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IN THE NEWS

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, welcomed the Senate's vote Dec. 18 to repeal the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law, while emphasizing that the current law and policy will remain in effect until they and President Barack Obama certify the plan to implement it.

"Once this legislation is signed into law by the president, the Department of Defense will immediately proceed with the planning necessary to carry out this change carefully and methodically, but purposefully," Gates said.

The legislation specifies that the repeal will take effect only after Gates, Mullen and Obama certify that new policies and regulations to implement it are "consistent with the standards of military readiness, military effectiveness, unit cohesion and retention of the armed forces," the secretary noted.

"As I have stated before, I will approach this process deliberately and will make such certification only after careful consultation with the military service chiefs and our combatant commanders and when I am satisfied that those conditions have been met for all the services, commands and units," he said.

Mullen said he looks forward to working with Gates and the service chiefs and said he's

'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' remains in effect as Gates, Mullen tackle plan

"committed to making sure that process is well-led, maintains our combat readiness and upholds our high standards."

In the meantime, Gates said it's important that the men and women in uniform understand that, although today's vote means the policy will change, the implementation and certification process will take time.

"In the meantime, the current law and policy will remain in effect," he said.

"Successful implementation will depend upon strong leadership, a clear message and proactive

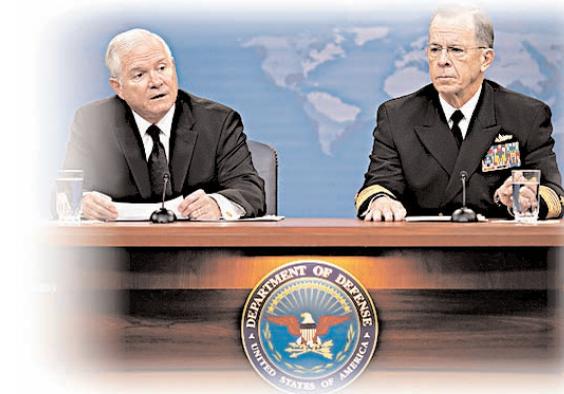


Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Chad J. McNeeley

Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and Navy Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, conduct a press briefing at the Pentagon discussing the public release of the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" Comprehensive Working Group report, Nov. 30, 2010.

education throughout the force," he said. "With a continued and sustained

commitment to core values of leadership, professionalism and respect for

all, I am convinced that the U.S. military can successfully accommodate and implement this change, as it has others in history."

Mullen welcomed legislative over judicial repeal of the law, noting that it "preserves the military's prerogative to implement change in a responsible, deliberate manner."

He echoed Obama's conviction that repealing the policy is "the right thing to do."

"No longer will able men and women who want to serve and sacrifice for their country have to sacrifice their integrity to do so," the chairman said. "We will be a better military as a result."

BRAC

All military medical training roads now start at METC

By Steve Elliott
FSH Public Affairs

The future of military medical training arrived at Fort Sam Houston in a big way June 30 with the opening of the sprawling Medical Education and Training Campus.

The METC, the crown jewel of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission's mandates for Fort Sam Houston, is an integrated campus under a single university-style administration, with more than 100 courses being taught there.

Rear Adm. William R. Kiser is the METC's first commandant, with Army Col. Larry Hanson as deputy commandant and dean. Air Force Command Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Lambing is the senior enlisted adviser.

"Today marks a significant milestone in the ongoing story of military medicine," Kiser said. "Everywhere our nation sends our finest to serve, our graduates will be

there with them serving as a force for good because of the work done here."

Making history as the world's largest military medical and training institution, METC entered into its initial operating capability with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in June. The first course, Radiography Specialist, actually began in April. Other courses will be phased in during the summer and fall.

"METC will serve as the birthplace for joint interoperability for corpsman, medics and technicians," said Lambing in his remarks. "The souls that will walk the hallowed halls of this institution will make a difference in faraway lands for centuries to come. In five years, every medic and corpsman under the grade of E-5 will have been educated here at METC."

The campus will have



Photo by Steve Elliott

METC Commandant Navy Rear Adm. William R. Kiser (center) celebrates cutting the ribbon, opening the center, along with Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Charles Green, U.S. Air Force Surgeon General (left) and AMEDDC&S commanding general and chief of U.S. Army Medical Services Corps Maj. Gen. David A. Rubenstein (right).

more than 24,500 students going through its doors each year, with an average daily student load of approximately 8,000. METC will also employ an operating staff and faculty of more than 1,400.

"This mission and vision guided us to ensure METC provides curriculum and education that preserves each service's identity while creating an environment where our enlisted professionals can learn from their counterparts in their sister services."

"I want you to see not just the bricks and stones and mortar and glass, I want you to see the peo-

ple whose lives will be made better by what transpires in these buildings," Kiser said.

"We will show it is possible to value our heritage and distinctions and still work together towards a common vision," Kiser said.

"Our vision and commitment at METC can be summed up in a single sentence: We will provide America's uniformed services the finest medics, the finest hospital corpsmen who are well-trained, capable and ready to support the missions of our country anywhere around the globe.

IMCOM breaks ground on new home at FSH

By Steve Elliott
FSH Public Affairs

Military City USA gained a new neighbor April 19 as military and community leaders gathered at Fort Sam Houston for a groundbreaking ceremony for the U.S. Army Installation Management Command's new headquarters.

The project, costing \$26.4 million, will also be home for the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command and U.S. Army Environmental Command. As mandated by the Base Realignment and Closure Act, IMCOM HQ is relocating from Arlington, Va., while the USAEC is coming in from the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland and the FMWR Command is relocating from Alexandria, Va.

"To bring this organization from the Washington, D.C. area to San Antonio is a blessing for lots of reasons," said Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, commanding general of IMCOM and assistant chief of staff for Installation Management during the



Photo by Steve Elliott

Lt. Gen. Rick Lynch, commanding general of IMCOM and assistant chief of staff for Installation Management, addresses the audience during the ceremony.

ceremony.

"It's not going to be just one building, but six buildings encompassing 444,000 square feet of office space to house our IMCOM Soldiers and civilians who do such great work on a daily basis. It's a big deal for us to come join Military City USA and we are proud of that fact."

In all, four buildings are under complete renovation, one is getting an addition and two are being built from the ground up. Meanwhile, more than 2,400 people will be moving into new offices during the next two years.

Environmental command stakes its claim at Fort Sam Houston

(From left) Command Sgt. Major Terry L. Braddock, of IMCOM West Region, and Col. Scott D. Kimmell, USAEC commander, uncased the U.S. Army Environmental Command colors on Fort Sam Houston May 21.



Photo by Steve Elliott

By Steve Elliott
FSH Public Affairs

In a move that further solidifies Fort Sam Houston's growing reputation as the place to be, the U.S. Army Environmental Command uncased its colors in a ceremony at the post flagpole May 21.

The transfer of the command is in accordance with 2005 Base Realignment and Closure directives and brings an additional 200 military and civilian jobs to

the San Antonio area.

According to Army tradition, when a unit or the headquarters of a unit undergoes a permanent change of station, the colors are "cased" – literally furled and placed inside a canvas case – to signify that the command has ceased operations at that location.

The colors are then "uncased" at the new location to signify that the command is operational at its new station.

The mission of the USAEC, which has been located at the

Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland for 38 years, is to lead and execute environmental programs and provide environmental expertise that enables Army training, operations, acquisition and sustainable military communities.

"I couldn't be prouder to be the first USAEC commander at Fort Sam Houston and unfurl my team's colors, signifying this historic place as our new home," said USAEC Commander Col. Scott D. Kimmell. "We have a wonderful history at Aberdeen

Proving Ground in Maryland, and we are ready to start a new chapter at Fort Sam Houston.

"Establishing our colors here is only the tip of the iceberg of the great things to come," said Kimmell, who added that about 30 percent of the USAEC workforce is currently in San Antonio and the rest should be here by July 2011.

"Our IMCOM headquarters will soon follow us to Texas, thus firmly planting the leadership of IMCOM in San Antonio.

BRAC 502nd Air Base Wing breaks ground on new headquarters

By Steve Elliott
FSH Public Affairs

With the turn of a shovel July 14, the 502nd Air Base Wing got a little closer to establishing itself on Fort Sam Houston, as Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick, 502nd ABW commander, was joined by various local and military officials in breaking ground for the wing's new headquarters.

The 25,733-square-foot building, which will be located just a few hundred feet from the Quadrangle on Wilson Street between Stanley and Liscum Roads, will cost approximately \$7.4 million and have a 5.5-acre footprint. Officials are anticipating occupancy in July 2011.

"This building is being fast-

tracked to get the general and his staff out of their doublewide trailer," said Frank Simas, deputy of the Joint Project Management Office, Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "We plan on being on time and on budget."

"This is truly an opportunity for us to move forward," Patrick told the assembled audience. "Part of the wing's vision statement is to 'Preserve our Heritage.' I promised I would honor that."

The 502nd Air Base Wing consists of three major support elements. The Air Force elements are the 802nd Mission Support Group at Lackland and the 902nd MSG at Randolph AFB, while the Fort Sam Houston Garrison is renamed the 502nd MSG.



Photo by Steve Elliott

(From left) Dr. Cem Maxwell, deputy director, San Antonio Joint Program Office at Randolph Air Force Base; Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick, 502nd Air Base Wing commander; and Frank Simas, deputy of the Joint Project Management Office, Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers turn dirt during the groundbreaking ceremony for the 502nd ABW headquarters building July 14.

The Air Force was directed to be the executive agent for the action in San Antonio and this is the largest single Department of Defense installation. One of 12 joint bases

within the DOD, the 502nd Air Base Wing will oversee installation support at Lackland and Randolph AFBs and Fort Sam Houston.

Construction on the building

is being performed by LeeTex Construction LLC, in partnership with Hill & Wilkinson Ltd., with GSBS Architects out of Salt Lake City as part of the team supporting the prime contractor.

"This project was Air Force BRAC funded and Air Force led, but it would never have been possible without significant support and cooperation from our Army teammates," said H.D. Eisenhower, chief of engineering for the 502nd ABW.

"The cooperation of this project is a reflection of the joint basing effort in San Antonio and the collaborative and supportive process it has been," he added.

Long Barracks gets long-awaited facelift, new mission

By Steve Elliott
FSH Public Affairs

Some of the oldest structures on Fort Sam Houston are in the midst of spit-and-polish cleaning and major renovations. The famed Long Barracks is being converted into an Army contracting command campus, set to open November 2011.

"The project began in September 2009 and is on course for an on-time completion," said Robay Geary, logistics director for the Mission and Installation Contracting Command.

"When completed, the refurbished building, along with several others in the area, will serve as a hub for about 80 percent of all Army contracting organizations."

The U.S. Army Mission and Installation Contracting Command, part of the Army's Generating Force, plans, integrates, awards, and adminis-

ters contracts throughout the Army Force Generation Cycle supporting the Army commands, direct reporting units, U.S. Army North and other organizations to provide the best value for the mission, Soldiers and their Families.

Renovations to the 1,081-foot-long building, costing approximately \$25.5 million, are being funded by MICC and carried out by RKJ Construction, a private company out of Lampasas, Texas.

Since it was first built in the late 1880s, the Building 600 area, which represents the oldest group of buildings on Fort Sam Houston, has served a variety of functions and purposes.

Originally built as officers' quarters and barracks, these



Photo by Art Jackson

(From left, with shovels) Brig. Gen. Stephen B. Leisenring, MICC commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Clinton L. Jackson, MICC CSM, break ground at the Long Barracks. With them are (from left) Lt. Col. Doug Kiser, Gary Pinion, Lynn Christian, Leroy Griffith and Staff Sgt. Gustavo Jackson from the MICC. Leisenring is the first MICC commander and Jackson is the command's first CSM.

structures are attached by common two-story walls and have masonry exteriors, wooden floors and tin roofs.

Used as offices until the 1980s, the Long Barracks was also used to house conscientious objectors during the Korean Conflict and Vietnam War eras.

"The Long Barracks can hold about 300 people, but will more likely have about 280, as certain areas will be used for storage, break rooms, etc. The new space will be vital to the MICC's ongoing mission at Fort Sam Houston," Geary added.

Historic theater to gain new life under \$16.9 million BRAC renovation, expansion project

After sitting vacant for more than two decades, one of the first dedicated movie theaters built by the U.S. Army in the United States is about to begin a journey back in time.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, has awarded a \$16.9 million contract to Lampasas, Texas-based RKJ Construction, Inc. to renovate and build an addition to the 75-year-old main post theater.

The theater will become the new home of the Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command's Army Entertainment Division, which is relocating to Fort Sam Houston from Fort Belvoir, Va. as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure mandates.

This division stages a touring musical production called the U.S. Army Soldier Show,

featuring active duty Soldiers selected by audition from throughout the Army.

The renovated 14,700-square-foot theater will serve as the rehearsal hall for the cast of the annual production, while an 18,000-square-foot addition will provide space for offices, recording studios, and equipment storage.

The project will alter the building's original movie theater configuration to accommodate theatrical productions, extending the existing stage and modifying the rear portion of the building to incorporate the 80-foot-tall rigging necessary to raise and lower stage sets.

Many of the theater's architecturally distinctive elements will be retained as part of the renovation effort.

(Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

BRAC

Medical readiness center opens at Camp Bullis

By Steve Elliott
FSH Public Affairs

A new era in military medical readiness training opened at Camp Bullis June 25, as the U.S. Air Force cut the ribbon on the \$18 million Medical Readiness Training Center.

The center will host all initial, sustainment and future medical readiness training, increase joint interoperability and knowledge, and expand the scope of current and future medical readiness.

The grand opening also sees the 882nd Training Group relocate from Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls to the sprawling 28,000-acre training site on San Antonio's northwest side. An estimated 6,500 Airmen will transition through Camp Bullis this year prior to having boots on the ground at their deployed location.



Photo by Steve Elliott

Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Charles Green, U.S. Air Force Surgeon General, remarks on the grand opening of the \$18 million Medical Readiness Training Center at Camp Bullis.

"This is a dream come true," said Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Charles Green, U.S. Air Force Surgeon General. "We began Combat Casualty Care Course training at Camp Bullis, and the Army has been graciously hosting us for almost two decades.

"The goal from the beginning has been to have a place that would allow all the services to train together and to know exactly what the equipment sets are going into war," Green said.

"Thanks to 2005 Base Realignment and Closure mandates, we've actually put a training facility out here, combining the assets from the 882nd TRG and Air Force Materiel Command assets from Brooks AFB to establish a single training site."

New medical clinic named for Texas native, war hero

By Steve Elliott
FSH Public Affairs

On a military installation dedicated to training the warfighter, it's a fitting tribute to have a clinic dedicated to a medic who died a hero on the battlefield.

The Spc. Taylor J. Burk Medical Clinic at Camp Bullis opened its doors Jan. 13, almost

five years after its namesake, an Army medic with the 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, was killed in Iraq after an improvised explosive device hit the vehicle in which he was traveling on Jan. 26, 2005.

The new 15,823-square-foot facility is located in Building 5206. Construction began in

June 2008 and wrapped up 500 days later in November 2009. After bringing in all the furnishings and medical equipment, the Burk clinic was ready to go a little over two months later.

"Our old clinic was very limited in what we could offer," said Dr. James J. Garcia, chief of the Burk Clinic. "The

parking lot was small, we only had six exam rooms and our administrative staff was housed in a separate building. After watching the new facility being built during the last year and a half, we were all elated to finally move in and be able to offer our patients better and faster service."

BRAC

Ribbon cutting opens new 470th MI headquarters

By Gregory Ripps
470th MIB Public Affai

The 470th Military Intelligence Brigade held a ribbon cutting ceremony Feb. 1 to mark the official opening of its new headquarters, Building 1070.

The ribbon cutting comes almost two years after ground breaking, which took place Feb. 14, 2008.

Situated near the 470th's previous home in historic Building 1000, Building 1070 will house the planning and operations of the brigade, which



Photo by Gregory Ripps

From left, Tom Chandler, chief executive officer, Orion Partners; Maj. Gen. Simeon Trombitas, commanding general, U.S. Army South; Col. Jim Lee, 470th Military Intelligence Brigade commander; Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Mason, 470th MI Brigade command sergeant major; and Col. Mary Garr, commander, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Sam Houston, prepare to cut the ribbon officially opening Building 1070.

includes five battalions, on the first five of its six floors. U.S. Army South, which still occupies major portions of Building 1000, will also occupy some space in the new 155,000-square-foot building.

HEADLINES

First METC grads make history

By Steve Elliott
FSH Public Affairs

It might have been a small group of Airmen graduating at the Medical Education and Training Campus Nov. 4, but they made a huge historical impact as the first course to complete training at the billion-dollar joint training campus that opened in June.

METC, the crown jewel of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission's mandates for Fort Sam Houston, is an integrated campus under a single university-style administration, with more than 100 courses taught there.

The quartet of Air Force staff sergeants attended a two-week Pharmacy Craftsman

course from Oct. 25 to Nov. 4, which is required for advancement to 7-level Air Force supervisory training in Air Force Specialty Code 4POX1 and also for promotion to technical sergeant.

The course had previously been given at Sheppard Air Force Base

in Wichita Falls, Texas, and has now moved to METC where it will be a joint-service course.

"These four Airmen training with us have provided a model for others to follow," said Navy Rear Adm. William R. Kiser, METC commandant. "They were trained

not only by Air Force, but by Army and Navy faculty as well. That will be the norm here at METC. This is the future of military medicine."

Air Force Staff Sgts. Cody Cole (Columbus AFB, Miss.), Tamika Isaacs-Powell (Keesler AFB, Miss.), Andrea Stein

(Andersen AFB, Guam) and Carrie Villa (Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth, Texas) made up the class.

"You are what makes the Air Force and the military go. You're the managers," said Master Sgt. Gregory D. Tate, senior enlisted adviser and an instructor for the pharmacy branch. "We gave you the management skills you can use to go back and run your work areas."

"We will have formal graduations when other classes graduate, but the four of you are extraordinary," Kiser told the students. "There's something special about people who do something for the first time. There will be thousands and thousands of people that will graduate from here in the future. Only a few can be the first, so it's an

honor for me to stop and reflect on this with you."

"The course helped with our managerial skills and fine-tune what we already knew," Isaacs-Powell said. "Coming here from Keesler, I was expecting it to be a million of us fighting for attention, fighting for an opportunity to share what we do at our base. As the class continued, we really formed a bond and we were always talking and sharing knowledge."

"These four are already practicing pharmacy technicians at their bases and they came here not only for a refresher, but a chance to work on their management and technical skills," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Chris Lynch, program director for pharmacy training at METC.



Photo by Steve Elliott

(From left) METC Deputy Commandant Col. Lary Hanson, Staff Sgt. Carrie Villa, Staff Sgt. Andrea Stein, Staff Sgt. Tamika Isaacs-Powell, Staff Sgt. Cody Cole and METC Commandant Rear Adm. William R. Kiser at the pharmacy craftsman course graduation Nov. 4.

HEADLINES

System for burn victims among Army's top inventions

By Mike Feely
USAISR

A system developed at the U.S. Army Institute of Surgical Research at Fort Sam Houston that helps restore the right amount of fluids to burn victims was selected recently as one of the Army's 10 Greatest Inventions.

The Burn Resuscitation Decision Support System was one of the winners of the competition run by the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command for inventions during 2009.

The award was presented to the USAISR at the 27th Army Science Conference in Orlando, Fla., Nov. 29.

Clinical studies have shown that administration of either too much fluid or too little fluid in burn patients may be associated with less than optimal outcome.

The BRDSS was designed specifically to assist providers who do not care for burn patients routinely. It utilizes an algorithm to generate recommendations for IV fluid rates to improve



Photo by Mike Feeley
Dr. Jose Salinas and Lt. Col. Maria Serio-Melvin review BRDSS data.

fluid balance during the initial 48 hours after the burn and aims to avoid complications associated with inadequate or excessive resuscitation strategies.

The BRDSS resulted from the collaborative efforts of clinical research teams at the USAISR and the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, Texas.

Fort Sam Houston earns award for environmental protection at Camp Bullis

By Steve Elliott
FSH Public Affairs

When it comes to Camp Bullis, finding a harmonious balance between the needs of the Army and the needs of the environment has long put Fort Sam Houston leadership in a tight spot.

Add to the mix the explosive growth in development that's encroaching upon the once wide-open spaces around the 28,000-acre training area, and it can lead to potential disaster on a multitude of levels.

Located along San Antonio's northern edge, Camp Bullis was once considered to be on the outskirts of the city with few developments around

it until the 1990s. Since then, San Antonio has catapulted into becoming the seventh-largest city in the United States.

Over the years, the task of training combat medics in Camp Bullis' realistic field conditions has also grown in size and importance and is a central feature of the Defense Department's multi-billion-dollar plan to make San Antonio the nation's center of military medicine.

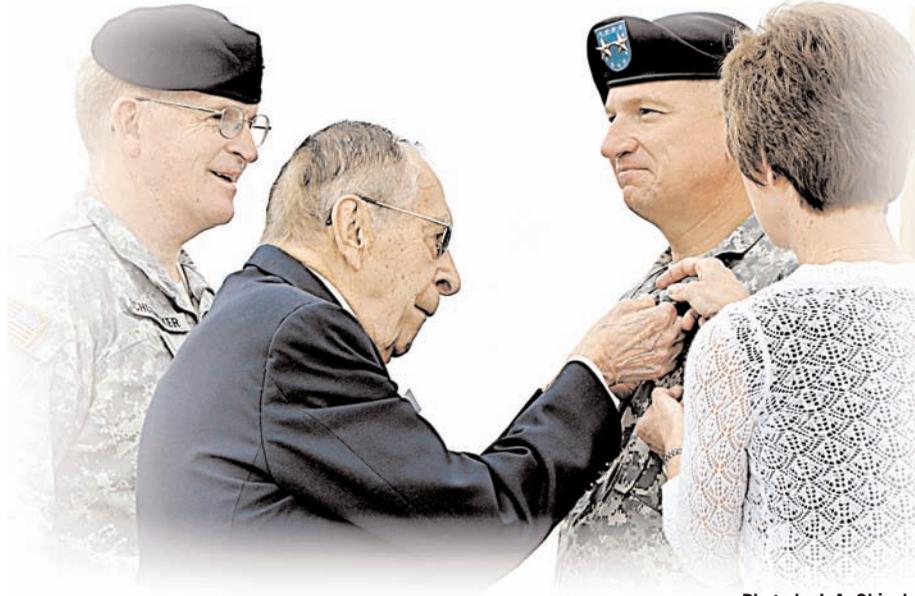
While growth is good for the bottom line of the city and surrounding areas, it has rapidly closed in on this training area which is now surrounded on all sides, save for its northern boundary. Real estate developers and home-builders still gaze hungrily upon the pristine areas around Camp Bullis in their quest to erect even

more gated communities and shopping areas.

So when Fort Sam Houston wins a Lone Star Land Steward Award in the special recognition category from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, it shows the Army can have environmental responsibility live peacefully alongside growth and development.

The Lone Star Land Steward Awards program recognizes and honors private landowners for their accomplishments in habitat management and wildlife conservation.

"We are passionate about the missions of Fort Sam Houston and Camp Bullis. We're very happy to be recognized for the achievement of our environmental goals," said Col. Mary Garr, 502nd Mission Support Group commander.

NEW FACES**ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT CENTER & SCHOOL****Photo by L.A. Shively**

Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker (left), commander Army Medical Command congratulates retiring Maj. Gen. Russell J. Czerw as the Distinguished Service Medal is pinned on his chest by retired Gen. Ralph E. Haines, Jr. Michelle Czerw stands to the right.

**Photo by Lori Newman**

Maj. Gen. David A. Rubenstein (left) incoming commander of the Army Medical Department Center & School receives the command colors from Army Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker signifying passage of responsibility from outgoing Commander Maj. Gen. Russell J. Czerw (right) during a ceremony April 30.

32ND MEDICAL BRIGADE**Photo by Lori Newman**

Maj. Gen. David Rubenstein (center) passes the colors to Col. William LaChance (left) charging him with the command of the 32nd Medical Brigade during the ceremony held July 22 at MacArthur Parade Field as outgoing commander, Col. Randall Anderson (right) looks on.

BAMC TROOP COMMAND**Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Pendarvis**

Brig. Gen. Joseph Carvalho, commander, Brooke Army Medical Center and Southern Regional Medical Command (Provisional) passes the guidon to Lt. Col. Corrina Dixon as she accepts her new position as the Troop Medical commander from Col. Linda Carmen. Carmen relinquished her command position at the Troop Medical Command, July 9 to accept her new position at the Southern Regional Medical Center as the assistant chief of staff for human resources.

5TH MEDICAL RECRUITING BATTALION**Photo by Steve Elliott**

Medical Recruiting Brigade commander Col. Rafael C. "Gino" Montagno (right) hands the guidon for the 5th Medical Recruiting Battalion to Lt. Col. Carlene A.S. Blanding during the battalion's change of command at the Alamo June 24. Blanding is the incoming commander.

NEW FACES**VETERINARY
COMMAND**

Col. David Rolfe relinquished command of U.S. Army Veterinary Command to Col. Erik Torring III during a ceremony Aug. 17 at the historic Fort Sam Houston Quadrangle.

**Col. Erik Torring III****HAMILTON ASSUMES
DENTAL COMMAND****Photo by Mike O'Rear**

Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, Army Surgeon General and commander of the U.S. Army Medical Command passes the U.S. Army Dental Command colors to Col. Priscilla Hamilton who assumed command of the unit during a ceremony held at Wood Auditorium Aug. 31. Schoomaker said that command is a responsibility and burden from the moment an officer accepts the unit guidon until it is given up regardless if the command tenure is a minute or a decade. He congratulated the outgoing commander Col. Daniel Reese for continuing the mission supporting Army Soldiers and Families and the DENCOM workforce. Schoomaker noted that Army dentistry plays a key role in medical readiness and reset of deployed Soldiers. DENCOM is responsible for five regional dental commands, one dental laboratory, 30 dental activities, 17 dental clinic commands and 147 dental clinics worldwide.

**DEFENSE MEDICAL
READINESS TRAINING
INSTITUTE****Photo by Esther Garcia**

Navy Capt. W. Rich Dalton accepts the guidon from Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Force Health Protection & Readiness, Col. (Dr.) Donald L. Noah for the Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute during a change of command ceremony June 30. Outgoing commander Col. John Mitchell, right, relinquishes command. DMRTI is responsible for training thousands of Department of Defense medical officers annually.

**SAN ANTONIO
RECRUITING BATTALION****Photo by Ed Dixon**

(From left) Lt. Col. Thomas Ellis, outgoing commander, Col. Robert B. Akam, commander, U.S. Army 5th Recruiting Brigade and Lt. Col. George Sarabina, incoming commander of the San Antonio Recruiting Battalion, render a salute during the change of command ceremony June 22.

**5TH RECRUITING
BRIGADE**

Col. Christopher P. Himsl addresses the audience June 24 after accepting command of U.S. Army 5th Recruiting Brigade. Himsl most recently served as the Chief of Analysis and Production for the Intelligence Directorate, US Force-Iraq.

Photo by Ed Dixon**410TH CONTRACTING
SUPPORT BRIGADE**

Col. William A. Sanders, incoming commander of the 410th Contracting Support Brigade, speaks to the crowd after a change of command ceremony at the Army Medical Department Museum July 8. Sanders took over for Col. Ted C. Harrison, who has been the brigade's commander since it was activated in September 2007.

Photo by Steve Elliott

CENTENNIAL OF MILITARY FLIGHT



Photo by Lance Cheung

Rich Stepler and Don Stroud, Wright "B" Flyer pilots, performed a demonstration flight of their "Brown Bird" March 2, over MacArthur Parade Field at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, during the Foulois Centennial Military Flight Celebration event.



Photo by L.A. Shively

Air Force Gen. Stephen R. Lorenz (left), former commander, Air Education and Training Command, Randolph Air Force Base, and Army Maj. Gen. Russell J. Czerw, former commander, Fort Sam Houston and Army Medical Department Center & School, salute after placing a wreath dedicating the commemoration of the Centennial of Military Flight celebration, March 2. Behind Lorenz and Czerw is the "Yellow Bird," a replica of the Wright 'B' Flyer Lt. Benjamin Foulois used during his experiments with military applications of aircraft in 1910. Don Gum (center), sitting in the pilot's seat, taxied the aircraft across MacArthur Parade Field during the ceremony.



Photo by Steve Elliott

Amanda Wright Lane, great grandniece of Orville and Wilbur Wright, and "Yellow Bird" pilot Don Gum taxi onto MacArthur Parade Field during the Centennial of Military Aviation celebration, March 2.

From the Army Signal Corps to the USAF, an evolution in aviation history

By L.A. Shively
FSH Public Affairs

Lt. Benjamin Foulois' nascent experiments in aviation with the Wright Military Flyer, as part of the Army Signal Corps, evolved into a singular armed service, today's United States Air Force.

How the organization evolved

Army personnel were traditionally organized into branches such as the Infantry, Cavalry, Artillery, Air Corps, Quartermaster Corps, or the Army Corps of Engineers.

Although branches were responsible for training and materiel, roles varied and operational commands such as combat divisions and corps integrated personnel from those other branches.

An Army branch can be either an arm or a service. An arm is traditionally the infantry, the artillery, and the cavalry – combat units. A service provides combat support and/or combat service support.

In order to clarify its mission, and confer

quasi-autonomy, the Army Air Service was created in 1918, separating aviation personnel from the Signal Corps.

In 1926, the Army renamed the AAS as the Army Air Corps, further clarifying its primary mission: managing materiel and training. In 1935, General Headquarters Air Force was created for operational aviation units.

WWII involvement

U.S. participation in WWII mandated radical reorganization of the aviation branch in order to unify command of all air elements and gave it total autonomy.

Official records put creation of the Army Air Forces as June 20, 1941, just six months prior to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. General Henry Harley (Hap) Arnold was appointed to head the new organization.

In an essay for the Army Air Forces Historical Association, retired Col. C. C. Elebash writes that Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson approved a major War Department reorganization March 1942.

Army Air Forces and Army Ground Forces

were made co-equal commands under authority of the War Powers Act a few months after we entered the war.

Significantly, as commander of the AAF, Arnold joined the WWII Joint Chiefs of Staff along with the Army Chief of Staff Gen. Marshall, the Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Ernest J. King, and President Franklin D. Roosevelt's principal military adviser, Adm. William D. Leahy. Arnold's inclusion into the JCS indicated complete autonomy of the AAF.

Still comprised of two subordinate commands, growth was nevertheless rapid for the AAF. The Air Force Combat Command replaced GHQ Air Force for operational forces while retaining the Air Corps for training and materiel purposes. As wartime expansion continued, more commands doubled, including the Flying Training Command, Technical Training Command, Ferrying Command and the numbered air forces.

During WWII the role of the Air Corps changed again. War Department Circular 59, the Air Corps further subordinated the Air Corps to the AAF as a combatant arm, Infantry

and Field Artillery were also subordinate combatant arms of the Army Ground Forces, which replaced Army General Headquarters.

"The Army Air Forces thus replaced the Air Corps as the Army aviation arm and – for practical purposes – became an autonomous service," wrote Elebash.

Eighty-eight percent of officers serving in the AAF were commissioned in the Air Corps, while 82 per cent of enlisted members assigned to AAF units and bases had the Air Corps as their combat arm branch by May 1945, according to John Correll, in his article "But What About the Air Corps?"

Creation of the USAF

All WWII Army aviation training and combat units were in the AAF. About 2.4 million men and women served in the AAF. Around 600,000 of these were members of other branches, such as Engineers, Ordnance and Quartermaster according to Elebash.

Eventually the Air Corps ceased to be an operating organization and all elements of Army aviation were merged into the Army Air

Fort Sam Houston
CENTENNIAL OF MILITARY AVIATION
March 2, 2010
8:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Forces.

Finally, the office of Chief of the Air Corps was abolished and Congress disestablished the Air Corps, July 26 1947, with the passage of the National Security Act, though most members of the Army Air Forces remained members of the Air Corps.

"In honoring Army aviation in WWII, the most appropriate and inclusive identification is Army Air Forces," wrote Elebash.

The AAF preceded Congress' establishment

of the United States Air Force in 1947. The new U.S. Air Force absorbed personnel from the Air Corps and from other Army branches who had been serving in the AAF.

TRANSITIONS

502nd Mission Support Group stands up



Photo by Steve Elliott

The 502nd Mission Support Group flag unfurls behind Col. Mary Garr, 502nd MSG/Garrison commander and Air Force Brig. Gen. Leonard A. Patrick, commander of the 502nd Air Base Wing, after the group's official activation at Fort Sam Houston's MacArthur Field April 26.

By Steve Elliott
FSH Public Affairs

One of the last pieces of the Joint Base San Antonio puzzle moved into place April 26 as the 502nd Mission Support Group officially stood up during a ceremony at Fort Sam Houston's historic MacArthur Field.

The new unit replaced the U.S. Army Garrison at FSH and reached full operational capability Oct. 1. Joint Base San Antonio covers nearly 67 square miles; has more than 80,000 full-time employees performing 211 missions; supports 145,000 students and includes a retiree community of more than 250,000.

While physically located on three different

sides of the city, the 502nd MSG joins the 802nd MSG at Lackland Air Force Base and the 902nd MSG at Randolph AFB to form the support infrastructure for Joint Base San Antonio, the largest joint base initiative in the Department of Defense. The three mission support groups fall under the 502nd Air Base Wing, headquartered on Fort Sam Houston.

Air Force Brig. Gen. Leonard A. Patrick is commander of the 8,000-person 502nd ABW, which consolidates 49 installation management support functions for a military community with an annual operating budget of more than \$850 million and a \$10.9 billion plant replacement

value. The wing also supports in excess of \$4.5 billion in directed Base Realignment and Closure and other major projects.

"Today is about team work and it's about moving forward," Patrick said after the ceremony.

"Today is about making Joint Base San Antonio a raging success. I can't tell you how excited I am to work with such professionals, particularly at this installation.

"At Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases, we did a similar reorganization with the 37th Training Wing, 59th Medical Wing and 12th Flying Training Wing," Patrick said.

"General Len Patrick is an outstanding and seasoned leader who is

the right person to take this organization forward and take care of all our service members and their families," said Randall Robinson, IMCOM director. "IMCOM is committed to the success of our joint base and the opportunity to leverage the process to create an even better place for our service members and their families to live."

"With our community and civic leaders that have been in lockstep with us, I pledge to you and the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen, that we will not lose the historical identity of these three installations," Patrick promised the assembled military and civic leaders and other guests.



Civil Engineer Squadron personnel Rich Aguilon, Lead, Roads and Grounds, watches as Jack Thatcher (left) and Rodney McDaniel install the new sign at the west gate entrance on Harry Wurzbach. The new signs, installed at the post entrances, were unveiled on Oct. 1 when Fort Sam Houston officially joined Joint Base San Antonio.

Photo by Esther Garcia

Army employees officially became Air Force employees

Appropriated funds employees of the Army became Air Force APF employees Oct. 10. Non-appropriated funds, or NAF, employees of the Army at Fort Sam Houston became Air Force NAF employees Oct. 1.

Town hall meetings and workshops have been conducted to inform employees of their changes in benefits. One-on-one briefings have also been conducted to assist employees with completing documentation.

"We are trying to lessen the impact to the employees, so we are looking at transitioning

[for APF employees] on Oct. 10 which is a pay period beginning date," said Meg Reyes, director of Manpower, Personnel and Services for the 502nd ABW, during a Jan. 28 meeting hosted by Col. Mary Garr, 502 Mission Support Group/Garrison commander.

"Your pay is not going to change. Your benefits are not going to change," Garr said. "Your duty location will not change unless you decide to take a job elsewhere. What will change is your employing agency."

(Source: FSH Public Affairs)

Transfer of Authority confirms FSH 'Armyness' continues

By Steve Elliott
FSH Public Affairs

A transfer of authority ceremony at the Quadrangle Sept. 30 confirmed the "Armyness" of Fort Sam Houston would continue.

The ceremony symbolized the transfer of the garrison's Army-specific functions to Army Support Activity manager Frank E. Blakely II.

"This ceremony marks

the beginning of the numerous things we're going to have to sort out and work through as we make this into a partnership," Blakely said. "We are taking things apart, putting them together into neat piles and seeing how they can work together.

"The best solution was to empower the people who do the jobs every day and they would figure it out," he said.

"Since April, I have validated an old Texas axiom: 'If you think you're a person of influence, try ordering someone else's dog around.' At least now as ASA manager, I can claim part of the dog."

"While our title is changing from U.S. Army Garrison to the 502nd Mission Support Group, we are still providing installation mission readiness and quality of

life support to all the same folks," said Col. Mary E. Garr, 502nd MSG commander. "It will just be within the construct of a partnership with Lackland and Randolph Air Force Bases.

"The intent of Congress with joint basing was that services at installations located near each other could be more efficient if they were one," Garr explained.

TRANSITIONS**Southern Regional Medical Command stands up**

By Steve Elliott
FSH Public Affairs

In a move designed to better serve the Army of the 21st century, the Southern Regional Medical Command was activated during a ceremony at the MacArthur Parade Field Oct. 8. At the same time, the Southeast Regional Medical Command and Great Plains Regional Medical Command were inactivated and their colors retired.

The SRMC is now the key operational element for Army medicine covering an area encompassing 11 states and one territory.

Lt. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker, commanding general of the U.S.

Army Medical Command, directed realignment of the regional medical commands Oct. 1, 2009. The SRMC merges four medical treatment facilities from the Great Plains Regional Medical Command and seven MTFs from the Southeast Regional Medical Command.

“This is of great significance to Army medicine,” Schoomaker said during the ceremony. “It is the single largest reorganization we have had since 1997 and sets the stage for substantial improvements in care for our units and beneficiaries.”

“This is the culmination of 18 months of work to better meet the needs of our units and benefi-

aries,” said Brig. Gen. Joseph Carvalho Jr., who in addition to commanding Brooke Army Medical Center, will also be commanding general of the SRMC’s 10 Army hospitals, numerous health clinics and centers and all Community Based Warrior Transitions Units. He was formerly the commanding general of the Great Plains RMC.

The SRMC will encompass BAMC, Eisenhower, Carl R. Darnell Army Medical Center (Fort Hood, Texas), Winn Army Community Hospital (Fort Stewart, Ga.), Blanchfield Army Community Hospital (Fort Campbell, Ky.), Moncrief Army Community Hospital (Fort Jackson, S.C.), Lyster Army Health Clinic (Fort

Rucker, Ala.), Reynolds Army Community Hospital (Fort Sill, Okla.), Baynes-Jones Army Community Hospital (Fort Polk, La.), Martin Army Community Hospital (Fort Benning, Ga.) and Fox Army Health Center (Redstone Arsenal, Ala.).

Also included in the SRMC are the U.S. Army Aeromedical Center (Fort Rucker, Ala.), Rodriguez Army Health Clinic (Puerto Rico), Southern Command Clinic (Miami, Fla.), Community Based Warrior Transition Units (at Fort Sam Houston and in Arkansas, Alabama, Florida and Puerto Rico), and additional clinics in Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi and Oklahoma.



Photo by Steve Elliott

(From left) Lt. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, Brig. Gen. Joseph Carvalho Jr., and Brig. Gen. W. Bryan Gamble salute the colors at the Southern Regional Medical Command activation ceremony Oct. 8.

OPERATIONS

Virtual reality helps Soldiers deal with real world burn pain

By Steve Elliott
FSH Public Affairs

Military members who have combat burn injuries can suffer through some of the most intense and prolonged types of pain imaginable. Patients need daily care to clean the wound and daily physical therapy to stretch the newly healed skin.

Despite the use of strong painkillers, the majority of burn patients report severe to excruciating pain during wound care. Even knowing the pain from wound treatment is coming can bring on a high level of anxiety and stress for these patients, according to Maj. (Dr.) Peter DeSocio, an anesthesiologist with the burn center at Brooke

Army Medical Center.

“Burn pain is generalized and not easy to treat,” DeSocio said. “We can’t just give the patient a shot to make it stop.”

The 40-bed burn center — the only one of its kind for the nation’s military — is located in a fourth-floor wing of the massive hospital located on Fort Sam Houston. The center, part of the Army Institute of Surgical Research, has treated more than 800 military personnel injured in war.

Research is now showing that an interactive video game can be one effective prescription for easing the pain and stress during burn wound treatment.

For the past two years, a group of military

patients have taken part in a study using “SnowWorld,” a three-dimensional video game that employs high-tech goggles and earphones, allowing patients to immerse themselves in the game experience.

While in the game, they are drawn into the action as they glide through an icy world of frozen canyons and mountains, and loft snowballs at snowmen, igloos, mammoths, and penguins. It’s this frosty experience that allows the wounded warrior to focus on something other than their injuries and the treatment that goes along with it.

“Not having to see the burn wounds helps keep them from thinking about it so much, or thinking

about where and when the injuries happened to them,” DeSocio said. “Used as a complementary treatment, the VR game helps them relieve the stress of knowing the treatment is coming and gets them through their treatment better. It makes it a more tolerable experience.”

Patients often report reliving their original burn experience during wound care, DeSocio said, and SnowWorld has shown to help put out the fire.

“Once I was using this system, I wasn’t expecting the pain (from the dressing changes),” said Sgt. Oscar Liberato, a 23-year-old tanker from Ferndale, Wash. “It kept my mind off what was going on.”

The sergeant was



Photo by Steve Elliott

injured two years ago while with his unit in Iraq when an improvised explosive device detonated near the Humvee he was riding in. Liberato suffered severe burns on his left arm and hand.

The sergeant said it used to take longer to change the dressings and do any kind of debride-

ment to remove any blisters or dead skin.

“I would constantly complain about the pain, and therefore need more medication,” Liberato said. “Using the virtual reality during the treatment, it takes less time to change the dressings and I didn’t feel like I needed as much of the drugs.”

New Camp Bullis training site offers realistic training for student Soldiers

By Lori Newman
FSH Public Affairs

The U.S. Army Medical Department Center & School unveiled its new Deployable Medical Systems Equipment Training Site Jan. 25 at Camp Bullis.

“This (deployable medical) site is used as the culminating field event for most of our military occupational specialty courses, said Col. Donna Whittaker, dean of the Academy of Health Sciences, AMEDDC&S.

“Our student Soldiers spend three to 16 days in a field environment learning warrior tasks, battle drills and MOS specific training.”

The DMSET is made up of several Alaskan Shelter dome-shaped

tents connected together to form a Combat Support Hospital with all the amenities of a brick and mortar hospital including a medical services clinic; treatment areas; two medical warehouses; chemistry laboratory; blood bank; pharmacy; X-ray machines; an operating room; 12-bed Intensive Care Unit and a 20-bed intermediate care ward.

“There is a self-supported water system and the wiring is channeled under a hard-surface floor which can be easily removed for cleaning and replaced within a few hours, if needed,” said James Shelton, DMSET instructor.

“In 1981, the Military established a tri-service steering group to guide



Photo by Lori Newman

Students from the U.S. Army Practical Nurse Course participate in a field training exercise Jan. 25 at the Deployable Medical Systems Equipment Training Site at Camp Bullis.

the planning and development of the Deployable Medical Systems know as DEPMEDES, the project

was launched as a result of congressional concern with the U.S. Military Services’ purchasing dif-

ferent equipment for similar requirements,” said Ozie Harris, branch chief, DMSET Support and Training.

“The first test of a DEPMEDES hospital took place at Ft. Hood, Texas where the 21st Evac Hospital performed a quad-service exercise from August to December of 1984, Harris said.

“In January 1989, the 8th Evacuation Hospital conducted the first DEPMEDES overseas deployment to provide patient care in support of the Fuertes Caminos 89 road-building project in Honduras. The first surgery and the first live birth occurred in that DEPMEDES facility.”

“Education and training is our main thing; it’s critical that our training

is realistic and provides our medics with the equipment and experiences that they will encounter as they go to their first duty assignment; for many of them it’s deployment,” Whittaker said.

“The 212th (Combat Support Hospital) was the first DEPMEDES hospital to cross the border into Iraq, Harris said.

“The unit’s 160 Soldiers loaded the entire hospital including an emergency room, operating rooms, decontamination section, intensive care unit, laboratory, radiology section and pharmacy into 37 five-ton trucks and five Humvees to be the first DEPMEDES to receive casualties in Iraq.”

OPERATIONS**Post celebrates the NCO**

By Esther Garcia
FSH Public Affairs Office

The Noncommissioned Officer Creed reads: an NCO is a leader of Soldiers, a member of a time-honored corps, which is known as "The Backbone of the Army." An NCO has two basic responsibilities always on his or her mind - the welfare of Soldiers and the mission. And, an NCO is loyal to those with whom he serves.

Celebrating the non-commissioned officer, members of the Sgt.

Audie Murphy Club hosted the 3rd Annual Noncommissioned Officer Week, 2010 was the Year of the NCO.

"The mission of NCO Week is to promote the Corps, build cohesion, enjoy camaraderie and continue to develop our NCO leaders," said Staff Sgt. Erin Hicks, president, Sgt. Audie Murphy Club, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Leon Van Autreve Chapter.

NCO week began with an NCO prayer breakfast at Dodd Field Chapel May 4 with Chaplain (Capt.)

Denise Hagler, 232nd Medical Battalion as guest speaker.

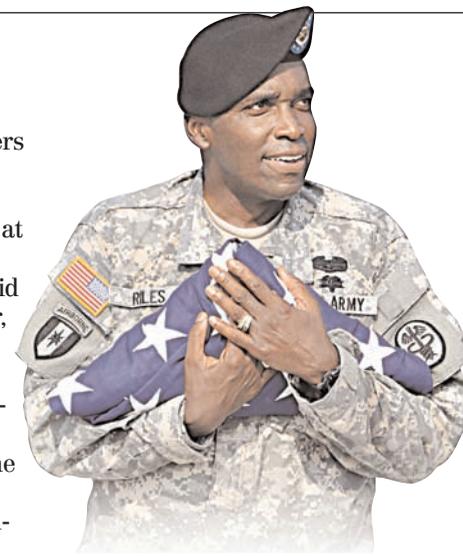
Riles said during his closing remarks addressing a full house, "This is a sight, a good way to start our 3rd Annual NCO Week."

Riles said, "We are good at our mental fitness, physical fitness, but we don't always work so hard at our spiritual fitness. If we can get those things balanced, that makes for an awesome day."

Later in the afternoon, Staff Sgts. Kevin Conner and Patrick Anderson

were the newest members to be inducted into the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club during a ceremony held at Blesse Auditorium, and hosted by Maj. Gen. David Rubenstein, commander, Army Medical Department Center & School.

Riles said, "This ceremony highlights what it means to be an NCO. The SAMC recognizes NCOs who set the highest standards of leadership and excellence. An NCO inducted into the club has demonstrated the abilities that exemplify the characteristics of Sgt. Audie



Command Sgt. Maj. Howard Riles holds the flag originally belonging to his father Holbrook Riles Sr. flown over Fort Sam Houston May 7. The flag was lowered, folded and presented to him as part of his retreat ceremony on that same day. Riles retired May 14.

Photo by L.A. Shively

Murphy and his overcoming diversity or adversity through discipline, loyalty and professionalism."

NCO Week ended with

a retreat ceremony honoring the nation's flag and in honor of Riles who is leaving the Army after serving 31 years.

OPERATIONS

Sikh Soldiers allowed to serve, retain their articles of faith

By Steve Elliott
FSH Public affairs

For the first time in 23 years, the U.S. Army is allowing a pair of Sikh Soldiers to keep their hair and beard intact and wear a turban.

More than 60 years ago, President Harry Truman desegregated the U.S. armed forces, declaring "there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed forces without regard to race, color, religion or national origin."

But during those same six decades, the Army's policy and how it was implemented changed from time to time.

From 1948 to 1984, men of the Sikh religion were permitted to serve while maintaining their articles of faith (see sidebar for explanation of articles of faith). In 1984, Gen. John A. Wickham

Jr., then Chief of Staff of the Army, eliminated the exception for Sikhs and others who wore "conspicuous" items of faith.

Capt. (Dr.) Tejdeep Singh Rattan, a dentist, and Capt. (Dr.) Kamaljeet Singh Kalsi, a doctor, were assured by their recruiters at the time of enlistment several years ago that their articles of faith wouldn't pose a problem.

But after completing four years of studies, both men were told to remove their turbans and cut their hair and beards for active duty.

It took action by several Sikh organizations and a letter to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, signed by 43 members of the House of Representatives and six U.S. senators, to change the Army's mind. A pair of special exceptions to Army Regulation 600-20 was allowed so Rattan



Photo by Steve Elliott
Capt. (Dr.) Tejdeep Singh Rattan proclaims "I am a Sikh warrior" to the delight of his classmates after exiting the gas chamber during nuclear, biological and chemical training at Camp Bullis March 17.

and Kalsi could wear their dastaars (turbans) and keep their unshorn hair and beards as part of their uniform, and also

retain their other articles of faith.

Rattan completed the nine-week Basic Officer Leadership Course at Camp Bullis March 19 and graduated with his class at Fort Sam Houston March 22. He reported to Fort Drum in upstate New York April 12 for an assignment as a dentist. Kalsi, who attended Rattan's graduation, began the BOLC course in July, after completing an emergency medicine fellowship.

But the story behind Rattan's journey through the military Health Professions Scholarship Program and into the Army's corps of officers sheds light on a little-known change in Truman's promise that has virtually prevented an entire generation of Sikhs from serving in the United States armed forces.

Practicing Sikhs have

served in the armed forces since World War I, and the ruling in 1984 which effectively disallowed Sikhs to join was due to alleged health and safety hazard of their turban and uncut hair.

Aided by the Sikh Coalition (<http://www.sikhcoalition.org>), Kalsi and Rattan appealed the Army policy because of religious convictions. They were joined by the Sikh Council on Research and Education, Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund and United Sikhs. Thousands of Sikhs and other sympathetic supporters signed petitions on their behalf.

To put their faith into perspective, there are 25 million Sikhs worldwide, making it the fifth largest religion after Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism, and has been in existence for more

than 500 years.

"History portrays Sikhs as warrior-saints and I believe that is what Sikhs are. That's what our life is all about," said Rattan, who proclaimed, "I am a Sikh warrior!" after he exited the gas chamber during nuclear, biological and chemical phase of his training. "It is what the Holy Book (the Sri Guru Granth Sahib) teaches us."

"We absolutely applaud the Army's decision to grant the exceptions. We look forward to the day all Sikhs can serve their country without any exceptions for their articles of faith," said Harsimran Kaur, the Sikh Coalition's legal director. "There have been instances if private and government law enforcement agencies justifying the refusal to hire Sikh applicants because the military didn't accept them."

AMEDD Combat medic transformation

By Lori Newman
FSH Public Affairs

The combat medic is the foundation for medical care on the battlefield.

In October 2001, an eight-year transformation began to reengineer the 91B combat medic and 91C licensed practical nurse Military Occupational Specialties into the credentialed 68W (Healthcare Specialist) combat medic of today's Army.

"Many people misunderstand; this was not in response to 9/11," said Lt. Gen. Eric Schoemaker, Army surgeon general and

commander, U.S. Army Medical Command.

"The wheels of change that had to be put in place to convert the second largest Military Occupational Specialty in the Army, second only to the 11 Bravo infantry Soldier, could not have started on a dime. It took enormous vision and remarkable energy and trust on the part of the rest of the Army," he said.

Initial Entry Training was expanded from 10 weeks to 16 weeks and 68W medics become fully qualified and certified as Emergency Medical Technicians as part of the reengineering

of the course.

The transition began in October 2001 with a completion goal of September 2007 for active duty components and September 2009 for reservists and guardsman.

Currently there are more than 37,000 active and reserve combat medics in the Army. Most active duty combat medics have completed the transition along with more than 90 percent of those in the Army Reserve and National Guard.

Sustainment requires 68Ws annually validate their skills through continuing education programs. They must also



Photo by Lori Newman
Soldiers demonstrate how combat medics treat and evacuate a wounded Soldier on the battlefield.

recertify with the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians every two years.

During the ceremony, Master Sgt. James Kinser, 232nd Medical Battalion, narrated a

demonstration of combat medic skills on the battlefield.

The demonstration highlighted the differences between the 91B combat medic and the 68W combat medic of today.

The medics of the 68W generation are trained to perform advanced airway skills, hemorrhage control techniques, manage shock and evacuate injured Soldiers as quickly as possible.