

# FORT SAM HOUSTON News Leader

“HOME OF ARMY MEDICINE”

## Happy homecoming for Marine unit



Photo by Esther Garcia

Sgt. Henry Adar receives a big welcome from his family: wife, Karen, older son, Kameron, and his 5-month-old son, Caiden, who was born while he was serving in Iraq. Adar is one of the 100 Marines from the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion detachments who returned home after a nine-month tour of duty in Iraq.

See 100 MARINES P16

## Debit card eases Family member burdens

By Cheryl Harrison  
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

Family members of Soldiers are proud of their son's and daughter's choice to serve their country. Sometimes that pride is put to the test when a Soldier is wounded and the Family gets that dreaded phone call with the news that their child has been wounded.

For most Families it is not a financial situation they have planned, saved for, nor really anticipated. It is a financial position that can add stress to an already horrendous situation.

Fort Sam Houston and Brooke Army Medical Center began a pilot program Monday that allows Family members in such a situation to receive a pre-funded debit card to offset their initial needs when they arrive at BAMC to see their wounded warrior.

Kenneth Kielman, director, Disbursing Operation Directorate, said, "What we had for support mechanisms was three paying abilities: cash payment, U.S. Government Treasury check and electronic funds transfer. In most cases the cash came out of local defense finance and accounting offices; we don't have cash on hand. So the two methods of support were check and EFT. It did not meet the needs of Family members as soon as they landed on the ground. Another mechanism was needed."

See DEBIT CARD P11

## Hispanic Heritage Month events

### Fort Sam Houston community

The Fort Sam Houston community will commemorate Hispanic Heritage Month with a luncheon Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Sam Houston Club, Building 1395. The guest speaker will be Dr. Lorena Gonzalez, and Rumba Dreams will provide entertainment. Tickets are \$11, which includes a lunch buffet. For tickets, call Master Sgt. Ricky Evans at 295-0561.

### 32nd Medical Brigade

The 32nd Medical Brigade Hispanic Heritage Month observance will be held today from 6:30 to 7 p.m. at the Hacienda Recreation Center. The guest speaker for the event will be Sgt. Major Ricardo Nieves, who will discuss "Hispanic Americans: Making a Positive Impact on American Society." Ronnie and the Latin Explosion will provide the entertainment. The event is open to advanced individual training and initial entry training Soldiers. For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Rosalba Chambers at 221-4240 or Staff Sgt Janie Lindsey at 221-8566.



Photo by Elaine Wilson

Angel Garcia and Shirley Silva, from the Semenya Dance Studio in San Antonio, turn up the heat with a demonstration of Latin dances during last year's Hispanic heritage luncheon at the Sam Houston Club.

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“CFC . . . Changing Lives One Gift at a Time” To donate, contact a unit representative.

# Keep safety in mind over holiday weekend

By Maj. Gen. Russell Czerw  
Commander, Fort Sam Houston and  
AMEDDC&S

Columbus Day commemorates Christopher Columbus' discovery of the North

American continent in 1492, which we recognize on the second Monday in October. This holiday marks the beginning of a new fiscal year and is also a wonderful chance for us to enjoy our

You've all worked hard and deserve this special long weekend to relax with your Families, friends and comrades.

Family and friends.

This holiday weekend I encourage awareness of accident potential in your activities, especially if traveling while fatigued or consuming alcohol.

Commanders, directors and supervisors play a critical role in preventing the loss of our Army's most valuable assets — our Soldiers, civilians and Family members. During your safety briefings emphasize speed limit adherence, defensive driving, the dangers and consequences of drunk driving,

sufficient rest prior to and during travel, and wearing seat belts. Ensure Soldiers complete the Travel Risk Planning System from the Combat Readiness Center Web site, <https://crc.army.mil/home>. The latest data shows our Soldiers are less likely to have a fatal accident after completing this assessment.

We also celebrate Fire Prevention the second week in October. This year's theme is "Practice Your Escape Plan." I ask our Families to practice their household escape plan so all members can exit their home safely. Now is a great time to replace batteries on your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

You've all worked hard and deserve this special long weekend to relax with your Families, friends and comrades. Please watch out for one another. Our nation needs all of you.

Thanks for what you do every day. Be safe!

## Mandatory ethics training

Soldiers and civilian employees must attend one hour of face-to-face ethics training taught by an ethic attorney in 2007, as directed by the Secretary of the Army. The following classes will be taught in Blesse Auditorium, Willis Hall, Building 2841:

Oct. 17 from 1 to 2 p.m.  
Nov. 15 from 9 to 10 a.m.  
Dec. 3 from 9 to 10 a.m.  
Dec. 14 from 1 to 2 p.m.

For more information, call Gerald Krimbill, Shelby Tanner or Capt. White at 221-2373 or 221-0485.



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# Purple Hearts honor Soldiers' sacrifice

Story and photos by Jen Rodriguez  
Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

Three Warriors in Transition were honored within days of each other in three private Purple Heart ceremonies in honor of their sacrifices and service to country.

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the armed forces of the United States who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy.

Capt. Andrew Tong received his Purple Heart Sept. 22, during an intimate ceremony with his mother, Cheryl Tong.

Lt. Col. John Myers, battalion commander, Warriors in Transition Battalion, hosted the ceremony on the patio between Fisher Houses three

and four, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Richard Acuna, who presented Tong with general's and commander's coins.

A native of Seattle, Tong served as a commander-in-charge, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 296th Battalion Service Brigade, 3rd Brigade. He was injured Aug. 18 near Baghdad International Airport on a convoy. When the truck he was riding in was hit with an explosively formed projectile, Tong sustained the loss of his right leg below the knee.

Cpl. Louis Dahlman, a Cavalry Scout with the 4th Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, was awarded the Purple Heart by Accessions Command Commander Lt. Gen. Benjamin Freakley, and the former 10th Mountain Division commander. The ceremony was held Sept. 26 in the Warriors in Transition day room.

Freakley praised Dahlman and his unit for being wonderful role models. "You put your life on the lines everyday for Iraq men and women," said Freakley, who visited Dahlman's squadron in Iraq last December. "Your brothers and sisters in combat together do phenomenal work."

Dahlman was joined by his stepdad, Larry Stockdale and fellow 4-10th Mtn. Div. comrades during the Purple Heart presentation. The corporal was injured May 19 when his vehicle was struck by an explosively formed projectile, while conducting a convoy escort in Kalsu, Iraq. Shrapnel from the EFP charge struck the front part of his jaw



Lt. Gen. Benjamin Freakley congratulates Cpl. Louis Dahlman after presenting him with a Purple Heart Sept. 22 in the Warriors in Transition day room at Brooke Army Medical Center.

resulting in his combat injuries.

Staff Sgt. Michael John Lage, B Company, 1-64th Armor Battalion from Fort Stewart, Ga., received his Purple Heart Sept. 28.

U.S. Army North Commander Lt. Gen. Thomas Turner presented Lage's Purple Heart in the BAMC fourth floor auditorium.

Turner reminded the audience, the majority of which was three generations of Lage's Family members, that "young kids serving today are a fantastic generation. They're the greatest that have been put on this earth."

June 20, while on a convoy, Lage's vehicle was struck by a 400-pound improvised explosive device. He was thrown 50 meters from the vehicle. The sole survivor of the incident, Lage sustained burns to his body, left arm amputation and multiple open wounds.



Lt. Gen. Thomas Turner, commander of U.S. Army North, congratulates Staff Sgt. Michael John Lage Sept. 28 after he received a Purple Heart at Brooke Army Medical Center.

# Changing of the guard at Fort Sam Houston

## New company, same responsibilities

Story and photo by Minnie Jones  
Fort Sam Houston Public Information  
Office

Fort Sam Houston will change security companies Tuesday. The Walden Security Company won the contract to protect Fort Sam Houston and several other Army installations in the Gulf Region of the United States.

Chenega Security and Protection Services, the current security company, has been guarding the gates at Fort Sam Houston since August 2005.

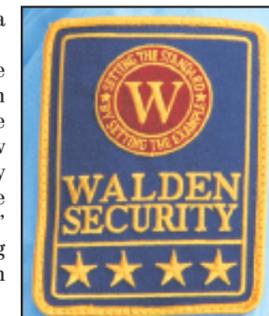
Walden Security, a division of Metropolitan Security, Inc., based in Chattanooga, Tenn., has been in the security business for 18 years delivering security services

to businesses and local, state and federal government agencies throughout the United States.

The change from Chenega to Walden will be seamless with the majority of the guards working for Chenega remaining in place. There will be some upper management moves, due to Michael Anderson, the current chief

of guards, leaving to take a new position with Chenega.

"On the day of the switchover, the Fort Sam community will simply see employees donning a new cap and the new company badge on their sleeve; the move will be transparent," said Curtis Hoosier, incoming chief of guards, Walden Security.



## News Briefs

### AECP commissioning ceremony

The Army Medical Department Center and School Enlisted Commissioning Program will commission new second lieutenants into the U.S. Army today at 9 a.m. in the 32nd Medical Brigade conference room, Building 902. AECP provides eligible active duty Soldiers the opportunity to complete a bachelor's degree in nursing, become a registered nurse and be commissioned in the Army Nurse Corps. For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Pamela Frank at 221-3887.

### 'Buddy Walk' at Fort Sam

To celebrate Down Syndrome Awareness Month, the National Down Syndrome Society will sponsor a "Buddy Walk" Saturday at the BG Johnson track at Fort Sam Houston. Walk day registration starts at 7 a.m. with entertainment and exhibitors. Opening ceremonies start at 8:30 a.m. and the walk begins at 9 a.m. Worth Road will be closed between Stanley and Dickman Roads from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants can pick up T-shirts Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Concordia Lutheran Church, 16801 Huebner. To pre-register, visit [www.dsasa.org](http://www.dsasa.org).

### Fort Sam Houston Museum closure

The Fort Sam Houston Museum will be closed Sunday in observance of the Columbus Day holiday. Regular visiting hours resume Wednesday. For more information, call 221-1886.

### SAEDA, OPSEC training AMEDDC&S

A Subversion and Espionage Directed Against the U.S. Army and Operations Security training for Army Medical Department Center and School personnel will be held Tuesday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in Blesse Auditorium, Willis Hall, Building 2841. The training is mandatory for Department of Defense personnel on Fort Sam Houston, to include contract employees. For more information, call Harold Larvins at 221-8841 or e-mail [harold.k.larkins@amedd.army.mil](mailto:harold.k.larkins@amedd.army.mil).

### Warriors in Transition Battalion

The Warriors in Transition Battalion activation will be held Oct. 18 at 8:30 a.m. at MacArthur Parade Field.

### Ribbon-cutting ceremony

The U.S. Army Medical Department Center and School will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony Oct. 23 at 8:30 a.m. for Dunlap Hall, the new Department of Nursing Science building. The ceremony will be held on the east side of the building, which faces the NCO Academy.

### HHC change of command

Capt. Hillary Klingman will assume command of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison from Capt. Clayton Curtis Oct. 26 at 10:30 a.m. at the main post flagpole on Stanley Road.

## Fire Prevention Week

### Fire Department sponsors post activities to emphasize safety

Oct. 7 to 13 is Fire Prevention Week. Fort Sam Houston Fire and Emergency Services has joined forces with the non-profit National Fire Protection Association to remind local residents to "Practice Your Escape Plan."

During this year's fire safety campaign, firefighters and safety advocates will spread the word about the dangers of home fires and teach local residents how to plan and practice escape from a home in case a fire occurs. The Fire Department encourages all housing residents to join the Great American Fire Drill.

According to the latest NFPA research, 3,030 people died in 2005 in home fires – that's roughly eight people every day. Being alerted to a fire and knowing what to do to escape from one are extremely important, yet only 23 percent of households have planned and practiced a home fire escape plan.

"Many times when we speak to residents who have experienced a fire in their home; they recall becoming confused and disoriented by the conditions and severity of the situation, but they realized they needed to get out fast," said Assistant Fire Chief Terry Davis. "Sometimes there are only seconds to escape, but there's no question that having a plan in place that has been practiced saves precious time and makes survival more likely. We hope that Fire Prevention Week will prompt folks in our community to plan and practice their escape."

Although it's difficult to prepare for the unexpected, reviewing the information below and taking action based on it to plan for a fire is strongly recommended.

- Install working smoke alarms on every level, and inside and outside of each

See FIRE PREVENTION P7

### Fire Prevention Week activities

To reinforce safety messages, the Fort Sam Houston Fire Department will conduct the following activities throughout the week:

- Fire drills and tours of the Fire Department.
- Fire extinguisher training Oct. 8 to 11 at 8:30, 9:30 and 10:30 a.m. at the Fire Department training area located across the street from the Fire Department.
- Fire truck displays Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. at the Harris Heights Community Center; 9:10 a.m. at the Marvin R. Wood playground; 10 a.m. at the Youth Center, B-1720; 10:45 a.m. at the Watkins Terrace housing area; and 1:30 p.m. at the Easley Street playground.
- Open House Oct. 13 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in conjunction with the Fort Sam Houston annual Fall Fest. At 9 a.m., opening remarks will be given by Garrison Commander Col. Wendy Martinson followed by the presentation of awards for the Fort Sam Houston Fire Department poster contest. At 10 a.m., there will be a live fire demonstration at the Fire Department training grounds.
- A booth at the Fall Fest with a shuttle to and from the Fire Department Open House. Everyone who visits the Fire Department during the Open House will receive a free chance for a door prize to be given away at the Fall Fest celebration.

## Crime Prevention Month

### Police, McGruff focus on crime prevention

Throughout the month of October, the Fort Sam Houston Police Department will participate in a nationwide effort to bring attention to crime prevention. The following activities will be sponsored by the crime prevention section:

- Operation Project Lock - During this operation, the crime prevention section will be checking parked vehicles around the installation to ensure that they are secured. Any vehicles that are found unsecured will be given a reminder to secure their vehicles.
- Oct. 12 - There will be a crime prevention booth set up at the Walters Shoppette from 4 to 8 p.m. with informational brochures, child identification kits, coloring books and stickers. McGruff will be present from 4 to 6 p.m.

- Oct. 13 - McGruff will be making appearances at the Fall Fest and PXtra shopping area, and a crime prevention booth will be set up at the Fall Fest.
- Oct. 21 to 28 - Red Ribbon Week
- Oct. 22 - McGruff will visit the Child Development Center located at Building 2530 and hand out red ribbons.
- Oct. 23 - McGruff will visit Brooke Army Medical Center and hand out red ribbons.
- Oct. 24 - A crime prevention booth will be set up at the Post Exchange from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. with informational brochures, child identification kits, coloring books and stickers. McGruff will visit the PX, Student Age Services and the Youth Center and distribute red ribbons.
- Oct. 25 - McGruff will visit the

Fort Sam Houston Elementary School and the Child Development Center and hand out red ribbons.

- Oct. 26 - McGruff will visit the commissary and will be at the Cole High School football game handing out red ribbons.
- Oct. 30 - McGruff will visit the Newcomer's Extravaganza at the Sam Houston Club.
- Oct. 31 - McGruff will be in the neighborhoods along with the police officers handing out chemical lights.

The crime prevention section is available anytime to present crime prevention classes to units or communities. For more information, call the Crime Prevention section at 221-0990.

(Source: Fort Sam Houston Police Department)

## Crime Prevention Month

### Provost Marshal stresses traffic safety, crime prevention

October begins Crime Prevention Month and Fort Sam Houston's campaign has a number of activities to enforce the importance. The month's activities will culminate with Red Ribbon Week and Halloween.

McGruff, the Crime Dog will visit various events and locations throughout the month. Fire Prevention Week will be held Oct. 7 through 13, and end with an open house Oct. 13 at the Fire Department, Building 3830.

On a more serious note, much has been written and preached about speeding, cell phones and pedestrians. Recently, what could have been a terrible accident involving a pedestrian and a vehicle occurred. The pedestrian was not crossing the street at a crosswalk or intersection and an approaching driver was able to stop the vehicle he was driving before the incident became a serious accident. Had the driver been speeding or on a cell phone the incident could have ended on a sad note.

In the past two weeks, the police have responded to the following crimes:

Eight individuals were apprehended for shoplifting at the Main Exchange, with more than \$1,000 worth of sunglasses, shoes, clothing and jewelry recovered. Eleven thefts were

reported in the following areas: a laptop computer and a stethoscope; from Brooke Army Medical Center, a laptop computer, video game systems, prescription medicine, a cell phone and a debit card, which was subsequently used at an ATM on post to withdraw money from the account from the barracks, a wallet and prescription medicine from the the Brigade Gym and an office building in the 2000 area. Two vehicles were stolen from the installation, one from a construction area near BAMC and recovered off post and the other was taken by a Soldier. All but one of the items stolen were not secured.

Six Soldiers were apprehended for drug use or possession. The drugs included cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamines and ecstasy. Police also apprehended three civilians and one Soldier for driving while intoxicated.

Police found seven government buildings unsecured and three reported damages consisting of a broken window and a broken vehicle window. Also, eight reports of assaults on post, in or around troop barracks.

(Source: Provost Marshal Office)

### TC protects pedestrians

The Texas Transportation Code states the following concerning pedestrians and the right-of-way:

#### When a traffic signal is present – TRC 552.001.

- (a) A traffic control signal displaying green, red and yellow lights or lighted arrows applies to a pedestrian as provided by this section unless the pedestrian is otherwise directed by a special pedestrian control signal.
- (b) A pedestrian facing a green signal may proceed across a roadway within a marked or unmarked crosswalk unless the sole green signal is a turn arrow.
- (c) A pedestrian facing a steady red signal alone or a steady yellow signal may not enter a roadway.

#### When a special pedestrian control signal is present – TRC 552.002.

- (a) A pedestrian control signal displaying "Walk," "Don't Walk," or "Wait" applies to a pedestrian as provided by this section.
- (b) A pedestrian facing a "Walk" signal may proceed across a roadway in the direction of the signal, and the operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to the pedestrian.
- (c) A pedestrian may not start to cross a roadway in the direction of a "Don't Walk" signal or a "Wait" signal. A pedestrian who has partially crossed while the "Walk" signal is displayed shall proceed to a sidewalk or safety island while the "Don't Walk" signal or "Wait" signal is displayed. Pedestrian right-of way at a crosswalk - TRC

552.003.

(a) The operator of a vehicle shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing a roadway in a crosswalk if:

- (1) no traffic control signal is in place or in operation; and
- (2) the pedestrian is:
  - (A) on the half of the roadway in which the vehicle is traveling; or
  - (B) approaching so closely from the opposite half of the roadway as to be in danger.
- (b) Notwithstanding Subsection (a), a pedestrian may not suddenly leave a curb or other place of safety and proceed into a crosswalk in the path of a vehicle so close that it is impossible for the vehicle operator to yield.
- (c) The operator of a vehicle approaching from the rear of a vehicle that is stopped at a crosswalk to permit a pedestrian to cross a roadway may not pass the stopped vehicle.

#### Pedestrian crossing at point other than crosswalk – TRC 552.005.

- (a) A pedestrian shall yield the right-of-way to a vehicle on the highway if crossing a roadway at a place:
  - (1) other than in a marked crosswalk or in an unmarked crosswalk at an intersection; or
  - (2) where a pedestrian tunnel or overhead pedestrian crossing has been provided.
- (b) Between adjacent intersections at which traffic control signals are in operation, a pedestrian may cross only in a marked crosswalk.
- (c) A pedestrian may cross a roadway intersection diagonally only if and in the manner authorized by a traffic control device.

## Paying respects

### Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Lankford Sr.

*79th Ordnance Battalion (Explosive Ordnance Disposal)*

A memorial service was held Tuesday at the main post chapel for Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Lankford. Lankford died Sept. 22 in Bagdad, Iraq. The Fort Sam Houston community attended the service to pay tribute and bid a final farewell to a fellow comrade.

Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Lankford was born in Scottsboro, Ala., April 16, 1965. He enlisted in the U.S. Army May 11, 1984, and volunteered for Explosive Ordnance Disposal. He and Cheryl were married Aug. 13, 1999, and have a 2-year-old son, Jonathan Lankford Jr. Lankford's assignments include EOD instructor, first sergeant for the Technical Escort Unit, and 47th Ordnance Company (EOD) Fort Hood, Texas, and finally 79th Ordnance Battalion (EOD) as the command sergeant major. His first Iraq deployment was July to December 1998. Subsequent deployments include Saudi Arabia, April 2000 to April 2001; Iraq, April 2003 to October 2003; and Iraq, October 2006 to September 2007 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lankford's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal (one oak leaf cluster), Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service



Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (two oak leaf clusters), Joint Service Achievement Medal (one oak leaf cluster), Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Iraqi Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal and United Nations Medal. He was awarded the EOD Master Badge

March 10, 1994, and the Combat Action Badge May 1, 2006. Lankford is survived by his wife, Cheryl, son, Jonathan Lankford Jr. of San Antonio, and his mother, Mary Jo Lankford Scottsboro, Alabama. In recognition of his extraordinary ability and achievements he was selected as the next 71st Ordnance Group (EOD) Fort Carson, Colo. command sergeant major.

Lankford was a charismatic leadership force who epitomized the Army Values and Warrior Ethos to the extreme. A true leader for the current joint force structure; able to lead intricate combat operations in extraordinary lethal environments. He will be sorely missed and impossible to replace.



Photo by Esther Garcia

Maj. Gen. Russell Czerw, commanding general, Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston, pays his respects to Cheryl Lankford Tuesday during the Memorial Service held at the main post chapel for Command Sgt. Maj. Jonathan Lankford. Lankford died Sept. 22 in Bagdad, Iraq. The Fort Sam Houston community attended the service to pay tribute and bid a final farewell to a fellow comrade.

## FIRE PREVENTION from P4

sleeping area.

- Develop a fire escape plan that identifies two ways out of each room and a family meeting place outside.

- Make sure the fire escape plan allows for any specific needs in the household. If everyone knows what to do, everyone can get out quickly.

- Practice using the plan at least twice a year.

- Some studies have shown that some children and adults may not awaken to the sound of a smoke alarm; they may need help waking up.

- If the smoke alarm sounds: Go to the closest exit, and if there's smoke, turn and use another way out. If going through the smoke is the only way out, get low and go under the smoke to the exit. Don't take time to pick up belongings; just get out and help others get out. Move fast but stay calm.

Fire Prevention Week is actively supported by fire departments across the country. For 85 years fire departments have observed Fire Prevention Week, making it the longest running public health and safety observance on record. For more information, call Davis at 221-5452.

(Source: Fire & Emergency Services Division)

## Domestic Violence Prevention Awareness Month

# Protective orders can help protect victims from abusers

By Esmeralda Jeffries

Family Advocacy Program victim advocate

Victims of domestic abuse who need assistance in leaving abusive relationships can seek a protective order. Protective orders are legal documents filed in Civil Court and have criminal sanctions. Abusers can be charged with the criminal offense of violation of a protective order as well as any other crimes they commit.

The following criteria must be met in order to qualify for a protective order: the victim must be related by blood or marriage, currently living with the abuser, have a child with the abuser, have a continuing intimate relationship with the abuser or be a victim of sexual assault.

A protective order orders a person not to commit any violence against the protected individuals and not to come within a certain distance of where they live or work. Children also can be pro-

tected at school, day care centers and their babysitter's address. Protected individuals can request their information remain confidential if they do not want the abuser to know where they reside or work.

To apply for a protective order in Bexar County, stop by the Family Justice Center located at 527 N. Leona, San Antonio, Texas, 78207. Information needed at the time of the interview include any and all police reports or case numbers that the individual has made against the abuser in regards to any family violence incidents; to include threats, harassment or abuse. Also needed is a current address for the abuser. If the individual meets the requirements within the law for a protective order, the abuser must be served with a Temporary Ex Parte Protective Order and the Application for the Protective Order. The victim advocate will mail the victim a copy of the Temporary Ex Parte Protective Order

and the application with a court date. In court, the victim will be directed to wait in a safe location away from the abuser, although the victim may see the abuser in court if a hearing is requested before the judge. If the abuser agrees to the protective order, then the victim will be granted a final agreed order. If the abuser was served but fails to appear in court, the judge can issue a default protective order. Final protective orders are good for up to two years from date of issuance.

If the protected individual moves to another city or state the protective order is still valid but needs to be registered with the local law enforcement or any other agency responsible for registering protective orders. People should keep a copy of the order in their possession at all times.

For more information or to report an abusive relationship, call the Fort Sam Houston Victim Advocacy at 221-0349.

# Operation Rising Star showcases talent at Fort Sam

## 232nd Med. Bn. Soldier sings her way to first place

By Ben Paniagua  
Hacienda Recreation Center

A star was born Sept. 26 at Fort Sam Houston. A capacity crowd of more than 150 Soldiers, civilians and Family members filled the auditorium of the Hacienda Recreation Center for a military singing competition called Operation Rising Star.

Spc. Laura Fiske, D Company, 232nd Medical Battalion, took first place in the Army competition, which featured 11 military contestants.

The competition started with the preliminaries Sept. 25. The contestants sang a cappella and a panel of judges narrowed the field to seven finalists. The seven contestants then competed in the finals Sept. 26 and performed with music tracks.

Fiske sang "Please Remember" from the Coyote Ugly movie soundtrack. The audience went wild after her performance. Angel Martinez, a well-known vocalist from San Antonio and one of the judges, raved over her performance. "She was

awesome. She made the song her own and performed beautifully."

As Fort Sam Houston's 2007 Operation Rising Star winner, Fiske won \$500 in cash for herself and \$500 for her unit. After being announced the winner, Fiske told the audience, "Thank you, to all of you, from my company who were here to support me. I feel really great."

Coming in second place was Pfc. Dasha Long, also from D Co., 232nd Med. Bn. Long sang Toni Braxton's "How Can an Angel Break Your Heart." The judges were overwhelmed with her performance and the crowd agreed. Long won \$250 in cash.

The third place winner was Air Force Senior Airman Naomi Keen, from the 37th Aerospace Medicine Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. Keen sang "Don't Let Go" by En Vogue. Keen won \$100.

The competition was open to service members from all branches of service. For the finals, the audience votes comprised 50 percent of



Photo by Spc. Jonathan Georges

Ben Paniagua congratulates Spc. Laura Fiske, D Company, 232nd Medical Battalion, for taking first place in the Operation Rising Star singing competition held Sept. 26 at the Hacienda Recreation Center.

the vote and the judges' votes comprised the other half.

The audience was treated to a variety of prizes when names were

drawn. They consisted of T-shirts, MP-3 players, download cards and a

See **RISING STAR P9**

Spc. Laura Fiske, D Company, 232nd Medical Battalion, gets lost in the moment as she sings "Please Remember" from the Coyote Ugly movie soundtrack. Fiske won \$500 for herself and \$500 for her unit.



Photos by Spc. Jonathan Georges

### RISING STAR from P8

grand prize of a high-tech DVD player.

"I had a really good time judging this event," said Staff Sgt. Eric Terrell, operations NCO, Warriors in Transition Unit at Brooke Army Medical Center and one of the official judges. "I was amazed at the quality of talent that was on that stage. They were all awesome," he said.

As the winner of the 2007 Operation Rising Star competition, Fiske has the opportunity to represent Fort Sam Houston at the United States Army Operation Rising Star Finals in November at Fort Belvoir, Va.



Pfc. Dasha Long, D Company, 232nd Medical Battalion, took second place in the Rising Star competition for her rendition of Toni Braxton's "How Can an Angel Break Your Heart." Long took home \$250 for her performance.



Air Force Senior Airman Naomi Keen, 37th Aerospace Medicine Squadron, Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, sings "Don't Let Go" by En Vogue. Keen won third place and \$100 in the military competition.

# Fort Sam Soldier dies from infectious disease

## Post takes measures to ensure safety of others

By Phil Reidinger

Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office

A Fort Sam Houston Soldier died from an infectious disease Sept. 27 at Brooke Army Medical Center.

Pvt. Adam C. Plocinski, assigned to F Company, 232nd Medical Battalion, 32nd Medical Brigade, Army Medical Department Center and School, reported to sick call at McQuethy Health Clinic Sept. 26 at 5:30 a.m. complaining of high fever and vomiting. The Soldier was screened and immediately admitted to Brooke Army Medical Center with a "presumptive positive" for bacterial meningitis. A routine test, which involves a spinal tap, was not possible due to the Soldier's poor condition. The blood culture isolates were positive for *Neisseria meningitidis*, which is a bacterium that can potentially cause bacterial meningitis. In Plocinski's case, the bacterium caused a whole-body infection called sepsis, according to Col. Forrest Oliverson, BAMC Preventive Medicine.

Due to the seriousness of the Soldier's condition, the command notified his parents and arranged for their travel to San Antonio. The Family was met at the Austin airport by the company commander and the first sergeant and transported to BAMC to be with their son. The Family arrived at 2 a.m. and was also met by the battalion commander, command sergeant major and the battalion chaplain. The Soldier's condition continued to decline throughout the night. Heroic efforts by BAMC staff to sustain the Soldier's life were discontinued and Plocinski was pronounced dead Sept. 27 shortly before 4 a.m.

Plocinski was 19 years old and a native of New Cumberland, Pa. He is survived by his mother, father and two sisters.

All efforts are made to maintain a healthy and fit force. The post regularly

performs surveillance looking for the first signs of any disease outbreak in order to stop that outbreak. Soldiers receive all appropriate vaccines to protect them. All Army trainees receive meningococcal vaccine. While no vaccine is 100 percent effective, the meningococcal vaccine is more than 95 percent effective. This vaccine protects against Groups A, C, Y and W-135 of the meningococcal organism. There is one other group, Group B, which causes disease. Unfortunately, there is no vaccine available to protect against this group.

Soldiers are educated and monitored in best practices to prevent the transmission of illness including cough etiquette (cover mouth when coughing and sneezing or even use a face mask) and regular hand washing. Soldiers have access to medical care whenever they have medical complaints. When a medical problem is identified, the post not only takes care of that Soldier, but also takes measures to review the situation and prevent other Soldiers from

The symptoms include fever, headache, general malaise, upset stomach with nausea and vomiting, and a stiff neck. The incubation period is two to 10 days, with three to four days the most common.

the same problem.

The disease is spread through exposure to nasal-pharyngeal secretions. Droplets, especially from coughing or sneezing, may be transmitted from one person to another or a person may share a drink or eating utensils of an infected person. Close contact, such as kissing, could also cause transmission. Casual contact, just being around someone for a sort period of time, will not pass on the infection.

The military training environment has risk factors for the spread of disease, especially upper respiratory infections. This is inherent to the process. Military trainees are placed in a new environment and live and

work together in close proximity for virtually 24 hours a day. They are stressed physically, mentally and emotionally. All of this does put them at increased risk. It is somewhat akin to college freshmen living in dormitories or other similar situations. There is really no other way to accomplish initial military training. Despite that, barracks and training facilities are designed to be a safe and pleasant environment. Buildings are regularly inspected on a daily basis by drill sergeants and other cadre members, and by various other professionals — safety, fire and preventive medicine health

See **INFECTIOUS P11**

### DEBIT CARD from P1

A partnership was formed with the treasury, which had a relationship with Chase Bank. The ability was there to set up an account with Chase and use the pre-funded debit cards.

It was settled that a pilot program for the debit card be tested at BAMC for Army Family members only, during the first phase of the four-part program.

**Phase 1** – Monday the pilot began at BAMC for Army Family members only. During this phase, the program kinks will be worked out such as forms, installations and products, and whether the card is supported by hotels, post exchanges, banks and commissaries

**Phase 2** – This phase is benchmarked to begin in December and will target another treatment facility for the debit card use, assuming the right metrics are worked out. This phase will be very aggressive.

**Phase 3** – Following quickly after phase two, another treatment facility site will be selected. At the present time, Walter Reed Army Medical Center; Fort Bragg, N.C.; or Fort Bliss, Texas, are being considered.

**Phase 4** – This is when all services will be covered. BAMC does not distinguish who is injured, but presently the pilot program does by being available only to Army Soldiers. All the performance metrics need to be done quickly, so by the first of the year all services will be covered.

When Family members are notified that they need to be at the airport, warning orders are issued that support may be needed. Once Family members arrive, they are met by an escort officer from the Warriors in Transition Unit.

Escort officers meet the Family at the airport, take them to their wounded warrior, check them into housing, then arrange for the debit card or money to go into the bank.

The escort will establish the requirements of the Family and partner with the Defense Military Pay Office if they need a card. Many Families come without cash, debit or credit cards, are in shock and concerned about their Soldier, and are not thinking about money matters.

"The biggest advantage of this program is that it puts money in their hands right away versus EFT. Most blue

collar workers who come here may have money, but not on hand. This money is up front, so they don't have to get to a bank right away," said Teresa Reker, director, Defense Military Pay Office. "We've even seen folks who do not have bank accounts. It is a mechanism that gets Family members a little more comfortable with the situation that they are suddenly finding themselves in."

The escort officer will get a blank card in a sealed envelope. It is partnered with the value that needs to go on that card, travel advance form and a privacy statement. The number of days they will be here, which is based on how long the wounded warrior is going to be hospitalized, determines how much is loaded onto the card. The debit card is not a gift; it is a travel advance entitlement. The travel documents that are initially signed set up a travel record, including the advance in the debit card.

Once the paperwork is signed, the escort officers will watch and phone in to activate the card.

Behind the scenes, the staff at Indianapolis will be notified that a card has been released, load a value to that card and then wait for the 800 phone number to be called for card activation.

The card is designed for an interim basis for financial requirement; the

interim being three to seven days for lodging, incidentals and meals. The card takes care of their initial needs until Family members are in-processed, paperwork is established, and the "waters have settled." Three Family members are authorized on travel orders, and the card helps them with that first financial burden and lets them spend time with their wounded warrior.

The card is good for 12 months, with no fees for Family members if a Chase-affiliated financial institution is used.

The card can be used anyplace for a cash advance card. It is the Family member's money and then becomes a relationship between the bank and the individual.

A PIN is generated when the phone call is made to activate the card. Account balances can be checked online or at an ATM.

"I'm excited about this, but I wish we didn't have to have a program for it," said Kielman. "When we pilot at the next site, wherever we go, we are going to be there real quick. We clearly think we have the right tools."

"The first two cards were issued Tuesday, which at one time the process would have taken five days, only took a few hours. So in that sense, the program works and seems to be a success," said Reker.

### INFECTIOUS from P10

inspectors. The barracks occupied by Plocinski was last inspected by industrial hygiene personnel in May 2007.

No other Soldiers or civilians have been infected. Fort Sam Houston has an active surveillance program that monitors the force to ensure that should an outbreak occur, it is caught early and aggressive action is taken to deal with it.

The symptoms include fever, headache, general malaise, upset stomach with nausea and vomiting, and a stiff neck. The incubation period is two to 10 days, with three to four days the most common.

Soldiers and civilians who had close contact with Plocinski were given a prophylactic antibiotic called Ciprofloxacin. About 150 Soldiers and staff plus about 60 health care workers have been given prophylaxis.

If another case arises, an area is reserved in the hospital to care for individuals and can be expanded if necessary.

For more information, call BAMC Preventive Medicine at 295-2500.

## Religion

### Community Extravaganza

The Collective Protestant Gospel Service will host a "Reaching out to the Community," Extravaganza Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Dodd Field Chapel, 1721 Dodd Blvd. The event will feature family fun, food, games, music and guest speakers. For more information, call 221-5010.

### Women's retreat

The Gift of Grace women's retreat will be held Nov. 2 and 3 at the Hyatt Resort in Lost Pines, Texas. The retreat will begin Nov. 2 at 6:30 p.m. with a gathering social and prayer and end Nov. 3 at 3:30 p.m. with a service. The suggested donation is \$40 per person. Spouses of deployed and wounded warriors are invited at no charge.

For more information or to make a reservation, call Brian Merry at 221-5006 or e-mail brian.r.merry@us.army.mil.

### Islamic observance of Eid-UI-Fitr

Muslim military personnel will observe Ramadan, the Holy Month of Fasting, and Eid-UI-Fitr, the Festival of Fast Breaking, for 29 or 30 days. Religious practices for Muslims during the month of Ramadan include daily fasting from about 90 minutes before sunrise until after sunset. Eid-UI-Fitr is a three-day festival of thanksgiving and rejoicing, and is celebrated at the end of Ramadan. The Festival of Eid-UI-Fitr begins Oct. 11, depending on the lunar calendar. For more information, call 221-2755 or e-mail james.benson@us.army.mil.

## 'See You at the Pole'

### Students unite for prayer

By Jane Casarez  
Special to the News Leader

Students at Cole Middle and High Schools joined millions of high school and middle school students across the nation as they celebrated "See You at the Pole" Sept. 26. The event encourages students to meet before school, around the flagpole, and unite together for a time of prayer.

The event, held in the early morning on the fourth Wednesday in September every year, gives students throughout the nation an opportunity to pray for everything from their school, classes, peer pressure, grades and making good decisions to personal prayer requests. It also gives students a chance to exercise their faith, regardless of religious affiliation.

Participation was not mandatory, but those who participated were moved by

the experience.

"'See You at the Pole' was an amazing experience that bonded Christians at our school," said Mercedes Gill, a sophomore at Cole. "Even though it was at seven in the morning, we had at least 20 people come out."

Karen Thompson, also a sophomore, said, "It was really great and I feel like we reached out and touched people's heart through God. We're still praying for the Christians to be a light at Cole and for everything we say and do to point others to Christ."

Nicole Casarez, the only sixth grader in attendance, said the experience taught her something. "I was surprised to see so many high school students there. I believe that even though God is not a subject on my schedule, he is a subject in my life, and now I know other people think that too."

Many students at Fort Sam Houston understand that military life is sometimes difficult and hard to deal with, but sophomore Jacqueline Randle summed it up well. "Even as a child I fight in the Army. The only difference is I fight in the army of God. So I always try to remember that 'All things are possible with Christ who strengthens me.'"

### Cole royalty



Photo by Bob Hoffmann

Twins Jamell and Neje Huaracha were crowned Cole High School's homecoming king and queen during the halftime festivities Friday night at Cole Stadium.

### Cougars romp last non-district game

The Robert G. Cole High School Cougars celebrated homecoming in a big way Friday with a 45-0 thrashing of the Center Point Pirates. Led by R.J. Evans' two touchdown runs, Cole stormed out to a 35-point halftime lead and coasted the rest of the way. The win puts the Cougars at 4-1 with a well-deserved by-week Friday. They enter district 29-2A competition Oct. 12 against Dilley at Cougar Stadium.

### Cole to hold Hispanic Heritage Fair

Robert G. Cole High School will hold its first Hispanic Heritage Month Fair Friday at 4 p.m. in front of Cole's Moseley Gym. The event will be presented by Spanish II students taught by Senora Jo Chacon. The students will create their own "Mercado," with booths offering food, crafts, games and music from 20 Spanish-speaking countries. To help kick-off the event will be Damas de Jalisco, a female mariachi group.

### Former Cole student excels at Academy

WEST POINT, N.Y.

— Cadet James Raymond, son of U.S. Army North G2 retired Col. Douglas Raymond and wife, Celeste, has been named to the Dean's List for the fall and spring semesters of 2006-07 at the U.S. Military Academy. To earn the honor, a cadet must maintain a 3.0 grade point average in all courses. Raymond graduated from Robert G. Cole High School in 2006. He plans to graduate from West Point in 2010 and will be commissioned a second lieutenant



in the U.S. Army.

James Raymond also has earned his "A" as a member of the Black Knights Golf Team, which competes in the NCAA Division 1 Patriot League. James, both a regional and district champion at Cole High School, is also a two time UIL Class 2A third place medalist in the Texas State High School Golf Championships. He will compete this fall in the Army-Navy "Star" golf competition to be held in Annapolis, Md.

### Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Weekly Campus Activities – Monday through Oct. 13

#### Fort Sam Houston Elementary School

**Monday**  
Columbus Day, student holiday, staff development day  
**Oct. 12**  
Spirit day

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

**Monday**  
Columbus Day, student holiday, staff development day

#### Tuesday

Volleyball vs. Hawkins at Cole, 5 and 6 p.m.  
**Oct. 11**  
Middle School and High School picture retakes  
Junior varsity football at Dilley, 7:30 p.m.

#### Oct. 12

Volleyball vs. Dilley at Cole, 4 and 5 p.m.  
Varsity football vs. Dilley at Cole, 7:30 p.m.

#### Oct. 13

Bobcat invitational cross country meet at Comfort, TBA

## Strike Zone coming soon to the bowling center

Strike Zone, Fort Sam Houston's new location for lunch, dinner and snacks, will open Oct. 11 in the bowling center located on Schofield Road. The hours of operation will be Tuesdays through Fridays from 5 p.m. to close, Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to close and Sundays from 2 p.m. to close. Strike Zone is the most popular of the Army's popular branded restaurants and will offer casual, quick-service hot and cold sandwiches, salads, snacks, pizza and premium hot and cold beverages and is a great place for birthday parties or unit functions. Bring the family to Strike Zone for a great meal before hitting the lanes.

For more information about the Strike Zone opening, menu and specials, call the Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center at 221-4740 or visit [www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com](http://www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com).

## MWR Community Recreation

### Fall Fest

The Fort Sam Houston Fall Fest will be held Oct. 13 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The event will provide a variety of games, food booths, activities and entertainment. The festival's parade begins at 12 p.m. in front of the old officers' club on Dickman Road. Sprint will be on hand with NASCAR race simulators. Experience driving on one of six NASCAR NEXTEL Cup Series Tracks in either the Dale Earnhardt, Jr. #8 or Tony Stewart #20 cars. Sprint will give away prizes for the top three racers in the simulators. Enter the arts and crafts fair, take a chance on the mechanical bull ride, enter the barbecue cook-off, as well as a drawing for a variety of prizes. For more information, call 221-3185, or to register for any of the events, visit the Fall Fest registration page at [www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com](http://www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com).

### Combat Medic Run

The 27th Annual Combat Medic Run will be held Oct. 20. The event comprises four different

categories: 10K Individual and 5-Person Guidon Team, 5K Individual Run, 5K 28-Soldier Formation Run and 2-mile Fitness Walk. There are three ways to register; stop by the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center; mail in the form to Morale, Welfare and Recreation, 1212 Stanley Road, Building 124, San Antonio, TX 78234; or visit the Combat Medic Run page at [www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com](http://www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com) for the link to the registration page. Packet pick-up will be Oct. 19 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center, with a pasta dinner from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information, call 221-3185.

### Boxing at the Brought

Boxing at the Brought V will be held Oct. 20 at 6 p.m., and the doors open at 5 p.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Admission is only \$5. BOSS pre-sale ticket events will be held Tuesday at Brooke Army Medical Center; Wednesday at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center; Oct. 11 at the Sam Houston Club; and Oct. 12 at the post exchange. The \$5 pre-sale includes admission, official event T-shirt and entry into the VIP grand prize drawing. For more information, call 221-2020 or 221-1180.

### BOSS Halloween Bash

Members of the Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will sponsor a Halloween Bash Oct. 26 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center. Participants can enjoy free unlimited bowling. The Family event is open to the public. For more information, call 224-7250 or 221-3683.

### Cottages at Canyon Lake

The cottages at Canyon Lake are available for public use. Reservations are being

accepted for the new 1,200-square-foot facilities. The new three-bedroom cottages are fully furnished and equipped with central heating and air conditioning, a barbecue pit and kitchen with appliances. Each cottage has a parking space, front porch and picnic table. For more information or to make a reservation, call 830-226-5357 or 888-882-9878.

## Dining and Entertainment

### Sam Houston Club, 224-2721

#### Comedy jam

Enjoy a world-class Comedy Jam Friday at 8 p.m. at the Sam Houston Club. Comedy Jam will showcase Small Fire aka Small Frie from Comic View and Showtime at the Apollo; Lester Bibbs from Def Comedy Jam; and Joe Torry, who appeared in House Party, Poetic Justice, Def Comedy Jam, Roc, Amen and Sprung. Also enjoy a special performance by Marques Callaway. The doors open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at the MWR Ticket Office. Tickets are \$15 for military personnel and \$20 for civilians. For more information, call 226-1663 or 378-3648.

#### MWR & BOSS present: Texas Hold 'Em

Sign up now for a new round of Texas Hold 'Em Oct. 12 at 6 p.m. at the Sam Houston Club. Registration is \$20, and includes a special meal and unlimited soft drinks. The one-day event will continue until a winner is declared. For a complete list of prizes and official rules, visit the Sam Houston Club. Players must be at least 21 years old to participate. For more information or to reserve a seat, call the Sam Houston Club at 224-2721 or 226-1663.

### Harlequin Dinner Theatre, 222-9694

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre will present "Last of the Red Hot Lovers," a comedy by Neil Simon, through Saturday. Tickets are \$28 tonight and \$31 Friday and Saturday. Doors open for salad bar and cocktails at 6:15 p.m.,

the buffet is open from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and the show begins at 8 p.m. Military discounts are available. For more information or to make reservations, call 222-9694.

### MWR Ticket Office, 226-1663

The ticket office is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and closed Sundays and Mondays. For more information, visit [www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com](http://www.fortsamhoustonmwr.com) or call 221-1663 or 224-2721.

## Child and Youth Services

### 'Camp Operation Render Comfort'

"Camp Operation Render Comfort" is a one-day event to be held Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Southwest Mental Health Center. The event is for children who have lost a loved one while in service. The camp offers children activities and games to help share experiences, explore feelings and find a path to comfort and healing. Parents also participate in workshops to learn supportive ways to help children through the healing process. There is no charge for children or families to attend the camp. For more information, visit [www.swmhc.org](http://www.swmhc.org), call 295-4806 or e-mail [keith.a.toney@us.army.mil](mailto:keith.a.toney@us.army.mil).

### Parent Advisory Council

The Child and Youth Services Parent Advisory Council will meet Oct. 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Child Development Center. Lunch will be provided. All CYS patrons are encouraged to attend. This is an opportunity to meet staff, attend parent workshops and learn about upcoming events. The Family Advocacy Program will give a workshop on Internet safety for children and parents. For more information, call 221-4871.

### Central Registration

Child and Youth Services registration is Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for kindergarten through fifth grade. Walk-ins and appointments are welcome; however, patrons will be seen by appointment only after 4 p.m. Central Registration is located inside Army Community Service,

Building 2797. To register a child, parents must bring current shot records, two local emergency contact names, health assessment within the last 12 months, sport physical (must be valid through the entire selected sport season), child's Social Security number, sponsor's leave and earnings statement and spouse's W2 form. Registration fee and activity fee is \$18. For more information, call 221-4871 or 221-1723.

### FCC providers

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

### Youth basketball, baseball

Patrons interested in playing basketball or baseball should get their sport physicals now. Contact Brooke Army Medical Center Pediatrics to schedule an appointment for a sport physical.

### CYS needs instructors

Child and Youth Services is recruiting instructors for driver's education, cooking, leadership skills, mentoring, tutoring, voice, guitar and Spanish. For more information, call 295-4806 or 221-1103.

### Off-post childcare options

The Army Child Care in Your Neighborhood program offers military Families more childcare options in the local community. There are two childcare centers and 25 civilian providers in surrounding areas of Fort Sam Houston available for use by local Army Families. The centers and providers are monitored to

ensure they meet Army standards. For more information, call the Family Service Association at 431-7570 or Fort Sam Houston Central Registration at 221-4871.

### Family Child Care Online

Family Child Care Online is a marketing tool that allows parents to take a virtual tour of FCC homes. In addition, parents can read about the provider's philosophy of care, hours of operation and background. This online tool can be accessed weekdays from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Child and Youth Services Central Registration, Building 2797.

### Sport physicals

Patrons interested in winter sports should make appointments for sport physicals now. Patrons will need a sport physical to register. Sport physicals must be valid for the entire sport season. Patrons must be registered with Child and Youth Services to participate in sports. For more information or registration requirements, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

### SKIES Unlimited classes

The Child and Youth Services Schools of Knowledge, Inspiration, Exploration and Skills Unlimited program offers language, music and sports classes for children ages 6 to 18 who are registered with CYS. The first month's fee is due at time of registration at Building 2797. For more information, visit the Child Development Center, Building 2530; School Age Services, Building 1705; or Middle School and Teens, Building 1630; or call 221-1723 or 221-4871.



Family Readiness Group spouse leaders receive recognition at the welcome back ceremony for the returning Marines.



Lt. Col. Mark House, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion inspector instructor, his wife, Allison, and children, 1-1/2-year-old Blaise and 4-year-old Ethan happily welcome back their father. "I feel excited, ecstatic. To have their father reunited with the kids is beyond words," said Allison.



Local media film the 100 Marines from the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion detachments at the welcome home ceremony held Sept. 25 at the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Center. The Marines assigned to the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion specialize in being the eyes and ears of infantry ground combat commanders.

# 100 Marines return from Iraq

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

The Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Training Camp on Fort Sam Houston was filled to capacity with hundreds of Families and friends anxiously waiting the arrival of 100 Marines from a 10 month tour in Iraq last Sept. 25.

Families from all over Texas and some from as far away as New York and Boston, came to Fort Sam Houston to welcome home their Marines.

"I am just glad to have him back; we are very proud of him," said Bridgit Peche-Schulz. The couple married in civil court before he left for Iraq but on Friday they will have a church wedding.

"I love you" "I missed you" and "welcome back" signs were hanging inside and outside the building to welcome back the Marines.

The returning Marines from the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion detachments conducted various combat operations in Iraq in support of the nation's war on terrorism, including sweeping enemy caches for weapons and explosive materials and locating and apprehending

enemy insurgents.

"We captured a lot of bad guys, some of them confirmed in setting improvised explosive devices killing Marines, so there was a lot of gratification in that," said Lt. Col. Mark House, inspector-instructor, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion. "It was a success across the board. I am very pleased."

Prior to the arrival of the Marines, Families enjoyed food, music, games, and watched a film of their loved ones while serving in Iraq. Family Readiness Group spouse leaders were recognized and presented with flowers and balloons.

Sgt. Dariel Mosley, who was on his second tour, was in for a treat when he arrived. His mother, father, grandfather, grandmother, sisters, nieces and girlfriend from Houston, Texas, were all on hand to welcome him home.

"We rented a van," said mother, Ether Thomas. "I am very proud of him, and glad he made it home safe." The Family was returning to Houston that evening to get ready to celebrate Mosley's upcoming birthday Sunday that included a wedding of a family member.

As the Marines began arriving in buses,

Families and friends started cheering and waving their signs and then they let loose red, white and blue balloons in the air.

Once the Marines were dismissed, they were engulfed by their loved ones.

Some Marines were meeting their children for the first time.

Sgt. Henry Idar met his 6-month-old son, Caidon, for the first time. "It is so nice to be home and see my son," said Idar with wife, Karen, and older son, Kameron, who couldn't wait to take his father home and play video games with him.

Tina Bratton, who was very happy and proud of her son, Lance Cpl. Christopher Bratton, remembered the military personnel who are still in Iraq.

"I want to thank all the Families that came out here to support the Marines and all the military personnel that are over there (in Iraq), that they come back safe and very soon."

"The Marines took care of each other," said House. "No one was injured or killed. I am very proud of these Marines and Texas should be very proud."



Hundreds of Families, friends, and girlfriends carrying welcome home signs, flowers, and red white and blue balloons arrived at the Naval and Marine Reserve Corps Center to welcome back their returning Marine.



Incha Peters, with the help of David Lee, put up a welcome sign for her son, Sgt. Danny Peters, at the welcome home ceremony for Marines returning from duty in Iraq.



Wearing welcome back Sgt. Mosely T-shirts, parents Johnell and Ether Mosely Thomas along with extended family members traveled from Houston to meet their son. "I received a letter from his commanding officer telling me how good he did; that brought tears to my eyes. I am very proud of him," said Ether.

## COMMUNITY

### Events

#### Craft Fair

The 17th Annual Holly Days Craft Fair will be held Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, 16245 Nacogdoches Road. Admission is free. For more information, call 654-3411.

#### Donor Awareness 5K run/walk

The Vital Alliance Volunteer

Organization will sponsor the 10th Annual Organ and Tissue Donor Awareness 5K run/walk Oct. 27 at 8 a.m. at Brackenridge Park, Koehler Pavilion. For more information or to register, call 614-7030, 866-685-0277 or visit [www.varunwalk.org](http://www.varunwalk.org).

#### Kids' Halloween Party

The United Services Organization will host a Kids' Halloween Party and Pumpkin Patch Oct. 29 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the USO Downtown Community Center, 420 E. Commerce St. Military Families are invited and children are encouraged to wear costumes. For more informa-

tion, call 227-9373, ext. 12.

### Training

#### Army Knowledge Online

Army Knowledge Online hands-on training will be held today and Oct. 17 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. in Building 2841, Room 2105C. Training will include: My account, user profiles, white pages, searching, quick links, self service, files, sitemap and knowledge network. For more information, call Julie Gueller at 221-6203 or e-mail

[julie.gueller@us.army.mil](mailto:julie.gueller@us.army.mil).

#### Special emphasis program

The Federally Employed Women Alamo City Chapter #123 will host "What is Sexual Harassment" training Oct. 18 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sam Houston Club, 1395 Chaffee Road. The guest speaker will be Maria Preda, Special Emphasis Program manager. Lunch will be available for a nominal fee and the event is open to the public. For more information or reservations, call Roz Wise at 820-8201 or Carol Rouse at 699-9363.

#### Training for first-term Soldiers

The Financial Readiness First-Term Soldier On-Line Training is mandatory for all first-term Soldiers. It is an eight hour course containing tools and information on money matters, basic money management, savings and investments, insurance, major purchases and many other informative topics dealing with money. The Education Center is available for Soldiers to take the class; Army Community Service will provide an instructor every Wednesday from 12 to 4 p.m. For more information, visit <https://www.myarmylifetoo.com> and select Money Matters to register.

### Meetings

#### Military Comptrollers luncheon

The Alamo Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers invites all members and non-members to attend a luncheon hosted by the 37th Comptroller Squadron Oct. 17 from

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Kelly Field Club, Daedalian Room, Kelly Field. The topic of discussion is "Downtown San Antonio Economic Development Update" by Mr. Ben Brewer, Downtown Alliance. For more information or to reserve, call Maria VonStaden at 671-2760 by Oct. 16.

#### Retired Officers' Wives, Widows Club

The San Antonio Area Retired Officers' Wives' and Widows' Club will meet Oct. 23 at 11 a.m. at the Sam Houston Club. For more information or reservations, call Arline at 822-6559.

### Volunteer

#### Volunteers needed

The Equal Opportunity Office is seeking volunteers, military or civilian, to serve as ethnic observance/special commemoration committee members for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. birthday and African American/Black History Month, a meeting will be held today at 1:30 p.m. in Building 141. For more information, call Master Sgt. Ricky Evans at 295-0561 or e-mail [ricky.lovon.evans@us.army.mil](mailto:ricky.lovon.evans@us.army.mil).

#### Community cleanup project

The American Society of Military Comptrollers will sponsor a community cleanup project Oct. 27 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Sunshine Plaza Apartments, 455 E. Sunshine Drive. The project involves light cleaning for senior residents. School students can earn a certificate for up to three hours of community service. For more information or to volunteer, call Kathy Scott at 221-7893 or 221-1335.

## Fort Freebies

### Submission guidelines:

Freebies are published on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline is close of business Friday. Freebies are intended for personal household goods,

and may only be submitted by active, retired or reserve military members and civilian employees working on Fort Sam Houston. Real estate ads will not be published. To submit a Fort Freebie, e-

mail news.leader@samhouston.army.mil or fax to 221-1198. Freebies run for one week unless submitter calls to renew. Limit of five items per entry. For more information, call 221-1031.

**For Sale:** Dining set, solid oak pedestal table, 48 inch round extends to 66 inch oval with 18-inch leaf, includes four chairs, medium finish, paid \$800, asking \$275. Call Anne at 945-8577.

**For Sale:** Queen bed, white, matching dresser, mirror, armoire and nightstand, \$700; German shrunk, six-piece set with glass doors and glass shelves, \$400; sofa bed, brown, \$250. Call 241-7601.

**For Sale:** Dining table with four matching chairs, tile top with oak frame and legs, 72 inches wide by 42 inches long with 15-inch extension, \$350. Call 455-9352.

**For Sale:** Set of four 20-inch ADR Stunna chrome wheels from 2000 Dodge Durango, fits older and later models Durangos and Dakota pickups, \$500 obo; four 17-inch American Eagle Alloys Mod 214 for the same car, \$250. Call 295-6757 or at 646-6004 after 5 p.m.

**For Sale:** 2004 Harley-Davidson, road king custom FLHRS, twin Cam 95ci engine, windscreen, back rest and Vance and Hines two-in-one exhaust, excellent condition, \$13,500. Call 215-4712.

**For Sale:** Dinette set with chairs, \$95; gas barbecue, \$65; computer desk with five compartments and pull-out shelf, \$68; wooden desk, \$148; bike helmet, \$20. Call 313-0061.

**For Sale:** Bose speakers, 301 direct and reflecting bookshelf speakers, \$100, Bose acousitmass speakers with subwoofer, \$75, Bose VCS-10 center channel speaker, \$75 or \$250 for all. Call Roger at 590-1953.

**For Sale:** 2000 Volkswagen beetle, GLS turbo, 86,400 miles, 1.8L, 150 HP, five-speed manual transmission, clutch under warranty, \$8,500; 2000 Chevrolet Express, G1500 Regency custom van, 64,100 miles, 5.7 V-8, automatic transmission with overdrive, dual A/C, four reclining captains chairs, \$9,999. Call 659-7986, 262-6532 or 262-6536.

**For Sale:** Chocolate brown mink stole from Stein Brothers, \$100; free black lab, six months, medium-size. Call 624-9570.

**For Sale:** Dress blue uniform, jacket 46R, pants 38R, E-7 rank with 15 year stripes already sewn, \$160 obo. Call 548-2701.

**For Sale:** Antique, oak, drop leaf dining room table, three pedestals, 64 inches long by 38 inches wide, three

leaves, 10 inches wide each with protective top folding mat and four chairs, \$285 obo. Call 673-9649 or 630-3936.

**For Sale:** 1997 Cadillac, 32V Northstar SLS, pearl color, \$7,950. Call 650-4007.

**For Sale:** Gold's Gym adjustable weight bench with Olympic bar and 195 pounds of weights, \$150; oak dining room table with matching hutch and six chairs, \$800; Yakima roof cargo carrier "Rocket Box," \$125; Pro Form soft step treadmill, \$125; glass top corner desk with chair, \$100. Call Scott at 361-232-0235 or 221-4115.

**For Sale:** Pekingese puppy, twelve weeks, shots, dewormed, \$395; Boston terrier mix puppy, \$95; Pac-N-Play playpen, \$45; exercise equipment, \$50 and up; Coach, Tommy, Liz Claiborne and Fossil handbags. Call 633-3859.

**For Sale:** Kenmore upright freezer, 16 cubic feet, works great, \$250 obo. Call 262-5502 or 221-1031.

**For Sale:** White wicker fainting couch with cushion, \$100; Pentair Legend II pool cleaner, \$250; king-size comforter set and sheets, palm tree design, \$75; Canon AE-1 program 35 mm camera, includes two lenses, flash and other extras, \$200. Call 697-9261 or 363-4056.

**For Sale:** Twin, white, sleigh bed with matching dresser and nightstand, \$300; twin comforter with matching dust ruffle, \$20; ladies' formals and suits, size 10/12, \$25 each, girls' clothes, size 16, \$5 to \$15. Call 826-0882.

**For Sale:** 1992 Ford Magnum Conversion van, loaded, \$3,000. Call 659-6741.

**For Sale:** AKC miniature schnauzer puppies, two black females and two salt and pepper females, all shots, dewormed, tails and dewclaw removed, puppy kit. Call Hector at 803-546-4026 after 5 p.m.

**For Sale:** 2006 Harley-Davidson, softail deluxe, 800 miles, extended six year warranty, about \$4,500 in extra's, \$19,550 obo. Call 262-3892.

**For Sale:** German furniture, two-piece bar set; two-piece trunk set; kitchen table, seats six, china cabinet and small hutch; grandfather clock; king-size bed set, two night stands with marble tops, dresser with marble top and hutch. Call 910-988-7042 or 210-566-1082.

**For Sale:** Compaq Presario computer. Call Herb at 734-341-6544.