between

See STOP, P15

SCRA from P8

members who are protected under the SCRA.

For military members who have served on active duty as far back as Sept. 11, 2001, and who are delinquent or having trouble making their mortgage payments, Chase has created a program that will go beyond the government's Home Affordable Modification Program requirements.

Eligibility for this program is subject to required regulator and investor approvals.

Additionally, Chase has issued a statement that they will not foreclose on any currently deployed active military personnel.

If a service member believes they were mistakenly foreclosed upon because they were covered by the SCRA at

the time of foreclosure, Chase says they will forgive all remaining mortgage debt.

Military personnel who believe they were improperly foreclosed upon by Chase, should contact a legal assistance attorney. Military borrowers are also advised to call the 24-hour Chase mortgage hotline at 877-469-0110 with any questions.

The Fort Sam Houston Legal Office is here to help answer any questions service members may have about the issues discussed in this article.

Appointments can be scheduled by calling the 502 MSG/JA front desk at 808-0169.

Information is also available at the Air Force Legal Assistance website at <https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil>.

BURN from P4

dependently, Irgens said the synthetic skin, if it achieves FDA approval, could someday allow burn patients to begin healing until their own harvested cells are able to take over.

As the clinical trials go on, AFIRM is exploring a broad range of other products and technologies to better treat burn patients. One is a specially designed "skin gun" that sprays a solution of cells and water onto burn areas without injuring the cells.

Another new device, called the BioPrinter, looks like a typical ink-jet computer printer. But instead of different-colored inks, its cartridges are filled with skin cells grown from the patient's own healthy cells. The printer sprays them onto

"We are not developing anything military-unique. We are developing technology that could support mankind, both civilian and military."

*Army Lt. Col. Brian Moore,
Armed Forces Institute of Regenerative Medicine
deputy director*

the wound to promote a healthy recovery.

AFIRM also is working to develop better bandages to promote burn healing and burn treatments using molecular iodine, the spice curcumin found in Indian curries, and stem cells from amniotic fluid, placenta, bone marrow and fat.

Irgens emphasized that technologies being advanced by AFIRM all have to go through a long FDA approval process and won't be delivered to the marketplace for at least three to five years.

"FDA is very particular, and we want to make sure everything is safe," he said. "That's the first concern we all have. We do not want to harm any patients. We want to make them better."

But once the approvals come and the technologies advance to the

mainstream, Irgens said he believes the work started under the AFIRM program will have a far-reaching impact.

"We feel this is very critical therapy. This is going to change the landscape, once this gets approved," he said. "It undoubtedly is going to move the level of care up a notch."

That will have a huge impact on wounded warriors suffering from burns, Moore said.

"The big thrust behind this is trying to restore people back to normalcy," he said. "You will never completely restore that functionality they had prior to the injury. But at least you will allow them to have some kind of normalcy and functioning in their day-to-day activities."

The benefit will extend far beyond the military, Irgens said. "We are not developing anything military-unique," he said. "We are developing technology that could support mankind, both civilian and military."

ARNORTH from P1

with Soldiers from the 2nd Squadron, 152nd Cavalry Regiment, 76th Infantry Brigade (Separate), Indiana National Guard, were performing the wellness checks as a part of Vibrant Response 11.1, a U.S. Northern Command field training exercise conducted by U.S. Army North from Fort Sam Houston.

But as in real life, like during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, some of the survivors either portrayed being angry at the government or acted like they unwilling to leave their homes.

The scenario provided a valuable lesson for the Soldiers on challenges they could face if called upon to help distressed citizens in their time of need during such as event.

The MPs overcame these challenges as they soldiered on, providing immediate care through the use of the ambulance team that accompanied their convoy. They were also tasked with the more somber mission of ensuring the deceased were collected for proper burial.

“This training allows

us to better assist local agencies, and other state and federal partners,” said 2nd Lt. Benjamin Grimes, platoon leader, 591st MP Co. “It allows our Soldiers to see in a realistic sense what they’d face in a real-world mission.”

The mission was new for the Guardsmen, who performed security for the military policemen as the MPs conducted the wellness checks.

“This is the first time we’ve done this kind of training,” said Spc. Lucas Pate, an infantryman in the unit from Avon, Ind. “We’re a long-range surveillance unit, so this is definitely different. Usually, we’re out in the woods.”

After clearing the homes, the Soldiers moved the ambulatory injured to a triage point set up in a nearby soccer field.

There was a snag though. The medics weren’t there; they’d been re-tasked by higher headquarters.

The crowd of civilians — hungry, thirsty, cold and wanting to leave the muddy soccer grounds — verged on becoming a mob, and the Guardsmen performing security were called upon to help



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson

Soldiers from the 591st Military Police Company, from Fort Bliss, Texas, litter-carry a victim mannequin to an awaiting ambulance during door-to-door checks for victims of simulated 10-kiloton nuclear detonation in Louisville, Ky., during Vibrant Response 11.1

keep the calm and reassure the local citizenry.

“It’s getting difficult,” said Spc. Ben Montgomery, infantryman, 2nd Sqdn., 152nd Cav. Regt. “They get in your face, and you just stand there and don’t talk to them or tell them to move on.”

Exercises such as this are invaluable, since they provide the Soldiers an opportunity to directly interface with

those they are supporting during their time of need.

“The interface between Soldiers and civilians during a time of crisis is very important aspect of defense support to civil authorities,” said Ronnie Guajardo, who serves as an observer/controller/trainer with Army North’s Civil Support Training Activity. “It gives Soldiers a

chance to see what they may come up against when and if this type of event occurs.”

The MPs treated those they could with what they could and arranged for food and water through their federal partners.

The Soldiers said they learned a valuable lesson in that when coordinating lifesaving and life-sustaining operations

on a massive scale, there are times that assets that may be needed are unavailable, which necessitates finding another way to accomplish the mission.

“We’re rehearsing a situation with a miscommunication so we can deter it from happening again – or be prepared to respond when it does,” said Montgomery, a native of Bersailles, Ind.

Final salute for veteran of WWII, Korea, Vietnam



Fort Sam Houston Caisson Honor Guard prepare to place the casket of Maj. Gen. Homer Smith on the back of the Caisson for the procession to the internment services. The procession included the U.S. Army Medical Command Band, members of the 14th Military Intelligence Battalion, 470th MI Brigade and family members.

With the help of her father, John O'Hara, Brigette Olivia O'Hara, places a rose on her grandfather's casket, Army Maj. General Homer Smith, following the internment services at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery March 17. During the Vietnam war, Smith and his embassy staff evacuated 7,500 South Vietnamese from Saigon. Linh Duy Vo, who came from California to pay his final respects was one of those survivors. "He made it happen for me. He gave me life and freedom," Vo said.



Photos by Esther Garcia

Maj. Gen. Simeon Trombitas, commanding general, United States Army South, presents the U.S. flag to Jette Buhl-Smith during funeral services March 17 at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery for her husband Army Maj. Gen. Homer Smith. Smith, a Texas native who was born in Breckenridge in 1922, was 89 at the time of his death. He served in the U.S. Army for more than 33 years in a career that included service during World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

DOD releases sexual assault report

By Karen Parrish
American Forces Press Service

Defense Department officials released the Pentagon's annual report on sexual assault in the military March 17.

The report – for fiscal 2010 – also incorporates results from the quadrennial “2010 Workplace and Gender Relations Survey of Active Duty Members,” an anonymous and voluntary survey conducted by the Defense Manpower Data Center, which measures gender issues

“One sexual assault is one too many.”

among members of the armed forces.

Noting that “one sexual assault is one too many” in a news release announcing the report's release, Clifford L. Stanley, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said sexual assault has absolutely no place in today's armed forces.

“We are firmly committed to doing our best to ensure that those who

have stepped forward to protect our country are themselves protected within the ranks,” Stanley stated in the release.

Defense officials said that over the last two years, the department has made significant efforts to prevent and respond to sexual assault, but work remains to improve and integrate those efforts across the department and the military services.

Officials are assessing the structure of the Defense Department's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office, the release said, working to develop a “more comprehensive approach to prevent and handle sexual assaults” across the services.

The review addresses privileged communications between victims and their advocates, expedited unit transfers for victims, access to legal counsel for victims, and experts to assist and prosecute, officials said.

STOP from P11

Sept. 11, 2001, and Sept. 30, 2009.

Eligible members or their beneficiaries may submit a claim to their respective military services to receive the benefit of \$500 for each full or partial month served in a Stop Loss status.

When the special pay program began on Oct. 21, 2009, the services estimated 145,000 service members, veterans and beneficiaries were eligible for this benefit. Because the majority of those eligible had separated from the military, the services have

engaged in extensive and persistent outreach efforts to reach them and remind them to apply, officials said.

Outreach efforts -- such as using direct mail, social networks and media outlets and engaging military and veteran service organizations -- will continue through April 8, officials added.

To apply for Stop Loss pay or for more information, including submission requirements and service-specific links, go to <http://www.defense.gov/stoploss>.

(Source: American Forces Press Service)

A MFT from the 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade rapidly exits a Chinook helicopter to assume strategic positions for a raid within the mock village of Sharana, Afghanistan.

Photo by Spc. Natalie Sampson



Photo by Spc. Natalie Sampson

MFT members carry their "wounded" to safer grounds during a rapid exchange of fire.



Photo by Gregory Rippes

A 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade MFT apprehends two village "merchants" wanted for interrogation.



Photo by Gregory Rippes

Maj. Gen. Mary Legere (right), Intelligence and Security Command commander, and Col. Paul Norwood, 201st Battlefield Surveillance Brigade commander, observe exercise activities around the area of operation known as Sharana village.

470th MI Brigade exercise combines signals and human intelligence

By Capt. David Dadd
470th Military Intelligence Brigade
S3, Plans and Exercises

Conceived by the Intelligence and Security Command and the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade, a first-of-its-kind certification exercise for military intelligence multi-functional team training took place at Camp Bullis between Feb. 27 and March 11.

One of the goals for the training exercise was to provide a foundation for future training requirements as the MI community "rebalances" its collection assets into a more unified and integrated unit.

The training scope focused on the multi-functional team's two core intelligence disciplines, signals intelligence, known as SIGINT and human intelligence, also called HUMINT. It also incorporated the function of document and media exploitation.

With a vision of combining the intelligence community's principal intelligence collection disciplines, the exercise planners said MFTs should become much more effective on the tactical level for gathering accurate information to provide practical intelligence and target exploitation.

"The primary concept of the certification exercise was conceived between the Intelligence and Security Command and the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade to develop and support



Photo by Gregory Rippes

Capt. David Dadd, 470th Military Intelligence Brigade S3, Training and Exercises officer, points out Mata Khan, an area of tactical operations on the Camp Bullis training site map at the INSCOM Detention Training Facility March 3.



Photo by Gregory Rippes

An Unmanned Aerial Vehicle acts as a "spy in the sky" March 11 over the village of Sharana, one of three sites constructed on Camp Bullis Military Reservation to emulate Afghanistan's Paktika Province.



Photo by Gregory Rippes

A village leader tries to convince MFT members that he is unarmed during the Forces Command certification exercise at Camp Bullis March 11.

at the outset of the CERTEX.

In addition to mirroring the threat environment, the exercise was designed to be completely scenario-driven, allowing MFTs the flexibility to maneuver and rely upon the intelligence collected.

The flexibility allowed the teams to be only as successful as their collection efforts and integration of disciplines allowed them to be.

Team achievement was completely dependent on how well the MFT incorporated SIGINT, HUMINT and intelligence and target exploitation as one

holistic unit and how well the members as a team analyzed the information to provide actionable intelligence and target focus.

A success of the CERTEX was the establishment of a secure SIGINT environment. The setting surrounding the training site allowed teams to use their SIGINT element.

The exercise also fused the SIGINT environment into a HUMINT mission, a design never before practiced.

Traditionally, human and signals intelligence would train and operate in-

multi-functional team collective-level training," said Col. Jim Lee, 470th MI Brigade commander.

For the CERTEX, the 470th MIB's mission was to provide a tough, realistic training environment for the 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, a unit which anticipates deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"To increase the training value, the scenario and role players will emulate the threat, conditions and technical environment that we expect these Soldiers will encounter in their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan's Paktika Province," said Maj. Gen. Mary A. Legere, INSCOM commanding general.



Photo by Spc. Natalie Sampson

A group of Soldiers from the 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade Multi Functional Team provide security as others apprehend suspects during the Forces Command certification exercise conducted by the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade at Camp Bullis between Feb. 27 and March 11.



Photo by Gregory Rippes

A villager is searched for contraband by members of a multi-functional team.



Photo by Gregory Rippes

A Multi-Function Team leader (center) negotiates with a village malik (chief-tain) (right) with the help of an interpreter (far left) March 4, in Ghaibkhel, one of three sites constructed on Camp Bullis Military Reservation to imitate villages in Afghanistan's Paktika Province, a region known for IED trafficking, during a certification exercise. The 470th Military Intelligence Brigade ran the Forces Command CERTEX on behalf of the Intelligence and Security Command.

The training platform provided at Camp Bullis for MFT certification should supply a strong and significant foundation for future training requirements, Lee added, while ensuring military intelligence Soldiers remain trained, ready and capable of supporting joint and combined war fighters around the world.

provided U.S. Army Forces Command with a proof of concept for future MFT validation.

"The CERTEX is the first blueprint to provide MFT intelligence Soldiers a free-flowing, dynamic environment supported by flexible scenarios and databases that produce intelligence-driven operations," Lee said.

dependently prior to deployment. This new concept allowed teams to rely on, learn about, and integrate each discipline, providing better, more reliable, and real-time collection gathering.

When it was over, the exercise not only certified the participating MFTs as ready for their upcoming mission, but also



Announcements

Diabetes Study

Do you have Type 2 diabetes? Are you overweight? You may be a candidate for a research study entitled, "Sleeve gastrectomy versus medical management for remission of diabetes in mild to moderately obese patients." Candidates must be military medical beneficiaries (retired and family members of active duty and retired), 18-65 years old, diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes and on medication. Active duty personnel are unable to participate. Call 292-2210 for information.

Federal Recognition Award

The Alamo Federal Executive Board is accepting nominations for the 2011 Federal Recognition Award. Outstanding employees may be nominated in one of ten categories including administrative support, specialist, law enforcement, exceptional student, professional, customer service, deployed military member, supervisor, small teamwork and large teamwork. To apply, go to

<http://www.sanantoniofeb.org>. All nominations must be e-mailed to afpc.afeb.workflow@randolph.af.mil no later than April 1. Call 565-1860 for information.

Association for Global Logistics and Transportation

The San Antonio Chapter's Association for Global Logistics and Transportation, National Defense Transportation Association brings members together from military, government, and commercial sectors to share experience and expertise from all realms of logistics. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at Grady's BBQ, 6510 San Pedro Ave. All are welcome. Call 652-3305 or 830-422-1547.

SMA Leon L. Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association

The SMA Leon L. Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association meets the third Thursday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Harris Heights Community Center on Patch Road. All active duty Reserve, National Guard and retired sergeants major are invited and encouraged to attend. Call 221-3887 for information.

Cloverleaf Communicators

The Cloverleaf Communicators Club is open to military, family members and civilians who are interested in developing

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

Spouses' Club Scholarships

Spouses' Club of the Fort Sam Houston area is now accepting applications for 2011 Scholarships and Welfare distributions. Applications are available at <http://www.scfsh.com>. Application deadline is April 1. For scholarship info, call 241-0811 and for welfare info, call 789-3861.

Lost Property

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

Calendar of Events

March 25 AUSA Luncheon

The Alamo Chapter of the Association of the United States Army will host a luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at the Sam Houston Club. The speaker is Brig. Gen. Joseph Carvalho Jr., commanding general, Brooke Army Medical Center.

March 26 Camp Verde Walk

The Kerrville Trailblazers volksmarch club will host a 5k and 10k walk starting at the County Park (across from the Camp Verde General Store), 288 Camp Verde Rd. Walks start between 8 a.m. and noon, finish by 3 p.m. Call 830-890-5364 or visit <http://www.walktx.org/KerrvilleTrailblazers/>.

Plant Problem and Answer Clinic

Bring pictures or samples of any of your gardening problems to Locke Hill Feed and Lawn, 4927 Golden Quail from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and David Rodriguez, horticulture and master gardener coordinator will answer your questions. Admission is free.

March 30 Hiring Home Care Workers Seminar

The non-profit National Private Duty Association along with the Texas Chapter will host a free consumer education web conference, entitled Hiring Home Care Workers: Avoiding Tax and Legal Risks at 7 p.m. Topics include understanding home care provider hiring guidelines, tax and legal issues, identifying risks and independent contractor issues. Pre-registration is required, visit <http://www.privatedutyhomecare.org>.

REMINDER CALENDAR

- March 25** AUSA Alamo Chapter Luncheon, 11:30 a.m., Sam Houston Club
- March 26** Military City USA 5K Run, 7:30 a.m., MacArthur Field
- March 27** Tops In Blue, 6 p.m., Laurie Auditorium
- March 29** Newcomer's Extravaganza, 9:30-11 a.m., Sam Houston Club
- March 31** Consolidated Monthly Retirement Ceremony, 9 a.m., FSH Quadrangle
- April 2** Family Fun Day, 8 a.m.-noon, Youth Sports Complex adjacent to Building 1630
- April 2** Cowboys for Heroes, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., FSH Equestrian Center
- April 10** Fiesta & Fireworks, 1-9 p.m., MacArthur Parade Field

April 2 Community Sale

Esplanade Gardens Assisted Living, 10790 Toepperwein Rd. in Converse will hold a community sale 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Items can be donated for the sale or individuals or organizations can rent a sales space for \$30. Call 566-7600 to reserve a sales space, donate items or for information.

Canyon Lake Walk

The Selma Pathfinders volksmarch club will host a 5k and 10k walk starting at the Tasting Room at Fawn Crest Vineyards, 1370 Westside Circle, Canyon Lake. Walks start between 9 a.m.-noon and finish by 3 p.m. Call 496-1402 or e-mail mlctxmil@flash.net.

April 7 Military Appreciation at Fiesta Carnival

Anyone with a military I.D. card can get an unlimited-ride

wristband for \$10, a 50 percent discount, from 6-11 p.m. The Fiesta Carnival runs April 6-17 at the Alamodome's Parking Lot C. Visit <http://www.wadeshows.com> and click on the Fiesta link for information.

April 12-13 USAF Band of the West Concert

The U.S. Air Force Band of the West presents Heroes to Remember: A Salute to our Veterans, April 12-13 at 7 p.m. in Laurie Auditorium, Trinity University. Get free tickets a Fiesta San Antonio Commission, 2611 Broadway. Call 217-5191.

May 6 Golf Tournament

Members of the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade will host a golf tournament May 6 at the Palmer Course at La Cantera. The tournament will benefit the Army Emergency Relief Fund. Check-in time will be 11 a.m. with tee off at 1 p.m. The \$75 cash registration covers green fees, fully stocked golf cart and AER donation. Deadline for registration is April 1. Call 246-3010 or 221-7581.

FSHISD WEEKLY CAMPUS ACTIVITIES**MARCH 28-APRIL 2****Fort Sam Houston
Elementary School****March 28**

Begin fourth nine weeks

March 29

FSHISD School Board Meeting
in the Professional Development
Center, 11 a.m.

April 1

Spirit day

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

Spring Book Fair in Media
Center all week

March 28

Begin fourth nine weeks
Boys Golf Navarro Tournament
at Seguin Golf Course, 8:30 a.m.
UIL One Act Play in Moseley
gym, 7 p.m.

March 29

FSHISD School Board meeting
in the Professional Development
Center, 11 a.m.

UIL Journalism/Ready Writing
Competition at Stockdale High
School

Baseball vs. Luling at Cole, 4:30
p.m.

March 30

UIL Lincoln Douglas Debate
District competition at Cole High
School

March 31

Tennis Marion Invitational
Tournament at Stracke Park,
Seguin, 8 a.m.
UIL One Act Play district compe-
tition at Randolph High School
JV/V Boys and Girls Track at
Medina Valley High School half
day

April 1

Tennis Marion Invitational
Tournament at Stracke Park,
Seguin, 8 a.m.
UIL Literary Events District
competition at Stockdale High
School

April 2

Varsity Baseball vs. Stockdale at
Cole, 11:30 a.m.

FIESTA SPIRIT AT FSH ELEMENTARY

Photo by Kathy Salazar

Bill Drain, Rey Feo LXIII, and his royal court visited Fort Sam Houston Elementary School March 9, encouraging students to do their best and telling them that with the right education, they can succeed in life, as his motto is "Education Is The Key That Unlocks Your Dreams." While at the school, Rey Feo presented medals to outstanding students and staff members, answered questions and entertained the students by dancing with the royal court.

Force Support Squadron

Family & MWR

Announcements

American Red Cross Life Guard Certification Class

The class will be held April 9, 10, 16 and 17 at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center's Indoor Pool. Registration is \$160 and includes all books required. Participants will receive first aid instruction, cardiopulmonary resuscitation mask and CPR automated external defibrillators for infant, child and adult. To register, call 221-1234.

Canyon Lake Annual Pass

An annual pass to the Joint Base San Antonio Recreation Park at Canyon Lake is \$50. This pass gets you into both the east and west sides of the park. Otherwise, the daily entry fee for the park is \$5 per visit, per vehicle. Annual passes include a vehicle and boat/trailer pass and are valid for one year from date of issue. Annual pass holders are not charged the boat launch fee. Call 1-800-280-3466.

"Boogie Back To Texas" at Harlequin Dinner Theatre

Performances will be held Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, through April 23. Dinner is served at 6:15 p.m. with an 8 p.m. curtain. Tickets are \$33/civilians, \$30/military, \$26/students and \$16.50/children 12 and under. Call 222-9694 for reservations.

Outdoor Movie Nights

Mark your calendars — April 15, "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" at the flagpole; April 16 "Toy Story 3" at Dodd Field; April 29, "TRON: Legacy" at the flagpole and April 30, "Tangled" at Dodd Field. All movies begin at dusk, around 8 p.m. Bring chairs or blankets and enjoy free popcorn, snow cones and cotton candy. Call 221-2418/2704.

Free Fitness Training

The Brigade Gym is offering free body fat calculations, Body Mass Index, measurements and taping, and personal and group fitness training. Services will include high intensity movement training, body sculpturing, muscular strengthening and endurance training. Call 221-4893 for more information or an appointment.

Operation Baby Shower

Sign up now for the 3rd Annual Operation Baby Shower May 13, 2-6 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center. This event is for expecting parents and those with babies under 1 year old. Call 221-0349, 221-2418 or visit <http://operationbabyshower2011.wufoo.com/forms/3rd-annual-operation-baby-shower-registration/>.

Language Classes

English as a Second Language classes are held Monday and Wednesday 5-7:30 p.m. and Spanish classes are held Tuesday and Thursday 5-7:30 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, for military I.D. cardholders. To register, call 221-1372/2705.

Calendar of Events

March 24

Car Seat Clinic

The clinic is 1-3 p.m. at the Auto Skills Center. Registration is limited and the child must be present for weight and height measurement. Call 221-0349/0326.

March 25

Breastfeeding Support Group

The group meets 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. Call 221-0349.

Battlemind Pre-Training for Families

The training is 2:30-4:30 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. To register, call 221-1829/0946.

March 26

3D Archery Shoot

The shoot is March 26-27 from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Camp Bullis. The cost is \$15/competitive or \$10/non-competitive. Call 295-7577.

Randolph Idol Season 3

The deadline to register is March 26. Audition Night is March 31 in the Parr O'Club International Ballroom; competition nights are on April 14, 21 and 28 in the Parr O'Club Sky Lounge and the finale is May 6 in the Kendrick E'Club Ballroom. Anyone with access to Randolph Air Force Base can register to showcase their singing talent and compete for \$1,000/first place, \$500/second place and \$250/third place. Shows begin at 6 p.m.

with food and drinks available for purchase throughout the evening. Call 652-6508.

March 28

Unit Trauma Training

The training is 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. To register, call 221-1829/0946.

Teens and Money

The class is 2-4 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. To register, call 221-2380.

March 29

Family Readiness Group Leadership Academy

The class is March 29-30 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. To register, call 221-1829/0946.

Newcomers' Extravaganza

The extravaganza is 9:30-11 a.m. at the Sam Houston Club. This event is mandatory for all permanent party in-processing Soldiers, lieutenant colonel and below, within 60 days of their arrival to Fort Sam Houston. Come learn about Fort Sam Houston and the San Antonio area as well as meet representatives from many different organizations, programs and businesses. Call 221-2705/2418.

March 30

Mandatory Initial First Term Financial Readiness

The class is noon-2 p.m. at the Education Center, Building 2248. To register, call 221-1612.

New Parent Support Orientation

The class is 2-3:30 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. To register, call 221-0349.

April 1

Child Abuse Prevention Month Ceremony

The ceremony is 10-11:30 a.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. All are welcome. Call 221-0349/2705.

Monthly Wounded Warrior Scramble

The scramble begins at 1 p.m. Open to the public. The entry fee is \$25, which includes cart rental, greens fees and admission to the social at the clubhouse immediately following play. To register, call 222-9386.

April 2

Family Fun Day

The Month of the Military Child Family Fun Day and the opening day for T-Ball, Softball and Baseball is 8 a.m.-noon at the Youth Sports Complex Field adjacent to Building 1630. Col. Mary Garr, 502nd Mission Support Group commander will provide opening marks at 8 a.m. There will be a child safety seat demonstration, games, crafts, food, entertainment and pictures with the Easter Bunny! The photos will be ready for Easter. Call 221-4871.

Cowboys For Heroes

Fort Sam Houston will host Cowboys for Heroes 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

at the Equestrian Center. There will be free authentic cowboy food, activities, horse rides and concert. Call 221-3185.

April 4

Intramural Spring Flag Football

Letter of intent are due April 4. If your unit is not participating, we can place you on a team. All individuals possessing a DOD I.D. card who are at least 18 years old and not participating in an academic athletic association may participate in intramural sports. Contact the Sports Office at 221-3003 or stop by the 32nd Medical Brigade Gym, Building 1281 on Garden Road.

April 5

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Kick-Off

The ceremony is 10:30 a.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. All are welcome to hear the reading of the proclamation, hear testimonies and get a schedule of the many activities going on post-wide. Call 221-0349/0598.

Winstar Casino Trip

The 502nd Force Support Squadron Ticket Office will provide round trip transportation and an overnight stay to the Winstar Casino in Thackerville, Okla. Advance registration is required. Fees are \$50 each for double occupancy and \$100 for single occupancy. Must be at least 21 years old. Call 226-1663.

For Sale:

Ladies La-Z-Boy recliner, rose velour material, excellent condition, \$50; 22-inch lawnmower, Briggs & Stratton motor, nearly new, \$50. Call 254-9262.

For Sale: Therapeutic king-size waterbed complete with heater, wood-frame, six-drawer pedestal, headboard, recently reupholstered bed rails and lumbar support mattress with safety liner, mattress and safety liner purchased new in February, \$399. Call 659-6741.

For Sale: Large entertainment center, 89 inches long, 78 inches high, 18 inches deep, \$375; three glass top tables, end, coffee and sofa with simulated stone bases and



2 lamps, \$35. Call 488-3175.

For Sale: Complete oak dining room set with china cabinet, large oval table and six chairs, excellent condition, \$500 obo; queen-size sleeper sofa, teal green, vinyl leather look, good condition, \$175; small kitchen table and four backless stools, \$75; long blonde wig, good condition, \$75; two short blonde wigs, good condition, \$25 each. Call 789-8951.

Yard Sale: April 2, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 4311 Dysart St. behind HEB on WW White Road and MLK. Most items under \$5. GE white glass-top range, clothes, shoes, toys, furniture, tools, home interior, kitchen items, jewelry, candlemaker and wax, record albums, books, TVs and more.

Yard Sale: April 3, 8 a.m. at 8026 Chestnut Cape in Converse, Meadowbrook Subdivision, off FM78.

Rocco Dining Facility Menu

Building 2745, Schofield Road

*Dining Room Breakfast Hours:
Monday-Friday 6:15-8:15 a.m.,
weekends and holidays 8-9:30 a.m.*

Friday – March 25

Lunch – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Creole chicken, beef stroganoff, blackened fish, French bread cheese pizza, mashed potatoes, pasta, collard greens, glazed carrots, lima beans

Dinner – 5 to 7 p.m.

Honey-glazed Cornish hens, beef stir fry, baked salmon, redskin potatoes, long grain and wild rice, Brussels sprouts parmesan, corn on the cob

Saturday – March 26

Lunch – noon to 1:30 p.m.

Turkey pot pie, grilled ham steaks, parmesan baked fish, vegetable egg rolls, brown rice, Franconia

potatoes, herbed green beans

Dinner – 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Beef tacos, barbecued chicken, spaghetti with meat sauce, Italian pasta and broccoli, Mexican rice, garlic roasted potato wedges, hacienda corn and black beans

Sunday – March 27

Lunch – noon to 1:30 p.m.

Swedish meatballs, sesame chicken, chopstick tuna, vegetable curry with rice, steamed rice, mashed potatoes, cauliflower au gratin, succotash

Dinner – 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Salisbury steaks, southwestern shrimp linguine, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, chipotle chicken panini sandwiches, vegetarian burgers, grilled cheese sandwiches, mashed potatoes, vegetable stir fry

Monday – March 28

Lunch – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Baked chicken, chili macaroni, Caribbean flounder, vegan pierogy, brown rice with tomatoes, mashed potatoes, carrots, broccoli

Dinner – 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Oriental pepper steak, roast pork tenderloin, lemon pepper fish, macaroni and cheese

Tuesday – March 29

Lunch – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Hot and spicy chicken, Yankee pot roast, grilled tuna patties, red beans and rice, steamed rice, O'Brien potatoes, ratatouille

Dinner – 5 to 7 p.m.

Jerk roast turkey, hamburger yakisoba, grilled ham steaks, vegetarian nuggets, rice pilaf, sweet potatoes, cauliflower au gratin, lima beans

Wednesday – March 30

Lunch – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Braised beef cubes, grilled pork chops, chicken parmesan, vegetable pizza, mashed potatoes, pasta, mustard greens, corn

Dinner – 5 to 7 p.m.

Santa Fe glazed chicken, turkey meat loaf, Cajun baked fish, vegetable egg rolls, lyonnaise potatoes, steamed rice, broccoli, carrots

Thursday- March 31

Lunch – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Grilled hamburger steaks, pineapple chicken, baked salmon, steamed rice, garlic roasted potato wedges

Dinner – 5 to 7 p.m.

Chicken enchiladas, Mexican baked chicken, beef fajitas, bean burritos, Spanish rice, parsley potatoes, Spanish beans, Mexican corn

Menus are subject to change without notice

Religious Briefs

Religious Education Classes

The adult class is studying "Worshipping God" from selected Gospels, Epistles, and the book of Revelation. The youth class will research and discuss various

issues related to Christian living. The children's group will work their way through hands-on Bible study about missions, Easter, and the first Christians. Classes are Sundays from 9:15-10:15 a.m. at Dodd Field Chapel. For more information, call 221-3749.

Thought of the Week

*There are three faithful friends, an old wife,
an old dog and ready money.*

— Benjamin Franklin