

FORT SAM HOUSTON News Leader

NOVEMBER 30, 2012
VOL. 54, NO. 48



THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
BAND OF THE WEST
JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO-LACKLAND, TEXAS

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

SAMMC doctors use cutting-edge treatment to save mother's life

By Elaine Sanchez
BAMC Public Affairs

Doctors from San Antonio Military Medical Center saved a young mother's life last month using cutting-edge technology historically reserved for infants and young children.

This case marks the first time the medical center has treated an adult with extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, or ECMO, a heart-lung bypass system that circulates blood through an external

artificial lung and sends it back into the patient's bloodstream.

"This is a true success story," said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Jeremy Cannon, the hospital's trauma chief and a key player in the case. "I firmly believe this patient would not be here if it wasn't for ECMO and a tremendous team effort."

Cannon first heard of the case about a month ago, while he was in the midst of a surgery. He had asked to be paged whenever a

See ECMO, P4



Air Force Lt. Col. (Dr.) Jeremy Cannon (right) and Dr. Jeremy Pamplin place a patient on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, or ECMO, at San Antonio Military Medical Center in October. ECMO is a lifesaving heart-lung bypass system that circulates blood through an external artificial lung and sends it back into the patient's bloodstream.

Courtesy of U.S.
Army Institute of
Surgical Research

440th 'Blood Runners' return home from 9 month deployment



Soldiers from the 440th Blood Support Detachment stand in formation during a ceremony Nov. 19. The unit returned home from a nine month deployment to Afghanistan.

Story and photos by Lori Newman
JBSA-FSH News Leader

The Soldiers of the 440th Blood Support Detachment returned home to a roomful of family and friends Nov. 19 at Roadrunner Community Center after being deployed for nine months to Afghanistan.

"During their deployment the 440th Blood Support Detachment accomplished their missions on one of the world's most treacherous and hostile battlefields," said Lt. Col. Dirk La Fleur, 61st Multi-functional Medical Battalion commander.

"Their efforts to sustain the warfighter are a testament to their ability to partner with allies in a complex coalition environment."

During their tour the unit processed 45,000 units and maintained over \$8 million in blood and blood components, oversaw more than 27,000 blood transfusions and 850 platelet products. They also participated in a blood transfusion pilot program.

"This program provides life-saving transfusion capability for Army air medical evacuation flight crews as they administer live-saving

blood to severely wounded combat casualties through air evacuation missions," said La Fleur.

"These Soldiers performed their day-to-day mission with poise, professionalism and dedication."

He also thanked the families for "their everlasting faith, steadfast support and loving compassion" for their Soldiers.

The unit known as the "Blood Runners" reactivated at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston June 16, 2002. Since activating here,

See 440TH, P5

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Senior enlisted leader assumes responsibility for ARNORTH

By Sgt. 1st Class Kimberly Green
 ARNORTH Public Affairs

Command Sgt. Maj. Hu Rhodes returns "home" for service as the command sergeant major for U.S. Army North and as the senior enlisted leader for Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis.

Rhodes originally joined the U.S. Army in 1975; after completing his tour of duty, he left the service and then rejoined a decade later in 1988. Little did he know then that his career in the Army would become a life-long service.

It is all the more gratifying that he returns to San Antonio, Military City USA, which he calls home. In fact, he is a graduate of San Antonio's Douglas MacArthur High School.

"My father was in the



CSgt. Maj. Hu Rhodes

Army, and he was stationed here at Fort Sam Houston for his final assignment. He was a Huey pilot for President Lyndon B. Johnson," said Rhodes. "It's good to be back."

His father, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Hu Rhodes, lost his life while serving during the Vietnam War.

Rhodes began his career as an infantryman, and he spent

more than one-half of his career serving with the 75th Ranger Regiment. He said he enjoyed his mission, which was instrumental in his decision to stay and make the military his career.

"I joined because it was a good fit for my skills and abilities at that time," explained Rhodes. "I like being a Soldier – the patriotism and emotion involved around it; and, as a Soldier, I like serving my country."

Rhodes said he was fortunate to be able to learn and develop under a number of strong leaders, each of whom were instrumental, in their own ways, in helping to enhance his military knowledge and in helping to develop his leadership skills.

"I've had several mentors at different times and locations throughout

my entire career," said Rhodes.

"I've made it on the shoulders of some great Soldiers – all noncommissioned officers senior to me in rank."

He said he is excited and ready to fulfill his responsibilities inherent in his role as the command's senior enlisted leader.

"As I come into the position, I realize I've been in long enough to watch the way we train and the changes we make in leadership. Every change we have made in the way we train leaders has been for the right reasons with good results," said Rhodes.

Even though he has seen an era of transformation across the board for the military, Rhodes said some things never change.

"It's no secret that

changes are coming, but Soldiers still need capable leaders and quality mentors," he said. "I want to challenge all NCOs and all leaders to be open to what makes you and this command successful.

"We have great men, women and civilians serving our country right now, and they deserve the best leadership that we can provide. I want what's best for this command and its members, and I'm committed not to change things but to make them better.

Prior to assuming his duties with U.S. Army North, Rhodes served as the command sergeant major of U.S. Army Africa. He succeeded Command Sgt. Maj. David Wood during a Change of Responsibility ceremony Nov. 28 at the Quad-rangle.

Warrior Transition Command launches 'Hire a Veteran' campaign

Story and photo by J.D. Leipold
 Army News Service

The Army's Warrior Transition Command unveiled its three-pronged Hire a Veteran education campaign plan Nov. 19.

The plan aims to help employers understand that wounded warriors can bring a wealth of leadership experience and skills to the table and to their bottom line.

"This campaign is about setting conditions, not just preparing our Soldiers for a new career as a veteran, but also preparing employers about this unique population who has so much to offer," said WTC Commander Brig. Gen. David



Brig. Gen. David J. Bishop, commander of the Warrior Transition Command, unveiled its three-pronged 'Hire a Veteran' education campaign plan, Nov. 19.

J. Bishop in kicking off Warrior Care Month at the National Press Club.

"Our goal for this campaign is for employers to gain clarity on how well

military skills translate to civilian employment and that post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury, known as PTSD and TBI, are treat-

able conditions which are not unique to the military and most individuals affected go on to lead successful productive lives," he said.

Bishop also noted that the campaign also hopes to get across to would-be employers that, "reasonable accommodation for wounded warriors is not difficult, not expensive, nor a burden when compared to the incredible value our wounded warriors bring to the civilian workforce given their unique training and experience."

To get those messages across to the civilian workforce, the WTC formed a partnership with The Society for Human Resource Management, or SHRM, the world's largest association devoted to human resource management and Orion International, the

country's largest military recruiting firm, to produce a 10-minute video that addresses these top three misperception, the obstacles and solutions.

The video and an online toolkit are available for download and distribution to HR professionals and employers at <http://www.WTC.Army.mil>.

"Hire a Veteran – Obstacles & Solutions" features the stories of Soldiers who spent more than six months with a Warrior Transition Unit recovering from severe wounds, illness or injuries and how they pulled themselves up and out into the civilian workforce.

One of those Soldiers, medically retired Staff Sgt. Paul "Rob" Roberts suffered second and third degree burns and other

News Briefs

Holiday Closures

The following locations will be closed during the holidays:

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Warfighter and Family Readiness – Dec. 24, 25, 31 and Jan. 1

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Golf Course – Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center – Dec. 23 through 26, Dec. 30 through Jan. 1

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equipment Center – Dec. 22 through 26, Dec. 30 through Jan. 2

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Auto Shop – Dec. 22 through 25, Dec. 30 through Jan. 1

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Equestrian Center – Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Hacienda – Dec. 22 through Jan. 1

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Java Cafe – Dec. 22 through Jan. 1

JBSA-Fort Sam Houston RV Park – Dec. 25 and Jan. 1

JBSA-Camp Bullis Sportsman Range – Dec. 24 through 27 and Dec. 31 through Jan. 3

U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations Tip Line

Report crime or suspicious activities to the anonymous tip line by text message, online or download the Smart Phone app. Text AFOSI and your tip to 274637 (CRIMES) or online visit <https://www.tipsubmit.com/webtips.aspx?agencyID=1111> or <http://www.osi.af.mil>.

Wounded Soldier/Family Hotline

The Army chief of staff and the acting secretary of the Army established the Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline to give Soldiers and their families a place to share their concerns on the quality of care they received. This organization also provides Army senior leadership with a valuable tool to determine if appropriate resources are devoted to solving medical-related issues.

The hotline is available 24/7, call 1-800-984-8523, DSN: 421-3700 or email wfsupport@amedd.army.mil.

Construction around Building 366

Due to the removal and repair of clay tiles on the roof of Building 366 the contractor requests an area around the building to be cleared of all vehicles and foot traffic for safety reasons. The work takes place until Jan. 5.

See NEWS BRIEFS, P6

METC instructor is top Sailor for 2012

Story and photo by

Larry Coffey

NMETC Public Affairs

The San Antonio-based Navy Medicine Education and Training Command, responsible for Navy Medicine's medical and operational training programs, announced the selection of its 2012 Sailor of the Year (SOY) Nov. 20.

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (Fleet Marine Force/Surface Warfare) Jonathon T. Birkle, a team lead instructor at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, was selected to represent NMETC's 21 nation-wide commands, activities and detachments in the upcoming Navy Surgeon General's Navy Medicine Sailor of the Year competition in Washington, D.C.

"I was very humbled by my selection," said Birkle, a Wheatland, Wyo., native. "I also felt like, 'Wow!' All my hard work isn't going unnoticed."

Birkle teaches the Hospital Corpsman Fundamentals of METC's joint Navy and Air Force Basic Medical Technician Corpsman Program. As a Navy hospital corpsman instructor at the tri-service METC, Birkle is assigned to the Navy Medicine Training Support Center, an echelon-4 command reporting to NMETC.

He competed against Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF) Shaun Kestner, administrative directorate leading petty officer for Navy Medicine Professional Development Center at Bethesda, Md.; and



Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF) Roy Saiz, an instructor for the Independent Duty Corpsman program at the Surface Warfare Medicine Institute at San Diego; Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF/SW) Jonathon T. Birkle, a team lead instructor at the Navy, Army and Air Force tri-service Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston; and Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF) Shaun Kestner, administrative directorate leading petty officer for Navy Medicine Professional Development Center at Bethesda, Md., meet with the Sailor of the Year selection board Nov. 15. NMETC announced Nov. 20 that Birkle was selected as the 2012 Navy Medicine Education and Training Command SOY by the board of command master chiefs from the three NMETC echelon-4 commands.

Hospital Corpsman 1st Class (FMF) Roy Saiz, an instructor for the Independent Duty Corpsman program at the Surface Warfare Medicine Institute at San Diego, who represented the Navy Medicine Operational Training Center at Pensacola, Fla. Like NMTSC, NMPDC and NMOTC are echelon-4 commands reporting to NMETC.

NMETC's new SOY said he felt he was selected in part because of his leadership approach.

"You have to lead from the front, and get down and dirty with your Sailors," he said. "Every Sailor is different, so you have to learn who your Sailors are, inside and out. You can't demand respect. It has to be earned through actions and the example you set."

Master Chief Hospital Corpsman (FMF) Shannon Best, NMTSC command master chief, said Birkle's leadership as a team lead instructor was very instrumental in his selection as SOY.

"HM1 Birkle has proven to be a top-quality leader," Best said. "He always shows a genuine concern for his Sailors and their professional growth. His take-charge attitude and dedication to job accomplishment have consistently produced positive results. He is truly deserving of being named NMETC's Sailor of the Year."

NMETC's SOY competition was held at NMETC headquarters at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston where command master chief petty officers from each finalist's command conducted a SOY selection board and process.

Birkle said he got

to know the other two finalists during the three-day process.

Birkle is a dedicated family man – a father of 10- and 12-year-old sons, Jonathan and Austin, respectively. He said his wife, Bonnie, has been "his rock" throughout his career.

"When I left for boot camp, my wife had to take care of my two kids by herself. My career in the Navy has taught her to be very strong and independent. From 2003 to 2006, I was home a total of eight months. She is right there with me through thick and thin. I would not be anywhere without her."

While Bonnie Birkle provided support from home, Birkle said the NMTSC chief petty officers helped him prepare for the SOY board; conducting several mock boards and

helping him fine-tune his presentation.

"They were preparing me to answer the questions, 'Am I ready to be a Chief,' and 'Can I function as a Chief in the Navy.'"

For the NMETC SOY selection board, the answer was a resounding "Yes."

NMETC is the sole point of accountability for Navy Medicine education and training and is part of the Navy Medicine team, a global health care network of Navy medical professionals around the world who provide high-quality health care to more than one million eligible beneficiaries. Navy Medicine personnel deploy with Sailors and Marines worldwide, providing critical mission support aboard ships, in the air, under the sea and on the battlefield.



Photo by Robert Shields

Air Force Lt. Col. (Dr.) Jeremy Cannon examines a patient on extracorporeal membrane oxygenation, or ECMO, in the Institute of Surgical Research Burn Center in October 2012.

ECMO from P1

patient in the hospital develops severe lung injury so he could assess them for ECMO treatment.

The patient, Jane*, a mother of two young children, had woken up several days earlier with itchy, irritated eyes, but she and her doctor chalked it up to an eye infection or virus. It wasn't until her symptoms spread and worsened that she decided an emergency room visit was in order.

A few hours later, she was diagnosed with severe Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis, or TENS, an autoimmune reaction to medication. She was sent via chopper from her south Texas hometown to the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research's Burn Center, the Defense Department's only burn center, which is located in San Antonio Military Medical Center.

The TENS progressed

quickly and by the time she reached the hospital, Jane's skin was sloughing off, her lungs were filling with fluid and tissue, and her vital organs were failing. She was admitted to the Burn Center on Sept. 15 and initially was stabilized. However, when her condition worsened, Cannon was alerted.

Cannon and his ECMO team members had one thought after assessing Jane: "She's going to die if we don't use ECMO."

Cannon and a select team of specialists here had been training for this moment for more than a year, thanks to a DoD grant that provided ECMO supplies, training funds and equipment to explore the use of ECMO on adults.

ECMO is commonly used in neonatal intensive care units around the world on infants with lung issues such as meconium aspiration, but adult applications are much less common,

mainly due to a lack of recent patient data.

Cannon, however, had been observing ECMO successes since his residency and strongly believed in its outcomes for adults, particularly for patients on the brink of death. He had transferred to SAMMC from the Air Force's Wilford Hall Medical Center, which contained the military's only infant and child ECMO center, so had ongoing exposure to the technology. Along with its experts, the neonatal ECMO center transferred to SAMMC last year.

Cannon brought his strong convictions about the lifesaving potential of the technology to his leadership and requested for Jane to be SAMMC's first adult ECMO patient. "I've been involved in ECMO cases for 15 years," he said. "I saw the benefit and felt confident we had the team structure and protocols in place."

The same day she checked in, Jane was put on ECMO, and stayed on it for 23 days.

It was touch and go at first, Cannon noted. "It was agonizing for 22 of those 23 days," he recalled.

Finally, on Day 21, Jane's lungs started to clear and, two days later, staff took her off the treatment and onto a ventilator. "Within a day and a half, she went from profoundly ill to greatly improved," he said, noting the team effort of experts across the hospital.

"It was exhilarating to see her get better, thanks to a concerted effort," he added.

Maria Serio-Melvin, ISR nurse research consultant, also credited the procedure's success to an "intense, collaborative, cooperative effort" between the ISR and ECMO teams.

See ECMO, P5

440TH from P1

the unit has deployed five times in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“Thank you Soldiers of the 440th for a great job while deployed. You all worked very hard in accomplishing the mission every day,” said Maj. Jose Quesada, 440th BSD commander.

“I want to congratulate each of you for your professionalism and dedication, you are true Soldiers, warriors and fine American heroes.”

Quesada also thanked the families for their constant support and dedication to the Soldiers.

Following the ceremony Cpl. Christopher Conner received an additional surprise. His wife, Sara and father, Ron, were called to the front of the auditorium to help promote him to the rank



Sara Conner pins the rank of sergeant on her husband, Cpl. Christopher Conner Nov. 19 after the 440th Blood Support Detachment welcome home ceremony.

of sergeant.

“It was special being here with him today for his promotion to sergeant,” his father said. “I’m an old retired first sergeant myself.”

Conner’s mom, Cindy Cavazos said she is very relieved her son returned home safely. “I feel like a huge weight has been lifted off me.”

ECMO from P4

A few weeks later, Jane is now an outpatient, staying with her mother in town until she gains enough strength to return home. “It’s been tough, but I’m not going to give up,” Jane said in a recent interview at the hospital. “I can’t say enough about the care I’ve received here.”

Jane’s lungs and skin are still healing, but Cannon has high hopes for his patient, as well as for other SAMMC patients who can be helped through ECMO.

Cannon also hopes to see an increased use of adult ECMO in the war zone, where it’s already proved lifesaving for several troops. In 2010, an ECMO-trained team picked up a Soldier in Kandahar, Afghanistan, who had been shot in the chest. His right lung had to be removed, a

procedure that typically carries a 100 percent mortality rate. However, the lung team placed him on ECMO and he quickly recovered in a hospital in Germany.

Cannon recalled meeting this patient a few weeks after he arrived at SAMMC. “He’s married now and enjoying life,” he said. Since then, there have been five ECMO transports from the battlefield to Germany, he added.

Cannon’s long-term vision is to see ECMO patients transported directly from the battlefield to a stateside location, such as the medical center here, for their recovery.

“We’ve proven we can very safely take care of even most critically ill patients and I’m very optimistic we’ll be able to offer these services to wounded warriors throughout their continuum of care,” he said.

Based on recent successes around the nation, Cannon said he expects to see resurgence in ECMO research around the world, which will help to build confidence in the technology for adults. A trial with strict research protocols based in France is now under way and promises to answer some of the unknowns that remain about the use of ECMO in adults.

Whatever the future holds, Cannon said he’ll never forget the lifesaving impact of ECMO for Jane. “All of this came together beautifully and it worked,” he said.

“She’s alive because of an amazing team effort.”

The day she improved, he added, “was the pinnacle day in my medical career.”

** The patient’s name was changed to protect her privacy.*

News Briefs

from P3

Army Benefits Center-Civilian's Newest Benefits Tool: eRetirement

Retirement is an important milestone in an employee's life. The Army Benefits Center-Civilian offers the new eRetirement web application, located in the Employee Benefits Information System, which allows an employee to easily fill out a retirement application. Army-serviced employees, within one year of retirement, can fill out an application on the ABC-C secure website at <https://www.abc.army.mil> with a Common Access Card and then selecting the EBIS icon or web link. Next, employees enter their Social Security Number and Personal Identification Number. Click on the eRetirement button and complete all the forms listed. Once finished, print each form individually, review closely and sign any applicable forms. Finally, send the application to the ABC-C at 301 Marshall Avenue, Fort Riley, KS, 66442. ABC-C reviews the application closely and sends a letter stating the application has been received. For more information, call 1-877-276-9287 between 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Customer Care Center at CPAC

People looking for job information can visit the new customer care center at the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Building 144, 2438 Stanley Road. Army civilian employees can also receive assistance with resetting passwords for the Electronic Benefits Information System or completing employee beneficiary forms. For more information, call 221-1425.

Bicycle Helmets Required

Anyone who rides a bicycle, tricycle, motor drive bicycle or operates non-motorized transportation such as skateboards, kick-scooters and roller skates on an Air Force installation are required by Air Force Instruction 91-207 to wear a properly fastened and approved bicycle helmet. During hours of darkness, riders are required to wear a retro-reflective vest, jacket or outer garment containing retro-reflective material. In addition, bicycles should be equipped with a white front light (not a reflector) visible for 500 feet and red rear reflector or light visible from the rear of the bicycle from a distance of 300 feet.

U.S. Army South closes annual staff talks with Chilean army

Story and photos by
Eric R. Lucero
ARSOUTH Public Affairs

Maj. Gen. Frederick S. Rudesheim, the U.S. Army South commanding general, joined Brig. Gen. Alejandro Arancibia, the Chilean army international affairs director, during the closing ceremony of the army-to-army staff talks between the two armies in Santiago, Chile, Nov. 7 to sign a memorandum of understanding detailing more than two dozen events that are scheduled to be conducted throughout the next year.

The staff talks were held Nov. 5 to 7 and served as a bilateral forum for strategic-level discussion between the two armies. The engagements enhance army-to-army contacts and mutual understanding, provide partner nation armies with insights concerning specific U.S. Army programs and areas of mutual interest, and assist partner nation armies like Chile in areas of modernization and reform.

The U.S. Army has engaged in annual bilateral staff talks with the Chilean army for the past seven years. Army South, on behalf of the U.S. Army, conducts the annual staff talks with the Chilean army.

"The staff talks are intended to allow us to both agree on things and I think most importantly, to disagree on things and understand the position of the other country's military," said Rudesheim.

"Anytime you have a forum to do that, you have a very special opportunity to understand another nation's army and understand what its concerns are and how its leadership views things. That professional aspect is absolutely critical."

Chilean Lt. Gen. Antonio Cordero, the Chilean chief of staff, agreed with Rudesheim's assessment and emphasized the critical nature of being able to work side-by-side to find collaborative solutions to mutual challenges.

"Our armies have many similarities," said

Cordero. "These talks offer an important opportunity for us to come together to exchange ideas. By working together, we can make our armies stronger and more versatile to be able to meet future challenges."

This year's staff talks were centered on two themes: Promoting Regional Security and Stability and Strengthening Doctrine and Operational Capacity to Improve Interoperability.

Specific areas of discussion included increasing the Chilean army's participation in joint regional support exercises and operations with the U.S. Army, increasing participation in the institutes and academies of the U.S. and Chilean armies for the purpose of exchanging doctrinal aspects of education and training, and supporting the Chilean army in developing a certification process for its armored units.

In addition, the two delegations discussed strategies to improve the Chilean army's aviation



Brig. Gen. Alejandro Arancibia (center), the Chilean army international affairs director, guides Maj. Gen. Frederick S. Rudesheim (right) the U.S. Army South commanding general, during a tour of the Museo Historico y Militar de Chile (Chilean Military History Museum) during the second day of the army-to-army staff talks.

interoperability capability and military health capabilities.

The two armies also agreed to conduct a series of future peace-keeping training events, to include subject matter exchanges, and support humanitarian and disaster response operations and exercises. In addition, the Chilean army is considering sending a team of engineers to participate in Beyond the Horizon 2013, scheduled to take place in El Salvador.

Beyond the Horizon is an annual exercise deploying military engineers and medical professionals to partner nation countries for training, while providing services to rural communities. Beyond the Horizon is part of U.S. Southern Command's annual humanitarian and civic assistance program.

With its highly capable military and law enforcement agencies serving as models of

professionalism in the region and supporting exercises like BTH, Chile is a key player in enhancing security in the region.

"Chile is considered one of our most important partners for security cooperation in the region," said Maj. Mario Castro, the Army South Southern Cone desk officer.

The staff talks have been instrumental in enhancing the interoperability and cooperation between the two armies, which have contributed to increased stability in the region.

As a result, U.S. forces' capabilities have also improved by gaining lessons learned from the Chilean army in peace-keeping and disaster response operations.

"These staff talks help forge that close relationship ensuring that our partnership remains strong into the future," said Maj. Lance Awbrey, the Army section chief in Chile.



Chilean Lt. Gen. Antonio Cordero (standing), the Chilean army chief of staff, speaks to the Chilean and U.S. delegations during the second day of the army-to-army staff talks.

U.S. Army Environmental Command celebrates 40-year anniversary

By Barry Napp
USAEC Public Affairs

The song “American Pie” by Don Mclean was on every radio, Mark Spitz won seven gold medals, and President Richard Nixon won reelection. The first scientific hand-held calculator was introduced and Atari kicked off the video-game age with the release of PONG.

It was 1972, and in November, the Army established the Program Manager for Demilitarization of Chemical Materiel. PMDCM was initially established to manage the safe demilitarization of chemical weapons. Since then, PMDCM has evolved into the U.S. Army Environmental Command. As the command celebrates its 40th anniversary, it provides the environmental exper-

tise the Army needs to ensure the sustainability of its installations and the continued ability to train its Soldiers.

Now headquartered at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston under the leadership of its 18th commander, Col. Mark A. Lee, USAEC serves as home to the Army’s experts in environmental restoration and compliance, natural and cultural resources, pest management, threatened and endangered species, environmental management, geographic imaging systems and other disciplines, as well as new technology designed to address or prevent environmental issues.

“By 1975, USAEC was realigned under the U.S. Army Material Command and had responsibility for the Army’s new

installation restoration program,” said Lee.

When the PMDCM’s environmental responsibilities expanded in the late 1970s, it was renamed the U.S. Army Toxic and Hazardous Materials Agency and new duties, including research, testing and pollution-control technology were added. The organization took on the environmental compliance mission, in 1988.

“Today, our expanded missions include environmental compliance and working with installations to promote good environmental stewardship that ensure mission readiness while protecting and preserving the environment.” Lee said. “All this is based on applying lessons we’ve learned from the past, while looking toward the future.”



Photo by Barry Napp

Mary Ellen Maley, the U.S. Army Environmental Command employee with the longest continuous service time to the command, is assisted by (left to right) USAEC Command Sgt. Maj. Gene E. Canada, Commander Col. Mark A. Lee, Installation Management Commander Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter, and IMCOM Command Sgt. Maj. Earl L. Rice as she cuts the USAEC 40th Anniversary Cake.

Whether garrison or installation commanders and staff are looking for the latest information on

the impacts of endangered or threatened species, cultural resources, or the Sikes Act on their

installation, USAEC is the place to call. The command also is there to answer questions regarding environmental concerns related to new weapons system or encroachment, and the steps to mitigate those concerns.

In 1993, to further centralize environmental program management, the Army made the renamed U.S. Army Environmental Center an Army Field Operating Agency, reporting directly to the newly established Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management.

In 2006, USAEC transitioned from a “Center” to a “Command,” and was designated a major subordinate command of the newly created Installation Management Command in 2010.

See USAEC, P9

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[HTTP://WWW.JBSA.AF.MIL](http://www.jbsa.af.mil) OR
[HTTP://WWW.SAMHOUSTON.ARMY.MIL/PAO](http://www.samhouston.army.mil/pao)

HIRE from P2

severe injuries including TBI from an improvised explosive device that destroyed his vehicle and killed two Soldiers and an Afghan interpreter in June 2009.

While he was recovering in a Warrior Transition Battalion he worked on his resume with the Soldier Family Assistance Center eventually securing an internship with the Drug Enforcement Administration where he worked until he was medically retired from the Army in January 2012.

“The internship with the DEA taught me that even though I’m a

little bit slower, I’m still a valued part of the team, that my experience in the Army is what makes me valuable and that I still have the ability and desire to learn,” he said.

After attending several job fairs at Fort Belvoir, Va., Roberts received several job offers, but took a position with the FBI.

“I can’t really give details on my new job, but I can tell you that the skills I learned in the Army such as leadership, situational awareness, analysis and attention to detail transition perfectly into my new job,” he said.

Tim Isacco, Orion chief operating officer said his organization since

its founding in 1991 has found careers for more than 17,000 former enlisted service members and an additional 12,000 officers.

“Of the nearly 100 data points we track on every veteran job seeker, we have never kept record of whether or not our veterans are disabled,” he said. “Why? It’s never been relevant. Our clients appreciate the true value a veteran brings to their workforce, regardless of the presence or absence of a disability.”

Isacco added that it was vital for corporate America to realize that while all veterans are trained within a military

occupation that contain specific training and qualifications, veterans he said, universally possess many soft skills – tireless work ethics, the ability to do more with less and proven performance under extreme duress – and that makes veterans invaluable.

SHRM chief human resources and strategy officer Jeff Pon said his 260,000 members from businesses large and small across the nation were working to demystify and destigmatize PTSD.

“Forty-six percent of SHRM survey respondents said PTSD or other mental health issues are a challenge when hiring

veterans,” he said. “And, 61 percent believe that accommodating workers with disabilities such as PTSD or traumatic brain injury required more effort on the part of the employer – but 83 percent said it was worth it.”

Pon said that 83 percent figure signified awareness and education that can help demystify PTSD.

Still, two-thirds of the employers surveyed by SHRM said they had hired veterans within the past 36 months – a significant jump from 2010 when just over half of organizations said they had done so, he said.

USAEC from P7

USAEC moved from Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., to Joint Base San Antonio between 2009 and 2011 as a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure mandate. The command continues to be the Army's center of gravity for advice regarding environmental programs and initiatives. USAEC's efforts also enable Army training, operations and acquisition, while supporting efforts to build and maintain sustainable military communities.

According to Lee, at USAEC, the A-E-C stands for how the command serves the Army.

"We Acknowledge the Past by remediating Army lands to usable condition, and preserving and protecting cultural and historical resources; Engage the Present by meeting environmental standards, enabling Army operations, and protecting Soldiers, Civilians and Families, and Chart the Future by implementing best environmental practices, institutionalizing the use of technology and ensuring future environmental resiliency," Lee said.

USAEC's three technical sections – the Cleanup and Munitions Response Division, the Environmental Quality Programs Division and Environmental Technology and Technical Services Division – provide command-level subject matter expertise on environmental issues Army-wide. They assist anyone from staff level to garrison commanders with efforts to enhance installation readiness.

Cleanup And Munitions Response Division

"Our organization began managing the newly established installation

restoration program in 1975, and addressed the worst contamination in the 80s and 90s," said Jim Daniel, chief of CMRD. "USAEC's program management scope entails both the Active Sites Cleanup Program and technical and program support to BRAC cleanup."

According to Daniel, the Army spent \$8.3 billion on active installations from 1980 through 2010.

"We currently spend \$300 to \$350 million per year," Daniel said, "excluding BRAC, and expect to spend another \$3.5 billion between now and the end of the program."

Since its inception, the cleanup program has completed responses at 10,902 of 12,272 identified sites, with the first priority always being the mitigation of all known risks to human health.

"We are now addressing the remaining areas of contamination and our munition response sites," Daniel said. "The goal is to be at 95-percent response complete by the end of fiscal year 2021. We are on track to beat that goal."

The Cleanup Program achievements have gone hand in hand with implementation of cost-saving initiatives such as performance-based contracts. The savings realized have allowed the Army to accelerate cleanup and, according to Daniel, is saving taxpayers \$100 million per year.

Environmental Quality Programs Division

"USAEC assists garrison commanders and installation managers in identifying, understanding and mitigating their environmental vulnerabilities so they can avoid operational and training impacts, as well as costly penalties for noncompli-

ance with environmental laws," said Janet Kim, EQPD chief.

"For example, when national attention turned to Arlington National Cemetery, we deployed a team of environmental experts to evaluate ANC's environmental management practices, providing recommendations for improvements to help remove the risk of environmental noncompliance," Kim said.

According to Kim, EQPD also has National Environmental Policy Act experts who get involved before decisions are made to help Army leaders assess the potential environmental impacts related to each course of action. This avoids costly delays that result in discovery of environmental issues after the projects are underway.

"EQPD also manages the U.S. Army Environmental Performance Assessment System," Kim said. "EPAS is the toughest inspection regime in the Army today and USAEC teams annually conduct between 25-35 external assessments worldwide."

"We look at every installation on a three-year cycle," Kim said. "This ensures the installations remain vigilant and compliant."

Environmental Technology And Technical Services Division

ETTSD provides in-depth technical expertise in a host of environmental areas including hazardous waste, clean air, clean water, natural and cultural resources, geographic information systems, technology, munitions, as well as many other specialties.

"USAEC provides cultural resources project-support for a broad span of issues being faced by



Photo by William Bradner

Arthur Hart briefs nearly 100 U.S. Army Environmental Command employees about water filtration systems as Col. Mark A. Lee looks on. The employees were treated to a "behind the scenes" tour of the San Antonio Sea World complex, where they learned how the amusement park reclaims water, recycles, and minimizes waste and water usage as part of their on-going sustainability efforts.

Army installations as priorities change, and hard decisions are required regarding their historic properties," said Mike Dette, chief of ETTSD's Technology Services Branch.

"Recently we also helped one of our garrisons develop an Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan for an endangered plant on the installation, saving the Army \$60,000," Dette said. "The garrison didn't have the environmental staff or funding to meet U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requirements, but our actions provided the ability to meet its mission requirements, while achieving Fish and Wildlife Service approval."

ETTSD also help develop a template for a Bird/Wildlife Strike Hazard Program for use at more than 45 Army airfields and heliports.

"It is designed to control birds and wildlife and provide increased levels of

safety during the critical phases of aircraft flight," said Dette.

These are just a few examples of how ETTSD's experts are helping the Army deal with past, present and future issues, says Dette.

"Our mission is to identify, develop and share best practices that will sustain our training lands and promote installation resiliency," Dette said. "We are looking toward the future and how to help installations identify and select the most efficient and effective technologies to meet their environmental requirements, achieve the Net Zero goals, and sustain their training missions going forward."

According to Lee, the achievements and future plans of all three of USAEC's divisions reflect the Army's commitment to environmental excellence.

"As we enter our fifth decade of service to the

Army, USAEC remains steadfast to its mission," Lee said. "We continue to serve as the environmental experts providing loyal support to our Soldiers and families by finding environmental solutions that enable mission readiness on resilient installations Army-wide."

"In addition to enhancing training land and reducing environmental constraints, we are seeing great cost savings and are helping protect our nation's natural resources." Lee said.

"Regardless of its name or the organization to which it reports, USAEC's scientists and engineers are here to address the Army's environmental needs by acknowledging the past, engaging the present and charting the future."

To contact USAEC, email USARMY.JBSA.AEC.MBX@mail.mil, call (210) 466-1590 or go on the website at <http://aec.army.mil/usaec>.



U.S. Army Environmental

H I S T O R Y

1972 ~ The Army establishes the Program Manager for Demilitarization of Chemical Materiel and assigns it to the U.S. Army Armament, Munitions and Chemical Command (AMCCOM).

1975 ~ The Army Program Manager for Demilitarization of Chemical Materiel expands its mission and begins managing the newly established Installation Restoration Program.

1978 ~ The Dept. of the Army Project Manager for Chemical Demilitarization and Installation Restoration becomes the U.S. Army Toxic and Hazardous Materials Agency (USATHAMA).

1980 ~ Pollution Abatement, Environmental Control Technology and the Research, Development and Test and Evaluation Program are added to USATHAMA's mission.

1985 ~ The Army establishes a separate Program Manager for Rocky Mountain Arsenal cleanup, a mission previously assigned to USATHAMA.

1985 ~ USATHAMA's chemical demilitarization programs are transferred to a separate project manager, and environmental programs.

1988 ~ USATHAMA is reassigned command to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

1993 ~ USATHAMA is designated the Environmental Health Agency Center (USAEC), supporting the Department of the Army's environmental programs and provides management and technical support for environmental programs across the Army.

1993 ~ The Assistant Chief of Staff for Environmental Programs (ACSIM) is established. USAEC and ACSIM programs now report to the Army Environmental Health Agency.

1993 ~ The Army transfers responsibility for environmental program support from the Center for Environmental Health Agency to the Army Environmental Health Agency.



CHRONOLOGY



BG Sampson H. Bass Jr.
PROGRAM PROJECT MANAGER
OCTOBER 1972 - JUNE 1978



COL Frank A. Jones
PROJECT MANAGER/COMMANDER
JUNE 1978 - SEPTEMBER 1982



COL John D. Spreck
COMMANDER
SEPTEMBER 1982 - JUNE 1985



COL Peter D. Hidalgo
COMMANDER
JUNE 1985 - FEBRUARY 1988



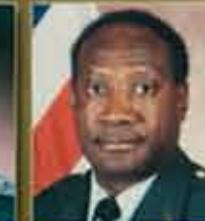
COL Fernando A. Thomas
COMMANDER
FEBRUARY 1988 - JULY 1987



COL J Harold Masburn
COMMANDER
AUGUST 1987 - AUGUST 1989



COL Louis M. Jackson
COMMANDER
AUGUST 1989 - AUGUST 1991



COL Ralph G. Wooten
COMMANDER
AUGUST 1991 - JANUARY 1994



COL Daniel F. Uyen
COMMANDER
JANUARY 1994 - MAY 1994



Joint Base San Antonio FORCE SUPPORT SQUADRON

Monthly Events

December

Service Member and Family Readiness

Tips on writing effective resumes

Lackland Airman and Family Readiness holds a Resume Writing Class Dec. 4, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Resume formats, what items to include and how to write cover letters and reference lists will be discussed. To sign up, call 671-3722.

Spouses offered orientation

Heart Link, the official Air Force spouse orientation, takes place at Lackland Airman and Family Readiness Center Dec. 5, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Spouses new to the military or Lackland are encouraged to attend. A light meal and free childcare are provided. Pre-registration is required. For more information, call 671-3722.

Deployment support group meets

Hearts Apart, a deployment support group, meets Dec. 5, 4:30 p.m., at Lackland Airman and Family Readiness Center. Members meet to socialize, network and receive the latest base community information. To sign up, call 671-3722.

Attendees get prepared for job interviews

Randolph Airman and Family Readiness Center to hold an Interview Workshop Dec. 6, 10 a.m.-noon. Attendees will learn how to research prospective employers, how to answer questions and how to dress. For details, call 652-5321.

New VA claims class held

Lackland Airman and Family Readiness offers Understanding the VA Claims Process class Dec. 19, 10 a.m.-noon. Topics include how the claim process works, electronic benefits, how to fill out claim forms and the power of attorney process. For more information, call 671-3722.

Spouses offered reintegration workshop

Randolph Airman and Family Readiness Center is offering spouses of returning military members a reintegration workshop Dec. 19, 1-2 p.m. The class will cover resiliency skills and resources. Registration is required. For details, call 652-5321.

Airmen provided financial training

The next Financial Readiness class takes place at Randolph Airman and Family Readiness Center Dec. 21, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The class helps prepare today's Airmen for financial challenges through financial education and training. Topics include spending plans, goal setting, credit



management, credit reports/scores, financial readiness for deployment and much more. For details, call 652-5321.

Playgroup offers interactive fun for mother and child

A playgroup for parents and children up to age 5, Helping Us Growing Securely, meets each Tuesday, 9-11 a.m., at the Middle School Teen Center, Funston Rd., building 2515, on Fort Sam Houston for interactive and fun play. Registration is not required. For more information, call 221-0349.

Classes focus on computer skills

Patrons can take advantage of Microsoft Office classes including Word Level 1, Dec. 4, Excel Level 1, Dec. 6, Word Level 2, Dec. 11 and Excel Level 2, Dec. 13. Classes are held at the Roadrunner Community Center, building 2797, 8 a.m.-noon, on Fort Sam Houston. Registration is required. For more information or to sign up, call 221-2518/2705.

Citizenship and Immigration Services hosts forum

The monthly U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Forum takes place Dec. 11, noon-2 p.m., at the Roadrunner Community Center, building 2797, on Fort Sam Houston. The forum is an opportunity for service members and their families to ask important questions and speak directly to representatives from USCIS. For more information, call 221-2418.

Arts and Crafts

Make a mini holiday wreath

Lackland Arts and Crafts Center holds a holiday wreath class Dec. 6, 5:30-7 p.m. The class fee is \$8 and all materials will be provided to complete an eight-inch mini wreath. Sign up no later than Dec. 3. For more information, call 671-2515.

Learn to etch wine glasses

Lackland Arts and Crafts Center holds a wine glass etching class Dec. 11, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Students will use stencils and etching solution to create a set of holiday wine glasses. The fee is \$8 per person and is open to ages 13-adult. Registration is required by Dec. 6. For details, call 671-2515.

Learn to make wine glass charms

A wine glass charm class takes place Dec. 12, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Lackland Arts and Crafts Center. A variety of beads and other materials will be used to make four charms. The session is open to ages 13-adult and the fee is \$8. Sign up by Dec. 7. For more information, call 671-2515.

Bowling Center

The Grinch bowls at Skylark

Lackland Skylark Bowling Center holds the annual Bowl with the Grinch event Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The package price of \$7 per person includes one game, a snack and goody bag. For details, call 671-1234.

Skylark offers free winter break passes

Lackland Skylark Bowling Center offers free game passes valid Dec. 17-30. Customers receive one free pass per day at the front counter. For details, call 671-1234.

Tune up your bowling game

Randolph Bowling Center hosts a Military Bowling Championship Tune-Up Tournament, Dec. 27, 7 p.m. The tournament is a four-game singles format with handicap and scratch divisions. Cost is \$25 and prizes will be given for first, second and third place winners. For more information, call 652-6271.

Pro shop offers holiday gift sale

The Randolph Bowling Center Pro Shop is offering 10 to 25 percent off selected balls, bags and shoes until Dec. 23. For more information, call 652-6271.

Bowling livens up the holidays
 The Randolph Bowling Center offers discounted bowling Dec. 24-28 (excluding Christmas day), 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The cost is \$2 per game, per person with \$2 shoe rental. For more information, call 652-6271.

Bowling Centers offer New Years celebrations
 Lackland Skylark Bowling Center hosts a New Year's Eve bowling party Dec. 31, 9 p.m. The package price is \$20.13 per person, which includes bowling, pizza and entertainment. For more information, call 671-1234.
 Celebrate the end of 2012 at the Randolph Bowling Center, Dec. 31, 8 p.m. There will be three games of Colorama Bowling with cash prizes. The cost is \$30 per person and includes a complimentary glass of Champagne and breakfast afterwards. For more information, call 652-6271.

Clubs

Holiday meals available for take-out
 Lackland Gateway Club offers holiday meals for take-out through Dec. 22. Patrons may choose a 9-11 pound turkey or 12-14 pound ham, if they want only the main entrée. Also available is a meal package with the turkey or ham, stuffing, whipped potatoes with gravy, sweet potatoes, corn, green beans, cranberry sauce and a choice of pecan or apple pie. Orders must be placed at least two days in advance. The last day to order is Dec. 17. Pick up time is Monday-Friday, 2-6 p.m. For more information, call 645-7035.

Bingo members honored at Kendrick Club
 The Randolph Kendrick Club hosts a Bingo Appreciation Party, Dec. 27, 5 p.m. There will be a complimentary dinner, which consists of 10-ounce prime rib, two crab legs, baked potato, chef's choice of vegetable and a dessert bar with assorted cheesecakes and pies. Participants must have proof of bingo packages/cards purchased or a ticket to receive the complimentary meal. For more information, call 652-3056.

Community center shows NFL Sunday football
 NFL Sunday Ticket is showing every week at the Sam Houston Community Center, building 1395 Chaffee Rd. on a choice of several 70-inch flat screen TVs. Game-time beverages, snacks and food are available in the community center at the Java Café. Call 224-2721, for more information.

Get your holiday celebration catered
 The Sam Houston Community Center and the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club are taking holiday orders for elegant meals to delight families and loved ones. The Sam Houston Community Center will cater to locations and homes on Fort Sam Houston or offer their own facilities with space for 400 guests. The Golf Club can host up to 300 guests and also offers pick-up services. To reserve a holiday party meal today, call 224-2721 or 221-2723 for the Sam Houston Community Center and 221-5675 for the Golf Club.

Community Programs

Tree lighting illuminates holidays
 The annual Randolph Holiday Tree Lighting is Nov. 30, 5 p.m., in Washington Circle. It includes holiday treats, children's activities and a visit with Santa. Parking is available in the Commissary, BX and Housing Office parking lots.

Theatre hosts Operation Rising Star finals
 The twelve finalists selected from military installations worldwide will compete in the 2012 Operation Rising Star Finals Dec. 8, 10, 12, 14 and

15, 7 p.m., at the Army Entertainment Theatre. Admission is free. Patrons and their guests have an opportunity to be part of the live televised audience. Visit www.oprisingstar.com for more information or call 466-2020.

Harlequin Dinner Theatre presents holiday show
 The Harlequin Dinner Theatre presents "In the Mood ... for Christmas" Thursdays-Saturdays through Dec. 22, with dinner at 6:15 p.m. and curtain at 8 p.m. Featuring big band songs and Christmas classics, the ever-popular Harlequin regulars will get the audience in the holiday spirit. For the ticket office, call 222-9694.

Holiday gift wrapping fundraiser
 Private organizations, unofficial activities and informal groups authorized to operate on Fort Sam Houston can raise funds for their causes while spreading some holiday cheer. The Fort Sam Houston Exchange invites organizations to wrap up some extra funds at the annual community gift wrap program. The program runs through Dec. 24. Organizations are asked to provide their own tape, ribbons, bows and scissors. To sign up, call 221-0010.

Fitness and Sports

Holiday 10-mile ride offered for bikers
 The Rambler Fitness Center hosts a 10-mile holiday bike ride Dec. 1, 8 a.m., starting at Eberle Park. This event is sponsored by Randolph Family Housing. For more information, call 652-7263.

Marathon running goes indoors
 The Rambler Fitness Center hosts an indoor marathon, where participants complete 26.2 miles running or walking within one week, Dec. 10-14. Participants may pick up their cards to log their mileage at the front desk. This is a self-monitored program based on the honor system. For more information, call 652-7263.

Intramural bowling coaches to meet
 Coaches signed up for the Intramural Bowling League will meet Dec. 11, 1 p.m., at the fitness center on the Medical Education Training Campus. The season begins Jan. 7 at the Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center, building 2521, Schofield Rd. For more information, call 808-5710.

Ring in the new year with a run
 Runners hoping to get a great start in 2013 are invited to the New Year's Eve 5K Dec. 31, midnight, at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center on Fort Sam Houston. Runners can ring in the new year with healthy beverages and snacks. For more information, call 221-1234.

Golf

First Friday golf tournament
 The monthly Wounded Warriors Four-Person golf tournament, Dec. 7, 12:30 p.m., at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club, 1050 Harry Wurzbach Rd. offers 18 holes and camaraderie for service members, their families and

Santa to attend Parr Club brunch

Have brunch with Santa, Dec. 16, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Randolph Parr Club. Santa will be available for photos, will have candy canes for the children and of course listen intently to their Christmas wishes. The brunch costs only \$19.75 for members or \$21.75 for nonmembers and guests. Everyone is invited to enter for prize drawings. For more information, call 652-4864.

guests. The tournament costs \$35 for nonmembers and \$25 for members. The fee includes dinner and an entry to win prizes at the pro shop. The Golf Club is open daily 6 a.m.-8:30 p.m. The illuminated driving range is open daily 6 a.m.-8 p.m. The Golf Pro Shop is open daily 6:45 a.m.-8 p.m. Mulligan's Snack Bar is open daily 6:45 a.m.-6 p.m. For details, call 222-9386.

Find a bargain at holiday sale
 Lackland Gateway Hills Pro Shop holds an annual holiday sale Dec. 15-16. Customers purchasing at least \$50 in merchandise can enter to win free products or up to 50 percent savings toward their purchase. For single purchases of \$150 or more, patrons will have a chance to win additional discounts. For more information, call 671-3466.

Gateway Hills hosts turkey shoot
 Lackland Gateway Hills Golf Course hosts a holiday turkey shoot Dec. 22. Morning tee times are available. The entry fee is \$8. Cart and green fees are not included. For more information, call 671-3466.

Pro Shop offers great holiday deals
 Randolph Oaks Pro Shop offers fantastic gifts for that special person on anyone's list. Gift certificates are available and also make great gifts for that hard-to-shop-for person. During December customers will receive a raffle ticket with the purchase of \$10 in merchandise for a

**December 8, 2012
 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Gateway Club, Fiesta Ballroom**

Adult Members \$6.95
Adult Non-Members \$7.95
Child Members (ages 5-12) \$4.95
Child Non-Members (ages 5-12) \$5.95
Children (ages 4 & under) FREE

Reservations requested. Payment must be made at time of reservation. Tickets will also be sold at the door. Sorry, no coupons please. For more information, call 645-7034.

Breakfast with Santa!

**Breakfast Buffet • Games • Prizes • Small Gift from Santa
 Featuring DJ Stevie Mac Dance Machine**

Buffet Breakfast includes: Fluffy Scrambled Eggs, Home Fried Potatoes, Crispy Bacon, Sausage Links, Sweet Pastries, Biscuits with Butter and Jelly, Assorted Beverages

FORCE www.lacklandfss.com

drawing to possibly win a set of irons, driver, putter or bag. For more information, call 652-4570.

Information, Tickets and Travel

Travel with ITT to the Hill Country
 Lackland Information, Tickets and Travel holds a Hill Country Holiday Lighting tour Dec. 8, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Patrons will spend time in Fredericksburg for shopping and dining, in Burnet for the Walk through Bethlehem, in Johnson City for their light show and Marble Falls for the famous Walk of Lights. The price is \$32 per person. Advance reservations are required. For more information, call 671-3133.

Casino trip scheduled for January
 Travel with Lackland ITT to the Choctaw Casino in Grant, OK. The bus departs Jan. 20, 7 a.m. and returns Jan. 21, 11 p.m. The price is \$87 per person, double occupancy and \$127 per person for single occupancy.

VIVA ESPANA!
PARR CLUB • NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Let's ring in the New Year Spanish-style! Flamenco dancers, dance lessons, Spanish traditional dishes, and Sangria all night. As Spanish tradition, all the guests' glasses will be filled with cava and a dozen grapes. Then as the band starts counting down to midnight everyone will start popping grapes in their mouths - one for each last second of 2012. Everyone who finishes their grapes by the time the clock strikes midnight will have good luck in the new year!

OPEN TO ALL DOD ID CARDHOLDERS.

INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM
 Doors in the Ballroom open at 6 p.m. with cocktails and tapas. The main buffet will be served from 7-8:30 p.m. and the Texas Chili Peppers will provide entertainment from 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

This one-of-a-kind celebration is \$75 per person for club members or \$85 per person for nonmembers or guests and includes an open bar and an all-you-can-eat breakfast served at midnight.

SKY LOUNGE
 The doors open at 7 p.m. in the Sky Lounge and a buffet of hors d'oeuvres will be served from 7:30-9 p.m. A coffee and dessert bar will be offered at 9:30 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by the Mike Ellis Band from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

The price for the Sky Lounge package is \$50 for club members or \$60 for nonmembers and also includes a complimentary glass of flavored champagne at arrival, cocktails or beverages of your choice throughout the night, champagne at midnight, party favors and a breakfast buffet.

GENERAL INFO FOR BOTH PACKAGES
 Randolph club members may make reservations starting Dec. 4 and everyone else may make reservations starting Dec. 11. Club members may join us in the Daedalian Room on Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to noon to choose their table and make payment.

FORCE **Randolph Parr Club - 652-4864**

Transportation, entertainment and snacks on the bus, one night hotel stay, one meal and \$10 in casino cash are included. The trip is open to ages 18 and older. Call 671-3133 to make a reservation.

Great gifts available at ITT
 Randolph ITT in the Community Services Mall, building 895, has great gift options for the holidays. Patrons can choose from IMAX and Regal Theaters, Natural Bridge Caverns, Natural Wildlife Ranch, season passes to their favorite theme park, Entertainment Books, Disney World/Disney Land tickets or even tickets to a Broadway play. They also have gift certificates available in various amounts, redeemable for any service or merchandise offered at ITT. For more information, call 652-5142.

Ticket office sells discount tickets
 The Ticket Office in the Fort Sam Houston Community Center, building 1395 Chaffee Rd., is selling discount tickets for the winter showings of the Moscow Ballet, Dec. 28, 7 p.m. and Dec. 29, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. In addition, discount tickets are available for the Nutcracker, Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 22, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 23, 2 p.m. The ticket office also has discount tickets for the San Antonio Spurs, the Alamo Bowl, Dec. 29 and for Disney on Ice "Rockin' Everafter," April 10-14 and. For more information, call 808-1378.

Library

Library provides virtual and traditional entertainment
 Patrons are welcome to enjoy some virtual fun at Gaming Day Dec. 2, 2:30-5:30 p.m., at the Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library, building 122, Harney Path on Fort Sam

Clubs offer New Years celebrations

Lackland Gateway Club offers three options to celebrate New Year's Eve. A party in the Lonestar Lounge takes place 9 p.m.-2 a.m. The package price is \$30 for members and \$35 for nonmembers. Included are light hors d'oeuvres, party favors, Champagne, breakfast and music. The Fiesta Ballroom package, 8 p.m.-1 a.m., is \$65 for members and \$75 for nonmembers. Included are heavy hors d'oeuvres, dinner, party favors, access to the Lonestar Lounge, Champagne, beverages throughout the night, breakfast and live music by The Show Band. For patrons who prefer a quiet dinner, the Mesquite dining room will serve 6-9 p.m. A choice of beef tenderloin, salmon filet or chicken Wellington is available. Meals are accompanied by side dishes, a glass of house wine and dessert. The price is \$24.95 for members and \$26.95 for nonmembers. Reservations are required for all three events. Tickets are on sale in the cashier's cage. Events are open to ages 18 and older. For more information, call 645-7034.

Ring in the new year at the Randolph Kendrick Club, Dec. 31, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., in the Nite Club. Enjoy Champagne, party favors and breakfast at midnight for \$15 per person or \$25 per couple. For more information, call 652-3056.

Houston. The library offers X-Box 360, PS3 and Wii, along with a host of old-fashioned board games. For more information, call 221-4702.

Library hosts special pajama story time

The Lackland Library hosts a pajama story time Dec. 8, 3:30-5 p.m. Featured are a special reading of the book "Polar Express," hot chocolate, Christmas caroling, cookie decorating and a surprise. For more information, call 671-3610.

Craft time offered for young readers

The Randolph Library hosts a Young Readers Craft Time Dec. 13, 3:40 p.m. Patrons can view new juvenile and young adult books, provide suggestions and create a bracelet, necklace or key chain (one per person). For more information, call 652-2617.

Holiday story time features festive books

Books featuring tales of the season will be the centerpiece of the annual Holiday Story Time and Cookies for Troops, Dec. 15, 2-3 p.m. at the Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library, building 122, Harney Path on Fort Sam Houston. For more information, call 221-4702.

Youth holiday craft project

The Lackland Library hosts a holiday ornament craft project Dec. 21, 1-6 p.m., for young children. The project can be assembled in the library to display on the facility's tree or it can be taken home. For more information, call 671-3610.

Library rolls out e-magazine

Zinio for Libraries is now available to patrons at the Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library, building 122, Harney Path on Fort Sam Houston. Zinio for Libraries provides a quick and easy way for patrons to read digital copies of their favorite magazines through a digital platform that recreates magazines page-for-page, including full-color pictures. Simply by using the code provided by their Air Force library, patrons will be able to read, interact with and explore the largest selection of magazines anywhere. For details, call 221-4702.

Outdoor Recreation

Archery deer hunting season continues at Camp Bullis

Archery hunting season for deer is open Friday-Sunday, 5:30 a.m.-dark, at Camp Bullis. Hunters must have preselected permit to

hunt deer. Scouting of preselected hunting areas continues. Hunting will close Dec. 24-26 and Dec. 31-Jan. 2 for the holiday break. For more information, call 295-7577.

Ski boats available at half price

Rent a ski boat for \$20 per hour, \$47.50 for half a day or \$90 all day at JBSA Recreation Park at Canyon Lake during December. The price includes skis and vests but not fuel. Now is your chance to take advantage of a less crowded lake and save money too. Renters must have taken the Boater's Safety Course thru the State of Texas, at Joint Base San Antonio (JBSA) Recreation Park at Canyon Lake or Outdoor Recreation in building 895 on Randolph. For more information, call 800-280-3466.

Bunkhouse, bungalow available at half price

Rent a bunkhouse for \$12.50 or a bungalow for \$17.50, Monday-Thursday, at JBSA Recreation Park at Canyon Lake during December. Enjoy the cool crisp air at the lake during the day and at night bask in the warmth of the cozy one-room bunkhouse or bungalow. To make a reservation, call 800-280-3466.

Santa suits available for rent

Randolph Outdoor Recreation in the Community Services Mall, building 895, has Santa Claus costumes available for rent for \$25 per day. Reservations must be made in person. For more information, call 652-5242.

Lackland Outdoor Recreation has Santa, Mrs. Claus, elf and Grinch costumes available to rent. For details, call 925-5532.

Rent boats at a discount during winter

Lackland Outdoor Recreation offers boat rental discounts during the winter season. Patrons will receive a 25 percent discount through Dec. 31 on ski and pontoon boats. During Jan. 1-Feb. 28, a 50 percent discount is available on all types of boat rentals. For more information, call 925-5532.

Youth Programs

Youth play flag football

The Middle School Teen Center hosts the

Army vs Air Force flag football game at the Fort Sam Houston Youth Center football fields, next to building 1630, Dec. 1, 1 p.m. The competition is open to youth in junior high and high school. For more information, call 221-3630.

Teen center offers college prep class

Junior high and high school students can get a head start on their higher education plans at a College Prep Class Dec. 6, 5-7 p.m., at the Middle School Teen Center, building 2515, on Fort Sam Houston. For more information, call 221-3630.

Teens dance into the holidays

The Middle School Teen Center, building 2515 on Fort Sam Houston will transform for a festive teen dance Dec. 7, 8-11 p.m. The dance is open to junior high and high school students registered with Child, Youth and School Services. For more information, call 221-3630.

Kids get artsy at craftapalooza

Randolph Youth Programs hosts Winter Craftapalooza Dec. 8, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., for youth ages 5 and older. Participants will also be able to wrap their gifts. For details, call 652-3298.

Parents get a night off

Lackland Youth Programs and the Gateway Child Development Center hold two Give Parents a Break/Parents' Night Out events during December. Childcare is available Dec. 8, 1-6 p.m. and Dec. 14, 6:30-11:30 p.m. The fee is \$10 per child at the youth center and \$15 at the child development center. Fees may be waived with a Give Parents a Break referral. Advance registration is required. Call 671-2388 for the youth center and 671-1052 for the CDC.

Register for First Steps basketball

Lackland Youth Programs holds First Steps Basketball registration Dec. 10-14 for ages 3-5. This sports program teaches the fundamentals of the game using age-appropriate gross motor movements and parental participation. The fee is \$35. Sessions meet one hour per week for six weeks. A current physical and immunization record are required at the time of registration. For more information, call 671-2388.

Lock-in opens up conversation and fun

Junior high and high school students are invited to a lock-in at the Fort Sam Houston Youth Center, building 1630, Dec. 14, 10 p.m.-7 a.m. Students will enjoy, music, food, games and sports. For details, call 221-3630.

Bowling party strikes up fun for teens

A bowling party Dec. 14, 8-10 p.m., offers teens a fun and exciting way to pass the time. Youth meet at the Middle School Teen Center, building 2515, before heading over to the Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center, building 2521, Schofield Rd., for some food and fun on the lanes. For more information, call 221-3630.

Youth invited to winter ball

Randolph Youth Programs hosts a Winter Ball Dec. 14, 6-9 p.m. This event is for youth, ages 9-12 years old, and costs \$2 for members or \$3 for nonmembers. Light snacks will be provided. For details, call 652-3298.

Teen center entertains during winter break

Things will stay busy at the Fort Sam Houston Middle School Teen Center, building 2515, during the winter break Dec. 21-Jan. 7, 1-7 p.m. Crafts, sports, TV, music and gaming will be in full-swing with open recreation. For more information, call 221-3630.

Registration opens for winter camps

Patrons get a holiday break with the Child, Youth and School Services Winter Camp on Fort Sam Houston which runs Dec. 24-Jan. 4, 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Registration is available at Parent Central, building 2797 for youth in grades 1-12. For more information, call 221-4871.

Lackland Youth Programs holds two holiday break camps during the upcoming school vacation. Registration must be completed by Dec. 10 for the Dec. 24-28 session and by Dec. 17 for the Dec. 31-Jan. 4 session. Fees will be assessed on late registration. Camp fees vary based on household income. For more information, call 671-2388.

Babysitters receive training

Lackland Youth Programs hosts a Red Cross babysitter's course Dec. 27-28. Open to ages 11-15, students may choose either the 8 a.m.-noon or 1-5 p.m. session. Topics include First Aid, CPR, how to make responsible decisions, basic care such as diapering, feeding and dressing, handling bedtime issues and how to find and interview for babysitting jobs. Upon successful completion, students receive a babysitter's certification. The course fee is \$55. For details, call 671-2388.



Environmental Command



militarization mission is assigned
and the agency focuses on environ-

from U.S. Army Materiel Com-
Engineers.

the U.S. Army Environmental
Department of the Army staff.
Director of Environmental Pro-
and technical support for envi-
rmy.

ff for Installation Management
d Army Director of Environmen-
CSIM.

nsibility for Conservation Pro-
r Public Works to USAEC.

1995 ~ USAEC establishes Regional Environmental Offices in
Denver, Atlanta, Kansas City and at Aberdeen Proving Ground, to
work with state and federal regulators on a regional basis.

2005 ~ BRAC realigns Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., by relocat-
ing the Army Environmental Center to Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

2006 ~ USAEC becomes a major subordinate command under
the Installation Management Command and is renamed the U.S.
Army Environmental Command.

2007 ~ The Regional Environmental Offices become operational
components of the office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army
for Installations and Environment.

2009 ~ USAEC begins relocating its headquarters from Aberdeen
Proving Ground, Md. to Texas.

2010 ~ USAEC colors are uncased on Fort Sam Houston, Texas.



OF COMMANDERS





'Scrooge' at Cole High School

The Robert G. Cole High School music and drama departments invite the JBSA-Fort Sam Houston community to celebrate the season at their annual holiday dinner theater musical featuring Charles Dickens' "Scrooge." Shows are Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. Dinner is served each day at 5:30 p.m. in the Cole High School Mall; with show time at 6:30 p.m. in the Moseley Gym. Cost is \$7 per person; reservations can be made on the Cole website at <http://colehs.fshisd.net/>.

Cole Band/Choir Concert

Dec. 1, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston Commissary.

Youth Flag Football Game

Dec. 1 at 1 p.m. the Middle School Teen Center will host an Army vs. Air Force flag football

game at the Youth Center Football Fields, next to Building 1630. The competition is open to children in junior high and high school.

Tree-Lighting Ceremony

Dec. 3, 6-8 p.m., JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Flagpole, Santa will bring some snow and holiday treats and caroling will highlight the evening, call 221-1718

Word Level 1

Dec. 4, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

Saving and Investing

Dec. 4, 9-11 a.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2380.

Post Deployment Planning Training

Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-1829 or 221-0946.

Budgeting

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

ScreamFree Parenting

Dec. 4, 6, 11 and 13 from 5-7 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-0349.

Bringing Baby Home

Dec. 5 and 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-0349.

Unit Family Readiness Training

Dec. 5, 9-10 a.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-1829 or 221-0946.

First Termer Financial Readiness

Dec. 5, noon-4 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2380.

Excel Level 1

Dec. 6, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

Care Team Training

Dec. 6, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-1829 or 221-0946.

5 Love Languages of Couples

Dec. 6, 10 and 13, 9-11 a.m., JBSA-Randolph, call 221-0349.

Family Readiness Group Leader's/Support Assistant Forum

Dec. 6, 11 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-1829 or 221-0946.

Armed Forces Team Building's 18th Birthday

Dec. 6, noon-1:30 p.m., Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, everyone's invited to enjoy cake, punch and fun, call 221-2611.

Word Level 2

Dec. 11, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

Preparing the Way – A Christmas Concert

John Angotti and his band will perform at 7 p.m. Dec. 12 at Dodd Field Chapel, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston and 7 p.m. Dec. 13 at Hope Chapel, JBSA-Lackland. Call 221-2755 for more information.

Word Level 1

Dec. 13, 8 a.m.-noon, Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797, call 221-2518 or 221-2705.

Journey to Bethlehem

Dec. 14 and 15, 5:30-8:30 p.m., grounds of the Gift Chapel. Call 221-2755.

Children's Holiday Party

Dec. 15, noon-4 p.m. at Kelly Hangar 1610, all DOD cardholders and their families are invited to attend. Children age 12 and younger can meet with Santa and receive a gift. Activities will include face painting, games, and crafts. There will also be music, food and a caricature artist. Families interested in attending need to reserve by Dec. 11 and provide children's age and gender. Call 671-6511, 671-9414, 671-8348 or 671-9889.

Youth & School Services Winter Camp

Parents can visit Parent Central to sign their children up for full-day winter camp. Camp is 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Dec. 24-Jan. 4, call 221-4871.

Apprenticeships Available for Teens

Registration is open for youth, ages 15-18, who want to work as apprentices in the 2013 HIRED! winter term runs Jan. 14-April 6.

Registration forms are available at the Middle School Teen Center, Building 2515 and Parent Central, Building 2797, application deadline is Dec. 3, call 221-3386.

USAF Arts & Crafts Gallery

The 2013 Air Force Arts & Crafts Gallery Program requests submissions from artists, craftsmen and photographers in the armed forces and their family members around the world. Adults, teens ages 13-17 and youth ages 6-12 may submit 2- and 3-D art, photography and digital art. Three entries are permitted per person per category. Entries must be dropped off at the Lackland Arts & Crafts Center, 1441 Patrick St., Building 7041. For more information, call 671-5508 or visit <https://www.usafservices.com/ArtsCraftsGallery.aspx>.

Notice of Fitness Center Closure

The Big Area Tent, temporarily housing the Brigade Gym at the corner of Hardee and Williams Roads, closes permanently Dec. 14. The Central Post Gym, Building 961,

See INSIDE, P20

Army medics, Navy corpsmen students spend Thanksgiving Day at Valero headquarters

Story and photo by Larry Coffey
NMETC Public Affairs

Approximately 300 Army and 75 Navy enlisted medical students participated in a Thanksgiving Day celebration hosted by Valero Energy Corporation at one of Valero's headquarters in San Antonio.

The eighth annual "Thanksgiving with the Troops" marked the first year Navy hospital corps students participated in what has become a San Antonio Army tradition.

"Thanksgiving with the Troops is truly a unique and uplifting volunteer event," said Eric Andres, a Valero employee and the event volunteer coordinator.

"It amazes me that on a holiday normally reserved for food, family, relaxing and giving thanks, we have over 200 volunteers who have chosen to give back and serve the men and wom-

en who make so many sacrifices to keep us safe here at home."

Col. Randall Anderson, chief of staff, Army Medical Department Center and School, agreed with Andres.

"Today is definitely a day to be thankful," said Anderson. "We should be thankful for having a free country, where we are not oppressed. We should be thankful that we have a strong military ... and we should also be thankful that we have great citizens of this country like those at Valero, who open up their doors and welcome us as part of their military force."

Community events involving joint military services are becoming commonplace in San Antonio as a result of consolidating and co-locating Navy, Army and Air Force enlisted medical training at the Medical Education and Training Campus at Joint Base San



Medical Education Training Campus Hospital Corpsman student Seaman Gregory Bell participates in the "Military's Got Talent" competition Nov. 22 during the Valero Energy Corporation's eighth annual "Thanksgiving With the Troops" program in San Antonio.

Antonio-Fort Sam Houston in 2010.

The event kicked off with music provided by Valero's band "High Octane," made up of Valero employees.

Soldiers and Sailors participated in takeoffs of game shows like Jeopardy, and they played card and board games

such as blackjack, Uno and dominoes. Winners earned tickets that were placed in a basket and drawn at the end of the afternoon along with other door prizes that included everything from Blue Ray and DVD players to digital cameras.

The Valero chefs cooked and employees

and their families served 250 pounds of turkey, 125 pounds of potatoes, and 100 pounds each of green beans, corn and dressing along with gravy, rolls and a full dessert buffet.

Andres said leftover meals were donated to a Veterans of Foreign Wars post in the San Antonio area.

The joint-service students watched football games and Thanksgiving Day parades on massive screens during dinner.

Following the meal, approximately 12 Navy and Army students took turns joining High Octane on the stage for a "Military's Got Talent" singing competition.

One of the students attending was Seaman Recruit Aaron Cole, a student in the METC Basic Medical Technician/Corpsmen program, who took third place in the Military's Got Talent competition.

"The singing competition, obviously, was the event I enjoyed most," said Cole.

"The whole event was a great opportunity for those who were not

able to go home to be with their family. I really appreciate the Valero employees. I thought it was very nice and kind of them because they were taking time away from their own families to take care of us."

Capt. Gail Hathaway, commander of Navy Medicine Education Training Command, represented Navy Medicine, addressing the students and Valero volunteers just prior to the games.

"Military deployments and service are sometimes difficult, but it's our chosen field," Hathaway said.

"When it's time to deploy, it is much easier knowing the San Antonio community has our back. You reinforce this when you do things like this - taking time away from your family to prepare and serve us a Thanksgiving meal. So we, the San Antonio Navy, thank you, Valero, for your service to the San Antonio Navy community, and to our sister service members who serve alongside us here in San Antonio."



Photo by Esther Garcia

Soldiers enjoy a card game at the annual "Thanksgiving with the Troops" at the Valero Energy Corporation international headquarters in San Antonio.

MISSION THANKSGIVING



Photo by Phil Reidinger

Families check in at MacArthur Parade Field on Thanksgiving morning to pick up Soldiers who will go home with them to enjoy Thanksgiving activities. More than 600 Soldiers from the 32nd Medical Brigade participated in this year's Mission Thanksgiving event.

OUTSIDE THE GATE

The Smithville Festival of Lights Walk

The Smithville Volkssport Club is hosting a 5k and 10k walk Dec. 1 starting at the Smithville City Hall, 317 Main Street in Smithville. Walks start between 9 a.m. and noon, finish by 3 p.m. For information, call 512-237-2313 or email chamber@smithvillex.org.

Holiday in Blue Concert

The United States Air Force Band of the West presents Holiday in Blue 7 p.m. Dec. 7 and 3 p.m. Dec. 8 and 9 at Edgewood Independent School District Theatre of Performing Arts, 607 SW 34th Street. Free tickets are available by visiting <http://www.bandofthewest.af.mil>.

A Holiday Celebration Concert

The 323rd Army Band "Fort Sam's Own" will perform 7 p.m. Dec. 8 at the Scottish Rite Auditorium, 308 Avenue E. Admission is free.

Boerne Christmas Walk

The Randolph Roadrunners volksmarch club is hosting a 5k and 10k walk Dec. 8 starting at St. John's Lutheran Church, 315 E. Rosewood Avenue in Boerne. Walks start between 8 a.m. and noon, finish by 3 p.m. For information, call 723-8574 or print a walk brochure at <http://randolphroadrunners.info/>.

A Wonderland Christmas at Morgan's Wonderland

A Wonderland Christmas will be open 5 to 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Dec. 22. In addition to the park's regular rides and attractions, Morgan's Wonderland will recreate the North Pole at the Butterfly Garden playground and have it serve as the focal point for strolling entertainers, such as carolers, choirs and magicians. Visit <http://www.morganswonderland.com> for information.

Military Job Fair

A job fair for active duty and retired military personnel and veterans will be held 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Dec. 11 at the Norris Conference Center at Wonderland of the Americas, 4522 Freder-

icksburg Road. Register online at <http://mySA.com/MilitaryJobFair>.

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 through Dec. 31. Call 207-3255 or visit <http://www.sabot.org> for more information.

FOR SALE:

Furniture for sale, numerous, miscellaneous items, various prices, all in excellent condition; Oakley sun glasses, new, iridium, 99 percent UV protection, with soft case and hard case included, \$75; dog crate, excellent condition, folding double door, black, 24 inches long, 18 inches wide, 19 inches high, leak-proof plastic pan, \$30; small dog bed, like new, small, 15 inches by 18 inches, 2-tone color, \$35; color TV and new, portable TV's, ac or battery powered, with AM/FM reception, only two available \$25 and \$35. Call 313-0061.

FOR SALE: Living room set, \$120; white GE refrigerator, \$150; GE stove, \$100, queen-size bed, \$100; dresser, \$60. Call 241-1291 or (512) 943-2314.

FOR SALE: New rascal wheelchair, instruction manual included, \$700. Call 661-3765.

FOR SALE: 1996 Nissan Maxima, 4-door, 5-speed manual, white with grey interior, 198,000 plus miles, oil and filter changed every 2-3,000 miles, maintenance records available, "as is," \$1,499. Call 659-6741 or 827-2506.



INSIDE from P18

will reopen in December.

Basketball Coaches Needed

Volunteer coaching opportunities are available for the youth fall basketball season at the Middle School Teen Center. Youth Sports is taking applications from DOD cardholders to coach youth ages 5-15. Background checks are required. Call 221-5519 or 221-5513 for information.

Thrift Shop Open

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Thrift Shop at 3100 Zinn Road, run by the Spouses' Club of the Fort Sam Houston Area, is open to all DOD cardholders and full of clothing, shoes, housewares, toys, books, furniture, jewelry and more. Hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and the third Saturday of each month. The thrift shop will be open Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. Consigned items are taken from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Donations are taken anytime during regular business hours. The shop will be closed Dec. 21 through Jan. 8. For more information, call 221-5794/4537 or click on <http://www.scfsh.com>.

Pet Consult Services Available at JBSA-Lackland

The Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland Veterinary Treatment Facility provides animal behavior consult services for family pets. The VTF's military animal behavior resident is scheduling appointments. The Army resident can assist pet owners with understanding their pet's behavior, and preventing, managing, or resolving pet behavioral problems. Common problems may include aggression, fear, anxiety, hyperactivity, inappropriate elimination and tail chasing. For details, call 671-3631/2245.

Education and Training Office

The 502nd Force Support Squadron Education and Training Office offers a variety of military testing, including Professional Military Education, Career Development Courses and Defense Language Proficiency testing. PME Testing is conducted on Tuesdays, CDC on Wednesdays, and DLPT on Thursdays. Education and Training also offers Armed Forces aptitude testing such as the Armed Forces

Classification Test and Armed Forces Officer Qualification Test. Tests are scheduled on an as-needed basis. To schedule military testing at JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, call 221-0852.

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 to enroll.

Stilwell House

The JBSA-Fort Sam Houston Stilwell House, a historic landmark since 1888, is open for tours, receptions and parties. The Stilwell House is managed by the Society for the Preservation of Historic Fort Sam Houston, Inc. a 501(C)(3) corporation not affiliated with the Department of Defense. 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://powertalkinternational.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 JBSA-Lackland Gateway Club. Call 658-2344 for more information.

**THE 323D ARMY BAND
"FT SAM'S OWN"**
PROUDLY PRESENTS

A Holiday Celebration

at the
**Scottish Rite
Auditorium**
308 AVENUE E, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8TH, 7:00PM FREE ADMISSION

Weekly Weather Watch						
	Nov 30	Dec 1	Dec 2	Dec 3	Dec 4	Dec 5
San Antonio Texas	73° Mostly Cloudy	76° Partly Cloudy	76° Mostly Cloudy	75° Partly Cloudy	72° Few Showers	67° Sunny
Kabul Afghanistan	51° Sunny	54° Sunny	53° Sunny	54° Sunny	54° Sunny	54° Sunny

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

Did you know?

One of the best things about ICE is that people can let service providers know when they do a great job, not just for poor service.

It takes 5 minutes or less to submit a comment at <http://ice.disa.mil>.



Edwards Aquifer Level

in feet above sea level as of Nov. 26

CURRENT LEVEL * = 649.0'

*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>.

