

FORT SAM HOUSTON News Leader

AUG. 23, 2012
VOL. 54, NO. 34



GAZEBO CONCERT

AUG. 26, 7 p.m.
Brig. Gen. Kirk F. Vollmecke,
MICC commander, hosts free concert
by the 323rd Army Band

A PUBLICATION OF THE 502nd AIR BASE WING — JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO — FORT SAM HOUSTON

Air Force's new nurse residency program: focus on patient-centered care

By Dianne Moffett
AETC Public Affairs

Compassion and focus for the patient are some of the many take-aways for 12 graduates of the first class of nurses to complete the Air Force's new nurse residency program at the San Antonio Military Medical Center.

First Lt. Jennifer Beasock, 2nd Lts. Alejandro Ayala, James Bickel, Rachel Castillo, Gary Dupart, Tammy Evans, Jenny Howell, Lisa Kabore, Stephanie Lord, Alexis Mitchell, Omayra Nunez, Timothy and Vojak Monday graduated from the program Aug. 20.

The program launched Jan. 19 as an Air Education and Training Command formal officer course in response to the National Council of State Boards of Nursing recommen-

dation to build a transitional year of training for newly licensed nurses.

"The transition to practice for the new nurses will positively impact practice, retention and ultimately patient safety," said Maj. Gen. Kimberly A. Siniscalchi, assistant Air Force surgeon general, Medical Force Development, Nursing Services, and keynote speaker at the graduation ceremony.

Siniscalchi emphasized the importance of mentoring and collaborating, continued engagement in learning, staying abreast of evidenced based practice, technology changes, and professional development to ensure positive growth in their Nursing career.

"Compassion is the lifeline to your patient's needs and it is what they



Photo by Lori Newman

Maj. Gen. Kimberly A. Siniscalchi, assistant Air Force surgeon general, Medical Force Development, Nursing Services, shakes hands with 2nd Lt. Stephanie Lord (left), one of the 12 Air Force Nursing Residency Program graduates following their graduation ceremony Aug. 20 at the San Antonio Military Medical Center.

See AF NURSES, P12

Walters Street Access Control Point progressing, traffic flowing



Photo by Lori Newman

The intersection of Scott Road and Wilson Way is now open.

By Lori Newman
JBSA-FSH News Leader

The detour is gone, the barricades have been removed and traffic is flowing through the new Walters Street Access Control Point at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

"The process of this intersection being opened just brings us one step closer, with more steps to

come," said Curtis Hoosier, 502nd Security Forces Squadron resource protection manager.

Site clean-up and security systems checks will be ongoing for another six to eight weeks. The visitor control center will not open until the temporary VCC at Scott Road is also operational in approximately February 2013.

"Once we get all pieces

under our control and operational you will be looking at a state-of-the-art access control point with a visitor control center capable of processing contractor, vendor and visitor access, as well as, providing a smooth, expeditious entry for all who work and live on Fort Sam Houston," Hoosier said.

See WALTERS, P6

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News Leader
A PUBLICATION OF THE 502ND AIR BASE WING - JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO - FORT SAM HOUSTON

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My job is prosecuting sexual assault

By Col. Don M. Christensen
 Chief, Government Trial and
 Appellate Counsel U.S. Air Force
 Judge Advocate General's Corps

Here's a simple truth ... sexual offenders reject our core values of integrity, service and excellence, in favor of following their own base, undisciplined, criminal desires.

Most sexual assaults committed by Airmen are "blue on blue," or Airmen victimizing other Airmen.

So, in addition to rejecting our core values, these undisciplined Airmen reject the wingman concept that we prize in the Air Force.

They represent a direct threat to unit morale, good order, and discipline. They degrade combat readiness but with the combined efforts of command, law enforce-

ment, and our team of prosecutors, they will be held accountable.

Together, as a team, we will protect other Airmen and protect our strength and combat readiness as the world's greatest Air Force.

Detecting and prosecuting sexual assault is our priority.

Recently, we posted on the Internet significant Air Force sexual assault prosecutions. The posting may be found at <http://www.afjag.af.mil/sexualassaultprosecution/index.asp>.

As you can tell from a quick review of this information, we will prosecute sexual offenders anywhere they are found. From reviewing these cases, you can see sexual assault in the Air Force carries substantial

penalties.

Our partners in the Air Force Office of Special Investigations thoroughly investigate each allegation to provide commanders with timely, accurate, and prosecutable evidence. They pass the ball to commanders, who call upon my team to prosecute the offender to the maximum extent allowed under law.

Our team of prosecutors is better than any you will see in the civilian community or on television. I have 17 highly-skilled senior trial prosecutors, who are selected from among hundreds of judge advocates for their top-notch trial skills.

They have the very best trial skills in the Air Force Judge Advocate General Corps. They prosecute the Air Force's

most serious courts-martial.

Seven of my senior trial prosecutors have been identified as "Special Victim Unit" prosecutors, due to their training and experience in combating sexual assault. They are dedicated to bringing justice to victims of sexual assault and ensuring commanders are able to appropriately hold offenders accountable.

In the typical case we prosecute, the accused Airman exploits the victim's intoxicated state to commit the sexual assault.

We are very effective in prosecuting these offenders, and the law encourages us to prosecute Airmen who use alcohol to facilitate sexual assault of substantially incapacitated victims.



Prosecuting this kind of case is one of our core specialties.

The Air Force has done a great job training Airmen about respecting other Airmen and not sexually abusing their fellow Airmen.

Training reaches many Airmen who might be tempted to commit this crime.

For others, who cannot be persuaded by training, my team, the Senior Trial Prosecutors-Special Victims Unit, stands at the ready to vindicate the victims.

West Nile fogging at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston

Targeted hand-held mosquito fogging was scheduled for between midnight and 3 a.m. Aug. 23 and 24 at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Thirteen additional mosquito sample pools have tested positive for West Nile virus since the first three samples during the week of July 18, 2012.

The fogging will occur at the honor guard horse stables on the west side of JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, and on the east side of the installation near the IHG hotel and on the golf course. The treatments will target standing pools of water in those locations.

The application of larvae-killing bacteria also



continues, but the fogging will help to combat the adult population that can acquire and transmit West Nile virus.

Ground application fogging allows the treatments to be directed more specifically than aerial treatments.

Additional precautionary measures are also listed on the Joint Base San Antonio website at <http://www.jbsa.af.mil>.

(Source: 502nd Air Base Wing public Affairs)

News Briefs

502nd MSG Customer Workshop

Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and the 502nd Mission Support Group hold a customer workshop from 8 a.m. to noon Aug. 29 at the Region 20 Conference Center, 1314 Hines Ave. The workshop will cover a general overview of base operations support from each of the functional squadrons, support agreements and the reimbursement process. The target audience includes unit and organization resource managers, planners, and others who participate in the Inter-Service Support Agreement and/or Base Operations Support reimbursement processes. Call 221-2546 or 221-0564 for more information or a reservation.

Discovering Employee Work/Life Balance

Learn positive methods to deal with stress and anxiety, nutrition, massage, acupuncture, stretching, personal fitness, depression awareness, yoga, financial management, tobacco cessation. Seminar takes place 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Aug. 31 at Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, 2010 Stanley Road. Open to all military and Department of Defense civilians, as well as spouses. For more information, call 221-0133.

JBSA FSH Voting Assistance Office

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Voting Assistance Office is open and available to provide information and resources to military and civilian personnel and their family members about the 2012 elections. The office also assists voters in registering. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays at Building 2263, 1706 Stanley Road. Call 221-1424 for more information. People can also contact their unit voting assistance officer. For additional information on voting in Texas, outside of Texas and absentee voting, go to <http://www.fvap.gov>.

Army's Funded Legal Education Program

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate General is accepting applications for the Army's Funded Legal Education Program, where active duty commissioned officers, second lieutenant through captain, may attend law school at government expense. Interested officers should review Chapter

See NEWS, P4

Army South visits strengthen partner nation capacities with Colombia, Chile

By Robert Ramon
ARSOUTH Public Affairs

U.S. Army South's commanding general traveled to Colombia and Chile from July 31 to Aug. 9, as part of Army South's effort to strengthen partner nation capacity through engagement and personal exchanges.

Maj. Gen. Simeon G. Trombitas traveled to Bogota, Colombia, where he discussed ways to enhance regional security and stability with Maj. Gen. Pedro L. Soto, the Colombian army inspector general; Maj. Gen. Javier E. Rey, the Colombian army director of army plans; and Maj. Gen. Jaime Esguerra, the Colombian army operations officer.

"We have a strong and enduring relationship with the Colombian army," Trombitas said.

"As a strategic ally and global partner, we share many common security concerns."

This was especially apparent during the Fuerzas Aliadas PANAMAX exercises in 2011



Photo by Eric R. Lucero
Maj. Gen. Simeon G. Trombitas, the U.S. Army South commanding general, presents a Chilean marine with a commander's coin Aug. 8 in Fort Aguayo, Chile.

and 2012 where more than 50 Colombian military personnel traveled to Army South's headquarters to lead the land component portion of the exercise. Army South led this portion every year prior to 2011.

After a series of meetings with key leaders, Trombitas visited the UH-60 Helicopter Mechanics School in Tolemaida, Colombia, and the Tactical Aviation Field Team and Regional Helicopter Training Center in Melgar, Colombia.

Trombitas then made his way to Santiago, Chile, where he met Gen. Juan Miguel Fuente-Alba, the Chilean army commander, Lt. Gen. Hernán Mardones, the chief of the Chilean joint general staff, Maj. Gen. Alejandro Arancibia, the director of international relations for the Chilean army,

See ARSOUTH, P6

ARNORTH-led exercise confirms U.S. homeland defense capability

By C. Todd Lopez
Army News Service

Army leaders say the performance of participants in the recently concluded Vibrant Response 13 exercise has demonstrated that the U.S. military is ready to handle a major catastrophe, such as a nuclear explosion, on the homeland.

"I think what we really demonstrated was a pact that we've made with the American people that should something like this occur in our nation, that we have the Department of Defense capability with trained and ready response forces," said Maj. Gen. Walter L. Davis, deputy commander,

U.S. Army North.

About 9,000 service members participated in Vibrant Response, a major incident exercise conducted by U.S. Northern Command and led by U.S. Army North, from July 26 to Aug. 13. It was held on 11 training areas across 5,000 square miles in southern Indiana and northern Kentucky.

The purpose of the exercise was to confirm the capabilities of various elements of the DOD's chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear – known as CBRN – response enterprise.

During the exercise, troops reacted to the simulated detonation of a 10-kiloton nuclear detonation in a major

Midwestern city. Participants came from all four services, both the active and reserve components, and represented about 25 U.S. states and territories.

"It's really kind of heartwarming and gratifying to see the people who are training, as an example, in search and rescue or search and recovery operations, putting on personal protective equipment and digging through rubble, and staying in it for minutes, hours, long periods of time to rescue somebody," said Davis, who answered questions about the exercise as part of an Aug. 15 bloggers round table.

Although the exercise officially concluded,

evaluation and further testing will continue through at least October.

Vibrant Response confirms the capability of the Defense CBRN Response Force as well as the Command and

Control CBRN Consequence Response Elements B- team, by evaluating performance in a realistic setting.

See VIBRANT, P6



By Sgt. 1st Class Matt Scotten

Soldiers from the 21st Chemical Company out of Fort Bragg, N.C., run a decontamination tent assisting simulated victims of a nuclear detonation in exercise Vibrant Response at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in southern Indiana Aug. 1.

News Briefs

from P3

14 of AR 27-1 (The Judge Advocate General's Funded Legal Education Program), to determine their eligibility. Review the AHRC website for branch specific contact information at <http://www.hrc.army.mil> or contact their local Staff Judge Advocate for more information: Army North and Fort Sam Houston at 221-0484, Army South at 295-6325; Army Medical Department Center & School at 295-9893 or Army Medical Command at 221-8400.

Suicide Intervention Skills Training Offered

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) is currently being offered for Joint Base San Antonio active duty members, civilians, and family members. The training will be held on the last Thursday and Friday of every month. Call 221-1696 to register, as seating is limited. T4T trained instructors are also needed to facilitate the course. People who have successfully completed the T4T training can also call 221-1696.

Army Benefits Center Civilian Notice

On Fridays through Sept. 21, the Army Benefits Center Civilian counselors will not be available by phone between noon and 6 p.m. The ABC-C website will be available at <https://www.abc.army.mil> to make transactions through the Employee Benefits Information System. In addition, the automated phone line will be available for employees to make transactions that do not require counselor assistance.

Army Candidate School Structure Interview Panel

The 502nd Force Support Squadron's Military Personnel Branch conducts an Army Officer Candidate School structure interview panel board at 8 a.m. Oct. 24 in Room 117B of Building 2263 on Stanley Road. All Soldiers must have a bachelor degree and cannot be more than 28 years old. For a complete listing and checklist of the OCS requirements and forms, visit <https://www.hrcapps.army.mil/>. All OCS applicants must see their S1/G1 prior to submitting their OCS packets. Packets must be turned in by Oct. 16. For more information, call 221-0885.

Air Force addresses use of 'bath salts' with zero tolerance

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph
Public Affairs

A dangerous designer drug with an innocuous name is growing in popularity, causing concern in the military and in the civilian world.

Marketed as "bath salts," these retail products contain chemicals that are synthetic derivatives of cathinone, a central nervous system stimulant, and are known to effect users in a variety of ways, from agitation, insomnia, irritability and dizziness to depression, paranoia, delusions and suicidal thoughts, according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

"Mephedrone and methylenedioxypyrovalerone, also known as MDPV, are derivatives of cathinone and they're found in a number of retail products," said Kathryn McLemore, 359th Medical Operations Squadron drug demand reduction program manager.

"These products are believed to be manufactured in China and India for wholesale distribution in Eastern Europe."

McLemore said 34 states have a legislative ban on bath salts and the remaining 16 are part of an emergency federal ban.

"With this legislation, consuming or possessing bath salts is illegal," she said.

In October 2011, the DEA published a final order in the Federal Register exercising its emergency scheduling authority to control three synthetic stimulants used to make bath salts: mephedrone, MDPV and methyline.

Bath salts come in crystallized powder form, McLemore said.

"Mephedrone is a

fine white, off-white or slightly yellow-colored powder," she said. "It can also be found in tablet form. MDPV is a fine white or off-white powder."

Bath salts are typically sold in plastic bags or foil packages of 200 and 500 milligrams under various street names like Bliss, Blue Silk, Cloud Nine, Ivory Wave and White Dove. They are usually labeled "Not for human consumption."

"They're mostly sold on the Internet, in convenience stores and in head shops," McLemore said.

Bath salts are ingested by sniffing or snorting.

"They can also be taken orally, smoked or put into a solution and injected into veins," she said.

In addition to effects such as agitation, depression, paranoia



Air Force graphic

and suicidal thoughts, users report impaired perception of reality, reduced motor control and decreased ability to think clearly, McLemore said.

The effects of bath salts have been likened to those of amphetamines, cocaine, LSD and ecstasy.

"Because the chemicals in bath salts are a central nervous system stimulant, users experience rapid heart rate, which may lead to heart attacks and

strokes; chest pains; nose bleeds; sweating; nausea; and vomiting," she said. "It's pretty serious stuff."

No calls regarding bath salts were made to U.S. poison control centers in 2009, but statistics from the National Drug Intelligence Center showed that the American Association of Poison Control Centers received 2,237 bath salts-related calls from 47 states and the

See SALTS, P12

Agency announces short sale assistance for military homeowners

By Robert Goetz
Joint Base San Antonio-Randolph
Public Affairs

One of the hardships military members face when they have orders for a permanent change of station is selling their home.

That burden becomes even greater when their home is worth less than the balance of their mortgage, which is often the case in a difficult housing market.

Changes to short sale policies announced by the Federal Housing Finance Agency will soon assist military members with loans guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac, making it

easier for them to meet their financial commitments to their lending institutions when they are required to move to another duty station.

"More and more military members are finding themselves upside down on their mortgage, so this is a great deal for them and their families," said Lt. Col. Stephen Blake, Air Education and Training Command Asset Management Branch chief.

"This new policy will enable members with upside down mortgages to avoid the financial strain of selling at a loss or maintaining a second home upon PCS," Blake added.

Because of the policy changes, PCS orders will be considered a hardship, qualifying military members for a short sale.

A short sale enables homeowners to sell their house and settle their mortgage debt even if the house is worth less than the balance of the mortgage.

In addition, service members will be exempt from deficiency judgments from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac when receiving permission for a short sale and relieved of any request or requirement for a cash contribution or promissory note so long as the property was bought on

or before June 30, 2012.

Blake said the program is important to service members because they do not have the ability to stay in their homes until the housing market stabilizes.

If they were unable to sell their homes, prior to this FHFA-sponsored program, they were obligated to continue making payments after relocating to a new duty station.

"The balance due is typically significant because the housing market has tumbled in recent years," he said. "Civilian homeowners can stay in their homes and ride it out.

"For military members, that is not the case," Blake added.

"They don't have the option to ride out the market. With these policy changes, their credit is not affected and they are not responsible for making up the difference."

Blake said the program's specifics will be released Sept. 30 and effective 60 days later.

For more information, service members can call 1-800-7FANNIE or 1-800-FREDDIE, or visit the Fannie Mae (<http://www.fanniemae.com>) and Freddie Mac (<http://www.freddie.com>) websites. Blake said base housing offices can also provide assistance.

ONE OF LAST WWII MOUNTED CAVALRY SCOUTS GETS CAVALRY MEDALLION



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson

Col. Bill Hill II (right) presents a framed certificate of the Order of St. George to retired Col. Ernest John "Jack" Davis (center) during an Aug. 15 ceremony at the Army Retirement Community Auditorium. During the ceremony, Lt. Gen. William Caldwell IV presented the St. George Silver Medallion to Davis. The Order of St. George Medallion is the top award presented to members of the Army's mounted force by the U.S. Armor Association. Davis, 88, is one of the last remaining service members who served on horseback during WWII. He began his career as an infantryman in the 10th Mountain Division and served 31 years, to include serving through WWII and the Korean and Vietnam Wars. Caldwell is the commanding general of U.S. Army North and senior commander of Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and JBSA-Camp Bullis. Hill is the chief of staff for U.S. Army South and was joined by his father, retired Col. Bill Hill.

INCOMING 502ND VICE COMMANDER VISITS METC



Photo by Dewite Wehrman

Maj. John Catoe (right), Medical Education and Training Campus Pharmacy Program director, shows Col. James H. Chevallier, incoming vice commander of the 502nd Air Base Wing and deputy joint base commander, Joint Base San Antonio, how tele-pharmacy technology allows a pharmacist to check prescriptions from a geographically separated location. Chevallier visited METC and numerous other locations on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Aug.17.



Photo by Lori Newman

The Walters Street Gate is one part of a state-of-the-art access control point with a visitor control center capable of processing contractor, vendor and visitor access.

WALTERS from P1

Two additional visitor control centers are being constructed on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

One will be on Scott Road before entering the Harry Wurzbach gate, which should be finished by February 2013. The other VCC is being constructed at the Interstate Highway 35 entrance to the San Antonio Military

Medical Center, which should be complete by the middle of next year.

The need for these VCC's is to increase security and comply with Department of Defense Antiterrorism and Force Protection guidelines.

"It is becoming increasingly more important for vendors and contractors to follow the proper procedures to get an access credential because soon they will not be able to

enter the installation with just a driver's license," Hoosier explained.

New security procedures will be phased in as the VCC's are completed.

For more information about access credential requirements, call the Installation Pass and Identification Office at 221-0213 or email usaf.jbsa.502-abw.mbx.502-sfs-fsh-visitor-control-center@mail.mil.

ARSOUTH from P3

and Maj. Gen. Humberto Oviedo, the Chilean military attaché to Washington, D.C.

The meetings focused on regional security cooperation and the need for strong partnerships which enable partner nation armies to enhance hemispheric stability.

"The stability and security of the U.S. and

partner nations hinge upon our ability to work together to address common security challenges," Trombitas said. "Personal contact with partner nation army leaders strengthens our bonds and makes us more effective than before."

Trombitas closed out the trip with visits to the Chilean Escuela de Montana (Mountain School) in Portillo, Chile,

and the Military Operations on Urban Terrain training facility in Fort Aguayo.

"Strong regional partnerships enable U.S. Army South and partner nation armies to enhance hemispheric stability and security," Trombitas said. "There is strength in partnership and the Colombian and Chilean armies are two of our strongest allies."

VIBRANT from P3

The C2CRE-B team, comprised of about 1,500 personnel, begins their mission to support the DOD's CBRN response capability in the United States on Oct. 1. At that time, the C2CRE-A team, who also participated in Vibrant Response, will conclude their mission in that same role.

Davis said that Vibrant Response 13

served as both validation for C2CRE-B as they prepare to take on their mission, and as well as sustainment training for C2CRE-A. That type of training will continue, Davis said, in order to maintain America's CBRNE response capability.

"We will have to continue encouraging the sustainment training," Davis said. "These are forces that don't have a lot training days during the year. And so we will really have to continue to emphasize, maximizing as we go through the course of next year, the collective training

for those units as they return back to their installations."

Preparations have already begun for next year's Vibrant Response exercise, and Davis said lessons learned from this year's exercise, and from those in past years, will be applied to the next exercise.

"We've learned a lot of lessons over three or four years of conducting this," he said. "And so each time we try to improve it in terms of what we need to do to improve the entire enterprise and its preparedness to respond."

Thrift Shop opening: grand day for treasure hunters and the budget minded

By Cheryl Harrison
Marketing, Warfighter and
Family Readiness

The Fort Sam Houston Thrift Shop opened its doors in grand fashion Aug. 18 with a large group of bargain hunters waiting outside the entry.

“Thank you to all of our amazing volunteers who worked long and hard hours,” said Stephanie Crotty, thrift shop chairperson and the person who spearheaded the shop’s creation. “We are thrilled to serve our military families.”

Among the special guests helping with the ribbon cutting were Brig. Gen. Theresa C. Carter, commander of 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio; Col.

John Lamoureux, 502 Mission Support Group commander and JBSA and 502 ABW Command Chief Master Sgt. Jose LugoSantiago.

“Thrift Shops around the world give back to the community in scholarships, which is a huge benefit,” Carter said.

“I am a huge proponent of thrift shops. I have donated tons of stuff over the years and it is great when preparing to PCS,” the general added. “It is also a philosophy, that if there is any ounce of life left in something I’d rather have somebody else make use of it, and if it contributes to scholarships and goodwill that is even better.”

Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, the

doors were thrown open and a crowd of more than 75 people filed inside to search for a perfect treasure at a budget price.

Customers found tastefully arranged furniture, home decorating items, sporting goods, children’s things and that was only on one side of the building. The other half of the shop housed clothing, kitchen items, jewelry, books and toys, as well as a great variety of gently used baby items.

The building was originally a barracks and more recently it was used for classrooms. Now it is a spacious thrift shop, filled with furniture, clothing, house wares and other items.

With more than 25

volunteers on hand to help during the opening day of business, customers were busy browsing, buying and even a few consigning.

“This is well organized and very nice,” said shopper Suzi Andrews.

The home of the newly opened thrift shop is located in Building 1154 at 3100 Zinn Road.

The shop is open Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., with consignments taken until 1 p.m. Also it is open the third Saturday of each month, unless it is a holiday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with consignments taken until noon.

The thrift shop is oper-

See THRIFT, P12



Photo by Cheryl Harrison

(From left) Kelly Oliver, Fort Sam Houston Thrift Shop co-chairperson; Brig. Gen. Theresa Carter, Commander, 502nd Air Base Wing and Joint Base San Antonio; JBSA and 502 ABW Command Chief Master Sgt. Jose LugoSantiago; Col. John Lamoureux, 502 Mission Support Group commander and Stephanie Crotty, thrift shop chairperson, gathered to cut the ribbon for the Fort Sam Houston Thrift Shop during the opening ceremony Aug. 18. More than 75 customers were also on hand and eager to shop.

City's Office of Emergency Management launches AlertSA.com enhanced emergency notification system

The City of San Antonio recently launched the newest enhancement to its emergency notification system, called Alert SA.

It allows emergency management officials to send emergency notifications to citizens during imminent threat to life safety via their mobile devices.

People can self-register their mobile devices at AlertSA.com.

"During an imminent emergency threat to our citizens, we use many methods of notifying them about the threat," said City Emergency Manager Lawrence Treviño.

"Considering the growing popularity of

wireless-only homes in our area, Alert SA gives us another tool that can be used to alert citizens quickly and effectively, by leveraging the many mobile devices that now exist," Treviño added.

This system notifies subscribers at potential risk with information on the event and/or actions, such as evacuation, that the City and local public safety officials are asking them to take.

Messages will be sent to all standard voice and text communication devices that are registered. The system will only alert citizens in the specific geographic area in which the emergency is taking place, making it

especially useful for issuing evacuations.

"I am very pleased that the Office of Emergency Management has spearheaded this important initiative. Providing citizens with up-to-the-minute emergency information via multiple devices will save lives," said District 5 Councilman David Medina.

Previously, the City's emergency notification system only used landline phone numbers, but will now allow for additional ways of contacting users, such as cell phone, home phone, text and e-mail.

(Source: City of San Antonio website, <http://www.sanantonio.gov>)

Road to recovery leads through WFSC's Freedom Park

By Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson
ARNORTH Public Affairs

For wounded warriors and their families, there is a new destination for exercise and meditation; and it doesn't require travel outside the confines of Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston.

Construction of the multi-million dollar, six-acre "Freedom Park" at the WFSC has been completed and is now open day and night. A one-mile running track winds through 10 specialized outdoor fitness areas, a beach volleyball court, waterfalls, statues and a wishing well.

The park, built by the non-profit organization "Returning Heroes Home," is shaded for

protection from the sun for burn victims and is accessible by wheelchair.

The park officially celebrates its grand opening in October, which will feature a concert from a well-known country musician in the new 300-seat amphitheater.

Although some of the late-season plants have not yet been planted, it is available for use now, said WFSC program director Judith Markelz.

"The fitness stations were designed with help from the therapists at the Center for the Intrepid, specifically for the needs of our wounded warriors," Markelz said.

"There's even one station specifically for the needs of

wounded Special Forces service members. The park is available now, and the track is lighted for night use. We are also putting up emergency call stations."

The park, funded entirely through private donations, is already making an impact.

"It makes you forget you're in Texas," said Staff Sgt. Gilbert Santiago, a squad leader with Troop C, 3rd Squadron, 124th Cavalry Regiment, 36th Infantry Division, Texas Army National Guard, who was injured while at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, Africa. "It invites butterflies and wildlife. It makes you feel like you're in another place."

For Sgt. 1st Class Fran O'Bannon, who was serving as a recruiter in Omaha, Neb., when she was involved in an automobile accident that caused several injuries as well as persistent migraines, the park is a calming environment.

"You don't know if your career is going to come to a halt, and you have your family to worry about," O'Bannon said. "That nature walk puts you in a calm state, a better relaxation mode."

The completion of the Freedom Park is phase II of a

three-phase project to upgrade the Warrior and Family Support Center. Phase III is the addition of a baseball park and a Frisbee golf course.

The Warrior and Family Support Center, which has had more than 620,000 individual

visits since it began operating in 2003, provides a comfortable, welcoming and friendly environment for wounded warriors and their families to relax, have fun, participate in activities and find support as they transition to their new normal.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson

Sgt. 1st Class Fran O'Bannon (right) and her friend, Staff Sgt. Lori Henderson, both wounded warriors, stop to watch the butterflies Aug. 9 on the way to the new Freedom Park at the Warrior and Family Support Center on Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston. O'Bannon, who was serving as a recruiter in Omaha, Neb., when she was injured in a vehicle accident, said the new park helped her to clear her head. "You don't know if your career is going to come to a halt, and you have your family to worry about," she said. "The nature walk puts you in a calm state, a better relaxation mode."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Anderson

WFSC welcomes BAMC staff to new track

By Marsha Huffman
BAMC Public Affairs

The Warriors and Family Support Center recently opened a new outdoor track for use by wounded warriors, their families and staff.

A part of the recently opened Freedom Park addition, which located behind the WFSC, the course is designed to engage the user to a variety of upper and lower body exercises in a tranquil environment. It includes even and uneven terrain, rope climb, net crawl, a pegboard wall, overhead rings and vault bars.

The park also has an outdoor therapeutic garden and a recreation area to include a beach volleyball court and amphitheater.

"I encourage everyone to take advantage of this outstanding new fitness opportunity," said Maj. Gen. M. Ted Wong, commanding general of Brooke Army Medical Center and Southern Regional Medical Command.

"The new, lighted track offers service members, their families and staff a great place to safely exercise, whether at dawn or dusk," Wong added.

"People can come over to work out in the morning, during their lunch break or after work," said WFSC director Judith Markelz in welcoming everyone to the park, including all BAMC staff. "It is open 24 hours, seven days a week."

"SAMMC promotes good health and fitness by offering fitness and stress resilience classes at the medical center and facilities such as the WFSC for staff well-being," said BAMC and SRMC Command Sgt. Maj. Marshall Huffman.

The Warrior and Family Support Center provides a homelike atmosphere where the wounded warriors and their families can connect, find emotional support, and extend their rehabilitation away from the medical center.

For more information about the track or the park, call the WFSC at 916-8367.

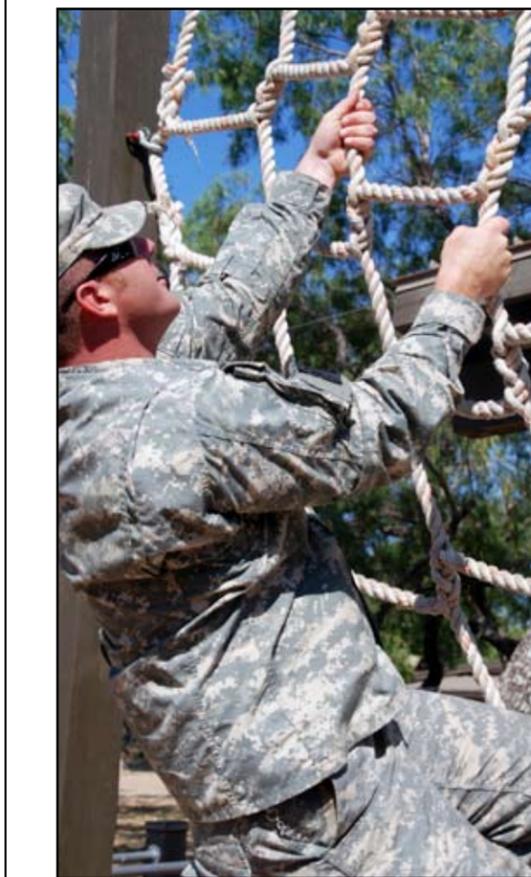


Photo by Marsha Huffman

Sgt. 1st Class Mike Atkins demonstrates the net crawl at the new track located behind the Warrior and Family Support Center. Atkins is a wounded warrior with Company C, Warrior Transition Battalion.



Photo by Marsha Huffman

Sgt. 1st Class Mike Atkins demonstrates the pegboard at the new track located behind the Warrior and Family Support Center.

Wounded warriors participate in Warrior Transition Battalion Adapted Sports Day

By Maria Gallegos
BAMC Public Affairs

More than 500 wounded service members participated in the Warrior Transition Battalion's Adapted Sports Day at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Aug. 15.

The non-competitive adapted sports event consisted of wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, track and field, swimming, archery, air rifle and cycling.

Each service member selected three or four sports they wanted to participate in prior to the event and at the day of the event, 90 minutes were given per sport to get the hands-on practice of each assigned sport.

Staff, volunteers and members of U.S. Paralympics, a division of the United States

Olympic Committee, gave demonstrations and coached the warriors on different sport activities.

"The purpose of this event is to increase interest in adapted sports with the wounded warriors," said WTB commander Lt. Col Brian Almquist.

"We want to expose them to different sports with demonstrations and hands-on participation, so they have the opportunity to experience something they were not sure about before."

Sgt. Mark Castanon, WTB staff, explained that some wounded service members are hesitant to try something new and different, but after they get involved with the sport, they have fun and want to play more.

"Afterward, they like it and realize it is a great stress reliever,"

Castanon said.

"I never felt so good," said Sgt. Clement Bumgham, who has lower back injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder, about his first time riding an adapted bike since he was injured in Afghanistan.

"The ride helped me release some anger and stress I have from PTSD," Bumgham said. "I am hooked."

"Doing these events with our injuries encourages us to know that we are still the same, nothing has changed," said retired Sgt. Robert Samuel, who has been playing wheelchair basketball since November 2011.

The event concluded with positive feedback from the warriors and some expressed they are considering trying out for the regional games and ultimately compete in the

Army Warrior Games.

"Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to learn about and participate in the adaptive sports," Almquist said. "We have dozens of new Soldiers who want to try out for the regional and ultimately compete in the Army Warrior Games in Colorado."

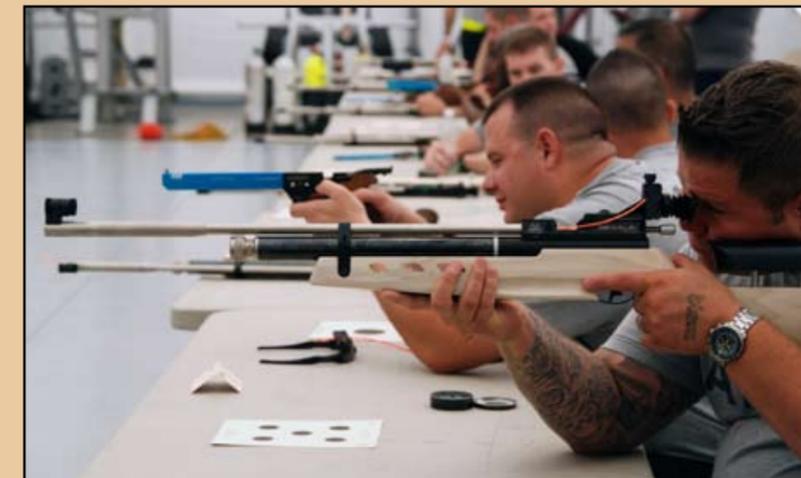
The event was a joint effort of a number of organizations that came together in making this event a huge success, said Almquist, noting the assistance from Operation Comfort, U.S. Paralympics Military Program, Warrior and Family Support Center, the staff of the fitness center and volunteers.

"With the great turn out of this event, we are looking to do it semi-annually with the next one probably within three or four months," he said.



Photo by Maria Gallegos

Wounded warrior Spc. Amber Tousha tries out archery for the first time during the Warrior Transition Battalion Adapted Sports Day Aug. 15.



More than 500 wounded service members participated in a Warrior Transition Battalion Adapted Sports Day at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Aug. 15. The non-competitive adapted sports events included wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, track and field, swimming, archery, air rifle and cycling.

Photo by Marsha Huffman



Photo by Lori Newman

The first class of 12 Air Force nursing residents participate in a graduation ceremony Aug. 20 at the San Antonio Military Medical Center.

AF NURSES from P1

will remember most," Siniscalchi said. "Don't let technology take you away from your patient. Observe them, assess them, and take the time

to really see them." A total of 29 nurses graduated from eight Air Force program sites, which include Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio; Nellis AFB, Nev.; SAMMC, Texas; Joint Base

Langley-Eustis, Va.; Travis AFB, Calif.; Keesler AFB, Miss.; Eglin AFB, Fla.; and Joint Base Elmendorf, Alaska.

One of the SAMMC graduates, 2nd Lt. Stephanie Lord said what

she gained most from her residency training is how she is more prepared for the challenges, "and what I enjoyed most about the program was coming back home to train with my Air Force family."

SALTS from P4

District of Columbia between Jan. 1, 2011, and May 12, 2011.

McLemore said the Air Force's stance on bath salts and similar substances is clear: zero tolerance.

Air Force Instruc-

tion 44-120 says the "knowing use of any intoxicating substance, other than the lawful use of alcohol or tobacco products, that is inhaled, injected, consumed or introduced into the body in any manner to alter mood or function is prohibited."

THRIFT from P8

ated by the Spouses' Club of the Fort Sam Houston Area and is designated as a non-profit 501(c)(7) organization not associated with the federal government.

The thrift shop provides authorized personnel a convenient medium to sell or to purchase previously owned merchandise and generates funds from a percentage of sales from consigned items and the profits made from donated items. The funds raised are for the use of the

Spouses' Club in accordance with its constitution.

Consignments are limited to 12 items daily, with no more than three like items. The shop retains a 25 percent commission of the selling price, with a minimum selling price of \$3. Consignees must remove any remaining items left at the end of the 60 days of the consignment period or they automatically become a donation.

For information about the Thrift Shop, call 221-5794 or visit <http://www.scfsh.com>.

INSIDE THE GATE

Hunting Permits

Annual Joint Base San Antonio-Camp Bullis hunting permits are on sale, call 295-7529.

Bowler Appreciation Week

Aug. 25-31, all games will \$1.75 at the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center, call 221-4740.

Fall Youth Bowling Leagues

Aug. 25, noon-2 p.m., JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center, register Youth Bowling Leagues, ages 5-19. Leagues start Sept. 1 at 10 a.m., call 221-4710 or 657-1363.

3-D Archery Shoot

Aug. 25-26, animal targets are placed at varied distances throughout the wooded course at JBSA-Camp Bullis. Registration is 8-10 a.m. open to all ages. The cost is \$15-16 for competitive and \$10 for non-competitive.

Dog Days of Summer 5K Fun Run/Walk

Aug. 25, 7 a.m., Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, call 221-1234.

Youth Sports Registration

Youth Football registration deadline is Aug. 26, season began Sept. 6. Youth Soccer registration deadline is Sept. 9, season begins Sept. 10. All youth must have a current physical prior to registering. Register at Parent Central, call 221-4871.

New Hours at the Aquatic Center

Beginning Aug. 27, the Aquatic Center will open for lap swim only Monday-Friday 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and open swim from 4 to 8 p.m. On Saturday and Sunday, the pool will open for open swim from noon to 8 p.m. Admission is free for DOD cardholders. Children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Call 221-4887.

Saving and Investing

Aug. 27, 2-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2380.

Spouses' Club of the Fort Sam Houston Area "Welcome"

The spouses' club will host a welcome Aug. 28 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Pershing House, 6 Staff Post Road. Spouses of all ranks and service branches, active, Reserve, National Guard, retired, DOD civilian or DOD contractors are welcome to join. Light refreshments will be served.

Chapel Youth Ministry

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Chapel Youth Ministry resumes its weekly gatherings with the start of the new school year. Middle school sessions start Aug. 28 from 4-5 p.m., while high school sessions begin Aug. 29 from 6:30- 8 p.m. All gatherings are at the Dodd Field Chapel. Call 221-5943.

Newcomer's Extravaganza

Aug. 28, 9:30-11 a.m., Sam Houston Community Center. The extravaganza is an opportunity to learn about JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and the San Antonio area as well as meet representatives from many

See INSIDE, P14



Scan with Smartphone app to access the Joint Base San Antonio website at www.jbsa.af.mil

INSIDE from P13

different organizations, programs and businesses. Call 221-1681 or 221-2418.

Credit Reports

Aug. 28, 2-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2380.

Family Readiness Group Leadership Academy

Aug. 28 and 29, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-1829 or 221-0946.

Protestant Women of the Chapel Fall Kick-Off

Journey with Jesus, Aug. 29, 9:30 a.m.-noon, Dodd Field Chapel, call 221-5010.

Women Encouraging Women

Aug. 29, 11 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-0349.

Word Level 3

Aug. 30, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

Is Your Child a Target for Bullying?

Aug. 30, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2962 or 221-0600.

Car Buying Strategies

The Financial Readiness Program will offer a car buying strategies class from 2 to 4 p.m. Aug. 30 at the Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. Call 221-2380.

Harlequin Dinner Theatre

"Legends of Las Vegas," runs Thursday-Saturday through Sept. 29 at the Harlequin Dinner Theatre. Dinner served at 6:15 p.m. with an 8 p.m. curtain. Call 222-9694.

32nd Annual Combat Medic Run

Sept. 29 at MacArthur Parade Field, open to all DOD cardholders, MWR patrons and the San Antonio community. Race categories include a 5K Individual walk/run, a 5k Guidon Team and a 5K 28-Soldier Formation. Register at <http://bit.ly/Race>. Registration by Sept. 23. Call 221-1234 or 808-7510.

Joint Base San Antonio Special Olympics

The Exceptional Family Member Program will hold a Joint Base San Antonio Special Olympics from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 3 on JBSA-Fort Sam Houston. To volunteer, call 221-2962.

Parent Central Customer Service Hours

Parent Central will assist walk-in patrons from 8 a.m.-noon

and 2-4 p.m. for registration and 12:30-1 p.m. for out processing and payments. Call 221-4871.

Before and After School Care

Register your child, grades K-12, for before and after school care at Parent Central, 221-4871. Warriors in Transition and their family members should register at Soldier Family Assistance Building 3936 Acubo Barracks or call 916-6377. Registration is ongoing until full.

School Liaison Office

The School Liaison Office can assist patrons in registration, provide information about the local school system and community, educate parents on school policies, procedures, programs and schedules and home schooling. Call 221-2214/2256 or visit <http://www.fortsammwr.com/youth/slo.html>.

Basic Skills Education Program

Classes are Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for a period of 14 working days. Service members will receive instruction in reading comprehension, vocabulary, and math skills. The class is designed to teach basic college preparatory skills to service members with a GT score less than 110. Call 221-1738.

Stilwell House

The Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Stilwell House, a his-

toric landmark since 1888, is open for tours, receptions and parties. Call 224-4030 or 655-0577.

Cloverleaf Communicators Club

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

Future Speakers on the Horizon

Enjoy food and develop public speaking and leadership skills the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, noon-1 p.m. at the Joint Program Management Office, Building 4196. Call 295-4921.

Sergeant Audie Murphy Club

The SMA Leon L. Van Autreve Chapter of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club meets the last Thursday of each month, noon-1 p.m. at the Army Medical Department Museum. All Sergeant Audie Murphy or Sergeant Morales members are invited and encouraged to attend. Call 221-4424 or 837-9956.

Retired Enlisted Association

Chapter 80 of the Retired Enlisted Association meets at 1 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Gateway Club. Call 658-2344 for more information.

OUTSIDE THE GATE

Freedom Festival

Lytle VFW Post 12041 will host the second annual Freedom Festival Sept. 8 at John Lott Municipal Park in Lytle, Texas. The festival will kick off with a Freedom Walk beginning at 9 a.m. at the park pavilion. Festival hours are noon to 11 p.m. with food vendors, crafts and music. Call 830-709-0250 or visit <http://www.lytlevfw.org> for more information.

Texas Economic Development Council Job Fair

A job fair will be held Sept. 23 at the San Antonio Convention Cen-

ter, Exhibit Hall 103AB, 200 East Market St. Early admissions for veterans is 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. General admission for all job seekers is 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Company recruiters and hiring managers representing more than 50 companies, including Halliburton, National Oilwell Varco and Thomas Petroleum, will be at the event recruiting for a wide variety of energy-related jobs including engineers, geologists, geoscience managers, truck drivers, oil technicians and more.

Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association

The SMA Leon L. Van Autreve Sergeants Major Association meets at 5 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at the Longhorn Café, 1003 Rittiman Rd. All active duty, Reserve, National Guard and retired

sergeants major are invited and encouraged to attend. Call 221-0584 or 889-8212.

Foster a Puppy

The Department of Defense dog breeding program needs families to foster puppies for three months. Potential foster families need time and patience to raise a puppy age 12 weeks to six months, a stimulating and safe home environment and a desire to help raise a military working dog. Call 671-3686 for more information.

Dinosaur Stampede

The San Antonio Botanical Garden, 555 Funston, will feature a life-size dinosaur exhibit Sept. 1 to Dec. 31. Call 207-3255 or visit <http://www.sabot.org> for more information.

For Sale: Crystal glass punch bowl set, 5 quart with 12 glasses and ladle, \$60; full-size comforter, shams, and dust ruffle, blue floral and light floral patterns, reversible, \$25; Brighton heart necklace with red stone, 15-inches, silver, \$40. Call 495-2296.

For Sale: New pro bike helmet, medium size, \$35; computer desk, 41 inches long, 16 inches wide, 28 inches high, \$19; new portable TVs, ac or battery powered, with AM/FM reception, two available, \$25 and \$35; new Oakley sun glasses, 99 percent UV protection, with soft case and hard case included, \$75; skateboard \$20. Call 313-0061.

For Sale: New rascal electric wheelchair with detachable legs, instruction manual included, \$700. Call 661-3765, leave a message.



Edwards Aquifer Level

in feet above sea level as of Aug. 22

CURRENT LEVEL* = 642.8'

*determines JBSA water conservation stage

Normal - above 660'

Stage I - 660'

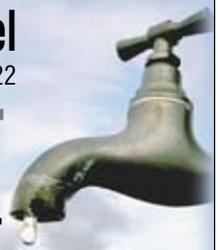
Stage II - 650'

Stage III - 642'

Stage IV - 640.5'

Stage V - 637'

For water restrictions, visit <http://www.502abw.af.mil>.



Weekly Weather Watch

	Aug 23	Aug 24	Aug 25	Aug 26	Aug 27	Aug 28
San Antonio Texas	 94° Mostly Sunny	 95° Partly Cloudy	 96° Mostly Sunny	 95° Mostly Sunny	 97° Partly Cloudy	 97° Partly Cloudy
Kabul Afghanistan	 91° Mostly Sunny	 93° Sunny	 91° Mostly Sunny	 89° Sunny	 90° Sunny	 88° Sunny

(Source: The Weather Channel at www.weather.com)