



Fort Sam Houston News Leader



Vol. 38, No. 50

Fort Sam Houston – Home of Army Medicine

Dec. 14, 2006

Briefs . . .

Christmas tree lighting

The post Christmas tree lighting will take place today 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 closures

Sam Houston Club, Ticket Office

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

Installation Safety Office

The Installation Safety Office will be closed Tuesday after 12 p.m. for an office holiday lunch. The ISO will also close during the Dec. 22 and 29 training holidays. For more information or to report safety hazards, call 295-7233.

Legal office

The Fort Sam Houston Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, to include the claims division and legal assistance, will be closed Tuesday from 1:30 p.m. to close of business for the office holiday celebration. The office will reopen Wednesday. 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.

Garrison Command Suite

The Fort Sam Houston Garrison Command Suite will close Tuesday from 12 to 4:30 p.m. and will be minimally manned during the exodus Dec. 20 through Jan. 1.

Welcome Center at Personnel Processing

The Welcome Center at the Personnel Processing Section and the ID Card Section, both located in Building 367, and the Student Personnel Center in Building 1290 will be closed to the public Dec. 22. All sections will resume service Dec. 26 at 7:30 a.m.

Civilian Personnel Advisory Center

The Civilian Personnel Advisory Center, Building 144, will be closed Dec. 22 and 29 from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call Rudy Garza at 221-1425.

Garrison Internal Review office

The Garrison Internal Review office will be closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. For more information, call 221-3866.

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Photo by Esther Garcia

More than 120 pony express riders and their trusted steeds gallop across MacArthur Parade Field Dec. 2 during the 18th annual Christmas Along the Corridor Pony Express Courier Run Grand Finale and Fair, delivering the Texas governor's holiday message and completing their seven county run.

Pony express rides again

By Esther Garcia
Fort Sam Houston Public Affairs Office

The Alamo Area Council of Governments and the Alamo-La Bahia Corridor Committee held its 18th annual Christmas Along the Corridor Pony Express Courier Run Grand Finale and Fair Dec. 2 at MacArthur Parade Field.

Christmas Along the Corridor is a 150-mile celebration of history, heritage and the holidays as more than 120 pony express Christmas couriers carry holiday proclamations to the communities in the seven counties — Atascosa, Bexar, Comal, Goliad, Guadalupe, Karnes and Wilson — of the historic Alamo-La Bahia Corridor and along stretches of El Camino Real de los Tejas to San Antonio.

Pony express riders participated in more than 20 community celebrations and made 32 stops. This is the eighth year the final run has been held at Fort Sam Houston.

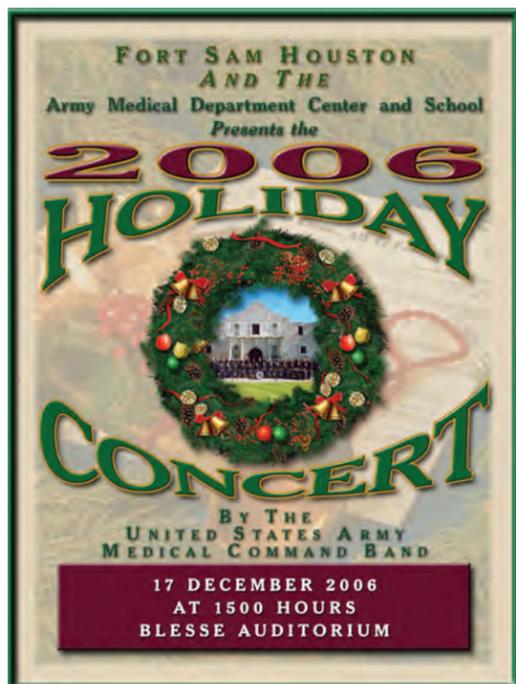
"The pony express played a key role in Texas and the southwest delivering mail along the frontier — connecting communities," said Col. Wendy Martinson, U.S. Army Garrison commander and host for the event. "We share that same mission

with our own area of responsibility as an Army installation supporting active and reserve component commands located in nine counties in south Texas."

The pony express grand finale and fair included a variety of displays and exhibits and featured numerous performances to include Escaramuza Rosas de Castilla, with intricate equestrienne drills that included side saddle and bareback; Native American dance by the Keetowah Native American Indian Group; the Cadence Cloggers; Spanish vocal medley by Manolo Zalvidar; the Guadalupe County Sheriff's Mounted Posse rodeo drill team; the mounted color guard from Headquarters, Headquarters Company, U. S. Army Garrison; and a presentation by members of the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers.

Additional features and displays included a temporary U.S. postal station with special pony express postmarks, Fort Sam Houston Museum and San Antonio cavalry museum exhibits, vintage cars display, pony rides by the Fort Sam Houston Equestrienne Center, and miniature horses from the Alamo Miniatures Exhibit.

See PONY EXPRESS on Page 18



Dec. 7, 1941...

Moment in history bonds warriors

By Nelia Schrum
Brooke Army Medical Center Public Affairs

Sixty-five years after Imperial Japanese bombers attacked Pearl Harbor, Charles Horner, who lived through the infamous attack, wanted to spend some time meeting the warriors wounded in the Global War on Terrorism.

Now 86 and living in a nursing home, Horner asked the staff at San Antonio's Heartland Health Care Center to help him make that happen through their "Heart's Desire" program.

The administrative director of the Amputee Care Center, Dr. Rebecca Hooper, answered that Brooke Army Medical Center and the patients would be honored to have Horner visit.

Horner, who said he remembers the attack on his ship as if it were yesterday, spent the morning of Dec. 7 at BAMC reminiscing and creating bonds with a new generation of warriors, who have their own stories about today's battles.

Early in the morning of Dec. 7, 1941, then Seaman 1st Class Charles Horner excused himself from the Navy mess

aboard the USS Helena to answer the call of nature. He had just eaten breakfast with seven other Sailors aboard the light cruiser docked in Hawaii.

What the 21-year-old Horner saw next as he left the restroom that early Sunday morning was shattering. Japanese torpedo aircraft were attacking the Navy Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor. His ship was hit by a torpedo.

"You've got to be scared in situations like this or you're not human."

See HISTORY on Page 4

DFAS customers can access tax statements online

ARLINGTON, Va. — Military service members, military retirees and annuitants, and federal civilian employees paid by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service can expect to receive their 2006 tax statements beginning this month.

DFAS customers with myPay access will be able to retrieve their tax statements electronically up to two weeks sooner than those relying on regular mail delivery. MyPay is a secure, Web-based pay information system.

One of the many benefits of this system is avoiding risks associated with identity theft. The site has a series of security measures with layers of defense against identity theft. The secure technology provided to myPay customers meets or exceeds security requirements in private industry worldwide.

"Tax statements are available online, allowing customers to view and print W2s and 1099Rs. Whether anyone needs the statements to complete taxes or just wants an extra copy

for their records, the tax statements can be accessed and printed at any time," said Patrick Shine, DFAS operations director. "The printable statements are approved by the Internal Revenue Service."

Shine added that current myPay account holders can eliminate the costs associated with generating and distributing the tax statements immediately by signing up and using myPay.

MyPay users must have a personal identification number to access the Web site. If a new PIN is needed, users with a military e-mail address or a pre-registered personal e-mail address can receive their new PIN via e-mail. All others will receive their PIN via mail in about 10 working days from the date of request.

For more information, visit <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. (Source: DFAS)

Tax statements are projected to be distributed by the following dates:

Form/Document	On myPay	Mailed via U.S. Post Office
Retiree Annual Statement	Available	Saturday to 31
Retiree 1099R	Friday	Saturday to 31
Annuitant Account Statement	Monday	Tuesday to 31
Annuitant 1099R	Monday	Tuesday to 31
Voluntary Separation Incentive/ Special Separation Benefit W-2	Not available	Jan. 4 and 5
Active duty Air Force, Army and Navy W-2	Jan. 22	Jan. 23 to 29
Reserve Air Force, Army and Navy W-2	Jan. 2	Jan. 5 to 8
Marine Corps active and reserve W-2	Jan. 5	Jan. 9 and 10
Civilian employee W-2	Jan. 9	Jan. 11 to 18
Savings Deposit Program 1099INT	Jan. 19	Jan. 19 and 20
Vendor Pay 1099	Not available	Jan. 27 to 31

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Post names Drill Sergeant of the Year

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

It's been a good year for Drill Sgt. Willie Henard. The El Paso, Texas, native was selected as the Drill Sergeant of the Year for Fort Sam Houston.

"This has been the best year of my military life," said Henard, of A Company, 264th Medical Battalion. And he has reason to be happy.

This year alone, Henard was inducted into the prestigious Audie Murphy Club, competed in the Expert Field Medical Challenge competition, was selected as the drill sergeant of the quarter for his battalion, battalion drill sergeant, and just last week, was promoted to sergeant first class.

Henard is doing what he has always wanted to do. "I have always been a drill sergeant in my heart," he said.

Henard was in the process of submitting his paperwork to be a drill sergeant when he was selected to be a drill sergeant by the Department of the Army. Now he is following in his father's footsteps, who was a drill sergeant in the 1980s, when drill sergeants

were "hardcore," said Henard.

"He talks about me every chance he gets," said Henard. "My dad has always been my mentor, always given me guidance."

Henard said he didn't have to search for a mentor, his was just a phone call away.

"I was lucky to have him in my life, he gave me purpose and direction in order to be successful in my career," said Henard.

Henard has been assigned to Fort Sam Houston for 13 months. He joined the Army in 1997 and went to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., for basic training. Classes in his medical occupational specialty as a dental technician brought him to Fort Sam Houston. He then returned to Fort Leonard Wood to attend Drill Sergeant School and then back to Fort Sam Houston.

Henard considers himself to be very competitive.

"I like to know where I stand with my peers," Henard said. "Win or lose, I like to know where I stand."

In 2005, Henard was selected as the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year at Fort Carson, Colo.

A drill sergeant must go through several steps before competing for the installation drill sergeant. He must first win the Battalion Drill Sergeant of the Quarter, then compete for the Battalion Drill Sergeant of the Year competition, which involves competing against other battalion's drill sergeants.

The competition comprises hands-on training, modules consisting of basic military movements, position of attention, hand movements, hand salute, a physical fitness test, and oral boards before the battalion first sergeants and the battalion sergeant major, who grill them with questions. The installation Drill Sergeant of the Year competition also includes writing an essay on "How we can keep young military recruits in the Army," and the oral board consists of sergeants major from the installation who ultimately select a winner.

When asked how he likes being a drill sergeant, Henard said, "It is long hours, very rewarding, but there is nothing like giving back to the Soldiers. Soldiers always remember their drill sergeants."



Sgt. 1st Class Willie Henard is the Drill Sergeant of the Year for Fort Sam Houston.

Henard and his wife, Sandra, have three children, Brian, Willie and Alexis.

"Nobody makes it this far alone," Henard said. "I wouldn't have made it without the support from my wife and support from all the Alpha Company drill sergeants. While I was competing, they were still making sure that the Soldiers were getting in fighting form."

Instructors see double at schoolhouse

By Elaine Wilson
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

Four Soldiers from A Company, 264th Medical Battalion, are causing more than a few instructors at the Army Medical Department Center and School to do a double take.

Even in a sea of green, it's hard to miss two sets of identical twins.

"I couldn't tell the Jackson twins apart until about three weeks into training," said Staff Sgt. Veronica McKenzie. "I'd start yelling at one, but it was the wrong one. I'd just tell him, 'Go tell your brother what I just told you.'"

Pvts. Jerome and Joshua Jackson and Pvts. Chester and Lester Peak are hoping to leave a legacy at Fort Sam Houston, not so much for their similarities, but for their performance as individual Soldiers.

Their instructors say they are well on their way.

"The twins have both done extremely well. They compete against each other and that drives them to succeed," said McKenzie, the Jackson brothers' drill sergeant.

The 19-year-old Jackson twins, training to be patient administrators, joined the Army together in July. Their similar career tracks are not an accident; the twins, who have never been separated for more than two weeks, "can't stand to be apart."

Growing up in Hobart, Okla., the twins played sports together, took classes together and even fell for the same girls.

"We'd both like the same girl and would have to play 'rock, paper, scissors' to decide who would ask her out," said Jerome, the eldest by a mere two minutes.

When it came time for college, each had a scholarship to a different school. They decided to go Army, to the delight of their father; however, "mom wanted us to join the Air Force because she said it was easier," Joshua said.

Although their mother suspected training would be a challenge, the brothers faced it as they always did – competitively.

"We're always competing against each other," Jerome said, recalling a time when Joshua didn't study and aced a test. "But we also always congratulate each other. We watch out for each other."

Overall, the biggest challenge for the twins hasn't been training; it's been being a twin. While their similarities were to their advantage in elementary school, like the time Jerome took a test for Joshua to score him an A, basic training is not the place to be mistaken for someone else.

"I'd complete a task, and the drill sergeant would tell me to do it again," Jerome said. "I'd tell him, I already did it. It took some convincing."

McKenzie can sympathize. "I couldn't tell the twins



Photo by Esther Garcia

Identical twins Pvt. Jerome and Pvt. Joshua Jackson, of A Company, 264th Medical Battalion, show off their physical training prowess with push-ups at the Army Medical Department Center and School.

apart until about three weeks into training."

Challenges aside, the Jacksons said they are looking forward to a long Army career, hopefully as officers. They will be one step closer with their graduation Friday.

See SEEING DOUBLE on Page 5

TSP provides important benefits to Soldiers

By Sgt. Sara Wood
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — More service members need to take advantage of the Thrift Savings Plan because it's an attractive investment option with unique benefits for military members, the military officer in charge of the Armed Forces Tax Council said.

TSP, a retirement savings plan for service members and civilian federal employees, right now draws participation from about half of the military, said Maj. John Johnson, director of the Armed Forces Tax Council.

"Certainly we'd like to see that participation rate go up, because it's a great benefit," Johnson said. "It's important that everyone obviously should be saving for their retirement in the first place, and if you're going to be saving, the first place

you want to put it is in tax-deferred or tax-exempt retirement accounts."

Money contributed to the account is deducted from the person's gross taxable income before taxes are deducted. TSP is also a tax-deferred family of funds and isn't taxed until it's withdrawn at retirement. This represents a significant savings over the years, Johnson explained.

"If you weren't in the TSP or another tax-deferred account, every year, the income in that fund would get taxed," he said. "If you look over your whole 40-year career, generally speaking, you're going to pick up a couple hundred thousand dollars by contributing to a tax-deferred account as opposed to a taxed account."

As of this year, military members are unlimited in the amount they can contribute to TSP, Johnson said. When the program was first made available to service members in 2000, they could only con-

tribute up to 5 percent of their income. Now, the only limit is the Internal Revenue Service's \$15,000 per-year limit on contributions to tax-deferred accounts, he said.

He noted that most military members won't come close to that limit if they contribute 5 or 10 percent of their income to TSP. Deployed troops have different limits in TSP. Because their income is tax-exempt and the IRS has a separate limit for that category, they can contribute up to \$44,000 per year, he said.

As another benefit to service members, the Army is testing a program where the service matches Soldiers' contributions to TSP, Johnson said. This program only applies to new enlistees who fill critical specialties. The Army will match 5 percent of the pay the Soldier contributes to TSP; the first 3 percent will be matched dollar for dollar, and the next 2 percent matched 50 cents on the dollar, he said.

Even for troops who have been in a while and won't get their contributions matched, TSP is a good idea, Johnson said. A major benefit of the program is that the expenses on the accounts are very low — about one-tenth of the average private mutual fund. The money that in the private sector would be used to manage the fund, buy stocks and pay other fees goes straight to the service member's bottom line in TSP, he said.

"You'll have a hard time beating TSP," he said.

TSP is not like a savings account, Johnson emphasized, and the money contributed to it should be money people aren't going to need soon. However, TSP does have a loan program, where participants can borrow money from their own account and then pay it back at a market interest rate.

For more information, visit www.tsp.gov.

NSPS represents 'radical culture change'

(Note: This is the first in a series of articles about the National Security Personnel System, the new federal personnel system. *Spiral 1.3 of NSPS, which includes applicable U.S. Army Garrison employees, will launch April 15.*)

The Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks forever changed the defense posture of the nation and the Department of Defense. The existing federal personnel system is a seniority-based system that doesn't lend itself to the nation's ever-changing defense environment. The 2004 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the DoD to establish a new DoD personnel system, specifically, the National Security Personnel System.

NSPS provides DoD with a modern, flexible and agile human resources system, more responsive to the nation's security environment, while preserving employee protections and benefits.

NSPS goals

The impetus of NSPS is to drive performance. NSPS goals include:

- **Results** - Results are the outcomes of all operational efforts. They are the end product of all work conducted in the DoD and can refer to the outcomes achieved on individual, team or organizational levels. Performance improvements are accomplished by defining the mission, goals and management processes of an organization work unit, then defining individual goals and objectives that support the work unit and organizational goals.
- **Accountability** - NSPS recognizes performance, develops individuals toward areas of greater responsibilities and rewards employees for their performance. Performance management thus connects the benefits for

the individuals with the benefits for the organization. An integral part of performance management is establishing accountability for individual and organizational performance at all levels, from the employee through senior management. Employees are held accountable for the results of the work they produce; managers are held accountable for how well they oversee their employees.

- **Flexibility** - This is the third cornerstone of NSPS. Performance management helps the organization adapt better and quicker to new challenges. The ability to realign organizational and individual goals is an integral part of the system. Organizational flexibility is a direct result of increased flexibility in shaping the workforce, assigning work and setting appropriate pay levels.

NSPS design highlights

Classification will be simple and flexible. Jobs under the new system will be classified by Career Groups, Pay Schedules and Broad Pay Bands versus the General Schedule architecture.

Employee compensation will be performance-based and market sensitive. Composition of pay will be arrived by rate-range adjustments, performance payouts and local market supplements. (Note: The process for performance awards such as special act or service awards, time-off awards, etc., will not be affected by NSPS.)

Performance management is closely linked to the agency mission and has a much bigger impact on employee pay.

Staffing will be easier. NSPS allows staffing the right person, in the right place at the right time. There are many new flexibilities that should allow the workplace to more quickly respond to manpower needs.

Left unchanged

The conversion to NSPS will be a radical culture change; however, some foundational principles of the current federal system will not change, to include:

- Merit systems principles - Selection and advancement will be made on the basis of qualification, fair and open competition, and fair and equitable treatment.
- Rules against prohibited personnel practices, such as discrimination and coercing political activity
- Whistleblower protection
- Veterans' preference rights protected
- Benefits (retirement, health, life, etc.), health and life insurance, retirement and leave
- Antidiscrimination laws
- Fundamental due process
- Overseas entitlements - Allowances, often provided to employees working overseas as well as in the continental U.S., and travel regulations and procedures will not change.
- Training - Employees will continue to have the same, if not more, opportunities for training.
- Leave and work schedules - Procedures and processes will continue with no change.
- Other personnel systems in law
- Fair Labor Standards Act

For more information on NSPS, visit <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/index.html> or call Chuck Weeks at 221-9527, Carol Bann at 221-2732 or Floyd Williams at 221-2546.

(Sources: U.S. Army Garrison Fort Sam Houston NSPS Implementation Transition Process Team and the NSPS Web site)

Briefs

Continued from Page 1

Human Resources closures

The Directorate of Human Resources, Building 2263, will be closed for an office holiday party Tuesday from 12 to 4 p.m. The Casualty and Mortuary Affairs Section of the Directorate of Human Resources, the Army Career and Alumni Program and Army Continuing Education Services will be open Dec. 22 and 29.

'Holidays at the Hacienda'

The Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers will present "Holidays at the Hacienda" Dec. 22 from 8 to 11 p.m. The event includes food, karaoke, games, prizes and much more. All single Soldiers are welcome to attend.

News Leader hiatus

The Fort Sam Houston News Leader will not be published Dec. 28 or Jan. 4. Submissions for the Jan. 11 issue should be e-mailed to news.leader@samhouston.army.mil or faxed to 295-0512 no later than Jan. 5. For more information, call 221-0615 or 221-1031.

Dr. King commemoration

Fort Sam Houston will commemorate the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Jan. 11 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Roadrunner Community Center, Building 2797. The guest speaker will be Joel Williams, director, Army Medical Department Battle Simulation Center. The event also includes a dance performance by the Cole Jr./Sr. High School Praise Team and readings by Fort Sam Houston Elementary School students. For more information, call Master Sgt. Ricky Evans at 295-0561 or Eunice Polk at 295-0552. To request reasonable accommodation for a disability, call 221-0218.

Catering extended to Roadrunner

People can make reservations to use the Roadrunner Community Center 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.

History

Continued from Page 1

For Horner, his worst fears were realized when he later learned that all of his breakfast companions were either injured or killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor.

When the Japanese attacked the U.S. Pacific Fleet and catapulted the United States into World War II, the wake of their attack cost the lives of about 2,335 service members and 68 civilians. In addition, 1,178 were wounded, four ships were sunk and the attack on Hickam Airfield destroyed 180 aircraft. The attack was the pivotal event that catapulted the United States into World War II.

Marked for life by the attack that cost the lives of several of his comrades, Horner said he walked away with little physical damage adding that his condition today was "just old age."

"I was lucky; I came home in one piece except for a broken vertebra," Horner said.

"One thing I can give away is good wishes," Horner said. "On behalf of the USS Helena and its crew, I want to thank today's wounded."

For Horner and the wounded warriors he met at BAMC's Amputee Care Clinic, the bridge across the generations talking about the traumatic injuries that occur in war was short.

Spc. Domingo Soto Santana, who lost an arm in Mosul, Iraq, from a blast from an improvised explosive device, was the first wounded warrior to greet the Pearl Harbor survivor in the Occupational Therapy Clinic.

Horner said the attack on Pearl Harbor had the greatest impact on his



Photo by Michael Dulevitz

Charles Horner, a Pearl Harbor survivor, reaches out to recovering warrior Pfc. Alejandro Albarran Dec. 7, the 65th anniversary of the attack that launched the United States into World War II. Horner visited Brooke Army Medical Center to lift the spirits of another generation of warriors.

life. He recalls having to identify a friend who lost his life in the attack by a distinctive tattoo.

Comparing his service in Iraq to Hunter's service at Pearl Harbor, Soto Santana said that military members answer the call to duty without much thought to the impact.

"In that moment because you are just doing your job, you don't realize that there is a story behind it. He wanted to meet the guys behind the Iraq story."

A fellow Sailor, Petty Officer John Morley said he had a special appreciation for Pearl Harbor survivors after diving around the area where the sunken USS Arizona stands as a memorial marking the final resting place for many of the battleship's 1,177 crew members who lost their lives in the attack on Pearl Harbor.

"I've met a few of the survivors and each one has a special story," Morley said. "Just to meet a survivor and see these guys who survived is amazing." Morley, an explosive ordnance expert, is recovering at BAMC after losing an arm in Iraq.

Horner said the attack on the U.S. Fleet at Pearl Harbor is something that will always be with him. But, he said he has taken a lot of ribbing over the years for where he was at the time of the attack. And, for Horner's part, he now says that whenever nature calls, he answers.

"The biggest joke has always been that I was sitting on the toilet," Horner said. "I figure he (God) had a strong message for me then that saved my life, and he may just be sending another message."

Seeing double

Continued from Page 3

After that, they will head to their first duty station in Germany together.

"They are motivated," McKenzie said. "They're ready and I'm confident they'll do a good job."

The Peak twins, known as the "Twin Peaks," will also join the Jacksons at Friday's graduation.

Although identical, Chester has about 3 inches and 27 pounds on Lester, making the Peaks a bit easier to tell



Photo by Esther Garcia

Pvts. Lester and Chester Peak, of A Company, 264th Medical Battalion, are identical twins although Chester is the taller and older of the two.

apart than their fellow set of twins.

"We look more alike now; I've lost about 40 pounds since I enlisted," said Chester, who is training with his brother to be a medical logistician. "But he's still got me beat on the PT score."

Like the Jacksons, the Peaks have been rarely apart. From Kirwin, Kan., a "farming-type retirement community" with a population of less than 200, the brothers were familiar faces about town.

"It's one of those towns, I don't want to describe it as Mayberry, but if you come into town and someone gets to know you, you're just part of the family," Chester said.

"In Kirwin, it's not about being elected; it's about taking a turn," Lester joked.

The 38-year-old brothers, both married with children, have worked for the same roofing products company for the past 15 years, and on the same crew for 11. They're also volunteer firefighters together.

While settled, the brothers were never 100 percent content.

"We've always wanted to serve our country and we reached a point where, if we wanted to do something, we needed to do it," Lester said. "We could have used our ages as an excuse. But if you have something you've dreamed of, like to accomplish, you can't make excuses.

"And there was never any question we'd do it together. That's the way we've always done things."

The Peaks joined the Army Reserve and attended basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., where they had "the time of our lives," Chester said. "Even though we were a lot older than a lot of the Soldiers, even the drill sergeants, we were treated with nothing but respect, there and here."

"I've loved every minute so far," Lester said.

"They are outstanding Soldiers," said Staff Sgt. Eric Martin, the Peaks' drill sergeant. "Given the age factor, they are excellent, well-disciplined Soldiers."

After their Friday graduation, the Peaks will head back to their families in Kansas and their Reserve unit, the 388th Medical Logistics, in nearby Hays.

"I'll be glad to get home," said Lester, father to a 10-year-old and 4-month-old. "My boy, he misses me. Every time I talk to him, he says, 'When are you coming home?' But they're all proud of us."

"When a Soldier signs up, he's signing up the whole family," said Chester, father of three. "They live and die with your successes and failures."

As they depart, both sets of twins will have left a legacy behind at the schoolhouse. They will be remembered, not so much for their similarities, but for their performance as Soldiers.



Phot by Michael Dulevitz

Country crooner at BAMC

Country singer Lee Ann Rimes poses for a souvenir photo with Sgt. Kevin Downs, injured in the Global War on Terrorism, Nov. 30 during a visit to Brooke Army Medical Center. Rimes met with wounded warriors and staff, taking time to sign autographs and pose for individual and group photos. Rimes orchestrated the visit to BAMC to show her support to the nation's service members.



Photo by Norma Guerra

'Texas Ranger' visits

Actor Chuck Norris, of "Walker, Texas Ranger," and the "Missing in Action" war trilogy fame, talks with Marines Nov. 29 in the Brooke Army Medical Center Auditorium. Norris and his wife, Gena, visited with wounded warriors throughout the hospital during their three-hour visit.

Step into adventure at Fort Sam's libraries

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

Libraries are defined in the dictionary as a place where books are kept. A true statement, but for anyone who has visited a library recently, with an ounce of imagination, a library could be described in a number of different ways.

Take for instance the Stimson Library located in Aabel Hall, Building 2840, Suite 106, in the Army Medical Department Center and School. One step inside the doors, and a person can sense a place of higher learning, a place to find information as well as a place of quiet and solitude.

Stimson Library covers about 12,000 square feet on the main and lower levels of Aabel Hall. It is a fully modern library, providing the most current print and electronic resources to about 2,000 faculty and staff and more than 16,000 students annually. The library supports the needs of three master's degree programs: anesthesia nursing, health care administration and physical therapy; a bachelor's degree program for military physician assistants; and the Officer Basic Course, Officer Advanced Course and numerous technical courses in all areas of allied health.

Although Stimson does not have books of fiction, it can be used by anyone on Fort Sam Houston. Education and resource materials are available as well as computers and an inter-library loan system.

"We provide books that references support literature for all student material. Anyone can use our services, but the students have priority," said Joe Reyes, circulation technician at Stimson.

"Books can also be checked out, but rather than the usual two-week period, we have a three-day checkout." Reyes added.

Eighty percent of the books in Stimson are of a medical nature, but they also have books that pertain to history.

With this in mind, Stimson Library is not only a place of higher learning, but a place for history buffs to visit; a place to escape the present into a past of historical facts, dates, people and lifestyles.

The Stimson Library is open Mondays through Thursdays from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., Fridays from 7:30

a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. and closed Saturdays and holidays. For more information, call 221-6900.

A few blocks from the AMEDD is Building 1222 on Harney Road, once known simply as the Fort Sam Houston Library. It was recently dedicated and renamed the Specialist Four Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library. A firefight during the Vietnam War ended the life of Campbell, but an act of heroism on his part saved the lives of two comrades.

Go up the steps, inside the doors and begin a tour of what the library has to offer everyone from toddlers through the golden years of senior citizenship.

It is common knowledge that people can keep up to date on the latest news or check out their favorite book for some leisure reading at the library. That is perfectly all right, but the library offers so much more.

A variety of materials and equipment are available to all active duty military, dependents, retired military and Fort Sam Houston Department of Defense ID cardholders. The library offers a variety of printed materials to include many popular magazines (including back-files) as well as not so well-known publications: newspapers from a number of major cities; informational videos (VHS); tapes and CDs; and study guides for College-Level Examination Program, Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, college entrance, post office and civil service exams.

Various equipment available for use includes copiers, typewriters, word processors, reader-printers and cassette players.

The library also offers a "Career Corner," investment services, fax service, federal tax forms during tax season, consumer information and a computer lab with 12 personal computers for word processing and Internet use as well as selected databases for research.

At times displayed artwork can be viewed along with art prints and ethnic pictures. Thus, the library becomes a museum of sorts.



Tamara Landswerk uses library services for more than just checking out books. Al Butcher, supervisory librarian for the Specialist Four Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library, assists Landswerk in sending a fax.

The Campbell Library is home to a separate children's area, with colorful posters and books that can satisfy the wildest imaginations. During summer months, reading programs are available, encouraging children to keep reading while out of school.

Not only does the library offer books to read, reference materials, audio books, music, movies and periodicals, a person can find a corner to enjoy the quiet, be alone or to study. A seating area provides comfort while enjoying a newspaper or while engrossed in a No. 1 bestseller.

A library is not just a place to store books. It is an escape, an adventure and place to enjoy an indulgence in reading. It does not cost anything. It is a free vacation, one might say.

The library is a service of the Directorate of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation, open to all active duty military, dependents, retired military and Fort Sam Houston DoD civilians.

The Specialist Four Keith A. Campbell Memorial Library is open Wednesdays through Sundays from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, call 221-4702 or 221-4387.

Crime Watch

Thieves target gift cards over holiday season

By Greg Abbott
Attorney General of Texas

With the holidays fast approaching, millions of consumers will buy prepaid gift cards from merchants all across the state of Texas. These cards have become extremely popular; they can easily be mailed to far-away loved ones and undoubtedly simplify gift shopping at a very busy time of year.

Unfortunately, recent reports indicate that the crooks might also have their eye on the convenience of gift cards. According to law enforcement and consumer protection sources from around the country, scam artists are strolling around busy shopping centers, eyeing racks full of not-yet-activated gift cards (generally, these cards are only valid after a consumer pays for them). Con artists write down or memorize the serial numbers on the face of the card, then sit back and wait for an unsuspecting consumer to purchase and activate the card.

Once a card has been purchased, all the scammer has to do is call the card's customer service number, confirm that it has been activated, and check its available balance. By then, the scammer can use the card to make online purchases. Sadly, it could be days or even weeks before consumers find out that the balance on their cards has been drained by a thief.

Protect yourself by making sure that your purchase of a gift card is a safe one. Ask a store clerk to provide you with a gift card from behind a counter or that has not otherwise been accessible to the general public. Also, note that some gift cards already have security measures, such as an additional scratch-off code. If so, make sure that no one has tampered with either the card or its packaging.

Remember to be a vigilant consumer throughout the season. If you buy or receive a gift card where any part of the balance mysteriously disappears, you should immediately notify the merchant who issued the card.



Photo by Cheryl Harrison

Scam artists take the serial numbers from not-yet-activated gift cards in shopping centers and then wait for unsuspecting consumers to purchase and activate the card. Once activated, the thief can drain the card with online and over-the-phone purchases.

Post museums offer escape from holiday frenzy

By John Manguso
Fort Sam Houston Museum

Has Christmas shopping left you feeling like you were on the receiving end of a buffalo stampede? Are you looking for a way to keep your family amused during holiday vacation?

Escape the Christmas crowds and find a fun way to occupy your family's time with a visit to the Fort Sam Houston Museum. Then take a drive, bike ride or walk through the historic post.

Even people who have already stopped by the museum will benefit from another visit; museums constantly change their exhibits and artifacts on display.

At the museum, step into history and see Fort Sam Houston grow from a supply depot in the Alamo to the "Home of Army Medicine." A gallery guide is available at the front desk to help visitors navigate through the exhibits.

People who have friends or relatives in town for the holidays should make two trips to the museum. The first is for information gathering. Ask for a copy of the "Pocket Guide to Historic Fort Sam Houston" and study it carefully. The illustrated booklet is chock full of information and would make a great stocking stuffer. On the second trip, act as a tour guide for family and friends and amaze them with your command of the history of Fort Sam Houston. Veterans in particular will appreciate the fact that their service is remembered and honored.

After a trip through history at the museum, pick up a copy of the "Self-Guided Tour Map of Fort Sam Houston" for a tour of the post. This handy guide will help people navigate through Fort Sam Houston's historic neighborhoods. There are hundreds of well-preserved historic buildings along the way. For example, future President Dwight Eisenhower lived in quarters' number 179 during his second tour of duty at Fort Sam Houston when he was promoted to brigadier general.

The first stop on the tour should be the Quadrangle, with its world-famous deer and peacocks and tales of Geronimo jumping from the clock tower. There are markers in and around the Quadrangle explaining many of its features. And don't forget the static display of military hardware by the parking lot.

After visiting the Quadrangle, it's best to see the other historic neighborhoods in chronological order — Staff Post, Infantry Post, Cavalry and Light Artillery Post and the New Post. Each neighborhood has its own particular architectural style and its unique historic events, whether it's Pat the Artillery Horse, the first flight or the Transit of Venus. In any event, your last stop on the New Post should be the U.S. Army Medical Department Museum.

And, don't forget to bring the kids. The exhibits are designed for Soldiers, but are suitable for general audiences, including children. The museum staff conducts an activity for children in grades kindergarten through 12. It starts off like a scavenger hunt, but children will actually learn something about military insignia and some American history to boot. There is no added expense for bringing the kids because admission is free for everyone.

Both museums will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Fort Sam Houston Museum will be open Wednesday through Sunday, and closed Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. The AMEDD Museum will be open Tuesday through Saturday, and closed Dec. 23 and Dec. 30. For more information, call the Fort Sam Houston Museum at 221-0019 or the AMEDD Museum at 221-6358.



Courtesy photos

A 5,850-pound M-5 anti-tank gun is located outside of the Fort Sam Houston Museum. Adopted in 1942, the M-5 was used in tank destroyer battalions. After the war, many were converted to salute guns.



(Above) The Fort Sam Houston Museum has several outdoor exhibits, including an M-3A1 Scout car, located south of the building. The car was standardized in 1939 as a high-speed vehicle in the divisional reconnaissance troop and in armored cavalry and tank-destroyer units. The car could carry a crew of eight, along with two .30 caliber machine guns and one .50 caliber machine gun.

(Left) Museum visitors check out the Quadrangle exhibit, which contains uniforms and weapons from the late 1800s. The exhibit is one of many museum displays.

Post Pulse: Do you have any tips for keeping holiday spending under control?



"We use cash!"
**Louise
Kershner and
daughter Susana
Bright**



*"Try to plan
throughout the year.
It cuts out indulgent
shopping."*
**Staff Sgt.
Desmond Jackson**



*"I make a list, and
I ask people what
they'd like. I budget
and I don't put it on a
credit card."*
Maggie Gonzales



*"Don't use a
credit card, use
cash."*
**Lt. Col. Dave
Jackson**

Avoid holiday hangover from overspending

By Minnie Jones
Fort Sam Houston Public Information Office

The holiday season is a joyous occasion and a festive time of year, but sometimes the merriment can bring on an overindulgence of food, alcohol and partying, all of which can lead to a major hangover.

Hangovers usually last for about a day, but another type of hangover – the "overspending hangover" — can last up to six months.

It's easy to get caught up in the fanfare of the holiday season. Gift buying is only one element of overspending. People normally don't take into account other material trappings like decorations, food, travel and entertainment that can also send finances into a tailspin.

It is estimated that consumers will spend an average of \$800 this year on holiday gifts, but it is also expected that most consumers will exceed that budget by \$250. The consumer advocacy center said that last year 13 percent of consumers opened up new credit card accounts.

Here are a few sobering thoughts to keep in mind before going on that spending binge. This year, monthly minimum credit card payments are doubling, home heating costs are expected to be higher this year, the price of gasoline is rising fast and new bankruptcy laws have made it harder to avoid paying credit card bills. Home foreclosures are on the rise, with more than a million families' homes in foreclosure.

With a little self-restraint and budgeting, the holi-

days can still be a joyous time of year. Here are a few tips to consider before going on a holiday bender.

- Make a budget. Determine how much you can spend. Look at what you spent last year.



Photo by Olivia Mendoza

- Make a list. Put together a list of the people for whom you want or need to buy a holiday gift for, and then determine how much you want to spend on each person.
- Try to pay cash for holiday gifts.
- Don't be tempted by credit card offers.
- Plan a time to shop. Avoid "helter-skelter" shopping. This type of shopping can be exhausting and unproductive. Plan a time for shopping — leave the kids at home.
- The best gifts don't always cost money. Acts of kindness or handmade gifts can go a long way.

While shopping, keep these guidelines in mind; avoid impulse purchases. If it isn't on your list, don't buy it. Take a calculator while shopping and keep a "running total." Stick to a budget. If possible, take only cash and leave credit cards at home.

If you have already begun to overspend, here are some remedies for dealing with a holiday hangover and getting back on the right path.

Stop now and assess the damage. Start by tallying up receipts and calling credit card companies to see how deep you are in the bottle. Start making cutbacks and draw up a budget for getting back on track. Start reducing extras like dining out, drinking gourmet coffees, traveling, going to the movies and buying new clothes — go on a spending diet.

The holiday season can be a wonderful and pleasurable occasion, but like with anything else, enjoy it in moderation. Make the season a memorable time of year, not a time that you would like to forget. Find something you already have to be thankful for, and remember what it is you are really celebrating.

Soldiers 'strike a deal' at Hacienda holiday party

Story and photos by Kelly Jones
Morale, Welfare and Recreation

The holiday spirit was alive and well at the Hacienda Recreation Center Dec. 6, as about 200 advanced individual training and initial entry training Soldiers attended the Hacienda Recreation Center's annual Holiday Exodus Party.

In the past, the party included piñatas filled with prizes for Soldiers; however, this year, Hacienda Manager Ben Paniagua decided to introduce something new — a Hacienda version of the hit TV show, "Deal or No Deal."

More than 20 Soldiers were selected through a random drawing process to participate in the game for a chance to win a \$100 grand prize. Representatives of Eisenhower Bank and the MILES program were on hand to conduct drawings of their own for an Eisenhower Bank gift basket and several Army and Air Force Exchange Service gift cards. All 20 participants won items to include \$5 to \$10, gift cards and Morale Welfare and Recreation coupons.

The event was done in partnership with Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Providence High School, Military.com, Eisenhower Bank, DeVry University, Balfour Military Awards, Central Catholic High School, San Antonio Federal Credit Union, MILES Program and Century 21 United.



(Above) Several Soldiers look on as Pvt. Jeremy Shanley, 232nd Medical Battalion, searches to see what he has won in his "Deal or No Deal" bag. The game, based on the hit TV show, was one of the highlights of the Holiday Exodus Party.

(Left) Doug Anderson, Fort Sam Houston branch manager, awards an Eisenhower Bank gift basket and Army and Air Force Exchange Service gift card to a lucky attendee Dec. 6 at the Holiday Exodus Party at the Hacienda Recreation Center.



Courtesy photo

Flag football champs

The 264th Medical Battalion team is the winner of the post-season flag football championship. The team members are (top row, clockwise from left) Jeff Deickman, Jeremy Hardin, Kevin Dennis, John Curatella, Jamie Barann, Nate Deadrick, James Reese, Armando Capetillo, Joseph Tiberio and team fan Kiara Dennis.



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@samhouston.army.mil or stop by the office in Building 124 (second floor).

SPORTS BRIEFS . . .

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 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 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 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.



Photo by Lori Willis

Catch of the day

Army retiree Jeremiah Guerra proudly displays the 28-inch channel blue catfish he caught while fishing Sunday at the Fort Sam Houston Recreation Area at Canyon Lake. Canyon Lake's fishing pier and park are open year round for outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy.

Why wear seatbelts?

- Newer seatbelt design allows total freedom of motion while driving.
- People who are thrown from cars are 25 times more likely to be killed than if they had been held securely in their seats.
- The majority of all car accidents occur within 25 miles of home.
- 80 percent of all serious injuries and fatalities occur in cars going 40 miles per hour or slower.
- In the unlikely event your car catches fire or is submerged, seatbelts can keep you from getting "knocked out" and greatly improve your chances of escape.
- In a crash, unrestrained occupants of a car keep moving during the time the car takes to stop. They are still moving forward at their original speed when they slam into the steering wheel, windshield or other parts of the car.
- You may be a good driver, but there are situations beyond your control such as weather and road conditions that can affect your safety.
- Seatbelts are 57 percent effective in preventing traumatic and fatal brain injuries.
- According to the National Highway and Traffic Safety Administration, over the last 10 years, safety belts have prevented some 55,600 deaths, 1,300,000 injuries and saved more than \$105 billion in costs.

(Source: Fort Sam Houston Safety Office)



Chapel invites families to visit replica Bethlehem village

The Sam Houston chapel community invites families to visit a replica of a Bethlehem village today, Friday and Saturday 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, of the Installation Chaplains Office. "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, 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.

"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 Mass holiday schedule

Dec. 24	5:30 p.m.	Children's Vigil Mass	Dodd Field Chapel
Dec. 24	11 p.m.	Midnight Mass	Main Post Chapel
Dec. 24	11:30 p.m.	Midnight Mass	Brooke Army Medical Center
Dec. 25	9:30 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass	Main Post Chapel
	11 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass	BAMC
Jan. 1	12 p.m.	Mass of Thanksgiving for Solemnity of Mary Mother of God	Main Post Chapel

Fall Bible studies for OCF

The Fort Sam Houston Officers' Christian Fellowship will host Bible study Sunday 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.

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 - 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

**Fort Sam Houston
Independent School
District
Weekly Campus Activities
Monday through Dec. 23**

*Winter break begins Dec. 21
School resumes Jan. 8*

**Fort Sam Houston Elementary
School**

Wednesday

End of second nine weeks
End of first semester
Early dismissal – kindergarten through
fourth grade, 2 p.m.
Early dismissal – fifth and sixth grade,
2:30 p.m.

Dec. 21

Winter break begins

Dec. 22

Winter break

Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School

Monday

Semester exams

Tuesday

Semester exams
Early dismissal, 2 p.m.
Girls' varsity basketball at Jourdanton, 5
p.m.
Boys' junior varsity and varsity basketball
at Jourdanton, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday

Semester exams
End of second nine weeks
End of first semester
Early dismissal, 1:15 p.m.

Dec. 21

Winter break begins

Dec. 22

Winter break
Girls' varsity basketball vs. Saint Mary's
Hall at Cole, 11 a.m.

Fort Sam Houston ISD receives Gold Performance Acknowledgements

By Dr. Gloria Davila
Fort Sam Houston Independent School District

Fort Sam Houston Independent School District and its campuses, Fort Sam Houston Elementary and Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School, received Gold Performance Acknowledgements from the Texas Education Agency for 2005-2006.

The Gold Performance Acknowledgement system acknowledges districts and campuses for high performance on indicators other than those used to determine accountability ratings.

At the district level, FSHISD received Gold Performance Acknowledgement in the following areas:

- Advanced academic courses (2004-2005), for having 25 percent or more of ninth through 12th graders completing and receiving credit for at least one advanced/dual enrollment course
- Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate results (2004-2005), for having 15 percent or more of 11th and 12th graders taking at least one AP or IB, and 50 percent or more of 11th and 12th graders scoring at or above the criterion on at least one of the AP or IB exams
- Texas Success Initiative (English Language Arts), for having 50 percent or more of 11th grader examinees scoring at the standard of college readiness in ELA
- Commended on reading/ELA, for having 20 percent or more of Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills examinees scor-

ing at or above the TAKS commended performance standard (scale score of 2,400 and a 2, 3 or 4 on the essay)

- Commended on mathematics, for having 20 percent or more of TAKS examinees score at or above the TAKS commended performance standard (scale score of 2,400)

The Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School received Gold Performance Acknowledgement in the following areas:

- Attendance (2004-2005) for having a rate of 96 percent or higher
- Advanced academic courses (2004-2005), for having 25 percent or more of ninth through 12th graders completing and receiving credit for at least one advanced/dual enrollment course
- AP/IB results (2004-2005), for having 15 percent or more of 11th and 12th graders taking at least one AP or IB, and 50 percent or more of 11th and 12th graders scoring at or above the criterion on at least one of the AP or IB exams
- Texas Success Initiative (ELA), for having 50 percent or more of 11th grader examinees scoring at the standard of college readiness in ELA
- Commended on reading/ELA, for having 20 percent or more of TAKS examinees scoring at or above the TAKS commended performance standard (scale score of 2,400 and a 2, 3 or 4 on the essay)
- Commended on writing, for having 20 percent or more of TAKS examinees scoring at or above the TAKS commended performance standard (scale score of

2,400 and a 3 or 4 on the essay)

- Commended on social studies, for having 20 percent or more of TAKS examinees scoring at or above the TAKS commended performance standard (scale score of 2,400)
- Comparable improvement in reading/ELA and mathematics, for scoring in the top 25 percent of the 40-member campus comparison group

Fort Sam Houston Elementary School received Gold Performance Acknowledgement in the following areas:

- Commended on reading/ELA, for having 20 percent or more of TAKS examinees scoring at or above the TAKS commended performance standard (scale score of 2,400 and a 2, 3 or 4 on the essay)
- Commended on mathematics, for having 20 percent or more of TAKS examinees scoring at or above the TAKS commended performance standard (scale score of 2,400)
- Commended on science, for having 20 percent or more of TAKS examinees scoring at or above the TAKS commended performance standard (scale score of 2,400)

FSHISD and campuses have historically scored above the national average on nationally normed tests and earned high ratings under the Texas Public School Accountability System.

For more information on the Gold Performance Acknowledgements and the Texas Public School Accountability System, visit the Texas Education Web site at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/perfreport/account/2006/manual/>.

Pony Express

Continued from Page 1

The highlight of the event was the arrival of more than 100 pony express Christmas couriers with their spirited steeds galloping across MacArthur Parade Field to deliver the holiday message from Texas Governor Rick Perry to Fort Sam Houston following their seven-county run.

“Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night, stay these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds. These words continue to resonate for the pony express riders who were a courageous band of young men that enlisted in an incredible enterprise to carry mail by pony relays through 2,000 miles of America’s wilderness frontier,” said San Antonio Postmaster Robert A. Larios, who opened the governor’s holiday message and presented it to Maj. Gen. Christopher Powers, commander of the Texas State Guard.

Following the retirement of the colors by the Guadalupe’s County Sheriff’s Posse, master of ceremonies, Al Notzon, executive director, AACOG, announced the retirement of the pony express riders and their trusted steeds as they rode off into the sunset.



Photos by Esther Garcia

Members of the Escaramuza Rosas de Castilla, dressed in traditional Folklorico dresses, perform intricate equestrienne drills while sitting side saddle. Escaramuza Rosas de Castilla provides an opportunity for young women to know and care for horses and to excel in horsemanship.



Marie Stout visits with U.S. Postal Service employees Marcello Hernandez and H.B. Smith at the temporary postal station that offered pony express cancellations to its customers.



Mike Hallmark (center) and members of the Guadalupe County Sheriff’s Mounted Posse salute to the crowd as they finish their rodeo drills at MacArthur Parade Field.



Members of the Granaderos de Galvez are a historic reenactment group that preserves the history of Spain’s support to the colonies during the American Revolution.



Photo by Phil Reidinger

Bobbie Sue Thomas, with Alamo Lore and Myth Organization, demonstrates how to make yarn of lamb’s wool. The organization is dedicated to preserving Texas history.



A member of the Escaramuza Rosas de Castilla rides bareback during a performance at the 18th Annual Christmas Along the Corridor Pony Express Courier Run Grand Finale and Fair.



John Manguso (left), director, Fort Sam Houston Museum, looks on as Maj. John Meyer, Brooke Army Medical Center, points to a building where he used to live on post.



The Cadence Cloggers from San Antonio entertain the crowd with one of their lively clogging routines. The cloggers have performed in Europe and organized the Cloggers Showcase that is held in the spring at the Arneson River Theater.



Capt. Clayton Curtis, commander, Headquarter, Headquarters Company, U.S. Army Garrison, introduces (from left) Spc. Mike Joslin, Staff Sgt. Charles LaPorte, Sgt. Ben Weisner, Sgt. Dan Anderson and Sgt. Thomas Humphrey, U.S. Army Garrison Caisson Section. Curtis provided the history of the military caisson and said the horses are all named after sergeants major of the Army, including the late Van Autreve.



Shaun Thornton, 15 months old, visits with miniature horses on display from Alamo Miniatures.

Fort Sam Houston Independent School District

Exhibit C-2

Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances –
Governmental Funds

Year Ended Aug. 31, 2006

Data Control Codes		General Fund
Revenues		
5700	Local and intermediate sources	\$ 543,864
5800	State program revenues	6,572,104
5900	Federal program revenues	7,222,385
5020	Total revenues	14,338,353
Expenditures		
Current:		
0011	Instruction	6,585,657
0012	Instructional resources and media services	188,799
0013	Curriculum development and instructional staff development	19,654
0021	Instructional leadership	243,319
0023	School leadership	737,714
0031	Guidance, counseling and evaluation services	502,985
0033	Health services	101,062
0034	Student (pupil) transportation	401,088
0035	Food services	13,553
0036	Cocurricular/extracurricular activities	325,865
0041	General administration	611,661
0051	Plant maintenance and operations	1,340,406
0053	Data processing services	447,479
0080	Capital outlay	-
0093	Payments related to shared services arrangement	715,528
6030	Total expenditures	12,234,770
1100	Excess of revenues over expenditures	2,103,583
Other financing sources (Uses)		
7915	Operating transfers in	-
8911	Operating transfers out	(67,929)
7080	Total other financing sources (uses)	(67,929)
1200	Net change in fund balances	2,035,654
0100	Fund balances at beginning of year	8,349,675
3000	Fund balances at end of year	\$ 10,385,329

Shared Services Arrangement – Special Education Fund	IDEA-B, Formula	Capital Projects Funds	Other Governmental Funds	Total Governmental Funds
\$ 1,229,650	\$ -	\$ 474,865	\$ 250,216	\$ 2,498,595
-	-	-	155,491	6,727,595
-	624,760	700,182	471,037	9,018,364
<u>1,229,650</u>	<u>624,760</u>	<u>1,175,047</u>	<u>876,744</u>	<u>18,244,554</u>
731,652	418,519	-	294,263	8,030,091
-	-	-	1,283	190,082
455	24,421	-	9,712	54,242
216,213	-	-	1,606	461,138
6,986	-	-	7,734	752,434
209,500	181,820	-	26,526	920,831
3,255	-	-	38,755	143,072
4,651	-	-	19,238	424,977
-	-	-	494,630	508,183
-	-	-	33	325,898
22,944	-	-	14,142	648,747
22,821	-	-	21,496	1,384,723
11,173	-	-	1,993	460,645
-	-	3,404,582	-	3,404,582
-	-	-	-	715,528
<u>1,229,650</u>	<u>624,760</u>	<u>3,404,582</u>	<u>931,411</u>	<u>18,425,173</u>
-	-	(2,229,535)	(54,667)	(180,619)
-	-	-	67,929	67,929
-	-	-	-	(67,929)
-	-	-	67,929	-
-	-	(2,229,535)	13,262	(180,619)
-	-	<u>11,060,747</u>	<u>13,242</u>	<u>19,423,664</u>
<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 8,831,212</u>	<u>\$ 26,504</u>	<u>\$ 19,243,045</u>

Parents have access to student grades

For the second year, parents of Fort Sam Houston Independent School District students can access their children's grades electronically. Keeping parents aware of their children's progress is an important part of parent communication needed for a strong partnership.

Parents who do not have a 2006-2007 student ID and confidential personal identification number code can obtain them by e-mailing fshgrades.net. Parents should include their child's legal name, campus, grade level and a contact phone number.

To access grades, parents can visit the FSHISD Web site at www.fshisd.net and click

on the "Online Grades" button. The same link can be found on the campus Web pages. Parents will then see the Pinnacle Internet Viewer and a "Click Here To Begin" button. Parents then choose the campus through a dropdown menu and enter the student ID and PIN code. Grade and assignment summary reports are available. It is a simple but effective method to keep parents updated on their child's progress.

For more information, call Janet Bolin, director of technology, at 368-8707; Fort Sam Houston Elementary at 368-8810; or Robert G. Cole Jr./Sr. High School at 368-8733.

(Source: FSHISD)

**Have feedback for a post customer service provider?**

Go to the Interactive Customer Evaluation Web site at <http://ice.disa.mil> and voice your opinion today.

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 are held Saturdays or Sundays 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 Sunday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Sam Houston Club. Get one free photo taken with Santa per family. The cost is \$15.95 for non-members, \$13.95 for members and \$7.95 for children 6 to 11 years old. Children 5 years old and under eat free. For reservations or more information, call 224-2721.

Holiday closure

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

Bingo ends Saturday

Bingo events for 2006 will conclude Saturday 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 offer a Super TGIF Jan. 19 at 5 p.m. in the Seguin room. 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

Ribbon-cutting, groundbreaking

The Fort Sam Houston Golf Club will host a ribbon-cutting and groundbreaking ceremony Jan. 2 at 7:30 a.m. at the Salado Del Rio and La Lomas Grande courses. The groundbreaking ceremony marks the start of renovations to the 18 tees and greens. Special guests will hit the first tees on Salado Del Rio course with the ceremony immediately following. A reception in the golf clubhouse will also be held. For more information, call 221-5863.

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, 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

Friday	Open 7 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Dec. 22	Closed
Dec. 25	Closed
Dec. 29	Closed
Jan. 1	Closed

Auto Craft Shop

Friday	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

Friday	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. 24 to 26	Closed
Dec. 31 to Jan. 1	Closed

Canyon Lake

Friday	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

Friday	Closed
Dec. 20 to Jan. 2	Closed

Equestrian Center

Friday	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

Friday	Open 7 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.
Wednesday to Jan. 1	Closed

Harlequin Dinner Theatre

Dec. 23 to Jan. 2	Closed
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Jimmy Brought Fitness Center

Friday	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

Friday	Open 5 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Saturday	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

Friday	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

Friday	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

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

Sam Houston Club

Monday to Jan. 2	Closed
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Child and Youth Services:

Administrative Offices

Friday	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

CHILD AND YOUTH SERVICES

Youth Center closure

The Youth Center will close Dec. 23 and 25 for the holidays. Youth camp will open Dec. 26 at 6 a.m. with open recreation at 1 p.m. The center will be closed Jan. 1 and will reopen Jan. 23 for camp and open recreation. The youth center gym will be closed during the holidays for repairs.

Holiday party

The youth center will sponsor a holiday party Dec. 16 from 8 to 11 p.m. The cost is \$3 for members and \$4 for guests. Pizza and punch will be served.

Holiday lights tour

The youth center will take a tour of holiday lights Dec. 22 from 7 to 9 p.m. The tour will highlight Christmas lights across the city. Sign up ahead of time for the free tour.

Cooking classes

The youth center will host a series of cooking classes for middle school and high school students. The Friday class will make banana boats; Dec. 22, layered brownies; and Dec. 29, caramel cinnamon apples.

Hail, farewell, birthday party

The monthly hail, farewell and birthday party will be held Dec. 30 at 7 p.m. All new

middle school and teens, departing youth and those with December birthdays are invited to attend. The party will be held at the Youth Center, Building 1630. For more information, call 221-3502.

Christmas camp

A Christmas camp will be held for youth grades six through 12 Monday through Friday from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. The fee is income based. Breakfast, lunch and a snack will be served. Camp will begin at the School Ages Services, Building 1705, and will move to the youth center, Building 1630, at 9 a.m. Parents will pick up from the youth center daily. The Youth Center will be open from 1 to 9 p.m. during the same time. For more information, call 221-3502.

Sesame workshop

With more than 700,000 children of military families under age 5 separated from their mother or father this holiday season, Sesame Workshop, the non-profit educational organization behind Sesame Street, has responded with a program geared to address the challenges military families face with deployment. The half-hour TV special, "When Parents are Deployed," will be hosted by Academy Award-winning actor Cuba

Gooding Jr., premiering Dec. 27 at 9 p.m. on Public Broadcasting Service.

'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 host a workshop on child abuse prevention Tuesday 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 will be provided.

Before- and after-school program

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

recreation. Participants must have a Child and Youth Services membership. To register for membership, patrons will need to provide a leave and earnings statement or W-2 form, two local emergency designees, \$18 registration fee and youth's Social Security number.

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 Monday through Wednesday 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

Holiday Coffee

The Officer and Civilian Spouses' Club Board will host a Holiday Coffee Tuesday 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.

VFW Christmas dinner

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 8541, will host a Christmas dinner Dec. 25 from 2 to 4 p.m. The VFW Post is located at 2222 Austin Highway. Veterans, active duty, family members and guests are welcome. A \$3 donation is requested. For more information, call 655-2944.

Fredericksburg TVA walks

The Texas Volkssport Association will host two 5K and 10K walks and a wine and cheese social Dec. 31 at 12 p.m. and midnight starting at St. Joseph Halle, 212 W. San Antonio St., Fredericksburg, Texas. For more information, call Phyllis Eagan at 496-1402, e-mail papre1947@yahoo.com or visit www.walktexas.org/.

VFW New Year's Eve party

The Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 8541, will host a New Year's Eve party from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at 2222 Austin Highway. There will be live music, food, champagne and party favors. The cost is \$15 per person and \$25 per couple. Make reservations early. For more information, call Lebertha Newbery at 653-8071 or e-mail lebertha@sbcglobal.net.

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

OCSC January outing

The Officer and Civilian Spouses' Club January outing will be Jan. 19 at the Artisans Alley, located at 555 W. Bitters Road. The outing will include lunch at Apple Annie's at 11:30 a.m. and a choice of shopping or attending a 90-minute pottery lesson. The cost of the pottery lesson is \$20, due the day of the class. Class size is limited. Participants should bring an old towel, plastic bag and an apron (optional). The pottery class will begin at 1 p.m. For more information or reservations, e-mail Alicia Utz at a-to-z@earthlink.net before Jan. 16.

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. Adrianne Berkley at 295-4545 or 737-4540 or e-mail Adrianne.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/nationalawards.shtml. Submit applications to Master Sgt. Wanda Mathew, awards committee chairman, via e-mail to wanda.mathew@randolph.af.mil. For more information, call 652-3654 or DSN 487-3654.

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/rt/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@stmary-tx.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

Mister Rogers' Sweater drive

KLRN Public Television, Broadway Bank and the Girl Scouts of the San Antonio are sponsoring the Mister Rogers' Neighborhood Sweater Drive through Jan. 31. People can drop off donations at any Broadway Bank location. The Girl Scouts will deliver the sweaters to area nonprofit organizations. The Sweater Drive honors the life and work of the late Fred Rogers, whose long-running PBS Kids program, "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," continues to air on public television.

Salvation Army seeks volunteers

The Salvation Army seeks volunteers for their child and youth programs, especially coaches. Pick up an application for at Army Community Service, located in Building 2797, Stanley Road. For more information, call Sue York at 221-9821 or e-mail Norrie_Arcaya@uss.salvationarmy.org.

Air Force Association's essay contest

The Alamo Chapter of the Texas Air Force Association is sponsoring an essay competition for Texas seniors from any public or private high school. Cash awards of \$1,000, \$600 and \$400 will be awarded to the top three essays. This year's topic is "How Can the U.S. Air Force Contribute to Border Security?" Each entry must be between 500 and 600 words. Entry forms are available from local high school counselors or from a local chairperson; deadline submission is Friday. For more information, call Yvette Bricker at 884-5669.

Army Emergency Relief expands

Headquarters, Army Emergency Relief is

expanding their Stateside Spouse Education Assistance Program in the United States to include the spouses of retired Army Soldiers and the widows and widowers of Soldiers who died while in the retired status. The applicant must reside within the United States. Applications are available at www.aerhq.org. For more information, call Diann Evans at 703-325-2091, DSN 221-2091; or e-mail diann@aerhq.org.

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 has 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.

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: Oval kitchen table with four wooden chairs, 62 inches by 42 inches, solid oak, hand painted cream color with ivy stencil around edge, \$100 obo; pine hutch, with interior light and glass shelves, \$200, obo. Call 462-1334.

For Sale: Tiffany-style Wisteria drapery table lamp, three-bulb, 31-inches tall with about 1,500 varied-color glass pieces, bronzed tree trunk base, \$300; one antique Victorian green velvet chair, "nursing" chair, \$180; one green velvet armchair, \$350; both for \$475. Call 945-2906.

For Sale: Seven-foot couch, Southwest print, \$25 obo; Sauder TV cabinet for 32-inch regular or flat screen TV, dark wood, many doors and shelves, good condition, \$125 obo; wedding dress, size 4/6, short sleeves, beading,

includes veil, with 9-foot train and crinoline, \$65 obo. Call 475-9973.

For Sale: Barbie toddler Powerwheel, \$45; golf bag with clubs, \$50; Thomas the tank table with 38 trains and accessories, good condition, \$300 obo; DC Sport header for 1994-97 Honda Accord, \$200; AC Revolution cat-back exhaust for 1994-97 Honda Accord, \$150. Call 363-2056 after 9 a.m.

For Sale: M.I. Hummell collection, over 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 including some Metlachs; male and female, adult Sugar Gliders with extra large cage, must go as pair, \$75 obo. Call 223-0327 after 6 p.m. or leave a message.

For Sale: Game table with eight games to include foosball, pool and board games, \$30 obo; FunBun futon chair, \$25. Call 545-9467.

For Sale: Tan leather-look couch, two years old, \$85 obo. Call 832-8744.

For Sale: Canon AE-1 program 35 mm camera, includes two lenses, flash and extras, \$200 obo; Medicus 2000 dual-hinged swing trainer, includes DVD, manual and adjustment tool, new, \$95; Affinity 60 deg lob wedge, \$15; golf pull cart, \$15. Call 697-9261 or 363-4056.

For Sale: 1992 Ford conversion van by Magnum, loaded, four captain's chairs, electric sofa, window blinds, trailer-hauling package, TV, VCR, front/rear AM/FM stereo radio, ac, service records available, \$2,499; large com-

puter desk with place for monitor, speakers, keyboard, mouse, hard drive, peripherals, work area, storage space, \$35. Call 659-6741.

For Sale: Hard rubber two-wheel dolly, rated 750 pounds, \$37; new self flash, 24-inch by 24-inch double smoked acrylic skylite, \$35; patient's adjustable wheeled bed table, \$25; two and a half HP Genie garage door assembly and openers, operate individually or simultaneously, new with warranty, \$130 each; split image transit Hopkins model G-2 with case, new, \$20. Call 655-7417.

For Sale: Antique brass bed with double mattress and box springs, excellent condition, \$50; professionally made double quilt and matching dust ruffle, \$85; double sheet sets, \$20 set. Call 822-1785 and leave a message.