



Fort Sam Houston News Leader



Vol. 38, No. 49

Fort Sam Houston – Home of Army Medicine

Dec. 7, 2006

Briefs . . .

All-American Bowl coupons

Discounted ticket coupons for the Army All-American Bowl are available at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Ticket Office in the Sam Houston Club, Building 1395. The game will be held Jan. 6 at the Alamodome. For ticket information, call 226-1663.

Christmas tree lighting

The post Christmas tree lighting will take place Dec. 14 at 6 p.m. at the main post flagpole on Stanley Road. The host will be Col. Wendy Martinson, U.S. Army Garrison commander. Refreshments will be served. The ceremony will be followed by "Journey to Bethlehem" at the Main Post Chapel.

Holiday Concert

The Army Medical Command Band will present a Holiday Concert Dec. 17 at 3 p.m. at Blesse Auditorium in Willis Hall, Building 2841. The concert is free and open to the public.

Holiday closure

The Sam Houston Club and the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Ticket Office will be closed from Dec. 18 through Jan. 1, except for special events reserved through the catering office. For more information, call 224-2721.

Legal office closure

The Fort Sam Houston Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, to include the claims division and legal assistance, will be closed Dec. 19 from 1:30 p.m. to close of business for the office holiday celebration. The office will reopen Dec. 20. For emergencies, call the on-call duty officer at 393-3042. For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class James Jordan, senior legal NCO, or Mario Rendon at 221-0484.

Tracks close for repairs

The MacArthur running track will be closed for repairs through Feb. 23. The Hacienda track will be closed for reconstruction through Feb. 23. Closure dates may vary; check the News Leader for updates.

Health benefits open season

The open season for the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, Flexible Spending Accounts and the new Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program will be held through Monday. For comparison booklets, visit http://apps.opm.gov/rates/non_postal.cfm?year=2007. To make open-season enrollments, changes or cancellations, visit the Army Benefits Center-Civilian Web site at <https://www.abc.army.mil> or call toll-free 1-877-276-9287.

Catering extended to Roadrunner

People can make reservations to use the Army Community Service facility for special events and unit functions through the Sam Houston Club's catering office. Reservations will be accepted for the facility's main auditorium and two adjacent meeting rooms. Catering service fees may apply. For more information, call 224-2721.

Post Exchange notice

People who purchased Polish pottery Nov. 15 or 16 should contact the Polish vendor, Halina, at 630-776-6532 or the Post Exchange service office, Building 2434, at 225-1319.



Photo by Elaine Wilson

Final tribute

Richard Naateh Luna, a Korean War veteran from the White Mountain Apache tribe, prays in an ancient Native American language holding a feather and burning sage so Martiriano Aguirre's spirit can be cleansed and released to his creator. Aguirre, a Yaqui Indian who served in the Indian Wars in the late 1800s, was reburied with full military honors Friday at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in honor of his military service. See related story on Page 3.

418th 'medical logistics warriors' return

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



Spc. Isaac Flores, 418th Medical Logistics Company, hugs his daughter at the welcome home ceremony at the Roadrunner Community Center. Fifty-eight Soldiers arrived in San Antonio Nov. 30.

Just in time for the holidays, 58 "medical logistics warriors" assigned to the 418th Medical Logistics Company returned home following a year of deployment in the Middle East. The Soldiers arrived in San Antonio Nov. 30, the same day they departed a year earlier.

After several delays, the Soldiers arrived at the Roadrunner Community Center at about 12:45 a.m. They were greeted by Lt. Col. William S. Drennon, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Gloria M. Riley, both from the 36th Medical Evacuation Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas. The 36th Medical Evacuation Battalion is higher headquarters for the 418th Medical Logistics Company stationed at Fort Sam Houston.

"Welcome home and congratulations, the mission is now complete," said Drennon, guest speaker for the welcome home ceremony. Drennon also thanked the families for supporting the Soldiers.

The Soldiers' families had waited patiently for more than three hours at the Roadrunner with balloons and flowers for their loved ones.

Felicia Rusher wore her husband's favorite red dress. "I am freezing in it, but I wore it just for him," she said.

While overseas, the 418th provided support for more than 500 customers with units in Iraq, Kuwait, Afghanistan and Qatar.

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Turner assumes command of U.S. Army North

By Patti Bielling
U.S. Army North Public Affairs

Lt. Gen. Thomas R. Turner II assumed command of U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) Monday during a morning ceremony in the historic Quadrangle at Fort Sam Houston.

Turner replaced Lt. Gen. Robert T. Clark, who retired from the Army after 36 years of active service.

Turner said he is honored to be able to

continue to serve.

"There is no organization more critical to protecting the United States than U.S. Northern Command and its components," Turner said. "I look forward to the challenges ahead."

ARNORTH is the Army's newest service component command and reports to U.S. Northern Command, the unified command responsible for homeland defense and civil support.

Immediately before taking command,

Turner pinned on his third star. He comes to San Antonio from Kentucky, where he commanded the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Fort Campbell from May 2004 through November 2006.

During that assignment, Turner served in Iraq from September 2005 to September 2006 as commander of Task Force Band of Brothers in the Multi-National Division-North.

See TURNER on Page 4

Law protects Soldiers so they can serve

By Elaine Wilson

Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

Most service members are familiar with the attractive array of military benefits, ranging from the GI Bill to big ticket retention bonuses.

But another, lesser known set of benefits that includes everything from interest-rate reductions to penalty-free lease terminations may have escaped the notice of both new and seasoned military members.

The Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, formerly known as the Soldiers and Sailors Civil Relief Act, is a federal law that grants military members several rights as they

enter active duty and protects them while serving. The law addresses rental agreements, security deposits, pre-paid rent, eviction, installment contracts, credit card and mortgage interest rates, foreclosure, civil judicial proceedings and income tax payments.

"The SCRA protects military members so they can serve without worries such as an eviction or inflated interest rates," said Tim Haight, acting chief, Client Services Division, Fort Sam Houston Legal Assistance Office. "It's hard to focus on the mission while deployed if you're worried about your family being evicted or unable to afford bills."

Haight described a recent case in which a service member was sent on temporary duty and returned to find

her possessions on the sidewalk; most had been stolen.

"Under the SCRA, it was illegal for the landlord to evict her without following the proper steps under the SCRA," Haight said. Haight expects the service member to receive a significant monetary settlement since the landlord committed a violation of the Soldier's rights under the SCRA.

Eviction is just one area of protection under the SCRA. The following are a few of the many SCRA benefits:

Interest rate reductions

Service members have the right to request a 6 percent interest rate cap for debt or liability incurred before active duty, to include joint accounts with a spouse. Any interest

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Fort Sam Houston News Leader

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Soldier honored century later at Fort Sam

Story and photos by Elaine Wilson
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

With the sound of Taps and the sweet smell of sage still lingering in the air, the military and Native American communities laid an American Soldier to rest Friday who served, and died, more than a century ago.

Martiriano Aguirre, a Yaqui Indian who served in the Indian Wars, was reburied with full military, and Native American, honors at the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in the presence of three generations of descendants, all raised on tales of the Army private's courage.

As the flag-draped coffin arrived, Michael Aguirre tearfully watched as a seven-year journey to bring honor to his great-grandfather came to an end.

"Martiriano was very brave and served with honor, but never received military recognition for his service," said Michael, who spearheaded the efforts to re-inter his great-grandfather at the Fort Sam Houston cemetery. "This was a long-time coming."

After a 3-volley rifle salute, two Soldiers removed the U.S. flag from the coffin and meticulously folded it for presentation to Armando Aguirre, Martiriano's grandson and one of many family members in attendance.

As military honors concluded with the sounding of Taps, a representative from the Native American community stepped forward to utter an Indian prayer in an ancient language. He waved a burning bundle of sage in each direction, then turned to drift the sweet-smelling smoke around the coffin.

"I came to give a blessing to a brother, a last prayer to release him to our creator," said Richard Naateh Luna, a Korean War veteran from the White Mountain Apache tribe. Luna presented Armando with a feather in honor of his grandfather.



Sgt. Alejandro Deluna, from the Honors Platoon, U.S. Army Garrison, presents the U.S. flag to Armando Aguirre, a traditional part of a military funeral.

To thank his great-grandfather for his legacy, Michael raised a replica of the sword from the movie "Braveheart" in tribute. "I raise this sword to honor you great-grandfather."

Martiriano's descendants carried the coffin to the gravesite.

Armando said he was touched beyond words by the re-interment ceremony. "It's a beautiful thing. He didn't speak English, but he was a good tracker. My grandfather served; he deserved this honor," said the World War II veteran.

"Because of men like him, Texas is what it is today," Michael said.

Like most early Americans, Martiriano pulled himself up by his bootstraps. He came from the poverty-stricken Yaqui Indian tribe in Mexico, a looked-down-upon group of Indians persecuted by both the Mexicans and other Indian tribes. His people were murdered, abused and forced from their home in Sonora into the Yucatán peninsula, where they were sold as slaves and worked on plantations.

"They were considered the lowest form of society," Michael said.

Seeking a better life, Martiriano jumped at the chance to join the U.S. Army, which was in West Texas recruiting Indians for scouts. In return, the men would receive pay and rations.

The 15-year-old joined the Army in 1878. His enlistment papers describe him as 22 years old and 5-feet, 5-inches tall with a copper complexion.

The private served for four years in the Indian Wars, mostly under Lt. John Bullis. Under Bullis' command, the Seminole-Negro Indian Scouts, mostly descendants of escaped slaves, engaged in 12 battles on both sides of the border without losing a single scout in combat, according to the Fort Davis National Historic Site. The scouts became known for their tracking and marksmanship skills, as well as bravery in battles between the Army and Indian tribes.

"The Army could send the scouts out with half the rations of regular Soldiers and they could survive," said Michael. Michael recalled a story his father passed down to him about Martiriano. "The scouts were on a mission in New Mexico and the Soldiers ran out of water. Martiriano stood on his saddle and started to sniff for water. He led them to a place and started to dig. There was water there."

Michael said a well in that spot was named after his great-grandfather because of that feat.

After his service, Martiriano moved to San Antonio and worked as a barber until he died in 1921. His family placed a wooden cross on his grave at the San Fernando Cemetery in San Antonio, never realizing his four years



Earley B. Teal (left) and Howard Ray, from the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association, attended the funeral to pay tribute to Martiriano Aguirre. African-American and Native American Soldiers fought side by side in the Indian Wars.

of service had earned him a military burial.

"My family was poor and my grandparents sacrificed to bury him there," Michael said.

Michael's father petitioned the government for a military headstone, which was placed at his grave in 1969. However, a military cemetery is where Martiriano truly belonged, Michael said.

"I felt he deserved recognition for his service," he said. Michael went on a crusade, and spent seven years unsuccessfully seeking funding assistance for a military funeral from politicians and corporations throughout the nation. "I got shot down by everyone," he said. "I was close to giving up."

But then a friend of his suggested he try the chief's group at Lackland Air Force Base, where he worked as an electrician for the 37th Civil Engineer Squadron. With one call, he found the help he was seeking.

"The enlisted men and women of Lackland Air Force Base didn't hesitate to support Michael," said Chief Master Sgt. Dwayne Hopkins, 37th Training Wing command chief, who led a formation of Airmen from Lackland Air Force Base during the funeral. "Martiriano was enlisted and he is an American. That is why we made this happen. We take care of our own."

Michael said he is grateful to the troops at Lackland Air Force Base, the Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery and the family and friends that wouldn't let him end his quest.

"It feels good to have this journey come to an end," Michael said. "I didn't know the man but I am so glad to have honor brought to him."

"This ceremony isn't just to honor him, but all of the scouts who served with such bravery and honor."

Joint endeavor adds new master's program

Story and photo by Cheryl Harrison
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

The Department of Medical Science, Army Medical Department Center and School, in conjunction with Baylor University, held a combined opening ceremony Friday for an existing and an inaugural graduate program. The U.S. Army-Baylor University Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy, in existence now for 35 years, and the U.S. Military Baylor Graduate Program in Nutrition, a new program, began this month with their first groups of students.

"The Army Medical Specialist Corps leadership has been planning this new program and its transition for several years now, but finally it has come to fruition," said Col. Bonnie DeMars, chief of Army Medical Specialist Corps.

"On this journey with you are support personnel, faculty, colleagues, your families and friends. They are the ones who will bolster you when the program gets long," continued DeMars.

Col. Josef Moore, chief, Physical Therapy Branch, and program director, U.S. Army-Baylor University Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy, said, "This is a historical milestone to have this new graduate program. Our program has been a joint one since the mid-1980s, and is ranked fifth in the nation among all PT programs, according to U.S. News and World Report."

Col. Dave Maness, dean, Academy of Health Sciences, added, "This is a very special ceremony and event for these two programs. We have great faculty in the programs and when you surround yourself with great people, you have great programs."

"Welcome students, study hard, do not get behind, it is tough. However, concentrate on the 20-year-old in Baghdad. Those Soldiers are whom you support. Go to Brooke Army Medical Center and see the young men and women patients. You will be reminded of why you are needed," advised Maness.

The new graduate program in nutrition

will provide students with the knowledge, skills and problem-solving abilities to deliver quality, evidence-based nutrition care to the military in combat support hospitals, fixed medical treatment facilities and outpatient clinics. The new venture will also support the recent recommendations submitted from the American Dietetic Associations' Education Task Force, proposing a graduate degree requirement for entry-level professional practice.

The curriculum consists of two separate phases. Phase I consists of 45 credits in didactic coursework, including the comprehensive study of nutrition as it relates to health and disease. Phase II consists of the accredited dietetic internship and supervised practice rotations. The focus is still on food-service systems, clinical and community nutrition; however, a research component will be added to meet the requirements of the master's degree.

The inaugural class of 11 dietetic students will graduate in 2008, and 22 new physical therapists will graduate in 2009.



Col. Dave Maness, dean, Academy of Health Sciences, reminds students in the U.S. Army-Baylor University Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy and the U.S. Military Graduate Program in Nutrition that the journey ahead will be tough at times, but look to the wounded warriors as a reminder of why they are needed.

Pest controllers keep critters under control at Fort Sam

Story and photo by Elaine Wilson
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

Fort Sam Houston's historic buildings attract hundreds of people each year, all eager to learn about the post's origins and its famous former occupants, such as Dwight D. Eisenhower.

However, along with the tourists, the century-old buildings also attract thousands of other guests each year — unwelcome ones.

From 1870s barracks to cavernous warehouses, the buildings at Fort Sam Houston are a pest haven with their dark nooks and crannies. Occupants have been plagued periodically by everything from fleas and roaches to rats and bats.

"We make every effort to control pests on post," said James Graham, chief, Department of Public Works Environmental and Natural Resources Office. "Fort Sam Houston is on a small green belt, the Salado Creek. When food is scarce there, they seek it here. Even the Riverwalk has pigeons and rats. It's part of living in a city with a natural ecosystem."

While most pests are well under control on post, one continues to pose a challenge. "The No. 1 problem at Fort Sam Houston is ants," said Frank Martinez, Department of Defense-certified applicator. "There are more than 200 species of ants in Texas alone."

Martinez and his partner, Juan Campos, keep busy with ants, along with a multitude of other pests, as the sole full-time pest controllers for a 6-million-square-foot area at Fort Sam Houston, to include office buildings, barracks, Camp Bullis and the Canyon Lake Recreation Center. Brooke Army Medical Center, the housing areas and the golf course are maintained by contractors.

Combined, the DoD-certified pest controllers have more than 60 years of pest control experience, put to good use as they work to find the best solutions for each pest problem.

Their work is service-call driven since "routine pest control is against Army policy," said Rotary Green, installation pest management coordinator. "The policy requires a pest to first be present."

They place each service call into three categories: medically significant, property destroying and nuisance pests. The category determines the priority level and response time. Most fall into the nuisance category, Green said.

The pest controller then decides on the best avenue of attack. "They first try to solve it without pesticides or use the least toxic materials to control pests," said Green. "It's safer for the environment and for everyone involved."

This type of treatment is particularly important in places like Camp Bullis, where endangered and protected species dwell, but can also apply on post.

"People call and say they have bats in their building and want them out," Martinez said. "But we can't just go in there and kill them all. It's a health hazard and some bat species are protected."

While occupants would prefer the unwelcome guests to be evicted on the spot, the situation is rarely as simple as it seems. While bats carry diseases, it's against the law to kill them. "We have to control them by keeping them out," Martinez said.

The pest controllers must wait until bats migrate out and allow the babies to leave their home before they seal up openings with foam or metallic mesh. This process normally takes place in late

October and early November, when the temperatures change. "You don't want the bats to be sealed in; that can cause a new set of problems. Overall, it's a long, drawn-out process," Martinez said.

The rat is another disease-carrier difficult to evict. "If they have food and water at hand, they are there to stay," Martinez said. "We use bait and other methods to control them, but they are impossible to exterminate. New York City has been unsuccessfully trying to do that for years and years."

Martinez recommends building occupants take a proactive stance when it comes to pests. "When I go on a service call, the first thing I do is drive around the building. I look for garbage piled up, improper storage of items.

"Don't create an environment conducive to pests," he said. "If your water faucet is dripping, you've created a water source; if you leave garbage out, there's food."

Preventive measures are particularly important for buildings with communal living situations, like the barracks.

But one measure Martinez doesn't recommend is for people to take matters into their own hands.

"If you have a pigeon or cat problem, don't go out with a pellet gun and start shooting," he said. "It's against the law on federal installations."

For people with a soft spot for animals, Martinez said people aren't doing anyone a favor by feeding them, which is mainly a problem with cats. "All people are doing is extending their misery. They survive to



Frank Martinez, Department of Defense-certified applicator, sprays for ants in Building 4197. He is one of two pest controllers responsible for a 6-million-square-foot area at Fort Sam Houston, Canyon Lake Recreation Center and Camp Bullis.

breed more cats, which will die of starvation or disease."

Martinez speaks from experience. It's his job to pick up the dead cats on post. He prefers to humanely trap cats and transport them to an animal pound downtown.

Whether cats or bats, Martinez said pest controllers can't help anyone unless they first know about the problem.

To report a pest problem, call the Service Order Desk at 221-3144.

Traffic safety course required for incoming Soldiers, civilians

By Minnie Jones
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

The Fort Sam Houston Installation Safety Office has implemented a new Army Traffic Safety Training Program for both military and civilian personnel.

The Installation Management Agency, now known as the Installation Management Command, contracted the National Traffic Safety Institute, a nationally recognized traffic school, to develop the course materials for the new traffic safety program.

The purpose of the new program is to provide continuity, and to implement one training standard throughout the Army. The Army's intent, through these courses, is to reduce deaths, injuries and economic losses from motor vehicle accidents.

The ATSTP consists of eight courses. Some of the courses have already been implemented on Fort Sam Houston, but a government-contracted trainer will teach the four new courses: Local Hazards, Intermediate Drivers' Training, Advanced Driver's Training and Supervisor's Traffic Safety Training.

Under the new Army program, all Soldiers and civil-

ians arriving at a new installation will be required to attend the Local Hazards and Intermediate Drivers' Training course within 30 days of their assignment to the new duty station. The Army also requires that all personnel under age 26 complete the traffic safety training. The courses combined run for about three hours.

The Local Hazard course, which is tailored to the local area, will focus on information to raise the individual's awareness around a new duty station. It covers awareness of local traffic rules, and incorporates state traffic laws, weather and recreational conditions. The Advanced Individual Training course is a refresher for service members ages 18 to 26 who are not yet in a supervisory role; it encourages and teaches defensive driving skills for the road, skills that can be used when driving on post and in the civilian community.

"Previously, Soldiers didn't receive any vehicle training until they reached their first permanent duty station," said Guadalupe Gomez, safety and occupational health manager for the Army Medical Department Center and School and Fort Sam Houston.

"Traffic accidents are a leading cause of death and dis-

ability in the U.S. Army. There were 390 traffic accidents on Fort Sam Houston in 2006, with hit and runs being a major problem; this year, the cost of property of damage is over \$1.17 million," Gomez said.

Next to cars, motorcycle fatalities have nearly doubled. Forty-five Soldiers died in motorcycle accidents in fiscal 2005, compared to 23 in fiscal 2004. In the first five months of fiscal 2006, nine Soldiers were killed in motorcycle accidents.

Fort Sam Houston has two mandatory courses that motorcyclists must attend — the Basic Rider course and the Experienced Rider course — before they can ride motorcycles on post. Both courses were developed and tested by the Motorcycle Safety Foundation and are taught by the San Antonio Fun Machines.

All new personnel reporting to Fort Sam Houston must attend the Local Hazard and Intermediate Drivers' Training courses. The first courses will be held Dec. 14 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. and Dec. 15 from 8 to 11 a.m. in Building 4196 in the scheduling room. For future course times or to register, call Richard Edges at 221-3857 or e-mail richard.edges@samhouston.army.mil.

Turner

Continued from Page 1

Clark assumed command of Fifth U.S. Army in December 2003 and oversaw its transformation to U.S. Army North. The command's new mission includes defense of the United States homeland, support to civil authorities during natural or manmade disasters, and security cooperation activities with the armies of Canada and Mexico.

Clark congratulated Turner on being selected for the job of leading the young organization during an important time.

"This organization exists to think about, plan and train for nightmarish scenarios —

they will be busy doing terribly important work," Clark said. "ARNORTH, now that it is stood up, is on the verge of rapid intellectual growth as it finds its way in the complex business of homeland defense and civil support. Just as NORTHCOM has become a very sophisticated, graduate-level command and control headquarters, so too will ARNORTH under Tom Turner's leadership."

Clark was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal during the ceremony. A graduate of Douglas MacArthur High School in San Antonio, Clark and his family will make their home in the city.



Lt. Gen. Thomas R. Turner hands the U.S. Army North guidon to Command Sgt. Maj. George Nieves as he assumed command of USARNORTH Monday during a ceremony in the historic Quadrangle.

Courtesy photo

Special Forces Association visits SFAC

Story and photo by Phil Reidinger
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office

Members of the Alamo Chapter of the Special Forces Association recently visited the Soldier and Family Assistance Center to talk to Soldiers, Marines and their families. Several members of the group also provide operational support as volunteer staff.

During the visit, the group donated \$2,000 to support the center's operations. Chapter president retired Sgt. Maj. Armando Canales said that the group presented the donation to recognize the memory of Special Forces Soldiers who have given their lives defending freedom and are currently participating in combat operations.

"We want to recognize the service of these brave men and women and we want to acknowledge the sacrifices their families make every day during their recovery at Brooke Army Medical Center," Canales said.

Wearing the distinctive green beret and the flash that designates service with Special Forces units, the members work to perpetuate the Special Forces' traditions. Every member is encouraged to participate in civic and charitable activities that benefit the community and reinforce the esprit de corps of the Army's Special Forces. Among various charitable activities, the chapter supports Boy Scout Troop 15 and local Junior ROTC units.



Retired Sgt. Maj. Armando Canales presents a \$2,000 check to Judith Markelz, Soldier and Family Assistance Center director; Staff Sgt. Sterling Doucette; and Cpl. Andrew Powers. Joining Canales to present the check are Special Forces Association Alamo Chapter members Bobby Walker, Marty Scott, Mario Guerra and Toby Todd.

SCRA

Continued from Page 2

in excess of 6 percent is "forgiven." The interest rate cap is applicable only to pre-service debt or liability. Service members must provide the creditor written notice with a copy of military orders no later than 180 days after the date of termination or release from active duty. The rate cap does not apply to federally guaranteed student loans. Additionally, creditors cannot reduce the term of a loan, such as a 60-month loan reduced to 48 months; doing so defeats the purpose of the SCRA and is prohibited.

Release from housing leases

An active duty service member who has received permanent change-of-station orders or who is being deployed for 90 days or more may terminate a housing lease with a 30-day written notice. This also applies to service members who signed a lease before entering active duty.

However, service members should have a legal assistance attorney review their lease before signing; lack of attention to detail could result in the forfeiture of this benefit.

Protection from eviction

If a service member signs a lease where the rent is less than \$2,465 per month (current maximum rent amount), the service member and family members cannot be evicted without a court order. The lease must be for premises that are to be occupied primarily as a residence by the service member and family. Service members must submit a request to the court for protection under the SCRA. Legal assistance attorneys can provide further guidance.

Auto lease termination

Active duty members who have received permanent change of station orders outside the continental United States or who have been called to duty for more than 180 days may terminate an automobile lease. The service

member must provide written notice of termination to the lessor with a copy of orders and return the vehicle within 15 days of written notice. This provision includes automobiles leased for personal or business use by service members and their dependents.

Health insurance reinstatement

Service members can reinstate their health insurance upon termination or release from service. However, the insurance must have been in effect before service commenced and terminate during the time of military service. The reinstatement of insurance does not apply to service members entitled to participate in employer-offered insurance. Service members must apply for reinstatement within 120 days after termination or release from military service.

For more information about SCRA, call the Fort Sam Houston Legal Assistance Office at 221-2282 or 221-2353.

Guard celebrates 370 years

By Tech. Sgt. Mike R. Smith
National Guard Bureau

ARLINGTON, Va. — What is a few years younger than the Mayflower Compact (1620); much older than the Declaration of Independence (1776) and U.S. Constitution (1787); predates the U.S. Army, Navy and Marine Corps by 139 years; and is 311 years older than the Air Force?

Answer: The National Guard.

Known originally as the militia, the National Guard turns 370 years young Wednesday.

It all started in 1636 when the General Court of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which functioned as the colony's legislature, ordered existing militia companies from the towns surrounding Boston to form into three regiments: North, South and East.

While other English colonies, such as Virginia, and Spanish colonies, such as Florida and Puerto Rico, had individual towns with militia companies before 1636, Massachusetts was the first place in the New World where the population

was large enough to justify organizing companies into regiments for command and control. These regiments became a kind of military "family" for members. Although their names have been changed and individual companies have come and gone, the three regiments still exist in the Massachusetts National Guard.

In retrospect, a string of 20-year career enlistments divides the Guard's life span into more than 18 "generations." The differences between generation one and 18 are countless. Yet, even as the National Guard has transformed many times, it remains in line with its first role as the citizens' army; and, for the last three generations, the citizens' air force.

The American colonies adopted the English militia system, which obligated all males to possess arms and participate in the defense of the community. This early militia enforced local laws and battled Britain's enemies in America. Now, a force of more than 450,000 men and women serve voluntarily and can be deployed anywhere in the world.

The continued existence of the colonial

militia was ratified by the Founding Fathers in the Constitution. Since then, Congress has enacted several militia and defense acts to strengthen the National Guard. The first of these laws, passed in 1792, governed the militia for the first 111 years of the country's existence.

The Militia Act of 1903 created the modern National Guard and affirmed the National Guard as the nation's primary organized reserve force. The National Defense Act of 1947 established the Air National Guard under the National Guard Bureau.

In 370 years and more than 18 20-year enlistments, the weapons and technology have changed drastically, but the Guard's contribution to the nation's defense has remained paramount.

Generation seven rallied to battle the British at Lexington and Concord. Generation 11 faced off, brother against brother, in the Civil War. Generation 13 "Remembered the Maine" during the Spanish-American War. Generation 15 was already on duty when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Generation 18 will never forget and is still responding to 9/11.

In 1636, the militia's primary firearm was the crude matchlock musket which could take 56 steps to load and fire. Nearly one-third of militia Soldiers carried only a long pole, or pike, into combat. Today, the Guard's small-arms arsenal includes M-16 and M-4 rifles and the Squad Automatic Weapon, which fires off 750 rounds per minute.

Our colonial ancestors could not have imagined much of what their descendants can use in combat today — jet fighters, tanks, satellite radios, laser-guided munitions, global positioning systems, rocket artillery and countless other high-tech devices.

Now, after 370 years, what does the future hold for this always ready and reliable force?

Future National Guard generations will continue to employ all of the modern technology at its disposal at home and abroad. At the core, however, today's National Guard members and yesterday's Minutemen remain the same person: citizens with the conviction that their military service is required to make their communities a safer and better place.

Nation remembers Pearl Harbor

The noise at dawn

It was a Sunday morning. Many sailors were still sleeping in their quarters, aboard their ships. Some were sleeping on land.

At 7:02 a.m. at the Opana Radar Station on Oahu, two privates saw something on their screen. It looked like a lot of planes flying toward them. Opana's was the only radar turned on just then, and it was on only for training. The other radar stations had been turned off. It was standard procedure.

The privates reported what they saw. The commanding officer on duty knew that a squadron of American planes was due in from California about the same time. Reasoning that what was seen was that squadron of American planes, the commanding officer told the two privates not to worry.

What they did not know and what no one in America knew was that Japanese planes had taken off at 6 a.m. from aircraft carriers 230 miles away. What nobody in America thought was possible was happening: the Japanese were attacking Pearl Harbor.

At 7:55 a.m., the Japanese attacked with deadly force. The first wave of 183 planes dropped bombs and fired bullets at the almost defenseless American ships in Pearl Harbor and planes at three nearby airfields.

A second wave of 167 planes followed about an hour later. American sailors fought back, struggling to get their planes off the ground and fire their guns at targets they could not quite see.

A fleet of midget submarines was also part of the Japanese attack. These subs dropped deadly torpedoes, which had been modified with wooden fins to run their course in the shallow waters of Pearl Harbor.

The damage

When the attack was over, 21 of the 96 ships at anchor had been sunk and others had been severely damaged. Of the 394 planes at Hickam, Wheeler and Bellows airfields, 188 were destroyed and 159 were damaged. The death

total was 2,403, including 68 civilians. The wounded total was 1,178.

Eight battleships were damaged in the attack, along with three destroyers and four other smaller ships. Among the battleship casualties:

The USS Arizona was struck by a torpedo, which hit a gun magazine. The ship went down in nine minutes, killing 1,177 aboard.

The USS Oklahoma rolled over on its side, pinning many men inside and underwater. Some were rescued; many were not. Of the crew of 1,301, 429 died.

The USS West Virginia was struck numerous times by both torpedoes and bombs. It sank.

Both torpedoes and bombs struck the USS Nevada numerous times. After the first wave, the Nevada tried to get out to sea through the narrow channel leading into the harbor. The Nevada had almost made it when the second wave of Japanese planes attacked. The planes tried to sink the Nevada and block the channel, but the Nevada chose to beach itself instead.

Two other smaller ships, the Shaw and the Oglala, were badly damaged. The Oglala capsized.

The Vestal was beached. The Utah, which had been a target ship for the U.S. military, was itself sunk in the attack.

The Japanese attack force lost 29 planes and a handful of midget submarines.

The result

In a little more than two hours, the Japanese had sunk 21 ships and killed more than 2,000 Americans. It was a devastating blow.

However, the American aircraft carriers were not in port. They were out to sea. As later results would prove, the aircraft carrier was the dominant ship in the Navy. By not sinking the American carriers, the Japanese left



Courtesy photo
The USS California sinks at Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941.

the American fleet largely intact. Of the 21 ships that were sunk Dec. 7, 1941, all but three were eventually refitted and sailed again under the American flag during the war.

When U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan the day after the attack, the answer was a resounding yes. An America that had been deeply divided over how much aid to give the Allies was now united in a common purpose: make the Japanese pay for their attack and rid the world of Nazism and Fascism.

Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto, who had planned the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, had studied at Harvard University and knew well the temperament and capabilities of the American people. He had warned others in the Japanese government that for the Pearl Harbor attack to succeed, it must be a crushing blow.

The attack was devastating, but it was not a crushing blow. Moreover, it gave the American Soldiers and their families a rallying cry that carried them through to the end of the war: "Remember Pearl Harbor."

(Source: <http://www.socialstudiesforkids.com/articles/ushistory/pearlharborattack3.htm>)

Give the gift of food

By **Bonnie Powell**
Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. — Gift is often the operative word during the holiday season, and commissary customers have even more options this year through <http://www.commissaries.com>.

Whether it's one of about 100 gift baskets and bakery goods available on the new Virtual Commissary or a commissary gift certificate, "food is always a welcome gift for your military neighbor next door, or for a military family you know elsewhere in the world," said Patrick Nixon, director and chief executive officer of the Defense Commissary Agency.

"We're excited about our new Virtual Commissary and the possibilities for the

future," said Nixon. "We are up to over 100 gift baskets and baked goods available for purchase at commissary prices for the holidays – or for any occasion." Only authorized commissary shoppers can access Virtual Commissary.

Anyone can purchase or donate the "Gift of Groceries," but they can only be spent by authorized shoppers. The commissary gift certificates can be easily purchased in small denominations at any commissary worldwide, or purchased in a variety of amounts for delivery anywhere in the world through the link at the commissary Web site.

"Since the commissary benefit saves shoppers an average of 30 percent or more over commercial grocery stores, the commissary certificates offer more buying power to customers," said Nixon.

Commissary gift certificates are made possible through a business agreement with CertifiChecks Inc. There is a small charge for handling, printing and shipping the certificates. Donations of gift certificates through CertifiChecks Inc. to worldwide charitable organizations such as the Air Force Aid Society, Fisher House Foundation, Operation Homefront and the United Services Organization have added up to more than \$200,000. Many installation holiday food programs are using commissary gift certificates as well.

Operation Homefront was a new addition to the "Gift of Groceries" donation program in 2005. "The gift certificates are very handy to help families with emergency needs," said Amy J. Palmer, executive vice president of operations for



Operation Homefront and CinCHouse.com. "Operation Homefront received about 250 donated certificates last year, but our local chapters can certainly put a lot more of them to good use."

For more information, visit <http://www.commissaries.com>.



Spotlight your unit

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

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



Protect pets from holiday hazards

As people deck their halls and host holiday parties, pet owners should keep in mind that the holiday season can be hazardous for pets.

The Fort Sam Houston Veterinary Clinic suggests the following safety tips:

- When hosting a holiday party, it is best to separate pets from guests. Pets have a tendency to slip outside while guests are coming and going.
- It may seem harmless for a holiday guest to slip a couple of "treats" to pets; however, holiday food usually tends to be higher in fat and very rich. The treats can impact a pet's diet and stomach.
- Most pet owners are aware that chocolate is a hazard. Depending on the size of the dog and amount ingested, chocolate can cause life-threatening problems. Dark chocolate and baking chocolate are more toxic to dogs. Even foods spiced with garlic or onion salts should not be given to pets.
- If there is eggnog or other alcoholic beverages at holiday parties, be sure pets do not have access to the drinks. A drunk pet can lead to an emergency veterinary visit.
- While adorning homes with trees, ornaments and lights, keep in mind that all can be hazardous for pets. Cats are notorious for eating tinsel and ribbon. Both dogs and cats have been known to chew on electrical cords. Shiny glass ornaments on Christmas trees can be irresistible toys for many cats. Sadly, these can be knocked off and shattered, creating a hazard for pets and their owners. Some cats have even been known to climb the Christmas tree and knock it over, causing a mess and a potential fire hazard.
- Several holiday plants, including poinsettias, holly and mistletoe, are poisonous. All of these plants will cause vomiting and possibly diarrhea if consumed. Likewise, the product added to the Christmas tree water to make the tree last longer may cause vomiting if pets drink out of the tree stand.



Photo by Minnie Jones

When decorating for the holidays, keep in mind that ornaments and Christmas tree lights can be hazardous for household pets.

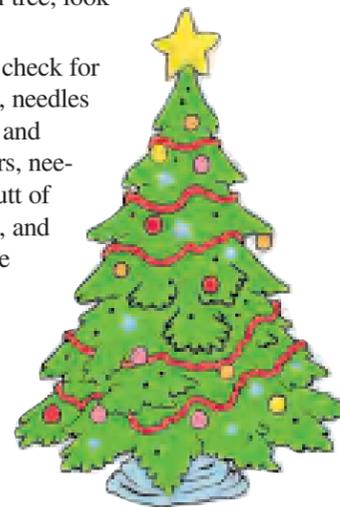
- If pets get sick, consult a veterinarian before giving them medications. Many of the over-the-counter drugs, such as Tylenol, are toxic for animals even though they are safe for people. And don't wait; if your pet is acting sick, consult a veterinarian.

(Source: Fort Sam Houston Veterinary Clinic)

Christmas tree safety tips

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant."

- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.



- Old trees can be identified by bouncing the tree trunk on the ground. If many needles fall off, the tree has been cut too long, has probably dried out and is a fire hazard.
- When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces, radiators or portable heaters.
- Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.
- Cut a few inches off the trunk of the tree to expose the fresh wood. This allows for better water absorption and will help to keep the tree from drying out and becoming a fire hazard.
- Be sure to keep the stand filled with water at all times, because heated rooms can dry live trees out rapidly.
- Do not put live trees up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks.
- Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of a tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service.

(Source: American Academy of Pediatrics and the National Safety Council)

Post Pulse: Do you have any stay healthy tips, besides getting a flu shot?



"Stay in good physical condition by exercising and working out."
Joseph Brown



"Drink a lot of fluids, take vitamin C and get plenty of rest."
**Staff Sgt.
Sandra Lawson**



"I use natural herbs instead of prescription drugs. I firmly believe in them."
Pearl Njus



"I stay busy by doing all my own work around my house. Physical work."
Gary Kolb

HPV vaccine can protect women from cervical cancer

By Capt. Kathryn A. Travers
Special to the News Leader

Cancer of the cervix is a serious disease that can be life-threatening. The disease is caused by certain human papillomavirus, or HPV, types that can cause cells in the lining of the cervix to change from normal to precancerous lesions. If left untreated, they can turn cancerous.

HPV is a sexually transmitted virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated in 2005 that 20 million people in the United States had the virus. There are many different types of HPV; some cause no harm. Others can cause diseases of the genital area. For most people, the virus goes away on its own. When the virus does not go away it can develop into cervical cancer, precancerous lesions or genital warts, depending on the HPV type.

At least 50 percent of sexually active people catch HPV during their lifetime, according to the CDC. A male or female of any age who takes part in any kind of sexual activity that involves genital contact is at risk. Many people who have HPV may not show any signs or symptoms. This means they can pass on the virus to others and not know it.

There is now a vaccine called Gardasil (Merck & Co., Inc.) that has been approved to protect against four types of HPV: 6, 11, 16 and 18. HPV types 6 and 11 are considered low-risk types, and HPV types 16 and 18 are considered high-risk types. These four types cause about 70 percent of cervical cancers and 90 percent of genital warts.

The vaccine is recommended for girls and women 9 through 26 years old who have not yet become sexually active. The vaccine cannot protect anyone who has been exposed to any HPV type and does not protect against other diseases not caused by HPV.

HPV is a deadly virus. The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2006 there will be 9,700 women diagnosed with cervical cancer and, of those diagnosed, 3,700 will die from this cancer in the United States.

To help decrease the incidents of HPV type-related cervical cancers, it is important to educate people about HPV, to include transmission, prevention, early detection through annual pap tests and the vaccination.

For more information, call the Fort Sam Houston Department of Preventive Medicine at 295-2326, visit www.gardasil.com, talk with a physician or call the drug company Merck & Co. at 1-800-235-1431.



Photo by Olivia Mendoza

Preventive measures

Retired Tech. Sgt. Bill Johnson receives a flu shot from Sgt. Tabetha Reagan Monday at the Roadrunner Community Center. More than 2,500 flu vaccinations were administered to active duty, retirees, dependents over age 5 and Department of Defense employees in a two-day period. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, flu vaccinations are the single best way to protect against the flu.

SPORTS BRIEFS . . .

Tough 'Ombre 10K Run

The 26th annual Tough 'Ombre 10K Run will be held Saturday at 9 a.m. at McAllister Park, 13102 Jones-Maltsberger Road in San Antonio. The Tough 'Ombre 10K is the oldest certified race in Texas. All registrants will receive a T-shirt. The fees are \$20 for 10K, \$15 for 5K and \$10 for 3K. The four-person team for the 10K is \$70. For more information, call Cheryn at 830-336-4543, e-mail cheryn@gvvc.com or visit www.active.com to register online.

Cardio-kickboxing

Cardio-kickboxing classes are now offered Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m. at the 32nd Medical Brigade Gym. The classes are free. For more information, call Sgt. 1st Class Sonja Sharp at 221-3744 or e-mail sonja.m.sharp@amedd.army.mil.

Women's basketball tournament

The 10th Annual Rangerette Classic basketball tournament will be held Saturday and Sunday at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. The double elimination tournament follows National Collegiate Athletic Association rules. Awards are given to the top three individual and team winners. For more information, call Earl Young at 221-1180.

Intramural bowling

A coaches meeting will be held Tuesday at 1 p.m. at the Fort Sam Houston Bowling Center. The season begins Jan. 9. For more information, call 221-1180 or 221-1234.

Women's basketball players needed

The Fort Sam Houston women's basketball team needs players. For more information, call Earl Young at 221-1180.

Intramural ping pong

Letters of intent for intramural ping pong are due by Jan. 3. Letters should be mailed to Earl Young at 1212 Stanley Road, Suite 20, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-5020 or e-mail earl.young@samhouston.army.mil. A coaches meeting will be held Jan. 8 at 1 p.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. The season begins Jan. 17. For more information, call 221-1180 or 221-1234.

Intramural billiards

Letters of intent for intramural billiards are due by Jan. 3. Send letters to Earl Young at 1212 Stanley Road, Suite 20, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-5020 or e-mail earl.young@samhouston.army.mil. A coaches meeting will be held Jan. 9 at 1 p.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. The season begins Jan. 18. For more information, call 221-1180 or 221-1234.

Basketball invitational

The Fort Sam Houston Ranger Jam IX will be held Jan. 27 and 28 at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center. Sign-up by Jan. 22 to participate. This double elimination tournament will follow National Collegiate Athletic Association rules. There is a 12-player limit, and participation is restricted to eight men's and six women's teams. Awards will be given to the top two individual and team winners. The entry fee is \$225 per team. For more information, call Earl Young at 221-1180 or e-mail earl.young@samhouston.army.mil.

Cole basketball season under way

The Robert G. Cole High School boys' basketball team (2A) started the new season off with a bang while competing in the Hondo, Texas, basketball tournament Dec. 2 and 3. After only three practices, the boys played two games on Thursday, winning the first over (3A) Bandera and losing the second to (3A) La Vernia. They recovered to win Friday against (3A) Somerset to capture third place overall. Senior Paul Parker was selected All-Tournament.

The boys' basketball team traveled to Comfort, Texas, whose ranking is 18 in the state and defeated the Comfort Bobcats 42-33. Jerome Walter scored 15 and Paul Parker chipped in 12 for the

team. The Cougars are now 3-1 for the season.

The team will compete this weekend in the Memorial Tournament at Edgewood Independent School District. Thursday, Cole will play 4A Memorial at 8 p.m. Friday, the boys will play 3A La Vernia at 4 p.m. and 3A West Campus at 7 p.m. The Cougars will finish the tournament Saturday with games against 3A Ingram and 4A Beeville at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., respectively. Herb More, Cole mathematics teacher, and Howard Baer, special education and mathematics teacher, are the coaches for the 2006-2007 school year.

(Source: Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School)



Photo by Gloria Davila

Leadership mentor

Brig. Gen. Joe Ramirez Jr., deputy commanding general, Combined Arms Center-Training at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., spoke to about 150 Cole High School students, including the 88-member Junior ROTC battalion, while visiting Fort Sam Houston. Ramirez emphasized the importance of an education and related his experiences as a Soldier in his military career of 27 years. The Cole JROTC cadets and students received Ramirez with enthusiasm and many questions.



Courtesy photo

Principal's students of the month

Each month Cole Jr./Sr. High School recognizes one student from each grade level for outstanding attitude, citizenship and overall contribution to the school. The students are nominated by their teachers and then one student is selected by the faculty of each grade level. The recipients for November are (clockwise from left) Craig Layton, ninth grade; Quinton Crabb, 11th grade; Valerie Layton, eighth grade; Emanuel Yates, 12th grade; Colby Register, 10th grade, and Spencer Sanders, seventh grade.

Fort Sam Houston Independent School District Weekly Campus Activities – Monday through Dec. 16

Fort Sam Houston Elementary School

Monday
Band concert at Evans Auditorium, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday
PTO meeting, 6 p.m.
PTO winter program, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday
Early dismissal Kindergarten thru fourth grade, 2 p.m.
Early dismissal fifth and sixth grade, 2:30 p.m.
Sixth grade field trip - Nutcracker

Dec. 14
Fifth grade field trip - Nutcracker

Dec. 15
Last day to earn 20 Cougar cash

Spirit day

Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School

Monday
Cougar Pride club in media center, 5:30 p.m.
Boys soccer vs. Holy Cross at Cole, 5:30 p.m.
Holiday concert at Evans auditorium, 7 p.m.

Tuesday
Girls basketball at Dilley, 5:30 and 7 p.m.
Boys basketball vs. Hondo at Cole, 6 and 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 15
Boy soccer at Antonian, 5 p.m.

Dec. 16
Girls basketball at Crystal City, 12 and 1:30 p.m.

Cole junior makes all-region band

Quinton Crabb, Robert G. Cole High School junior clarinet player, qualified for the all-region band Nov. 27 at the Association of Texas Small School Band Region XII auditions. He also participated in the ATSSB all-region band clinic/concert Monday at Kenedy High School in Kenedy, Texas.

"It was a lot of fun," said Crabb. "I made a lot of new friends and learned a lot about music." This is Quinton's second year in a row to qualify for the regional band.

The 2006-2007 Cole Cougar Band is under the direction of Jon Philippus, band director, and Dan Vasquez, assistant band director.

(Source: Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School)



Photo by Gloria Davila

School oath

(From left) Eustace Lewis, instructor in the Anatomy and Physiology Branch of the Army Medical Department Center and School; Deborah Seabron, management analyst in the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office; and Keith Toney, Fort Sam Houston school liaison officer, take the oath of office as school board trustees of the Fort Sam Houston Independent School District at the November meeting. Keith Toney, a member of the board since 1998, was re-elected president for a fourth term. Eustace Lewis joined the board in 2000 and was re-elected vice-president for a third term. Dr. CEM Maxwell, facilities management officer for the Great Plains Regional Medical Command, was re-elected secretary for a second time. Seabron joined the Board in 2004. Jeanne Warren (not pictured) is also a member of the school board.

418th returns

Continued from Page 1

The 418th distributed more than 150,000 medical release orders; shipped more than 147,000 pounds of medical supplies, replenishing more than 60,000 new medical items; and completed over 25,000 medical maintenance work orders, distributing more than 85,000 HemCon bandages, one of the recent invented medical items.

The 418th sent small teams of Soldiers and NCOs to assist several other units in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait and Bahrain, ensuring that the war fighter received person-to-person assistance to better assist them with their needs in medical logistics and medical maintenance support.

"I want to thank the Soldiers for their outstanding support to the war fighter, but I also want to thank the families for their love, e-mails, candy and care packages," said Capt. Cassandra Mims, commander, 418th Medical Logistics Company.

Pfc. Natasha Carter hugs her daughter, 1-year-old Jamya, as her mother, Claudette Roberson, who came from DeRidder, La., to meet her daughter, and a family friend look on.



Photos by Esther Garcia



Sgt. Tania Valdez gets a hug from her son, Alex; father, Manuel; and mother, Patricia Baca, from Durango, Mexico. Patricia babysat her grandson, Alex, while her daughter was overseas.



Lt. Col. William S. Drennon, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Gloria Riley, both from the 36th Medical Evacuation Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas, greet members of the 418th Medical Logistics Company as they arrive at the Roadrunner Community Center. The 36th Medical Evacuation Battalion is higher headquarters for the 418th Medical Logistics Company stationed at Fort Sam Houston.

The 418th Medical Logistics Company returns home following a year of deployment in the Middle East. The 418th provided support to the Central Command area of responsibility by ensuring that customers received materiel within 48 hours of their request.





Staff Sgt. Debanish Velez arrived home in time to celebrate his birthday with his wife, Yalitza, and his son, 3-year-old Debanish. "I am very happy, very glad to have him home," said Yalitza.



Col. Wendy Martinson, commander, U.S. Army Garrison, visits with Mary Ann Flores and her grandson, Isaac Flores, who came to greet Spc. Isaac Flores, Mary Ann's son and Isaac's father. "I've been waiting for this day. Thank God he made it home," said Flores.



Spc. Isaac Holly, carrying his son, Isaac Jr., and daughter, Sidney, follows his mother (left) Francis McFadden, and wife, Charity, as they prepare to go home at the conclusion of the welcome home ceremony at the Roadrunner Community Center. "I am happy, relieved he is home, and I just passed the torch of fatherhood to him," said Charity.



Sgt. 1st Class Jose Raymundo tightly hugs his wife, Felicia, at the welcome home ceremony for the 418th Medical Logistics Company. Asked how he felt, Raymundo, Noncommissioned Officer in charge, Medical Materiel Division, said, "I don't have any feelings yet, but I have been waiting for this day."

Chapel invites families to visit replica Bethlehem Village

The Sam Houston chapel community invites families to visit a replica of a Bethlehem village Dec. 14, 15 and 16 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. each evening at the Main Post Chapel.

"This year we're transforming the Main Post Chapel into a little and overcrowded Bethlehem village," said Brian Merry. "Our Bethlehem Village program will provide fun, memorable Bible-learning activities for families."

Each evening children and adults will join with a small group named after one of the 12 tribes of Israel. The family tribes will come together for singing and then explore traditional family life in Bible times. They can visit the census taker, play authentic games or sample Middle Eastern snacks. Families have the chance to explore a Bethlehem

village marketplace where they will become apprentices in the mosaic shop and make clay toys in the toy-making shop.

"Bethlehem Village is an exciting way for everyone to learn more about God's love and the gift of Jesus," said Brian Merry, of the Installation Chaplains Office. "And the best part is that they learn by becoming immersed in authentic Bible-times culture. Kids and adults will witness real-life dramas in the center of town, chat with shopkeepers about the coming Messiah and discover what it was like to live in the Roman Empire.

"We hope Bethlehem Village will make God's word very real to the people in our community."

For more information, call Merry at 221-5006. (Source: Installation Chaplains Office)

RELIGIOUS HAPPENINGS . . .

Christmas Eve service

The Protestant Christmas Eve service will be held Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. at the Main Post Chapel. Chaplain (Col.) Gilley Richardson, installation chaplain, will preach.

Catholic Women of the Chapel

The Catholic Women of the Chapel meet Fridays at 9 a.m. for fellowship and enrichment studies. Childcare is provided. For more information, call Kate Schupbach at 212-7842.

Protestant Women of the Chapel

The Protestant Women of the Chapel meet Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Dodd Field Chapel. Childcare is provided for up to age 5. Visitors are welcome. For more information, call

Lois Griffith at 226-1295 or visit www.samhouston.army.mil/chaplain/pwoc.

Fall Bible studies for OCF

The Fort Sam Houston Officers' Christian Fellowship will host Bible study Dec. 17 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. followed by dessert at 1008 Gorgas Circle, Fort Sam Houston. For more information, call Lt. Col. Bob Griffith at 221-6740 or 385-8451 or e-mail robert.griffith1@amedd.army.mil.

Musician, choir director needed

The U.S. Army Contracting Agency, Southern Region Contracting Center-West is soliciting a musician and choir director for the 8 a.m. Catholic service at the Army Medical Department Regimental Chapel. For more information or to obtain a copy of the solicitation, call Christina Sylvester at 221-5367.

Post Worship Schedule

Main Post Chapel, Building 2200, 221-2754

Catholic Services:

4:45 to 5:15 p.m. - Confessions - Saturdays

5:30 p.m. - Mass - Saturdays

9:30 a.m. - Mass - Sundays

11:30 a.m. - Mass - weekdays

Protestant Services - Sundays:

8 a.m. - Traditional Protestant

11 a.m. - Traditional Protestant

Jewish Services: 379-8666 or 493-6660

8 p.m. - Fridays - Worship and

8:30 p.m. - Oneg Shabbat

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

Catholic Service: 12:30 p.m. - Mass - Sundays

Protestant Services:

10:30 a.m. - Collective Gospel

Protestant - Sundays

9:30 to 11:30 a.m. - Women's

Bible Study (PWOC) -

Wednesdays, childcare is

provided.

Samoan Protestant Service:

8:30 a.m. - Sundays

Brooke Army Medical Center Chapel, Building 3600, 916-1105

Catholic Services:

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Sundays

11 a.m. - Mass - Sundays

11 a.m. - Mass - weekdays

Protestant Services:

10 a.m. - Worship Service -

Sundays

12 p.m. - Worship - Wednesdays

AMEDD Regimental Chapel, Building 1398, 221-4362

Catholic Mass: 8 a.m. - Sundays

Protestant Service: 9 a.m. -

Sundays

Christian education: 10 a.m. -

Sundays

Gospel Service: 11 a.m. -

Sundays

Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter Day Saints:

9:30 a.m. - Sundays at Evans

Auditorium

FSH Mosque, Building 607A, 221-5005 or 221-5007

10:30 a.m. - Children's religious

education - Sundays

1:30 p.m. - Jumma - Fridays

7:30 p.m. - Adult religious

education - Thursdays

Installation Chaplain's Office, Building 2530, 295-2096

Contemporary service: 11:01 a.m. - Sundays

Web site:

www.samhouston.army.mil/chaplain

Blood is fluid of life

The Brooke Army Medical Center Blood Bank is running critically low on AB negative blood.

Akeroyd Blood Donor Center is reaching out to you for your support to accomplish a mission for life.

To donate blood now, call the Akeroyd Blood Donor Center at 295-4655 or 295-4989.



MWR information hotline

Access information about MWR events, activities and programs 24 hours a day. Go to www.fortsam-houstonmwr.com or call the MWR information hotline at 295-3697.

COMMUNITY RECREATION**Red Cross lifeguard training**

A Red Cross lifeguard class will be held Dec. 26 to 29 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center pool. The training consists of four sessions. This certification is a minimum requirement for employment as a lifeguard. Participants must be at least 15 years old and pass a pre-test that consists of a 500-meter swim and a 20-yard swim holding a 10-pound object. The cost is \$180 and includes all books, first-aid instruction, cardiopulmonary resuscitation mask and CPR automated external defibrillators for infant, child and adults. Payment will be required after passing the pre-test. For more information, call 221-1234.

Winter Swim Improvement Program

A Winter Swim Improvement Program will be held at the Jimmy Brought Fitness Center from Jan. 13 to March 3. Registration will be held Jan. 6 and 7 from 9:30 to 11:45 a.m. Students must be present during registration and be prepared to take a swimming test. The classes, held Saturdays or Sundays, are for eight weeks. The program is for swimmers with levels two through six skills. Its purpose is to increase students' current swimming ability. Sessions are limited to 10 students per class chosen on a first-come, first-served basis. The cost is \$35 per student per session. For more information, call Amanda Ballew at 221-1234 or 295-4887.

DINING AND ENTERTAINMENT**Sam Houston Club, 224-2721****Holiday brunch with Santa**

A special holiday brunch with Santa will be held Dec. 17 at the Sam Houston Club from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Get one free photo taken with Santa per family. The cost is \$15.95 for nonmembers, \$13.95 for members and \$7.95 for children 6 to 11 years old. Children 5 years old and under eat free.

CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES**'Start Smart'**

Parents with children enrolled in the Fort Sam Houston Child Development Center have an opportunity to help their children develop sports skills through a program called "Start Smart." Parents learn how to properly teach their children basic motor skills, such as throwing, catching, kicking and batting; skills needed to participate in sports. Sessions are six weeks and are held Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. year-round. For more information or class dates, call Jill Marcott, Lisa Schott or Yolanda Crowley at 221-5013 or 221-5002.

Parent Advisory Council meeting

The Child and Youth Services Parent Advisory Council will conduct a workshop on child abuse prevention Dec. 19 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Child Development Center. All CYS patrons are encouraged to attend. This is an opportunity to meet staff and learn of upcoming events and parent education opportunities. Lunch is provided.

Before- and after-school program

Register youth for the before- and after-school program for middle school and open

For reservations or more information, call 224-2721.

Holiday closure

The Sam Houston Club will be closed for normal operations from Dec. 18 through Jan. 1 except for special events reserved through the catering office. For more information, call 224-2721.

Bingo ends Dec. 16

Bingo events for 2006 will conclude Dec. 16 and resume activities Jan. 4. Bingo is held every Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Doors open at 5 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays and 11 a.m. Saturdays. For more information, call 224-2721.

Super TGIF

The Sam Houston Club will hold Super TGIF Jan. 19 in the Seguin room at 5 p.m. Free hors d'oeuvres, popular music by Triple Nickel and drink specials will be provided. For more information, call 224-2721.

Golf Club, 221-4388**Golf Pro Shop holiday sale**

Visit the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club through Dec. 24 for the annual Pro Shop holiday sale. Get up to 15 percent discounts on select items, and a 5 percent discount on all special orders. For more information, call 222-9386.

Warriors scramble golf tournament

The Warriors Monthly Scramble will be held the first Wednesday of each month at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club. The next tournament is Jan. 3. Shotgun start time is at 12:30 p.m. Entry fee is \$20 per person and includes cart rental, prizes and social following the scramble. Up to four players need to be registered to participate in to participate and they must be on an authorized pass or leave status. Register at the Golf Club's Pro Shop. For more information, call 222-9386.

Harlequin Dinner Theatre, 222-9694

The Harlequin Dinner Theatre will present the Agatha Christie mystery, "The Mousetrap," Jan. 10. For more information, call 222-9694.

MWR ticket office, 226-1663

The Alamo Bowl will be held Dec. 30. Tickets are available at the MWR Ticket Office. Tickets for the 2007 Rodeo are also available for purchase. The ticket office is located inside the Sam Houston Club and is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays. For more information, call 226-1663 or 224-2721.

MWR Holiday Schedule**Army Community Service**

| | |
|---------|------------------------|
| Dec. 15 | Open 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. |
| Dec. 22 | Closed |
| Dec. 25 | Closed |
| Dec. 29 | Closed |
| Jan. 1 | Closed |

Auto Craft Shop

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Dec. 15 | Open 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. |
| Dec. 22 and 26 | Closed |
| Dec. 29 to Jan. 2 | Closed |

Bowling Center

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Dec. 22 to Dec. 27 | Closed |
| Dec. 28 | Open 4 to 9 p.m. |
| Dec. 29 | Open 4:30 p.m. to 12 a.m. |
| Dec. 30 and 31 | Closed |
| Jan. 1 and 2 | Closed |

Brigade Gym

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Dec. 15 | Closed |
| Dec. 20 | Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. |
| Dec. 21 to Jan. 1 | Closed |
| Jan. 2 | Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. |

Camp Bullis

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Dec. 12 and 13 | Closed |
| Dec. 24 to 26 | Closed |
| Dec. 31 to Jan. 1 | Closed |

Canyon Lake

| | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Dec. 15 | Open 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. |
| Dec. 23 | Open 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. |
| Dec. 24 and 25 | Closed |
| Dec. 30 | Open 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. |
| Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 | Closed |

Central Post Gym

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Dec. 15 | Closed |
| Dec. 20 to Jan. 2 | Closed |

Equestrian Center

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Dec. 15 | Open 8:15 a.m. to 12 p.m. |
| Dec. 21 | Open 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. |
| Dec. 24 and 25 | Closed |

Golf Club

| | |
|---------|---------------------------|
| Dec. 24 | Open 6:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. |
| Dec. 25 | Closed |
| Dec. 31 | Open 6:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. |
| Jan. 1 | Closed |

Hacienda Recreation Center

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Dec. 15 | Open 7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 20 to Jan. 1 | Closed |

Harlequin Dinner Theatre

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Dec. 23 to Jan. 2 | Closed |
|-------------------|--------|

Jimmy Brought Fitness Center

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Dec. 15 | Open 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. |
| Dec. 22 and 23 | Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. |
| Dec. 24 | Open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. |
| Dec. 25 | Closed |

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Dec. 26 to 28 | Open 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. |
| Dec. 29 and 30 | Open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. |
| Dec. 31 | Open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. |
| Jan. 1 | Closed |

Jimmy Brought Fitness Center Pool

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Dec. 15 | Open 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. |
| Dec. 16 | Open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 22 and 23 | Open 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 24 | Open 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. |
| Dec. 25 | Closed |
| Dec. 31 | Open 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. |
| Jan. 1 | Closed |

Keith A. Campbell Library

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| Dec. 15 | Open 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. |
| Dec. 24 to 26 | Closed |
| Dec. 31 | Closed |
| Jan. 1 | Closed |
| Jan. 2 | Closed |

Lodging Administrative Offices

| | |
|---------|--------|
| Dec. 22 | Closed |
| Dec. 26 | Closed |
| Dec. 31 | Closed |
| Jan. 2 | Closed |

*Front desk will continue to operate 24 hours daily.

Outdoor Equipment Center

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Dec. 15 | Open 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. |
| Dec. 21 | Open 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. |
| Dec. 22 to 25 | Closed |
| Dec. 29 to Jan. 1 | Closed |

Recreational Vehicle Park

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Dec. 15 | Open 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. |
| Dec. 22 and 25 | Closed |
| Dec. 29 to Jan. 1 | Closed |

Sam Houston Club

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Dec. 18 to Jan. 2 | Closed |
|-------------------|--------|

Child and Youth Services:**Administrative Offices**

| | |
|---------|---------------------------|
| Dec. 15 | Open 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. |
| Dec. 22 | Closed |
| Dec. 25 | Closed |
| Dec. 29 | Closed |
| Jan. 1 | Closed |

Child Development Center

| | |
|---------|--------|
| Dec. 22 | Closed |
| Dec. 25 | Closed |
| Dec. 29 | Closed |
| Jan. 1 | Closed |

School Age Services

| | |
|---------|--------|
| Dec. 22 | Closed |
| Dec. 25 | Closed |
| Dec. 29 | Closed |
| Jan. 1 | Closed |

Youth Services

| | |
|---------|--------|
| Dec. 25 | Closed |
| Jan. 1 | Closed |

Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-1723.

Headstart seeks applicants

Parent Child Incorporated is seeking applicants for the Headstart program. This is a free childcare program designed to help Soldiers, E-5 and below, and low income Department of Defense civilian employees. Applicants must meet federal guidelines, and entry is based on annual income. For more information, call 221-3788.

Basketball coaches needed

The sports program is seeking volunteers to coach basketball. Those interested must consent and clear a background check. For more information, call Central Registration at 221-4871 or 221-5513.

Care packages for Soldiers

The Youth Services Middle School Teen program is accepting donations for a community service project. The youth will prepare care packages to send to Soldiers overseas. Donations can be made at the Youth Center, Building 1630, Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays from 3 to 10 p.m. A list of suggested items is available at the Youth Center.

Suggested donation items include: granola bars, cereal in single-size servings, personal hygiene articles, individual-size servings of soups and entrée pop-top cans, travel-size games, DVD movies and pens and paper. For more information, call the Youth Center at 221-3502.

Driver's education classes

Driver's education classes will be offered during the holiday vacation at the Fort Sam Houston Youth Center, Building 1630. The two sessions will be held Dec. 18 through 20 from 4 to 6 p.m. and Dec. 21 through Jan. 5 from 1 to 3 p.m. (excluding Christmas and New Year's Day). The fee is \$285 and includes 32 hours of classroom instruction, seven hours of driving observations and seven hours of driving practice. A time and attendance form from the high school is needed to sign up. All classes are taught by professional, certified driving instructors from the Texas Driving School, San Antonio. Students must be between ages 15 and 18. Space is limited; early registration is suggested. To reserve a spot or for more information, call 221-0497.

Events

Cloverleaf Communicators Club

The Cloverleaf Communicators Club will host a Christmas celebration today from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sam Houston Club's sports bar. The club is open to military, civilians and family members interested in developing and enhancing their leadership and communications skills. The club meets the first and third Thursday of every month from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the San Antonio Credit Union conference room on Stanley Road. For more information, call Anthony Jones at 221-7835 or e-mail anthony.r.jones@us.army.mil; Deborah Bowman at 221-6517 or e-mail Deborah.Bowman@us.army.mil; or Mariea Shelton at 916-3406 or e-mail Mariea.Shelton@us.army.mil.

USO military Christmas party

The United Services Organization will sponsor a Christmas party Sunday from 4 to 7 p.m. at the USO center, 420 E. Commerce St. A spaghetti dinner, refreshments, surprises and entertainment will be provided. For more information, call Julie Nichols at 227-9373, ext. 12 or e-mail jnichols@alamouso.org.

Holiday Coffee

The Officer and Civilian Spouses' Club Board will host a Holiday Coffee Dec. 19 at 10 a.m. at the Stillwell House. The event is free and open to all members; reservations are not required. For more information, call 475-9973.

SA Symphony military discounts

The San Antonio Symphony 2006-2007 concert series consists of 12 classical concerts, six pops concerts and four special events. The concerts are held Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. at the Majestic Theatre. Military discounts are available. For reservations, call Karen Cramer at 554-1000 or e-mail cramerk@sasymphony.org. For dates and feature artist, visit www.sasymphony.org.

Meetings

Warrant Officer Association meeting

The Lone Star Chapter of the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Association meets the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 8541, located at 2222 Austin Highway, between Perrin Beitel and Eisenhower roads. All active duty, retired, Reserve, National Guard warrant officers and family members of current or retired warrant officers are invited. For more information, call Bill Strout at 590-2642 or e-mail bstrout@texas.net, or Suzan Farrell at 378-0422 or e-mail suzan.farrell@us.army.mil.

SAMC study group

The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, SMA Van Autreve Chapter, conducts a study group Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in Building 1350 for Soldiers preparing for competition boards. For more information, call Master Sgt. Adrienne Berkley at 295-4545 or 737-4540 or e-mail Adrienne.Berkley@us.army.mil; or call Sgt. 1st Class Tiffany Reid at 295-4442 or e-mail Tiffany.reid@amedd.army.mil.

BAMC Chess Club

The Brooke Army Medical Center Chess Club meets Mondays from 4:30 to 7 p.m. in the BAMC Medical Mall. The club is open to military and their family members, civilians and patients; experience is not necessary. People can bring a chess set, or sets can be provided on site. For more information, call Sgt. Michael Veri at 557-2477 or e-mail michael.veri@cen.amedd.army.mil.

BOSS seeks single Soldiers

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers meets the first and third Wednesday of every month at 1:30 p.m. at the Hacienda Recreation Center. The BOSS committee was established to provide Soldiers input to the commander, who uses the committee's

recommendations to improve single Soldiers' Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs. For more information, call Staff Sgt. Mossaab Benhammou at 295-4014.

Training

ASMC annual awards

The Alamo City Chapter of the American Society of Military Comptrollers seeks nominations for the 2006 ASMC annual awards. The deadline for award submission is Jan. 10. For submission forms and guidelines, visit www.asmc.online.org/national/national-awards.shtml. Submit applications to Master Sgt. Wanda Mathew, awards committee chairman, via e-mail to wanda.matthew@randolph.af.mil. For more information, call 652-3654 or DSN 487-3654.

NCOA Job Fair

The Non Commissioned Officers Association will host a National Job Fair Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Live Oak Civic Center, 8101 Pat Booker Road, Live Oak, Texas. Attendees should bring copies of their resume and be prepared to meet with local and national recruiters; more than 60 employers are expected. The event is free and open to the public. Dress appropriately; military uniform is acceptable. For more information, call Tony White at 653-6161, ext. 222 or visit www.militaryjobworld.com.

Army seeks warrant officers

The U.S. Army seeks highly motivated Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen to fill its warrant officer ranks. Positions are open in all 41 specialties. Current application shortages include military intelligence, special operations, ammunition technician and many more. For more information, call 502-626-0328, 626-0466, 626-0484, 626-0458, 626-0271 or 626-1860; call toll free at 1-800-223-3735, ext. 6 and enter the last four digits of the phone number; or visit www.usarec.army.mil/warrant.

Guard seeks officer candidates

The Texas Army National Guard seeks officer candidates with prior enlisted military service to attend the state's Officer Candidate School. The OCS training program is 12 to 18 months long. Candidates must have at least 60 credit hours toward a bachelor's degree or higher, and have served in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard. Upon completion of OCS, candidates will be promoted to the rank of lieutenant and be eligible for a \$10,000 bonus. For more information, call Capt. Teri Bossard at 512-782-5547, e-mail Theresa.Bossard@us.army.mil or visit www.agd.state.tx.us/rr/OCS/.

Special Forces seeks applicants

The U.S. Army Special Forces invites male officers from "Year Group 04" to apply. Officer packets will be accepted through Feb. 15. Early submission is recommended. For more information, visit www.bragg.army.mil/specialforces.

Employment assistance for families

The Family Member Employment Readiness Assistance Program offers standard job search assistance as well as career counseling for those contemplating a career change. The assistance program provides training in Microsoft software applications, administrative and clerical job skills, and one-on-one counseling tailored to the needs of the individual. For more information, call Gabriele Dias at 221-0516.

English as a Second Language

English as a Second Language classes are held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. ESL classes are designed to help foreign-born spouses of military increase reading comprehension, vocabulary and pronunciation. Students will participate in beginners, intermediate and advance level classes with individualized group instruction.

The ESL classes are sponsored by Region 20 Education Center and the Army Community Service Relocation Assistance Program. For more information, call 221-2418.

Undergraduate evening studies

A St. Mary's University representative will be available for appointments Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fort Sam Houston Education Office, Room 206. For more information, call 226-3360. For information on undergraduate admission to St. Mary's, call the Office of Evening Studies at 436-3215 or e-mail evst@stmarytx.edu. For information on graduate admission, call 436-3214 or visit <http://www.stmarytx.edu/eveningstudies>.

Army ROTC Lateral Entry Program

The University of Illinois Army ROTC Lateral Entry Program is looking for individuals with prior military service or members of the National Guard or Reserve who wish to become officers. The Lateral Entry Program allows eligible students to contract into the ROTC as cadets when they are academic juniors, seniors or graduate students with four semesters of coursework remaining before graduation. For more information, call 877-863-4768, e-mail arotc@uiuc.edu or visit <http://www2.uiuc.edu/unit/armyrotc>.

Green to Gold Program

The Army ROTC at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana seeks talented enlisted Soldiers who want to earn bachelor's degrees. Enlisted Soldiers with officer potential and with at least two years on active duty are eligible to participate and enroll in Army ROTC through the Green to Gold Program. For more information, call 877-863-4768, e-mail arotc@uiuc.edu or visit <http://www2.uiuc.edu/unit/armyrotc>.

Computer certification

St. Mary's University and New Horizons Computer Learning Center will have a representative available to discuss computer certifications Tuesdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Fort Sam Houston Education Office, Room 206. For more information, call 226-3360 or visit <http://www.stmarytx.edu/continuingstudies/>.

St. Mary's University education office

A St. Mary's University representative is available Mondays through Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Building 2248, Room 206, to assist individuals interested in a master's degree in teacher certification. For more information, call Iona Million at 226-3360.

Volunteer

Free cell phone calls to troops

Switch-Mobile is offering American families a gift of free international phone calls with Globe Dialer. Military families can create a free online account at www.GlobeDialer.com. A \$5 credit will be deposited into an account, which can be used to call internationally from any cellular or land line telephone. The credit will pay for various amounts of minutes depending on where a military person is stationed. For more information, visit www.GlobeDialer.com.

USO seeks mentors

The United Services Organization and the Big Brothers, Big Sisters of San Antonio seeks military men and women to mentor children in San Antonio. Male mentors are especially needed for role models. The USO provides tickets for entertainment in the downtown area. For more information, call Julie Nichols at 227-9373, ext. 12 or e-mail jnichols@alamouso.org.

Mammography service at Wilford Hall

Wilford Hall Medical Center is once again providing full mammography service. The hospital recently purchased and

installed three new mammogram machines and a new processor which restored the clinic to full service.

Periodontics patients needed

The Periodontics Department at the MacKown Dental Clinic on Lackland Air Force Base seeks patients. Applicants must be a military retiree, a family member of a retiree or a family member of an active duty military member. Patients must obtain a written consult from their referring dentist and fax it to "Attention Periodontics" at 292-5193, or hand carry it to the clinic during normal business hours. For more information, call 292-4773 after 12 p.m.

Endodontics patients needed

The endodontics department at MacKown Dental Clinic on Lackland Air Force Base seeks patients who need root canal therapy. Applicants must be a military retiree, family member of a retiree or family member of active duty and recently diagnosed by a dentist as having an endodontic condition requiring root canal therapy. Patients should obtain a written consult from their referring dentist and fax it to 292-6431 or bring it the MacKown Dental Clinic during normal duty hours. For more information, call 292-7214.

Holiday 'eCarePackages'

Adopt a service member or military family for the holidays by sending an "eCarePackage" online. "eCarePackage" is an extension of Operation Homefront, which is a national nonprofit organization that provides emergency support and morale to military members. Visitors can select individual items to create a customized care package and a personal message for their chosen service member or family. To register, visit www.ecarepackage.org. For more information, call Meredith Leyva at 850-438-5710, e-mail cinc@cinhouse.com or visit www.operationhomefront.net.

Host families needed

The "SHARE!" High School Exchange Program seeks families to host six teens from China as foreign exchange students for the school spring semester. The students speak English and have medical insurance and a spending allowance. For more information, call Yvette Coffman at 800-941-3738 or visit ycoffman@sharesouthwest.org.

USO seeks volunteers

The United Services Organization Council of San Antonio has volunteer positions available in the downtown community center and the San Antonio airport. Volunteers in the downtown center will serve as greeters, servers and cooks, and volunteers at the airport will staff the reception center. For more information, call Luis Sandoval at 227-9373, ext. 11 or e-mail lsandoval@alamouso.org; or Julie Nichols at 227-9373, ext. 12 or e-mail jnichols@alamouso.org.

Girl Scouts need volunteers

Girl Scouts in the San Antonio area are looking for adult volunteers to become troop leaders, event planners and board members for the Cole service unit located on Fort Sam Houston. Volunteers are needed to help build girls with courage, confidence and character. People with a particular interest or talent could make a big difference in the life of a young girl. Volunteers do not have to have a daughter to help. For more information, call Sandi Juni at 257-9319 or Maria Forte at 221-6277.

Children's Shelter seeks families

The Children's Shelter seeks new foster and adoptive parents to care for children in Texas. Children's ages range from newborn to 17 years old. The Children's Shelter is a nationally accredited agency that provides a safe haven and emergency care for children who have been abused, abandoned or neglected. For more information, call Alejandra Chavez at 212-2500, ext. 6701 or e-mail achavez@chshel.org.

Submission guidelines:

Freebies are published on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline is noon Monday. 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 **295-0512**. Freebies run for one week unless submitter calls to renew. Limit of five items per entry. For more information, call 221-1031.



For Sale: 1994 Ford Tempo, two-door, four-cylinder, five-speed, A/C, power steering and brakes, JVC MP3 stereo, \$1,350 obo; mountain bike wheel set, WTB Velociraptor 2.1 tires, 26 inches, seven-speed cassette, skewers, Hoopster rims, \$100; motorcycle chaps, 30-inch inseam, waist sizes 32 to 34, \$125; helmet, medium, two face shields, \$100. Call Robert at 639-1039.

For Sale: Brother sewing machine, rarely used, \$50. Call 373-7095.

For Sale: Oak table and chairs, seats up to six, \$225; first degree fluid rower,

\$1,100. Call 822-9646.

For Sale: Sofa with twin sleeper, \$300 obo; brown glider rocking chair, \$45; electric cherry wood fireplace and mantle, \$500 obo; round glass dining room table with brown micro fiber chairs, \$500 obo. Call 650-0337.

For Sale: G4 Kirby attachments, in excellent condition, \$100 obo; various children books. Call 647-8786.

For Sale: Massage table with extras. Call 363-0141.

For Sale: Dollhouse with furniture, 5-foot tall by 4-foot wide on wheels, \$100;

girls 24-inch 15-speed bike, \$20; bowling ball, 11 pounds, \$10; elliptical trainer with counter, \$75. Call 260-3975.

For Sale: 1994 Plymouth Voyager van, quad seats, seven passengers, A/C front and rear, power windows and locks, V6, 3.0 liter, in good condition, \$2,890. Call 490-8786.

For Sale: Tony Little Gazelle glider with count, \$60. Call 875-5890.

For Sale: Authentic Burberry Nova Check, small hobo tote with dust jacket, in excellent condition, \$175; mauve big boy recliner, \$40; twin head and foot boards,

nightstand, mirror, desk with hutch, off white with pine accents, \$300. Call 666-0374.

For Sale: Medicus 2000 dual hinged swing trainer, includes DVD, manual and adjustment tool, \$95; Affinity 60 deb lob wedge, \$15; golf pull cart, \$15. Call 697-9261 or 363-4056.

For Sale: M.I. Hummell collection, more than 125 styles, lots of old marks, buy one or more at up to 75 percent off of Miller's 10th edition price guide; German beer stein collection, some Metlachs. Call 223-0327 after 6 p.m. or leave message.